

VOYAGEUR'S COMPANION

May, 1982

Prior to the spring meeting, I sorted through all the material which I had inherited from the prior secretary as well as all the material which Jeff Keeler was kind enough to provide. I'll make those materials available. There are some dealing with equipment, outfitters and trips in various areas of the country, specifically Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Additionally, I have some material on one or two Canadian outfitters near Quetico Provincial Park. If any of you have any plans or interest in floating in these areas or have any needs for any outfitters or tour guides, give me a call and I will give you the details.

In a different vein, Bob Eaton wrote me a letter shortly after the trip leaders' meeting. I am including his letter verbatim for your information.

The Club's policy is to be a river activity group, not a river activist group. This doesn't mean we shouldn't, as individuals, support our favorite summer activity politically. There are a number of river activists' groups whose only function is to keep white water runs from being submerged at the bottom of reservoirs. Whether you realize it or not, you're involved in an activity with no future. It is only a matter of time before every canyon in Colorado is dammed. The inevitable truth is that groups of people want to make money by destroying your canoeing fun. It is unlikely that the process can be stopped, but it can be slowed. A \$6.00 contribution hires a staff and lawyers to stave off reservoir development mania. That contribution also gets you a magazine about rivers (many near here), boating and what they have been doing on your behalf. \$6.00 is 1.2% of the cost of a used white water canoe. If you want to know what a white water canoe is worth when all the canyons have dams on them, take it out to a reservoir full of speed boats, or a reservoir on a windy Saturday in the middle of July; then take a reading on how much fun you're having.

If you're planning a big trip in the future and, by the time you are able to go, there is a dam on the river, someone will have made a profit on destroying your dreams.

The \$6.00 Bob was referring to is the price of an annual membership in the National Organization of River Sports, P.O. Box 6847, Colorado Springs, CO 80934.

I would commend the Colorado White Water Association, 4260 E. Evans, Denver, CO 80222, to you as well.

I have a list of addresses for obtaining permits on various rivers, specifically the Salmon, the Selway, the Snake, West Water Canyon, the San Juan, the Yampa or Green in Dinosaur National Monument, Desolation and Grays Canyon, Cataract Canyon, and the Grand Canyon. If any of these are of interest, let me

know.

John Mullen will be lead instructor on May 22. As of this writing, the training schedule is not yet complete, so I cannot tell you exactly when and where to report. However, the day's events will begin sometime before 9:00 and will include a session on Lake Chatfield, probably a movie showing the importance of river safety and white water technique and another session on the South Platte River between Chatfield Reservoir and Bellview Avenue.

In hopes that the benefits of the training will stick, the Club will be providing some written materials on equipment, safety, reading moving water and a small book dealing with white water technique, all of which will come at a cost of \$10.00 per trainee.

Plan on bringing your own boat, floatation device, paddles, lunch and your interest. Call me on Wednesday or Thursday evening (May 19 and 20) for details on the time and place of meeting.

Jeff Keeler will be lead instructor on June 5, but, as yet, he has not completed his plans. Call me after Memorial Day for further details.

In the meantime, add a trip to your schedule:

June 27 Blue River. Silverthorneto Blue River campground Scott Cragle,

Dick Gracen has a 18-foot Grumman canoe with a 2 horsepower Johnson motor and mounting bracket for sale along with paddles and a cartop carrier. He would like to sell all the equipment in one lot. If you are interested, call him at

A friend of mine (though not a member of the Club) is planning a two-week canoe trip on the Yukon River and some of its tributaries for the month of July with one paddling companion. In order to reduce the cost of the charter flight, he asked that I make inquiry of the membership in hopes that another boat will join the affair to spread the cost of the charter plane. If any of you are interested, please let me know, and I will put you in touch with my friend. He reports, from having taken the trip before, that the river is generally flat though that is not uniformly so.

Finally, if any of you don't have a schedule, call and I will send one.

John