

REMINDER:
NO DUES, NO NEWS



The Voyager's Companion

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB
SPRING 1991

IDAHO vs THE DAM BUILDERS

from an article in High Country News

Rafters, kayakers and riverine property-owners are rallying to the defense of one of Idaho's premier "hair" rivers, the world-renowned Payette. In the face of impending power shortages in the rapidly-growing Pacific Northwest environmentalists and economists are challenging the traditional approach of developers who covet the free-flowing waters as cheap sources of clean, renewable energy.

Whitewater recreation on the Payette has increased by more than 400% over the past ten years. "The North Fork [of the Payette] is one of the whitewater wonders of the world," according to expert kayaker Bob McDougall; "I'd call this area the Yosemite of paddling..." Among the population resistance to the placement of a hydro-power dam on the North Fork is reaching significant proportions. Accordingly, Idaho's politicians are beginning to recognize the potential economic benefits of maintaining some of Idaho's rivers in a free-flowing state.

As the large utilities and the hydro power developers rush to stake their claims to dam sites on southern Idaho's Snake River and tributaries like the Payette, advocates of free-flowing rivers are testing their political strength. A group called Friends of the Payette is asking the state to force developers to maximize the power generation capacity of all existing dams before building any new ones, and the Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved Idaho Power Company projects to upgrade two existing dams. The commission's position is that "the retrofitting of a currently existing dam certainly has less of an adverse effect on the environment than construction of a new dam or of a coal-fired or nuclear plant."

Idaho's legislature will tackle this issue in the current session; much debate is expected. According to Sen. Laird Noh, Republican Chairman of the Senate Resource and Environment Committee, "Decisions involving the clear-cut clash between hydropower and free-flowing rivers have to be made; it'll be a tough, knock-down, drag-out fight!"

The Voyager's Companion

Lakewood, CO 80215



FIRST CLASS MAIL

PRESIDENTIAL BLAB

by Suzanne Gold

Can you believe it! Another boating season is just around the corner. I'm crossing my fingers for some enjoyable water flows this year.

Again it's time to think about what we want to do with the club, and how we can contribute to its success and growth. The first step is to make sure we've sent in our dues and liability waiver. At this point, it's costing \$6 [Ed: make that \$7-\$8] of your dues just to deliver a year's worth of newsletters to you. We'll discuss a possible increase in annual dues at the Spring Meeting.

If you are looking to learn and/or enhance your canoeing skills, don't miss out on a spot in Pete Peterson's training classes this year. Pete will, for sure, be looking for experience paddlers to help him out with training classes, too.

If you'd like to see a full, every-weekend trip schedule containing lots of easy, intermediate and advanced trips this season and didn't make it to the trip-planning meeting, please phone Gregg Bachman [redacted] or John Licht [redacted] with your input. Let us know what trips you want to see on the schedule this year so that we can accommodate everyone. And give trip coordinating a try, even if you've never done it before. It's fun! And all it takes is a little paddling experience and some pre-trip planning. Some older RMCCers will gladly help you get started.

And lastly, let's start the season off right by bringing your suggestions, questions and concerns to me or your other club officers. The purpose of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club is to serve the interests of its members. I'm looking forward to meeting more of you and becoming more involved in club activities.

ACA & AMERICAN RIVERS

This year RMCC is renewing our club membership to the American Canoe Association and American Rivers, two very good causes. This year the ACA is working for us to get canoes and kayaks exempted from a new \$25.00/year [federal] "user fee".

American Rivers has, to date, helped to permanently protect over 9,000 river miles as part of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. They continue to effect federal legislation to change the way Glen Canyon Dam is operated in order to stop the rapid erosion of beaches and extinction of fishes in the Colorado River.

Did you know that approximately 200 non-federal dams on "working rivers" across the country are up for a 50-year license renewal between now and 1993? Hydropower relicensing provides an opportunity where the needs of fish and wildlife and humankind can work together to restore natural riverine values to lifeless or near-lifeless dam sites. Relicensing can result in construction of fish-ladders, improved water flow for fish wildlife and recreation, better access to rivers, and even removal of environmentally unsound dams.

American Rivers has remained on top of these current and upcoming events, and will continue to represent us in protecting and improving our river habitats.

CHUCK SHEPARD DEAD AT 59

Charles B. "Chuck" Shepard died from cancer on March 5. An avid outdoorsman who loved whitewater running, particularly in a solo canoe, he enjoyed the RMCC classes and trips. He usually scheduled his own trips on a variety of rivers across the United States.

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444-8420**

THE ARKANSAS PADDLER

The following excerpts provided by Jennifer Reinbrecht, High Country River Rafters and Private Boaters Representative to the Citizens' Advisory Task Force, Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, Colorado State Department of Parks & Recreation

Topics at the March 8 meeting included:

1. The Numbers

Steve Reese is collecting information on the situation and working with the landowners of the placer claims, the property on the east bank, the Forest Service, and the railroad to try and reach an agreement for access prior to the 1991 boating season. Rob Ferris has posted his property "no trespassing," and has constructed a ranch style entrance on the road that accesses his property north of the Otero Pump station. The 1976 minutes of county records do show that the county abandoned county road 389 at that time.

If access is successfully obtained at some location on river right, the question of emergency access on the old county road river left was also raised. In the event of a drowning or similar emergency, the most expeditious route to all points along the Numbers is on Rob Ferris' property. Emergency access will be discussed with him and any other affected landowners.

If access is obtained heavy signing will indicate to boating traffic the legal access points to the Numbers. If access is not obtained, boaters must heed all signage regarding private property and trespass on traditional access points. It is highly likely that the local sheriff will enforce trespass laws to discourage repeat violations and warn users that the signs are not to be ignored.

Discussion pertaining to re-opening an evening launch window for local private rafters and commercial training trips was closed pending

the resolution of the trespass and access problems. Private kayakers expressed considerable frustration that access seems to have been denied them because of increasing commercial use of the traditional put-in, based on comments from the landowner. At the meeting a letter from the landowner was read that stated " due to tremendous increase in private boaters and others...I have posted my property private."

2. New access points

Big Bend, just west of Salida, formerly leased by AROA for outfitters only, is a public access point this year. The site below Parkdale, river right, also formerly commercial access only, is also under contract and should be available for public use this summer.

The cost of purchasing these sights has consumed all monies, so no development of the sites are planned for this year, although long term development to smooth traffic flows and distribute use is planned.

The dam chute for Canon City, above the city park take out, is on hold, although it has been funded by a large grant. Canon City is waiting for 404 environmental permit approval and the Corps of Engineers approval. If it is not off the design table and under construction before high water flows this year, it will be built in the fall. Your written comments and telephone calls to Canon City council members might help expedite this process. I will have their names, addresses and phone numbers available; contact me at

3. Water Releases

No resolution on this topic. The Colorado Department of Wildlife has compiled a printed report that suggests flows between 400 and 700 cfs may enhance the fisheries after August 1; certainly after August 15. They, along with Trout Unlimited, are urging flows not be

augmented above these levels unless it occurs "naturally" as part of a high water year. TU believes the AHRA is mandated to follow the DOW guidelines due to the priority of the ecosystem in the park plan. The water users are concerned about the precedent set by recreational water releases and the payment of Fry-Ark project water lost to evaporation in its premature journey from Twin Lakes to Pueblo Reservoir. Steve Reese and the BLM are continuing to work with the Bureau of Reclamation, the local water districts, and all other known, affected users in continuing to tie in water releases with the boating season, where possible. A temporary agreement for 1991 water releases, similar to 1990, is probably what we'll see this year.

4. Arkansas River Dam

The DPOR filed in opposition to the dam to be able to be part of any future water court proceedings as the process moves along. The commercial outfitters also filed. A Friends of the Arkansas form is attached. If you wish to stay informed I would encourage you to join this grass roots movement.

5. Capping

Considerable discussion around this issue. Main concerns expressed were related to the loss of free enterprise and competition, and the hand in glove relationship that could develop between park management and commercials. Only myself and the water representative voted in opposition to a cap at this time. There is clear momentum, both from the experience of other river management plans and Steve's desire to better manage the commercial portion of the river, for a cap this year on existing outfitters.

The plan authorizes the park management to institute necessary steps towards an allocation plan once the capacity is hit five times in one

season. There is evidence to suggest that the commercials have hit this, but the evidence was being reviewed by Steve and the BLM before a decision was made. If the evidence does not support that the capacity has been reached, a moratorium cannot be instituted without a plan ammendment until that time. That is, the park does not have the authority to proceed with a cap as a step in the development of allocation until the numbers have actually been reached.

NOTE: Jennifer Reinbrecht has resigned from her position as the private boater representative to the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area task force. The term officially expires December, 1991, but her resignation becomes effective as soon as a replacement is found. The position requires a minimum two year commitment, and a maximum of two terms followed by a one term interim before you could be elected again. Meetings are scheduled quarterly, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., usually in Salida or Buena Vista on a week-day. Occassionally additional meetings are scheduled to deal with a particular need or concern requiring task force comment. To apply, write a letter of application indicating your interest, why you want the position, your availability, and your boating experience to: Roger Lynn c/o CWWA, P.O. Box 4315 Englewood, CO 80155-4315. Alternates are also needed. If you wish to know more about the opportunity please contact me at 238-4295.

FALL MEETING SITE REQUIRED

RMCC still needs a place to hold the Fall Meeting - a meeting room for 50 people with food prep facilities. Let's put this task behind us; if you can offer or even suggest a place, please call Suzanne Gold at

NATIONAL BOAT TAX BECOMES LAW

Reprinted from the January 1991 issue of American Canoeist, published by American Canoe Association

It may be called a user "fee," but the legislation which slipped through Congress last year in the 11th hour mass confusion surrounding the federal budget is officially called the Navigable Waters User Tax, and in its present form it apparently will cost canoeists and kayakers at least \$25.00 per boat once enforcement is effected. Initially, boaters using officially declared navigable waters will feel the brunt of the new tax. Observers predict that, if allowed to stand, the law will be expanded to cover all boats over sixteen feet long regardless of place of use. Compare it with the fact that the owner of a fifteen-foot runabout costing, say \$15,000, will pay no tax, and we have problems. Add the fact that the law mandates that all revenue raised will go directly to the General Fund - not to any agency providing services to the boater - and our problems are compounded. The penalty for failure to pay is a fine of up to \$5,000.

Passage of this law has drawn loud outcries from a number of fronts. Boat/US, the Boat Owners Association of the United States, represents some 400,000 power boat owners across the country, and they are as upset as canoeists. Also upset for obvious reasons are members of the National Association of Canoe Liveries and Outfitters. These organizations, along with many others affected - ex. rowing, should be prepared to work together on the issue. The American Canoe Association has begun steps to fight the tax beginning with working directly with the Coast Guard (the agency charged with collection and enforcement) to exempt canoes and kayaks.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW: Our best immediate chance lies with the Coast Guard as they supply the missing language to implement the legislation. Their address:

Commandant G-NAB
Navigable Waters User Tax Section
United States Coast Guard
2100 Second Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20593

Point out that the legislation was never intended to cover canoes and kayaks. Briefly explain that boat length is, in this case, an attempt to determine dollar value, and what applies to power boats does not necessarily apply to canoes and kayaks. Ask that paddlecraft be exempted. You can write to your U.S. Representatives and Senators and, in the process, begin the long and often overlooked road to educating our lawmakers on what canoes and kayaks, and the people who paddle them are all about. And please send copies of all letters to the ACA Tax Committee, P.O.Box 1190, Newington, VA 22122. ACA will use them to reinforce their points.

INSTRUCTION

Just a reminder - there still may be time to get into one of the training classes offered this season. **Basic River Canoeing** is available in two sessions in May, and three **Whitewater Weekends** are offered in June. This program is registered with the American Canoe Association; the instructors are highly qualified paddlers and experienced teachers. It's also great fun. To register call Pete Peterson or your newsletter editor for an application form.

NORFFLING:

For those unfamiliar with the term, "norffling" is a word which is believed to have originated among aboriginal Norwegian tribes noted for their paddling skills. The word refers to any of various activities associated with paddling including but not limited to a) initial route information search, b) recruitment, c) gear selection and procurement, d) travel logistics, e) any other activities intended to get one to the put-in which do not conveniently fit into already established categories. In common usage, the word "around" is frequently added to the term.

Canadian Bike/Camp/Paddle

I'm contemplating an trip of about two weeks in mid-June to the Banff region of Alberta. I plan to include, but not limit activities to biking, camping and paddling. Anyone interested in being a party to such activities can call me, Bob Carlsen, at []

Poudre, Colorado

If you have any interest in paddling the challenging segments of the Poudre River, please call me, Alan Whittern, at []

Rio Chama, New Mexico

I'm applying for a permit to run the Rio Chama at a date later this summer which will coincide with an El Vado Dam release. If this trip appeals to you, please call Bruce Bradshaw at []

Rio Grande, Texas

We're in the initial stages of planning a Thanksgiving Holiday paddle of Mariscal and Boquillas Canyons in Big Bend country. If you would like to be included or can offer tips or suggestions, please call John Licht, [] or Paul Priest, []

Escalante River, Utah

I'd like to find some other paddlers interested in an early spring (April is about the only time there's enough water.) trip on the Escalante or perhaps the Dirty Devil or other Utah desert rivers. It's probably too late to arrange one for this year, but we could plan some research and organize the logistics for a '92 trip. If desert canyon paddling interests you, please call John McMillan, at []

If you're norffling around for trip info, paddlers, etc., just call Paul Priest, [] and we'll print your item here in *The Voyageur's Companion*.

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OUT-OF-STATE CONNECTIONS

Planning a trip to another part of the country and wondering whom to contact to find out about places to paddle in that locality? The following is a partial listing of paddling clubs which, like RMCC, are members of the American Canoe Association. For additional members in a particular area or a copy of the complete list, contact Paul Priest (237-4953).

Knik Kanoers & Kayakers, Inc.	P.O.Box 101935	Anchorage, AK 99510	(907)272-9351
Birmingham Canoe Club	P.O.Box 951	Birmingham, AL 35201	
Arkansas Canoe Club	P.O.Box 1843	Little Rock, AR 72203	(205)979-3064
Northern Arizona Paddler's Club	611 N. San Francisco	Flagstaff, AZ 86001	(602)774-0844
River City Paddlers	428 J Street #400	Sacramento, CA 95814	(916)965-3380
So. California Canoe Association	8665 Nagle Avenue	Panorama City, CA 91402	
Columbia Canoe Club	38 Hunt Road	Columbia, CT 06237	
Florida Canoe & Kayak Assoc.	P.O.Box 20892	W. Palm Beach, FL 33416	(407)686-8800
Atlanta Whitewater Club	P.O.Box 33	Clarkston, GA 30021	(404)299-3752
Central Georgia River Runners	P.O.Box 5509	Macon, GA 31208	
Georgia Canoeing Association	P.O.Box 70232	Atlanta, GA 30357	(404)266-3734
Chicago Whitewater Assoc.	2750 Bernard Place	Evanston, IL 60201	(708)328-0145
Prarie State Canoeists	570 Webford	Des Plaines, IL 60016	(708)299-3977
Hoosier Canoe Club	6212 Furnas Road	Indianapolis, IN 46241	(317)856-6356
Elkhorn Paddlers	173 Lincoln Avenue	Lexington, KY 40502	(606)277-0656
Westfield River Wild Water	Ingell Road	Chester, MA 01011	(413)354-9684
Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society	RFD 3, Box 840	Pittsfield, ME 04967	
St. Joseph Valley Paddlers	23311 River Run Rd.	Mendon, MI 49072	(616)467-7920
Minnesota Canoe Association	Box 13567, Dinkytown	Minneapolis, MN 55414	(612)725-3478
Missouri Whitewater Assn.	2305 White Ash Court	Florissant, MO 63031	(314)837-8190
Headwaters Paddling Assoc.	Box 1392	Bozeman, MT 59715	(406)586-0072
Carolina Canoe Club	P.O.Box 12932	Raleigh, NC 27605	
Ledyard Canoe Club	P.O.Box 9	Hanover, NH 03755	(603)646-2753
Mohawk Canoe Club	Rd.2	Lebanon, NJ 08833	(201)832-2570
Adobe Whitewater Club	P.O.Box 3835	Albuquerque, NM 87190	
Ka-Na-Wa-Ke Canoe Club	2849 Pleasant Valley	Marcellus, NY 13108	
Scenic Scioto Canoe Club, Inc.	1720 Coles Blvd.	Portsmouth, OH 45662	(614)353-5105
Oregon Kayak & Canoe Club	P.O.Box 692	Portland, OR 97297	(503)629-1863
Conewago Canoe Club	670 B Trolley Drive	Dallastown, PA 17313	(717) 244-8440
Lehigh Valley Canoe Club	P.O.Box 2726	Lehigh Valley, PA 18001	(215)559-9595
Rhode Island Canoe Assoc.	193 Pettaconsett Ave.	Warwick, RI 02888	(401)781-5187
Foothills Canoe Club	P.O.Box 6331	Greenville, SC 29606	(803)268-7275
Chota Canoe Club	1407 Woodcrest Dr.	Knoxville, TN 37204	(615)689-2664
North Texas River Runners	215 Lakeshore Dr.	Waxahachie, TX 75165	(214)937-8835
Washington Canoe Club	4600 S. 4 Mi. Run #620	Arlington, VA 22204	(703)521-7069
Northern Vermont Canoe Cruisers	11 Discovery Road	Essex Jct., VT 05452	(802)878-6828
Seattle Canoe Club	5900 W. Green Lake N.	Seattle, WA 98115	(206)522-1774
Spokane Canoe & Kayak Club	West 4625 Bonnie Dr.	Spokane, WA 99204	(509)624-8384
Green Bay Paddlers United	13601 Marshek Road	Maribel, WI 54227	(414)863-8458

TRIP SCHEDULE

1991

RMCC trips are cooperative adventures shared by members and their guests. The entire group is collectively responsible for the trip, and each participant is individually responsible for judging his or her own qualifications, skill level and safety on the river being run. The trip coordinator may refuse to allow a participant on a trip, but the responsibility for judging one's own qualifications lies solely with each trip member. Trips are open only to RMCC members and their guests. All trip participants must sign the RMCC Waiver and Assumption of Risk agreement prior to each trip.

Whenever possible, and as a courtesy to the Trip Coordinator, please advise him/her of your interest in participating in a particular trip at least **ten days** in advance of the trip date.

DIFFICULTY RATING: E = Easy I = Intermediate A = Advanced CLASS (n)

APR 6 Sat	A (4)	Colorado - Westwater Canyon	Jerry Clower <input type="checkbox"/>
APR 20 Sat	E (2)	South Platte - Deckers (with barbeque to follow)	Kerry Edwards <input type="checkbox"/>
APR 27 Sat	I (1-2)	South Platte - (somewhere in Denver) (with picnic)	Kerry Edwards <input type="checkbox"/>
APR 28 Sun	E (1+)	South Platte - Chatfield to Bowles	Ed Gallagher <input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/>			
MAY 4-5		Basic River Training	Pete Petersen <input type="checkbox"/>
MAY 11-13 Sat-Mon	E (1)	Gunnison - Delta to Whitewater	Tom Beavert <input type="checkbox"/>
MAY 11 Sat	E (2)	South Platte - Deckers	Terry Owen <input type="checkbox"/>
MAY 12 Sun	E (1-2)	South Platte - Chatfield to Bowles (Mutha's Day - Boozin' n Braggin')	John Licht <input type="checkbox"/>
MAY 18-19		Basic River Training	Pete Petersen <input type="checkbox"/>
MAY 18 Sat	E (1)	Brighton to Fort Lupton	Bob & Carol Aikin <input type="checkbox"/>
MAY 19 Sun	I (2)	Poudre - Lower Canyon	Jerry Clower <input type="checkbox"/> Suzanne Gold <input type="checkbox"/>

TRIP SCHEDULE

DIFFICULTY RATING: E = Easy I = Intermediate A = Advanced

CLASS (n)

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

MAY 25-27	E	(1)	Gunnison - Delta to Whitewater (Dominguez Canyon)	Dick Akins	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sat-Mon					
	I	(2)	North Platte - 6 Mile Gap	Mike McCaw	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I	(2-3)	Rio Chama - El Vado Dam to Abiquiue	Bob & Carol Aikin	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I	(2-3)	Dolores - Slickrock to Gateway	Bruce Bradshaw	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A	(4)	Roaring Fork - Slaughterhouse & Upper Crystal River	Alan Whittern	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/>					
JUN 1-2			Whitewater Training	Pete Petersen	<input type="checkbox"/>
JUN 1-2	E	(1+)	North Platte - Glendo to Guernsey (Ed Plummer Memorial Trip)	Paul Priest	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sat-Sun				John Licht	<input type="checkbox"/>
JUN 1	E	(2)	Colorado - Sweetwater to Dotsero	Jeanne Younghaus	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sat					
JUN 2	A	(3+)	Eagle - Avon to Wolcott	Jeanne Younghaus	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sun					
JUN 8	E	(1)	Colorado - Dotsero to Hanging Lake	Suzanne Gold	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sat				Sheila Cox	<input type="checkbox"/>
	I	(2-3)	Roaring Fork	Terry Owen	<input type="checkbox"/>
JUN 9	I	(2)	Arkansas - Milk Run	Ed Gallagher	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sun	I	(2+)	Colorado - Pumphouse to State Bridge	Terry Owen	<input type="checkbox"/>
JUN 10-14	E	(1-2)	Smith River, Montana	Bob & Carol Aikin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mon-Fri					
JUN 12	E	(1-2)	South Platte - Chatfield to Bowles (Priscilla's Anniversary Run, a romantic moonlite evening trip - XXXXX!)	John Licht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wed					
JUN 15-16	I	(2)	North Platte - Six Mile Gap	Tom Beavert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sat-Sun					

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JUN 16-20 Sun-Thurs	A (3-?)	Missouri Headwaters, Montana	Bob & Carol Aikin	<input type="text"/>
JUN 17-22 Mon-Sat	I (2-3)	San Juan - Sand Island to Clay Hills Crossing (rafts and kayaks trip)	Bill Schmitt	<input type="text"/>
JUN 22-23		Whitewater Training	Pete Petersen	<input type="text"/>
JUN 23-30 Sun-Sun	I (2-3)	San Juan - Montezuma Creek to Clay Hills Crossing (with another river on return)	Suzanne Gold	<input type="text"/>
JUN 29 Sat	E (1-2)	Animas River Days, Durango	Alan Whittern	<input type="text"/>
JUN 30 Sun	A (4-5)	Animas Canyon - Piedra	Alan Whittern	<input type="text"/>
<hr/>				
JUL 4-7 Thurs-Sun	I (2+)	Colorado - Dewey Bridge to Moab	John Licht	<input type="text"/>
			Bob Carlsten	<input type="text"/>
JUL 12-14 Fri-Sun	I (2)	Green - Flaming Gorge to Brown's Park	Tom Beavert	<input type="text"/>
JUL 13-14		Whitewater Training	Pete Petersen	<input type="text"/>
JUL 13-15 Sat-Mon	A (4+)	Upper Animas	Alan Whittern	<input type="text"/>
JUL 20-21 Sat-Sun	A (4) A (3+)	Arkansas - Numbers Arkansas - Texas Creek	Bob Stoecker	<input type="text"/>
JUL 27-28 Sat-Sun	A (3) A (3+)	Arkansas - Brown's Canyon Arkansas - Fractions	Gregg Bachman	<input type="text"/>

TRIP SCHEDULE

1991

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CLASS (n)

JUL 27 E (1) Colorado (Dotsero region) Bob & Carol Aikin
Sat (Lyn Berry's dutch oven bake off)

JUL 28 I (2) Colorado - Rancho del Rio to McCoy Mike McCaw
Sun

AUG 5-16 E (1) Missouri Breaks, Montana Ron Frost
(11 days)

AUG 10-11 E (1) Colorado - Ruby to Horsethief Larry Stuhl
Sat-Sun Clean up trip with High County River Rafter

AUG 10 I (2+) Colorado - Roaring Fork to Bob & Carol Aikin
Sat Steel Bridge

AUG 13 A (4) Colorado - Westwater Canyon Bruce Bradshaw
Tues

AUG 17 I (2) Colorado - State Bridge to Catamount Terry Owen
Sat

AUG 18 E (2) Colorado - Boys' Ranch to Dotsero Terry Owen
Sun

AUG 24 - - Nail Soup Picnic/Swap Meet Jerry Clower

AUG 29-? E - Canada, North of the Boundary Waters John Licht
(fly fishing for bass)

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

AUG 31 - E (1) Colorado - Ruby to Horsethief or Dick Akins
SEP 2 Gunnison - Delta to Whitewater

Sat-Mon I (2) Green - Flaming Gorge to Brown's Park Terry Owen

SEP 28 I (2) Colorado - Pumphouse to State Bridge Scott McDonald

EQUIPMENT SOURCES

AH, SPRING...it's that time of year again (See the 1991 Trip Schedule in this issue of The Voyageur's Companion.) It's time to start seriously planning all those interesting expeditions, those great trips we eagerly anticipate as a not so great Colorado winter winds down. It's a perfect time to check over our paddling gear: the things which we've put off building or buying because we haven't had the need yet, or the stuff we've got is still too good to retire, or we didn't know it was available, or where to get it, or any of a dozen other reasons for not having acquired something new for "the toolbox."

Given the small number of vendors catering to our sport, this feature will, hopefully, make it a little easier for you to find what you're looking for by way of gear or services for the upcoming season.

Listed are those local sources (the Front Range cities and the surrounding mountains) which responded to a survey mailed in January. This listing does not purport to be exhaustive (and does not include any of several reputable mail-order sources located in Idaho and the Upper Midwest). When contacting these vendors please mention seeing this source listing.

CANOES		A,B,C,D,E,H
KAYAKS		A,B,D,E,F,H
RAFTS		A,B,E,H
PADDLES		A,B,C,D,E,F,H
FLOATATION		A,B,C,D,E,F,H
PFDs (life vests)		A,B,C,D,E,F,H
WET SUITS, BOOTIES		A,B,D,E,H
DRY BAGS		A,B,D,E,H
BOOKS		A,B,D,E,H
CAMPING EQUIPMENT (tents, stoves, sleeping bags,...)		E
RENTAL CANOES		A,B,E,G,H
RENTAL KAYAKS		A,H
RENTAL INFLATABLES (rafts, rubber duckies,...)		A,B,E,G,H
RENTAL CAMPING EQUIPMENT		G
RENTAL INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS		A,B,H
INSTRUCTION (basic canoe, kayak, whitewater paddling, rescue,...)		A,B,C,E,H
A BACKEDDY, INC. 1310 South 21st Colorado Springs 80904 (719)520-0066	B BOULDER OUTDOOR CENTER 2510 N. 47th St. Boulder 80301 444-8420	C CANOE COLORADO 9990 E. Kentucky Dr. Denver 80231 344-2813
D COLORADO KAYAK 22495 US Hiway 285 S. Buena Vista CO 81211 (800)535-3565	E DVORAK EXPEDITIONS 17921 US Hiway 285 Nathrop CO 81236 (719)539-6851	F WILDWASSER SPORT/ PRIJON KAYAKS P.O.Box 4617 Boulder 80306 444-2336
G SPORTS RENT 8761 Wadsworth Arvada 467-0200 560 S. Holly Denver 320-0222 6901 W. Alameda Lakewood 233-3353	H STEAMBOATS West US Hiway 40 Steamboat Springs CO (303)879-3286	

SPEAKING OF GEAR...

by Paul Priest

It's not too early in the season to review the status of our paddling gear. Elsewhere in this issue is a guide to local equipment sources for additions to the toy box; following are some tips on equipment tune-up and refurbishing some of the stuff you may already have.

First and foremost, your boat... Since materials vary greatly these days, you might expect that maintenance requirements would, too, as well they do. One of the things that can be said for aluminum alloy as a boat material is that it requires darn little in the way of maintenance. An inspection of the seams for evidence that rivets might be loosening (a relatively rare occurrence in canoes) and removal of any burrs or sharp edges with a small file ought to just about do it. As with any canoe where thwarts, seats or other fittings are bolted in place, tightening or replacement of any loose or missing fasteners is appropriate. Replacement with brass or stainless steel screws and stainless self-locking nuts with nylon inserts ought to make this a one-time-only exercise.

Fibreglass, Kevlar and other fibre-reinforced polyester or epoxy resin boats seem to acquire a collection of scratches and scrapes with even the most careful use. Unless the scratches extend clear through the outer surface resin (Gel coat) and expose the fibres or fabric within, the scratch is purely cosmetic and may be treated according to your own esthetic values. However, it's not a good idea to continue to use a boat where the fibrous reinforcing material is exposed; water wicking along the fibers will ultimately affect the bond between the fiber and the resin matrix leading to degradation of the structural

integrity of the hull. I use a filled-epoxy patching material on my X-17, and the repairs have proven quite durable and resistant to subsequent scratching or debonding. It looks like hell since the epoxy is gray and the original Gel-coat beige, but the patches smooth and fair quite nicely with file and emery paper, and show no evidence of debonding after four seasons. For those of you who are a little more particular about appearance, call Jerry Nyre about sources of color-matched Gel-coat.

Judging from recent club trips quite a few RMCC paddlers are quite satisfied with Old Town's "Discovery" series of canoes. The hulls of these canoes are rotomolded of polyethylene, and there really isn't much you need or, indeed, can do in the way of maintenance. Similarly, the ever-popular and nearly indestructible Royalex boats come pretty close to being maintenance-free depending on the materials used in the gunnels and seats.

(The two things which are hardest on Royalex and polyethylene hulls are beating them on rocks and, ironically, sunlight. The Ultraviolet component of sunlight will, given enough time, destroy the chemical bonds in the polymers of virtually all plastic materials. The result is embrittlement and, where your boat used to simply flex and bend as it slid over or bumped against rocks, it now cracks. The only treatment is to minimize the time the hull is exposed to UV. When you're not paddling, keep your canoe inside or under cover - out of direct sunlight.)

Those lovely wood gunnels on your expensive Royalex canoe deserve an annual treatment of Oil of Watco, or some similar penetrating preservative. The elegant cane seats, likewise; but the seat frames and thwarts and any other natural wood components with a hard, glossy finish have likely

been finished with spar varnish. If you're refinishing with urethane or other alternative finishes, remember to select an "exterior" grade. They have UV stabilizers added for better protection from the effects of sunlight.

Tips on the maintenance of strippers, wood-and-canvas canoes and other paddling arcana I leave to folks like Lyn Berry, Al Yuhasz, et al.

Before we leave boats altogether, let's check the condition of the painters (sailor-talk for the ropes you have tied to the ends of your canoe.) If they have turned tan in color and become stiff, it's likely the braid is full of tiny bits of grit from last season's paddling in Colorado's silt-laden rivers. Those tiny bits are pieces of silica; they are quite sharp, and they will cut and abrade the nylon and polypro fibres until, sometime when it's least convenient, your boat and whatever it's tied to will part ways. Try rinsing the painters thoroughly in clear water; if they're still stiff after they dry, replace them.

Before leaving your boat, check your floatation for punctures and leaks and repair them. And while you're at it, see that the various anchorages (D-rings, etc.) which you've bonded to the inside of the hull are still secure. Remember, repairs are always harder to accomplish at the put-in.

If you, like me, are a nut for pretty laminated-wood paddles, remember that they also deserve the same care and treatment as the woodwork on your boat, perhaps more so since their duty is more strenuous - the tip gets jammed down into the river bottom grit and banged against rocks. Check out the System Three kit of epoxy resins for repair purposes; it's reasonably priced and easy to use. The same comments apply to the high-tech fibre-reinforced resin paddles.

Finally, your personal gear - Aqua-Seal the punctures and tears in your wetsuit, booties, et al. Inspect your helmet for cracks, and check the safety strap and latch, if it has one.

Don't forget to have a critical look at your PFD. Most are constructed of nylon fabric with sewn-in pockets or tubes containing closed-cell plastic foam. (How did paddlers possibly get along before plastics?!) Consider this, those of you who are inclined to lean or sit on your PFDs at lunch stops: the foam floatation in your PFD works by displacing water. If the cell walls are fractured, they will no longer act like a multitude of tiny floatation bags. And the materials used in PFDs suffer from the same long-term failure modes as the other flexible plastics mentioned above. See the May '91 issue of *Canoe* magazine for Slim Ray's technique for testing your PFD.

*When you're in
Northwest Colorado,
stop and see us...*

Steam Boats



**Canoes by
Old Town
Dagger**

South side of U.S.40,
West edge of Steamboat Springs, CO
We love talking boats...

Backcountry Medicine

The Backpacking Bandaging Unit of the Medical Kit

by Terry Owen

In our last article we discussed a possible breakdown of a backcountry medical kit into three components of four units each: a bandaging unit, a medication unit, an orthopedic unit, and a surgical unit.

The bandaging unit will consist of bandages and dressings to cover wounds along with the materials to cut and secure the dressings and bandages. The medication unit will consist of topical and oral medications for the treatment of pain and discomfort.

The orthopedic unit will consist of devices and materials for the treatment of muscle and bone injuries.

The surgical unit will consist of devices and materials for the treatment of punctures and open wounds.

Here we'll discuss the bandaging unit of the smallest component. The container for the backpacking component is advertised by various outdoor sports stores as ranging from about 5.5" to 7" in width and 2" to 2.5" in depth and 5" to 6" in height. Bandages and bandaging items at the backpacking component level may consist of:

- 6 1" x 3" adhesive bandage strips
- 6 3/4" x 3" adhesive bandage strips
- 6 coverstrip closures
- 1 1/2" x 5 yds hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- 1 2" x 5 yds elastic gauze bandage
- 4 4" x 4" gauze pads
- 2 2 3/8" x 2 3/4" Tegaderm adhesive pads
- 2 1 1/2" x 2" Spenco Second Skin

- 1 3" x 5" Spenco Adhesive Knit bandage
- 1 4" bandage compress
- 1 40" triangular bandage
- 6 safety pins
- 1 small scissors

A couple of definitions may be in order before we discuss each of these items. A compress, also called a dressing, is the immediate protective cover placed over a wound. Dressings should be sterile. They assist in the control of bleeding, absorbing blood and wound secretions, prevent additional contamination, and ease pain.

A bandage is a strip of woven material used to hold a wound dressing or splint in place. It helps to immobilize, support, and protect an injured part of the body. It must be clean but need not be sterile. The most useful of those available commercially include;

Gauze bandages, usually in rolls of 10 yards by 1, 2, or 3 inches in width

Elastic bandages of woven material in various widths and lengths

Triangular bandages useful for covering large areas, as slings, and as cravat bandages

Elastic bandages are the easiest of all bandages to apply and are especially useful since they conform more readily to the injured part than gauze, but they are the most hazardous because of the tendency to stretch them so much as they are applied that circulation or nerve function may be impaired.

The bandage compress is a useful dressing/bandage combination that consists of several thicknesses of sterile gauze sewn to the middle of a strip of gauze. Bandage compresses are the most useful and efficient combination of bandage and dressing to apply

to a large wound as an emergency cover. The dressing portion provides bulk, over which pressure may be applied to control severe hemorrhage.

Adhesive bandage strips - Johnson and Johnson makes them as Band-aids. William Forgey, MD, in his book 'Wilderness Medicine', suggests Coverlet bandage strips by Biersdorf. They stick even when wet, last through days of hard usage and stretch for compression on a wound or conform for better application.

Coverstrip closures - Forgey recommends Biersdorf again. He says they stick better than Steri-strips made by 3M. They can be removed and re-applied while trying to adjust the wound edges and still stick firmly. They breath and can be left on as long as necessary for the wound to heal, better by far than butterfly bandages. Butterfly bandages can be substituted if cost and availability is a factor.

Hypoallergenic adhesive tape - 1/2" is a good size for attaching bandages to skin. It's light weight and made of paper or silk cloth. Save the waterproof tape for the river component of the medical kit.

Elastic gauze bandage - Johnson and Johnson has a 2" gauze bandage that is a good size for the backpacking component. It is sterile and can be applied directly over wounds, or used to hold other bandaging material in position. Larger sizes are available and suggested by Forgey, Elastomull Roller Gauze, by Biersdorf. Doc Baker, our rafting club medical expert, uses Johnson and Johnson Kling conforming gauze bandages. These are larger and will be included in the river component.

Gauze Pads - Johnson and Johnson makes a brand called STERI-PAD for general bandaging needs. It can be used for bandaging and wound cleansing. The pad can be unfolded

once if necessary to aid in dressing large irregularly shaped wounds. Larger sizes will be included in the river component.

Adhesive Pads - Forgey suggests Tegaderm by 3M Corp. It has a thin coating that will seal water out, yet let a wound remain visible and breath. It should be applied to wounds that are not seeping fluid or blood. Ideal for covering cuts as the user can immerse the wound in water while floating the river without contaminating the injury. J&J has a sterile adhesive pad that measures 2 1/4" x 3 1/2".

Spenco 2nd Skin - It is used on wet, weeping wounds to absorb fluids and protect from injury. It is also a cure and prevention for friction blisters. It can be applied to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree burns as a sterile covering and for pain relief.

Spenco Adhesive Knit bandage - is the ideal covering pad for the Spenco 2nd Skin. It is similar to moleskin and molefoam but is designed to be placed over the 2nd skin. The Spenco Blister Kit utilizes 2nd skin, an adhesive knit bandage and pads for pressure padding. You might try 2nd skin and the adhesive knit bandage as an alternative to moleskin or molefoam.

Bandage Compress - Forgey suggests J&J Nu-Gauze Pads. It absorbs nearly 50% more fluid than conventional 12 ply gauze pads. The sponge may be unfolded once if necessary to aid in dressing large or irregularly shaped wounds.

Triangular bandage - has a multitude of uses from bandaging to slings.

Safety pins - for fastening bandages or slings.

Scissors - for cutting bandages, tape, etc.

In our next article we'll discuss the surgical unit of the backpacking component of the wilderness medical kit.

BUDDY SYSTEM OR BUST

from an article by Richard A. Lovett
in JAN/FEB '91 SIERRA

One of the toughest decisions I've ever had to make while climbing occurred on one of the least rigorous trips I've ever taken. On a non-technical, off-trail scramble up a 10,000-foot peak in Oregon's Cascades, I felt twinges of pain in my side. (I had bruised my ribs in a bicycling accident a few days earlier.) My partner, a 5'4" woman whose hatred of heavy loads has trained her always to travel light, offered to shoulder my pack for the descent.

My first impulse was to gut it out. Then I remembered one of the commandments of our climbing partnership, and I reluctantly loaded her down like a beast of burden. The rule I invoked was this: I will not be too proud to tell my partner exactly how I feel. For people strong-willed enough to head off into the backcountry in the first place, obeying rules doesn't always come easily. But this one can cost dearly if it's not followed.

Hikers and climbers know that the buddy system can be as important to safety as carrying adequate food, water, and clothing. If you hike alone, a mishap as simple as a sprained ankle could leave you stranded until someone happens by, which might mean a long, cold, unexpected overnight stay. Besides providing companionship and sharing equipment, a partner can administer first aid, go for help, and help you puzzle your way out of a predicament.

But an effective buddy system requires more than just another warm body. For maximum enjoyment, and for adventures that test the limits of your abilities, it pays to find one or more close friends with whom you can function like a well-oiled machine -- one lubricated by

mutual confidence and respect. When building such a partnership, some goals are pretty straightforward and practical. For example, I want a partner with whom I am comparable physically, who has roughly equivalent skills, and who is interested in the same activities.

Psychological concerns are equally important. If my buddy and I aren't evenly matched, one of us might become the teacher and the other a student. While I've had several fine backcountry mentors, it's difficult for that kind of relationship to become equal and trusting.

I also want a partner whose temperament complements mine; left to my own devices, I'm likely to attempt a summit at all costs, or try and find out what lies over the next ridge without considering whether I can get back before dark. It helps me, therefore, to team up with a partner whose sense of caution is more keenly honed.

In the final analysis, it's the way partners relate to each other, particularly in the face of potential danger or discomfort, that makes or breaks backcountry friendships. I've had companions whose judgment I couldn't trust, and others on whom I could depend in the most difficult situations. The difference depends less on physical prowess than on whether each of us feels that he or she can be honest with the other, even if that means backing down in the face of a challenge one partner would prefer to confront. This is a good rule for any type of friendship, but when you're up against the trials of the wilderness or the pressures of trekking, it is particularly important. An excess of pride (or, conversely, a lack of assertiveness) can destroy a hike as well as a friendship.

Finding a good companion is more difficult than describing one. Your best friends

may make disastrous outdoor partners, and someone who's the life of the party may grow tiresome after six nights on the trail. Ultimately, finding a compatible partner is part luck, part persistent trial and error. My companion and I, for example, met by chance when we were each on separate long-distance bicycle trips, and only gradually discovered that we were also well-matched backcountry partners.

Before that hike in the Cascades, I'd always thought that codifying mutual understandings as rules of conduct would be difficult and unnecessary. But a few rules that apply equally well to all modes of travel do stand out. At heart, all of them deal with communication. In addition to the rule about honesty, they are as follows:

We make sure we have the same objectives in mind before we start on an outing.

We agree that we're committed to our plan unless we both decide to quit or conditions become dangerous.

Each of us trusts the other to follow the honesty rule unwaveringly. (The lone exception occurs if we suspect hypothermia, which can cloud the victim's judgment.)

We recognize that danger is subjective. We will not pressure each other to attempt something one of us does not want to do. If this causes disappointment, we should remember that since we are equal partners, sometimes the boot will be on the other foot.

Following these rules results in a buddy system that does more than merely ensure safe passage. It provides an opportunity to develop trust and to figure out how to work harmoniously with another person. And those lessons, like so many other things learned in the wilderness, apply just as well back home.

CROSS-TALK

Cross-Talk is RMCC's telephone message service. The gear has been provided gratis for RMCC's exclusive use by one of our members and is intended to be a medium of information exchange for paddling activities. The service will contain a recorded message describing trips which have been added to the schedule since the last printed schedule was distributed.

In addition, users may leave messages offering to coordinate trips like those in the Norffling column of the newsletter. The whole point of this is to expand the number of activities available to RMCC members, and everyone is encouraged to use the service.

To use Cross-Talk, dial 741-1807; listen to the recorded message; if you wish to leave a message, stay on the line and proceed with your message after the beep. **Cross-Talk begins May 1 and ends September 30, 1991.**

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: New Blue Hole Sunburst II Solo. Retail \$900.00; asking \$750. Call Don,

FOR SALE: Blue Hole OCA. Like new with many extras. \$650.00. Call Rick Thomas,

FOR SALE: Mohawk Scamp with saddle, thigh straps & foot braces. Call Rick Andrews,

FOR SALE: Ginger's Kayak - 10' fibreglass child size w/homemade spray-skirt and air bags. \$400. Call John Licht,

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB

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Paul Priest

IMPORTANT DATES 1991

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

SPRING MEETING

7:00 P.M.

GLENDALE COMMUNITY CENTER

950 S. Birch

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

NAIL SOUP PICNIC / SWAP MEET

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

FALL MEETING

PHONE NUMBERS

741-1807

CROSS-TALK

(Recorded RMCC messages)

831-7135

WATER TALK

(Telephone access to recorded stream-flow information - article and updated list in next *Voyageur's Companion*)

RMCC trips are cooperative adventures shared by members and their guests. The entire group is collectively responsible for the trip, and each participant is individually responsible for judging his or her own qualifications, skill level and safety on the river being run. The trip coordinator may refuse to allow a participant on a trip, but the responsibility for judging one's own qualifications lies solely with each trip member. Trips are open only to RMCC members and their guests. All trip participants must sign the RMCC Waiver and Assumption of Risk agreement prior to each trip.

MEMBERSHIP \$10 PER HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR. CONTACT SHEILA COX