



The Voyageur's Companion

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB
YEAR-END 1992

FALL MEETING !!!

This years meeting was well attended at our near-second home, the hospitable John Collins Church. While the food seemed to run out a little early, the discussion did not. Topics covered this years past trips, safety, trespass, training, and a fair number of slide presentations (was that black dot really an otter?). This writer also noticed an inordinate number of slides of himself in the water while the presenters, Bob and Carol Aikin, remained mum about their spectacular descent down Zoom Flume rapid of the Arkansas.

Club business included a financial report, election (search for the gullible) of officers for '92, and the ever present discussion of training issues. Although plans are not finalized yet, some changes may happen in next years training schedule with the availability of more instructors and perhaps closer coordination between class and major trip weekends. Also considered was the notion of repeating Bob Footes instructor course which was quite well attended by club members. A question was raised about advanced training for club members seeking proficiency without the immediate goal of instuctor certification. Stay tuned for further details.

NEW OFFICERS MEETING

The new officers, listed on the back page, met in mid-November to plan for 1993. The tentative result of this is the schedule printed. It was felt that the increasingly good attendance at the spring meeting could be used for members to swap stuff as well as stories. The nail soup is to be incorporated into the Colorado River weekend as that is becoming a major event (perhaps at the expense of the former?). Also (!), the trip scheduling meeting has been broken out into two halves. The officers noted that the trip schedule petered out after July but that numerous people spent a lot of sometimes fruitless effort trying to organise or just find trips after that. Perhaps planning for a shorter time frame at a time will help.

OUTFITTING SEMINAR(S):

Bob and Carol Aikin are tentatively planning a seminar in Jan. or Feb. on the subject of outfitting your canoe (and you?) for long distance (whitewater?) canoe trips. Their experience, good and bad, should prove valuable to those members interested in river tripping. If time permits, further info will be in the next newsletter. In the meantime, call Bob or Carol at

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Arvada, CO 80005



RIVER PERMIT INFORMATION 1993 SEASON

Following is a list of a number of major recreational river segments in the Western U.S. for which paddling permits are required. The paddling season during which permits are required is noted in some cases. Permit applications are typically accepted only during a limited period each year. Subsequently, permits are awarded by means of a lottery (unless otherwise noted), and are issued for specific dates. Individual river segments frequently have unique regulatory requirements and procedures regarding application for and use of paddling permits. If you have an interest in paddling any permitted river segment during the '93 season, call or write **NOW** to the managing agency listed. Request their complete river permit information package with an application form and all pertinent rules and regulations.

RIVER	SEASON	APPLNS	AGENCY	NOTES
Colorado, UT Cataract Canyon		Dec 1+	Canyonlands Natl Park 125 W. 200 S. Moab, UT 84532 801/259-7164	1st come, 1st served; Experience & equipment requirements
Colorado, UT Westwater Canyon	May 1 - Sep 30	Jan-Feb	BLM, Grand Resource Area 885 S. Sand Flats Road Moab, UT 84532 801/259-8193	Call-in for cancellations
Colorado, AZ Grand Canyon		Feb	Grand Canyon Natl Park River Permits Office P.O.Box 129 Grand Canyon, AZ 86023 602/638-7843	Wait list; annual letter reqd. to stay on list; those on list can call-in for cancellations
Green, CO Canyon of Lodore		Dec - mid-Jan	Dinosaur Natl Monument River Office P.O.Box 210 Dinosaur, CO 81610 303/374-2468	SASE for application
Green, UT Gray/Desolation Canyons	May - Sep	Dec-Feb	BLM, Price Resource Area 900 North 700 East Price, UT 84501 801/637-4584	Call-in for cancellations
Rio Chama, NM			BLM, Taos Resource Area River Permits 224 Cruz Alta Road Taos, NM 87571 505/758-8851	Permit Changes! Lottery with no call ins. Expanded water release season and mid-week launch times to be offered.
Rio Grande, NM Taos Box			BLM, Taos Resource Area River Permits 224 Cruz Alta Road Taos, NM 87571 505/758-8851	Call or write for info.

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

My Fellow Paddlers,

As I sit here watching next years runoff accumulate, it occurs to me that the water of our sports/life has a complex life of it's own here in Colorado. Our water seems to be under siege from all sides.

I spent the better part of 2 hours trying to get some hard information on the proposed dam at Rifle on the Colorado River. Along the way I talked to a number of interesting and amazingly helpful state employees. The most interesting thing was that for every question I got answered there developed 3 more that needed to be addressed. The dam will have a maximum height of 40 feet, a width of 750 feet , and will impound 520 acre-feet of water for storage and power usage. There was no information concerning boater access to portage around or plans for a boat run past the dam. I mention the boat run because it was an idea from a state engineer in the dam safety department ! This same engineer also brought up the idea of timed and maintained release for fish propagation and water sport use. There are people on the inside of the ssystem who are on our side. But as a club what is to be our response to a new dam on the Colorado?

At the fall meeting we had an interesting discussion on the problem of river access. The problem seems to revolve around the defintion of navigability, personal safety, and trespass as it pertains to the ownership of the land at the bottom of the streambed. Many of us have come across fences crossing the streams as well as a plethora of no trespassing signs. Some of our members have had vehicle problems at put-in/take-out parking lots and some members have been charged with trespass by local landowners in a certain state just north of us. We all know the rule of real estate; they aren't making any more of it. 34 boaters were recently arrested in Georgia for boating a closed river in an attempt to get the trespass law more clearly defined as applied to rivers. Would you be willing to take the same action yourself?

The last area of importance of RMCC members, as far as access is concerned, is PERMITS. On the permit restricted rivers of the west over 75% of all permits go to professional guide services ! There is a 6 year waiting list for the Grand Canyon. By the time my son is old enough to apply for a permit the wait time may well be over 15 years. There are periodic reviews of the permitting process by the BLM, NPS, and other governing bodies, but these are often informal and ill-publicized. Are you happy with your access to your favorite river? What should we do about it?

Now that I may have gotten some "knee jerk" reactions out of you, please consider the following questions. How many of you have taken advantage of the new toilets to reduce your water usage? What have you done to reduce power usage? Are you pro-growth? How often do you carpool or use the bus? Xeriscaped your yard yet? Do you practice zero impact camping/canoeing? Are we just a bunch of "fun hogs" or do we care about the world we are borrowing from our children?

Zounds, this got a little heavy! The RMCC is the sum of its parts, not the power or voice of its leaders. Call, write, telegraph (no fax), and lets see what we add up to. Finally, 'Tis the season for frozen water sports, so call me if you're skiing the back country, and pray for snow in the Colorado River Basin (the rest of the Rockies, too -ed).

-Lowell Stephens, RMCC President 1993

FROM YOUR EDITOR

When I took on this task, I, as well as my predecessors, underestimated the job. My apologies for getting this first issue out. I welcome all submissions (preferably Mac or PC disk), and will print all as space permits. If you don't see something you sent, it's probably in the queue, but call anyway. My method of editing is simple and straightforward. I will clean up language, spelling, and severely mauled syntax, but otherwise what you write is what I print. BEWARE! If you have suggestions as to the news letter format, content or whatnot, let me know. Perhaps a shocked expression on our logo figure (kind of looks like the classic Aikin "oops" high brace!)?

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Bank Balance September, 1991			\$1667.72
Income:			
Memberships	2460.00		
Advertisements	45.00		
Bank Interest	71.19		
		Income Total	2576.19
Expenses:			
Newsletters	1728.52		
Contributions*	185.00		
Three Meetings	301.17		
First Aid Kit Update	39.64		
Miscellaneous	11.00		
		Expenses Total (2265.33)	
			1978.56
Bank Balance September 27, 1992			\$1978.58
*ACA and American Rivers			

RIVER	SEASON	APPLNS	AGENCY	NOTES
Rogue, OR		Jan - mid-Feb	River Permits & Information Siskiyou Natl Forest 14335 Galice Road Merlin, OR 97532 503/479-3735	3000 permits by phone, 3000/lottery.
Salmon, ID Main		Dec - Jan	U S Forest Service Middle Fork Ranger District P.O.Box 750 Challis, ID 83226 208/865-2383	One application for all: Main & Middle Forks, Selway and Snake (Hell's Canyon) call 208-962-3245 for Lower Salmon ans Snake info. No permits needed there.
Salmon, ID Middle Fork		Dec - Jan	U S Forest Service Middle Fork Ranger District P.O.Box 750 Challis, ID 83226 208/879-5204	One application for all: Main & Middle Forks, Selway and Snake (Hell's Canyon)
San Juan, UT Bluff to Lake Powell	May - Sep	Jan - Feb	BLM, San Juan Resource Area 435 N. Main Monticello, UT 84535 801/587-2141	Call-in for cancellations
Selway, MT		Dec - Jan	U S Forest Service 6735 West Fork Road Darby, MT 59829 406/821-3269	One application for all: Main & Middle Forks, Selway and Snake (Hell's Canyon)
Snake, ID Hell's Canyon		Dec - Jan	Hell's Canyon Natl Recreation Area P.O.Box 699 Clarkston, WA 99403 509/758-1957	One application for all: Main & Middle Forks, Selway and Snake (Hell's Canyon)
Tuolumne, CA	May 1 - Oct 15	Jan 1+	U S Forest Service Groveland Ranger District P.O.Box 709 Groveland, CA 95321 209/962-7825	
Yampa, CO Split Mountain Canyon		Dec - mid-Jan	Dinosaur Natl Monument River Office P.O.Box 210 Dinosaur, CO 81610 303/374-2468	SASE for application 1-day trips 1st come, 1st served beginning Mar 1

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB

1993 OFFICERS AND COORDINATORS

PRESIDENT

Lowell Stephens

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP

Verla Priest

TRAINING

Pete Petersen

1993 SUMMER TRIP SCHEDULE COORDINATORS

Tom Beavert

Dennis Adams

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Ken Bauer

IMPORTANT DATES 1993

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1	WINTER FILM FEST
FRIDAY, MARCH 12	1st HALF SEASON TRIP SCHEDULING MEETING
FRIDAY, APRIL 2	SPRING MEETING / SWAP MEET
WEEKEND, JULY 16-17	COLORADO RIVER WEEKEND / NAIL SOUP and 2nd HALF SEASON TRIP SCHEDULING MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15	FALL MEETING / POTLUCK

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 VERLA PRIEST