



The Voyageur's Companion

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB

December 2000
Volume 2 Issue 6



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Special points

to ponder:

- **ORDER YOUR BOOMBOX BY JAN 15, page 5**
- **Learn more knots page 6**
- **Start pool sessions in Jan see map on back page**
- **Check out new officers on back page**
- **Story by our younger generation see page 2**
- **Build a woodstrip canoe page 6**

In partnership.....



NEW CO-PRESIDENTS, the Jankowskis, New Meeting Room at REI

By Greg and Karen Jankowski

It's an honor to take over the role as co-presidents of this humble organization. A special thanks to all of the past leaders of this fine club. We've been particularly blessed by having been members in the 80's and then again in the 90's and never having met an unfriendly club member on the river. We'll be performing the leaders duties as co-presidents simply

because as I'm sure will happen, especially after the amount of duties that Karen did after my being trip coordinator, she'll be helping me on many of these duties, at least this time she'll get the recognition she deserves. On this same note I also extend a special thanks to all the other halves of couples (spouses), that happened to live with our leaders in the past. They took messages, passed along information and served as a

B&B to wayward paddlers,

This is a rapidly changing time. In the 80's it was getting through by phone, to get the details, now trips are being setup, and worked out, all by typing just as I am now, with all the info being sent by email. Accurate river flows most anywhere in the country are just few more key-

(Continued on page 4)

A trip Journal by Paul Holscher

Missouri River, 2000

On the way home from the club rendezvous, my son and I changed our plans and opted to for the Missouri River in Montana instead of the Green in Utah. The weather had been unusually hot and dry and we had heard that the Green from Green

River, Utah to Mineral Bottom was a slow float. We were familiar with the Missouri and knew that although it is flat, it moves at a fairly steady 3 1/2 m.p.h.



Franz and his dog on the Missouri River

Friday, July 28

What a glorious day. After spending last two days driving from Denver to Ft. Benton and doing the shuttle we are finally on the river. Al-


though the river is designated as wild and scenic from our put in to the take out, the first 41 miles has this designation from bank to bank only. There is a lot of private land along this stretch,

mostly ranches, but there are plenty of camping easements.

We paddled about 19 miles in spite of the low

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THE RED CANOE

By Jennie Jankowski

My life is a canoe running on the River of Life. Sometimes the River is smooth, calm, and peaceful, and other times there are rapids, waves smashing into the boat and swamping it. Life can overwhelm and swamp a person as much as a river can swamp a boat. My paddle is my family, the driving force behind everything I do in life, and the floatation bags are my music, always keeping me afloat. My life jacket is my friends, keeping my face out of the River when my boat flips, and the rapids on the River are my goals. I can succeed them or be washed out by them, if they are beyond my skill. But no matter what the rapid is I always enter the tongue with great speed, my paddle digging into the cold, frothy water, and my flotation blocking the water from entering my boat and drowning me. I always boat toward the ho-

rizon, the future. Down to where ever the river takes me in my red canoe.

"All of my boats must be red," my father said when he brought home the sixteen foot boat, the first of the four boats we now own, strapped on the little Corolla. We'll be joining a Canoe Club, he said. "A canoe club?" I thought. "What will this do to my reputation? Canoes went out with the Indians!" My twelve-year-old life was over as I knew it.

On one of my first camping canoe trips I was unloading the gear from the car when I saw a group of children about my age coming towards me. I prayed that the kids wouldn't see me, especially next to big red plastic boat beside me. The President of the canoe club, and the leader of the trip, saw me observing the children and informed me that those children would be on the trip with us.

(Continued on page 3)

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As the trip progressed I realized that not only did these kids canoe, but they actually liked it! By playing with these children I found my long lost imagination, and also learned that I could love the sport of canoeing too.

I canoed many more trips with the children, all of us having one thing in common, boating. Other than boating, we were all Yins' and Yang's, as different as Black is from white. Our differences made me love them even more and soon they became my "River Siblings."

On Canoe trips we did everything together, paddle, eat, drink, hike, and even sleep under the stars together. Our friendships were looked on by approval from our parents and soon, I never know

exactly when; we became "River Rats." Duff, Aquene, Lisa, Laura, Craig, Rachel, and myself are all full time members of the "River Rat Pack."

My father brought me into the sport kicking and screaming, but now I have to give thanks to him for everything I have learned. Although school taught me "Reading, writing, and arithmetic," school never taught me how to rough it in the wilderness, how to pee in the woods, or how to survive. Canoeing taught me the real meaning of responsibility, and showed me how precious life really is.

My red canoe is always adrift, never on land, but is always twisting and turning through the boils and eddies of the River. Every morning I ask myself "What kind of paddle will I have today?"

Photo Gallery of some club members from this summer.

To the right and to the left, bottom is Sammer Elias' new cedar canvas canoe with fiberglass replacing the canvas. The photos were taken in the Boundary waters. (courtesy of Sammer Elias)

Below right is Mark Schantz peeling out of an eddy. (photo, Ned Banta)



strokes away. The latest high tech offering that our club has to offer is subscribing to the club's list server, this can be accomplished by sending an email to majordomo@dotzen.org and in the body of the message type subscribe rmcc-club. The benefit this offers is the ability to send everyone on that list an email plea. (For example, for a trip next weekend or an important meeting) by sending the message to one email address. The only way to send a message to this address and have it go out to all on the list, is for you to first subscribe to the list.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be our Spring Video meeting on
When: Saturday, February 03, 2001 5:00 PM-10:00 PM
Where: Denver Flagship-Full Meeting Space/1416 Platte Street/303-756-3100

I-25 in Denver. They have a very nice meeting room available to nonprofits free of charge. Such an offer is hard not to try, especially since REI has blessed us with a \$500 contribution to our treasury as a way of helping the organizations that are part of the community where they have stores and a presence.

Club Issues

In the early days the laws could take a very unfavorable view toward paddler's going through private property. People were being charged with the heinous crime of third degree trespass in Steamboat for floating the Yampa. Thankfully things have changed for the better with state agencies holding meetings, discussing the rights of boaters and property owners across the same table.

Jim Hollaway has attended the meetings with the Colorado Dept. of Natural Resources and all

other parties interested in the rivers of the state. This group consists of the cattlemen, commercial rafters, fishermen, irrigation companies and all other interested parties. Given that the laws are such that if you were to line up 20 sheriffs and 20 lawyers you'd have 40 different interpretations of our laws. It's tough to be a responsible boater under such a framework. The fact that the DNR is willing to put together such a diverse group is welcome news.

At our last meeting, the members present had reached a kind of consensus on what sort of legislation they would like:

- the right to float on the surface of rivers;
- the right to scout or portage obstacles without being sued or arrested for trespass;
- the right to stand in the river or on shore to effect rescues;

For landowners:

- immunity from suit by paddlers who are injured while river running, scouting or portaging obstacles, or attempting a rescue
- The right to construct livestock fences and permitted diversion/irrigation structures, provided they posted signs warning boaters of their presence.

Also possible legislation mentioned:

- defining "navigable" to mean capable of floating a canoe or kayak;
- granting the public a 10-12 foot easement on both sides of rivers.
- At least by the time that our tenure as co-president, is over

we'll have a much better understanding of what the laws are pertaining to our boating past the no trespassing signs and the barbed wire. Are we allowed to get out of our boat to scout, portage? The next meetings time is November 29 2000, at the Dept. of Natural Resources, 1313 Sherman Street, 7th Floor, Denver, starting at 2 p.m. Jim and I'll be happy to represent the club at that meeting.

The other set of ongoing meetings concern the Arkansas and the long range management of the river corridor and of course the commercial rafters want more launches per day on the other parts of the Arkansas now that they've totally filled Browns with rafts. The next meeting with the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area managers is scheduled for Nov. 29th also, it will be at the new REI flagship store at 6:00 pm. As Ric Allesch said in his email "it is not really a public meeting on the plan that was sent out a few weeks ago (they have closed the official public comment period), but rather it is a meeting with park management to discuss our comments and revisions they are considering in response to the many comments they received from private boaters during the public input period." We'll keep you informed to how both of these issues play out.

The family:

We're a paddling family consisting of Jennifer, Rachel, my wife Karen and myself. We started out without kids paddling our Grumman, then to the kids in the middle of the boat, and have then progressed to 2 tandems on the camping trips and now to either solo or tandem on the bigger wa-

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ter. As a family we've gotten a lot out of the trips that we've done that have been either club trips or trips with members of the club.

We've learned:

- To have a love / hate relationship with sandbars
- Sometimes you have to go to mosquito hell (scenic Sand Wash, UT) to find the family favorite trip
- Having someone in the family that loves to drive is almost a necessity
- The plastics that some of the kayaks are made of are magnetically drawn to our Freedom
- A lot of the time it's the little things that seem to matter a lot, such as: a can opener, matches, dry sleeping bags, and of course toilet paper
- Nothings better than following the right person through the rapid especially when it's his day for meals in his dutch oven
- Even better (at other times) is not taking his route after seeing the consequences of the route that he chose

Kids:

Having kids on trips has already been mentioned, however since river runners are all still just kids that have never learned to grow up, this advice is applicable to all of us. The kids that we've shared rivers with have ranged between a 1st place finisher at whitewater competition in Steamboat, Duff Baker/Jarvis, to 4 year olds that have paddles that have been dry for the last hour and a half. Karen and I both, (and many other parents) have learned to solo that way. The largest problem so far has been the issue of swimming with kids through rapids. In the beginning it was the numbers game of 2 adults vs. 2 kids and a boat not counting other gear that may be floating, to now of having the psyche to swim without fear being the overriding factor in the decisions made while swimming. Having other kids on the trip can make a world of difference (the problem sometimes is the older kids, I've seen many a mother or two) having been the instigators of swimming through the rapids in life jackets. The obvious downside to all of this fun is the bad swim that's in all of

river runner's fate. Here no matter how young or old the child, very bad things can happen to the swimmer's psyche. The best swimmers seem to be the ones that swim the most, some purely by accident, and others willing to explore the places in the rapid where one has stayed away before. With both types the fear level seems to decrease the more times swam. Now before anyone starts to throw others into the rapids, the best place that we've learned to swim is at the pool practice on Sunday mornings. It sure is nice going into a warm pool after goofing up on that new move you've been trying vs. the shock of a cold river. Pool practice begins January ,2001 at the George Meyers pool in Arvada

Kerry Edwards has graciously agreed to lead a kids training class, we'll be glad to help out and hope that other instructors will do likewise.

We look forward to serving as your leaders, and as the past leaders have accomplished, handing to the next, a slightly better club then the one that we received.

Still Booming

by Ron Schmidt V.P.

I'm not getting the response from all of you that I expected. So far only eight people have signed up for this great savings on a " BoomBox" porta potty. I guess most of you don't think the growing number of rivers requiring personal sanitation is going to effect you, but it will soon. Probably sooner than you think. Or maybe my presentation to you wasn't clear in the last news letter.

Here is the scoop once again. If we (you) as a club can purchase 10-19 Boom Box's- we can purchase them for \$58.95 ea. If we purchase 20 or more, we can have them for \$49.95 ea. That's a \$15.00 savings

over list and I don't think you can find a better deal on any porta potty that beats that. I will put this order in on the 15th of Jan. with or with out you, so get in touch with me now!

Contact Ron Schmidt

Canyonlands, photo by Lin Baker



MORE NEWS ON DINOSAUR FEES

by Denny Huffman

My apologies for not following through and sharing with you the events of the past year regarding the proposed fee increases for river permits in Dinosaur National Monument. Most of you are aware from "word of mouth" that our efforts last spring through writing the NPS service and talking to our leaders resulted in a quiet NPS meeting for the regional parks that have permitted rivers. That meeting was held over in Page, Arizona in early April. The outcome of this meeting was kept quiet.

Denny Huffman, a WATER club member who conveniently is a former superintendent of Dinosaur, has worked with Monica Atkinson (WATER club pres) to discover what the outcome of the Dinosaur Fee Stink was as it applies to us. Interestingly enough documents relating to the Page, AZ meeting, were not sent to us. We are still working on that part of the picture. The following is his report to our newsletter on what we have found out. Please feel free to use the little we have for informing your respective clubs as to what is going on. --Dennis.....

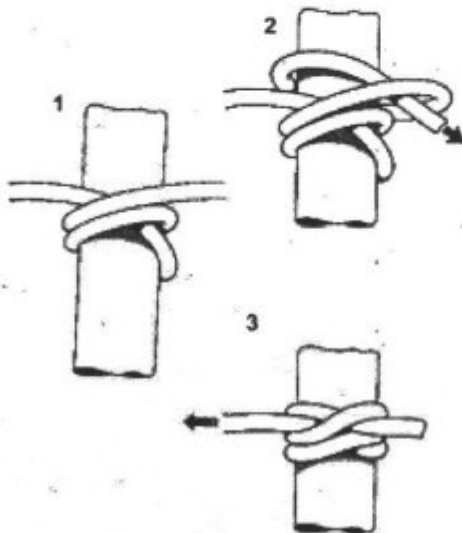
President Monica tendered a Freedom of Information Act request on behalf of the WATER Club in late July asking for documents exchanged between various offices of the National Park Service regarding fees charged for recreational river users at Dinosaur National Monument and Canyonlands National Park. In

those documents, the Deputy Director of the NPS in Washington, D.C. clearly instructed that river use is a recreational activity, and not a special park use. In doing so, Mr. Galvin noted that river operations, including patrols, campsite inspections, etc. are operational programs and should be base funded just like any other recreational program - biking, hiking, swimming, fishing, etc. He notified the park areas that they must pursue base or appropriated funds to operate these programs after September 30, 2001. Galvin also noted that only the "direct" costs of fee collection and "direct" costs associated with administering reservations and permits could be charged against fee receipts, not normal river operations. We interpret that to mean that some fee could be charged for obtaining a river permit at Dinosaur, but those fees would be significantly lower than current fees since they can only reflect actual direct costs of administering the permit program. This is good news for Club members and other private boaters alike.

If you are interested in reviewing the documents received so far, give Monica a call, or stop by the shop.

"This is good news for Club members and other private boaters alike."

Knots To You from the VP



This knot is essential for all sailors. It is derived from the clove hitch but is much stronger. This knot is very effective and reliable for gripping a cylindrical object. It grips itself but tightens in only the direction of the standing part marked by the arrow in fig. 3.

Red Rocks Community College's Fine Woodworking Department

will be offering a course in the Spring Semester on WoodStrip Canoe Building.

It is a three credit course that will cost approximately \$220.00. The class will build a wood strip canoe from scratch that will be raffled to one of the class members at the end of the class. The class will meet one night a week beginning in February. Red Rocks is located on West Sixth Ave. in Lakewood. For further information contact John Sperling, Chair, Fine Woodworking 303-914-6362 or e-mail at john.sperling@rrcc.ccooes.edu

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water and made camp. As we sat talking in the little bit of shade we could find, we heard a rustling in the nearby dry grass. Our dog Sadie immediately began barking and we heard the telltale rattle from a snake. With all the commotion Sadie was making, it didn't take long for the snake to figure out that there must be less encumbered way down to the river, and it left.

Saturday, July 29

Our goal the second day was Coal Banks Landing where the wild and scenic portion begins to extend beyond the riverbanks. The days had been very hot, so we put on the river at 7:00 a.m. Franz and I spent some of the day just drifting, allowing the push and pull of the current to slowly turn the boats in the heat like roasts on a barbecue spit. All was quiet, save for an occasional bird calling or ranch irrigation motor. We reached Coal Banks, the only available water stop this trip, by 2:00 p.m., but because there is very little shade at Coal Banks, we continued on another 6 miles to the shady campsite at Little Sandy Creek. This put us in a good position to do a side hike at Eagle Creek the next day and make it to Hole in the Wall campground where we could get up the following morning and do another side hike.

Sunday, July 30

Put in at 7:00 a.m. About 6 miles down river we entered the area known as the White Rocks because the river is flanked on either side by beautiful white sandstone formations. Meriwether Lewis' described it best.

The water in the course of time in descending from those hills and plains on either side of the river has trickled down the soft sand cliffs and worn it into a thousand grotesque figures, which with the help of a little imagination and an oblique view, at a distance are made to represent elegant ranges of lofty free-

stone buildings, having their parapets well stocked with statuary; columns of various sculpture both grooved and plain, are also seen supporting long galleries in front of those buildings; in other places on a much nearer approach and with the help of less imagination we see the remains or ruins of elegant buildings; some columns standing and almost entire with their pedestals and capitals...

We reached Eagle Creek, where Lewis penned those words, by late morning and took the side hike to Eye of the Needle. This rock formation tops a cliff on river right just opposite Eagle Creek. To reach it requires first hiking up a short steep hill and then enter the bowels of the cliff behind a small coniferous tree. You then proceed to scramble up a narrow gully in the rock until you reach a short, easily climbed theater in the rock. Proceeding up the right side of this face, you arrive at the top where you then descend a short way to the lookout, about 200 feet above the river. Framed by the pillars left after the arch was torn down a few years ago, the river stretches out into the distance for several miles. The arch may be gone but the view isn't. After the Eye of the Needle we hiked about a mile up Eagle Creek where we saw some deer. On the way back we decided to spend the night here rather than go on to Hole in the Wall where there isn't any shade except for some old shelters with sod roofs and dirt floors.

Monday, July 31, 2000

The next morning, in an effort to beat the heat, we arose about 4:30 a.m. and were ready to shove off a little before 6:00 a.m. In the early morning light I slipped the red Freedom into the river with dog Sadie lying on top of the cooler in front of me. As I began drifting in the slow, easy current along the dry, mud bank,

Franz was finishing with the hatches of the touring kayak.

As I floated downstream, I noticed a rattlesnake swimming across the river toward Franz. I told him about it, but felt confident that the snake would veer away when it noticed Franz moving about. I was wrong. Franz hurried his preparations to get on the water. However, unable to push off before the arrival of the snake, Franz, from his seat in the kayak, reached to his left with the paddle and slid it under the front half of the snake. Giving it a toss in the direction from which it had come, the snake began turning in the air. By the time the snake had done its second cartwheel Franz had pushed off.

We arrived at the Hole in the Wall campground, a distance of about 7 miles and proceeded up to the hole in the wall. The hole in the wall is exactly that - a long wall juts out from the top a hill that runs nearly perpendicular to the river. As the rock wall nears the river, a large hole can be seen high up in the formation. From this point you have another spectacular view of the river.

Getting back on the river, strong afternoon winds slowed our progress, and we didn't arrive at our campsite, 13 miles further down river, until 5:00.

Wednesday, August 2

After paddling about 45 miles yesterday we put on the River by 5:30, stopped for a hike at the Power Plant Ruins, and proceeded on to the takeout where we arrived about 2:00. After six days on the river in some of the hottest weather and lowest water I have experienced on the Missouri, I would have thought I would be glad to arrive at the takeout. But six days on this river can never be enough to see and explore all the lands along this corridor, so I always hesitate to get off the river. Of particular interest to me are the canyons we paddled through so quickly yesterday. I have resolved that the next trip I will spend less time in the White Rocks area and more in the area below the Judith River.



Voyager's Companion

**UPCOMING DATES
OF NOTE:**

January

Pool Sessions at Geo
Meyers Pool 8 am -noon
directions below

Feb 3

Winter Meeting at REI
flagship store. 5:00 pm Pot-
luck, Filmfest. Map in next
issue.

Club Officers:

President
Greg & Karen Jankowski

Vice President
Ron Schmidt

Conservation
Doug Ellis

Instruction
Bob & Jill Stecker

Treasurer
Joanne Brown

Trip Coordinator
Ken Bauer

Membership Secretary
David & Jeannie Ney

Quartermasters
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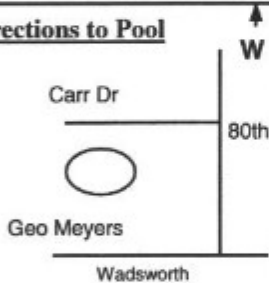
WebMaster
Dave Allured

Our New Web Address:

<http://www.rockymountaincanoeclub.org>

The Voyager's Companion is a bi-monthly publication of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club. Editorial material for The Voyager's Companion is welcomed and should be sent to : Diane Binder, Editor, The Voyager's Companion, [] Longmont, CO 80501. OR email Documents in the following file formats: Word 6.0, 7.0, WordPerfect, Word 95, Word 6.x. Graphics files: .jpg .gif .pict .tif .pcx .dxf .cgm .cdr .eps .emf .gif .pcd .pct drw .pcf .tga and .bmp

Directions to Pool



Submitting Articles: The Voyager's Companion is primarily the venue for the RMCC to post trip schedules, classified ads, and related material, enabling members to share and enhance their canoeing interests. We invite members to contribute articles on trips as well as informative articles on subjects such as the following: Paddling techniques, Equipment, rigging the Canoe, Environmental Issues, River Safety, Camping Techniques, or Canoe History. The editorial staff appreciates your efforts to limit wordiness of superfluous details, and to restrict the article to under 1,200 words (about 2 pages).

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