



The Voyageur's Companion

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB

August 2001

Rendezvous and Late Summer Newsletter

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RENDEZVOUS 2001

If only you had been there...

By Lyn Berry

The 2001 Annual RMCC River Rendezvous is now History. The 87 (more or less) members and guests who attended the festival at the Bureau of Land Management Recreation Site in Radium along the banks of the historic Colorado River are now all home reflecting on the tremendous good time that was shared by all. Everyone had a great time, feasted on scrumptious food, paddled the colorful Colorado River (even though the water flow was somewhat minimal), expounded on some almost unbelievable stories, and most of all simply enjoyed the camaraderie of sharing a weekend with fellow Rocky Mountain Canoers.

The Club's whitewater training classes were held in conjunction with the Rendezvous. Jeff Oxenford, Karen & Jim Baker-Jarvis, and Bob & Jill Stecker conducted the solo, novice and intermediate classes respectively. The skills learned by the students are now waiting anxiously in their minds for the future occasion when the water levels are a bit more challenging.

Canoe trips were done through many of the Colorado River's popular recreation sections: Pumphouse to Radium and Yarmony and State Bridge, Yarmony Bridge to Landing Strip. All-in-all these trips were very relaxing, enjoyable, cool; in short very lay back for every paddler. The one significant notable is that a river access at State Bridge is not recommended unless using the fee area on river left before the bridge.

On Sunday many canoers who had not done Pumphouse on Saturday, did put-in there, for a fun run to Radium, while another group of canoers attempted the Eagle River from Wolcott to Eagle.

The Dutch Oven Cook Out was truly enjoyed by all. Jim Halloway conducted the discussion and voting for the Peoples Choice Award, while the judging for the other awards was done by the entrants themselves. See following article by Dennis Adams for the cook-off results. It must be remembered that during the announcements of the prize winners, a small, but lovely rainbow showed itself in the Eastern sky.

The new email list sever

At the rendezvous it was discussed and voted on to establish an email list that is no longer shared with other clubs. This list server will enable "subscribed" RMCC members to easily and securely communicate with each other. Members can send a message (eg. "Anyone want to run the Blue this weekend...") to the list address and it will go out to all that have subscribed to the list. The replies would then also go out to all subscribed. The individual addresses would never be shown, nor would they be given out. You also would not have to maintain your own list of the addresses for all the club members. The emails coming from the list would be specific to the club and it's members.

If you would like to subscribe and use such a list for RMCC Members, then merely send a blank message from your own e-mail server to: **subscribe-list@rockymountaincanoeclub.org**. When you do so, you will receive an email back to confirm your

subscription, and further instructions on how to use the list.

Use the RMCC mail list. Make it a real useful tool for communicating efficiently with other Club members.

Keep in touch with RMCC on the WEB at

rockymountaincanoeclub.org

Trip Schedules
News & Information
Pictures
Training

“Whose River Is It Anyway?”

“Owners of land along river seek to block boaters”.... “Ex-attorney general says water belongs to citizens”... “Boaters challenge Ranchers”.... “Don’t dam state’s growth”... River users wade into battle.” - (Denver headlines April-June 2001)

by Doug Ellis

The tension continues to mount most recently with the arrests of four boaters on the South Platte above Cheesman Reservoir in June, followed by a “float-in” on the Lake Fork organized by CWWA/AWA. Boater-landowner-municipal conflicts are on the rise. Jay Kenney, current president of both Colorado and American Whitewater Association, forecasts a showdown in the courts to determine usage rights and review the 1979 Supreme Court’s Emmert Decision.

Colorado has more trespassing “violations” on the books than any other state. While much of the hubris is attributed to commercial rafting operators, many of those actually affected are private party boaters, like us. The popularity of boating (e.g. rafting, canoeing, kayaking) has compelled many stakeholders to take a hard look at the impact of boating on the environment.

During a meeting at the Department of Natural Resources in January, a task force representing landowners, boaters and local agencies, agreed on a signage system along the riverfront to indicate private and public lands to avoid trespassing altercations. The Lake Fork in Gunnison is one of the pilot areas. The whitewater course in Golden (spearheaded by RMCC’sers Bob & Jill Stecker) was recently put to the test when Silver Plume and the Georgetown RR wanted to limit downstream flows on Clear Creek. The court ruled that the Golden whitewater course provides viable economic value to the community and therefore is allowed to maintain optimum flows from May to July. Vail and Breckenridge are jumping through similar hoops for their respective whitewater courses.

Commercial rafting is approaching the \$50 million mark as a tourism industry in Colorado. The stakes are high. Colorado is headwaters to over forty rivers, many considered world class runs. As the state continues to attract new residents at a record rate, more people are running rivers. Culture

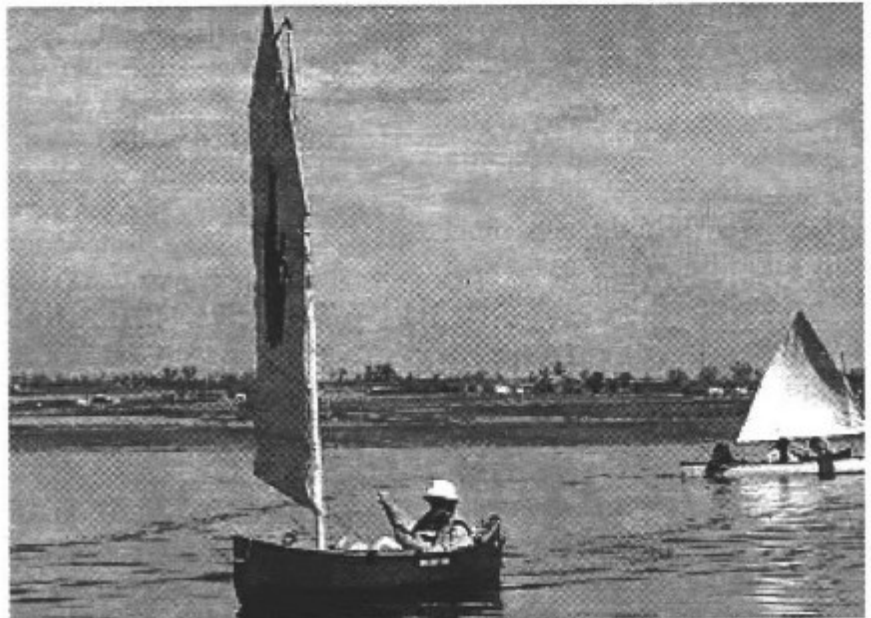
clashes are inevitable. This “shared” resource is creating problems for anglers eager to nurture the local trout population; private landowners who seek relief from a steady stream of rafts; environmentalists who complain of the impact on riparian habitat; and boaters, who, just want to enjoy a day on the river.

Another issue for boaters is water allocation – the ability of downstream users to “call” for periodic water releases for agriculture or other irrigation uses. What comes down (i.e. rain-fall) must go down (downstream)... only where and when (in the case of the South Platte) is at the disposal of the Denver Water Department, the Army Corps of Engineers and the State Parks, among others. Chatfield Reservoir for example holds less than 1/40th of its capacity. As to why the Corps could not “store” water for periodic release to maintain optimum flows is a complicated and politically sensitive business relating to multiple agencies, veteran water rights and flood plain management. (But there is at least discussion in this direction.)

The question of water allocation, ie: who gets what and for what purpose – is becoming increasingly important as we watch boatable days on our rivers rise and fall, not with the weather, but with dam releases. Fully seventy percent of our surface water goes west with the snow melt – mirroring about the same percentage of people that live on the opposite side, e.g. the Front Range. The supply and demand pie on both sides of the Continental Divide is becoming a hot potato for local municipalities who must consider agricultural, commercial, residential and recreational needs when turning the proverbial faucet on and off.

One rally cry that boaters should pay close attention to, is the political momentum to divert water to meet increased growth needs. Supporters include former US Senator, Hank

Canoe sailing on Union Reservoir. See following article.
by Diane Binder



Whose River ... (continued)

Brown, who advocate capturing the water during spring runoff and storing it in underground aquifers for summer agricultural needs. What would this mean for paddlers who face a decrease in the number of boatable days now?

The bottom line is that as a member of the Rocky Mountain boating community, we need to stay aware of issues affecting boating and vocal in our support of our rivers. Failure to do so imperils not only access for put-ins and take-outs, but also the amount of water needed to paddle your boat. Imagine your worse day float scenario – getting busted for trespassing while walking around a bony section of the river that early that morning was a very boatable flow. Never take the river for granted, come to appreciate xeriscaping and pray for rain.

Trip for next June:

Keep this one in mind

The third weekend in June, 2002 look for at least 6 canoes being paddled by RMCCers, to enter the FIBARK intermediate downriver race. This will only be 10 miles of Class II water, but the weekend will mostly feature plenty of fun and comraderie on the river.

Watch for it.

Dutch Oven Cook Off Results

Summer Rendezvous Feasting

By Dennis Adams

The following are the award winners at this year's Dutch Oven Cook Off which was held in conjunction with the Summer Rendezvous. The friendly competition (the participants were the judges) was notable for having all entries being very high in quality and generous in portion. A personal observation is that all of this year's entries were up to the standards of winning entries from the past years. All of the Dutch Oven dishes were quickly cleaned out by our appreciative membership who were the true winners of this event.

Main Dish Division:

First Place, Bob's Green Chicken and Pepper Enchiladas, Bob Aikin.

Second Place, Chili Verde, Jay Hayes

Dessert Division:

First Place, Raspberry Peach Enchiladas, Lisa Adams and Rachel Jankowski.

Second Place, Fruit Topped Cake, Rebecca Ellis and Laura Adams

Special Prizes:

People's Choice, Bob's Green Chicken and Pepper Enchiladas, Bob Aikin.

"Meat and Potatoes" Award, Bearclaw's Chicken Livers, Doug "Bearclaw" Ellis

"Oil Your Pot Beforehand", Bearclaw Ellis

"Cleanliness (Not!) Award", Lisa Adams and Rachel Jankowski

"The Pester Me Not" Award, Jake Hurd

"Most Original Dish", Lamb Pastitsio, Jake Hurd

"Zesty" Award", Chile Verde, Jay Hayes

"One With Nature" Award, Apple Strudel, Jenny and Karen Jankowski

"Helping Hands Award", Breakfast Pizza, Scott Dump Cake, Gretchen

"Small Fryers" Award, Rebecca Ellis and Laura Adams

"Home Cooking" Award, Rhubarb Cobbler, Doug Hurcomb

"The Lone Rangers" Award (who were those cooks), Green Chile Chicken Fajita Soup (Dip?) with Tortillas

The *"Diana Pruesser Award for Timeliness"* (for the last finished dish), Jenny and Karen Jankowski

...our appreciative membership were the true winners of this event.

The recipe for the winning dessert, Raspberry Peach Enchiladas, was submitted to me. Give me a call if you would like it as there was no room on the page to print; or call Lisa Adams or Rachel Jankowski.

Ripples on Golden Pond!

A Taste of Slalom

-Submitted by Bob Cook

"What are all those sticks hanging over the water for?" I looked up at the three tubers just emerging from the top of the course at Golden's Whitewater Park. Yes, it looks so bewildering; the red and white, and green and white "candy cane" trimmed sticks hanging out over the water at seemingly random spots. It is understandable if observers look upon it as an eyesore. But these kids didn't seem to be sitting in judgement, just curious. For me, however, the judgement was all too clear, and harsh. These simple poles over the water were not placed randomly, but were placed with intent, and it was our task to maneuver around and through them with grace and speed.

Slalom can be intimidating. A well set course is not intended to be easy, and most courses are not set up for the convenience of canoeists. Open canoes are difficult to sneak under gates to take advantage of the often tight eddy lines

that kayakers or C-1 boaters can negotiate quickly and with precision.

Seven of us accepted Jeff Oxenford's invitation for a day-long clinic for slalom paddling on June 28. Joining Jeff were Bob & Jill Stecker, Ken Bauer, Mick O'Shea; from London via Manhattan, Kansas, another tandem team from Oregon, Jim and Jan and myself.

And what a day it was! We were hosted by Bob Campbell, whitewater coach at the Sydney Olympics, and 1992 Olympic C-2 Champion, and current U.S. World Cup Team member, Joe Jacobi.

On a beautiful Thursday morning, after the initial stretching, opening remarks, and introductions, Bob and Joe led us to Golden Pond to practice some fundamentals.

Under Bob and Joe's watchful eyes, we practiced sweeps and cross bow draws and then paddled forward and did figure "8"s before heading off to the Whitewater course. In doing our best strokes we ran headlong into critique that I found surprising. Bob and Joe corrected us when we did our best "Bob Foote" imitations in various strokes.

and sweeps each have a different look from the racer's perspective. That makes sense in light of what's being addressed; speed, precision, and grace. Then I recalled how Bob Foote told our instructor class that our own teaching repertoire would vary depending upon the group we were instructing. I know that, for instance, it's not important that we teach the same kind of technique for a forward stroke to a "Quick Start" class as we would for instructors or whitewater paddlers. There is a continuum of style and technique.

Each of us brought our own expectations and hopes to the day, and for me, it was the pursuit of joy through precision paddling. And I wasn't disappointed. It was very enjoyable to have the opportunity to work with some of our nation's best minds in the slalom event; whether to gain an initial experience of slalom, or to hone skills that have been developed for years. Bob and Joe took pains to give each of us individual attention as time warranted. Every experience is also enhanced or diminished by other participants; how they respond to instruction, the questions they ask, the "culture" that is created by the group itself. I was very satisfied that our group helped create a positive mood and attitude that made the experience fun.

When I sought understanding from Bob Campbell, I came to understand that there are variations to technique that are situation-specific. Paddler stance, forward strokes, corrections

Our experience was enhanced by the inclusion of digital video of our runs, which allowed Bob's comments to be heard later while observing our specific movements. This removed the issue of trying to remember a specific turn or gate or drop, it was all there on tape and could be paused or slo-mo'd later for examination. Bob and Joe invited us to continue to dialogue with them via e-mail. It's a gift that keeps giving! All in all a terrific day; probably too short for most of us, but enough of a sweet taste that we all look forward to future sessions with Joe and Bob, and hope that more members will take advantage of this marvelous opportunity.

The author negotiating 'candy cane' sticks.

courtesy Bob Campbell, Gold Medal Productions



YAMPA RIVER FESTIVAL 2001

by Jill Stecker

This year's Yampa River Festival slalom race (June 10th) at Steamboat Springs was unlike any previous one we have attended over the past four or five years. The water was the lowest we have seen it and all the hot-shot kayakers who usually attend the races were over in Durango racing at the Animas River Day's slalom that just happened to occur on the same date this year. These conditions made the Yampa races ideal for canoeists. And for the first time quite a number of RMCC'ers participated in the races.

By the time Jeff Oxenford, Nate Lord, Kerry & Pauline Edwards, Carol Aikin, and Bob & I did both solo and tandem runs swapping partners and borrowing each others canoes, we pretty well dominate the races. The flow at Steamboat was 1500 cfs (about half it's normal flow). At that level, the run thru the course was class I-II. It was very friendly for anyone new to slalom racing and that's why I even tried it in a



Bob and Jill Stecker in Action at the Yampa Festival

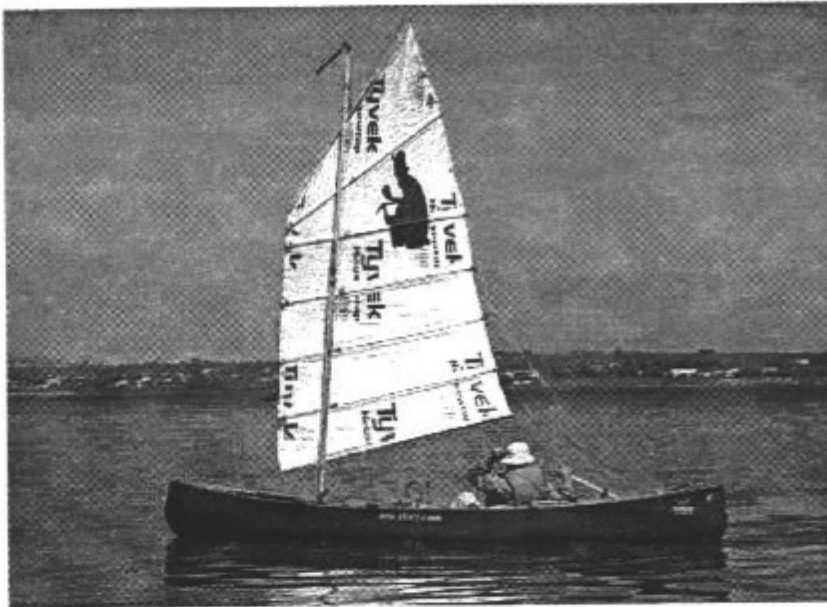
solo canoe---my first solo slalom race!

The Yampa Festival is quite a fun and festive event that includes both slalom and downriver races, a kayak rodeo, --and probably the most crowd pleasing event---the Crazy River Dog race. For this event the dog owner throws a stick into the swift current of the river and

the dog who retrieves it in the fastest time wins. The Festival winds up with a gumbo dinner with live bluegrass band for entertainment. And if you want to wind down a little more there is the Steamboat hot springs to soak and relax in at the end of the day.

RMCC TRIP SCHEDULE ---- Fall 2001

Date	Location	Coordinator	Phone	Class	Other Notes
August 11-12	Arkansas River	Lyn Berry		II	Includes Bear Creek Rapid
August 12	Arkansas	Lyn Berry		III	Browns or maybe Three Rocks Must have helmet
Sept 1-3	Colorado River	Dick Akins		B - N	Loma to Westwater Adults only
Sept 1-3	Green River	Eric Nyre		N	Green River to Mineral Bottom Sea Kayak. 63 miles
Sept 1-3	Green River	Karen & Greg Jankowski		II - III	Flaming Gorge. Kids OK Cold water gear recommended
Sept 15	Colorado River	Jim Hollaway		I - II	Yarmony Bride to Landing Strip Car camp at TO. Fall colors
Sept 16	Colorado River	Jim Hollaway		II	Grizzley Ck to S Canyon or Glenwood if windy!
Sept 29-30	Colorado River	Jim Hollaway		II	Dewey Bridge to Big Bend Car camping, FULL MOON



Sail Your Canoe

By Ron Schmidt

For me I guess, the sailing bug started ten years ago when Di and I sailed around Boulder reservoir in Sunfish sailboats they had for rent. Di and I talked about how much fun it would be to have a little sail boat, but that was about as far as it went. At least until 1997 when we christened our latest Cedarstrip canoe and Jack Strebel came with his aluminum Grumman canoe with its sailing rig. It was a great night for canoeing but not sailing.

I didn't think about it again until the fall of 1999 when a "Wooden Canoe" magazine had an article on an ACA sailing canoe regatta. The cover shot was of a mast and leeboard attachment that clamped into a canoe. I started looking for any information I could find on the subject. The library had very little but the Internet was loaded. One site had "Making a Tyvek sail", another had beautiful wooden canoe rigs, and the ACA site had full plans for an ACA approved rig and sail. They even had a Dacron 44 square foot sail you could purchase to compete in ACA regattas. "The Lost in the Woods Boat Works" in Canada has different sails and clamp-in rigs you can buy the plans, or one can just purchase the rig

ready made along with leeboard, clamp on tiller and float bags for the chine of a canoe. Even turn of the century books on canoe sailing and racing can be read on line. Link after link after link.

My brother in law had a left over roll of "Tyvek" from a church building project that he gave me. There was enough for a Lateen (triangular) sail and then some. The rig I could make myself from wood and a little elbow grease. The mast I found could be a nice straight fir tree stripped of its branches. I was so fascinated with the junk sails that I started researching them. I found the source of it all in a book called "The Practical Junk Rig" by Hasler and McCloud. They studied and adapted the Junk sail on western yachts for safer cruising and simplicity of handling.

I had enough Tyvek left over after making the Lateen sail, so I decided to try to make a junk sail for the canoe or our future dingy. (Which ever came first) The junk sail has one failing, and that's in light wind, it has to have at least 10% more area for sailing in those conditions. The real beauty of the junk sail is its ability to reef down to the wind condition simply by raising or lowering. One could build it with 50% more area and not have to worry except for the height of the mast. With Tyvek, there isn't any sewing involved,

you just use either Tyvek tape or heavy duty indoor/outdoor carpet tape to hem the edge and reinforce the grommets. The spars would be bamboo that could easily be bought at McGuckens or some gardening store for a buck and a half or less, and the rest of the work was measuring and a little more of that elbow grease.

My junk sail has 63 square feet as compared to the ACA approved lateen sail with 44 square feet and it scoots. It mounts on my 16 foot Prospector but any 16 or 17 foot boat would do. The leeboard has to be set in front of the center of effort or the boat will not turn into the wind when the sail is released (in a heavy gust or strong wind). You will learn all that when you start sailing. We use two or three 5 gallon water jugs (filled at the lake) for ballast, (leave a little air in the top so they will float if you capsize) and two air bags tied into the chines to keep the canoe from filling up with too much water in case you go over. You can build a clamp on rudder or just steer with a paddle as I do. The Lateen rig is by far the simplest. An eight-foot mast and 9-foot gaff and boom and a simple sail gets you on the water.

Along with Jack Strebel, Kerry and Pauline Edwards have a sailing canoe in the club. With "Style Paddling", river running, and lake boating it only seemed right to make a sail boat out of my canoe. What more could one ask from the most versatile watercraft ever invented!

Here are a few of my sources on the net. Have a go at it and call me if you think I can help you in any way. You too can be a "Capn-Ron"/Bill Mason/all around canocist.

http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~fassitt/canoe_mirror/canoe_sailing.html#h1

<http://www.friend.ly.net/user-homepages/d/dadadata/canoes.html>

<http://www.enter.net/~skimmer/>

<http://www.cs.pdx.edu/~trent/junk.html>

<http://www.cs.pdx.edu/~trent/junk.html>

Chama Charms Again

(An account of a Spring
trip 2001)

by Diane Binder

How wonderful, another long weekend to enjoy a trip down a river. This time the Rio Chama, New Mexico's stretch of wild and scenic. Memorial Day Weekend brought great weather, fun people, and lively water together for a delightful start of the summer paddling season.

After finding the campsite near the put in just below the dam at El Vado Reservoir, we proceeded to "save" a big area for our fellow paddlers who were to roll in at various intervals until our party was complete. Ever mindful of the numerous other campers, who seemed to fill in every nook and cranny, we were advised that this was becoming a very popular spot to camp. Thank goodness we were heading out on the river the next day. Who in their right mind would want to spend their entire weekend crowded together like sardines on a hot stove snorting road dust?

Once we were on the river, we had plenty time to bask in the sunshine, river camaraderie, and New Mexican scenery. Now you are probably wondering who took part in this trip, so the lineup was as follows: Mary Parrot our high energized leader, Mary Stuber and Sue Coffee, the Schmidt-Binders, and Erica, the Littlejohns, Baker-Jarvis family, Tuppin and Mike, and our now Hawaiian exiles, the Summers. Noteworthy to mention here is that the Summers have both taken jobs on the big island of Hawaii, and will not be joining the club activities for a while. They indicated that they would be back



Ron and Erica doing the Guaging Station rapid.

in the future, and will continue their membership. Aloha Doug and Kellee! We missed you this Rendezvous.

Hiking was in order for the first camp spot. Up a creekbed we went, twisting and climbing until we reached the natural amphitheater. Unusual it was that we saw very little signs of wildlife. We saw not a fish rise, no deer, no birds, but we did see snakes, rattlers. It saddened me to see what this represented. We wound our way back down to camp, carefully avoiding everyone's boombox hide-away, as several of us were christening our newly acquired waste receptacles on this trip. We chose to keep ours in camp and carry it to remote private places when nature called. Others set theirs up in a "bathroom spot hide-away", a short distance away from the campsites. Whichever method was chosen, we all agreed that it was handy having several "boxes" around as they took up very little space in our boats.

Next day brought us a little more activity on the river, a few rapids and lots of wind. The solo boaters pressed steadily onward hoping to have enough energy to make it to the next camp. This

camp was accessible by car, thus representing getting back to civilization, no more wild and scenic. There were rattlesnake holes and Blair Witch stick dolls hung from the trees. Sue Coffee even saw a rattler and warned us of their presence. If anyone of us were superstitious, we wouldn't have set up camp, but as we all laughed at the nonsense, we set about to ignore the totems and pitch our tents.

It was here, the next day, that some of the group decided to leave their gear, so that their boats were light and easily navigable in Gauge Station rapid and the 90 degree rapid following. We scouted, ran, and collected ourselves at the bottom. No mishaps, just lots of grins. Mary Parrot gave some great pointers to those of us who needed and appreciated them, myself especially. It was over too soon. Isn't that the way of river travel?

*It is pleasant to have been to a place
the way a river went.*

--Henry David Thoreau

The river flow was
around 1100 cfs.
This level just enhanced
everything!



CLASSIFIEDS

Classifieds may be posted by RMCC Members, and should be relevant to canoeing.

Contact WebMaster or Newsletter Editor.

For Sale: **Mad River ME.** Set-up for Tandem and Solo. Thigh straps, float bags, graphics, skid plates and scratches. This is the first of the true whitewater boats. Don't be left high and dry running the shuttle when you can be on the water with your significant other! \$650.

Dagger Prophet fully outfitted - \$450. Contact Jeff Oxenford,

Dagger Impulse fully outfitted - \$550. Contact Jeff Oxenford,

WANTED To Buy **Caption** Call Michael or Jean

Jeff Oxenford's, one of RMCC instructor's, "real" phone number is Chnage your ROSTER!

WANTED **Advertising Manager.** responsible for acquiring relevant ADS, collecting payments, submitting to the Newsletter Editor. Pay: \$0.00, but with first class satsrification. Contact Greg Jankowski.

For Sale: **15-foot Mad River Courier**, battered and just restored. This royalex boat has been through the mill and back. It had several cold cracks, repaired 5 years ago and holding perfectly despite later broaching on a rock. Brand new wooden gunwhales. Excellent solo tripping boat, and good tandem. New paint. Asking

\$400. Eric Hermann

Guaging Station rapid, final wave.

Chama River photos by Diane Binder

next RMCC Event:

Meeting and Potluck, at St Jude's on Sat. Oct 20th 6pm.

Bring your favorite dish. They will have doors open for us to set up at 5pm.

St. Judes Youth Centre, on Florida just west of Garrison.

Club Officers

Co-Presidents

Greg & Karen Jankowski

Conservation

Doug Ellis

Treasurer

Joanne Brown

Advertising

Vacant
Help Wanted

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Bob & Jill Stecker

Trip Coordinator

Ken Bauer

Membership Secretary

David & Jeannie Ney

Quartermasters

Bob Aikin

Kerry Edwards

Newsletter

Lyn Berry

WebMaster

Dave Allured

Lessons Learned

The San Juan Teaches...

By Greg Jankowski

Our first weeklong trip of the season proved to be quite a learning experience, with some of the lessons being replanned and some sneaking up on us.

Karen managed to snag a cancellation for the trip, in spite of not winning the lottery. The only problem, was only having a choice of either a 6 or 8 person cancellation. It seems that the BLM is working hard to make the large groups a thing of the past.

One of the pleasant lessons learned was, if you want to get the choice campsites? Do the river in a canoe.

Each day we broke camp fairly late (10:00ish or so) and still managed to pass a couple of groups of rafts and get to the next campsite for a late lunch. Then we'd have each of the groups that we passed, and sometimes others, swing into the eddy at the camp and give us a dirty look for getting the campsite that they were hoping for. We even had a commercial group of 35 that wanted to share a campsite that only had 2 more tent sites left. All of this blinding speed on the river was accomplished with each of the tandems having paddlers being between the age of 9 and 15.

Flash floods and losing sleep at night

One of the lessons wasn't planned in any way. The lesson had to do with tying up canoes at night or for any extended period of time. Now I'll be the first to admit that I've always been under the 'most of the time I tie up the canoes when left unattended' category. This time I was glad that I did.

Just before going to the tents, as the campfire burnt down, Karen was the first to notice was that only one of our

boats was where they had been pulled up. In this particular case, the canoe was pulled up not only out of the water, but actually the stern being about 6 inches above the water on a sand beach. We then saw the other boat floating downstream while tugging at the painter tied to the base of a bush. After pulling both boats up further, we then started to bring up the other canoes and tent up to higher ground. Once we got ahead of the rising waters we watched in amazement, as the river rose approximately 2 1/2 ft vertically in less than one hour. The weather at the time was clear, however we did have periods of rain in the preceding 48 hrs. with a couple of thunderstorms that had passed close by in the late afternoon and early evening. Thankfully, the river stopped rising and a short time later started to slowly recede. Once home I looked up the flow and found that the river went from 3,000 to 11,000 cfs in the same period of time that we were at the campsite.

Lessons learned

In having a lot of time to think about what had happened to us, my plan is to borrow a trick from the rafters. Set up a rope bag with enough nylon rope (a rope that holds a knot better than the floating polypropylene) to always be able to reach a substantial bush, tree, or rock. Any anchor that is guaranteed to hold the canoes throughout the night even when they are floating and the rope being tugged at incessantly

Filtering vs. carrying water experiment

On this trip we started the experiment of using filtered water to augment our water on the river. The decision was to limit the amount of water carried down from over 10 gal to 5 gal or less. We were aided by the ability to refill at Mexican Hat on the second day of the trip. At John's Canyon we were starting to run low on water and then started the filtering experiment. One of the first things learned was that the source

of the water has a huge impact on the taste and odor of the water that comes out of the filter. We had filled our dish washing buckets a few hours before the flood event and after letting it settle over night we pumped it through the filter. The clearer the water, the longer the filter will go before needing to be cleaned or replacing the filter cartridge. That water turned out to have no flavor or smell. However the other choices of water was of the greatest challenge, each of the pools had it's own aroma and subsequent taste. If in swimming in the pool of water you can smell the water then it's safe to assume that you'll smell that same odor in the water filtered from that source. The best source other than the river, which was so brown after the flood that even an overnight settling did little to clear up the water, was a small waterfall in Slickhorn Canyon where the water was coming out from between the rock layers.

The plan for next time

Items necessary to get water from sources other than the river. A good filter that's easy to use, a folding bucket to catch or haul the water to a place (out of the sun and comfortable) to be filtered, a soft container to be filled with the now precious water, and lastly a comfortable backpack to carry all the weight. With these items it should be possible to hike up short distances to sources of water. Obviously, doing one's homework to find these sources can be one of the biggest challenges. If there is any doubt as to the reliability and the river is too sediment laden to clear then the only other alternative would be to carry all the water in necessary for the trip. We'll try the filter experiment again in August on Deso/Gray and keep you informed as to how it turns out.

More on River Usage Conflicts

It's been a while since I've written one of these, my humblest of apologies to all. One of these days they'll have the computers like the one in Star Trek that you only have to talk to, until then my lack of typing skills will haunt me forever.

**By Greg Jankowski
President, RMCC**

Development of floaters rights

So far the spring and summer have been an interesting time when it comes to floaters rights. Both the Denver Post and the Rocky Mountain News have had numerous articles on the plight of those trying to discern the rights of floaters and property owners in the wonderful state of Colorado. The articles try to explain the law as it stands and as all others before, they could only explain each side of the battle. The Denver Post had a writer and photographer present at the recent River Surface Recreation Forum (RSRF) meeting. I've attended a couple more of these meetings since I last wrote. It seems that each one gets better than the last. Here's what came out of the last one:

Kayakers on S. Platte at Sportsman's paradise

In a recent confrontation, brought on in a large part due to the erection of a "trash gate" across the river, there was an arrest of 4 kayakers on the S. Platte at the Sportsman's Paradise Fishing club. After numerous previous confrontations ending in the threat of arrest the club found itself against a very knowledgeable group. One of them is both an attorney and CWWA member another was a co-author of one of my favorite (and heaviest) river Bibles. The threat of arrest didn't quite have the impact on this group, as it did with previous groups, so the sheriff did issue citations for trespass and other charges. However, upon review by the District Attorney, the charges were

quickly dropped. It seems that this DA wasn't quite up to being the chosen one to decide this issue in the courts.

Landowner vs Cannibal Outdoors a commercial rafter on the Lake Fork of the Gunnison

In this case the landowner filed suit in civil court against the commercial rafter seeking damages against the outfitter, this now takes this case into the even less understood or defined area of civil trespass. The Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) response to the landowner lawsuit was an organized flotilla with 100+ rafts floating in support of Cannibal Outdoors. The landowner did video the flotilla, and it was shown at the last RSRF meeting. In the video there was many occasions of the rafters touching the bank, and bottom of the streambed. Also in response, the CROA took a hard line stand at meeting, due to one of theirs being target of suit. The anger was at being involved in a lawsuit, even though they were part of the meetings. They said that it was the private floaters that were causing the problems on the Lake Fork not the outfitters. The landowner, who was present, at the meeting countered that Cannibal Outdoors was responsible for 90-95% of the traffic/problems.

The CROA's plan is to have management plans on the popular rivers and give up the floaters rights on the unmanaged. My response was that the managed rivers happen to be the most dangerous of all the rivers that I've encountered. With the Arkansas getting an average of 46 seconds between launches of commercial rafts, they have bought the Arkansas and now they want to buy the rest of the rivers in the state. Needless to say, after talking with me, they didn't plan on my support of their agenda.

During the meeting the CROA flouted the economic impact that they have in their areas, the employment of many, and the \$122 million they brought into the state in 2000. They predicted dire

consequences if they continue to be the target of any more suits.

Don't hold your breath waiting to see how this turns out, it seems that there is a 2 year court backlog. So it's going to take a while to resolve this matter.

CWWA vs landowner on S. Platte between Chutes & confluence w/ N. Branch of S. Platte

The suit is still progressing through the courts, with all parties gathering the facts necessary to take their case to the courtroom.

Landowner w/ rifle pleads deal for menacing kayakers on the Taylor

In the case of the rifle toting landowner, he accepted a plea bargain with the local DA. He got a jail sentence of 10 days and probation for escorting kayakers off of his property at rifle point.

Colorado River Thoughts

No conflict here!

By Lyn Berry

In keeping with "My Thoughts on the Eagle River" by Sammer Elias (Ref: Voyageur's Companion for June 2001), I paddled down a short stretch of the Colorado River on the Friday Evening of the RMCC Rendezvous. It was a very wonderful canoeing experience. There was no one else on the river. I was all alone with the swallows and other birds, the jumping fish, the wind, the waves, the exceptional scenery, the three trains that tooted their whistle at me, and my own thoughts.

I urge such a paddling experience for everyone. Find an appropriate time and place; paddle your own canoe by yourself.

**Rocky Mountain Canoe Club, an ACA Paddle America Partner
WAIVER / RELEASE**

This waiver / release is a LEGAL INSTRUMENT. If you do not understand it, consult your attorney.

WHEREAS, I (we) intend, or am (are) about, to engage in canoeing activities upon rivers, lakes, and/or other waterways, which activities have been organized by the ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB (RMCC) of Denver, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, I (we) am (are) doing so entirely upon my (our) own initiative, risk, and responsibility, and am (are) duly aware that risks and hazards are, or may be, inherent in such canoeing activities; and

WHEREAS, I (we) elect voluntarily to engage in such activities having only limited knowledge of conditions and understanding that conditions may be more hazardous and dangerous than I (we) presently believe; I (we) further understand and expect that my (our) conduct during such activities shall be dictated by my (our) own decisions as to if and how to deal with any particular stretch of river, lake or other waterway; and

WHEREAS, I (we) understand that the ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB, its officers, directors, and trip leaders in particular and its members in general organize such activities solely for the pleasure and enjoyment of the participants; and

WHEREAS, I (we) am (are) supplying for my (our) own use such first aid, safety and medical supplies as I (we) deem necessary and I am (we are) not relying upon the members or leaders for such items; and

WHEREAS, I (we) recognize that neither the ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB, nor its several officers, directors, members and leaders are responsible for my (our) participation in any particular activity nor for the participation of other people and that in no event is the Club or its officers, directors, members or leaders responsible for my (our) conduct or the conduct of others sharing such participation; and

WHEREAS, my (our) participation is in no way based upon any representations made by any members, officers, directors or leaders as to the difficulty, danger or hazard of such activities, but rather because of my (our) independent desire to participate in such activities with other people with similar interests;

NOW, THEREFORE, I (we) do hereby, for myself (ourselves), my (our) heirs, executors, assigns, and administrators, release, and forever discharge the ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB of Denver, Colorado, and all of its officers, directors, agents, leaders, and members individually and collectively, from any and all claims, demands, actions or causes of actions now or hereafter arising on account of my (our) death or on account of any injury to me (us) or damage to my (our) property, or on account of the injury or death suffered by any other person which may occur from any cause while I (we), or any other person, may be engaged in activities of the ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB, including therein all ground and transportation operations incident thereto unless such death, injury, or harm results from gross negligence or willful misconduct.

This WAIVER / RELEASE shall be binding in all its terms for all activities of the ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB.

I (WE) HEREBY CERTIFY that I (we) have read the foregoing WAIVER / RELEASE, understand it in all its terms and conditions and sign it voluntarily and intelligently, this ____ day of _____, 20__.

<u>Print Name</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>List all children who engage in RMCC activities:</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

As the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the aforesaid minor(s), I (we) have signed the foregoing Waiver/Release and approve of my (our) child's (children's) or ward(s)'s participation in the activities. I am (We are) aware that the attendant risks, hazards, potential for injuries, loss or death stated in the Waiver/Release may well be greater for a minor's participation, but I (we) assume these risks as parent(s) or guardian(s) of the above named and herewith forever release, remise and discharge the ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB as specified in the foregoing Waiver/Release.

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION for ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB an ACA Paddle America Partner

Member Renewal _____ New Membership _____

<i>Please print</i>	<i>Needs</i>	<i>Preferences</i>
Name (s) _____	Need a partner _____	Lakes _____
Address _____	Need a boat _____	Moving water _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Need instruction _____	Whitewater _____
Home phone _____ Work phone _____	Want to volunteer _____	Tripping _____
FAX _____ E-Mail _____	Want to lead a trip _____	Racing _____

Dues are \$15.00 per household per calendar year (all memberships expire Feb 28th). Make checks payable to the ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB. Mail this completed Waiver/Membership form together with your check or money order to:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB c/o Dave & Jeannie Ney _____ Golden CO 80403
Questions call: _____

Your term of membership and for newsletter issues: Memberships need to be renewed by Feb 28th of every year. If you join on or before August 31, your last Newsletter will be the following February issue. If you join after August 31, your last issue will be the second following February issue.

The *Voyageur's Companion* is a periodic publication of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club. It 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. Members are invited to contribute articles on canoe trips as well as informative articles on subjects such as: Paddling techniques, Equipment, Rigging the canoe, Environmental issues, River safety, Camping techniques, Canoe history. The editorial staff appreciates your efforts to limit wordiness or superfluous details, and to restrict an article to under 1200 words (about 2 pages).

Submitting Articles: Editorial material for The Voyageur's Companion is welcomed and should be sent to: Lyndon Berry, Editor, The Voyageur's Companion, [] Buena Vista CO, 81211 [] OR e-mail to: [] {That is: j (Jeanne) l (Lyn) ark (Arkansas) river} . Material is preferred via e-mail or on PC disk, but paper is great too. Use the following formats for text: Word 6 or 7, Word Perfect, Word 95 or 97, and most others; and for images/pictures: .bmp, .tif, .pcx, .gif, .tga, .jpg, .pcd. So far I do not have a scanner, but hopefully that will change soon. **Deadline for Fall newsletter is September 26. Get it to me; See it in print!**

Membership: \$15.00 per Household per Year. Contact David and Jeannie Ney at []

Mail applications to: [] Golden CO 80403



Newsletter of the *Rocky Mountain Canoe Club*, an *American Canoe Association Paddle America* partner.

The Voyageur's Companion

C/O Editor

[]
Buena Vista Colorado 81211 []

