



The Voyageur's Companion

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB

October 2001

Fall Newsletter

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Saturday Oct 20th

Pot Luck Fall Meeting Officer Elections St Jude's Youth Centre

The building is open from
5pm to 10pm.

Directions to St Judes Youth Centre

St Judes is on north side of Florida, between Garrison and Kipling. The entrance is only a short distance west of Garrison, on the north side of Florida. Turn into the large parking lot and circle around the outer edge in a counter-clockwise direction until you come to an "obvious" out building.

Keep in touch with RMCC on the
WEB at

rockymountaincanoeclub.org

Trip Schedules
News & Information
Pictures
Training

State of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club

As our first term comes to a close, I guess that's its time for the State of the Club address.

by Greg and Karen Jankowski

The following officers have stated a desire to step down after serving the needs of the club for a long time. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to these and all of the other officers that have graciously donated their time to make the club one of the best paddling clubs in the country.

- Dave Allured Club Webmaster.
- Dave and Jeannie Ney Membership
- Joanne Brown Treasurer
- Doug Ellis Conservation Officer
- Advertising officer position has been open for some time

This is the time that those that have enjoyed the benefits of these hard working individuals to step forward and help the progression of the club to higher levels. If you have any interest in these positions please get in touch with either Karen or myself to let us know your intent, please remember that this is a volunteer organization and it's those volunteers that keep it running.

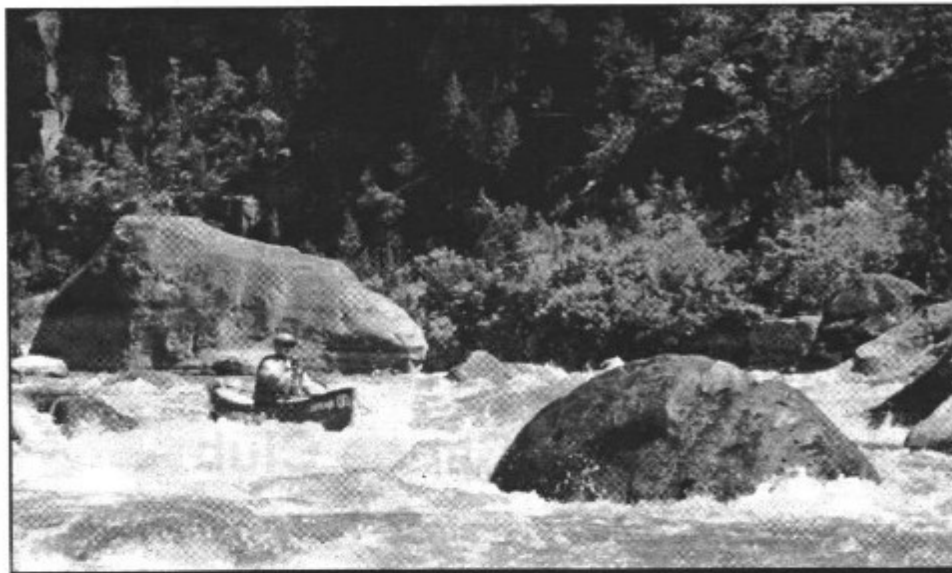
Our treasury is in good shape with plenty of funds to cover the next year's expenses.

There are 185 households / families as members of the RMCC (individuals in each household would make this number much higher). Of these approximately 70 are new this year. Many of these new members discovered the Club thru the WebSite.

We are still heavily involved in the River Surface Recreation Forum, there will be another meeting scheduled soon with the end of the summer vacation season. This issue has received a lot of exposure in the media and promises to be very interesting in the future. In the latest copy of American Whitewater, they listed the entire state of Colorado as their #1 access issue. I'll strive to keep you informed as to its progression.

It's been a great year of paddling and the camaraderie on both the river and at the meetings has been fantastic. We look forward to trying to make next year even better, thanks to all that have helped to make this club the best.

We were forced to cancel our canoe trip down the Green River thru Desolation and Grey Canyon due to low water level!!!



Laurel Adams begins to negotiate "Lucifer's Rock" in Hell's Half Mile, Gates of Ladore, August 2001.

by The Editor

Let me add my **thanks to our Club Officers** who need to retire. Their services have been well received and everyone in the RMCC has appreciated their efforts. Best of things for the outgoing Officers. Someone out there...**GO FOR IT!** Opportunities for fame abound.

Al Johnson, Jeff Evans, Sammer Elias, front and side surfing on the Lower Blue.

By Sammer Elias



RMCC/ACA Kids Canoeing Program

by Jeff Oxenford

I remember laughing after a recent trip that at 40 we seemed to be some of the youngest members of the canoe club. However, there's a movement afoot to bring young paddlers along. It's started with some parents doing a great job with their kids and now the club has a program to encourage younger paddlers.

Kerry Edwards launched the kids canoeing program during the winter of 2000/2001 with a series of pool sessions, held in conjunction with RMCC rolling sessions. He brought along a fleet of C-1's and kids could be seen zipping around the pool in these sleek boats. This summer we continued these sessions on the pond in Golden and on the Golden Whitewater Course. On Wednesday nights through July, August and September you could observe the next generation of paddlers strutting their stuff in Golden. Approximately 20 kids (ages 8-12) have participated at various times and there's been some great progress. Instructors have been Bob Cook, Kerry, and myself.

Now that we've got some momentum behind us, we hope to continue the program this winter and beyond. Next year I hope to see an increasing number of our club kids racing and coming along on trips. We'd also like to expand the program beyond the club and bring in kids that don't happen to have paddling parents.

In order to make the program a real success, I am looking for donations of "kid size" lifejackets, wet suits, and boat outfitting.

Let me know if you have a child that's interested in participating. Hopefully we will continue to offer this program at no cost to participants.

Dragon Boat Festival

RMCC members canoe to the tune of a different drum.

by Jeanne Younghaus

The Chinese dragon boat legend states that "a popular Chinese poet of the third century BC, named Chu Yuan drowned himself in the Mi Lo River after his emperor had died; and he couldn't win the favor of the new court. The townspeople rushed to their boats and tried to retrieve his body by beating on drums, and throwing dumplings into the water to scare the fish away."

Today the Dragon Boat Festival commemorates the retrieval attempt, and boat races with dragon boat replicas highlight the event. The festival is one of China's three most important annual events behind the Chinese New Year and the Autumn Moon Festival.

Denver had its first Dragon Boat Festival on August 19th at Sloan's Lake. There were 16 teams that competed in the boat races. One of the teams was the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA). Tom Ging, a member of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club was its leader. Tom asked for volunteers from RMCC to join the OCA team. Each dragon boat team has 18 paddlers, a sternsman, a flag catcher, a drummer, and 3 alternates. Seven RMCC members besides Tom paddled on the OCA team and all had a "great time." "It was quite an adventure."

The RMCC paddlers were: Tom Ging, Phil Lyle, Mary Lyle, Bonnie Gallagher, Joanne Brown, Jeanne Younghaus, Diana Pruesser, and Bob Pruesser.

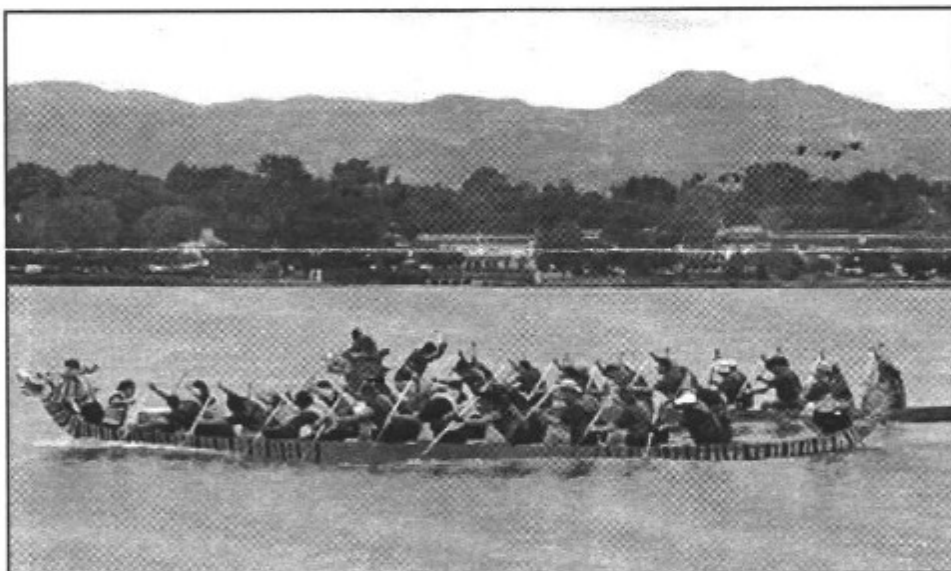
The OCA team won its first three races and lost its fourth race by 7 tenths of a second! Just missing the semi-finals. The eventual winner was the Mongolian team.

Everyone enjoyed the team effort. A big "thank you" to Tom Ging and the Organization of Chinese Americans for inviting the RMCC to participate.

For anyone who enjoys Chinese culture, it was a fun and educational day with martial arts, food, music, dancing, and the blessing of the boats.

PS: The OCA boat was pictured on the front page of the Denver Post August 20th as they won their third race.

YaHoo!!!



Dragon Boat racing. These canoes are in the thick of battle.

Photo courtesy of AsiaXpress.Com

Thoughts on a Journey

by Sammer Elias

After a good long trip...you sense that your spirit is free. Not confined to an office, a house, or a city. You have left little parts of your spirit with wildlife you have encountered, with people you have befriended along the way, and at the

beautiful wilderness places you have witnessed. Your spirit is everywhere, you are everywhere. You are now bonded with the Earth, with life. When people talk to you after such a journey...you seem to be somewhere else, and, not all there. This is a good thing. Your spirit is running free. And when, after some time, it slowly comes back to you, to your confined space...it is time for another long trip.

Family Canoeing at the Nationals

by Jim Baker-Jarvis

We always like to canoe as a family. Karen and I have canoed together for 25 years and Duff age 15 and Aquene age 10 have canoed the Canadian wilds and whitewater since about age 6; first sitting in the middle of the canoe, then as bow paddlers, then in the case of Duffy, as a solo paddler. As the 2001 Whitewater Open-Canoe Nationals in Carlton, MN rolled around we thought of going there for a number of independent reasons. First, we have family there; our kids have 30 1st cousins and 25 aunts and uncles, second Karen and I got married in Duluth in 1979 while I was going to Grad school at UMD. We had only competed in one slalom race in our lives so we were not at all confident. At this stage we hadn't committed to competing, but we thought we would go up there and look at the course. From Lyons, CO we traveled to Minneapolis, visiting relatives for a few days, then headed up to our family cabin, 70 miles south of Duluth and visited more. We then traveled up to the course and tried it out. The other paddlers looked so good, it was intimidating. I told Karen maybe we should just sit and watch and visit relatives, but Karen, the slave driver she is, wanted to compete, so there we were. A number of other, more race-seasoned RMCC members entered the race and I am sure you will hear their story in the Newsletter. Looking over the race course, the jagged black cliffs and canyon set against the birch and pine trees together with the root beer colored water was reminiscent our favorite Canadian wilds. On the top racers: Ray Ingram described the course as "Big Water, Flat Water", "Big Water, Flat Water", "Big Water, Flat Water". The 4 foot drop in the middle of the course challenged racer with boat placement skills to get to gate 7. A hidden eddy in the cliff off a fast jet of water challenged the paddler's eddy turn and peel-out skills.



Duffy (age 15) and Jim Baker-Jarvis in gate 7 in the canoe Nationals in Duluth this August.

One day, we went and visited my old thesis advisor and had a great conversation. We got in a few practice runs and went back to the cabin to visit and relax. Race day rolled around, and we were registered in a number of divisions: Duffy and I, tandem, as Senior/Cadet, Karen and I in tandem, Mixed and Senior, and Duffy in Premier Solo. Since there were not enough REC boats, they combined Duffy and I Senior/Cadet with the RACER Senior/Cadet Division (30 pound Kevlar boats with top level racers like Dana Henry, John Kaz.) We got 4th out of four, but enjoyed it. I believe we were the only father-son team. Then Karen and I raced; finally Duffy raced solo, competing with the best REC solo racers in the world. He finished in the middle of the pack, with a very good time, but too many touches.

Considering the competition I thought he did well. He was, I believe, by far the youngest paddler in the group. Duff raced a Mad River Outrage (by the way, you Outrage owners, the Outrage paddled by Dana Henry had the fastest time of the entire competition).

We found we had not done enough practice runs on the course with our Caption to learn the moves (3 runs), so except for Duff, we had problems with gate 15. I think you need to go down and work a new course about 10 runs to get to know it. A racer took Aquene as bow paddler down the course during the race at lunchtime; she really enjoyed the drops and surfed every wave.

It's a littler harder racing with the whole family, but it has rewards. Duff is really progressing as a paddler, and Aquene is not far behind.

Green River below the Flaming Gorge

Exciting participation, Wildlife, Whitewater accomplishments

From Karen Jankowski

The Flaming Gorge Green River Labor Day weekend trip drew many new members as well as many familiar club faces. The night before we were leaving we had 40 confirmed participants. One of our big concerns with a group this large was the logistics of campsites. With the gracious help of Bob and Carol Aiken who went down to Little Hole the day before, they secured 4 campsites for the group on Friday night. The campsites were different than the ones that we had used in years past, they were upstream and on the other side of Big Pine. From speaking to most of the group, they liked the change in campsites.

The trip was eventful in that the dam release was at 820 CFS, which was the recommended low level in the Western Guide Book. It was the lowest level that we have personally paddled in the last 6 years, but was doable. It was pegged at the lowest level that satisfied all interested parties, (fisherman, irrigation needs, endangered species, etc.) There was a lot of rocks and scouting where the water channeled. Red Creek was run successfully by all. With the low water level the sneak route on the left was a very narrow slot at the top with a lot of bumps on the way down. For the first time the majority of the boats went down the right and we didn't have a single flip or rescue.

Rachel and I were fortunate to see an otter family with mother otter carrying a dinner of a mouse in its mouth when we pulled out of Jarvie Ranch. We followed the otters family most of the way down to Parson ranch all the while scouting for a moose that had been seen across from Jarvie Ranch.

Sunday night at Parsons there was a fire ban so we were unable to enjoy a campfire but were blessed with a full

moon proceeded by a glorious moonrise. We shared stories and our day's events. We all slept well at Parsons', the coyotes serenaded us for half the night and a turkey took over for about an hour before daybreak.

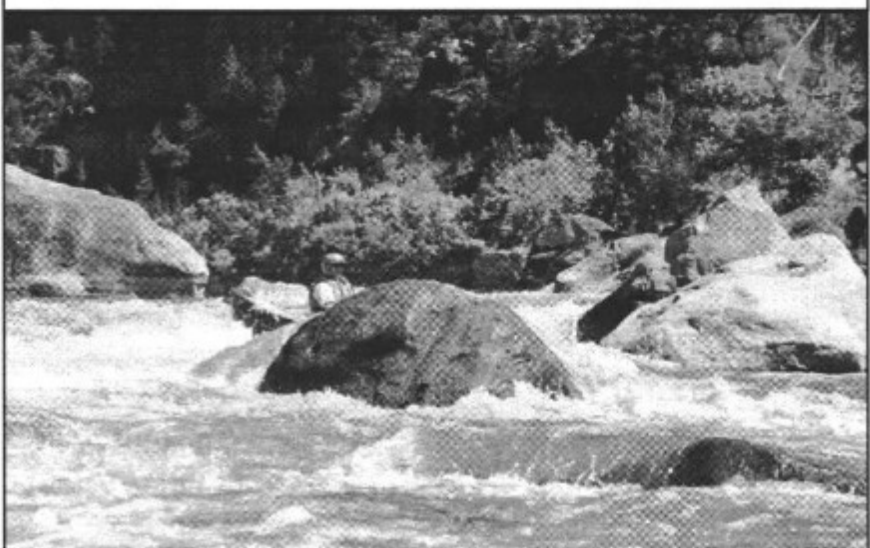
From Greg Jankowski

The other big occasion of the trip, was witnessing the accession of Lisa Adams to the full-fledged status of solo whitewater paddler. She paddled her dad's Genesis, which was carrying a light load. One of the most enjoyable parts was witnessing her great imitation of Sue Graham, with this big s_____ eating grin on her face after every drop, especially after Red Creek. She did Red Creek on the right, following her dad through, with Rachel and I just behind. She made the four moves that were necessary and the boat went where it was supposed to and away she went. Rachel did well and our boat pretty much followed and at the end we didn't have enough water in the boat to turn on the SunBailer. After completing the main part of the drop we made our way to the left side because Karen wasn't sure if she was

going to run it. Last year she had run all but Red Creek solo. After getting out of the canoe, I got half way back up the rapid scampering over the rocks, when Karen starts down the tongue, she aced the top, then saw the wall coming up on the right, she ducks for the eddy on the right just above the wall slam. However, only the bow stuck in the eddy and the stern still in the current swept the canoe around. She then ran the next drop sideways, finishes turning around on the backside of the wave. Now she 's got the last drop to deal with. She makes the move to get ready for the next rock/pourovers/nasty place, slides through that drop and goes on her merry way down to the big eddy. When we gathered below, for a short brunch stop all the rest of us that witnessed her run complimented her on her rodeo 360 in the middle of the rapid.

I'd love to give a better report of the heroic runs of the others on the trip, however since we always seemed to be bring up the rear we weren't able to witness these.

Lucifer Rock. Laurel Adams still has to deal with this significant obstacle in Hells Half Mile!



Water Settlement

By Gary Cox

I was reading Greg Jankowski's article about filtration problems on the San Juan in the last issue of *Voyageur's Companion*. Many years ago we had similar concerns about carrying so much water on a 10 day canyon trip.

I took our problem to the water department engineers at both Northglenn and Arvada and a chemist for their advise. Water treatment facilities use alum as a binder to improve and speed the settlement of solids from water before treatment. Based on the average PH of Colorado rivers they advised adding 20 parts per million of alum, or 4 grams per 50 gallons of river water to facilitate the settlement of solids. If settlement is still unsatisfactory, increase the alum gradually until it matches the PH. I've used this formula on dozens of rivers since, including a 10 day trip 2 years ago down a high and roilly San Juan, and never once plugged my First Need filter or had to back flush.

You can purchase Ammonium Alum at most drug stores for pennies. Measure 4 grams (amount for 50 gallons) into a small pill bottle and mark the container well. Now I put together a small kit including a pint sized watertight plastic bottle into which I store the pill bottle of alum I'll need for my trip, a 1/4 teaspoon measuring spoon to measure out the 4/10 gram of alum I'll need each day, and a popsicle stick to stir an emulsion.

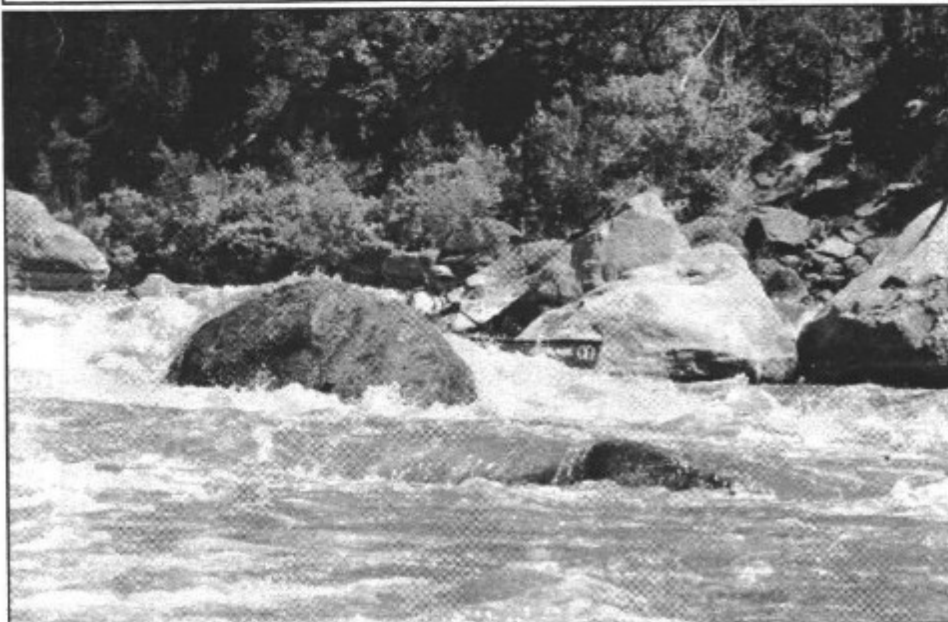


Phil and Mary Lyle paddling beneath Steamboat Rock on the Green River in Echo Park.

When I make camp at night I take a 5 gal. bucket, that doubles as a storage can in my canoe during the day, fill it with river water, fill the empty pint bottle with clean water, measure 4/10 teaspoon of alum into the solution, and shake well. Mix this emulsion well in the 5 gal. bucket and in a few hours you will have 3, or so, inches of mud on the bottom of your bucket and water clear enough to filter.

I filter 3 gal. off the top, enough to fill my canteens and a 1/2 gal. collapsible water bag. Water sweeter and cleaner than city water. That's all the water I carry each day. Sounds like a lot of trouble, but after you've done it a few times, it only takes minutes, and water weighing 8.4 pounds per gal., it's less trouble than packing water for 10 days and safer if you're running rapids.

Done. Now finished with Lucifer Rock, Laurel Adams has only to finish the rest of Hells Half Mile!



Eddylines

by the, Editor

Gary Cox is a long time Club member and it is great to hear from him again.

I know several (many?) trips were cancelled due to the low water levels, but we must all remember; the rivers are still there. The relatively low water level still provided ample opportunity for honing our paddling skills.