



The Voyageur's Companion

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB

May 2004

Spring Newsletter

Presidents' Spring Report

From Ron and Nancy Stanker

Writing this update on the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club's activities seems a little like organizing and checking off items on a list: Spring Potluck and Video Meeting- check, Safety Fair Potluck and Pool Session - check, new RMCC brochures created and distributed to Club members and boat shops-check, Meet and Greet and Grill(hopefully) - check. We've had a busy season, so far, and haven't even been on moving water!

Ron and I are aware that even though these events are publicized in the *Voyageur's Companion* and on the website, many members' work schedules and distance from downtown Denver make it difficult to attend. We hope everyone will mark his or her calendar for some of RMCC's upcoming events and join the fun.

Paul Holscher, our Treasurer, reports that over twenty new members have joined the Club. Three of these new paddlers are people we met at our square dancing classes and told them about our Club. Some of

the others who came to our Spring Video Meeting had heard about RMCC from the website and mutual friends. Keep up the good work in telling others about our organization. Anecdotally, Eric Nyre offered to sponsor a year's membership in the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club to a couple who had just purchased a canoe from him. They politely declined, then, in the next breath, asked where they could meet people to paddle with!

After the Safety Meeting on Friday night at REI, Tina, the coordinator of the meeting room and editor of the REI Clinics & Events monthly bulletin, said that the Club was welcome to use the room more often if we wanted, and that she would publish that information in their REI newsletter. Would anyone be interested in doing a slideshow presentation of a canoe trip, or possibly more than one person, talking about their trips? This would be publicized through REI, so we would need Club members to commit to coming that night, and possibly bringing some appetizers and/or a dessert to enhance our promotion of the Club. Please get in touch with us soon if you are willing to do this. We think it's a great offer from REI and a great way to introduce new people to the sport of paddling.

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One of these upcoming RMCC events is REI's Paddle Demo Day at Chatfield State Park on Saturday 5/15/04, 9 :00 AM - 2 :00 PM. We need you as volunteers to join us at our RMCC booth, passing out flyers, answering questions, and most importantly, being available to paddle around in your boats. Last year, more than 300 people came, even on a cloudy day. Of course, we've ordered sunshine for this year's event ! After entering the park, watch for directional signage on the west side. See you there !

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RMCC's Meet and Greet

By Nancy and Ron Stanker

The 2nd Annual Meet and Greet and Grill, our beginner's paddle from Dotsero to Hanging Lake, was a fun day on the Colorado River. Snowy weather in Denver on Friday night led to a flurry of phone calls, but confidence in the weatherman's prediction that Saturday would be dry with temperatures in the mid sixties near Dotsero led to a thumb's up decision.

Twelve hardy paddlers met at the put in at nine o'clock. There were eight boats, four tandem crews and four solo paddlers. Four were new Club members, and three others were new to the sport of paddling.

The river had some nice surprises for those of us who had made this run last year. The

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Keep in touch with RMCC on the WEB at

rockymountaincanoecub.org

Trip Schedules
News & Information
Pictures
Training
Schedule Your Trip

San Juan River; Mexican Hat to Clay Hills Crossing

57 miles

April 14 to April 18

Led by Dave Allured,

Story written by Bonnie
Gallagher

Photography by Karen
Amundson



**Snack break;
out of the cold wind!**

When I signed up for a river trip with Dave Allured I planned on packing my sturdiest hiking boots, knowing Dave's reputation for leading wonderful hikes along every river he paddles. The river provided us with a wonderful means for getting to our group hikes and viewing the spectacular scenery. The first hike for our group was up to the Mendenhall cabin at the oxbow in the river where we could see views of the river in four directions.

The group fully enjoyed the second hike he led to the canyon rim on the Honaker Trail. This trail is in the deepest part of the canyon, giving us an elevation gain of 1280 feet, over a 2-mile trail. I have always wondered what it would be like in an emergency to hike out of one of the many canyons we paddle. Not since I was a child of ten and I hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon with my parents, have I had the gumption to hike to the top of any canyon. The best spot along this trail was the lunch break we took about halfway up overlooking a bend in the river. I was breathless, as I mindlessly followed Dave jumping over a deep crevasse! I ate my lunch on a rock which was about 8 feet wide and 400 feet above the river.

Our third group hike was up John's Canyon. While this trail was not long there were two places where we climbed a rock face. The reward at the end was spectacular. We had arrived at a large deep pool, into which I took a running jump and sunk deep into the cooling water, rinsing the granules of sand from my hair as I rose quickly to the surface. The water up top was suitable for filtering and drinking.

Our last group hike was at Slickhorn Gulch. The pools along the canyon were filled with clear and mystical water. None in the group had ever seen so much water in this canyon. My favorite part of this gulch was the drill holes left by the many small pebbles caught for thousands of years in the tiny holes in the rock the pebbles were drilling. At one point, there was a large pool with a long but gentle waterfall on the far side. As other members of the group hiked onwards and deeper into gulch, I stayed behind for a solitary swim across the pool to be under the waterfall. What a peaceful delight. It was a wonderful trip for all of us who were able to paddle!



**San Juan River Canyon
from Top of Homaker Trail**

bles were drilling. At one point, there was a large pool with a long but gentle waterfall on the far side. As other members of the group hiked onwards and deeper into gulch, I stayed behind for a solitary swim across the pool to be under the waterfall. What a peaceful delight. It was a wonderful trip for all of us who were able to paddle!

Government Rapid with Justin Gilbert



THE SUMMER RENDEZVOUS

Mark your calendars; clear your schedules!

By Ron and Nancy Stanker

The Summer Rendezvous will be held Friday, July 23rd through Sunday, July 25th at the Bureau of Land Management's Recreation Site in Radium, near Kremmling. This event is a great way to meet fellow members in the club, paddle the colorful Colorado River, camp and cook and croon around a campfire, and, in general, have a fun-filled weekend.

We have reserved the group campsite for Friday and Saturday nights. Each night's reservation accommodates 30 people and 4 cars. Ron and I will need to collect, on site, \$3.00 per car and \$1.00 per person for any additional vehicles or people. The campground includes both tent and vehicle campsites; but there are also other private campsites at the same location.

Please note that there isn't any drinking water at Radium; we usually bring our jugs and fill them at the campground at Pumphouse. There are outhouses, but no electricity or trash collection at Radium. The BLM has added a fire ring at the group campsite, so we can have our campfire there this year. Please bring some firewood to share, if you have some to spare. There isn't a lot of shade, so bring your awnings.

As in past years, people arriving early on Friday afternoon can canoe if there are enough drivers to run a shuttle. On Saturday and Sunday, trips usually form as someone announces which part of the river

he or she plans to run, and others join. Some of the popular runs on this stretch of the Colorado include: Pumphouse to Radium; Radium to Yarmony and State Bridge; and Yarmony Bridge to Landing Strip. Various whitewater skills are needed for these runs, so keep paddling.

For all our new members, one of the highlights of Rendezvous is the Dutch Oven Cook-off on Saturday night. Any recipe you choose qualifies as an entry. Prizes are awarded in the categories of best main dish, dessert, bread, and the People's Choice, over-all favorite of the gang. If you like to cook, or even if hungry children are your chief motivator, come join the fun. Dutch-oven cookbooks and recipes are available at the library and on line, so No Excuses! Even if your dish is not prepared in a Dutch oven, plan on bringing food to share for Saturday night's potluck dinner.

For the campfire after dinner, bring your

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Mitchell Sawyer Grey Owl

Mike Yee Outfitting

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guitars, harmonicas, and any other musical instruments you might play. Don't forget your camp chairs and makings for S'mores.

The traditions of Rendezvous continue Sunday morning with pancakes prepared by the Co-Presidents. (Of course, anyone who wants to help is welcome.) Come load your plates with pancakes before heading off for another day of paddling and fun on the river.

Continued, next page

Dragon Boat Festival 2004

Sunday August 1st

This is the first year that we have pulled together a RMCC Dragon Boat Team. We will be competing against 47 other teams, many of which have competed in this race before. Co-captains Karen Jankowski and Diana Preusser feel confident that with the paddling expertise we have a Gold Team. Team members are Drummer Doug Hurcomb; Flag catcher Bonnie

Gallagher; Paddlers Kelly & David Rosson, Nancy & Ron Stanker, Greg Jankowski, Cathy Perkins, Sue Coffee, Karen & Jim Baker-Jarvis, Janet Marks, Tom Gruber, Robert Baruch, Teresa & Keith Patterson, Jerry Nolan and Steve Kurz.

This festival presents local artisans, craft makers, food vendors, music, parade and entertainment. Please stop by for the race and entertainment on Sunday Aug 1st at Sloans Lake in Edgewater Colorado.

Come to the Festival; have fun. Cheer the RMCC TEAM

Raft Trips!



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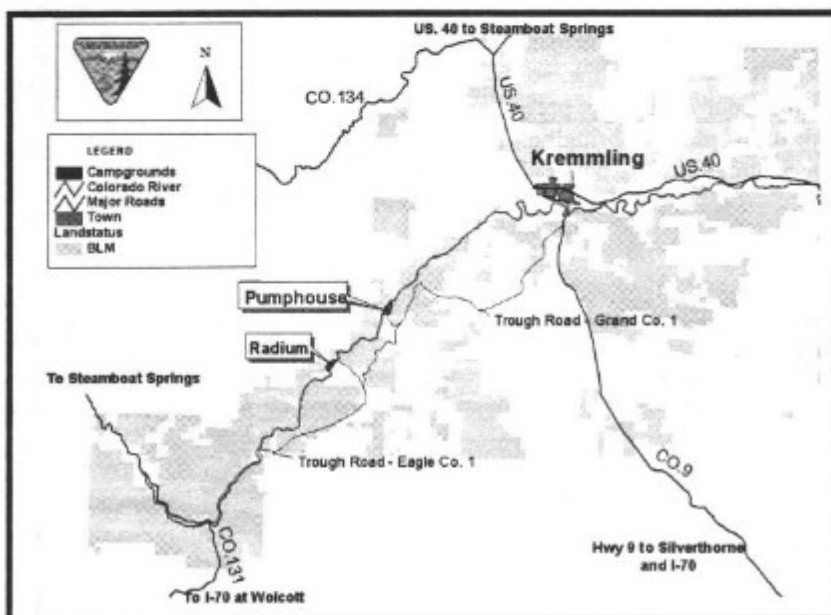
Canoes!

We've included a map and directions to the campsite in Radium. If you are coming to the Rendezvous, please let Ron and I know, so we can plan accordingly. Or, if you have any questions, please call us [redacted]. We hope to see everyone in July at the Summer Rendezvous!

Rendezvous directions:

From I-70 in Silverthorne take Hwy 9 North almost all the way to Kremmling. About 1-2 miles from Kremmling turn left on County Road 1 (dirt) AKA Trough Road. Go approximately 15 miles to intersection with 11 Road where there should be a sign to Radium. Turn right onto 11 Road and go about 2.5 miles to the Radium BLM Campsite, which is on the left just before the road crosses the Colorado River.

For those of you coming from west of Frisco, take I-70 to the Wolcott exit. Take Hwy 131 north 15 miles to State Bridge, then right (northeast) on County Road 1 (dirt) about 10 miles, then left on 11 Road, about 2.5 miles to the Radium campsite as above.



Meet & Greet (Con't)



best one was that the gates that usually dam the water at Hanging Lake were open, creating a current all the way to the take out point. Another surprise was a fourth 'drop' below Bair Ranch where the low water level created an unexpected chute by a freeway piling, a place that is normally under water. My paddle partner, Marilyn, steered us smoothly through the middle. I'm glad she was in the stern, because I thought the left side looked better until we passed by buried rocks in that part of the channel.

At the take out, we had a great meal with grilled chicken and brats, a smattering of salads, fresh strawberries and a selection of desserts. Good company and, of course, lots of paddling stories finished off our day on a high note.

Another Club tradition has been carried forward, and I'm sure everyone will look forward to paddling this stretch of river at next year's annual *Meet and Greet*.



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Register me for the Deadlines for Cost per boat Amount
following classes: Class Dates pre-registration** RMCC memb / non-memb* Amount
tandem solo enclosed

WHITEWATER weekend (16 hrs) **Jun 19-20** June 05 \$80 / \$90 \$60 / \$65 _____
 (Private instruction available on request. See DESCRIPTION of CLASSES).

Note: a \$6.00/person insurance fee for each class must be added if you are not an ACA (Am. Canoe Assoc.) member (Membership is \$30/person & includes 1 yr. of Paddler Mag. If you are a RMCC member, ACA membership is \$20/person or \$25/family)
 * (RMCC members get a \$5/ person discount on the class)

ACA Insurance fees: \$6 / person _____
 Late Fee: \$5 _____
Total = _____

Please send ONE registration form and ONE payment check per class.

Name _____ Tandem partner's name (if applicable) _____

Address: _____ City/zip _____

Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____ fax _____ e-mail _____

I will be canoeing: Solo ___ Tandem ___ Skill level (see Evaluation below): _____

If you are under 18 years old, your age _____. If you are an ACA member, your ACA #: _____

Do you have any physical disability or medical problem we need to be aware of? No ___; Yes ___ Explain: _____

**** Fees: Due 2 wks. before class. If late add \$5 late registration fee.** Send this application to the appropriate instructor and address listed below. Make checks payable to the instructor of the class:

WHITEWATER Instructors:
 Jill & Bob Stecker,

When payment is received you will be notified that you are enrolled and given all necessary materials (you will be contacted if there are changes in schedule or location). You must have your own canoeing equipment, and you will need to sign a waiver.

Self Evaluation: Please complete the following, blackening all appropriate circles. A blackened circle means you can execute the maneuver with proficiency. (Tandem couples: each should rate their preferred bow/stern location).

<u>High Intermediate Skill Level:</u>	solo	bow	stern
Consistent eddy turns on Class III water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Back ferry using reverse J and reverse sweep	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	n/a
Effective onside and offside duffeks (with pronounced leans)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	n/a
Low brace (as a knee-jerk reaction)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Low Intermediate Skill Level:</u>			
Consistent eddy turns on Class II water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effective "pop pry"	<input type="radio"/>	n/a	<input type="radio"/>
Sculling draw (lateral and diagonal movement)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forward ferry in moderate current	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Novice Skill Level:</u>			
High and low brace on Class I water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Draw, cross bow draw, sweep, on Class I water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forward stroke with correction	<input type="radio"/>	n/a	<input type="radio"/>

Check this box if you are a **BEGINNER**

****!! Please note the LATE REGISTRATION FEE of \$5—we gotta know you're coming !!**

ACA Instructor Update

**Open Canoe - through Whitewater (solo, tandem)
3 Wednesday nights - May 5, 12, 19**

INSTRUCTOR: Jeff Oxenford,

LOCATION: Golden, CO

COURSE OUTLINE (all sessions 5:00 - 9:00)

May 5 (Classroom, Jeff's house) - Required for all

- Changes in the ACA
- What's happening in canoeing
- Learning styles and challenges in teaching

May 12 (Lake Site) - Required for all

- Stroke review, practice, and discussion
- Rescue techniques

May 19 (Golden Whitewater Park) - Required for Basic River Canoe and Whitewater Canoe

- Maneuvers, review, practice and discussion
- Safety

COST: \$60 for RMCC members/ \$80 for others. Must be an ACA member.

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION: Class size is limited to 10 and space is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Full-payment (non-refundable) is required to register for the class. Contact Jeff Oxenford

(Cut)

REGISTRATION FORM: ACA INSTRUCTORS UPDATE (OPEN CANOE)

Send check for \$60 (RMCC members)/ \$80 (non-members), payable to Jeff Oxenford:

Jeff Oxenford

Golden, CO 80401

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (Home) _____ Phone (Work) _____

FAX # _____ E-Mail _____

ACA # _____

Current ACA certification level _____

Type Canoe(s) that you can bring to the workshop _____

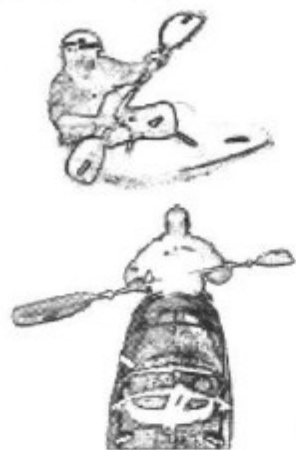
RMCC TRIP SCHEDULE 2004

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/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 Assignment of Risk agreement prior to each trip.

Date	Trip Location	Coordinator	Phone	Level	Description
May 1	Colorado R., Dotsero - Bair Ranch	Ron & Nancy Stanker		I+	Meet & Greet & Grill - Introduction to RMCC; public welcome. Assistants needed.
May 1-2	Dolores River, Slickrock -Bedrock	Eric Nyre		III	Whitewater canoe thru Little Glen and Slick Rock canyons. Low water backup plan is the Dolores below the San Miguel confluence.
May 5, 12 and 19	ACA Instructor Update	Jeff Oxenford			Jeff Oxenford
May 8	South Platte, Brighton - Ft. Lupton	Eric Nyre		I	Classic beginner trip - flat and slow with only 2 drops.
May 8-9	Canoeing Basics Class	Jeff Oxenford			
May 15	Poudre. Filter Plant	Bonnie Gallagher		II+	This is a great technical day trip.
May 27-28	San Juan River, below Pagosa and San Miguel Norwood Canyon	Scott McDonald		III	This and the June 1 trip coordinate with Doug's Dolores. Roaring Fork Woody Creek, Animas and Piedras are options based on water level situations. Do 1 or both days.
May 29-31	Green River, Fontenelle Dam to Green River, WY	Eric Nyre		I	50 river miles includes the Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge.
May 29-31	Dolores, Below Gateway to Dewey Bridge	Doug Green		IV	Car camp 1 night with playboating at Chicken Raper Rapid (IV) and nearby class IIIs; then proceed downriver with side canyon hikes.
June 1	Taylor River	Scott McDonald		III	This coordinates with Doug's Dolores trip.
June 5-6	North Platte, Pick Bridge, WY to Ft. Steel	Jerry Nyre		I	Near I-80, this is a good overnight trip for beginners - 38 miles.
June 5-6	North Platte, Treasure Island, WY to Ft. Steel	Eric Nyre		I	A faster, 65 mile trip will camp Saturday night with the above group.
June 11-13	North Platte, 6 Mile Gap to Treasure Island	Ken Bauer		II+	19th Annual Trip; a nice pace and 2 nights of great camping.
June 19	Arkansas River, Canon City to Pueblo Reservoir	Eric Nyre		I+	Rarely paddled section has 1 portage; optional camping at Pueblo Reservoir.
June 20	Arkansas River, Pueblo Dam to Pueblo	Eric Nyre		I	Passes through park land and the world's largest mural; 2 portages.
June 19-20	Arkansas R.	Lyn Berry		II+	Camping and pot-luck at my house. I will lead a Class II run on Saturday and a Class III run on Sunday (specifics TBD). This is also a call for other coordinators to organize paddling additional sections of the river.

Date	Trip Location	Coordinator	Phone	Level	Description
June 20	Arkansas R. - FIBArk Downriver Races	Questions, call Lyn Berry. More information and to register go to www.fibark.net		II-III	56th Annual FIBArk Whitewater Festival is held in Salida, June 17-20, 2004. Top sports stars from around the world will take on the mighty Arkansas. Consider canoeing the 26 mile expert race from Salida to Cotopaxi or the shorter 10 mile intermediate race
June 19-20	Whitewater Class	Bob Stecker			
June 19-21	Colorado R., Loma to Westwater	Dave Allured		I+	Kids welcome.
June 26-27	Yampa, Craig to Duffy	Karen Amundson		I	Wildlife and pretty canyons on an easy river good for beginners or kids. Call early to join Friday night campground reservations.
July 3-8	Yampa Canyon, and Green	Karen Amundson		III	Rare permit received for remote Dinosaur Park canyons. A single class IV is portagable.
July 10-17	Yellowstone and Grand Teton RIVERS Sampler	Jerry Nyre		II	Yellowstone, Snake and Greys Rivers.
July 17-25	Yellowstone and Grand Teton LAKES Sampler	Eric Nyre		II+	Lewis, Shoshone, Yellowstone, and Jackson Lakes; Sea Kayaks Only.
July 23-25	RMCC Rendezvous, Colorado R.	Ron Stanker		I-III	Radium campsite; variety of day paddles; Dutch Oven potluck Saturday and Pancake breakfast Sunday. Twin Bridges to Dotsero (II) on Sunday.
July 30 - Aug 1	Chama River	Need new leader		III-	Trying to reassign this permit.
Aug 1	Dragon Boat Race Team Event	Karen Jankowski & Diane Preusser			Practice July 31 & race Aug 1 at Sloans Lake. 8 men & 8 women paddlers, 1 flag catcher, 2 alternates; \$37.50 entry fee due now.
Aug 7-8	Morrow Point and Crystal Reservoirs	Eric Nyre		II+	2 separate day paddles in the upper sections of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison; portages.
Aug 22	Glenwood Canyon Race	Jerry Nyre		I+	Colorado River from Dotsero to Hanging Lake; \$10 entry fee added to another \$500 in prizes.
Aug ??	Green River, Deso-Grey	3 Choices		III	Need to settle on 1 of 3 permits

Be sure to call the Trip Coordinator early to sign up!



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Presidents' Message.

Continued from first page

Camp REI, another event like the Paddle Demo Day, is planned for a second time on Saturday, June 12th, again at Chatfield State Park from 9 :00 AM – 2 :00PM. Diana Preusser has already offered to help, but we still need more Club members to come. Please let us know your availability for either of these dates.

Our thanks to Karen and Jim Baker-Jarvis for putting on a good Safety Fair Pool Session. You can never have enough practice throwing a rope, trying to land it near the person in the water and not the one standing next to you on the edge of the pool. Luckily, we live next to an elementary school, and I have a whole field in which to practice.

Speaking of practice, be sure to come to Golden on these summer evenings

and join fellow Club members canoeing the whitewater course on Clear Creek.



RMCC Instructor, Bob Stecker

RMCC Safety Fair

Ron and I will be there, especially after our basic solo lessons with Jeff Oxenford on May 9th and 10th.

In addition to the Basic Classes on this weekend, be sure to take advantage of the Whitewater Classes taught by Bob and Jill Stecker on June 19th and 20th. Call the Steckers for more information. The registration deadline is June 5th, so sign up early.

Lastly, we have printed new Rocky Mountain Canoe Club brochures. The pictures are in color and look great. The pamphlets tell about our Club activities on one side and have a concise Membership Form with Waiver/Release on the other side.

Rocky Mountain Canoe Club 2004 Officers

we are here to help, call us

Co-Presidents

Ron & Nancy Stanker..... []

Treasurer and Membership

Paul Holscher []

Newsletter

Lyn Berry..... []

Web Master

Dave Allured []

Web Photo Page

Garrett Downs..... []

Advertising

Doug Hurcomb..... []

Instruction -Whitewater & Freestyle

Bob & Jill Stecker..... []

Instruction -ACA Trainer & Basic

Jeff Oxenford []

Trip Planning Coordinator

Karen Amundson..... []

Conservation

Doug Green []

RMCC Discussion List

Liz D'Antonio-Gan []

Quartermaster

Bob & Carol Aikin..... []

Many things a person might want to know about our Club and everything needed to join is contained on the form. The website is also listed on the front and back for easy reference. If you could place some of these brochures in the boating and sporting goods stores in your area, i.e. all over the State of Colorado, please let us know and we will ship you a batch. Our goal is to get our wonderful canoe club as publicized as possible through everyone's help and cooperation.

We know this is a lot of information. Again, please mark your calendar with these RMCC event dates and call us to let us know if you are coming, or in the tradition of our Club, just show up! Ron and I look forward to meeting many of our new Club members, and seeing many more of you that we have met in previous years on the rivers and at these events this summer.



Jim and Karen Baker-Jarvis

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. Please restrict articles to less than about a page and a half. BUT, nice photos enhance the interest in your news.

Submitting Articles: Editorial material for The Voyageur's Companion should be sent to: Lyndon Berry, Editor, The Voyageur's Companion Buena Vista CO, 81211 OR e-mail to:
 Prefer Word format via e-mail, but most other formats and paper is OK too. I have a scanner, so pictures are welcomed. JPG format is preferred for electronic photos, but other formats OK also.

Deadline for a next issue is July 23. Get it to me, See it in print.

RMCC Membership:

\$20.00 per Household per Year.

Contact Paul Holscher at

Mail applications to:

Englewood CO 80110



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