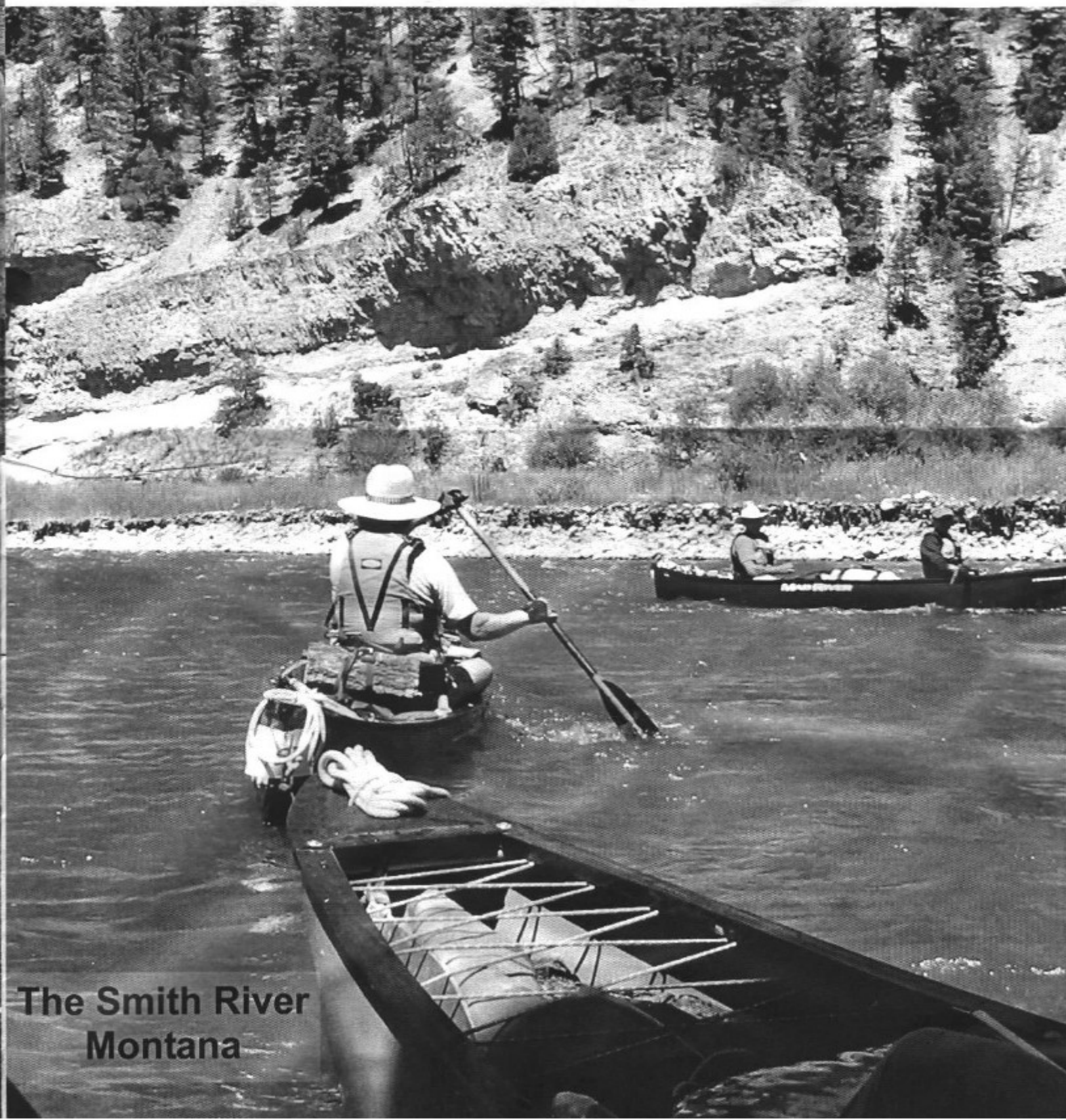


Voyageur's Companion

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CANOE CLUB Fall 2005



**The Smith River
Montana**



Fall Meeting!

November 6th 3:30-6pm

Potluck, Slides, Videos, Elections
REI Flagship Store Denver, CO

Thank You Lyn Berry, for all your years publishing our fine newsletter!

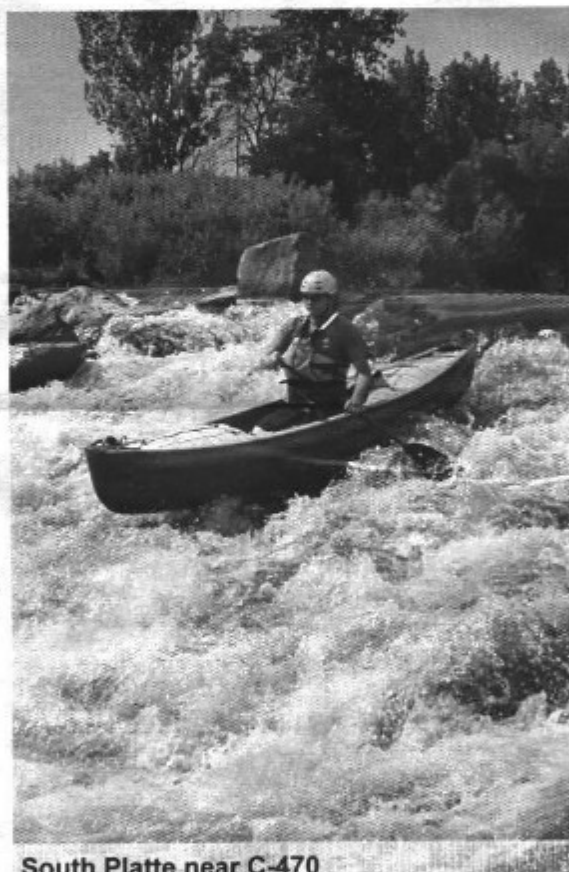
This issue of the Voyageur's Companion can best be described as a Photo Issue. Along with the articles, over 100 photographs were submitted, illustrating the trips in ways that words cannot capture.

In the spirit of the Photo Issue, I've added photos to the upcoming trip descriptions. The two Colorado River photos are actually from one of Dave Allureds previous trips down the same section. The Lodore photo was taken from the put-in last year.

A full color insert has been added in celebration of our photo theme. Traditionally our newsletter is printed in black & white. But after converting many of the photos for publication, there are some that stood out but which did not do well as black & white, and I wanted to share some of those with you. After all, it is a photo issue.

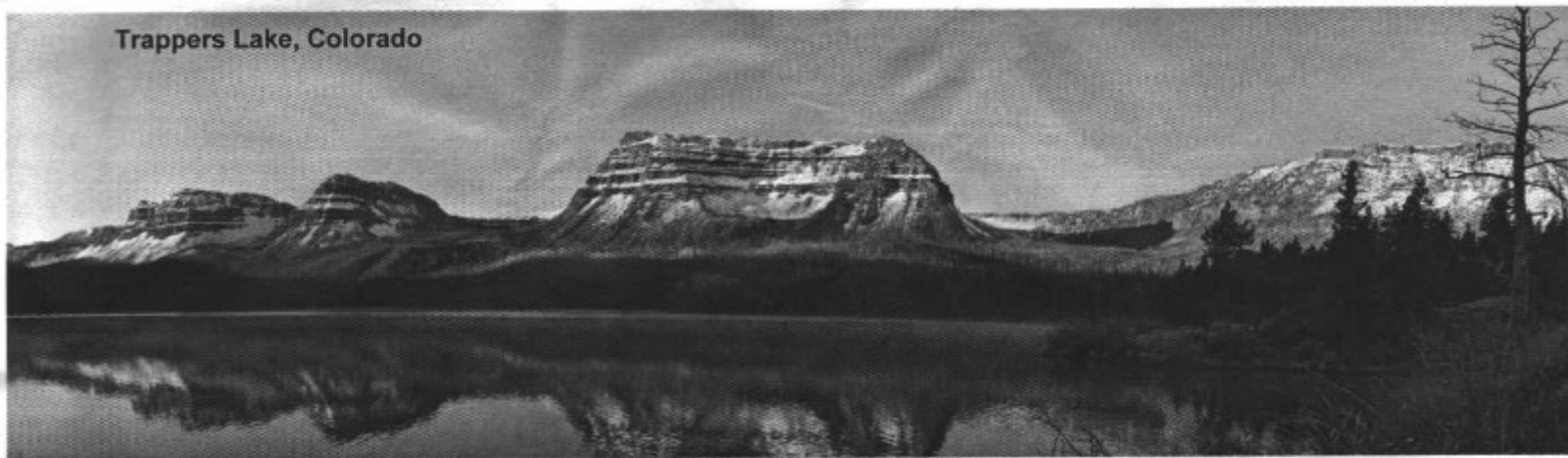
While the official paddling season is coming to a close, many of us are planning our trips for next year. There is sure to be some good discussion of upcoming trips and events at the November meeting, so please plan to attend.

- Eric Nyre Fall 2005 Newsletter Editor

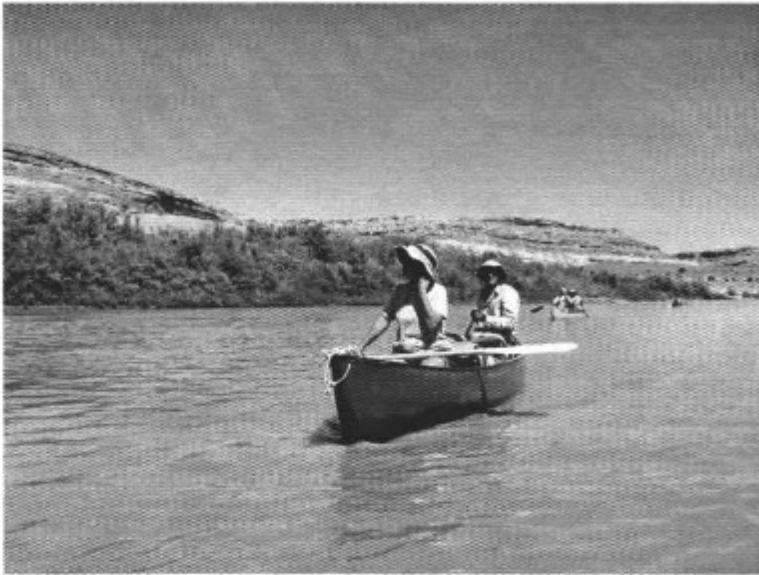


South Platte near C-470

Trappers Lake, Colorado



Upcoming October Trips



8-9 Colorado River

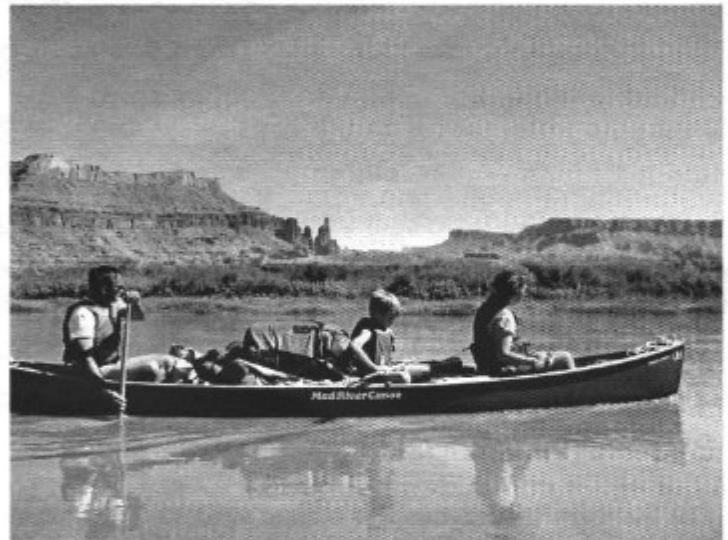
Cisco, UT to Dewey Bridge 15 miles
class I+ A good beginner trip.

Dave Allured

9-10 Colorado River

Dewey Bridge to Big Bend 25 miles
class II

Dave Allured



20-23 Green River

Gates of Lodore 44 miles class III
Weather decision will be made Oct 17.
This trip passes through the beautiful
canyons of Dinosaur National
Monument.

Bonnie Gallagher



Visit the website at
www.rockymountaincanoeclub.org
for the latest trip information



The Summer Rendezvous

By Karen Jankowski

The Summer Rendezvous was a huge success. The trips started on Friday afternoon and went through Sunday; the weather was as usual a major factor in the grand scheme of things. The Dutch oven cook-off was done Saturday evening, in spite of the gusty winds, driving rain, and lightning, that took about 20 people (a large number of which were holding the metal tent poles up, while wondering about the wisdom of holding up a metal pole to the lighting Gods) to hold down the club tent and stalled the Dutch oven competition as the wind blew out coals and the pelting rain slowed the cook time was well turned out. Thanks to Dave Allured, Bob and Carol Aikin, Greg Jankowski, and Justin Gilbert for leading river trips.



Rendezvous Dutch Oven Contest Winners!

Our annual culinary Dutch Oven 2005 winners were Bob Aikin whom made his Beef Brisket from Sam's Club. His secret was grilling it for 3 hours won the Peoples' Choice Award.

Bo Yennie of Steamboat Springs was the first time winner for Main dish made his special Hombres Pobres del Rio. His special recipe is brown 2.5 pounds ground beef and add one package of taco seasoning.

Mix in a bowl:

2 cans pinto beans
1 can diced green chilies
7 oz can salsa picante
1 can diced tomatoes
1 can whole kernel corn
1 can black refried beans
1 can black beans
Chopped onion
Season with cumin and chili powder

Put ground beef on the bottom of the Dutch oven.
Put bean mixture on top.
Layer about 8 or 10 corn tortillas on top.

Bake in the Dutch Oven with 5 coals on the bottom and 15 on the top.
Sprinkle cheese on the corn tortillas near the end of the cooking time.

Bo says it's done when you can smell it!

A new category this year was for a salad dish. Carol Aikin made her famous Raspberry Spinach salad. Her secret recipe is spinach, onion, cranraisins, blue cheese, glazed walnuts and Brianna raspberry vingernette dressing..

Bonnie Gallagher won desert category for pumpkin pie with whip crème. Dutch Oven Pumpkin pie:

1 Large can (or two 15 oz cans) of pumpkin pie filling
Evaporated milk
Eggs
Two refrigerated prepared pie crusts for one small Dutch oven.

Follow the directions on the can for making the filling remembering you'll need more filling for one Dutch oven than you would for one pie at home.

Put one pie crust flat on the bottom of the Dutch oven. Cut the other crust into pieces to go up the sides of the 8" Dutch oven

Baking in the oven is delicate and the crust can only have 3 to 5 coals on the bottom below the oven. On the top.....about 15 coals. Bake about 45 minutes.

Cool and serve with Whipped Cream.

What is a Dutch Oven?

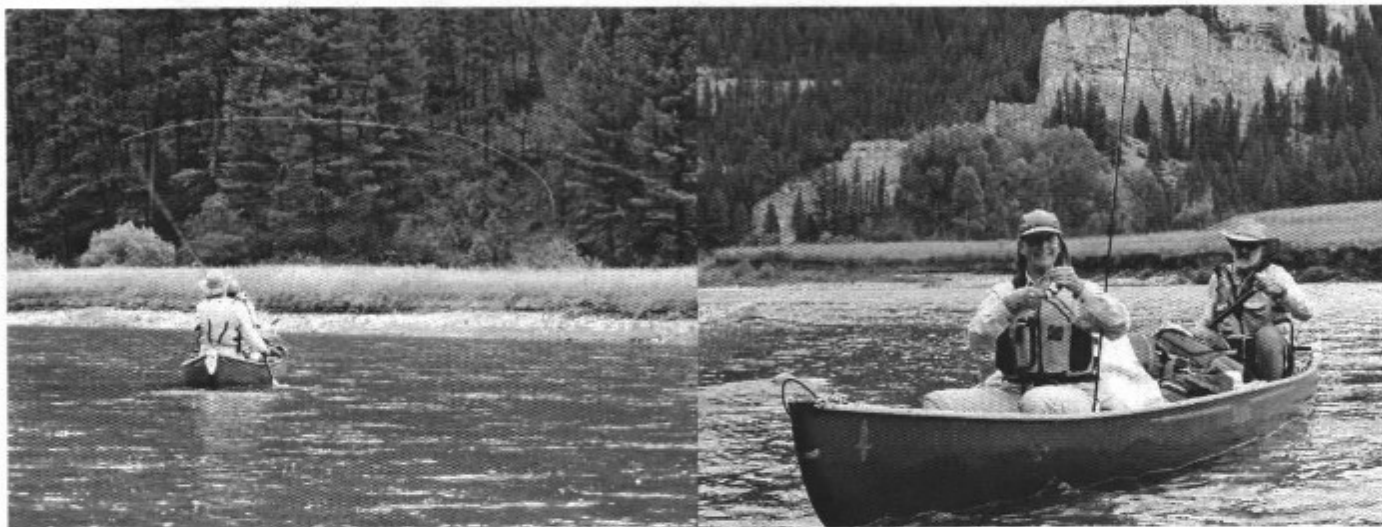


The Dutch Oven is for outdoor cooking with coals. The oven is designed to sit in the middle of hot coals, with coals both under and on top of the oven. The legs allow air to circulate beneath the oven, and the edge of the lid helps hold hot coals on top of the oven. Early Dutch Ovens were made in New England, and used by Dutch Traders, hence their name. One of the most important pieces of equipment carried by Lewis and Clark was a very large Dutch Oven.

Smith River Trip July 3-7, 2005

By Karen Amundson

Thirteen of us had a wonderful trip down the Smith River south of Great Falls, Montana. The weather was perfect. Water levels began at 570cfs and ended at 370, with visibility good for fishing as levels got under 450 or so. The river itself moved at about 6 mph with enough rocks, cobblestone bars and sharp cliff wall turns to keep people's attention. While the rangers claim you can canoe it at 150cfs, I would prefer to have it be above 300cfs. We had 7 seasoned RMCC veterans and 6 newer folks, so were just short of the 15 person limit. Note that late season cancellations can be picked up, but you are then limited to 8 people. The campsites have fire pits, toilets and trees and we found them to be good for lunch stops too.



Of the 4 anglers who got MT 10-day licenses (\$52!!), 3 were novices and catching mostly tiny fish. But our pro – who even brought a stomach pump to analyze what they were eating – caught almost a dozen, including a few in the unkeepable 13" to 22" range. Of course we passed a raft with 2 kids who had caught 10 fish that morning, so perhaps the commercial outfitters know where the fish are hiding.



The 59 river miles must be done in 4 or fewer days of paddling, plus you can add a layover day in the middle. We stayed at the Upper Cow Coulee campsite for 2 nights and enjoyed a distant fireworks show along with our own sparklers and campfire on the 4th. Our 2 tri-athletes donned wetsuits and futilely tried to swim upstream.

While several people fished and a few hung near camp, 7 of us went in search of a trail that was shown on 2 maps and referred to us by the ranger at the put-in. We made it up a cut in the cliff and used 2 GPS units, a compass and some heavy-duty bushwhacking to find it. After completing a figure 8 shaped hike, we decided that the maps were wrong. Trail 331 actually starts at the Sunset Cliffs campsite, which might be a better layover location for a mixed fishing/hiking group.

The 3rd campsite found Lin (Baker – who moved from Evergreen to Bozeman 2 years ago) barely beating Bo at skipping rocks all the way across the river. But Greg outdid them the next morning with his 1st stone, which landed and stayed on the far cliff's narrow ledge.



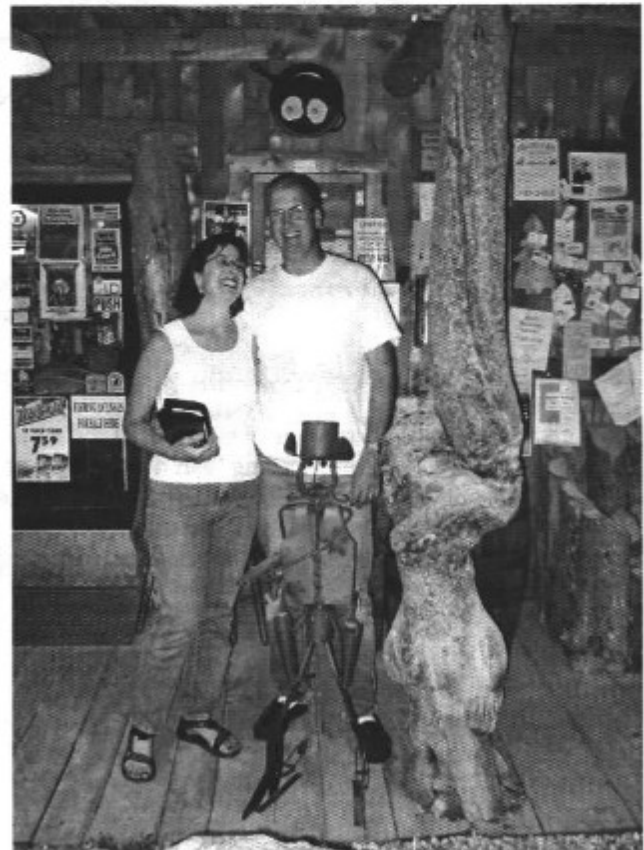
While we had second pick of campsites out of a possible 8 launch groups, we had to rely on the ranger's expertise and found ourselves doing 21 miles on the last day. There were only 4-5 rafts seen on the river each day, so there must have been some late cancellations. We scouted the 3 marked rapids and found 2 to be pretty exciting for class II's. The suspended PVC pipe "fence" was a thrill. We were lucky to have minimal wind – especially on the last 7 miles through hilly sheep ranches with cottonwoods.

Most of the river had lush ponderosa and pine forests with pretty cliffs and fields of flowers. We saw bald and golden eagles, flocks of white pelicans and terns, and numerous song birds. Several deer were spotted near the river. We suspended our food at night and did not encounter any bears or raccoons.

The shuttle companies get all of their info via phone/email/fax before your trip, and you never see them or sign anything. We just hid the keys and money in and around the cars in pre-determined locations. Smith River Shuttle was our service provider, and they exceeded expectations by washing and vacuuming our cars. It cost \$80/\$100 per car for the lengthy gravel/paved routes. The river fee was \$50 (\$25 for MT residents) per person and fishing licenses weren't cheap. But this was a good deal compared to paying \$3600 per person to a commercial outfitter. The Smith has beautiful scenery, top-notch campsites, and ranks very high in the fishing magazines.

Five of us enjoyed Yellowstone National Park on our way back to Denver. And Gail and I found Ron and Nancy Stanker (last year's RMCC presidents) to be happily settled in the beautiful little town of Story, Wyoming – near Sheridan.

I would pick this same time period (though water levels are unpredictable) again, as earlier permits are quite rare, with wetter weather and siltier water. It is a good enough experience to make up for the long drive, and 5 hotshot canoers paired it with the Salmon River before or after the Smith.

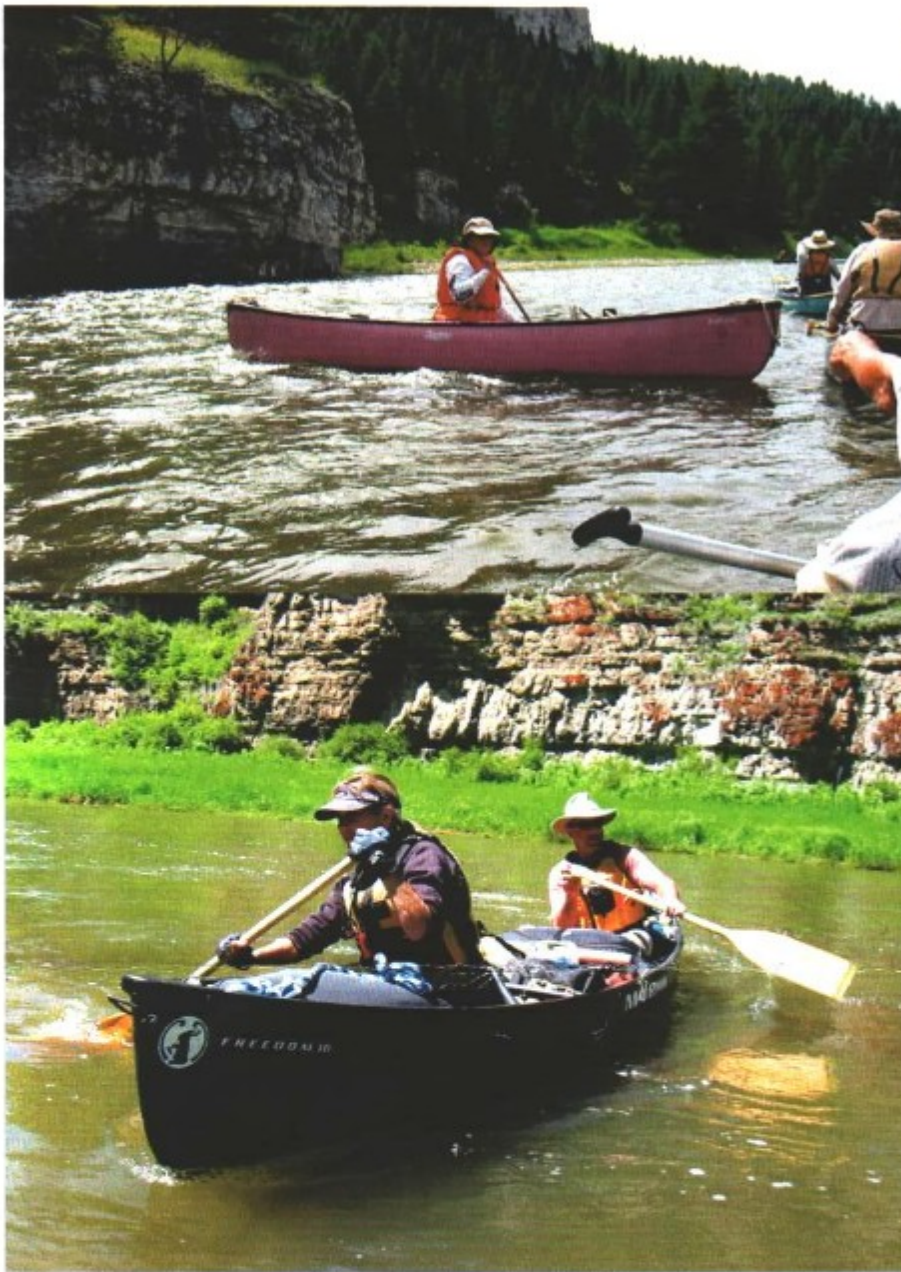




Voyageur's Companion Fall 2005 Photo Insert

Smith River Photos





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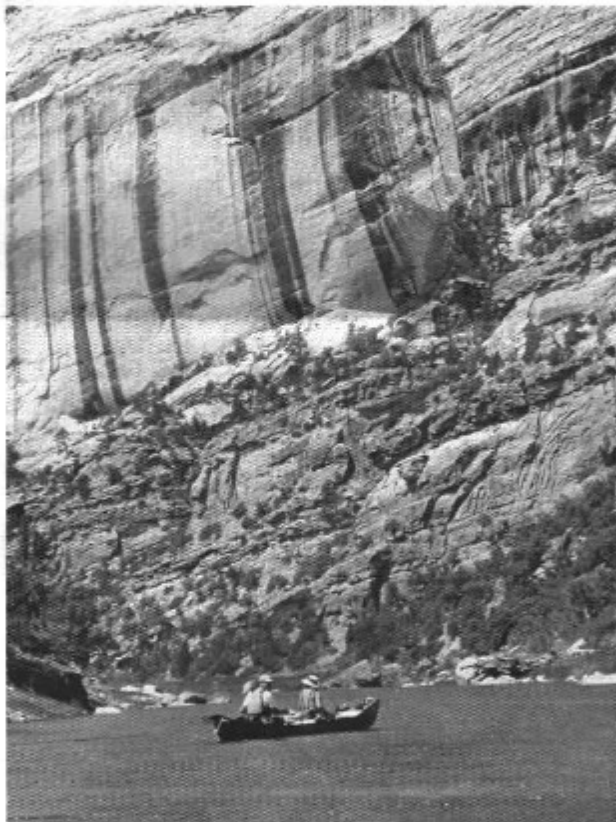
www.canoecolorado.com



Playing Hooky in Dinosaur (Sorry we skipped the Rendezvous)

By Doug Hurcomb

Jeff and Julie, and Doug, Janet, and Wes loaded our boats at Deer Lodge Park and pushed off into the placid water of the Yampa through sandbars and around beaches. The river was surrounded by low hills. The clear water showed sand waves (at about 1000 cfs and dropping) beneath our boats as we plied the sluggish stream feeling for deep water with our eyes. Soon the flow quickened and we paddled into the amazing canyons of Dinosaur National Monument through playful rapids, which gave us a sense of what was to come. We spent the rest of the day avoiding rocks and negotiating rapids. We enjoyed numerous encounters with sheep, birds, and other creatures on the riverbanks. We also enjoyed the remarkable lack of people. We were 2 days behind and ahead of only two other groups. We camped at Big Joe 22 miles downstream after a long day. Jeff and Julie cooked and entertained with original music and song as Wes slept.



Day 2 was fun and lively, mostly continuous class II rapids with time for a couple of side hikes. We camped at Mather Hole surrounded by sandstone above and behind us on river left and viewed low hills and distant cliffs across the Yampa. The swift water upstream of the camp provided cooling swims and kept Wes busy while the rest set up camp.

Jeff's mind was on Warm Springs Rapid. We loaded canoes and paddled early on day 3 to run Warm Springs Rapid and camp at Box Elder. Mixed clouds and sunshine spelled welcome cool weather and a brief shower. The previous 2 days had been hot! We floated and ran rapids then paddled a long sluggish flat section, in anticipation, through the serpentine bends incised in stone. Warm Springs was the first rapid we scouted and it proved to be forgiving. Our spirits high, we worked downstream to camp.

Next morning we met the Green early and took a short hike to cool and dark Whispering Cave in Echo Park. Next, we swung around Steamboat Rock and into Whirlpool Canyon. Later, the wind picked up and began blowing us downstream except when we were in a rapid. Then the wind turned against us blowing off the tops of waves creating poor visibility, wave and rock crashing, and much spray. We stopped to empty filled boats several times. A huge storm was brewing and dumping rain to the North but we evaded the violent weather and took advantage of the down river wind to Island Park Camp.

We concluded the trip running the rapids of the Split Mountain section on a sunny warm morning with a brief stop at a hot spring and ending at the almost deserted takeout. Reality caught up with us at the Dinosaur NM Quarry where we boarded the park bus with the other tourists reminding us how special our journey was.



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Mystery Paddlers: Name That Paddler

Who, when asked to tell about their past, or adventurous/crazy experiences, would produce the following list?

Paddler A

- 1.) Summited Popocatepetyl – the 17,887' volcano in Mexico that is currently too active to climb.
- 2.) Went cave diving and smoked cigars on a remote Caribbean island.
- 3.) Was promoted from second place to Miss Junior Achievement of Dallas when the frontrunner became pregnant.

Paddler B

- 1.) Built his own canoe in high school at age 17, which became known as "Old Ironsides".
- 2.) Ran this homemade canoe on its maiden river voyage down the Green River at high water in 1967 before the "warm water" siphon was installed. Brrrrrrrr
- 3.) Is known by some of his paddling friends as Dangerous D_____.

Paddler C

- 1.) My first experience in a canoe was when my parents took me to Barr Lake when I was 1 year old.
- 2.) My first solo river trip was from McCoy to Catamount Bridge when I was 11.
- 3.) I have paddled with both my parents on the Colorado, South Platte, Eagle, Niobrara, and Arkansas Rivers.
- 4.) At the pool, I turn my boat upside down to paddle it.

The identity of these paddlers will first be revealed on the RMCC.Indra discussion list in early November.

Their identities will also be printed in the Winter newsletter.

The above clues were submitted to and compiled by Bonnie Gallagher.

Raft Trips!



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Karen Amundson

Advertising:

Doug Hurcomb

Conservation:

Doug Green

Instruction:

Instructors/ Basics

Jeff Oxenford

Freestyle/ Whitewater

Bob & Jill Stecker

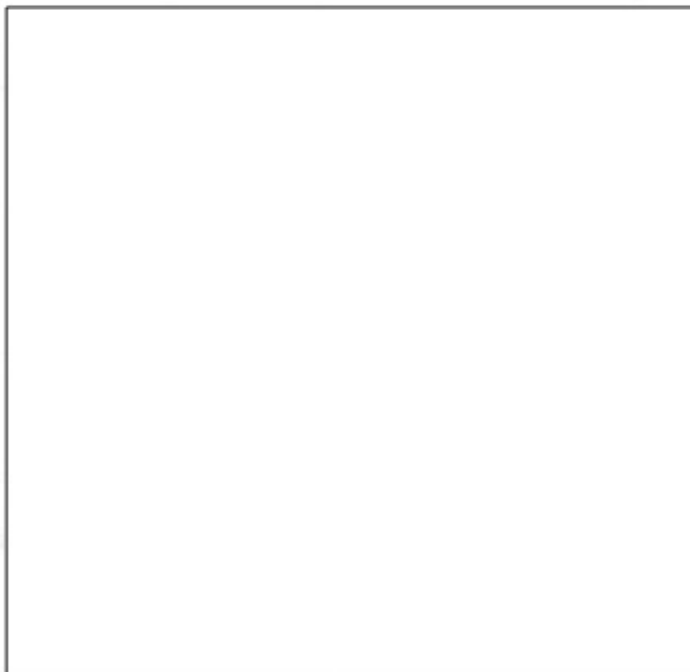
Quartermaster:

Bonnie Gallagher

Webmaster:

Dave Allured

RMCC Officers



Colorado River (Moab area)

By Steve Skinner

An announced trip on short-notice to run the Professor Valley section of the Colorado R. north of Moab on 30 July didn't materialize because of lack of boater interest (presumably too much fun at Rendezvous the previous weekend?). Not willing to take no for an answer, Steve Skinner (RMCC) and visitor Charles Benjamin (Kansas Canoe Assoc.) set out for Moab, UT on 28 July to explore some of the class I canyon sections on the Colorado R. near Moab.

After an evening sampling fine food and microbrews in Glenwood Springs, we put-in at Dotsero on Friday morning for a warm up run down to Hanging Lake. The flow was marginal (1300 cfs) but still plenty of water and excellent weather. After a lunch stop at Bair Ranch, we were suprised that we didn't encounter strong headwinds after passing under the I-70 bridge at the Hanging L. tunnels on the final stretch. After takeout, we hit the road for Moab, stopping in Palisade to stock up on some of those world-famous peaches.

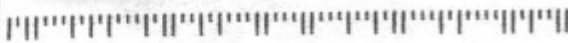
Driving into Moab at 8:45 pm Friday evening with the temperature still hovering near 96 F gave us reason to question our sanity for doing this trip in mid-summer. But, we were up early Sat. morning and after coffee and a visit to the excellent Moab visitor center on Main St., we put in at Dewey Bridge about 30 river miles north of Moab, for the 7 mile paddle down to Hittle Bottom. This is an excellent class I stretch with some spectacular sandstone formations and good views of Fisher Towers.

We had flows of around 4500 cfs, and encountered no major obstacles. There is light motor-boat traffic, and we saw two outboard-motor craft which gave us some nice wake action. This class I section can easily be done in 2.5 hours. Beginners should be aware that the river becomes more difficult below Hittle Bottom.

To beat the heat, we put in shortly after 7 pm Saturday evening at Gold Bar canyon, about 10 miles south of Moab, for a 'sunset cruise' to Potash, about 6 miles downriver. As the sun set, we were treated to a dazzling display of color reflecting off the red canyon walls. As we got downriver toward the Billboard, we were in twilight and total solitude, with only the birds singing and crickets chirping. We took out at Jackson Bottom just before 9 pm, and loaded our boats in darkness. This stretch is ideal class I water, with no major obstructions. A longer variation (16 miles) can be done by putting in at the Moab river bridge.

On Sunday, we played tourists in Moab. For architecture buffs, dont miss the Hole-n-the-Rock, (a 5000 sq. ft. home carved out of sandstone) about 15 miles south of town. If you cant get down there, visit the lady living in a hole-n-the-rock at the boat ramp near the Moab river bridge. She's not allowed to give tours of her hole-house, but likes to chat.





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Denver, CO 80247

The Voyager's Companion
C/O Editor

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club, an American Canoe Association Paddle America Partner



Deadline for the Winter Issue is November 6th
Please contact Bonnie Gallagher for more information



**Don't forget the next RMCC meeting
November 6th 3:30pm - 6:00pm
REI Flagship Store Denver, CO**

