



The Voyageur's Companion

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club
www.rockymountaincanoecub.org

May 2006

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 their own qualifications, skill level, and safety on the rivers 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. Please sign up well in advance. Check the RMCC on-line schedule for the latest updates: <http://www.rockymountaincanoecub.org/schedule.html>

To add a trip or event to the schedule, please send complete information to Trip Coordinator Ned Banta,

RMCC Summer Trip Schedule so far:

Fri. May 12. **Colorado R., Pumhouse to Radium.** Bonnie Gallagher, Class II+; III- if the water is high. Day trip. Probably camp at Radium on Friday night.

May 13-14. **Colorado R., Radium to State Bridge.** Bonnie Gallagher, II+; III- if the water is high. On Saturday morning we will hopefully leave (Radium?) campground for shuttle to State Bridge at 9:00 am. Carry camping gear in boats for island camping on Saturday night.

May 13-14. **North Platte R., Six Mile Gap.** Eric Nyre, Class II+. Joint trip with Canoe Colorado--their rules apply. Solo boats must be at least 15', tandems 17'. Canoes must have float bags, end lines, etc. PFD's must be worn at all times while on the river.

Sat. May 20. **Poudre R., Filter Plant.** Karen and Greg Jankowski, Class II+. Dress for cold water. Meet at put in at park at 8:30am. Make 2 runs and a possible Bridges run in the afternoon.

Thu-Fri, May 25-26. **White R., Meeker to Rangely.** Dave Allured, Class I-II. Two day trips.

Sat-Mon, May 27-29. **White R., Rangely to Gas Well.** Dave Allured, Class I-II. Long paddle days. Strong beginners welcome.

June 1, 2 & 3 (Assuming there really is water) **Dolores River, Slickrock to Bedrock.** Gary Faust, Home: Would like to do shuttle about no later than 9:00 AM on the 1st. Would spend 2 nights on the river and take out afternoon of the 3rd. Would like to keep the trip at about 6 people to make camping more manageable given the overgrowth of recent years. Contains several short Class III drops.

June 2, 3, (4). **Bluegrass on the River - Arkansas River below Pueblo.** Karen Amundson, Class I+. Enjoy a bluegrass festival along with a 6 mile paddle Saturday morning. Camping and concert fees.

Sat. June 10. **REI Paddle Demo Day.** Karen and Greg Jankowski, 9 am to 1 pm at **Chatfield Reservoir Swim Beach.** RMCC will have a table set up. Park entrance fee to get into the park.

Continued from Previous Page

Fri-Sun, June 16-18. **North Platte R., Six Mile Gap to Treasure Island.** Ken Bauer, [] Class II+. Fishing, bird watching, and camping.

Sun. June 18. **Gross Reservoir.** Jeanne Willson, [] Flat water. Bring a friend who wants to go canoeing! 40 minutes from Boulder/Superior, 440 acres and 10.9 miles of shoreline in a beautiful location, allows car-top boating only (boats less than 18', no motors, no trailers). No personal water contact (swimming, wading) allowed. We will meet-and-greet, paddle in smaller slow to fast groups, regroup for picnic lunch at the far end of the reservoir together. Optional shoreline/onshore/creekside wildflower and natural history paddle/walk after lunch led by the trip leader.

July 15-22. **Green River, Deso-Gray.** Karen Amundson, [] Class III. 96 miles. Extended adventure in Desolation and Gray canyons with numerous class III rapids.

July 28-30. **RMCC River Rendezvous on the Colorado River.** Dave Allured, [] Trip options: Class I-III. Car camp at **Radium, Colorado.**

July 28-31. **Arkansas River, Buena Vista to Parkdale.** Lyn Berry, [] Class IV. 4 days with 3 nights camping on the river. Carry camp gear in boats. Camping in Browns Canyon and at 2 other places on BLM land in Big Horn Sheep Canyon. Let Lyn know ASAP if you are interested.

2-3 weeks end of July to beginning Aug, dates somewhat open. **Lac La Ronge/Churchill River Area, Saskatchewan, Canada.** Jim Baker-Jarvis, [] Class II. Canoeing lake/river mix. Around 150 miles canoeing lakes/rivers with portages.

Sept. 12-20. **Green River, Deso-Gray.** Tony and Peggy Littlejohn. [] Class III. 8 nights.



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Canoes!

Ten of us had a great time on the San Juan from Sand Island (near Bluff, UT) to Mexican Hat. The weather started out cold and somewhat windy, but improved into sunny 70 degree days. Water levels were around 600cfs, which lowered the 3 named rapids to a Class II+ status. Jim Baker-Jarvis brought 2 teenagers and an ocean sea-kayaker / rugby player / hang-glider named Randy Martin. The Nolans shot a great video and I teamed up with Webmaster Jeanne Willson. Hugh O'Neil and Gary Faust were the only solo paddlers. The shuttle takes an hour, and cars left in Mexican Hat should be kept at a safe location such as Valle's Trading Post for \$1.50/day.

We spread the trip over 3 days to allow time for hiking, exploring, and winds that turned out to be fairly mellow by San Juan standards. The first day was chock full of Anasazi sites starting with impressive toe holes cut up a long cliff. Then we stopped at the Butler Wash Petroglyph site for lunch. Here we melded with about 50 glyphs, including several with ear and head "combs" depicting 2-way communication with the spirits. This site is very prominent in petroglyph books, and did not have any damage like the lesser site at the put-in campground.


A little further down the river was the well-preserved Indian House (similar to Mesa Verde) built of stones into a nice south-facing amphitheater. It was 2 stories high with about 8 rooms and even some pottery shards and ancient corn cobs and a granary 50 yards away. Bartlett's Trading Post was a pleasant hike, but little more than a foundation.

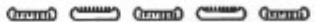
We paid The Navajo Nation (via money order) for 2 nights of camping and 1 day of hiking on the left bank at \$5/person/activity plus the BLM \$6 for the river, so this totaled \$21/person for the trip plus a long drive. Gas was the biggest expense. The last decent left bank campsite in the 7-9 river mile range was taken by a couple from Wyoming who were rafting with their cute girl in a pink dress. But there is a good mile of great camping with cottonwoods on the right around mile 7-8 if you don't mind a few cow patties.

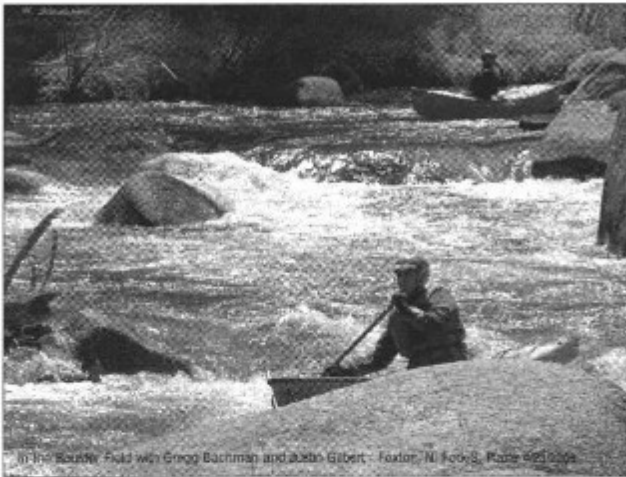
I had planted the idea for exploring up Chinle Creek on the Navajo side, and Jim's crew were the only ones energetic enough to ferry to the island and wade the small channel of river and work their way up the wash into the sculpted drainage. They were rewarded with numerous ruins and remnants of the Anasazi including a perfect arrowhead. Next time, I would aim to camp almost a half mile above the Chinle Creek confluence - on either side of the river.

On day 2, we paddled a mile and found a cut through thick tamarisk on the left bank just before the river enters the canyon. We had a delightful hike - about 1 mile - up a valley to the Mule's Ear Diatreme. This is the remnant of an old volcanic pipe that imploded. Views were incredible, with snow-capped mountains, Comb Ridge, and uplifted, folded rocks where the river enters the canyon. We checked out a huge balancing rock and some petrified wood and hiked out on a red sandstone ridge. A couple of miles into the canyon were 4 desert bighorn sheep. Two of them had radio collars and one had an ear tag, so it proves that everything is being controlled or tracked.

8 Foot Rapid was full of huge waves, but didn't require any difficult moves due to the low water levels. We got the best campsite on the river 100 yards below this rapid and on the left bank. It is a high sandy beach suitable for 6+ tents along with another 8 tent sites sprinkled on the level above it. Four of us hiked up the nearby valley, and marveled at the crinoids and brachiopods in the rocks. Great stories abounded around the campfires both nights, including Gary's narrow escape from a midnight flash flood on a San Juan side canyon.

The third day went by quickly, with only one stop to retrieve a tent that was stuck halfway up the canyon. Randy scampered up to find that it was in good shape and only missing the stakes and carrying bag. We wrapped up the trip with Indian fry bread tacos and the tourist shop near the highway bridge that crosses the river. Nobody flipped, and we all had a great time. 

Justin Gilbert, Bill Rivers, Gregg Bachman and I, Bob Cook, paddled Foxtton on the 23rd of April. Here are a couple of photos of that run. We would like to see if others might like to join us on some class III runs. I guess we put will put that out for the Trip leader sometime. It's hard to plan for these trips ahead though, as we never know when the flows will be up until the day prior. I wonder if we can put something in the Newsletter for an "available and interested" list of paddlers for such occasions? 

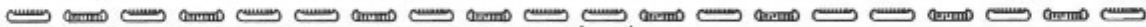


In the Boulder Field with Gregg Bachman and Justin Gilbert - Foxtton, N. Fork/S. Platte 4/23/06



BJC in the Boulder Field, Foxtton, N. Fork/S. Platte 4/23/06

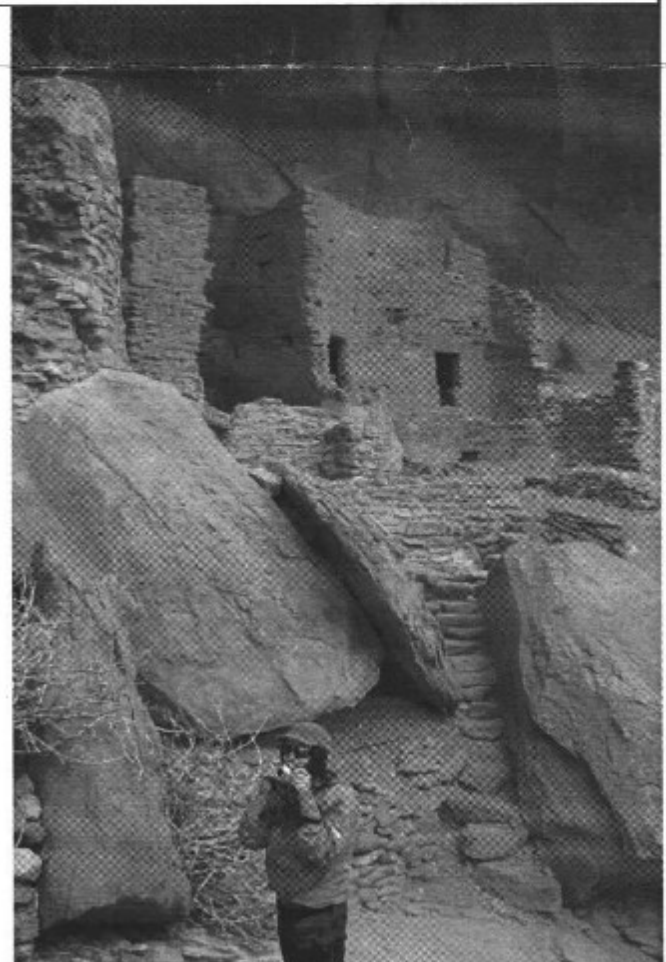
Photos above by Bob Cook, Foxtton Canyon, April 23rd a b Left: Justin Gilbert & Gregg Bachman. Right: Bob



Photos below by Karen Amundson, San Juan River, April 6th - 8th

Top Left: View from Mule's Ear Diatreme. Bottom Left: 2nd river camp site.

Right Hand Photo: Marci Nolan at "River House"



Many people have asked me whether I have any advice about canoeing with kids. My advice can be summed up rather simply. Don't.

It's important to note that at some point in every parent's life, they consider taking their kids into the wilderness. They think that it will give their kids a better perspective, and give their family an opportunity to bond. By the end of the trip, most parents see the only advantage of a trip into the wilderness with children is that it gives them ideas on how to more easily dispose of their bodies.


For some reason, parents think that they can take their children on a canoe trip where, because it is so important to everyone's safety, the kids will listen carefully to every instruction given to them. Yeah, sure. Now you may start to understand the lunacy of taking your kids in boat where they can finally get back at you by merely leaning in one direction or the other. As crazy as it seems, some parents think that if they can only take their wild, obnoxious child on a canoe trip, that child will somehow come to appreciate the quiet serenity of the out of doors. But these same parents soon realize that the only way they can convince their kids to come on the trip is if they bring along a boom box that has only two volume settings: (1) ear shattering loud, and (2) louder.

When considering whether to take children on a canoe trip, consider that most children can be divided into different categories. Infants for example, should never be placed in a canoe. As a general rule, if diapers are required, the person should not be in a canoe and this includes both infants and grandparents. Adolescents should only canoe if someone else is taking them. If, for example, your neighbor decides that he wants to take your nine year old son out on a boy scout noise fest jamboree by banging down a river in aluminum canoes, quickly check the sex offender list and if his name doesn't appear, give him your kid, a fake phone number, and move to another state before they return.

Teenaged boys can go canoeing, though at some risk to the enjoyment of almost anyone else on the trip. Teenaged girls, on the other hand, should not be permitted on a canoe trip unless it is raft supported, with one raft dedicated solely to carrying make up and spring water (for shampoos).

When taking teenaged boys on a canoe trip, keep in mind that they are filled with as much nervous energy as gerbils at Richard Simmons' house. Keeping these kids occupied is accomplished more easily if you bring along the right equipment. The right equipment includes fireworks, food, and more fireworks.

Teenaged boys seem to be constantly seeking that "adrenaline rush" that comes primarily from watching someone else experience fright, such as leaping out of a sleeping bag that contains a "harmless" snake placed there by the boys seeking the rush. In a related way, teenaged boys revel in the joys of demonstrating their manhood to one another. This typically means that they will do things that are reckless and forbidden by both parents, though their fathers can easily remember doing something equally stupid and will enjoy sharing that story with anyone who will listen.

The addition of children can bring warmth and color to a canoe trip, sort of like putting kids in a swimming pool. What might otherwise be a relaxing float down a river now becomes an exciting trip consisting of yelling, threatening, and finally giving up all hope. So, once again, when you feel the urge to take your children along on a canoe trip, consider a root canal instead. 



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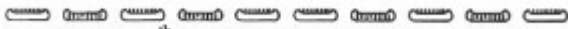
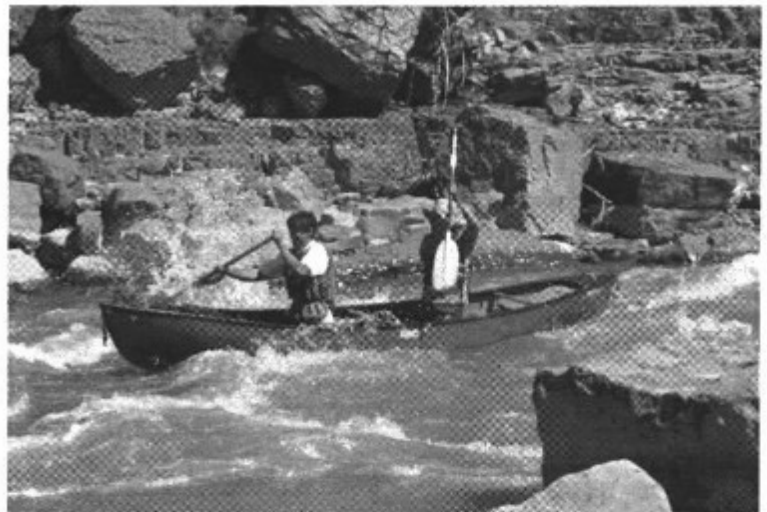
Classified Ad:

Dagger Impulse Solo w/Bob Foote saddle & thigh straps included. Great for overnights and moderate whitewater. Call Gail Campbell:



Photo by Karen Amundson,
San Juan River, April 6th - 8th

Josh and Randy in 8 Foot Rapid



See the May 6th issue of the Prairie Times for:
"A Winter Boat Ride" by Mark Zen

I saw my Canoe the other day...

by Mark Zen

On my way home two weeks ago, I saw my canoe leaving the river. I had run an errand in Firestone, and was just getting back to Fort Lupton, crossing the South Platte River on Highway 52. I had just stopped for the new signal light, and a caravan of cats with boats pulled out of the traditional takeout for the Brighton to Fort Lupton run. My canoe, or rather, my old canoe, pulled out with them. I remember paddling it with Jim Holloway for his 50th Birthday. He had just received his new boat, and the previous day's rain ran madly down the river, at over 2,000cfs. We played dead fish polo, racing between other boats.

There had been about 10 of us that sunny day. Jim & I splashed and frolicked like young kids. Even the young kids on the trip were better behaved than we were, but you only turn 50 once. The high way of the past few days had moved one of the deadly strainers into the middle of one channel, blocking it completely. We paddled back against the strong current, warning everyone else before they got there. Jim and I redeemed ourselves. That was one of many memorable trips I have taken down the South Platte River.

It is a wonderful feeling to know that boat is still being enjoyed, even if not by me. Someone IS having fun with it. This year I will get out on the water and experience the joy that comes with paddling again.

Photo by
Karen Amundson

San Juan River, April
6th - 8th

Butler Wash
Petroglyphs
Including
"Ear Combs" to
communicate with
spirits



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

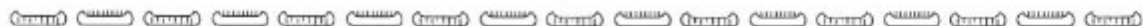
by Dave A., RMCC President

- Thanks to Richard Ferguson for editing the March issue of Voyageurs Companion.
- Thanks to Karen Maley for helping with assembly and mailing.
- A big thanks to Mark Zen for filling the Editor's position for the rest of 2006. That's a load off my mind.
- Thanks to Bill Haas of Red Rocks Community College for helping out in a pinch with much of the planning and presentation for the Safety Fair classroom session.
- Thanks to Greg and Karen Jankowski for initial planning and support.
- Thanks to Karen Maley, Jeff Oxenford, and Doug Hurcomb for photo and video support.
- Thanks to Jeff Oxenford and Bob Stecker for taking over the Safety Fair Pool Session.
- Thanks to Bob Cook, Eric Nyre, Greg and Karen Jankowski, and Karen Amundson for presenting great photo segments in the program "Introduction to Canoeing in Colorado", shown recently at REI Denver.
- Thanks to Jerry Nolan and Karen Maley for photos for the Gunnison River segment.
- Thanks to the REI Denver Flagship Store for allowing free use of their auditorium for these and other recent RMCC programs.
- Thanks to Karen Jankowski for organizing the pool practices sessions.
- Thanks to Arvada's George Meyers Pool for offering their facilities for the pool practice sessions and safety fair.
- Thanks to Bonnie Gallagher, Karen Amundson, Rich Elten, and Tony and Peggy Littlejohn for offering a number of great river trips this spring.
- Thanks to Eric Nyre for organizing the swap meet at Chatfield Reservoir.
- Thanks to our volunteer RMCC officers for quietly plugging away at their various key roles for RMCC, such as membership promotion, advertising, organizing the trip schedule and classes, keeping the website going, handling the money and the club equipment, and keeping an eye on governmental affairs.

Volunteer activities are the essence of a great paddling organization. I would like to acknowledge everyone who has given recent volunteer support to RMCC. If I have forgotten anyone, please remind me at dallured@indra.com or 303-499-7466.



President	Dave Allured
Treasurer	Paul Holscher
Newsletter Editor	Mark Zen
Membership	Karen Jankowski
Trip Coordinator	Ned Banta
Advertising	Clem McHale
Conservation	Greg Jankowski
Instruction: Whitewater/Freestyle	Bob & Jill Stecker
Instruction: Instructors/Basics	Jeff Oxenford
Quartermaster	Doug Hurcomb
Webmaster	Jeanne Willson





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Y exp 02/01/2007
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Rocky Mountain Canoe Club -- Contact Information

Website: <http://www.rockymountaincanoeclub.org>

Membership: \$20 per year, per household. See Membership section of our website,
 or contact Karen Jankowski for forms and information:

General Address:

Rocky Mountain Canoe Club
 c/o Dave Allured
 [Redacted]
 Boulder CO 80303

RMCC Membership
 Karen Jankowski
 [Redacted]
 Lakewood CO 80228

Deadline for next newsletter: **June 21**

HELP WANTED:

Volunteers are needed for the following club projects and events.

To get involved, please contact Dave Allured, [Redacted] or the person listed.

Thank you for your volunteer support of RMCC.

- Trip organizers for river trips of all levels, especially beginner and novice trips.
 Contact Trip Coordinator Ned Banta, [Redacted]
- Planners, helpers, trip organizers for these events:
 - RMCC Arkansas River weekend, tentative, early July.
 - RMCC Rendezvous at Radium, July 28-30.
- Attorney for advice on RMCC liability issues.