Spring on the South Platte, 2016

Multi-Club Spring Kick-off; Evans to Kersey or Kuner: Cancelled for rotten weather the week before, the 13th Almost-Annual Multi-Club paddle was held Saturday, April 2nd. It was billed as "almost-annual" because of the two-year break in tradition caused by the Flood of 2013 having washed out the put-in at Evans.

This year the people from Rocky Mountain Canoe Club and the Poudre Paddlers arranged to use a farmer's land a bit farther down stream. There was plenty of parking, but the put-in itself was more like a drop-your-boat-and-hope-you-can-land-in-it. It resulted in a spread-out group of 30+ paddlers—good for a bit more solitude on the river than this paddle used to provide but not so good for the first-timers on the trip.

Andy McKenna, in red with the helpers at the weir dam

There were a pair of indispensable helpers at the first weir dam; the water was higher than usual and there wasn't much room to walk around it. More water did mean that not as many people got hung up on sandbars as they used to.

The second portage, at the lunch stop, seemed about as it had in the past, but with maybe a longer carry.

Harold Christopher waiting at the first portage

The museum of old cars that held the river banks in place had clearly taken a beating in the flood. The pictures below don't show the full the difference but it was striking. They were still there, but sadly much less identifiable.

[If you're interested, there are several longer and more exuberant reports of this paddle from past years on our website.]

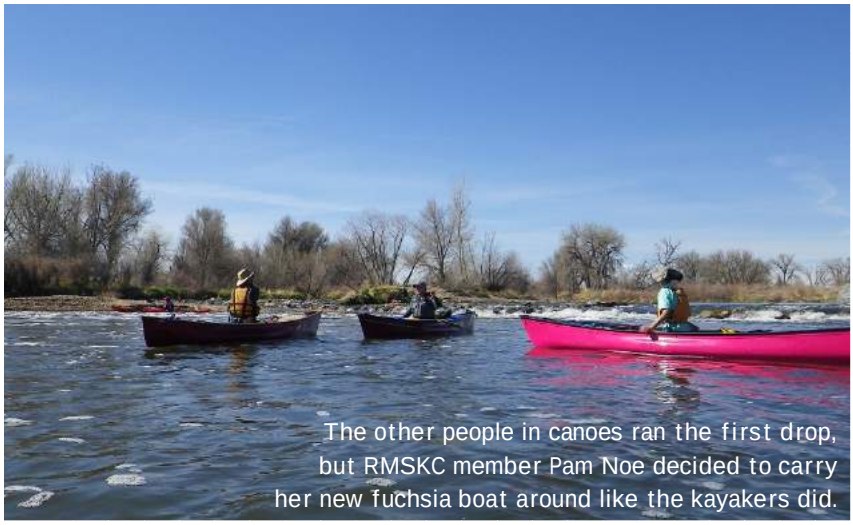
2009

2016; after the flood

Ray getting back into his boat after the first portage.

The South Platte with Canoe Colorado: It was warmer the following Saturday when three kayaks joined a handful of canoes from Canoe Colorado to paddle the Brighton to Ft. Lupton section of the South Platte.

The group enjoyed a lunch of Mexican food at La Estrellita on Main Street in Brighton, were several of them ordered goat meat tacos.



The other people in canoes ran the first drop, but RMSKC member Pam Noe decided to carry her new fuchsia boat around like the kayakers did.

Early Season 2016 Paddles continue on the next page

Confluence Kayaks' annual swap meet was April 9-10. They had the previous season's demos and rentals for sale, as well as discounted in-season products.

People could consign personal gear with a 10% commission for store credit, or a 20% cash-back.

Put This Sale On Your Calendar for 2017

Mica, Tammy Haven and Brian Hunter