



FOUNDED 1989
ACA PADDLE AMERICA CLUB

WINTER OF '08-'09
VOL.17 No.1

The MOUNTAIN PADDLER

NEWS FOR OUR PADDLING COMMUNITY

FROM THE COCKPIT

By Larry Kline, President

Whew! The Steering Committee is off and running. We had a five hour non-stop meeting on the 31st of January, and then I ran off to British Columbia for a week of Nordic skiing. It was the longest time I've worked since I retired six years ago!



The SC laid out our paddle schedule for the first part of the year—there will be day paddles on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. From April through June the locations will rotate between McIntosh Lake and Chatfield Reservoir, allowing members in the north and south of the metro area convenient access to events. From July through September the venues will change as interest dictates. We will need Trip Leaders to handle the paper work at each event and lead the groups; contact Janet Scervino if you would be willing to help out. Members and their guests (one-time only for a mere \$5 ACA event fee) are welcome.

In addition, we have scheduled our traditional paddles at Union and Gross Reservoirs, and PaddleFest (we'll need leaders for these events, too) and have proposed a few multi-day trips as well. Check out the Calendar for specifics.

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While planning our summer's paddling events, the Steering Committee reviewed the participant and trip leader responsibilities and procedures to bring both into sync with the American Canoe Association's insurance and risk management guidelines specified in our 2009 Paddle America Club Agreement with them. The *Responsibilities* and *Procedures* are being rewritten to make the process of leading a trip easy to understand for leaders and participants alike. Remember, Trip Leaders have ACA insurance and the full support of the SC when they follow the ACA procedures. Email Janet Scervino, our Paddling Coordinator, if you would be willing to be a Trip Leader or act as an Assistant Trip Leader to learn the procedures with the help of an experienced leader.

We set RMSKC dues at \$10 again and pro-rated the ACA portion to get everyone on a schedule which renews us all for both RMSKC and ACA on April 1, 2010. You will receive an email Dues Renewal Notice in a few weeks with specifics on how much each of you owe for 2009 based on your ACA renewal date. Because of the pro-rated amounts, please don't send in your dues until you get your notice. Our goal is to have all members renew by March 31st, if not then by the 30th of April or you will be dropped from the roster...and we don't want that by any means!

The Steering Committee also discussed the topic of reimbursement for the Club's teachers and possibly for officers. We are developing several options on how we may wish to reimburse our ACA instructors and other Club members for their services. We will share them with you for comment before we make a final decision on which route to follow. I want the Club finances and administrative decisions open for review and comment. It is, after all, your club!

Hope you are looking forward to another paddling season as much as I am. Feel free to email or call me, or anyone on the Steering Committee, with your thoughts and suggestions; you can find our contact information on the next page. Join our YahooGroup chat room, too. A lot of paddling information gets shared there, especially on-the-spot paddling events with other members.

RMSKC EVENTS To BECOME GREEN

To reduce both the amount of waste that Club events produce and the amount of clean-up work for our Trip Leaders, all Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club events will be "GREEN" this year.

For the Union Reservoir Spring Pot-Luck and for PaddleFest, please bring your own beverages, plates, utensils, and a serving spoon for your pot-luck dish if needed, because none will be provided. Thanks!

FAVORITE PICTURE



ICE CAPS ON LAKE DILLON
By Jan Faulkner

NEWS FROM YOUR STEERING COMMITTEE

The Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club's Steering Committee is composed of the following positions:

1. The **PRESIDENT**, who schedules and chairs the Steering Committee meetings, and oversees the successful implementation of club activities, programs and events.
2. The **TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**, who collects dues and yearly Liability Waivers, maintains a list of current members, pays ACA dues and other bills, and keeps an up-to-date accounting of our RMSKC finances.
3. The **PADDLING COORDINATOR**, who plans official club paddles and helps club members lead paddling events within the ACA insurance guidelines.
4. The **INSTRUCTION AND SAFETY COORDINATOR**, who schedules sessions to teach paddling skills and safety requirements.
5. The **DRY LAND COORDINATOR** (formerly called Communication and Public Relations), who plans other activities that include kayaking talks or travelogues at REI, and communicates with vendors to arrange member discounts and occasionally with the news media about club functions.
6. The **WEBSITE AND YAHOO GROUP MANAGER**, who maintains an up-to-date RMSKC website to provide an effective communication medium for both current and prospective members. The Website Manager is also responsible for arranging member access to the Club's Yahoo! group.
7. The **EDITOR OF THE NEWSLETTER**, who is responsible for publishing quarterly RMSKC Newsletters.

On October 30th of last year, your Steering Committee decided that, unlike the previously less formal transfers of executive responsibility, future SC positions would be filled by annual elections. Steering Committee members would serve two-year terms, with three of the terms expiring one year and four the next, to provide continuity of leadership. Nominations and elections will take place each fall, with SC members' duties to begin the following January.

The Steering Committee positions running through 2009 are: Treasurer (Dick Dieckman), Instruction and Safety Coordinator (Brian Curtiss) and Newsletter Editor (Sue Hughes). The positions that were open for nominations in November of 2008 were President, Website Manager and Dry Land Coordinator. With the subsequent resignation of our Paddling Coordinator, Jud Hurd, that position also became open.

Larry Kline ran unopposed for President as did Rich Broyles for Website Manager; they started their terms at the beginning of January. After the elections, the Steering Committee solicited volunteers for the remaining open positions. Janet Scervino and Brian Hunter responded and were appointed to two-year terms as our Paddling Coordinator and Dry Land Coordinator.

RMSKC STEERING COMMITTEE 2009

President:	Larry Kline	303-988-4822	lkline146@yahoo.com
Treasurer and Membership:	Dick Dieckman	303-980-0573	rdieckman@juno.com
Paddling Coordinator:	Janet Scervino	970-485-9493	jscervino@gmail.com
Instruction and Safety:	Brian Curtiss	303-581-9045	BC@ASDI.com
Dry Land Coordinator:	Brian Hunter	303-321-4243	silversage@peoplepc.com
Website and Yahoo! Group:	Rich Broyles	719-686-8640	dbroyl@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Sue Hughes	303-776-4541	suehughes@yahoo.com

STEERING COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS

LARRY KLINE, PRESIDENT: Back in college Larry built a fiberglass whitewater kayak from a kit and had fun paddling for a few years. When he was 50 and taking on a new persona as a bicycle racer he became overwhelmed by the constant training and the record keeping for each training ride. A friend told him about his new sea kayak and he thought that would be just the thing: he could paddle on quiet water, view wildlife from the boat and chill out from all the stress of race training. Although he still rides, now he says that the sea kayak was a keeper and bike racing was not.



Larry Kline



Janet Scervino

JANET SCERVINO, PADDLING COORDINATOR: A few years ago Janet took Colorado Mountain College's "Learn to Sea Kayak," conducted through a local kayak store in Silverthorne. Using wet suits, they got in the water and learned self rescue and buddy rescue techniques; she was hooked. She spent the balance of the season paddling in rented kayaks, trying a new demo boat each weekend. By the end of the summer she had purchased her Prijon Touryak and all the necessary basics to go with it. A friend introduced her to RMSKC and when she moved to Denver, she joined. She's looking forward to working with the trip leaders this season and she reminds us that the more people get involved with the club, the better the club will become. Contact her if you are in interested in leading a trip, co-leading to learn the ropes, have suggestions for paddle locations, or want to get involved in any way at any level. Her phone number is 970-485-9493 (evenings and weekends) or email her at: jscervino@gmail.com

BRIAN CURTISS, INSTRUCTION AND SAFETY COORDINATOR: Brian's first on-water experience as a kid was paddling the rivers and creeks of eastern Tennessee in an 18' fiberglass tandem canoe. When his family moved to eastern Florida, he and his brother added a 7.5 HP outboard to the back of that same canoe and explored the Caloosahatchee River. After several high-speed tip-overs, they moved the engine to a small john boat and his paddling career was put on hold.

Fifteen years later, in the early 90's, he began paddling again. First it was only on sit-on-tops during family vacations to the North Carolina coast, but in 2002 he decided that he wanted to do more open water paddling and that he needed to improve his skills. He joined RMSKC in the spring and immediately was "signed-up" to run the web site which he did through early 2005. He also bought his first sea kayak and took several lessons from Ray Van Dusen. Since that time he has taken every opportunity to improve his skills by taking classes and by going on trips that push his abilities. In 2006 he became certified, along with Matt Lutkus, Gary McIntosh, Dan Bell, and Randy Thompson, as an ACA Level 3 Sea Kayaking instructor.



Brian Curtiss

STEERING COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS, CONT.

DICK DIECKMAN, TREASURER AND
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR:

Dick went on his first paddling trip

with a friend in Misty Fjords National Monument about fifteen years ago. They paddled a two-person Folboat for a few days in the fjords and around the Ketchikan, Alaska area. He decided he liked paddling and found RMSKC on-line in Colorado; he joined in May of 1996. Later he built his own wooden kayak and wrote an article about it that's in a back issue of our Newsletter. Since then he has been on many kayak adventures around the world: ten days along the barrier reef in Belize, time in the Broken Islands in New Zealand, and several trips in the Vancouver Island area of British Columbia. He's also been to Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota, and Yellowstone Lake and Lewis and Shoshone Lakes in Yellowstone National Park with RMSKC members, and on countless trips down rivers and on lakes in Colorado. Last summer he paddled the Missouri River with Larry Kline and George Ottenhoff. This year, who knows what he's going to do.



Dick and his wood boat



Brian Hunter

BRIAN HUNTER, DRY LAND COORDINATOR: Kayaking began for Brian as a way to get to where the fish were. He had fished from a small homemade boat and then from a pontoon float tube, both of which were easy for one man to handle but no good in wind or waves. After reading that the Inuit and Aleuts hunted and fished from kayaks, he purchased a recreation style boat and found it handled well in all conditions and was stealthy enough to fish from. He soon progressed to a longer, sleeker sea kayak and began enjoying kayaking for its own sake. His latest endeavor has been kayak camping; he took our RMSKC Kayak Camping Class last fall and realized that he really liked camping from a kayak, too. For Brian, kayaks are extremely versatile craft; they are great for fishing, photography, camping or just enjoying a nice sunny day with some friends on the water.

RICH BROYLES, WEB MASTER AND YAHOO GROUP COORDINATOR: Rich's first time in a kayak was at Hilton Head, South Carolina, in January of 2006, and he quickly joined RMSKC for the beginning of our season that same year. He's enjoyed paddling just about everywhere—lakes, rivers and the ocean; he especially likes to pack his boat to take multi-day trips. He helped with the Club's Kayak Camping Class last September and is looking forward to paddling and camping lots more this summer.



Rich Broyles



Sue Hughes

SUE HUGHES, NEWLETTER EDITOR: Canoeing to an island at Girl Scout camp made a lasting impression on Sue, but except for a geology class in canoes on the Colorado, she didn't return to boating for decades. In her 50s she visited friends with sea kayaks in Washington state and loved paddling with them. Then she spent a week kayaking in Baja and realized it was time to get her own gear. Sue paddles around Union Reservoir and has paddled the Suwannee River, the Okefenokee Swamp, and rivers that flow into the Columbia while being a camp-host in Oregon. She is looking forward to learning more about ocean kayaking and navigating, and swears she'll be able to roll before she goes on Medicare.

RMSKC REPORTS

Paddle Report:

Lake Pueblo; October, 2008

Jud Hurd originally planned this paddle as a two-day trip: drive to Pueblo and kayak the south side of the reservoir on Saturday, spend the night and then paddle the north side on Sunday before coming home. But when he scouted it, the drive to Pueblo was shorter than he expected so he and participants Anne Fiore and Gary Cage agreed to make it a day trip. They met at the Southshore Marina ramp on Saturday, October 18th around 11:00.

It was a beautiful, sunny day with low wind, and the water was clear and not extremely cold. They paddled west along the south shore and explored Rock Creek, where they took a break for lunch. Continuing farther west to Peck Creek, they turned around at that point and returned to the Marina on Boggs Creek by 3:00 pm, which allowed people to get back to the Denver area by dinnertime. The day was perfect for paddling and they enjoyed being on a larger body of water—eleven miles long, the lake has 64 miles of shoreline and almost seven square miles of surface water area. Everyone had a wonderful time but, unfortunately, no one took pictures for us! [Ed. Note: Zebra Mussels have been found in Lake Pueblo. Check <http://wildlife.state.co.us/NewsMedia/Videos/watercraftinspection.htm> for details on the decontamination process.]

Event Report:

Winter Party; January, 2009

We had a wonderful Holiday Party at Brian Curtiss and Stephany Roscoe's house north of Boulder. Almost two dozen members enjoyed salmon hors d'oeuvres and a wealth of pot-luck dinner selections: antelope chile, baked spaghetti, Ray's famous chile relleno casserole, spinach salads, and more. We had door prizes: pogies and dry bags from River Mouse Kayaks courtesy of RMSKC, and jewelry and knives from Brian and Laura Hunter.

In addition there were white elephant gifts, mostly an outrageous collection of odd things found while kayaking: long-lost undies and a toothbrush, some plastic eyeballs (in a GPS box, with the instructions that both should be used), a cricket ball, a plastic tugboat beach toy, and a full can of PBL beer.

After the hilarity, people enjoyed kayak talk of trips taken and trips being planned, and watched pictures of paddling alpine lakes in the Grand Tetons, kayak surfing off the coast of North Carolina, and river running—the Colorado near Dotsero, the Snake in Wyoming and the San Juan in Utah.

We went home full of good food and good cheer, glad that Brian and Stephany had opened their home to us, and happy to be part of a group of people who go places, and have fun—in their boats *and* on land.



Oh, gray ones; how lovely!



Penguin Paddle Report: Mike and Jan's in Dillon; November, 2008

Photos by Jan Faulkner

November 8: The thermometer was shivering at 36° with a fresh layer of snow covering the surrounding mountains when six hardy (or fool-hardy) kayakers showed up at the Frisco Marina. We had four paddlers: Rich Broyles, Dick Dieckman, Peter Hack and Larry Kline and two pedalers: Mike Anson and Jan Faulkner. Surprisingly we had the entire lake to ourselves on this brisk November day. Imagine that? As we circled the kayaks for a quick route planning session Larry Kline stated that he had only come for the BBQ and wanted to get this ridiculous paddling thing over with as soon as possible! Of course he was kidding (we think) because no one really seemed to be in a hurry as we explored the islands along the north shore. Everyone was warmly dressed and well equipped for an "arctic expedition" such as this.

No penguins or polar bears were sighted, but tiny flakes of snow could be seen falling as we enjoyed a little over three hours of exploring and chatting. The winds were light and even gave us a period of calm as we turned around and headed back. The wind did pick up again just as we reached the Friso marina, indicating great timing on our part, or pure dumb luck! Pete had to hurry home after the paddle for some fall yard work but the rest of the group, lacking any such ambitions or responsibilities, packed up and headed over to the Dillon townhouse for burgers, brats, Coronas and *wild stories*. Thanks to everyone for another safe and enjoyable day with our fellow paddlers!

By: Mike Anson



DISCONNECTED IN THE GULF, PART II

by Larry Kline

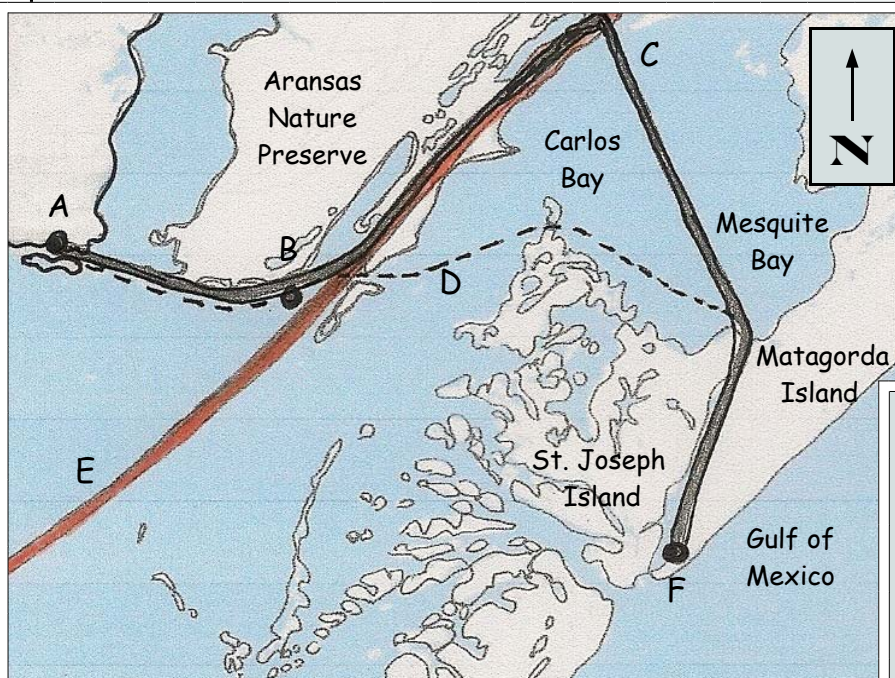
Editor's Note: In *Disconnected in the Gulf, Part I* Larry told how he and a member of the group had a falling out at the put-in over the use of Larry's GPS. Silently, they had taken off in a huff for the 17 mile paddle to their campsite on the Gulf of Mexico [F] and he'd "disconnected" from the others [at B]. Neglecting to use his GPS, he went five miles up the Inter-Coastal Waterway alone [from B to C], unable to enter Carlos Bay because of the dredged sand along the side of the channel.



I was later to learn the others had waited some two hours on a small islet on the other side of the dredged islands [west of D] wondering when I would come to my senses and paddle back to meet up with them.

I finally stopped after an endless hour in the Inter-Coastal Waterway, clambered up a small dredged hill and could see the waters of Carlos Bay just a half mile away to the east. But when would the ICW open to let me out? Luckily in less than a mile a beautiful sight came into view—an opening to the Bay. I paddled through it and beached for a break.

I took out my GPS and sighted to the SSE across open water to a dim line of land where the GPS needle indicated my Cedar Bayou entrance waypoint. It was four miles away! Well, what d'ya know, I finally used my GPS! Duh. I had actually turned northeast into the ICW, proceeded some five miles past Carlos Bay and into Mesquite Bay and had almost entered Ayers Bay [off the map northeast beyond C]. Yikes!



Back in the boat I began paddling SSE past some oil platforms and then into three miles of open water. I keyed on a far-off small rise on the horizon and kept at it. Luckily the wind was to my back and the waves were only one to two foot. Had the winds been stronger, I was set to camp back on the beach and decide on a plan for the next day.

- A.....Put-In, Goose Island State Park
- B.....Where the disconnect started
- C.....Solid Line = Larry's Route
- D.....Dotted Line = Friends' Route
- E.....Red = Inter-Coastal Waterway (ICW)
- F.....Beach Campsite

After an hour or so I closed in on the waypoint and followed the crude map on the GPS screen into the entrance to Cedar Bayou. Three more miles of paddling SSW down the bayou led me to a fisherman. "Well," I said to myself, "at least there is life out here!" Earlier, I had seen what I

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thought were two sets of kayak paddles flashing in the now receding sunshine but on closer approach it was a flock of white pelicans. The end of the bayou was in sight and still no other paddlers. Was I to be all by myself way out here? Had they encountered difficulties or turned around looking for me? Good questions...

Just then, I looked ahead and saw them pulling their boats up on shore. Heck, they were only 10 minutes in front of me! Was I ever surprised, and relieved that I was not alone for the night! Yet, I was upset because of being "disconnected" for so long.

And, strangely, the other two never asked where I had been! It took me a day and a half to get over it, and none of us discussed it until immediately before we began our paddle back to Goose Island after two nights of camping!



Ashore at the Cedar Bayou campsite, looking north



Home Sweet Home
on Cedar Bayou

And it wasn't until another two days after that, on the way home, that Paul and I talked about our misadventure and decided on how to avoid it in the future. We both agreed we want to continue to be good paddling companions.

We further agreed that I am the consummate planner while Paul is more prone to "just do it" and figure out the problems as they arise. I assured him that planning does not mean changes cannot be made as circumstances arise.

LESSONS LEARNED:

After reading John Lull's excellent book entitled *Sea Kayaking Safety and Rescue* on Risk Assessment and Group Safety through Teamwork (Chapters 14 and 15) it is apparent we did not follow several of his rules of teamwork. He discusses teamwork and safety related to guided, club, and private paddling trips; it's a must read for us all. More specifically I have the following observations:

1. It's unwise to plan a long paddle in new waters before doing a few preliminary reconnaissance paddles to get a feel of the waterscape. Heck, I had to use Google Earth to correct my earlier "intuitively derived" compass heading descriptions for this article! And the low lying nature of and distances to the barrier islands were deceptive. I thought the high ICW dredge piles were the low-lying distant barrier islands. In hindsight it now seems so obvious.

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2. Each paddler needs to carry a map. A GPS is helpful but not a substitute for a map. Only one out of the three of us had a map!
3. If you have a GPS, use it. I failed to use my preset waypoints when crossing the ICW. It finally came out of my pocket when I sighted across Mesquite Bay to find Cedar Bayou. Without that waypoint I would have had to head back to Goose Island—I had no map and was disoriented without the GPS.
4. A route planning session should take place several hours (or days...or weeks) before the put-in! Let each paddler share his/her concerns and ensure the group members adjust to those limits. Paul asked for waypoints but then rejected their use.
5. Once on the water, paddlers need to be able to communicate with one another. This applies to both leaders and stragglers. A whistle and use of hand or paddle signals are essential. If one "disconnects" from the group, for any reason, one needs to be able to notify the group and be self-sufficient. We never discussed or practiced how to communicate when at a distance on the water. And we never "hooked up" in the first three miles of paddling after we left the put-in. We, in fact, split up at that point.
6. Faster paddlers need to periodically stop and wait for the slower ones. The speed of the group should be determined by the slowest paddler. Stay connected physically and mentally. The dust up at the put-in was the beginning of a mental disconnect.
7. Carry enough food, shelter and water to sustain yourself for several days in the event you are "disconnected" for real.
8. Practice group paddling and teamwork skills whenever you have the opportunity. They come in handy in a pinch.



The wreck of the trawler, *God's Gift*, perhaps an earlier "disconnect in the Gulf"

Editor's Note: Coincidentally, the March '09 issue of *Canoe and Kayak* has an article about the thrills of catching red drum in this same area. It is entitled "A Lone Star Challenge: Kayak Fishing the Redfish Rivera" and contains a list of internet sites with helpful information about fishing or paddling the sunny middle Texas coast.



The Author

PADDLING THE MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS

JULY 9 - 19, 2008

By Dick Dieckman

It was Larry Kline who proposed and led the trip down the Missouri River from Loma, a point about 20 miles northeast of Fort Benton, Montana, to Kipp State Park, 130 miles farther east. It was Larry's second, and perhaps last, trip down the Missouri and a first for George Ottenhoff and me.

Larry and I left for Montana on July 9th, Larry in his car and I in mine. I picked up George in Kersey, CO and we proceeded northwest to Ft. Benton, MT. We were out of touch with Larry as his cell phone wasn't working, but we all met up in Harlowtown, Montana, and spent the night at the local campground.



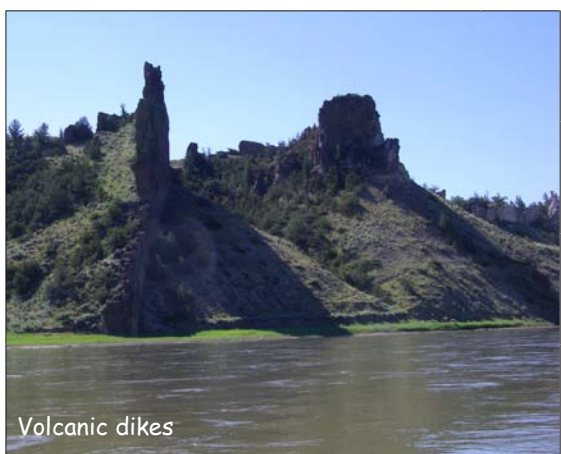
Area of the trip is outlined in red

We found ourselves in Ft. Benton late in the morning of the second day. It's a beautiful little town right on the banks of the Missouri river. It was the terminus for the steamboats that ran the river from 1859 to 1890 and the jumping off point for early adventurers seeking gold and silver in Idaho and Montana. We spent the rest of the morning in the BLM operated museum in town, found our hotel, and then spent the afternoon exploring the town and arranging for shuttling our cars to Kipp State Park. We purchased our perishable food and got water for the trip. There were few places to get water downstream, none after the second day, so we carried enough for a gallon a day per person.



The river is polluted with agricultural run-off

Web photo: Jamie Ann



Volcanic dikes

The next morning we awoke to strong winds, cloudy skies and 50 degree temperatures. After breakfast we loaded up our gear and drove to Loma, our put-in point, about 20 miles east. Loma is near where the Marias River merges with the Missouri. It was there at Decision Point that Lewis and Clark had to decide which fork to take on their voyage of discovery to the west coast of the continent in June of 1805.

We packed our kayaks and started downriver with strong tailwinds. I had a hard time steering as my boat has no rudder. Larry and George

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fared better. Later that afternoon we found ourselves at Coal Banks Landing, a developed public access site, complete with water, fire-pits, toilets, and trash bins. We all cooked something and ate like pigs. The winds let up and the sun came out.

Our next stop was Eagle Creek, another developed boat camp where we spent two nights. The afternoon of the second day we took a hike a few miles up Eagle Creek Canyon, a beautiful area, but the biting flies were awful.



George in the canyon

The river had peaked a few days before our arrival, so landing and getting into and out of our boats proved to be a mucky mess. The mud would be with us for the rest of our trip. Campsites became more and more primitive the farther downstream we went.



Photos by
Larry Kline

It was the fourth or fifth night that remains strongly in my memory. We camped under a large single cottonwood tree in the middle of a meadow. Larry was bent on camping there as it was getting late and the cows had already laid claim to a group of cottonwoods downriver from the this spot.

Ours was a primitive campsite, and many had camped there, but time had taken its toll and it was overgrown with grass and bushes. We ate a dinner of Ramen spaghetti prepared by George. We were now out of fresh food, but the spaghetti was pretty good. It must have been, as I asked George for a second helping. About dusk, dark clouds appeared upstream. They were moving from west to east and didn't seem to be much of a threat even though they were moving rapidly with lots of lightening. They were still so far away there was no thunder. They didn't seem to be coming in our direction, yet! It was getting dark and even darker because of the clouds. Larry and George had turned in and I sat watching the wonderful storm make its way southeast toward us. I made sure my tent pegs were secure and everything was inside the tent when the first drops hit. Nothing much at first. Just a sprinkle. I got into my tent as all hell broke loose. Tremendous winds and driving rain. After about a half hour of this the storm moved on and I fell asleep.

The paddling portion of our trip was supposed to last eight days. On day six we had a parting of the ways. It was getting hotter and the bugs more ferocious; George and I decided to make it only one more day on the river, but Larry wanted two more nights out. Larry dropped back and found a campsite while George and I continued paddling. It was beastly hot and little black flies found their way into our eyes, ears and noses. It was still about twenty miles from the take-out at Kipp, but George and I thought we could make it before six pm.

“...our trio of pests still invade and obstruct us on all occasions, these are the mosquitoes, eye knats and prickley pears...”

Meriwether Lewis; July, 1805

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We made it. The mosquitoes and flies were still biting and it was still hot. We were supposed to camp at the park campground, but it was full of Boy Scouts. George and I packed up our gear in my car (the shuttle service had come through) and we were about to pitch our tents and cook one last meal. But as we sat in the car I turned on the air-conditioner...

BAM! Suddenly our plans changed, and we were on our way to Lewistown, a motel room, hot showers, food somebody else cooked, and a good night's sleep. We were home the next day—George in Kersey before dark, and I before Letterman. Larry was back the following day as he cut his extra two nights out to one. Although his night was idyllic, the bugs and heat had gotten to him, too.

I look back with great fondness on our adventure going down the muddy Missouri. I think we all do. Would I do it again? Well, maybe someday.



Citadel Rock, downstream from Eagle Creek Canyon



The author in the wooden kayak he made himself

RELATED WEBSITES

- Get guidebooks for your Missouri River trip:
<http://rockymountainmaps.com/item/371/montanas-wild-and-scenic-upper-missouri-river>
- BLM website for Missouri River trip planning:
http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/lewistown_field_office/UM/planning_trip.html
- An account of a Missouri River trip with the same accelerated ending because of the bugs:
<http://www.voyageofrediscovery.com/part6/trail/index.shtml>
- Another account of a Missouri Breaks trip with a sweet suggestion for black gnat control:
<http://windsorceii.blogspot.com/2007/08/upper-missouri-river-montana.html>
- Control the gnats by going in December: <http://www.paddling.net/places/showReport.html?2261>

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2008

By: Dick Dieckman,
Treasurer and Membership

ITEMS	AMOUNT	TOTAL
BEGINNING BALANCE:		\$3596
DEBITS		
Members' Dues sent to ACA	\$1950	
ACA Annual Paddle America Club Dues	\$150	
Colo. State Non-Profit Fee	\$100	
Park Fees and PaddleFest Expenses	\$274	
ACA Instructor Reimbursements	\$35	
Newsletter & Webmaster Expenses	\$401	
Digital Space Charges	\$98	
Supplies, Postage, Misc.	\$29	
TOTAL DEBITS:		\$3037
CREDITS		
Dues paid by members	\$2490	
RMSKC Skills Classes	\$900	
TOTAL CREDITS:		\$3390
END of YEAR BALANCE:		\$3949

ALL ACA AND RMSKC DUES FOR 2009 TO BE PAID BY MARCH 31ST

As you learned in *From the Cockpit*, the Club is working to align your ACA membership year with our RMSKC year. To do this, please pay your pro-rated amount of ACA dues specified in the email you will be receiving, with your annual Club dues of \$10, before March 31, 2009.

Make your check payable to Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club and send it to the address in the green box, with a signed ACA Waiver for *each* member. A copy of the waiver should be downloaded from the Club website at: <http://www.RMSKC.org>

SEND DUES AND WAIVERS TO:

Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club
C/O Dick Dieckman
10360 West Jewel Ave. Unit C
Lakewood, CO 80232

OPEN POOL INFORMATION I *

▣ Meyers Pool in Arvada:

- First and third Sundays: January, February, March, April (not 2-22 or 4-12)
- 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (This is the "canoe" time for larger boats; it's better than the "kayak" time, which is primarily white water boats, because there are fewer participants.)
- \$8.00 per person
- Address: 7900 Carr Drive, Arvada, CO 80005
- Phone: 303-467-7140

▣ Centennial Pool in Longmont:

- First three Sundays of the month through April
- 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- \$7.00 for Longmont residents; \$9.00 for non-residents
- Address: 1201 Alpine Street, Longmont, CO 80501
- Phone: 303-651-8406 (call to re-verify before you go; we've gotten differing information)
- OR
- Saturdays; February - May (in conjunction with Renaissance Adventures)
- 4:00 to 6:00 pm
- \$10.00
- You can just go to open pool, or pay for classes with RA Guides: 303-988-2943 or use their website: <http://raguides.com/kayaking-school/beginner-kayaking-classes/open-pool/>
- Register in advance with Renaissance Adventures; they've had to cancel some of these sessions

▣ DU's Ritchie Center (in conjunction with Confluence Kayaks):

- Tuesdays
- 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
- \$10.00 per person
- Address: 12201 East Asbury Avenue, Denver, CO 80208 (parking may be an issue)
- Reservations are necessary through Confluence Kayaks: 303-433-3676
- Specify what you're paddling when you make your reservations. Although primarily for white-water boats, they'll accommodate a few longer boats if they have space.

▣ Englewood Pool (in conjunction with Renaissance Adventures):

- Thursdays; February - April 23rd
- 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- \$10.00 per person
- Address: 1155 W. Oxford Pl, Englewood, CO 80110
- Pool phone number: 303-762-2680
- You can just go to open pool, or pay for classes with RA Guides. Phone RA at: 303-988-2943 or use their website: <http://raguides.com/kayaking-school/beginner-kayaking-classes/open-pool/>
- Register in advance with Renaissance Adventures and call the pool before you go

*
OPEN POOL TIMES ARE NOT RMSKC SPONSORED OPPORTUNITIES AND ARE NOT COVERED BY OUR ACA INSURANCE.

(Continued on page 16)

OPEN POOL INFORMATION, II

- **Carmody Pool in Lakewood** (in conjunction with Renaissance Adventures):
 - Wednesdays; January - May
 - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 - \$10.00 per person
 - Address: 2200 So. Kipling St, Lakewood, CO 80227
 - You can just go to open pool, or pay for classes with RA Guides. Phone RA at: 303-988-2943 or use their website: <http://raguides.com/kayaking-school/beginner-kayaking-classes/open-pool/>
 - Register in advance with Renaissance Adventures and call the pool (720-963-5360) before you go
- **Golden Pool** (in conjunction with Renaissance Adventures):
 - Tuesday & Thursday; all year
 - 6:30pm - 8:30pm
 - \$10.00 per person
 - Address: 1470 10th St, Golden, CO 80401
 - You can just go to open pool, or pay for classes with RA Guides. Phone RA at: 303-988-2943 or use their website: <http://raguides.com/kayaking-school/beginner-kayaking-classes/open-pool/>
 - Register in advance with Renaissance Adventures and call the pool (303-384-8100) before you go

OPEN POOL PRACTICE IS A **BLAST**; HERE'S WHAT ELSE I LEARNED:

- Yes, the doors and hall-ways are wide enough to get a 16' boat into the building without any trouble.
- Both the pool room and the water were warm, but I was glad to have on my farmer jane because it protected my legs when I was practicing wet re-entries.
- I also wore the long-sleeved poly-pro shirt that I usually kayak in and that worked very well. Everyone had paddle clothes on, not just swimming suits. People wore their PFDs, too.
- I had to learn how to get into my boat from the side of the pool. I did it a lot of times, from both sides, and feel lots more confident about entering and exiting my boat from a dock.
- Since last fall I seemed to have slipped a bit on boat handling. It even took a minute or two to re-think how to get it on and off the car. I tried a couple brace turns that I wiffed so badly that I fell in. How embarrassing, but how nice I didn't do it in cold water on a real paddle.
- I stowed my paddle in the fore-most bungee...and the end near me pivoted out away from the boat so far I couldn't reach it. It had never happened before and that's another lesson I'm glad I learned in warm water with people who could paddle over and hand it back to me.
- I should have brought a plastic bag for my wet-suit, PFD and spray skirt; when I rinsed the chlorinated water off of them they got lots wetter than they usually do and they made a puddle in the car.
- I didn't think I could get much exercise in a space the size of a pool, but I was sore the next day, so I guess I did.
- Questions? Email suehughes@yahoo.com



Gary McIntosh and
Brian Hunter at Meyers Pool

Photo: Matt Lutkus

FEBRUARY AND MARCH

- ▣ Continue practicing at an Open Pool near you: It's lots of fun and good exercise!
- ▣ Receive your Renewal Notice email by mid-February with pro-rated figures for 2009
- ▣ March 1: Union Reservoir Official Opening
 - Depending on the weather, of course
 - \$8.00 daily admission
 - \$55/\$65 season pass for Longmont residents/non-residents; \$35/\$40 for over 55
 - Call for water conditions: 303-772-1265
- ▣ March 22: 8th Annual South Platte River Trip (This is NOT RMSKC sponsored and NOT ACA insured.)
 - Starting Time: 9:00; the shuttle begins at 9:30
 - Meet at: Riverside Park in Evans (also known as Evans Ball Field Park) For a map: <http://www.rmskc.org/places/splatte-evans.html>
 - Bring a lunch to eat on the river and a hot drink in a thermos
 - This is a cold water paddle; dress for the water, not the weather
 - Pick the length of your trip: Kersey Bridge (9 miles) or South Kuner Bridge (14 miles)
 - Contact Brian Curtiss (bc@asdi.com) or 303-581-9045 for more details
 - Sign up on the Colorado Paddlers email list to get last-minute notifications concerning this trip
Their site is: <http://lists.canoe.colorado.com/mailman/listinfo/paddlers>
- ▣ March 31: Deadline for 2009 DUES and WAIVERS to be sent to the Club Treasurer:
 - Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club
C/O Dick Dieckman; 10360 West Jewel Avenue, Unit C; Lakewood, CO 80232

APRIL

- ▣ April 11: "Second Saturday" Paddle at Chatfield Reservoir
 - Starting Time: 10:00 in the water and ready to go
 - Ending Time: 1:00 +/-
 - Meeting place to be announced by email
 - Daily pass \$7.00; annual pass \$60.00
 - Trip leader: Larry Kline (303-988-4822; lkline146@yahoo.com)
 - Maps and park information: <http://parks.state.co.us/Parks/Chatfield?MapsandDirections/>
- ▣ April 25: "Fourth Saturday" Paddle at Lake McIntosh in Longmont
 - Starting Time: 10:00 in the water and ready to go
 - Ending Time: 1:00 +/-
 - Meet at the boat launch across the street from 3000 Lake Shore Drive, Longmont
 - Free
 - Trip Leader: Brian Hunter (303-321-4243; silversage@peoplepc.com)

DATES OF INTEREST, II

MAY

- **May 9: Annual Union Reservoir Spring Paddle and Pot-Luck Picnic**
 - Starting Time: 10:00 in the water and ready to go (to approximately 3:00)
 - \$8.00 (\$55/\$65 season pass for residents/non-residents; \$35/\$40 for over age 55)
 - Address: 0461 WCR #26, Longmont
(http://www.ci.longmont.co.us/parks/park_list/overview/union.htm)
 - Event Coordinator: TBA; please contact Janet Scervino if you can volunteer for this event
 - Hamburgers, brats, buns and condiments will be provided
 - Bring a dish to share with a serving spoon if needed, and your own plate, utensils, and drinks
- **May 23: "Fourth Saturday" Paddle at Lake McIntosh in Longmont**
 - Starting Time: 10:00 in the water and ready to go (to approximately 1:00)
 - Meet at the boat launch across the street from 3000 Lake Shore Drive, Longmont
 - Free
 - Trip Leader: Sue Hughes (303-776-4541; suehughes@yahoo.com)
- **May 30: Annual Gross Reservoir Paddle**
 - Starting Time: 10:00 in the water and ready to go
 - Ending Time: The length of the paddle is dependent on the water level and participants' wishes
 - Directions: <http://www.rmskc.org/places/gross-res.html>
 - This is a COLD WATER paddle; dress for the water, not the weather!
 - Bring a sack lunch to eat at a stop on the route
 - Parking is limited; carpool if possible and bring your kayak wheels
 - Trip Leader: We still need a Trip Leader for this event; contact Janet to volunteer

JUNE

- **June 6 or 13, depending on the trip leader: North Platte River Paddle from Saratoga, WY**
 - 7:00 am Saturday to Sunday afternoon
 - Meet at: To be announced
 - Trip Leader: We need a Trip Leader for this proposed event; email Janet Scervino to volunteer
 - According to RMSKC guidelines, overnight trips are only open to Club members
- **June 13: "Second Saturday" Paddle at Chatfield Reservoir**
 - Starting Time: 10:00 in the water and ready to go (to approximately 1:00)
 - Meeting place to be announced by email
 - Maps and park information: <http://parks.state.co.us/Parks/Chatfield?MapsandDirections/>
 - Daily pass \$7.00; annual pass \$60.00
 - Trip leader: TBA
- **June 27: "Fourth Saturday" Paddle at Lake McIntosh in Longmont**
 - Starting Time: 9:00 in the water and ready to go (to approximately 1:00)
 - Meet at the boat launch across the street from 3000 Lake Shore Drive, Longmont
 - Free

PARTIAL SCHEDULE FOR THE REST OF 2009

- ▣ June and July:
 - Introduction to Kayaking Class
 - Intermediate Kayaking Classes
- ▣ July:
 - Summer Dillon Paddle and BBQ at Jan Faulkner and Mike Anson's condo in Dillon.
 - PaddleFest at Chatfield Reservoir
- ▣ August:
 - Kayak Camping Intro Session
 - Kayak Camping Shake-Down Pack and Paddle Session
 - Yellowstone Club-Sponsored Paddle Trip
- ▣ September:
 - Kayak Camping Overnight on Lake Granby
- ▣ October:
 - Call for nominations for Steering Committee openings
- ▣ November:
 - Elections
 - Penguin Paddle: November 7th or November 14th; date to be announced

STARTING TIME: Remember, "starting time" means the time that the group will be *in the water* starting to paddle. Always arrive early enough to have your boat off the car, loaded and ready to go by that time.

DAY PADDLES: Non-member guests may paddle with the Club on ONE day paddle if they sign an American Canoe Association "Release of Liability" form and pay a \$5 ACA event fee. Release forms should be printed in advance from the RMSKC website at: <http://www.RMSKC.org>

MULTI-DAY PADDLES: According to RMSKC policy, overnight and extended trips are open only to RMSKC members whose dues are up-to-date and who have a "Release of Liability" form on file with the Membership Coordinator.



RMSKC BULLETIN BOARD



ORGANIZING EVENTS AND PROVIDING SERVICES THAT OUR MEMBERS ENJOY IS THE REASON WE ARE A CLUB.

SOME THOUGHTS:

Contact the Club's *Paddling Coordinator* with ideas for trips, and to help by being a Trip Leader or to learn the procedures as an Assistant Trip Leader. Phone Janet at 970-485-9493 (evenings or weekends) or email her at: jscervino@gmail.com

Email Brian Hunter, the Club's *Dry Land Coordinator*, if you have ideas for other activities or possible sources for discounts for Club members.

Check with Brian Curtiss, our *Instruction and Safety Coordinator*, if you are interested new classes.

Provide feedback to the *Editor* on the new look and name of the RMSKC's Newsletter. Send Sue Hughes your thoughts and articles, or propose topics for future "Mountain Paddler" issues.

The Club is hoping to find a member who will handle designing, pricing, ordering and selling RMSKC tee shirts with our Club logo.

Contact our President, Larry Kline, if you would be interested in heading this project.

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