



FOUNDED 1989
ACA PADDLE AMERICA CLUB

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THE RMSKC NEWS

CLUB INFO AND THE LATEST SCHEDULE

FROM THE COCKPIT

By President Jud Hurd

Wow! I can't believe my first year as president has already passed. I guess that just goes to prove the old adage, "Time flies when you are having fun." And I certainly had a whole lot of fun last summer. So, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the year.

PADDLING: This is a great place to start since that is the purpose of the RMSKC. Once again we had a wonderful schedule of events including the old standby reservoirs of Dillon, Union, Cherry Creek, McIntosh, Gross, Horsetooth, Pueblo and Lone Tree. Unfortunately a number of our usual river trips were cancelled due to high water levels. However, we did have a very successful Green River trip at the end of the summer. We added a couple of new destinations by going to North Sterling Reservoir and Flaming Gorge. And we got to vicariously paddle the Everglades with Carole Kline, Glacier Bay in Alaska with the Hustvedts, and the Current River with Ray Van Dusen and Eric Niles. We also learned more about paddling in the Pacific Northwest from Stan White and Rich and Kristy Webber, and enjoyed Lake Powell in a different style with Jay Gingrich and Jane Lewis.

I think Flaming Gorge was my favorite trip of the year. It is always fun going to new water, and traveling with a great group of people



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like we had makes it even better. The drive up is not too long and the Deer Run campground was idyllic being perfectly located to the lake, launches, and services, with nice camp sites among the trees and great restroom facilities with free showers. I liked the easy access to a place to buy dinner since I am a lazy camper. Every morning we awoke to crystal clear skies and cool temperatures. It warmed up perfectly throughout the day and by noon we had thunder clouds move over which brought the afternoon wind. We occasionally had rain showers, one with a little hail, but they were very short and you could wait them out. By evening the weather had cleared and we had a great time in camp. The lake itself is beautiful and reminds me of a mini-Lake Powell, except with lots of trees along the shore. We saw osprey all over the place and even paddled right by their nests built on top of large rocks just off the shore. One thing that did strike me as odd was there really wasn't a lot of boat traffic. I was expecting a lot since this is such a great lake and school hadn't started yet, but the boat traffic seemed light and it wasn't a problem; I have seen more traffic on Lake Powell. On our last morning one group paddled around the dam which kept us close to our launch site. We went up one short arm when the sky was clear and the wind was perfectly calm. The reflection of the shoreline in the water was picture perfect and we even had a beaver swim toward us and dive a couple of times.

I tell you folks, it just doesn't get any better than this. I especially liked being able to split up into groups so people would paddle to their interest. We all know we should paddle as a group in the interest of safety but when you have a large group with a mix of interests and abilities, the single group concept breaks down within the first quarter mile. By dividing into groups it was easier for the smaller groups to paddle as one to be available in case assistance was needed. As usual the pot-luck dinner was wonderful with a large mix of dishes. I assure you nobody went hungry. On our last night Bernie, Dick and I were going to one of the lodges for dinner. I think Brian asked about it and we invited him. Then we invited Marsha and before long the whole group decided to go. It was a great way to end our trip together over a wonderful meal and good conversation. I definitely think we need to plan another trip back there next year.

INSTRUCTION: As usual our instructors provided opportunities for Club members to participate in our outstanding instructional program. This was supplemented by our guest instructors Cheri Perry and Turner Wilson when they taught the Greenland Skills class. Unfortunately we are losing one of our instructors. Matt Lutkus has just been selected as the town manager of Damariscotta, a small town on the Maine coast. He and his wife, Julie, have already been back to look at real estate and hope to have a place where they can accommodate regular visitors. They will be loading up the rental moving truck and heading east in mid-December. I know we will all miss Matt but we are happy he is getting to move to his dream location.

STEERING COMMITTEE: I can't say enough about these wonderful people and I have really enjoyed working with them this last year. Our club runs smoothly and offers a great paddling venue for us due in a very large part to the work and dedication of your Steering Committee members. So, to each one, I say thank you for making my year as President so easy and enjoyable. Unfortunately all good things must come to an end and that is true in part with the Steering Committee as we say goodbye to a few members—Anne Fiore, Brian Hunter and Mike Anson. However, I look forward to working with the members who have stepped forward to fill these positions: Deb Jenkins as Paddling Coordinator, John Ruger as Treasurer, and Lou Ann Hustvedt as Onshore Coordinator. I know you all will do a great job.

LOOKING FORWARD: In summary I think it has been another stellar year for the RMSKC. We had a great paddle schedule offering something for everybody; we have seen good growth in our membership; I got to paddle with some members I haven't paddled with before; and we finalized our Bylaws and the Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities. But now it is time to look to the future and to that end we have already begun work on the 2012 paddling schedule. I think you will be excited about some of the trips being proposed and I hope to paddle with more members next year. So, please make plans to attend our annual winter party on January 14 to share a night of fun and good food with other RMSKC members and their spouses, and to offer your input on what you would like the club to do next year. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Save the Date: January 14

Winter Party, 2012

Put the date for the RMSKC's annual Winter Party on your calendar today. The food is always fantastic and it's fun, after the rush of the holidays, to get together with your summer kayaking friends and their spouses in a social setting. Since we're not on the water we start with happy hour, enjoy the pot-luck goodies, share pictures from past paddles and dream ahead to the coming season. We'll be brainstorming trips we'd like to consider, and Bernie and Marcie Dahlen will share Wilson's adventures in 2011 before he's given a new home for 2012.

It will be in the same place, the clubhouse at Jan Faulkner's condo complex, with the same basic plan as the last two years. Here are the particulars:

- DATE: January 14th
- TIME: Happy Hour at 5:00, dinner around 5:30 or 6:00, clean-up at 9:30
- LOCATION: McKay Landing Clubhouse; 14076 McKay Park Circle, Broomfield, CO 80023-6527
- WHAT TO BRING:
 - Your spouse, a good friend or a potential member
 - A pot-luck dish to share and its serving spoon
 - Your own beverages, plates, cups, eating utensils and napkins, and a container for leftovers
 - Pictures of 2011 paddles; there will be a projector for slide shows on PC computers
 - Your list of ideas for the 2012 paddling season
- RSVP: To our Onshore Coordinator Lou Ann Hustvedt at: lahustvedt@gmail.com



EDITOR'S NOTE: Are you wondering why the Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club has two publications, and what's the difference between them? Here's the answer:

The *RMSKC's NEWS* is like a **NEWSPAPER** that publishes mostly just Club news—the details of the workings of the RMSKC. Many of the things in it will be less newsworthy after a bit of time.

The *Mountain Paddler* is like a **MAGAZINE** that publishes articles about trips and other aspects of kayaking that will remain relevant over a longer time span.

The two separate publications were created in July of 2009 because the *RMSKC Newsletter* had gotten too long. What needs to happen now is to create, and post to our website, an index of articles in the past publications that would be of reference value.

ELECTIONS: As we have in the past, elections were held this fall for half the Steering Committee positions. This year there wasn't competition for any of the open positions, but members responded in favor of:

- Deb Jenkins for Paddle Coordinator
- John Ruger for Treasurer
- Lou Ann Hustvedt for Onshore Coordinator
- Brian Curtiss for Instruction and Safety Coordinator

CLUB NEWS

In the fall of 2012 we'll elect a President, a Membership Coordinator, an Editor, a Webmaster and hopefully a Secretary, a new position which we have not yet been able to fill.

BYLAWS: It's been a long process: Rich Broyles did most of the original work by pulling together a sample document and raising some important basic questions. Larry Kline fine-tuned that and the SC spent parts of many meetings and hours by email reviewing it. Then George Ottenhoff offered a careful reading with some lawyer-ly comments; his changes were incorporated and the proposed bylaws were sent to our members. A handful of people responded and some additional changes based on their input were made. The final version was ratified by email vote on September 15, 2011, with about a third of the membership voting. All were in favor except one person who abstained.

CLUB PADDLES THAT YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD ABOUT: Yes, folks, there were a lot of Club paddles that weren't in the last RMSKC publication. The editor was out of town most of the paddling season and people didn't write her or send pictures and so...paddle reports didn't get published. That's too bad, because the more we know about what's happening on the water the more likely we all are to get there ourselves. Let's do a better job of reporting our paddling next year.

Here is a list of some summer events that were not covered in the most recent *Mountain Paddler*:

- CHATFIELD RESERVOIR PADDLE, July 15: Brian Hunter and Bernie Dahlen
- LAKE GRANBY CAMPING TRIP in July: Brian Hunter, and Stan and Tristan White. There were some awesome pictures of Tristan standing up on his kayak. Ah, to be young and energetic and coordinated.
- HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR, July 30: Jud Hurd, Brian Hunter and Dave and Lou Ann Hustvedt
- ANNUAL SUMMER DILLON PADDLE, August 6: Mike Anson and Jan Faulkner, Marsha Dougherty, Jay Gingrich, Jane Lewis, Marlene Pakish, Julie Reckart, Stan White and his children Tristan and Juli, and Kristy and Rich Webber
- COASTAL KAYAKING LEVEL 3 BASIC STROKES AND RESCUES at Chatfield Reservoir, August 27: Instructors Brian Curtiss and Dan Bell with students Andy McKenna, Pam Noe, Walt and Deb Jenkins, and Bernie Dahlen
- BIG SODA LAKE, August 28: Brian Hunter, Anna Troth, Mark Scott and Andy McKenna
- PUEBLO RESERVOIR, September 23 to 25: Jud Hurd and Annette Mascia
- PENGUIN PADDLE at the Snake River inlet between Dillon and Keystone, October 15: Trip Coordinator Stan White, Andy McKenna and Kristy and Rich Webber. This paddle started in a different place than previous Penguin Paddles which introduced people to another option. Stan reported that it was a perfect day for mid-October, with lively winds of Force 3 and Force 4 for some interesting paddling.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Here is biographical information about our new Steering Committee members: Deb Jenkins, John Ruger and Lou Ann Hustvedt. We're also reprinting the biographies of the folks remaining on the SC for people new to RMSKC.

DEB JENKINS, PADDLE COORDINATOR: Deb is employed with the town of Erie's Public Works Department as an Acad/GIS Technician creating maps. She collects GPS points and makes maps of parks, trails, and water and sewer lines, and ownership maps, zoning and comprehensive plan maps, accident and traffic maps and special event maps.

When away from work, she loves spending time with her husband, Walt, and her grandkids. She and Walt enjoy camping, kayaking, hiking and bike riding in the summer, scuba diving any time of the year and snowshoeing in the winter. She is a wildlife sculptor and finds a lot of enjoyment in creating art. She is also a volunteer at Nature's Educators, working with raptors in an educational environment.

Deb and Walt love to travel and in 2005 she found a trip to Vancouver Island that included camping and kayaking with the orcas. It sounded fun even though they had never been in a kayak before. It turned out to be an awesome trip. The orcas came very, very close to their kayaks; it was magical and humbling at the same time. They had such a great time and enjoyed the paddling so much they came home and bought kayaks.

Deb's boat is a 13.5 foot Perception *Carolina*. They have kayaked Pearl Lake, Steamboat Lake, Chatfield Reservoir, Cherry Creek Reservoir, Dowdy Lake, and Lake McConaughy in Nebraska. Their first trip with RMSKC was to Flaming Gorge in August.

She hopes to do more kayaking in 2012 with the Club, whether at a local lake or reservoir or on a group-sponsored trip. Baja is on her radar for next year, too.



JOHN RUGER, TREASURER: John joined RMSKC in 2008, shortly after purchasing his kayak, a Necky *Manitou 14*, which was partially funded with the George Bush \$600 tax credit. He has been stimulating the economy ever since by purchasing kayak gear. He says the great paddling companions in RMSKC have made it all worthwhile.

Although he is at retirement age, he continues to work in his accounting and tax franchise, *Padgett Business Services*.

He has been married to Jean since 1971 and a resident of Lakewood since 1972. He's looking forward to another Flaming Gorge trip or a Yellowstone Lake trip, hopefully without the wind.

LOU ANN HUSTVEDT, ONSHORE COORDINATOR: Lou Ann took basic sailing lessons in California in 1988, and when she and Dave moved back to Colorado in the early 1990s, they bought a boat (C-15) and started racing. She says that was *not* a good idea; they would get caught in irons at the start, and be blown backwards across the start line or they would hit the buoys and have to do 720s. But they learned quickly, and she got "Most Improved Sailor" the first year and "Skipper of the Year" the next year.



In 1998 she started windsurfing and also started teaching Girl Scouts how to sail. Dave did not like windsurfing and, in 2008 when she was teaching sailing and windsurfing at Boulder Reservoir, the man in charge suggested they buy Prion sea kayaks. Lou Ann had taught using a sit-upon kayak, and when they went for their first paddle at the Reservoir she threw herself into her new sea kayak just like she would get on the sit-upon. She ended up floundering in the water, and Dave stood with his mouth open wondering what he had gotten himself into.

Later, when she was teaching Girl Scouts at Bear Creek, she asked two fellows in sea kayaks who were paddling around if there was a local sea kayak club, and they said, "Yes!" The two were Gary McIntosh and Ray Van Dusen; she reports they also critiqued her paddle stroke.

Lou Ann says RMSKC has been so helpful. She and Dave have done Lake Powell twice with the group, have gone down the Colorado and Green, and on many other Club paddles. In June of 2011 they flew to Glacier Bay, Alaska, and paddled alone for a week, and plan to go back in June of 2012. They have also looked into paddling in Costa Rica or Panama.

Anna Troth, Jud Hurd, Brian Curtiss, Dan Bell, and Sue Hughes have served on the RMSKC Steering Committee for the past year, or more.

Here are their biographies with additions about their recent paddling adventures.



ANNA TROTH, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR: Anna canoed on rivers with her family growing up in Michigan. When she moved to Colorado in 1969 to ski "real" mountains, she tried canoeing here in the west on the Yampa, Gunnison, White, Colorado, and Uncompahgre rivers. She has also taken trips where she kayaked in Homer, Alaska, Bar Harbor, Maine, and the San Juan Islands.

She heard about the Rocky Mountain Kayak Club and joined in 1998, even though she didn't own a kayak. Shortly thereafter she bought her Delta 12-10 and has enjoyed paddling around at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Chatfield Reservoir and on Club outings to Lake Powell and North Sterling State Park. She was the trip coordinator on the 2010 Steamboat Lake trip.



JUD HURD, PRESIDENT: Jud retired after working as the Controller for CU in Boulder for 26 years. He and his wife, Gail, will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary in January. They have three children: Wendy in Stillwater, Oklahoma, Jeff in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and Jake in Denver. At last count they have ten grandkids with one more on the way. Jud and Gail are members of Timberline Church in Fort Collins and enjoy many church activities.

Jud began kayaking around 2003-2004 when he bought Gail a one-person pontoon boat. Gail never was very comfortable in their canoe but she is totally at home with the stable pontoon boat. Because he didn't want her to be out on the water by herself he bought a 12' Current Designs *Kestrel*. Sometime after that he joined the RMSKC to learn paddling and have people with which to share the sport. That, he says, is one of the best moves he has ever made. He really enjoyed the *Kestrel*, but wanted something more so he bought a Prijon *Touryak*. That was pretty good but as his skills and confidence increased he wanted something fancy like others in the Club have. So he went to the West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium and found a Necky *Chatham 17*, which is what he really enjoys paddling now. Last spring he replaced his *Touryak* with a Current Designs *Sirocco*. He is really enjoying the playfulness of the *Sirocco* and feels it has challenged him to improve his skills.

Jud says, "My interests include golf, hiking, backpacking, bass tournament fishing with the Longmont Mile-Hi Bass Pioneers, skiing and snowshoeing, reading, cooking, traveling and volunteer work at my church. For me, sea kayaking is the perfect retirement sport. This is a wonderful way to continue enjoying the water in a very quiet and relaxing sport. And the people I have met in the RMSKC and while paddling are some of the best in the world. You just couldn't ask for a better combination of people and fun."

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 Dan Bell, Matt Lutkus, and Gary McIntosh, as an ACA Level 3 Sea Kayaking Instructor. They recertified with Roger Schumann in Santa Cruz, California, in 2010.

Brian arranged to have world-famous Greenland coaches Turner Wilson and Cheri Perry give workshops in Longmont last summer, runs after-work instructional paddles, is involved with all our ACA skills classes and has taught a moving water class on the Colorado River near Dotsero several times that's always exhilarating. Check out the reports of past Club instruction in the *NEWS* 18-3a, Summer 2010 on the RMSKC website.



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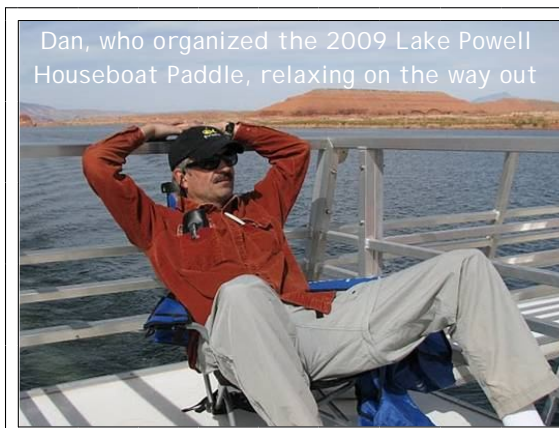
SUE HUGHES, PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: Canoeing to an island at Girl Scout camp made a lasting impression on Sue, but except for a geology class in canoes on the Colorado, she didn't return to boating for decades. In her 50s she visited friends with sea kayaks in Washington state and loved paddling with them. 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 kayaked the Suwannee River, the Okefenokee Swamp, rivers that flow into the Columbia and the Pacific Ocean while camp-hosting in Oregon, and Lake Powell with the Club in 2009 and 2010. She received her BCU 2* Paddler

award in 2009 at the LoCo Kayak Roundup in Washington and took a harrowing *Introduction to Wind and Waves* (BCU 3* training) there the following summer. She got her BCU Coach One certification in San Diego in 2010.

DAN BELL, WEBMASTER: In the fall of 1996 Dan and a friend were enjoying the Horsethief/Ruby Canyon float trip in his canoe when they were passed by someone in the first sea kayak he had ever seen. He says it immediately became obvious that his life would be incomplete until he had acquired one. He enjoys hiking the canyons around Lake Powell, and the prospect of being able to haul his gear in a boat instead of on his back had a lot of appeal.

About three years later, on an over-the-weekend business trip to the Bay Area, he drove to Tomales Bay, north of San Francisco, and signed up for a half-day beginners' trip. He loved it. Then, between jobs, he booked a commercial tour in the Sea of Cortez with Sea Kayak Adventures. That pretty well set the hook; he had to get himself a kayak.



Dan, who organized the 2009 Lake Powell Houseboat Paddle, relaxing on the way out

In other sports he had taken up as a kid—primarily tennis and golf—he reports his approach had been to learn by doing and, after his bad habits had been set over the course of years, finally take some lessons to try to undo those habits. He decided on a different tactic for sea kayaking: take lessons from the onset. In the spring of 2002 he drove to Seattle for a week-long training session with Kayak Academy, bought a boat and hauled it home, joined the RMSKC, and began to enjoy life as a paddler.

Dan is one of RMSKC's ACA certified instructors. He organized the first Lake Powell trip and paddled with the Club on the Loma to Westwater section of the Colorado River in 2010.



Read more about our instructors' training in earlier publications; you can find them on the RMSKC website:

- The *Mountain Paddler*, 17-2, Spring 2009
- The *RMSKC's NEWS* 18-2a, Spring 2010
- The *Mountain Paddler*, 18-2b, Summer 2010

RMSKC STEERING COMMITTEE 2012

PRESIDENT:	Jud Hurd	970-377-9277	hurdo cows@q.com
TREASURER:	John Ruger	303-989-2232	jtruger@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR:	Anna Troth	303-368-1861	anntro@msn.com
PADDLE COORDINATOR:	Deb Jenkins	303-940-6963	debnwaltjenkins@msn.com
INSTRUCTION AND SAFETY:	Brian Curtiss	303-581-9045	bcurl@me.com
ONSHORE EVENTS:	Lou Ann and Dave Hustvedt	303-442-2814	lahustvedt@gmail.com
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR:	Sue Hughes	303-776-4541	suehughes@yahoo.com
WEBMASTER:	Dan Bell	303-986-7025	dbell12345@msn.com
SECRETARY:	To be filled; email Jud Hurd for a position description or to volunteer		

COMING IN THE SPRING ISSUE OF THE MOUNTAIN PADDLER:

Stan White wrote an article about paddling with his son, Tristan, in the San Juan Islands. They went this past summer, but because the deadline for the last issue wasn't communicated clearly and the editor was off gallivanting around, his account did not get formatted and included in that publication as it should have.

It's as interesting as Stan's earlier descriptions of paddling in the Pacific Northwest. You're sure to enjoy it.

Also in the upcoming spring issue will be write-ups of our members' winter adventures to places warmer than Colorado.



Sunset from Clark Island, northeast of Orcas Island
Photo by Tristan White

RMSKC MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL UPDATE

Anna Troth, Membership Coordinator

The RMSKC membership now totals 81 paddlers. Our members are spread throughout Colorado, from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs, west to Grand Junction, and east to Kersey. We also have members in the mountain towns of Dillon, Breckenridge, Buena Vista, Georgetown and Leadville. The ratio of male to female is almost 50/50, and the median age of the membership is 55. We have had 20 new members join the club.

I will be e-mailing membership notices and forms in February, 2012, as everyone's membership expires on March 31, 2012. The RMSKC dues are still only \$10.00, whether you are an individual or family. This is a great value for the opportunity to attend Club day paddles, overnight paddling trips, kayak skills and safety classes, social gatherings, and to meet other paddlers.

New this year is the *\$50.00 Instruction Fee*, which has been added to the membership form for those wishing to take advantage of instruction by our ACA certified instructors. Pre-paying will alleviate collecting fees at the paddle site, which is prohibited in some places. People paying the fee may take as many classes, or repeat a class as many times as they wish, for the whole summer.



When renewing your RMSKC dues, you must also renew your membership with the American Canoe Club (ACA) and sign their waiver and release of liability, as all paddlers must be registered with ACA to insure our Club activities.

Last year 13 of our individual senior members (62 and over) took advantage of the ACA senior rate of \$25. For people 18 through 61, ACA membership is \$30, and family ACA memberships are \$40. For more information about the benefits of ACA membership, visit their website at www.americancanoe.org. If you have any questions about RMSKC or ACA dues, please e-mail me at anntro@msn.com.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Anna Troth, Membership Coordinator

Since last winter's issue of the RMSKC's *NEWS* we've had many new members join the Club; we are looking forward to getting to know them. Here, and on the following pages, are some highlights of their paddling backgrounds:

- **DICK HARSH, FROM LITTLETON:** Dick is a retired engineer with a very supportive wife, Georgene. His primary sports are alpine and backcountry skiing, mountain and road biking, and backpacking. He has also canoed, but paddling with a kayak tour in Glacier Bay National Park motivated him to sell his canoe and get a kayak. Then he took the lake and river introductory classes taught by Confluence Kayaks, and had a couple great learning sessions with Brian Hunter. He paddles a Wilderness *Tsunami 145* on Chatfield and Cherry Creek Reservoirs. He's looking forward to developing his skills to take RMSKC trips on other lakes and Class 1 rivers.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS, CONT.

Anna Troth, Membership Coordinator

- **CLARK AND MARTY STRICKLAND FROM DENVER:** Clark recently retired from the University of Colorado Denver, where he was Assistant Dean in the College of Arts & Media. He also worked for a quarter century in historic preservation, including stints as head of a state-wide non-profit organization in New York, director of the Mountains/Plains Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and as manager of a state government program in Connecticut.

Marty is a reading teacher in the Aurora Public Schools system. She has taught in public schools in Colorado and Vermont and independent schools in Colorado, Connecticut and Honduras. [Weird but true: Sue Hughes was teaching in the same school in Tegucigalpa while Marty was there.]

They have paddled a 17' Grumman canoe for about 35 years and have used it mostly for day trips in the east, with nice overnights on the Saco in Maine. Clark was on the Green River from I-70 to the confluence in a canoe many years ago and they've enjoyed great kayak paddles in the San Juans around Sucia Island and in the Broken Islands Group in British Columbia.

Clark bought a wonderful P & H *Cetus MV* this year and put about 100 miles under the keel in New England and New York. Marty accompanied Clark on several of these day trips in a rented Wilderness Systems boat. Clark's *Cetus* has a home in a friend's barn in Connecticut. He's in the market for a decent boat to be based in Colorado; Marty might also like to have a boat here.

Their plans include increasing and expanding their skills and finding good folks to meet and paddle with. Their dreams including warm water paddling in Central America, more explorations of flat water in the west and lots of boat-based wildlife viewing.



Clark and Marty Strickland



MORE NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Anna Troth, Membership Coordinator

- **TRICIA GRODZICKI FROM LITTLETON:** Tricia is originally from Long Island, New York. She and her husband, who loves to hike fourteeners, made the move to Colorado five years ago after vacationing here many times. She has made her home in Roxborough and is the proud mom of a two-year-old Colorado native. Trish, as she likes to be called, began paddling about 12 years ago. The desire to do so was just something that always called to her. She finds peace of mind when she hits the water, although, with a toddler, she doesn't get out often. She paddles a 12-year-old Perception *Carolina* named Duff. She has kayaked on Long Island, and in upstate New York, Connecticut and Colorado, and in the future hopes to get on the water in Fiji, Ireland, Alaska, Utah and, of course, more places in Colorado.
- **JANET MALLORY FROM LAKEWOOD:** Janet started paddling rowboats before she was ten years old. Since then she's paddled the full range of boats and most waters. She says she's not particularly fond of white water, though she'll do some to get down a river. Her favorite is Class 1 rivers for floating. She usually paddles a recreational kayak and can pack for up to five nights in her small boat; she enjoys multiple-day trips.
- We have other new members who have joined the Club in the last year. We've met some of them on paddles or at PaddleFest last summer but we hope to publish a bit about their paddling background in the next RMSKC's *NEWS*:
 - MARK SCOTT OF NORTHGLENN
 - JAY GINGRICH and JANE LEWIS OF BUENA VISTA
 - YOKO IMAI and JAMES WHIPPERMAN OF GEORGETOWN
 - CHRIS DOHMEN OF ENGLEWOOD
 - ANDY and DAWN McKENNA, and FAMILY, OF WESTMINISTER
 - EILEEN YELVERTON OF LYONS

YAHOO! GROUP COMMUNICATIONS

The Steering Committee wants to remind you that the Yahoo! Group is a good way for club members to communicate paddling related messages to others in the club. You can use the group to announce a non-club paddle or event, sell paddling gear, or just send out paddling related news or events that might be of interest to our members. It is optional, so if you really don't want to get any of those sorts of paddling communications, you don't have to sign up; the Club will continue to send all official RMSKC emails directly to your email address on record.

Having such a forum for interested paddlers could work well, but only about 50% of our members are now part of it; it would be more effective if that percentage were higher. Please review the easy directions below for joining the Yahoo! Group so you will be included in our round-robin discussions of Colorado paddling. (In the past people have thought you had to have a Yahoo email address to be part of the group. That is not true; please register with whatever address you ordinarily use.)

To join, click this link which will take you to our Yahoo! Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RMSKC>. Then click on the "Join This Group" link and follow the directions. Email this address if you need more help: RMSKC@Yahoo!Groups.com When you join, make sure you select the email delivery that is best for you. There are 4 choices:

- **INDIVIDUAL EMAIL:** All messages posted to the group will be sent to you. This is the best option if you want to keep up on the latest posts immediately.
- **DAILY DIGEST:** With this option you only get one email with 25 messages in it. This is your best choice if you want to receive fewer mail messages and don't need up-to-the minute posts in your inbox.
- **SPECIAL NOTICES:** This means you'll receive email messages only when the group moderator posts a special announcement message. With this option you could avoid day-to-day email, but our Yahoo! Group does not have an active moderator who functions this way.
- **WEB ONLY:** Choose this option if you prefer to only read messages on the web. It is also useful if you need to temporarily put message delivery on hold, for example while you're on vacation.

One more reminder: When messages come from the Yahoo! Group, the sender is listed but if you hit "reply" you will not be sending a personal reply to that person (as you would with a regular email); what you write will go to everyone in the group. Whoops, if that isn't what you want to do, remember to put the sender's personal email on the address line instead of clicking "reply".

RMSKC'S WEBSITE BEAUTIFICATION

Do you have web site design skills? Can you help? RMSKC's web site (<http://www.rmskc.org>) is in need of a redesign. This would be a one-time job as we have others who are already willing to do the week-to-week updates of the site's contents like calendars, newsletters, etc.

Please contact Brian Curtiss (bcur@me.com) for more information about what this would entail.

PARTIAL CLUB SCHEDULE 2012 SEASON

■ **RMSKC Annual Winter Party**

- Date: January 14th
- Time: 5:00 to around 9:00 pm
Happy Hour at 5:00, bring your beverage of choice
Potluck Dinner at about 5:30 or 6:00
- Where: McKay Landing Clubhouse
14076 McKay Park Circle; Broomfield, CO 80023-6527
- Details: Bring a pot-luck dish to share and a serving spoon. Bring your own beverages, plates, cups, eating utensils and napkins. Some Tupperware to take left-overs home is also useful.

Bring pictures of 2011 paddles; there will be a projector for slide shows on PC computers. Think about trips you'd like to take for 2012. Bernie Dahlen will report on Wilson's travels for 2011. Wilson will be given to a new handler for the upcoming 2012 paddling season.

RSVP to our new Onshore Coordinator, Lou Ann Hustvedt: lahustvedt@gmail.com

■ **Meyers Pool Kayak Sessions [Pool sessions are not RMSKC-sponsored opportunities]**

- The FIRST and THIRD Sundays of each month through April (This schedule has not been finalized yet for 2012; check with the pool or Brian Hunter before you go.)
- 10:00 to 1:00 (This is the "canoe" time for larger boats; it's better than the "kayak" time, which is primarily for white water boats, because there are fewer participants.)
- \$9.00 per person; credit cards accepted
- Address: 7900 Carr Drive, Arvada
- For weather related closures: call 303-424-2739

■ **Other area pools also offer winter practice opportunities; call for times and dates, and to make sure they accept sea kayaks**

- Broomfield Community Center Pool (This pool does offer kayak times but is too small to be good for our sea kayaks.)
- Carmody Pool in Lakewood
- Centennial Pool in Longmont
- DU's Ritchie Center
- Englewood Recreation Center
- Golden Community Center Pool

EDITOR'S NOTE: Club instructors and some of our better paddlers often attend the pool sessions at Meyers Pool. It's fun and a good way to stay in shape, practice new skills and meet new people. If you're interested in more details about Pool Practice you'll find a description written a couple of years ago reprinted on page 19.

■ **Winter/Spring Trip to South Padre Island and Corpus Christi, Texas**

- Late February or early March
- Number of days to be determined
- Contact the Trip Coordinator, Jud Hurd, for more information: hurdofcows@q.com

■ **March 13: Pre-Spring After Work Celebration**

- Location: McIntosh Lake, Longmont; the south parking ramp
- Time: 5:15 pm on the water and ready to go
- In celebration of daylight savings time, which begins Sunday, March 11, join us for a paddle around McIntosh Lake after work on Tuesday, the 13th.
- RSVP to Anne Fiore: anne_fiore@yahoo.com

■ **March 31: Deadline for 2011 DUES and WAIVERS to be sent to the Membership Coordinator:**

- If you didn't get one by email, download an application and a waiver from the RMSKC website.
- Send them and your annual dues to:
Anna Troth
13625 East Evans Avenue
Aurora, CO 80014

■ **Late-ish March or April: Eleventh Annual Multi-Club South Platte River Trip**

- This is often the third Saturday in March, but sometimes it's on a Sunday, and there is always a snow date. Although this is not an RMSKC-sponsored event, you'll get an email from Deb Jenkins, our Paddling Coordinator, when we have definite information about this year's details.
- Here, in blue, are the particulars from *last* year that may, of course, change:
 - 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 at a stop on the river and a hot drink in a thermos
 - Dress for the water, not the weather: this is a cold water paddle
 - Outfit your boat with bow and stern painters (tie-down lines)
 - Pick the length of your trip: Kersey Bridge (10 miles) or South Kuner Bridge (15 miles)

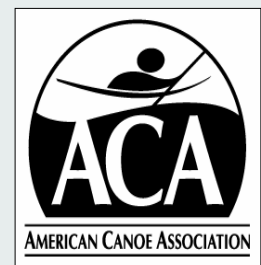
■ **April 28: "Fourth Saturday" Paddle and Watch the Mud Hens at Longmont's Lake McIntosh**

- Starting Time: 9:00 in the water and ready to go. (Note the early starting time; the annual *Mud Hen 5K Run* is beginning at 10:00 and unless we go earlier we won't get parking.)
- Ending Time: 12:00 +/-
- Meet on the south side of the lake at the boat launch. If you use MapQuest, it's across the street from approximately 3000 Lake Shore Drive in Longmont.
- RSVP to coordinator Sue Hughes: suehughes@yahoo.com

STARTING TIME: Remember, "starting time" means the time that the group will be *in the water* starting to paddle. Please 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 day paddles (one time only, please) if they sign an American Canoe Association *Waiver and Release of Liability* form and pay the \$5 ACA event fee. ACA members from other Paddle America clubs may join RMSKC day trips if they provide a current ACA card; they must also sign a Waiver but do not have to pay the event fee.

MULTI-DAY PADDLES: According to RMSKC policy, overnight and extended trips are open to RMSKC members only.



PADDLING COORDINATOR'S NOTE:

Please remember that details in our Club schedules are *tentative* due to Trip Coordinators' decisions about locations and dates, and the unpredictable Rocky Mountain weather.

To avoid disappointments, always RSVP to the trip leader so you can be kept abreast of any last minute changes.

■ **Early May: Introduction to Kayak Camping**

- One "Classroom Session"
- One "Pack and Paddle" shake-down day paddle
- One overnight camping trip TBD
- The intent is to help RMSKC members get the outdoors skills to proceed from beginners to adventurers, and to retain the Club's old-timers as either instructors or participants
- This is not a paddling skills class. You need to be able to paddle 3mph non-stop for at least an hour and be comfortable in wind with one-foot waves to participate in the overnight session.
- Details from Class Coordinator Brian Hunter: oldmanadrift@yahoo.com

■ **May 12: Annual Union Reservoir Spring Paddle and Sub Sandwich Picnic**

- Starting Time: 10:00 in the water and ready to go (to approximately 3:00)
- Entrance fees for 2012 have not been posted yet
- Address: 0461 WCR #26, Longmont
(http://www.ci.longmont.co.us/parks/park_list/overview/union.htm)
- The Club will provide Subway sandwiches; bring your own plates and beverage
- Contact Anne Fiore for details: anne_fiore@yahoo.com

■ **Mid May: Merritt Reservoir, Nebraska**

- Contact Trip Coordinator Larry Kline for details: lkline146@yahoo.com

■ **June 3: South Platte Moving Water Practice: Brighton to Fort Lupton**

- A car with racks for more than one kayak for the shuttle is required
- Geared to beginners; we'll spend lots of time on moving water practice like ferrying and eddying, so expect a long day
- RSVP to Trip Coordinator Anne Fiore: anne_fiore@yahoo.com for meeting time and place

■ **July 28: PaddleFest at Chatfield Reservoir**

- This is RMSKC's annual summer get-together for games and competitions on the water, instruction, time to chat and try out other members' boats, and have a great lunch of brats, burgers and excellent pot-luck side dishes
- Location: Roxborough Cove at Chatfield Reservoir
- Contact Jud Hurd for details: hurdofcows@q.com

▣ **Early October: Lake Powell Paddling and Kayak Camping (no houseboat)**

- Total group size limited to six
- Contact Anne Fiore if you are interested: anne_fiore@yahoo.com

▣ **Fall Trip to Baja**

- Sometime in October or November
- Number of days to be determined
- Contact the Trip Coordinator Jud Hurd at hurdofcows@q.com

POSSIBLE LOCAL DAY PADDLES

- ▣ If you are interested in leading a day trip, either to one of the suggestions below or to one of your choosing, please contact the paddling coordinator, Deb Jenkins, at debnwaltjenkins@msn.com

- **Lake Estes**
- **Horsetooth Reservoir near Ft. Collins**
- **Rampart Reservoir**
- **Lake Pueblo**
- **Ruedi Reservoir**
- **Green Mountain Reservoir**

New trips happen when members share information about possible locations, and work on research and planning together.

SUGGESTED LAKE AND RESERVOIR TRIPS

- ▣ **Apostle Islands:** Multi-day boating and kayak camping. Contact the Trip Coordinator, Brian Hunter, at oldmanadrift@yahoo.com
- ▣ **Navajo Reservoir:** Multi-day boating and kayak camping
- Start at the New Mexico Boat Ramp, paddle up the Los Pinos arm and camp.
 - Second day paddle to the end of Los Pinos and return to camp of previous day.
 - Paddle out and drive home the 3rd day.
 - Alternatively, start at the New Mexico Boat Ramp, paddle up to the Colorado Boat Ramp, which is a minimum of 3 nights and requires a car shuttle.
 - Contact the Trip Coordinator Jud Hurd at hurdofcows@q.com
- ▣ **McPhee (near Cortez) and Vallecito (near Durango) Reservoirs:** Multi-day boating and car and/or kayak camping. This is a possible follow-on to the Navajo Reservoir trip. All details to be determined. Contact the Trip Coordinator Jud Hurd at hurdofcows@q.com

- ▣ **Blue Mesa Reservoir:** The Elk Creek Boat launch is located about 235 miles from Denver. As planned, this trip would require paddle days of approximately 6 to 9 miles with 3 days and 2 nights on the water (5 days and 4 nights total, unless we drive home on the day we paddle back to Elk Creek). The wind can come up suddenly and exceed 20 knots. Often mornings are the best time to paddle as winds tend to start around 1:00. Water is generally cold and warms beginning in July into early September. The chosen campsites are boat-in only and do not require reservations. There is a \$15.00 fee for 7-day pass (or an annual parks pass) into the Curecanti NP. Parking at the Elk Creek boat ramp is good. Reserved tent camp sites are \$15.00 per night (for the night before and possibly after the paddle). When paddling we must be close enough to each other to effect a rescue. You must be comfortable paddling in 12-15mph wind (wind speed may exceed 20mph on this water requiring us to go ashore and wait it out) and be able to paddle 10 miles at 3mph. You must be proficient at getting back into your kayak in deep water. Dressing for immersion in 55 degree F water is required. Contact Brian Hunter: oldmanadrift@yahoo.com

POSSIBLE RIVER TRIPS

- ▣ **Ruby Horsethief Canyon, Fruita to Westwater:** Requires a car shuttle with camping on the river
- ▣ **Gunnison River, with an overnight at Dominguez Canyon**
- ▣ **North Platte, Saratoga to I-80:** Best scheduled for early to mid-June
- ▣ **Colorado River: Dotsero to Hanging Lake**
- ▣ **North Platte River from below Glendo Reservoir to Guernsey Reservoir:** This is in eastern Wyoming, about three hours north of Cheyenne. We will try to co-ordinate with Poudre Paddlers for this trip. Contact the Trip Leader, Jud Hurd, for more details: hurdofcows@q.com

Any sport carries with it risks, and it's for you to understand those risks and decide whether you are prepared to accept them before undertaking any activity. Kayaking is no different; it can be dangerous if not undertaken in a safe manner and should never be done without proper training, experience and the correct use of relevant safety equipment.

The Rocky Mountain Sea Kayaking Club cannot therefore accept responsibility for any injury or accident which may occur as a result of articles, advice or images published in its publications or on its website.

Our instructors remind us that there are lots of skills that can be learned and practiced in an indoor pool, so don't wait until summer to get your boat in the water.

Here is a "Newcomer to Pool Practice" article we ran last year if you're wondering about the basics.

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 re-entries.
- I also wore the long-sleeved poly-pro shirt that I usually wear kayaking 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 more confident now about entering and exiting 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 whiffed so badly that I fell in. How embarrassing, but how nice I didn't do it in cold water on an outing.
- Whoops, 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.
- Good Hint: Bring a big plastic bag for your wet-suit, PFD and spray skirt. When I rinsed the chlorinated water off of mine they got lots wetter than they do on a paddle and they made a mess in the car.

MERCHANTS WHO OFFER DISCOUNTS FOR CLUB MEMBERS:

- AAA INFLATABLES (dry gear, clothing, PFDs)
3264 Larimer Street, Denver
303-296-2444
- COLUMBIA RIVER KAYAKING/SEA KAYAK BAJA
Puget Island, WA, an hour from Astoria, OR
www.columbiariverkayaking.com/baja
- CONFLUENCE KAYAKS
2373 15th Street Unit B, Denver
303-433-3676
- GOLDEN RIVER SPORTS
806 Washington Avenue, Golden
303-215-9386
- OUTDOOR DIVAS (15%)
1133 Pearl Street, Boulder
303-449-3482
- RIVER MOUSE KAYAKS (Club member Ray Van Dusen)
303-421-3729
ray@rivermousekayaks.com
10% on gear; 5% on your 2nd (or more) kayak

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Remember to take your
ACA card and mention
RMSKC when asking for
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