



FOUNDED 1989
 ACA PADDLE AMERICA CLUB
www.RMSKC.org

EARLY SUMMER, 2017
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The MOUNTAIN PADDLER

REPORTS AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST
 FOR OUR PADDLING COMMUNITY

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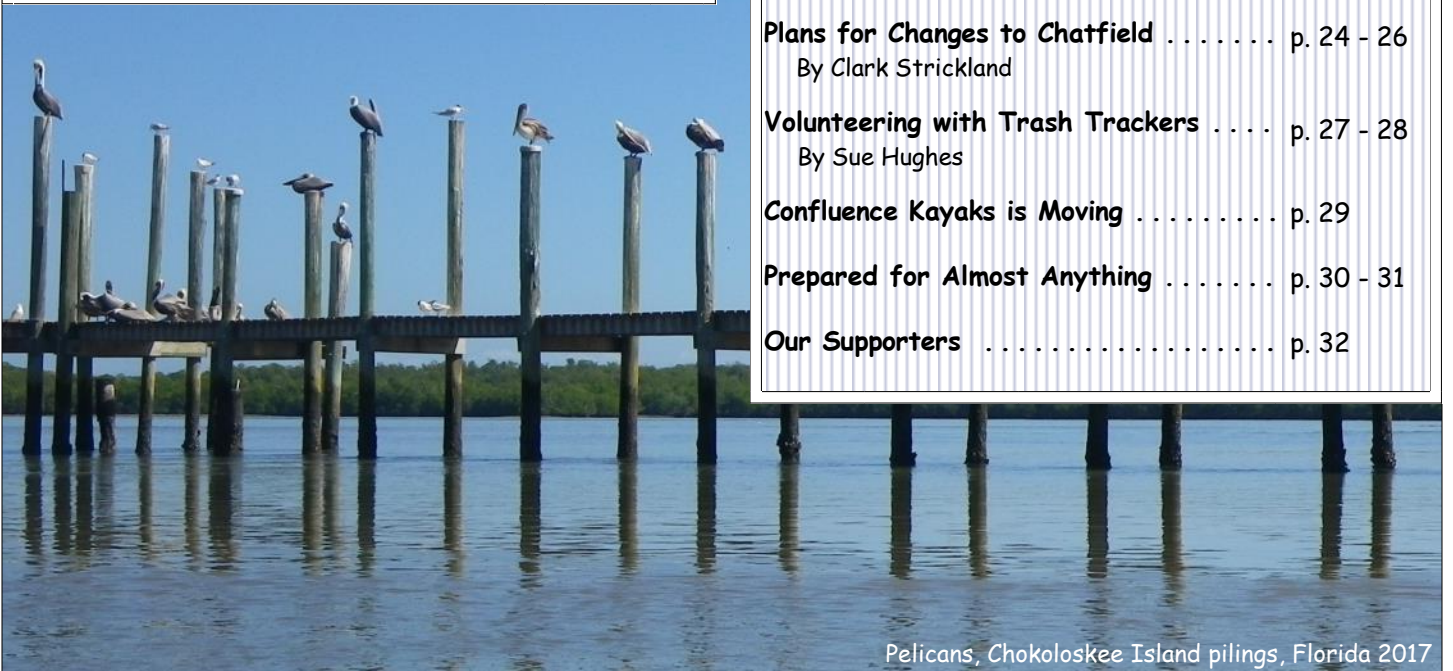
EDITOR'S NOTE

by Sue Hughes

As always, the vagaries of our Front Range weather have limited some of our spring paddling, but the rest of the season looks good.

There's lots on the schedule already, and always new ideas to pursue. Check with our Paddle Coordinator, Jud Hurd, if you want help developing a new trip.

Paddle safely and see you at PaddleFest on June 24, Sue



Pelicans, Chokoloskee Island pilings, Florida 2017

EARLY SEASON DAY PADDLES, 2017

WINTER POOL PRACTICES

JANUARY - APRIL:

People were out of town or the weather was snowy, but over the four winter months more than a dozen RMSKC members participated in at least one of the every-other-Sunday practices at Meyers Pool in Arvada.

Sometimes they thought loading their boats in the cold seemed ridiculous, but they were always glad they'd gotten out to practice their strokes, rescues and rolls. Long-time instructor Ray Van Dusen, who has been instrumental in getting so many members to begin working at the pool, was out all season. He was missed by everyone.



Ray helping a former member with his roll

EARLY SPRING AT CHATFIELD RESERVOIR, MARCH 10:

This was an early-season opportunity to take advantage of pleasant weather. The trip leader astutely read the weather report for Friday, March 10, and saw that sun was predicted. They planned to launch at 10:00AM and were just a little late because he had to make a few too many trips back into his house to get almost forgotten equipment.

The weather was in the 50s, rising into the 60s; water temperature was 42° in the Platte River and 44° in the main body of Chatfield Reservoir. Pool level was 5321.2, lower than most times club members have paddled at Chatfield.

Five RMSKC members (Marsha Dougherty, Tim Fletcher, Brian Hunter, Andy McKenna and Trip Leader Clark Strickland) were joined by Kerry and Pauline Edwards, who are RMCC members and who brought their kayaks to paddle with them. The group met at Kingfisher Cove and paddled up into the Platte River inflow as far as the bridge, at which point the water was too shallow to proceed further. They then paddled back out of the river and along the "Cliffs of Chatfield" to the marina, at which point the Edwards returned to the launch and the remaining five paddlers cut across to the west shore for lunch. Clark had trouble with his starboard foot peg, which came off its track. Field repairs were unsuccessful in sorting out the problem, but a sound repair was made as soon as the boat got home.

Besides the many Canada geese, they saw some northern shoveller and goldeneye ducks. They were off the water at 2:20 PM. The total mileage covered was just over six miles; it was a delightful day with amiable company.

MULTI-CLUB PADDLE ON THE SOUTH PLATTE - CANCELLED

The Evans to Kersey section of the South Platte has been a problem since the flood in 2013; the put-in at Evans was completely washed out. Because of this, the Multi-Club Paddle was cancelled in 2014 and 2015. A new put-in was used in 2016, but several participants felt that, perhaps due to the restricted new starting location, the large group outing had not provided enough leadership for boaters unfamiliar with river paddling.

Early in March some folks from the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club and Poudre Paddlers checked out the possibilities for this year and decided that they did not seem safe for this "come one; come all" excursion, so Kathryn Mutz of RMCC announced that they would not be co-sponsoring the all-club paddle to start off the 2017 season. Her email said:

"Debbie Hinde and Mike Koliha checked out the availability of a river access point in Evans at the end of 42nd Street and found that the access is essentially a myth as there are far too many tall chain-link fences between the parking lot and the river.

"Hoping to be able to use another section of the South Platte, Mike, Debbie, Mat Bozek and a couple of others paddled from Brighton to Fort Lupton on Saturday March 4th. They reported that the two major diversions on the run can each be portaged without too much issue. The bigger safety issue that they ran into had to do with a couple of sections of the river that have downed trees in the main channel. The trees can be maneuvered through, but likely not by some of the beginning level paddlers that we see on this outing, especially as the flows rise in the spring.

"So, given the issues that they have seen, they can't recommend a large multi-club spring float along either of these sections."

It was sad; this event has been a favorite of Front Range paddlers for almost two decades.



Sandbar scene, Multi-Club Paddle, 2009

Everyone hopes it can be revived in the future, or reformatted with smaller groups to allow boaters new to river paddling to participate with adequate help and instruction.



Years ago, cars were used as riprap to stabilize the banks; they are now cool antiques



Second portage, 2009

COLD WATER RESCUE PRACTICES

APRIL 14 AND APRIL 25:

Brian Hunter, our Safety and Instruction Coordinator, organized two cold water rescue practices. These were primarily for the people paddling in frigid Lake Superior on this summer's Apostle Islands trip, but they were open to all members.

Brian wrote, "The first practice was at Union Reservoir, a more convenient location for our north-landers. Jim Dlouhy demonstrated a new approach to the T-rescue he learned at a Body Boat Blade class. (BBB offers skills classes with cutting edge techniques.) This approach requires swimmers to take very active roles in their own rescues. When practiced and done properly it is quick and effective." They also demonstrated and practiced this technique in the two last Open Pool sessions. [The way that we have been doing these T-rescues, with a more passive person being rescued, is still useful in situations where there may be a novice paddler in the water, or someone with whom the rescuer has not previously paddled.]

The second cold water rescue practice was held on Gravel Pond #1 at Chatfield State Park on April 25. Brian brought his kayak fully loaded so the participants could see how different a T-rescue is with a heavy kayak and how much assistance swimmers can provide in saving their own hides. Jim Dlouhy, Marsha Dougherty, Tim Fletcher, Jud Hurd, Dave Hustvedt and Brian braved the 50° water but no one took photos.

BARR LAKE CLEANUP

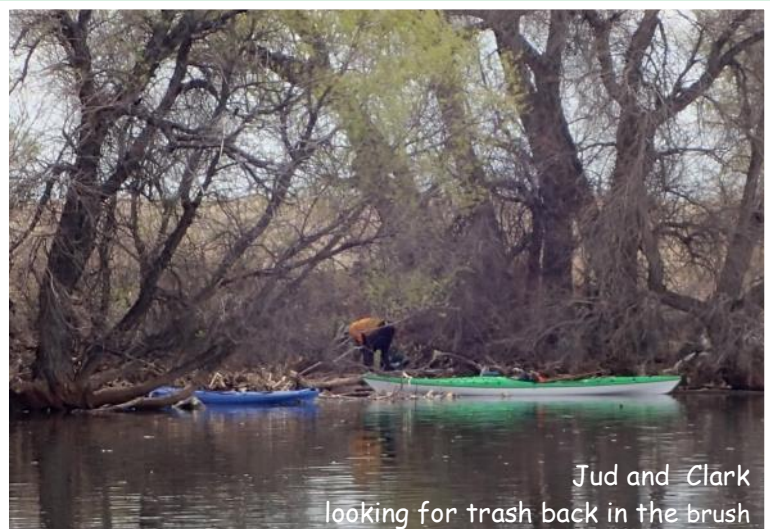
APRIL 17:

- CONDITIONS:** Air warm and mostly sunny 70+ degrees, water ≈60 degrees
- PADDLERS:** Trip Leader Clark Strickland, Marty Strickland, Joy Farquhar, Brian Hunter, Jud Hurd, and Jesse Vankampen
- ACCOMPANIED BY:** Jordan Parman, Water Quality Scientist, Metro Wastewater Reclamation District

This paddle was the second time that RMSKC has conducted a cleanup at Barr Lake. As was the case for the 2015 work, support was provided by Metro Wastewater Reclamation District. This took the form of a Boston Whaler and boat driver Water Quality Scientist Jordan Parman, the son-in-law of Clark and Marty Strickland.

Clark checked in with Ranger Christine Welch, who made the Colorado State Parks group waiver of liability available for each paddler to sign.

Six kayaks launched and scoured the northeast shore from the boat launch area to the junction of the dam and ditch. The water level was about ten inches lower than in 2015, meaning that the boats could not gain water-borne access to some of the marshy areas that we cleaned two years ago.



Jud and Clark
looking for trash back in the brush

Consequently, there was much dismounting and slogging along shore. The lakebed in this area is mostly sand, so this was easy enough to accomplish. However, along the immediate shore edge, walking and wading to pick up trash was complicated by driftwood, cottonwood trees and willow thickets, some boggy footing and riprap along the ditch, which runs along the edge of the lake.

The trash comprised mostly degraded plastic of various types, some glass bottles and metal cans, flip-flops, many tennis balls (left by lazy or easily-distracted dogs), three tires and part of a large suitcase. Not counting the very heavy tires (all were mounted on wheels, and one had a brake drum attached), the collected garbage amounted to six large trash bags weighing a total of about fifty pounds.

After two hours of bending and picking, their fatigued backs and core muscles paddled the boats back to the launch area. There they enjoyed their sack lunches, met Joy's friend Margo who had been photographing birds around the park, and enjoyed Joy's mint chocolate chip cake pan cookies.

Special thanks to Jordan Parman. He took the photos and thus is in none of them!



Clark, Marty, Jud, Joy, Brian and new member Jesse Vankampen on the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District's scow.



Marty, Clark and Brian



Marty holding an ACA mesh collection bag



Clark and a tire he'd filled with debris

EDITOR'S NOTE: RMSKC members often pick up trash when they are paddling. Send a picture of your haul for a montage we'll publish in the fall.

LONE TREE RESERVOIR

APRIL 22:

The forecast was for sprinkles with maybe a bit of snow, scheduled to stop at 9:30AM. Several people decided that wasn't paddling weather but Karen and Jim Dlouhy, Jud Hurd and George Ottenhoff joined trip leader Sue Hughes for the annual *Fourth Saturday in April (Weather Permitting)* paddle.

It was cool and overcast, so the Front Range views couldn't be seen, but it was a nice 2.5 hour paddle that got on the water a few minutes ahead of schedule! The sun broke through on the back stretch and there was some blue sky as they were taking out.

They noticed changes in Lone Tree: there weren't as many herons' nests, the water was deeper than usual so there wasn't a place to stop for lunch, and a golf course and large houses are being built on the east side.

They saw the usual birds and an eagle—full sized but with immature coloring. It was on an overhead branch and left a message as it flew off which might have landed on someone's head if they'd been a minute closer.



Jim Dlouhy brought both his Tiderace boats, the *Xcite* and a new *Xplore*, and had added a nifty sign advertising his ACA Certified Instruction on the side of the van.

STARTING TIME: "Starting time" means the time that everyone in the group will be *in the water ready to paddle*. Be sure to 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 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 paper Waiver at the put-in 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.



PYGMY DEMO DAY

APRIL 29:

Pygmy Boats, whose motto is "Don't Just Paddle It; BUILD It," makes a variety of build-it-yourself kits for lovely wood kayaks. [Their website is wonderful: <http://www.pygmyboats.com/>]

Early in March, Laura Prendergast, Marketing Director for Pygmy, contacted members of RMSKC's steering committee to say they were planning a Demo Day on Lake Granby the end of April. Brian Hunter, our Safety and Instruction Coordinator, says, "I responded immediately and advised that Granby might still be frozen and that in any case the water would be far too cold for all but the best equipped and experienced paddlers. I suggested several other venues." They selected Kingfisher Cove at Chatfield.

Freya unloading the last of the boats off the van



A week before the event Brian emailed Pygmy Boats that the Denver area was expecting a big snow; they replied that their staff were already on the way and cancelling was not possible.

The storm came in as predicted and Brian's photos clearly show one of the risks of spring paddling along the Front Range. He reported: "The water was 51°, air 36°, wind 8mph, wind chill 24° and snow was falling.

"Five courageous souls braved the elements to check out a *Stitch and Glue* kayak. Freya Fennwood and Leif Whittaker, Pygmy's ambassadors, were engaging and helpful to those trying the boats." Brian visited a while, took these pictures and then headed for home.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Freya got the highest rolling score at the Greenland National Championships last summer and wrote enthusiastically about forming an international team for the Women's Group Rolling event in the most recent *Adventure Kayaking* magazine.

In addition to her work for Pygmy Boats (founded by her father, John Lockwood), she is an award-winning adventure sports and lifestyle photographer. Check the videos of her rolling on Pygmy's website and her photos at fennwoodphotography.com.

Read about RMSKC members who've built Pygmy boats on the next page.

PYGMY BOATS WE'VE BUILT



Gary's three Pygmy boats
at Black Rocks on the Colorado River

Gary Greeno, an RMSKC member from long ago, built three Pygmy boats: a 21' *Osprey* double to paddle with his wife and two single 17' *GoldenEyes* for his children. He wrote, "Pygmy kayaks are precision cut, economical and the construction process is stitch and glue. The result is a strong and light boat with marine Okoume plywood sandwiched inside and out with clear fiberglass that highlights the beautiful color and grain of the wood."

Long-time member Dick Dieckman is still paddling the 15' 8" Pygmy *GoldenEye* he built in the late 1990s. He explained the process [2007, *Build a Wooden Kayak* in the EARLIER PUBLICATIONS section of our website] and said, "It's beautiful, tracks well, and I always get lots of compliments on its classic looks and on the warm marine-grade plywood hull and deck."



Dick in his *GoldenEye* at Blue Mesa Reservoir,
with JJ Scervino (former Membership Coordinator)



Eileen and her *Artic Tern* in the Boundary Waters

Eileen Yelverton and Rich Webber are two other Pygmy-building members. Eileen added a classy stained stripe to both sides of her top deck.

We ran a brief article about Rich's experience starting his boat in Ohio at a Pygmy clinic in issue 23-2b of *The Mountain Paddler*.

A complete description of that workshop, with photos of Rich working on his boat and it wrapped up ready to send home to Colorado, was published by one of his classmates in the January 22, 2016 issue of *Adventure Kayak*.

It's an interesting piece by someone with no carpentry background. You can find it here: <https://www.rapidmedia.com/adventurekayak/categories/departments/5416-workshop-confessions-building-your-kayak>.



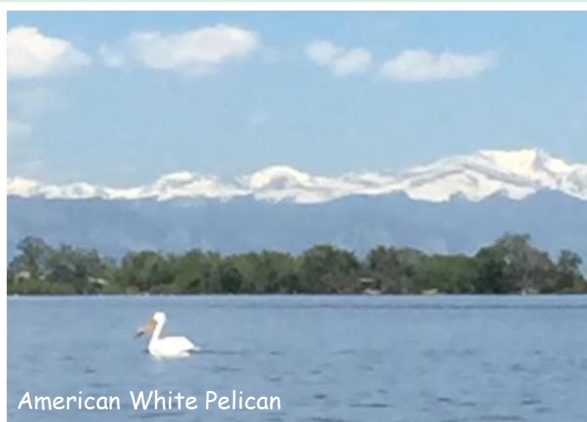
Rich edging his Pygmy *Murrelet*

BARR LAKE BIRDING

MAY 13:

Sandy Carlsen and Harold Christopher, Joy Farquhar, Brian Hunter, Jud Hurd, Michaela Poole and trip leaders Gregg Goodrich and Anna Troth enjoyed calm water, perfect temperatures and clear skies to make International Migratory Bird Day a fun experience at Barr Lake.

Gregg reported that they had a great owl day with three Barn Owls and a very cooperative Great Horned Owl that gave them all great looks flying and perched. They also saw the Osprey and Bald Eagle on their nests raising families which made for a great raptor day, too. The 26 species of birds they saw are listed below.



Canada Goose 8
Mallard 8
Eared Grebe 2
Western Grebe 1
Double-crested Cormorant 30
American White Pelican 4
Great Blue Heron 2
Black-crowned Night-Heron 1
Yellow-rumped Warbler 1

Bald Eagle 1
American Coot 7
Spotted Sandpiper 2
Barn Owl 3
Great Horned Owl 1
Western Wood-Pewee 2
Western Kingbird 7
Eastern Kingbird 4
Tree Swallow 7

Barn Swallow 2
Cliff Swallow 20
American Robin 1
European Starling 1
Yellow Warbler 2
Osprey 1
Common Grackle 5
Bullock's Oriole 12

**EARLY SEASON LAKE PUEBLO PADDLE AND CAMP
MAY 20 - CANCELLED**

**OPENING DAY AT GROSS RESERVOIR
MAY 27 - CANCELLED**

EDITOR'S NOTE: As often happens along the Front Range, both of these annual events had to be cancelled because of inclement weather.

Each has been on our calendar for many seasons; we hope we'll have better luck with them next year.

**PADDLE AND RESCUES PRACTICE III
MAY 30:**

Brian Hunter organized another paddle with rescues training at Chatfield's Gravel Pond #1. The temperature was in the mid-60s and so was the water; he said wet suits would be sufficient. The venue has porta potties for changing so participants were advised to bring an extra set of dry clothes.

Paddlers in addition to Brian were Belle Bashaw, Marsha and Buster Dougherty, Gregg Goodrich and Anna Troth, and Michaela Poole. Brian brought a sun shelter, a gas grill and some hot dogs to BBQ, and after paddling the group enjoyed lunch and visiting.



Jausting? Flexibility practice? Stretching?



Brian



Gregg, Anna, Marsha, Brian with Buster, Michaela, and Belle

EDITOR'S NOTE: On the next page is a flier for a class we hoped to have in July, but which has been **CANCELLED** because of insufficient enrollment.

Helen is a renowned instructor. She taught at *LoCo Roundup*, the "kayak camp" I talk about, and Andy McKenna worked with her at *Lumpy Waters*, another symposium on the west coast.

She lives in Wyoming; maybe we can get her to come another time in the future.

SIMPLIFYING THE ROLL



RMSKC is sorry to miss this opportunity, but these classes have been **CANCELLED** due to insufficient enrollment.

Topics that can be covered include first rolls, other-side rolls, layback paddle rolls, forward finish paddle rolls, norsaq rolls, hand rolls and beyond. The techniques examined can be used with any type of paddle and any type of kayak.



July 8 and 9, 2017
Chatfield State Park, Colorado
For more information or to register,
email info@greenlandorbust.org



HELEN WILSON • MARK TOZER
INFO@GREENLANDORBUST.ORG

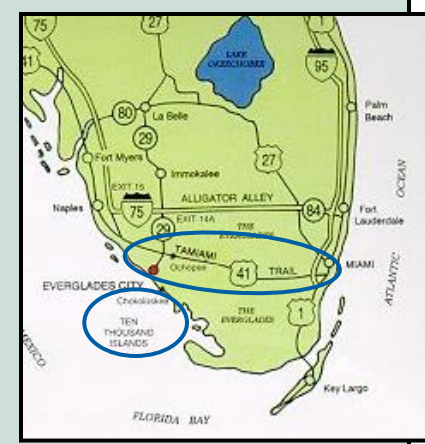


- F...Picnic Key
- G...Tiger Key
- H...Fakahatchee Key
- I...Stop Keys

**TEN THOUSAND ISLANDS,
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK**

February 23 - March 1, 2017
by Richard Ferguson, Marsha Dougherty, et al.

Jud Hurd organized this year's Winter Warm Water paddle trip to the Ten Thousand Islands region of Everglades National Park. It's on the Gulf coast of south Florida about 90 miles due west of Miami on Highway 41, known locally as the Tamiami Trail.



Six of the eight participants (Jud, Marsha Dougherty, Tim Fletcher, Sue Hughes, Dave Hustvedt and Clark Strickland), decided to save money by flying the redeye on Frontier to Miami. They got on the plane around 11:00, and arrived before sunup the following morning. Although they had super-cheap tickets this did not work out as well as they had hoped, with several people swearing never to fly Frontier again. To add to the insult of the plane's miserable seats, they had to wait for their rental car companies to open.

Bernie and Richard were not enthused about that flight plan, so they flew in the day before, Bernie on his United retiree benefits, and Richard on American miles. They stayed in the very comfortable Cambria Suites for about \$100, Richard's first use of Priceline. They did not tease the others too much.

Jud and his mates had trouble getting their car from the off-site Brand X rental company. When they did they stopped to get groceries and fuel for their stoves, and stomped it to the campsite on Chokoloskee Island.



On the Loop Road, off Highway 41

Bernie and Richard had a more leisurely morning with breakfast at a Latino restaurant on their way out of Miami, as did Sue, Dave and Marsha.

Richard and Bernie stopped in the Big Cypress Preserve visitor center, where they learned a bit about alligators. People in the other car took two short walks at the Shark Valley visitor center and then turned onto a backroad detour. They saw four types of herons within a few minutes on their walks, and lots of alligators along the road.

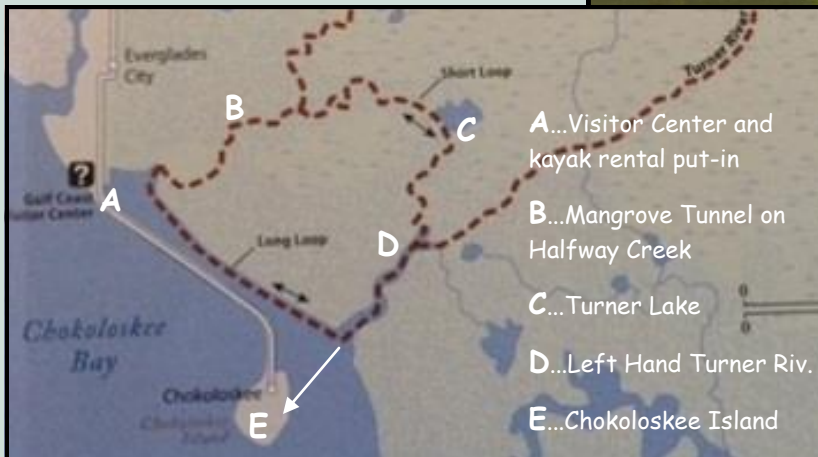
Everyone met at Chokoloskee Island Park and Marina, their campsite for the first two nights. They set up their tents and drove to Everglades City for dinner.

The next morning they went back to pick up their boats in Everglades City, after stopping by the national park visitors' center to reserve their back-country campsites.

They had decided to paddle from Everglades City up Halfway Creek, through a mangrove tunnel, and then down the Turner River, which took them back to their tents on Chokoloskee.



Clark being launched down the wood ramp at the rental shop



- A...Visitor Center and kayak rental put-in
- B...Mangrove Tunnel on Halfway Creek
- C...Turner Lake
- D...Left Hand Turner Riv.
- E...Chokoloskee Island

The bugs were fierce and everyone was very happy to have mosquito head nets. They met a guide taking some tourists up the tunnel; he said that obviously it was not their first rodeo, perhaps noting their protective gear.

It was a pretty hard day, but some thought the mangrove tunnel was magical, even if the bugs were brutal. [Find photos of this paddle on the next page.]

Since the cars had been left at the put-in, they walked to a nice dinner at the Havana Café, the only restaurant on Chokoloskee.



With all the boats, the campsite was tight the second night

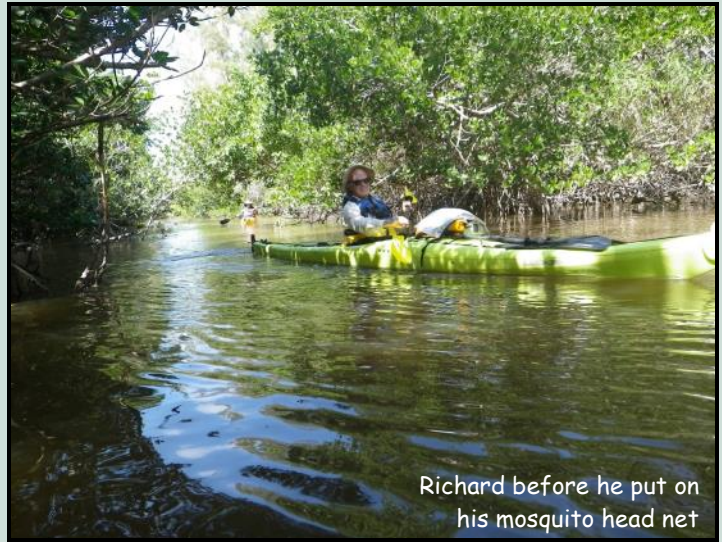
MARSHA'S NOTES

Friday 2-24-17

DAY ONE: We put in about 11:20AM at the Glades Haven kayak rental in Everglades City. We all paddled chartreuse *Looksha 17s* except for Jud who had a yellow *Tsunami*.

We went up Halfway Creek which becomes a mangrove tunnel. Paddling with the tide it took two hours to get to Turner Lake. Then the tide was slack when we started out on the return trip via Left Hand Turner River back to our campsite on Chokoloskee Island.

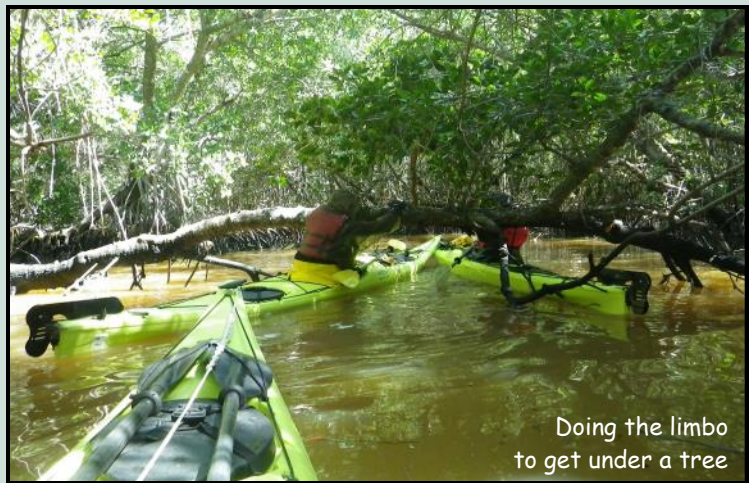
MILEAGE: 9.2 miles.



Richard before he put on his mosquito head net



Bernie, hard to identify in his insect protection gear



Doing the limbo to get under a tree



The water was rusty looking from the tannin in the leaves



Richard, still keeping his head net handy, in front of a shell mound on the bug-free Turner River



White Ibis
on Turner Lake



At the Havana Café: Bernie,
Richard, Tim, Dave, Marsha and Clark's head

MARSHA'S NOTES

Saturday 2-25-17

DAY TWO: We put in at the Chokoloskee Island ramp at 11:30AM. Paddled across the bay to the entrance of Indian Key pass. Took a break on a small mangrove island, watched some dolphins and saw the nose of a manatee.

We left the mangrove island at 1:45PM. High tide was at 2:27 so we paddled against the tide for a while and had a headwind.

Arrived at Picnic Key at 5:00 PM.

MILEAGE: 9.3 miles.

The next day, Saturday, February 25th, they broke camp, packed all their gear and paddled across Chokoloskee Bay to Indian Key pass, a busy channel. [You can locate the pass on the map on the first page of this article.]

They stopped at a small shell beach, and watched the dolphins fish. If you see fish jumping through the air, look for the dolphin they are trying to escape. They also saw some manatees.



They had to fight a tidal current as they headed out to the Gulf, and later a headwind, to make their way to Picnic Key [F on the map on the first page] their beach camp for three nights, but when they finally arrived it was worth the work.

The sand was amazingly fine and bright white, and for the first evening they had the huge beach all to themselves.

Well, all to themselves except for the mosquitos and the no-see-ums, a type of vicious midge, that came out as soon as the sun set...and the raccoons who fought like hoodlums about stolen garbage all night long.



Camp at Picnic Key



Marsha and Jud, leaving for the Sunday morning paddle at 11:00

On the 26th they decided to take it easy, and paddle to nearby Tiger Key, where they relaxed in the shade, with just enough breeze to keep the bugs away. Some people said it was really quite pleasant; Sue thought it was so lovely it almost made her cry.

MARSHA'S NOTES
Sunday 2-26-17

DAY THREE: We leisurely paddled to Tiger Key Point and spent the day under the shade of a row of mangroves that had been pruned up to a friendly shape that allowed the breeze to pass through.

Then we returned by continuing around Tiger Key back to the Picnic Key camp.

MILEAGE: Approximately 3 to 4 miles.



Dave, Clark, Sue and Jud

They paddled over to Camp Lulu Key, just outside the park, and had a photo-op at the park sign.

Then they returned to Picnic Key. Clark saw a huge sea turtle on the way back.



Jud, Dave, Clark, Bernie, Tim and Marsha



Sunrise, low tide



Sunset



Clark and Tim's campsite on Picnic Key



The view from the porta potty at Picnic Key



Richard, Marsha, Dave,
Bernie, Tim, Clark and Sue

Back at Picnic Key there was enough daylight to enjoy a bugless happy hour in the shady mangrove clearing at the west end of the beach.

The dip was missing, as something or other always seemed to be, but they shared the chips with a perfectly ripe avocado and lots of other communal snacks.

On the 27th, they headed for Fakahatchee Key [H on the map] which at one point had been a tomato farm and a commercial fishing operation with an icehouse out on pilings. They had an easy paddle with the current. They found several gravestones, as well as a cistern overgrown with ghostly roots and gumbo limbo trees, sometimes nicknamed "tourist trees" because their red bark peels off like sunburned visitors.



Gumbo Limbo trees produce sap that early settlers used to lime birds



Like many of the islands, Fakahatchee is largely made of shells, discarded by the Calusa Indians over thousands of years.

They decided to circumnavigate the island, but when they turned towards home, they ran into a very strong current. It was all they could do, paddling as hard as they could, to make slow progress against it.



Sitting on a ledge of shells, lunch was eaten in a hurry because of the heat and the bugs

MARSHA'S NOTES

Monday 2-27-17

DAY FOUR: Put-in time unknown. Paddled with the tide to Fakahatchee Island. Took the tour, gravestones and cistern. Had a short lunch. Continued around Fakahatchee.

Passed by more cisterns, a long point, and pilings. The tide hadn't turned yet and so we paddled against the current from here and for quite some time. Got back to the channel we came in on and then the tide went slack.

Some of us went to Tiger Key Point for a break and a swim then back to camp and happy hour. Breezy and pleasant until sundown.

MILEAGE: 5.9 miles from the far side of Fakahatchee Island via Tiger Key.

The speed of the moving water was substantial in certain spots, less in others. Then the wind turned against them later, so they were tired when they got home.



Using straps to carry a boat to the water at low tide

On the morning of the 28th they headed back to Everglades City. They had to go around Stop Keys [at I on the map on the first page], due to low tide, but generally had an easy paddle, with the current, back to Chokoloskee Bay.

However, by the afternoon the wind picked up, and they had a harder time going across the bay, against the wind, to get back to the marina.

They turned in the boats, had a nice lunch at the Oyster House nearby and started the two hour drive to Miami.

MARSHA'S NOTES

Tuesday 2-28-17

DAY FIVE: Broke camp at Picnic Key and put in at 9:35AM, low tide. We paddled and walked around the sand bars on the near and far side of Stop Key to get to Indian Pass. We had a head wind for a while. We stopped at a beach on the lee side of a small mangrove island for a break and a snack.

The tide was with us from there and it was an easy paddle to Chokoloskee Bay, then we had the wind to deal with crossing the bay.

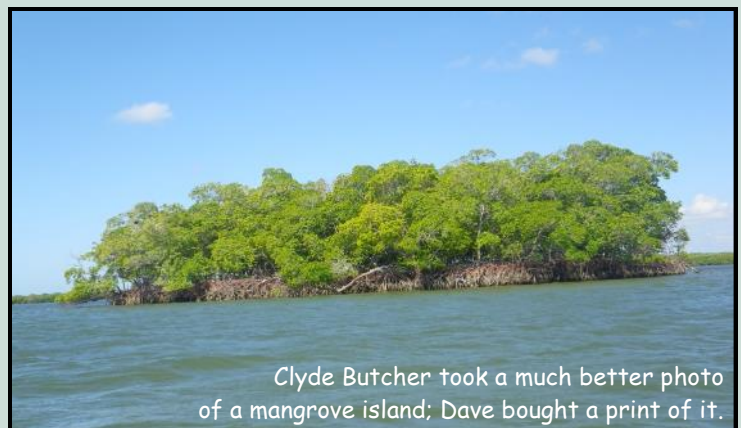
The current was strong under the Chokoloskee Bridge and we shot right through. Wind was calm on the other side. It was a short paddle to the kayak rental shop.

MILEAGE: 8.3 miles.



Lunch on the last day, before the tough paddle across Chokoloskee Bay

Dave, Marsha and Sue stopped on the way back to look at Clyde Butcher's photographs; he's famous for black and white Ansel Adams-style pictures of the Everglades.



Clyde Butcher took a much better photo of a mangrove island; Dave bought a print of it.

In Miami, they checked into the Ramada Springs hotel near the airport, where everyone was happy to take a shower, and have dinner at the sports bar.

The next day Richard caught a bus to a walking tour of some area murals and the rest of the group took the morning shuttle to the airport for their flight home.



Mangrove roots



Mangrove roots at low tide when you can see they are covered with oysters

ADDENDUM AND COMMENTS

CAMP PESTS: Dave said he'd made the mistake of leaving a bag of garbage behind the seat in his kayak. "All night long there were growls and squeals as the raccoons fought over the spoils." (That was the second time that they'd found our garbage. Eventually we did have a quiet night when we finally remembered to put every single thing away.)

WHY WE TRAVEL TOGETHER: Teamwork solved a lot of memory problems on this trip. When poles were forgotten at home a tent was rigged up with cording and borrowed sand stakes. Pants were lent when another participant's paddle clothing was left behind, and a mesh bag was located in the wrong trunk before a third case of CRS caused a meltdown. Yea for us! With the group's help, we did just fine, except maybe for keeping garbage away from the raccoons.



A tent cleverly rigged up without its poles

FROM CLARK: On this trip I learned that I need to continue to push myself to sign up for and attend these wonderful Club paddles. I have a limited number of paddle seasons left in my old bones and the chance to paddle in the Everglades with competent companions might not come again.

Also, I saw that, once again, collective input (observations, questions, reservations, suggestions) from engaged members of the paddle group provided the trip leader with several points of view and insights. The strong leader then made the decision for the group and off we went. We got to our destinations through the mazes of mangrove islands each and every time.

Finally, the logistics planning was complex enough that the trip leaders assigned several individuals to undertake aspects of the arrangements. Due to excellent and disciplined communications, the parts fit together beautifully.

BUG BITES: A part of the group was terribly bothered by the insects. Here's a sad picture of a patch of bites, and a brand of insect repellent recommended by the people on the edge of the swamp at Clyde Butcher's.

The active ingredient in the Swamp Gator bug spray which they promise repels the biting flies is Gerinol. (King Soopers has had the Cutter brand with Gerinol on closeout sale for \$2.49) Read more about repelling insects: <https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/insect-repellents.html>



Some people had masses of bites



FROM TIM: It was a wonderful trip. Even the mosquitoes and no-see-ums don't seem so bad looking back. I'd definitely do it again. I was really enchanted by the mangrove islands and white sand beaches. Nature was at its best, except for the bugs. I've never seen so many different kinds of birds in one place. Also saw dolphins, a manatee, and sting rays. The weather was great and the paddling was relaxed and really enjoyable. Happy hour was, as usual, a great time.

SUE SAID: I was not bothered by the mosquitoes but even with my head net on the no-see-ums got in my hair and bit my scalp until I wanted to scream. Regardless, I'd go back tomorrow. I'd think more about timing our travel with the tides, but I'm so thankful to be able to travel with people who are better than I am about navigation, and who quietly get out a tow belt before the situation goes south.



Sea Oats stabilize dunes in places where mangrove trees don't grow



Gray Nickerbean seedpods on the Gulf Coast's famous white sand

SUE, CONTINUED: I grew up not far from the Gulf Coast and was thrilled to return to the land of sugar-white sand. Sea Oats grew all over the barrier island we vacationed on, but I'd never seen the Nickerbean vines. They have beautiful shiny gray seeds that are tough enough to float in salt water to sprout in distant places.

RICHARD'S THOUGHTS: All in all, a good trip. I was the new guy in the group, and one of the younger members. I hope to paddle with them again in the future. We learned that we need to plan around tidal currents. We all got warm for a week or so, having missed some snow in Colorado.

FROM JUD: The editor gave us an assignment to write about our most enjoyable parts of the trip, but we had to say more than it was a great trip with great people, even though it was. So, here goes:

Believe it or not, I really enjoy planning these trips. The logistics can be challenging but all that is just following a logical line of thought from walking out the front door until I walk back in the front door. But the best part is the participation of everybody in the planning and preparation. We did about a jillion iterations of our planning document because everybody kept coming up with good questions and things I hadn't thought of or clarified. Other members also took on some tasks such as kayak reservation, finding a hotel, rental cars, etc. This makes the trip their trip and not just Jud's trip they are going along on. Thank you to a wonderful team effort, both in planning and executing the trip.

The next thing I enjoy is the paddling. It was really neat to paddle new water and navigate our way out and back through the mangrove islands. Let me tell you, at water level one mangrove island looks just like another and it is all just one huge green mass. Fortunately, we had seven and a half great navigators on this trip which kept me from making a wrong turn. I have paddled ocean tides and island currents in Glacier Bay, Annette Island and the San Juan Islands, but nothing compares to what we had. This was a great learning experience as we ran into some pretty strong currents between islands. It really drives home the point of planning your paddling with the tide.

Finally, I really enjoyed the camping on the white sands beach. Well, except for the mosquitoes and no-see-ums. Once again, the fellowship amongst the group is what truly makes a trip great. You just couldn't have asked for a more beautiful setting and a wonderful group of people with which to enjoy it. It was another wonderful and blessed trip. Thanks to all for making it that.

FROM EVERYONE: Amen, Jud, and thank you!

WILDLIFE IN FLORIDA: We were excited to see so many animals and birds we don't have in Colorado, although we know we'd have identified lots more if Gregg and Anna had been with us. Here's a list of what we remembered:

- Double-crested Cormorant
- Roseate Spoonbill
- Black-crowned Night Heron
- Great Blue Heron
- Tricolored Heron
- Green Heron
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Anhinga (viewed from overhead swimming in a canal...very cool)
- Little Blue Heron
- White Ibis
- Dowitcher (maybe)
- Cattle Egret
- Gulls, types undetermined
- Killdeer
- Turkey Vulture
- Crow
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Osprey (lots of nests)
- Bottlenose Dolphin
- Manatee
- Loggerhead Turtle
- Sting Ray, type unknown



RESOURCES

CHARTS:

- Waterproof Charts' *Everglades and Ten Thousand Islands #41*
- National Geographic's *Everglades National Park Trails Illustrated Topographic Map* (not as good for 10,000 Islands; better for the Wilderness Waterway Trail)

BOOKS:

- *A Paddler's Guide to the Everglades National Park*, by Johnny Malloy (2009, but still valuable)
- *Exploring Everglades National Park and the Surrounding Area*, by Roger Hammer (2016)
- *Sea Kayaking in Southern Florida*, by Nigel Foster (1999, but very good paddling advice)
- *Day Paddling Florida's 10,000 Islands and Big Cypress Swamp*, by Jeff Ripple
- *An Ecotourist's Guide to the Everglades and the Florida Keys*, by Robert Silk
- *Florida Gulf Coast* by Moon Handbooks (good background information about how rural this area is)

WEBSITES:

- Everglades National Park for up-to-date details regarding permits and rules:
<http://www.nps.gov/ever/index.htm>
- The website that first piqued our interest:
<http://www.yackman.com/yackmans-trip-reports/paddling-floridas-10000/>
- Another website with good information: <http://www.paradisecoastblueway.com/>

CHANGES IN STORE FOR CHATFIELD RESERVOIR

By Clark Strickland

Big changes are coming to Chatfield State Park beginning at the end of 2017. Additional water storage in Chatfield has been approved and full pool levels in the reservoir will rise by 12 feet. This is called the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project (CRRP).

Brian Hunter and Clark Strickland attended an open house presentation on "mitigation" plans at Cherry Creek State Park with about 200 other interested people on May 30. The event consisted of large poster boards with renderings of proposed changes necessitated by raising the "full pool" to 5444 feet above sea level. A description of the project can be viewed at <http://chatfieldreallocation.org/>. The "Recreation" tab provides the most insight into physical changes planned for areas that RMSKC typically uses. All facilities at Chatfield State Park will be open and unaffected during 2017.

RMSKC has previously offered comments on this project as part of the mitigation planning. We paddle at Chatfield often as a Club and as individuals; there are several areas of concern when we think about altering one of the prime paddle spots in the Front Range.

First is the importance of the water quality and ambience of **GRAVEL POND #1**, which is the site for training and skills practice. In fact, Brian conducted cold water rescue practice at Gravel Pond #1 the day before the open house. The quality of the water there is superb, since the pond is fed by groundwater infiltration from the South Platte River, which flows nearby. The plan is to retain the current water level and quality by raising a berm around the pond to isolate it from higher levels in the reservoir. In flood conditions, the berm will be overtopped and the more turbid reservoir and South Platte waters will invade (as is presently the case). When the reservoir level falls to its newly designed full pool, one-way drains will return the pond to its standard (present) level. The project designers believe that the groundwater infiltration will clear the water again.



Roxborough Cove, Summer, 2016

ROXBOROUGH COVE, where RMSKC holds PaddleFest each summer, will have to be relocated to the south as a result of the new higher pool level. The facilities there will be replaced in kind. The distance from the new parking to the water is designed to be no greater than present conditions when the reservoir is full. Because it is not certain how often the reservoir will be at full pool, carry distance to the water's edge may be longer than at present.

KINGFISHER COVE at the south end of the reservoir across Perimeter Road from Gravel Pond #1, where we most often put in for paddles on the main reservoir, will get a new parking lot and a vault toilet. The carry from the parking lot to the edge of water when the reservoir is lower than full pool may be longer than at present then the reservoir is at less than full pool.



Kingfisher Cove parking lot



Kingfisher Cove, April 2016

The area that is immediately west of Kingfisher Cove and is presently dry (except during high water conditions) will be a borrow pit for construction material for other parts of the project, and this will make the water deeper

in that area at full pool than it would otherwise be. This may help keep the distance from parking lot to the launch site relatively short.

In general, many of the trees and bushes surrounding the present Chatfield Reservoir and South Platte inlet will be removed. Riparian habitat, including feeding, resting and nesting locations for bird life will be impacted, at least initially. In fact, all of the trees and bushes seen in the photographs of RMSKC activity at Chatfield accompanying this article will be destroyed. Some riparian habitat will be restored in other locations in connection with CRRP. Water levels may fluctuate more than is presently the case. "Full pool" will be achieved only when rainfall and snowmelt allow.

Chatfield Reservoir will continue to be operated by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in conjunction with Cherry Creek and Bear Creek Reservoirs as the Tri-Lakes Project as it has been for many decades. The dam operations are coordinated to provide flood control on the South Platte below the dams and also to regulate flows to preserve existing water rights and flow in the south Platte.

The project is moving to final design. Start of construction is planned for the 4th quarter of 2017 and will be completed by the end of 2019. Construction on shore side areas that are of most concern to RMSKC are planned to take place during the winter months, when the reservoir is closed to boating activities.

For the best overview of what is planned, RMSKC members are encouraged to visit the project's website <http://chatfieldreallocation.org/recreation/>. Clark will be happy to answer additional questions or to collate concerns and issues for communication to the project designers on behalf of RMSKC.

The renderings and photo on the following page are used with permission.



The photo is oriented so that East is up. The water area, shown in blue, at the top of the rendering (east of the parking area) will hold water only when the reservoir is full. It is shallow water and may often be marshy or dry. Kingfisher Cove is across the paved road off the left (north) of the rendering.

Source: Chatfield Reservoir Mitigation Project, Inc.

<http://chatfieldreallocation.org/recreation/#gravelpond>



The orientation of the rendering is with North to the top. It shows Kingfisher Cove with the relocated parking lot and vault toilet. Water levels are shown at the new full pool of 5444'. The water shown in the lower right corner (southeast) is across from the parking area at Gravel Pond #1, which is off the rendering to the south. There will be water in this shall area south of the Perimeter Road only when the reservoir is at or near full.

<http://chatfieldreallocation.org/recreation/#kingfisher>

Seth Nehrke answers questions for Clark and Brian about modifications to parking and access at Gravel Pond #1 during the Chatfield Reservoir Reallocation Project open house at Thunder Ridge High School on May 30, 2017.



TRASH TRACKERS

TRIP 7, MAY 19 - 23

By Sue Hughes

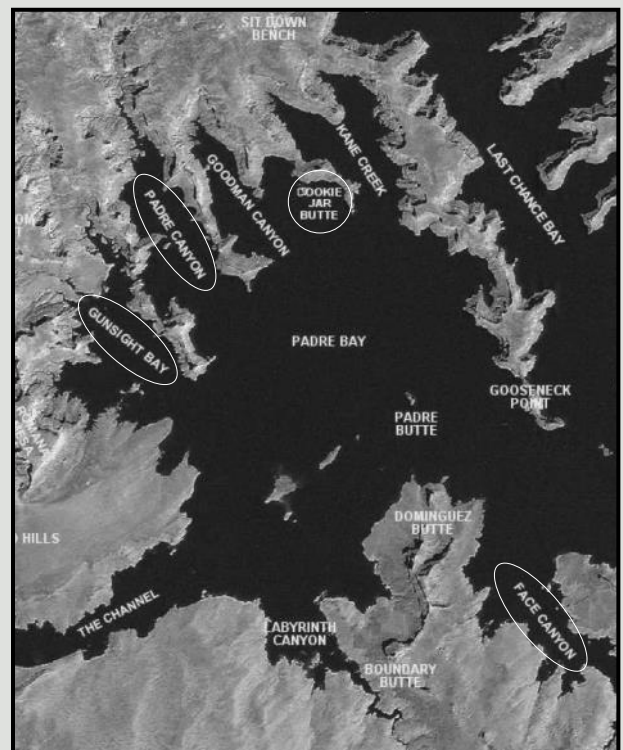
The Trash Tracker program is a joint effort between the National Park Service and Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas to clean up the 1,960 miles of the lake's shoreline. People participating in Trash Trackers become members of the NPS's Volunteer-In-Parks Program and spend five to seven days aboard a houseboat that has been donated by Aramark. Working most of each day, volunteers for the program pick up anything left behind along the shore.

I joined Trip Seven, out of the Stateline Marina just north of Wahweap near Page, Arizona. We cruised through the dredged channel to Gunsight Bay, on the west end of Padre Bay. The next days we worked the shores of Gunsight, Padre Canyon and over to the area around Cookie Jar Butte. The last day we were in Face Canyon.

I've been on three RMSKC houseboat trips and a couple of self-supported kayaking camping trips on Lake Powell. I keep coming back because I love paddling in the narrow canyons.

Most of this area is much bigger water than the places I've enjoyed; only Face Canyon would have been good for exploring by kayak. But I walked in a delightful meadow the first day and saw lots of vegetation (and some bighorn sheep poop) that I wouldn't have seen from the water. I'm happy being out-of-doors in red rocks country even without my boat.

We discovered there is a funny catch to picking up litter: if there wasn't any we were disappointed and when there was, we were proud of our efforts but mad that it was there. Oh well, we had a good time anyway.



Over the five days we filled 36 large heavy-duty bags with trash. We also collected two dozen golf balls and a huge pile of discarded wood, sun shelters, floating toys, garbage can lids, etc. Only one site was truly disgusting; most of the rest of what we found seemed left behind more from carelessness than blatant disregard.



Towing *The Eliminator* loaded with our week's collection back to the marina



Part of the pile of trash that didn't fit in the bags



A Park Service ranger drove a dumpster down to the scow and helped us unload it

If you're interested, there are trips from both Wahweap and Bullfrog. Opportunities for this season are full, but applications for next year will be accepted on the Trash Tracker website at 7:00AM on February 1, 2018.



The Trash Tracker houseboat: older but the same model as the ones RMSKC rents

Find all the details on their site: <https://www.nps.gov/glca/getinvolved/supportyourpark/trashtracker.htm>.

Also check their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=lake%20powell%20trash%20trackers>

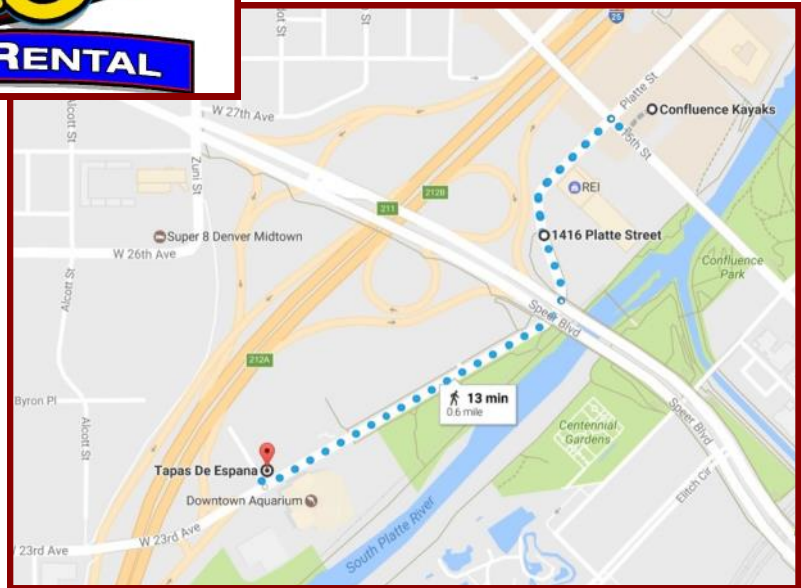
Most photos by Chris Troncoso



Our good friends at Confluence Kayaks are moving! They will hold a Grand Re-opening at their new site on June 24, 2017.

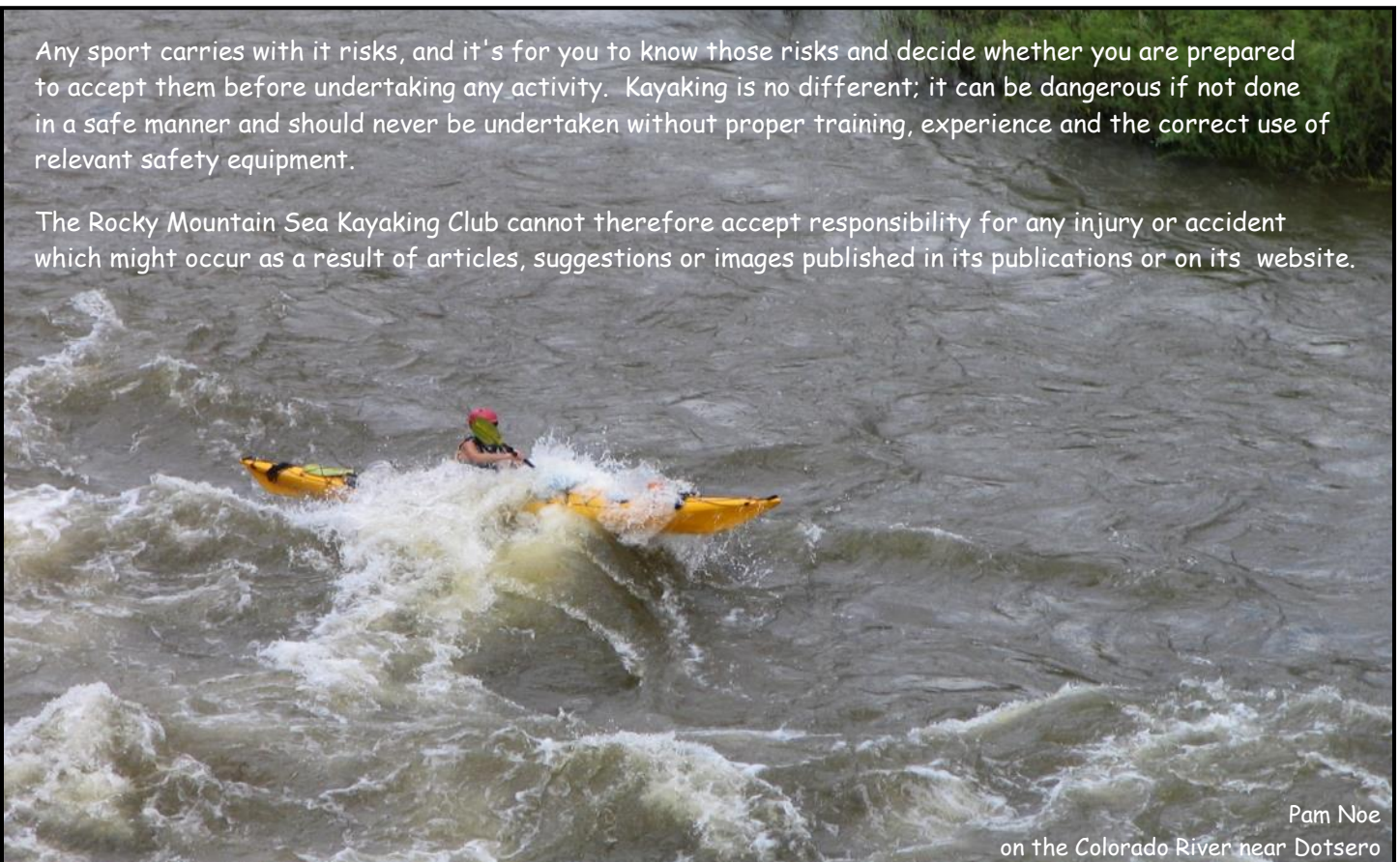
Their address will be 2301 - 7th Street. It's the old Tapas de España location that is south of the REI flagship building and viaduct, across from the Downtown Aquarium.

The new Confluence Kayaks store will feature a liquor license. Don't visit them on a paddling day until you're off the water!



Any sport carries with it risks, and it's for you to know 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 done in a safe manner and should never be undertaken 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 might occur as a result of articles, suggestions or images published in its publications or on its website.



Pam Noe
on the Colorado River near Dotsero



Brian preparing to use a heavy-duty needle and thread, and a pair of needle-nosed pliers to repair a sandal on last summer's Green River trip.

WE APPRECIATE FORESIGHT

Brian Hunter, our Safety and Instruction Coordinator, has a well-deserved reputation for being a very thorough planner and packer. He is also known for his good-humored reaction to the incessant ragging he gets about it. It's true, people who kayak or camp with him tease him about bringing everything but the kitchen sink, and then grouse about the weight of his boat when they help move it. They really, really shouldn't.

Why? Because there has *never* been a trip during which at least one of the jokesters hasn't asked to use something that Brian had the foresight to include in his kit. Smart remarks aside, we all appreciate how seriously Brian takes "Be Prepared" in both the safety trainings he organizes and in his packing for group trips.

Here's a list of what Brian's usually carrying for his personal convenience and comfort, and to be ready for almost any emergency:

REPAIR SUPPLIES

- Stainless Steel Screws
- Stainless Steel Nuts and Bolts
- Copper Wire - 3'
- Roof Patch - 4"
- Duct Tape
- Electrical Tape
- Multi-tool
- Screw Driver
- Zip Ties, Assorted Sizes
- Tent Patch Kit
- Waders Patch
- Double Sided Velcro - 24"
- PC-7 Epoxy Putty
- Needle and Thread
- Twine - 20'
- Loctite - Medium
- Eye Glasses Repair Kit
- Jet Boil Replacement Igniter

FIRST AID

- Tick Remover
- Safety Pins
- Antibacterial Ointment
- Non-Latex Gloves
- Analgesic Tablets
- Imodium
- Benadryl Tablets
- Motion Sickness Tablets
- Antacid
- Aloe
- Itch Relief Cream
- Eye Pads
- Waterproof Band-Aids
- Ace Bandage
- Gauze Tape, 2" x 6 yards
- Blister Pads
- Blood Clot Sponge 5" x 5"
- Gauze Pads, 3" x 3"
- Large Wound Pad, 8" x 8"

FIRST AID, CONT.

- Waterproof Tape, 1/2"
- Dental Repair
- Thermometer
- Lip Therapy
- Eye Drops
- Moleskin Pads
- 10cc Syringe
- Hand Sanitizer
- First Aid Book

CAMPING EQUIPMENT

- InReach Satellite Communicator
- Mobile Phone with Charger
- Whistle
- Knife
- Camera
- Flashlight, Extra Batteries
- Monocular
- Tent Top and Poles

MORE CAMPING

Tent
Tent Footprint, Poles, Stakes
Dining Fly
Water Filter
Water Flocculation Kit
Roll-up Table
Folding Chair
Bear Rope
Hiking Shoes
Dry or Wet Suit
Mosquito Suit
Extra Dry Bags
Hatchet
Toilet Seat

TOILETRIES

Toilet Paper
Tooth Brush
Tooth Paste
Flossers
Nail Clippers
Scissors
Tweezers
Lip Balm
Camp Soap
Deodorant (unscented for bears)
Camp Towel
No-Rinse Wipes
Razor
Prescription Meds
Bug Spray

FOOD PREP

Spoon
Fork
Sharp Knife
Ulu Knife
Can Opener
Corkscrew

FOOD PREP, CONT.

Scraper Spatula
Flipping Spatula
Soft Spatula
Slotted Spoon
Pot Strainer
Plate
Collapsible Cup and Bowl
Utensil Set
Jet Boil
Stand
Small Propane Fuel
Extra Fuel
Lighter
Matches
Group Stove Kit
Burn Pan
Primus Stove
Wind Screen
1.8 L Pot, Lid and Grip Handle
1.8 Liner/Bowl
9" Fry Pan
EVOO
Hand Sanitizer
Dish Soap
Stove Cleaning Tool

NIGHT TIME

Sleeping Bag
Exped or Klymit pad
Pillow
Jammies
Fingerless Gloves
Head Lamp
Nook
Pad and Pen
Music with Earbuds
Pee Bottle

KAYAK EQUIPMENT

PFD, with a whistle
Spray Skirt
Paddle and a Spare
Bow and Stern Painters
Throw Line and Tow Line
Contact Tow Line

KAYAK DECK BAG

VHF Radio
GPS
Head Lamp
Spare Batteries for everything
Water and Snacks
Glucose
TP Packet
Bug Spray
Bear Spray

HUMAN WASTE STORAGE

Wag bags
TP
Poop Tube or Marked Dry Bag

CLOTHES

Zip-leg Pants
Long Sleeve Shirts
Light Jacket and a hat
Undies, Socks, Slippers



Note Brian's cooking table, fingerless gloves and tent slippers: North Sterling Reservoir, May 2011

**MERCHANTS WHO OFFER DISCOUNTS
FOR RMSKC MEMBERS:**

- AAA INFLATABLES (dry gear, clothing, PFDs)
5610 Larimer Street, Denver
303-296-2444
- COLUMBIA RIVER KAYAKING
Skamokawa, WA, an hour from Astoria, Oregon
www.columbiariverkayaking.com
360-747-1044
- CONFLUENCE KAYAKS
2301 7th Street, Denver
303-433-3676
- GOLDEN RIVER SPORTS
806 Washington Avenue, Golden
303-215-9386
- OUTDOOR DIVAS (15%)
2317 30th Street, Boulder
303-449-3482
- RIVER MOUSE KAYAKS (Club member Ray Van Dusen)
vandusen_r@yahoo.com
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303-421-3729
- SEA KAYAK BAJA MEXICO
www.seakayakbajamexico.com

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Remember to take your
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Sea Kayak Baja Mexico
www.seakayakbajamexico.com

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- World Heritage location
- Nigel Dennis Kayaks
- Werner; Kokatat; Beale GPs
- BCU-certified leaders & coaches:
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10% Discount for RMSKC Members. 17 years experience.

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*Sales of Fine Touring Kayaks
Camping and Paddling Equipment*

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Seda		Nimbus
Chota Boots		Epic
Valley Kayaks		Snap Dragon

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