

Have you ever considered leading a trip but just weren't sure what was involved and didn't have enough information to help you get started?

Have you led a trip in the past but wonder if anything has changed? Or have you led a trip and had questions arise that you would like to discuss with someone?

# TRIP LEADER TRAINING CLASS

Taught by Jud Hurd

**HELPING NEW PEOPLE STEP BOLDLY**

**WHERE MANY HAVE GONE BEFORE**

RMSKC is always looking for more trip leaders. When several potential leaders suggested that the Club should provide training to help them become comfortable with the process, an evening session was organized and taught by our President, Jud Hurd. The goal was to cover everything a member would need to know to plan, promote and lead a day paddle or a longer trip.

The course was held March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Denver home of new members Clark and Marty Strickland, with Clark, Julie Reckart, Marlene Pakish, Mark Wiley, George Ottenhoff, Brian Hunter and Sue Hughes attending. The evening consisted of reviewing two recently updated web documents, the *Trip Leader Checklist* and the *Participant Guidelines*. The *Trip Leader Checklist* provides the information a leader needs to plan, promote and execute a paddle trip. The *Participant Guidelines* review the responsibilities of everyone on a paddle and specify what they are agreeing to when joining a Club outing. They help all paddlers have a safe and enjoyable trip; we encourage members to review them. These can be read on the RMSKC website, but everyone at the class found it helpful to discuss them and ask questions about specific topics. Of particular, and reoccurring, interest was the old question, "How do you keep a group of paddlers together?"

As Jud said when he announced the class, "The heart of the RMSKC is our paddle trips. We are grateful to members who currently lead trips and we want to do everything we can to support them. But we can't rely forever on the same people being available as trip leaders. If we don't have other members willing to step forward and fill their shoes, we will see a deterioration of our trip calendar and the eventual deterioration of the RMSKC."

He was excited to see so many new people show an interest in leading trips, and asks that the members thank them for stepping up, and encourage them to lead a trip.

On the next page are easy instructions for filling in the Trip Report so the requirements for our ACA insurance are met, and here's a link to the documents about leading and participating in RMSKC trips: <http://docs.rmskc.org/docs/RMSKCClubInfo/>



Marlene Pakish,  
George Ottenhoff and Mark Wiley