

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SEA KAYAK CLUB

PADDLING LOCATIONS

Past Trip Leaders

Anne Fiore – anne_fiore@yahoo.com;

Brian Curtiss – BCUR@me.com;

Brian Hunter – oldmanadrift@yahoo.com;

David Hustvedt – davidhustvedt@hotmail.com;

Dick Dieckman – rdieckman@comcast.net;

Gary McIntosh – garymcin@gmail.com ;

Jud Hurd – hurdofcows@q.com ;

Julie Reckart – imjulier@yahoo.com;

Larry Kline – lkline146@yahoo.com ;

Marlene Pakish – mjoycep@yahoo.com;

Sue Hughes – suehughes@yahoo.com ;

COLORADO

ARAPAHOE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Often referred to as the "Great Lakes of Colorado", this system of waterways contains five major lakes: Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain Reservoir, Monarch Lake, Willow Creek Reservoir, and Meadow Creek Reservoir.

https://www.google.com/search?q=arapaho+national+recreation+area&oq=ara&aqs=chrome.2.69i59j0j69i59j0l3&sourceid=chrome&espv=210&es_sm=122&ie=UTF-8

Lake Granby – [Larry Kline](#), [Brian Hunter](#)

Lake Granby is 7,256 acres in size when full, and is the largest of the five. It is the second largest body of water in Colorado, and offers dispersed camping opportunities along the northeast portion of the lake if you would like to get away for some peace and solitude.

Shadow Mountain Reservoir is 1,400 acres in size and connected by a canal to Grand Lake to allow kayak passage between the two.

Grand Lake is 506 acres and is the largest natural lake in Colorado.

BARR LAKE – [Anne Fiore](#)

Located just southeast of Brighton, Barr Lake offers metro paddlers a place to escape most of the crowds and noise associated with most of the Denver area reservoirs. Barr Lake is 1,937 acres in size and limits motorized boating to 10 hp or less. Half

the lake is off limits to all boating, as it is a designated wildlife refuge. Barr Lake serves as a peaceful day paddling destination with great wildlife viewing possibilities. There is an 8-mile nature trail around the lake for non-paddling companions.

BOYD LAKE – [Jud Hurd](#)

Located east of Loveland, Boyd Lake State Park has 1,700 surface-acres is open to all types of water recreation, including boating, sailing, water-skiing, fishing and swimming. Park amenities include: modern camping facilities, picnic areas, swim beach, boat ramps, showers, a bicycle/walking trail.

CARTER LAKE – [Brian Curtiss](#)

Three miles long and about one mile wide, this beautiful 1,100-acre reservoir is administered by Larimer County Open Space.

CHATFIELD RESERVOIR – [Gary McIntosh](#), [Larry Kline](#), [Brian Hunter](#)

Chatfield Creek State Park has a reservoir in southwest Denver just out of the foothills with camping facilities, paddling areas (some out of the motorboats), and nice sandy beaches.

CHERRY CREEK RESERVOIR – [Brian Hunter](#)

Cherry Creek State Park offers 880 surface acres reservoir in southeast Denver in a natural prairie environment.

COLORADO RIVER

Cisco to Hittle Bottom Is a spectacular class I, 2 day trip through desert and canyons in Utah near Arches National Park. No permit required. Put-in is at Cisco landing, south of Cisco, Utah. First night is above the Dewey Bridge. Take out just short of the Class II rapids at Hittle Bottom.

Dotsero to Bair Ranch – [Brian Curtiss](#), [Gary McIntosh](#)

Good beginner run with 3 small rapids for those with previous moving water experience. Put in is near the Dotsero exit on I-70, takeout at the Bair Ranch Rest Area.

Glennwood Canyon Grizzly Creek to Glenwood Springs – [Brian Curtiss](#), [Gary McIntosh](#)

Fruita to Westwater – [Larry Kline](#), [Dick Dieckman](#), [Anne Fiore](#)

From Fruita, Colorado to Westwater, Utah this is spectacular kayaking through Horsethief and Ruby Canyons. This is a 30 mile; trip with class I and class II water. A permit is required to camp May thru September.

CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA – [Jud Hurd](#)

Located just west of Gunnison, this system of waterways actually consists of three reservoirs: Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal Lakes.

Blue Mesa (9,000 acres) offers 96 miles of shoreline and is the largest body of water in Colorado. Paddlers can explore secluded canyons in various arms of the lake, and several boat-in campsites offer good places to camp.

Morrow Point and **Crystal Lakes**, although not nearly as large as Blue Mesa, offer a completely different kind of kayaking experience. Lying deep within the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, these two lakes are limited to hand carried craft, so there is a much greater chance for solitude. They are very narrow and have steep canyon walls rising up to 2,000 feet straight out of the water. Both of these lakes offer boat-in campsites. Be warned, however, that unpredictable fluctuating dam releases from Morrow Point and Blue Mesa Dams can make paddling to the take out spots very difficult should you attempt it at the wrong times.

DILLON RESERVOIR – [Larry Kline](#)

Beautiful mountain backdrops and only a little over an hour away from Denver, this is a popular place to paddle. Sea Kayaks can even be rented on the Frisco side of the reservoir. Dillon Reservoir is 3,300 acres in size, and jet skiers and water skiers are not allowed on the lake. A favorite launch site is near the Heaton Bay day use area, and a short paddle from there will take you to an island oasis with its own sheltered cove which is a great place on a sunny day to picnic and snooze in the sun.

ELEVEN MILE RESERVOIR

Eleven Mile Reservoir and State Park is located 38 miles west of Colorado Springs.

GREEN MOUNTAIN RESERVOIR

Green Mountain Reservoir is located in north central Colorado, in the Lower Blue River Valley, approx 70 miles west of Denver and 20 miles north of I-70 at exit 205 (Silverthorne).

GROSS RESERVOIR – [David and Lou Ann Hustvedt](#), [Rich Webber](#), [Brian Curtiss](#)

Gross Reservoir lies in the foothills above of Boulder.

GUNNISON RIVER

From Delta to Grand Junction, this 28 mile stretch of river goes through Escalante and Dominguez Canyons. Hiking opportunities reveal petroglyphs, waterfalls, and swimming holes. The water is rated class I-II, but almost entirely class I.

HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR – [Jud Hurd](#), [Brian Curtiss](#)

Located in the foothills west of Fort Collins, Horsetooth Reservoir is one of the largest front-range paddling locations. There is a daily car/boat fee but if you are willing to walk a bit, it can also be accessed from Lory State Park.

JACKSON RESERVOIR – [Jud Hurd](#), [Brian Curtiss](#)

This 2,700 acre lake is located about 70 miles northeast of Denver.

JOHN MARTIN RESERVOIR – [Jud Hurd](#)

Sometimes called a sapphire on the plains, John Martin is a peaceful paradise in which people play, birds flock and wildlife roams. The park is close to historic landmarks, yet remote enough to attract year-round nature and recreation lovers to stay and explore.

LAGERMAN RESERVOIR – [Anne Fiore](#)

On the plains southwest of Longmont is Lagerman Reservoir, a nice before or after work paddling destination. This man-made also has a seasonal osprey nest, wetlands, and a picnic site and restroom, it is also free!

LAKE ESTES

Lake Estes, spreads across 185 surface acres to the east of downtown Estes Park. Here, at the Lake Estes Marina, visitors can rent canoes, lake kayaks, motorized fishing boats, pontoon boats and paddle boats from roughly May 1 to the middle of September (depending on the weather). Once on the water, the views offer a unique perspective of the surrounding mountains and landscape. Plus, boating provides a fun way to spend a few hours or even a full day! Bring a picnic to enjoy on shore or in the boat. Fish, read, paddle or simply relax-once you're in control of the boat, the choice is yours. Explore inlets as the sun warms your back; you'll feel a million miles away from civilization even though you're in the heart of it.

LON HAGLER RESERVOIR

At 300 acres, Lon Hagler Reservoir is located in the Lon Hagler SWA. To get there from Loveland, go west on 14th St., SW to County Road 21, then 3/4 miles south (left) to County Road 16E, then 1 1/2 miles west (left) to the entrance. From the town of Campion, go 3 1/4 miles west on County Road 14, then 1 1/2 miles north (right) on County Road 21 then 1 1/2 miles west (left) to the entrance.

LONE TREE RESERVOIR – [Anne Fiore](#), [Sue Hughes](#)

At 476 acres, Lone Tree Reservoir is located in the Lone Tree SWA. To get there from Berthoud, go north on HWY 287 approximately 2 1/2 miles to Campion, turn west (left) on County Road 14 to County Road 21 (Lone tree Drive) and then one mile south (left) to the entrance.

MCINTOSH RESERVOIR – [Brian Curtiss](#), [Sue Hughes](#), [Anne Fiore](#)

Lake McIntosh is on the Northwest side of Longmont. Only carry-on, non-motorized boats are allowed. It is a great place for observing birds and a favorite RMSKC destination. There are two boat ramps, one on the north and another on the south side. There is a restroom at the north side ramp which is only open in the summer. It is free and open to the public as long as there is no ice on the water.

MCPHEE RESERVOIR

Just outside of Dolores, this 4,470 acre reservoir is approximately nine miles long with several side inlets. High speed boating is restricted to the main channel. The Beaver Creek inlet is almost eight miles in length and looks like it offers peaceful paddling.

NAVAJO RESERVOIR – [Jud Hurd](#)

Located near Arboles on the southwest border of Colorado, most of this reservoir actually lies in New Mexico. It is 15,600 acres in size, is 35 miles long, and lies in a sparsely populated area. It is larger than any body of water in Colorado.

NORTH STERLING RESERVOIR – [Jud Hurd](#)

North Sterling Reservoir is a boater's paradise with 3,000 acres of pristine waters to explore and two boat ramps to launch for fun. New visitors often become returning regulars when they discover that this large reservoir has miles of wide-open space for both quiet fishing and exciting waterskiing.

PUEBLO RESERVOIR – [Jud Hurd](#), [Anne Fiore](#)

At Lake Pueblo State Park, Pueblo Reservoir provides over 4,600 surface acres of water, 60 miles of shoreline and almost 10,000 acres of land.

RAMPART RESERVOIR

The area is located 4.2 miles east of Woodland Park on Rampart Range Road, FDR 300. According to the Forest Service's website it has been closed since the Waldo Canyon Fire

http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet!/ut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gDfxMDT8MwRydLA1cj72BTJw8jAwjQL8h2VAQAzHJMsQ!!/?ss=110212&ttyp=recarea&recid=16852&actid=29&navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&position=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&navid=110130000000000&pnavid=110000000000000&pname=PSICC+-+Rampart+Reservoir+Recreation+Area

RUEDI RESERVOIR

Ruedi Reservoir is on the Fryingpan River about 15 miles east of Basalt, Colorado and has a crest length of 1,042 feet. It is on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, where snow-capped mountain peaks reach over 13,000 feet and the thickly forested slopes provide an exceptionally beautiful background for recreation activities.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER – [Anne Fiore, Brian Curtiss](#)

Starting in the Rockies, this river flows through Denver and then heads off to join the North Platte in the northeastern corner of the state. Once it reaches the plains, the flow is quite slow and placid. The river flows through industrial areas of Denver and then transitions to a more agricultural setting. From the put-in at Veteran's Park in Brighton to the take-out at the ball fields in Ft. Lupton, previous moving water experience is recommended and there is 1 portage. The run from Evans to Kersey is more relaxed though it has 2 portages. The sections from Kersey to Kuner is a good first time experience for moving water.

STEAMBOAT LAKE – [Anna Troth](#)

Located near Steamboat, Hahn's Peak offers a stunning background to boating at Steamboat Lake State Park.

TWIN LAKES

Twin Lakes (about 1,500 acres) is located near Leadville, CO at about 9,500' in elevation

TURQUOISE LAKE

Turquoise Lake (about 3,000 acres) is located near Leadville, CO at about 9,500' in elevation

UNION RESERVOIR – [Brian Curtiss, Jud Hurd, Anne Fiore, Sue Hughes](#)

Union Reservoir is a 736 acre body of water and open to fishing, swimming, wake-less boating, camping, windsurfing and picnicking. Originally called Calkins Lake, the reservoir was carved out during the last glacial age and is one of only a few natural lakes in Colorado. In 1903, the Union Ditch Company began drilling a tunnel to release water into the St Vrain River. According to Colorado water law, that made Union a true reservoir. The Reservoir is located east of Longmont approximately 7 miles west of I-25. It is open for boating from March to early November.

UNION CHUTES – [Larry Kline](#)

WHITE RIVER

Starting from near Meeker, you can select various trip lengths ranging up to almost 100 miles in length that will lead you to the confluence with the Green River, near Ouray, Utah. The river is rated class I-II. Meadows, ranch land, canyons, and even a few arches can be seen in various stretches. One particularly popular hike goes to Goblin City, so named because of the intriguing rock formations.

YAMPA RIVER

Between Craig and Juniper Hot Springs is a 38 mile trip with easy class I water meandering through ranch land and canyons.

ALASKA

GLACIER BAY – [David Hustvedt](#)

Covering 3.3 million acres of rugged mountains, dynamic glaciers, temperate rainforest, wild coastlines, and deep sheltered fjords, Glacier Bay National Park is a highlight of Alaska's Inside Passage and part of a 25-million acre World Heritage Site – one of the world's largest international protected areas. From summit to sea, Glacier Bay offers limitless opportunities for adventure and inspiration.

MONTANA

MISSOURI BREAKS RIVER ON THE MISSOURI RIVER - [Larry Kline](#)

NEBRASKA

DISMAL RIVER – [Brian Curtiss](#)

LAKE MCCONAUGHY

Twenty-two miles long, 35,000 acres, and with 105 miles of shoreline, this is Nebraska's biggest reservoir. This lake lies eight miles northeast of Ogallala in southwestern Nebraska. It is a popular annual trip with the sea kayak club.

MERRITT RESERVOIR – [Larry Kline](#)

Merritt Reservoir is on the Snake River 14 miles upstream from the confluence of the Snake and Niobrara Rivers. Recreation is managed by Nebraska Game and Parks. The reservoir has 2,906 water surface acres, and 44 miles of shoreline.

NIORARA RIVER – [Larry Kline](#)

Seventy miles of this river has been designated by Congress as a National Scenic River. It slices through the Nebraska Sandhills, and has been referred to as "the prettiest prairie river in the United States". Several put-ins and take-outs are available but the most popular run starts just outside Valentine and runs 25 miles to Rocky Ford. There is one class II rapid at Rocky Ford, and the rest of the river has no white water at all.

UTAH

GREEN RIVER – [Gary McIntosh](#)

From the town of Green River to the confluence with the Colorado River 120 miles down river, this is one of the classic flat water trips in the West. It is all class I water, with several put-in and take-out possibilities to accommodate different lengths. The Green snakes its way through red sandstone canyons, with 70 miles of its path going through Canyonlands National Park.

RED FLEET RESERVOIR – [Brian Hunter](#)

Located ten miles from Vernal, Utah, in the northeast corner of the state, the park has dinosaur tracks and interpretation trails for kids and adults.

SAN JUAN RIVER

This is another great trip running through canyons, with some of the most dramatic canyon backdrops the West has to offer. A great trip is a 57 mile adventure from Mexican Hat to Clay Hills Crossing. The water is class I-II.

LAKE POWELL – [Dan Bell](#), [Jud Hurd](#), [Anne Fiore](#), [Larry Kline](#)

The premier reservoir in the entire western U.S. , Lake Powell is 140 miles long, with over 100 side canyons. Lake Powell has more shoreline(over 1 ,900 miles) than does all of California, Oregon, and Washington combined. You can spend a day or a year paddling here among the beautiful canyons.

WYOMING

NORTH PLATTE RIVER – [Brian Curtiss](#)

From Saratoga to Glendo State Park, the North Platte flows 195 miles lazily through ranch land, bluffs, and open meadows. Several different trips of varying lengths are possible, and the water is rated mostly class I. Two runs of note that the club has done is Saratoga to I-80 and Glendo to Guernsey.

FLAMING GORGE RESERVOIR – [Jud Hurd](#)

This twisting reservoir is 91 miles long, and lies in both Wyoming and Utah. Reportedly the best paddling lies in the southern part of the reservoir, with strong winds possible in the northern section. It takes its name from the beautiful red sandstone gorge it flows through.

GLENDO RESERVOIR

This body of water covers 12,500 acres and has 78 miles of shoreline. On the east side of the reservoir is a series of sand dunes. The hills on either side of the reservoir are studded with pines and rock outcroppings.

GUERNSEY RESERVOIR

Guernsey State Park is home to Guernsey Reservoir located on the North Platte River where there is a fine collection of historic 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps buildings. Approaching the park from the east, high bluffs surrounding the park offer the first hint of the mountains to come. The bluffs block the wind from the park area.

JACKSON LAKE

Seventeen miles long and up to 9 miles wide, Jackson Lake lies in the heart of Grand Teton National Park. Breathtaking mountain views abound, and wildlife is plentiful! and varied. Backcountry campsites are well spaced, and each contains a fire ring and a bear-proof food-storage box.

LEWIS/SHOSHONE LAKES, YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK – [Julie Reckart](#), [Marlene Pakish](#), [Larry Kline](#)

NORTH PLATTE RIVER

From Saratoga to Glendo State Park, the North Platte flows 195 miles lazily through ranch land, bluffs, and open meadows. Several different trips of varying lengths are possible, and the water is rated mostly class I.

Saratoga to I-80 - [Brian Curtiss](#)

Glendo to Guernsey – [Anne Fiore](#)

PATHFINDER RESERVOIR

Over 24 miles long, with a 117 mile shoreline and 22,012 total acres, this is another one of the large reservoirs in Wyoming.

SEMINOE RESERVOIR

A long, twisting reservoir, Seminoe covers 20,000 acres, and stretches about 30 miles. Sand dunes, high desert vegetation, and some pine and juniper trees are the rule for scenery here.

YELLOWSTONE LAKE – [Larry Kline](#)

Covering 136 square miles, with 110 miles of shoreline, 20 miles north to south and 14 miles east to west, this is North America's largest mountain lake over 7,000 feet. The three more remote southern arms of the lake are open to only self-propelled craft and give you a good chance for solitude, even in the middle of summer.