



FOUNDED 1989
ACA PADDLE AMERICA CLUB

FALL, 2020
VOL.28

THE RMSKC COVID EDITION

A YEAR'S WORTH ABOUT OUR CLUB,
OUR MEMBERS, AND PADDLING IN 2020

EDITOR'S NOTES

by Sue Hughes

RMSKC's NEWS, to catch you up on club business, and another issue or two of our famous *Mountain Paddler*, with its wonderful accounts of the paddling, done as a club or as individuals, and articles of general interest to our paddling community.

But as you've noticed, this is not a normal year, and this is the only publication 2020 will have. It's a COVID SPECIAL, sort of a combined *NEWS* and *Mtn. Paddler*. It's got information about club matters, bios of some of the new members we're looking forward to paddling with next season, paddle reports on the RMSKC outings that did happen, articles about individuals' kayaking adventures, and some news sent in by people who answered the request for updates.

Pulling this issue together made me realize how much I value my RMSKC friends. Let's work to stay safe, in touch and in shape this winter, and plan to get on the water together for sure next spring!

As you know, in a usual year we have an issue or two of

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Camping at Flaming Gorge, 2020 by Anne Fiore



George, cruising to a paddling destination on one of our Lake Powell Houseboat trips

MUSINGS FROM THE COCKPIT

By George Ottenhoff

One thing I have come to realize over the last nine months is how much I miss being and paddling with my RMSKC friends. It was great to see some of you on day paddles, but the numbers were limited, and it just was not the same. I know that many of you feel the same way. The Steering Committee (SC) really enjoyed getting together again at our recent meeting, even if it was only on Zoom, and we are excited about getting Club activities going again for the coming year. As you will read in this Newsletter, we are boldly planning an active agenda, and hoping that Covid is under control enough to safely allow us to conduct those activities. Safety remains a primary concern of our Club in all activities, and we will never conduct an activity that we think will jeopardize the health and safety of the participants.

In reading this issue I was very pleasantly surprised to learn how many new or relatively new members we have. It is unfortunate that our abbreviated schedule this year did not provide many opportunities to get to know the new members, but I urge all of us to do that in the coming year. It was also interesting to note the variety of experiences in kayaking that our new members have, from those who are new to the sport to those who have kayaked for years in many different places. We welcome all of our new members, and hope to be able to enrich your kayaking experience at whatever level you may be. We welcome our new Texan members from the Houston Association of Sea Kayakers (HASK) who enjoyed paddling in Colorado in the summer. We always appreciate opportunities to develop relationships with kayak clubs in different parts of the country.

In reading the biographies of members, I was struck by the fact that we have Club members who have kayaked in places all around the United States, and in other parts of the world. We would certainly like to take advantage of your experiences, and we invite you to propose trips for the Club to locations you have enjoyed paddling. We are always looking for new places to go. Contact Sandy Carlsen, our Paddling Coordinator, or any member of the SC with your ideas. We will be more than happy to assist you in trip planning; you do not have to do it all yourself. [Steering Committee members' contact information is on page 5.]

As reported in this Newsletter, Covid has forced the Steering Committee begin meeting by Zoom. As we thought more about it, we realized that necessity is indeed the mother of invention, and that meeting by Zoom offers at least two new opportunities. First, it will allow Club members who would like to observe or participate in SC meetings to do so without having to drive to the meeting place, which was also often in tight quarters. In the future we will announce SC meetings in advance to the entire membership. If you would like to join a Zoom meeting, contact me so that I can send you an invitation to join the meeting.

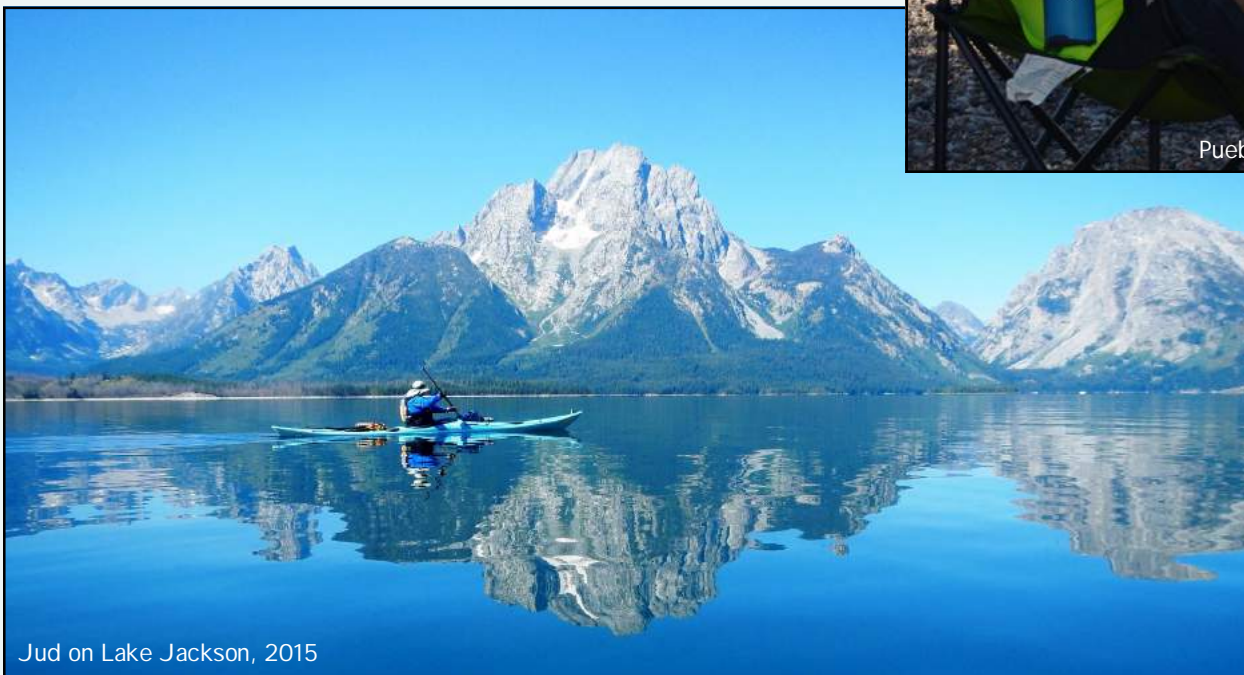
Second, meeting by Zoom will allow members who live outside the greater Denver metro area to serve on the Steering Committee. In the past, when all meetings were held in person, it was unreasonable to expect someone to drive several hours to attend a one to two hour meeting. Since location is no longer an obstacle, I urge all of you to consider volunteering to serve on the SC when the call for nominations is made next October. We need new blood and faces on the SC. And who knows, we might have a real election for a change.

Speaking of old faces, I cannot finish without expressing our deep gratitude to Jud Hurd for his many years of service to the Club. Jud has served in several capacities, including president and paddle coordinator, and has been a real stalwart in organizing or helping to organize trips, almost certainly more than anyone in the last decade. He has also been a houseboat captain on most of the Lake Powell houseboat trips and proofread all the RMSKC publications for years.

Jud has moved up the road to Cheyenne, and has resigned from the SC. He has promised, though, that he will still participate in some overnight trips, and may even help organize a trip or two. We will certainly miss you, Jud, and wish you the very best.



Pueblo, 2017



Jud on Lake Jackson, 2015

SAFETY ADVISORY: RMSKC requires that all participants wear PFDs and paddle boats with safety features. In addition, the club will, until further notice, only schedule events that can be held safely following the Covid social-distancing suggestions.

Another reminder for the future when we're back outside on the water: visit your dermatologist and wear sun screen as religiously as your PFD. Most of us have been playing outdoors for years, and skin cancers can be disfiguring or even potentially life-threatening.



Unidentified RMSKC nose

STEERING COMMITTEE NEWS

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING BY ZOOM, DECEMBER, 2020

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS: George reported that since his call for nominations had produced no responses it was agreed that Sandy Carlsen would be asked to serve the remainder of Jud's term as Paddle Coordinator, and Clark Strickland would be nominated for Secretary; the rest of the SC will continue in their positions. In lieu of voting on this at the Winter Party 2021, which is unlikely to be held, the slate was adopted unanimously by the Board. Contact information for the new Steering Committee is at the end of this section; biographies of new and returning Steering Committee members begin on page 6.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Hustvedt shared the bank statement through November. The account has no changes through December. We've received money from contributions and sales of donated gear, which will go to the Memorial Safety and Education Fund, and we've paid for our ACA club membership and for stickers. ACA has been paid through November 2021. Totals for the club's finances through 2020 are on page 9.

MEMBERSHIP: Marsha Dougherty reported we've gotten lots of new members in 2020; you can read some of their biographies starting on page 10. She will check on people who are not current with their ACA membership and will update the ACA membership procedures on the RMSKC website.

ACA AFFILIATION AS A REQUIREMENT FOR RMSKC MEMBERSHIP: It was noted that ACA has increased its dues to \$40 per person from \$25 per person and abolished their Family Membership. This raised many questions: Will this cause members to drop out RMSKC if they are unwilling to sign up with ACA? What is the benefit of ACA? We've always said it's their insurance, but is it worth it? Has there ever been a claim? [Paddle America Club status requires reporting to ACA. RMSKC cannot be an ACA organization if we let non-ACA members participate.]

Jim Dlouhy invited Karen, his wife who is an insurance industry professional, to join the meeting. Karen said that the damages in an insurance claim are often less of a concern than the legal cost of the defense of the claim.

It was decided that Clark would get a copy of the ACA policy and forward it to Karen; George will check with the supplier that Karen and Jim use for his insurance on his kayak instruction business; and the Steering Committee will meet by ZOOM in January to discuss ACA and their insurance further.

ONSHORE PLANS: Clark will organize a ZOOM annual meeting, probably in February at a time that does not conflict with football playoffs. Sue will send a PowerPoint of RMSKC's best paddling photos from the last decade; this slide show could be the content of the ZOOM Annual Supper Meeting. Non-members will be welcome.

Onshore Coordinator Tim Fletcher suggested that this might be a good year to skip PaddleFest. He reminded the SC that we'd have to pay for liability insurance to reserve a group location at a state park, perhaps before we'd know about the likelihood of being able to get together next summer. It was something to consider, but there was a consensus to wait on this decision until the spring.

STEERING COMMITTEE NEWS, CONT.

INSTRUCTION AND SAFETY: Brian and Jim reported that the pool sessions in early 2020 were well attended and helpful for developing skills in members who were at the five sessions before the pool closed. They do not expect the pool to be open this winter. Several SC members suggested that we should concentrate more on rescues, especially in wind and waves. Marsha suggested that we practice rafting up in wind and waves to promote that technique for safety in a blow. Several SC members said we should practice complex scenarios.

2020 PADDLE REPORT: Jud's summary of 2020's paddles is on page 22; there were more than we'd realized.

PLANNING FOR 2021: Our new Paddle Coordinator, Sandy Carlsen, suggested that we continue the two daytime paddles per month at Chatfield and two evening paddles at McIntosh. Starting in May, these will be on alternate weeks of the month, with the days of the week to be determined by the trip leaders. The Full Moon paddle will be July 24, 2021. A Grand Teton group paddle similar to the design of the trip in 2015 will be planned for mid-July. Sue will organize a houseboat trip during the 3rd week in September, with spaces reserved for HASK members. Dave is considering a weekend paddle at Seminoe Reservoir in Wyoming and one or two trips to Alaska. Tim will plan a Canyonlands trip for late August or early September. And, of course, there are the perennial rumblings about a trip to someplace warm. Winter 2022 isn't that far off, maybe Puerto Rico?

MISCELLANEOUS: Brian and Jim asked if RMSKC should require proof of vaccinations. The SC agreed to wait on this until more is known about the effects of the Covid-19 vaccine.

President Ottenhoff noted that our by-laws state that all RMSKC members can attend SC meetings. The SC discussed publicizing them in advance so people can be sent the log-in information for our Zoom meetings.

STEERING COMMITTEE CONTACT INFO

PRESIDENT:	George Ottenhoff	970-351-6968	ghocolo@gmail.com
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STEERING COMMITTEE BIOS

SANDY CARLSEN, our new Paddle Coordinator, lives in Lafayette with her husband, Harold Christopher.

In her 2015 bio as a new member she said, "I first started sea kayaking the beautiful lakes in the southeast about twelve years ago when I was living in South Carolina. I also enjoyed several 4-5 day ocean trips to barrier islands off the coasts of Georgia and Florida. I especially liked Cumberland Island, which has lots of wildlife including wild horses. Before moving to Colorado, Harold and I lived in Spokane, Washington, and we paddled in that area, too."

They also bike and hike, and have taken the part of the RMSKC mission statement about finding new paddle companions to heart. She led many paddles to Chatfield, Cherry Creek and Gross Reservoirs and Carter Lake with Tim Fletcher this summer, and she and Harold have done multi-day biking trips with Tim and with Gregg Goodrich, and camping trips to Flaming Gorge with Anne Fiore and Gary Cage.



Sandy hiking with their new pup, Maya



Clark, grinning after a windy paddle on the Hudson River

CLARK STRICKLAND is returning to the Steering Committee as the Secretary. He and his wife, Marty, joined RMSKC in 2011; their new member information is on the website in *The News* (19-2a).

He's served as Membership Coordinator and President, has set up our Google Group and organized our RMSKC t-shirt orders. He's led local paddles, and memorable trips to Maine and the Hudson River Valley, and is a certified Lake Powell houseboat captain.

GEORGE OTTENHOFF, our President, had previously been Secretary for several years. He and his wife, Jen, have been on most of the Powell houseboat trips. George has joined all of RMSKC's Green and Colorado River trips and several of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska trips. He is currently busy trying to retire from his law practice. His full bio is in *The NEWS*, Early Spring 2015 (23-1a).



George on an early Lake Powell trip

MORE STEERING COMMITTEE BIOS



Marsha making notes, somewhere on Lake Powell

MARSHA DOUGHERTY, who keeps track of Membership for us, has paddled and canoed for years, with RMSKC and the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club. She's one of the club's "Most Frequent Paddlers" every year, and a frequent trip leader. She owns a growing collection of boats, and does her own repair work. A bio when she first joined the SC can be found in *The News* (27-1a).

TIM FLETCHER, our Onshore Coordinator, is retired from Union Pacific railroad. He canoes and camps with his wife and a group of friends, and has paddled with RMSKC on Lake Powell and Alaska. He's led at least five RMSKC river trips out of Moab on the Green and the Colorado and volunteers with the Girl Scout boating program every summer. His motto is, "Slow is smooth and smooth is fast." Read more about Tim in *The News*, Spring 2016 (24-1a).



Tim Fletcher on Jackson Lake in the Tetons



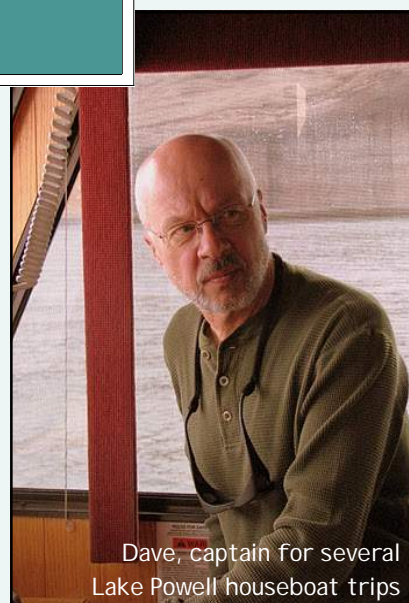
Andy at Multi-Club, 2016

RMSKC's webmaster, **ANDY MCKENNA**, works full time, raises two teenagers with his wife Dawn, and still finds time to kayak and even write an article for the *Mountain Paddler* once in a while.

He got his start in a boat that had belonged to Jud Hurd, which Brian Hunter helped him buy at a swap meet at Confluence Kayaks. He's gone to the Lumpy Waters symposium in Oregon several times, and practices at the pool in the winter and Standley Lake in the summer. Read more details in *The News*, Winter 2017-2018 (26-1a). Read about Lumpy Waters in the Fall 2019 *Mountain Paddler* (27-2b).

STEERING COMMITTEE BIOS, CONT.

DAVE HUSTVEDT, our Treasurer shared the Onshore Coordinator position with his wife Lou Ann, in the years before she died. He lives in the mountains west of Boulder with his daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren in the house that Lou Ann built. He sings in his church choir, hunts and fishes, and plans trips to Alaska. He's written an article about his preparations for paddling the Inside Passage in this issue; his full bio is in *The NEWS*, Fall 2011 (19-1a).



Dave, captain for several Lake Powell houseboat trips



Sue at PaddleFest

SUE HUGHES, RMSKC Editor, loved canoeing at Girl Scout camp. She took a guided trip to Baja the year before she retired, and then bought a boat, went to lessons on the west coast, joined RMSKC and took Larry Kline's Kayak Camping class in 2008. Read about that in one of the first issues she worked on: *Fall, 2008* (16-3). She likes formatting publications more than quilting: less mess and print is easier to control than fabric. Read other details in *The Mountain Paddler*, Winter 2008-2009 (17-1).

JIM DLOUHY, in charge of RMSKC's Safety and Instruction, has years of teaching experience: high school PE, gymnastics, all sorts of skiing, and kayaking. He has his ACA Instructor Certificate Level 3, owns a fleet of more than a dozen boats and teaches for the Longmont Recreation Department. You can read all about Jim's background in an article about his many careers in the Summer 2019 *Mountain Paddler* (27-1b).



Jim paddling at Carter Reservoir



FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR 2020

Dave Hustvedt,
Treasurer

ITEM	AMOUNT
BEGINNING BALANCE, January 2020	\$6586.46
REVENUE	
Members' dues	\$520.00
Misc. donations	\$50.00
Sale of donated gear	\$73.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$642.00
EXPENSES	
ACA insurance and dues	\$130.00
Website	\$465.61
RMSKC stickers	\$232.84
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$828.45
ENDING BALANCE, December 2020	\$6401.01

TREASURER'S NOTE: \$2017 of the total \$6401 in the club's account is in our *Memorial Safety and Education Fund*, which was started with a donation from Mark Wier's heirs in 2017. Since then, money from this fund has supported clinics by Wayne Horodowich, and other instruction. Donations, and funds from the sale of donated gear, have increased this Fund every year; \$123 was added in 2020. Because of our reduced opportunity for in-person instruction, no money was spent from the Fund this year.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR:

Lots of people have joined RMSKC since we last published the names of new members.

Some of them paddled with us this summer, and some sent in biographical information about themselves. Some are long-time paddlers, others are hoping to learn more and maybe get pointers from the club.

Although there probably won't be pool sessions in January of 2021, we're all eager to be on the water and get to know them when the outdoor season starts.

Please remember that RMSKC membership requires keeping an up-to-date membership in ACA and having a yearly signed waiver in our club's file. Email me if you have any questions: marsha5847@gmail.com



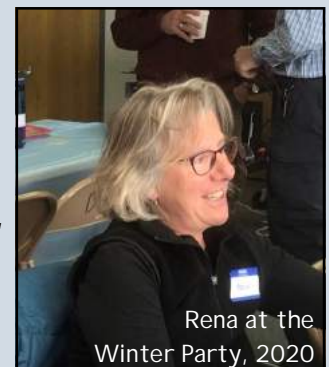
- **CHRIS ARCENEUX**, who's a HASK member from Kingwood, Texas: Chris is active in HASK, and cooked a wonderful crayfish boil for the RMSKC group that went to Houston in 2019. He also paddled with a group on Chatfield in 2019, and is hoping that the joint RMSKC-HASK houseboat trip on Lake Powell happens this coming summer.



Chris at his crayfish boil in Texas

- **RENA BLOOM** from Boulder: "I'm married to Jacob Schor who joined RMSKC last year. Jacob grew up paddling a canoe. I went to Girl Scout camp where we did occasional floating breakfasts on the camp lake, my only paddling experience until recently.

"We are in the process of retiring, and looking forward to some outdoor fun together. Last summer I learned to paddle a sea kayak on Cherry Creek reservoir, definitely a beginner. Luckily I love water, and this is an interesting change from swimming!" [Rena took one of Wayne Horodowich's classes and attended the 2020 Winter party. She wrote a wonderful description of life in their Maine cabin during a nor'easter on page 39.]



Rena at the Winter Party, 2020

- **JEAN AND DAVID GANTZER** from Longmont: The Gantzers paddled with the club at the After-Work paddles on McIntosh several times this summer. They sent a photo from paddling near their previous home in Woodstock, Georgia. Jean has sold that sleek Greenland-style Japanese boat and now paddles an NDK *Pilgrim Expedition*.



Dave is paddling a Tiderace Excite; Jean's kayak is a Waterfield, a boat from Japan.

- **BROOKIE GALLAGHER AND LINDSAY MEEKS** from Boulder: "We are also interested in going back to the 10,000 Islands/Everglades. We took a short trip in the 10,000 Islands a number of years ago—one of our first sea kayak trips—when we lived in Georgia. We talk about going back."

Brookie and Lindsay were RMSKC members about a decade ago; we're glad to have them back. They attended the Winter Party, practiced in the pool and paddled with RMSKC this summer at Carter and Gross. They are also both listed as contributors to the Okefenokee Swamp section of *Canoeing and Kayaking Georgia* by Welander and Schlinger!



Lindsay, paddling one of Ray Van Dusen's boats that he bought from Kathleen Ellis



Brookie, at Gross Reservoir

- **PAM AND JIM GRANGE** from Greenwood Village: Jim and Pam have lived in Colorado for almost 40 years. They have always loved water sports from canoeing to rafting and kayaking. Jim wrote, "We're recently retired and ready for life to open up again so we can meet others in the club."



Jim and Pam Grange

- **CHRIS AND AMANDA HALL** from Mead: Chris practiced at the pool and paddled at Gross and McIntosh; Amanda joined him at McIntosh, too.

- **BETH AND MIKE HICKMAN** from Lakewood: The Hickmans have paddled off and on for years; they just bought new boats before Covid hit; they're hoping to get out more next season.

- **KATHY FLETCHER** (Tim's wife) from Lakewood: Kathy helps host the Winter Party each year and canoes with Tim in the summer. Tim has a wonderful story about how he met her on a canoe trip; or maybe it's how she met him!



Hickmans' new boats

- **JANET AND TRACY HAYES** from Estes Park: Janet and Tracy paddle with the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club. While they were on an RMCC trip in Montana they heard about Jud's trip to Bighorn Canyon Lake in 2018 from Karen Amundson. When they got home they sent him an account of their paddling there. Tracy often posts reports to the RMCC site, but the Montana report's not there yet.

They also paddled Lake Powell this summer, from Halls Crossing up the Escalante arm until they ran out of water and back again, of course.

He's written a report of a 2019 trip to the Okefenokee Swamp and the Suwanee River that's on the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club website: <http://rockymountaincanoeclub.net/2019/11/30/trip-report-okefenokee-national-wildlife-refuge-the-swamp-and-suwanee-river-2019/>



Tracy and Janet Hayes
in Exuma, Bahamas, January 2020

- **PATRICK REARDON** from Thornton: "I started my career in the U.S. Navy as an electronics engineer maintaining various shipboard communication and radar equipment traveling most of Asia, Australia and Africa. After that, I ended up in Silicon Valley working for technical companies in the areas of chip design and testing, graphics design and data center architectures. During that time, I moved into the technical education field where I became a Technical Learning Architect/Instructor designing and teaching data-center architectures and cloud orchestration.

"I met my wife Donna in San Diego while I was in the Navy. We've been together 38 years and enjoy fine dining, and traveling. I'm still employed at a technical company teaching over WebEx and ZOOM from my home in Thornton.

"I'm a talker, and love to try new and adventurous things. New to me would be to listen and learn about bird watching, learn Spanish and Italian, and see the world from the perspective of a kayak. I enjoy nature, and hiking and now kayaking. I've always liked to watch sunsets at the beach, so it's time to get back to the water.

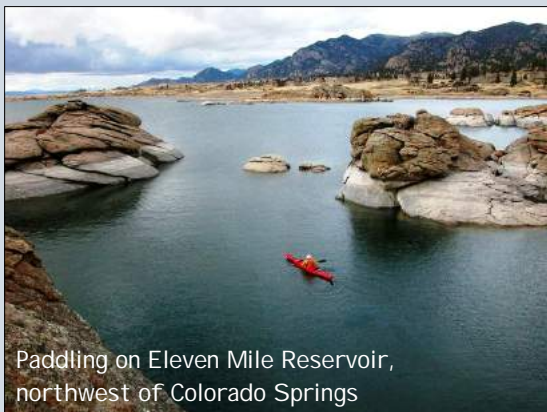
"While hiking at Gross Reservoir, I noticed a handful of kayaks parked at the water's edge and inquired about them. They looked sleek and I could tell paddling in one of them would be something I would enjoy. After inquiring, Marsha let me know about the RMSKC and invited me to sign up and attend an event. She was also kind enough to let me paddle in one of her kayaks, and now I'm very interested in this new hobby and meeting new adventurous people." [Patrick joined RMSKC paddles at McIntosh and Chatfield this summer; he says he's looking forward to paddling the *Chatham 17* carbon fiber boat he bought from Jud.]



Patrick Reardon

- **ERIC SMITH** from Boulder: Eric was at the pool this winter three times, for practice and a Safety and Skills Assessment. He was also signed up for the 2020 Moonlight Paddle. Hopefully, he'll put July 24, 2021 on his calendar.

- **ROGER SPAULDING** from Colorado Springs: I am 67. I've been kayaking (various aspects of the sport) for about fifteen years. I started with sea kayaking, then moved into whitewater as well. Lately, I've been doing more and more with an inflatable kayak. I find IKs to be the easiest means for multi-day trips, particularly on desert rivers. This past summer he "...took a trip over the handlebars on my mountain bike and separated a shoulder, so no kayaking for me in the short term." He was scheduled for reconstructive shoulder surgery this fall.



Paddling on Eleven Mile Reservoir, northwest of Colorado Springs



Roger in the Northwest Territories, 2013

- **DAVE STALLS** from Denver: Dave hadn't river kayaked for years and contacted RMSKC for advice on getting a large volume sea kayak that would have the back support he needed. He was very enthusiastic about the responses and help he got from members. He paddled Marsha's *Chatham* at Chatfield with the club, and tried her *Telkwa Sport* by Nimbus and Tim's *Delta 17* there. He also checked out Brian's *Kodiak 17*, made by Prion.



Dave at Chatfield, 2020

- **LESLIE TAYLOR**, HASK member from Houston, Texas: Leslie joined RMSKC because she was spending the summer in Colorado to be near her son and his family, and was hoping to be on the 2020 Powell Houseboat trip.

Sadly, her cabin near Ft. Collins burned in the Cameron Peak fire; the details are in *Member News* near the end of this issue. [She said to publish this photo only with the disclaimer that it is NOT proper kayak loading for rough water.]



Leslie with her son on the paddleboard behind her and her grandkids: why she'll be back in Colorado next summer

- **KENT WALTERS**, HASK member from Houston, Texas: "While a Boy Scout in the '60s, my troop built five fiberglass canoes which we paddled on the Colorado River and surfed in the beaches of Southern California. That's where my on-again, off-again relationship with paddle power has its roots. Now I just enjoy getting on the water with other folks who enjoy the same thing.

"In other chapters of my life, I have been a scoutmaster, rock climber, backpacker, mountain climber, water-skier, surfer, front man in a rock band, instructor, missionary, engineer, paraglider, father of four, grandfather to 13, and husband to 1. I lived on a boat in the San Francisco Bay for a year, in Spain for two years, and have visited many countries in Asia and Western and Central Europe with my jobs, along with Russia, Mexico and Egypt for pleasure. It's been a pretty full life, and it's not slowing down. I am currently a Toshiba HDD engineer supporting HPE in Houston.

"Back to the paddling topic, I enjoy the peace and scenery of the bayous, and I love the flow and features of rivers. I found that I am not a big fan of distance racing; paddling in the dark and in icy conditions in the Texas Winter 100 helped me form this opinion. I have enjoyed the limited sea kayaking I have done, but I prefer the more intimate connection with land and scenery. I enjoy riffles and Class 1-3 rapids quite a bit, and I especially enjoy the "mini expedition" paddles in West Texas (Big Bend and Pecos River) and the Buffalo River in northern Arkansas.



Kent Walters

"My "card-carrying" relevant memberships include ACA, Houston Canoe Club, Houston Association of Sea Kayakers, Katy Canoe and Kayak Club, Arkansas Canoe Club, American Whitewater, and now the Rocky Mountain Sea Kayaking Club. I am in charge of safety boats for the Buffalo Bayou Regatta this year, aka the biggest and craziest race in Texas.

"I have owned and paddled a large variety of kayaks and canoes, but today you will find me in one of two boats:

- A red Native *Ultimate 14.5* hybrid (could be a low-freeboard canoe or an open-deck kayak), which I bought to replace my beloved Jackson *Karma RG* for its convenience and capacity on the progressive camping trips I enjoy so much. (I would have kept the *Karma*, but my wife limits me to two boats max.)
- An Epic 16' sea kayak with a red deck and white hull, for paddling with HASK and so smooth on the bayous, lakes and the less rocky East Texas rivers."

OTHER MEMBERS NEW IN 2020 ARE:

- **TIM BOONSTRA** from Aurora [Tim paddled with us at McIntosh in 2019, and sent in a wonderful photo...so I guess we shouldn't call him a "new" member.]
- **SALLY JANE EDSALL** from Canon City
- **JULIE NASTER AND ROBERT FREY** from Nederland
- **ROB OSTERBURG** from Denver



Tim's photo of McIntosh Lake at the end of an After-Work paddle in 2019

Most of the Steering Committee arrived between 1:00 and 1:30 to help set up, and the members came in promptly for the 2:00 starting time.

Everyone visited and looked at gear that was for sale or had been donated to benefit the Memorial Safety and Instruction Fund.

2020 WINTER POTLUCK AND CLUB MEETING

JANUARY 18, 2020
ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH



Dick Dieckman, Sandy Carlsen, Marsha Dougherty,
Gary McIntosh, Jim Dlouhy, Tim Fletcher and Rina Bloom

The buffet began about 2:30 after all the food had arrived. There was a 13 pound ham, several potato and macaroni casseroles and lots of delicious salads. The other offerings rounded out the menu very well.

As the SC had planned, there was more time for visiting than we've allocated in the past and people enjoyed that.

It was a big crowd of 32, with several new members who seemed to feel well-included.

It was a special treat to see

Gary McIntosh! Another treat was Jim Leggitt's video of his trip to the Tetons which he showed to a small group; his photography was spectacular and it was too bad we hadn't projected it for everyone to see.

After lunch President George Ottenhoff led a short club meeting:

- There was a voice vote to approve the slate of officers. Jim Dlouhy will be taking over as Safety and Instruction Coordinator, but Brian Hunter will work with him this year. The rest of the officers will continue in their positions for the upcoming year. Brian was thanked and heartily applauded for his years of work organizing and teaching skills, and working to keep us aware of the issues we need to consider to keep ourselves safe.
- Dave Hustvedt gave a Treasurer's Report which summarized our finances in 2019. The highlights were that the Memorial Safety and Instruction Fund subsidized a First Aid class in the spring and lessons with Wayne Horodowich in the summer. Primarily because of those expenses, our total conjoining the two accounts is down about \$500 from 2018.
- Marsha Daugherty reported on membership, which stands at 69. She encouraged members to renew using paper waivers of liability which were available at the meeting. ACA no longer has a Family Membership category, but RMSKC does: it's ten dollars for an individual, housemate or the whole family.

- Jud presented a tally of the numbers for 2019's outings [details on the next page] and presented Brian Hunter, who had participated in 17 club events, with the *Top Paddler 2019* award. He introduced a list of plans for 2020, with the disclaimer that changes may be made, and asked members to consider suggesting activities they'd like to see developed and to consider leading trips. Additional ideas were proposed: the Tetons, the Colorado River for white water practice, and a second trip to Maine.
- Jim Dlouhy and Brian Hunter talked about their plans to provide voluntary skills assessments according to an organized curriculum. This training and demonstration of skills can be used by members to build confidence and to communicate with other club members about the skills and techniques that they have demonstrated, and will be useful to determine whether a given RMSKC trip would likely be appropriate for their personal skill level. The assessments and trainings will take place during winter pool sessions and then outdoors on open water during the paddling season.



Dave Hustvedt and Jud Hurd



Rena Bloom and Jacob Schor



Julie Pfannenstien,
Anna Troth and Gregg Goodrich



Griselle and Chris Duval

MEMBERS AT THE WINTER PARTY

Karen Amundsen, Sandy Carlsen and Harold Christopher, Richard Dieckman, Jim and Karen Dlouhy, Marsha Dougherty, Chris and Griselle Duval, Joy Farquhar, Tim, Kathy and Ben Fletcher, Brookie Gallagher and Lindsey Meeks, Gregg Goodrich and Anna Troth, Sue Hughes, Brian Hunter, Jud Hurd, Jim Leggitt, Gary McIntosh, Marlene Pakish, Julie Pfannenstien, Jacob Schor and Rena Bloom, Suzanne Russo, Eric Smith, Clark Strickland, Rich Webber and George and Jen Ottenhoff

DATA FROM THE 2019 SEASON

Compiled and Presented at the January 2020 Winter Party
by Jud Hurd, Paddle Coordinator

2019 was a busy year for RMSKC, with 34 scheduled activities including ten Chatfield Wednesday Mornings, seven After-Work paddles at McIntosh, two Wayne Horodowich sessions and a First Aid for Paddlers course. In total over the season we had 53 club members, and a handful of guests, who participated in at least one event. The total was 200 paddle days.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE 2019 CLUB PADDLES

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ▫ 59 — Chatfield Wednesdays | ▫ 7 — Mudhen at McIntosh Lake |
| ▫ 36 — McIntosh Tuesdays | ▫ 7 — Hudson River-Long Island Tour |
| ▫ 16 — Wayne Horodowich Classes | ▫ 6 — Lake Pueblo |
| ▫ 11 — Barr Lake Birding | ▫ 6 — Houston with HASK |
| ▫ 11 — Horsetooth Paddle and Lunch | ▫ 5 — Full Moon at Cherry Creek |
| ▫ 10 — PaddleFest | ▫ 4 — Barr Lake Cleanup |
| ▫ 9 — Gross Reservoir Opening Day | ▫ 3 — Girl Scout Family Introduction |
| ▫ 8 — Green River Camping | ▫ 2 — Glacier Bay, Upper East Arm |

2019'S MOST FREQUENT PADDLERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| ▫ 17 — Brian Hunter | ▫ 7 — Jim Dlouhy |
| ▫ 16 — Marsha Dougherty | ▫ 6 — Jud Hurd |
| ▫ 13 — Sue Hughes | ▫ 6 — Joy Farquhar |
| ▫ 11 — Sandy Carlsen | ▫ 5 — David Hustvedt |
| ▫ 11 — Harold Christopher | ▫ 5 — Karen Dlouhy |
| ▫ 10 — Clark Strickland | ▫ 5 — Daniel Downs |
| ▫ 10 — Stephen Tomchek | ▫ 5 — Jacob Schor |
| ▫ 7 — Tim Fletcher | ▫ 5 — Von Fransen |

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here's an accounting of the many club, or club-related paddles that happened this year, even though Covid changed so many things.

The section beyond this is a list of paddles that had been planned but were cancelled, with some photos from previous years to remind you of the fun, and to whet your appetite for the upcoming season. Ideas for 2021 are already being discussed; see page 5 for early details.

THE 2020 SEASON

- **POOL PRACTICE AT MEYERS POOL:** Jim Dlouhy and Brian Hunter ran five of these successful and well-attended sessions, teaching and assessing skills before the pool was closed in mid-March. Members who attended at least once were: Rich Webber, Tim Fletcher, Gary McIntosh, Brookie Gallagher, Eric Smith, Lindsay Meeks, Jud Hurd, Joy Farquhar, Phil Sidoff, Marsha Dougherty, Karen Dlouhy, Chris Hall, Julie Pfannenstein, Clark Strickland, Andy McKenna, and Dan Downs.
- **TUESDAY BI-MONTHLY EVENING PADDLES AT LAKE MCINTOSH IN LONGMONT:** These paddles happened! They were postponed until June, but then ran through August. They usually had a short instructional topic presented by Jim Dlouhy and, for most of the summer, they put in at the east end of the lake because the normal launch area was so bustling with standup paddle-boarders. People who paddled at Mac over the course of the summer were: Jim and Karen Dlouhy, Anne Fiore and Gary Cage, Jud Hurd, Clark Strickland, Joy Farquhar, George Ottenhoff, Leslie Taylor, Harold Christopher, Patrick Reardon, Chris and Amanda Hall, Jean and Dave Gantzer, and Marsha Dougherty. Jim sent this report about the first evening on the water:



MCINTOSH LAKE PADDLE REPORT: On Tuesday, June 9, RMSKC members Jim and Karen Dlouhy, Marsha Dougherty, Joy Farquhar and Leslie Copeland Taylor braved the wind and waves for the first McIntosh Lake After-Work paddle of the season. Leslie is a club member who lives in Texas but is spending the summer at her place here in the mountains. They were joined by new members Dave and Jean Gantzer who recently moved to Longmont from Georgia.

The group put in shortly after 6:00PM at the east end of the lake and headed west into a strong headwind and big waves. Marsha's kayak was being blown around by the wind and kept ending up sideways so she turned around and went back. The rest of them continued on to the west end of the lake where they found a sheltered area and took a break.

While they were talking they noticed someone paddling toward them and were surprised to see it was Marsha. She had gone back to her car and loaded her boat with about fifteen pounds of ballast: water, soda pop, and various items from her trunk. They were amazed at how quickly she got back to the group in the conditions.

After a short rest, the group let the wind and waves take them back to the put in. It was the closest thing to surfing that can be found on McIntosh! Everyone agreed it was a fun evening with a good group of strong paddlers.

Marsha added, "That was my *Chatham 18*, which likes to have weight in the front hatch. Mostly I have paddled that boat loaded for camping; in Canada it was fine in the wind and waves. I guess I'll have to put a note on the seat so I remember to add ballast if I'm not carrying lots of gear."

- **MORNINGS AT CHATFIELD:** These paddles, originally bi-monthly on Wednesday mornings, were also cancelled for May. They returned in June, usually scheduled for Monday mornings or other venues, when people realized that paddling could be done safely. The group stayed six feet apart, wore masks and used hand sanitizers, didn't sit too close together at lunch and had some beautiful paddling days!

The first of these paddles, led by Sandy Carlsen and Tim Fletcher, was from Kingfisher Cove; they were able to get parking spots but found the launch really crowded. Sandy reported that they saw two bald eagles and many other birds and waterfowl.

After that, the Chatfield paddles met at Eagle Cove, at least four or five more times this summer. It had plenty of parking and more room for social distancing when launching. Sandy thought it was less populated after the swim beach opened, and they preferred it to the Kingfisher put-in where, with Chatfield's low water level, they would have had to pull their boats across the mud for a long way.

Members who joined them at some time over the summer at Chatfield were: Harold Christopher, Rich Webber, Dave Stalls, Dick Dieckman, Gary McIntosh, Joy Farquhar, Marsha Dougherty, Leslie Taylor, and Patrick Reardon.



Harold and Tim



Tim Fletcher on the right,
with Dave Stalls, who was paddling one of Marsha's boats



Sandy; that's hand sanitizer
on Marsha's foredeck behind her



Marsha and Dick Dieckman

- **GROSS RESERVOIR:** The actual "Opening Day" paddle, usually held the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, did not happen, but Sandy led a paddle there on Monday, June 6. Over the rest of the summer Sandy and Harold paddled this high mountain reservoir with RMSKC members several other times.

People who joined them at least once this summer were Tim Fletcher, Dick Dieckman, Marsha Dougherty, Joy Farquhar, and Jim Dlouhy, and new members Chris Hall, Brookie Gallagher and Lindsay Meeks, and Leslie Taylor, who sent in this photo.

Sandy reported that the water level, at 95%, was higher than anyone remembered, but that they tried to arrive by 8:00 because after about 10:00 the parking and launch area were too crowded!



Tim and Sandy
paddling up an arm at Gross Reservoir

- **CARTER LAKE:** Carter Lake wasn't on the original schedule but Sandy and Tim added it as a club paddle near the end of July. They launched from the north and had the best turnout of the summer. The lake was wonderful and there weren't a lot of speed boats out. Although they had good conditions, Jim Dlouhy, who often paddles at Carter, gave a little talk about paddling in the wind. It was a really nice day! The participants were Sandy and Harold, Tim, Jim and Karen Dlouhy, Marsha Dougherty, Brookie Gallagher and Lindsay Meeks, Leslie Taylor, and George Ottenhoff. There was also a second RMSKC paddle on Carter Lake later in the summer.

- **TRAININGS BY ZOOM:** Jim did a terrific job, with good help from Karen his tech advisor, with this teaching format after the in-person sessions he'd planned were scrapped. Here's Karen's screenshot of one of the Zoom classes with Jim, Karen, Jim's curriculum notes, new member Kent Walters from HASK, Joy, Brian, Sue, Tim, George, Clark and Marsha.

Each class was offered two times because so many people registered; the total for all the sessions was almost sixty participants!

The topics Jim covered were:

- Forward Stroke
- Paddling In Wind
- Paddling In Waves
- Risk Assessment



- **PUEBLO PADDLE, WITH OPTIONAL CAMPING:** Jud Hurd has organized this outing many times. When he cancelled it in 2020, Jay Bailey, who lives in Pueblo, offered to paddle with anyone who wanted to come. He said the water was at full pool in mid-March and that anytime until late April would offer good paddling and temperate camping.



Jay Bailey, in full PPE

Chris Duval came down from Colorado Springs, dressed to paddle with ice still on the water. Jay, who is a nurse, geared up for the day in his drysuit and his personal protection equipment.

Other RMSKC members joined Jay and Chris Davenport at Pueblo Reservoir in the spring, but we didn't

get any reports or photos. [You'll find the account of Chris and Jay's 2020 scrapped plans in the *Members' News* near the end of this issue.]



Chris Duval, standing on the ice at Lake Pueblo, March 2020. He said it was challenging to exit and reenter his boat without falling.

- **CHERRY CREEK RESERVOIR:** Sandy and Tim invited RMSKC members to Cherry Creek about the middle of September, and again in early October, when some of the leaves were already starting to turn.

Fun was had and photos were taken. Participants were: Sandy, Harold, Tim, Brian Hunter, Dick Dieckman and Marsha Dougherty.



A socially distanced lunch break



Marsha



Brian

2020 reports continue on the next page

- **BARR LAKE PADDLE, SEPTEMBER 26:** Marsha scheduled a paddle at Barr Lake, but the wind was really picking up when the group got there so they decided not to put in. But they did walk down to the lake which was quite a ways with the water being down. On the walk back up, emergency vehicles started arriving. They asked what was going on and were told a kayaker had tipped over. They did not stay to see what happened.

Marsha sent an email to let everyone know that it hadn't been anyone from RMSKC. She said she thought it appeared to be a slow rescue operation; there was one vehicle that did drive across the sand to the south end of the lake right away but the guys who were apparently going to launch a dingy with a motor seemed to have been doing it just for practice.

DATA FROM THE 2020 SEASON

Compiled by Jud Hurd, Paddle Coordinator

2020 started out with large numbers of people at Myers Pool taking advantage of our instruction and skills assessments, then group activities stopped during the beginning of the pandemic shutdown. The rest of the summer may have been different than usual, but over the season 31 club members participated in one or more events. The total for 2020 was 167 participants, not even a 20% decrease from pre-Covid times.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ▫ 59 — Pool Instruction | ▫ 16 — Carter Lake |
| ▫ 36 — McIntosh | ▫ 10 — Cherry Creek |
| ▫ 32 — Chatfield | ▫ 8 — Safety and Skills Assessment |
| ▫ 22 — Gross Reservoir | |

2020's MOST FREQUENT PADDLERS

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| ▫ 18 — Marsha Dougherty | ▫ 6 — Brian Hunter | ▫ 4 — Patrick Reardon |
| ▫ 14 — Harold Christopher | ▫ 6 — Brookie Gallagher | ▫ 3 — Daniel Downs |
| ▫ 13 — Sandy Carlsen | ▫ 6 — Leslie Taylor | ▫ 3 — Clark Strickland |
| ▫ 13 — Tim Fletcher | ▫ 5 — Gary McIntosh | ▫ 3 — Richard Webber |
| ▫ 11 — Jim Dlouhy | ▫ 5 — Lindsay Meeks | ▫ 3 — Phil Sidoff |
| ▫ 10 — Joy Farquhar | ▫ 4 — George Ottenhoff | ▫ 3 — Eric Smith |
| ▫ 9 — Karen Dlouhy | ▫ 4 — Dick Dieckman | ▫ 3 — Jean Gantzer |
| ▫ 7 — Chris Hall | ▫ 4 — Jud Hurd | ▫ 3 — Dave Gantzer |

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here are the paddles that were planned, but because of social distancing requirements, had to be cancelled.

Plans that didn't happen really aren't too interesting, but maybe this list will remind you of the fun we've had other years, and help you start dreaming about warm weather in 2021.

THE 2020 PLANS THAT WERE CANCELLED

- ~~**16TH ANNUAL MULTI-CLUB:**~~ Usually the last weekend in March on the South Platte between Evans and Kersey or Kuner, it was cancelled by the organizers. They'll probably try again in 2021, now that the launch site in Evans has been repaired from the flood of 2013. New members can read enthusiastic accounts of this early spring action by searching "multi-club" in the *Index of Publications* that's on our website.
- ~~**LAKE MEAD:**~~ Jud Hurd has almost always planned some sort of Spring Fever trip. This year's outing to someplace warmer didn't happen, but you can read about an earlier one to Lake Mead in the Summer 2014 *Mountain Paddler* (22-1b).
- ~~**LAKE SUMNER CAMP AND PADDLE:**~~ Marsha Dougherty invited members to Lake Sumner, New Mexico, but Covid scrapped her plans this year. It's too bad because it was good fun in 2018. See photos and an account of that weekend in the 26-1b issue of the *Mountain Paddler*.
- ~~**14TH ANNUAL MUD HEN PADDLE:**~~ Historically this has always been the "Most Likely to be Cancelled" paddle, and it was again in 2020, but not because of crummy weather or lack of water in the lake.
- ~~**SAFETY AND SKILLS ASSESSMENT, LEVEL ONE:**~~ Jim Dlouhy's on-the-water evaluation with pointers, which would have benefitted many, was not held.
- ~~**WIND AND WAVES WORKSHOP:**~~ The plan was for a morning session on the shore and then an afternoon of playing in the wind at McIntosh Lake; it would have been a great class, but it was not held, either.
- ~~**COLD WATER RESCUE PRACTICE:**~~ Brian Hunter had to cancel this because rescues would violate Covid's social distancing requirements. Cold water safety is something Brian has stressed for years; we hope we can schedule this in the spring of 2021.



A view of Sumner Lake in east central New Mexico

- **RESCUE RENDEVOUS:** Jim Dlouhy's reentry practice, towing and other rescue techniques in real conditions at Chatfield Reservoir was cancelled like so many other things because of Covid's social distancing requirements.

- **KAYAK CAMPING CLASSES:** Brian and many of us have loved camping with our gear schlepped by kayak instead of torturing our knees backpacking!

If that interests you, let someone on the Steering Committee know and we'll plan another set of sessions this summer to introduce people to kayak-camping. It's not really much different from regular camping, but there are some tricks that we'll be happy to share.



Getting it all in the boat does take some practice

- **SPRING BIRDING PADDLE:** Did you know that Ann Troth and Gregg Goodrich met while birding at Barr Lake, and they each have long Life Lists of the birds they've seen around the world? In 2020 they were scheduled to lead their fourth or fifth annual bird-spotting paddle, but the pandemic cancelled their plans. It was a sad spring for many of us because we didn't get to paddle with them and enjoy their expertise.



Photos from earlier birding paddles



- **WEST ARM OF GLACIER BAY:** In 2019 two participants had health issues at the last minute, and Jud's gear didn't make the plane. Dave Hustvedt and Marlene Pakish paddled the East Arm by themselves, but came home early after having bears get way too close and personal a couple times. [See issue 27-1b]

In 2020 the destination was changed to the West Arm, but the trip was a casualty of Covid. We hope it will be on the calendar for 2021.



McBride Glacier from Muir Inlet

- ~~**JULY 15, PADDLEFEST:**~~ Although day paddles were being scheduled, the Steering Committee cancelled this annual summer get-together because they were expecting more than ten members and knew the main focus of the potluck has always been social interaction.



Roxborough Cove has been changed since this PaddleFest, but we'll gather again someplace, sometime!



2017's Full Moon paddle was an evening to remember: *Mountain Paddler* 25-2-b

- ~~**TRI FOR THE CURE:**~~ RMSKC members have cheerfully gotten up before dawn to keep a watchful eye on the triathlon swimmers, and earned a \$50 stipend to do it...but not in 2020.



Tri for the Cure is always exhilarating for the swimmers, and for RMSKC paddlers

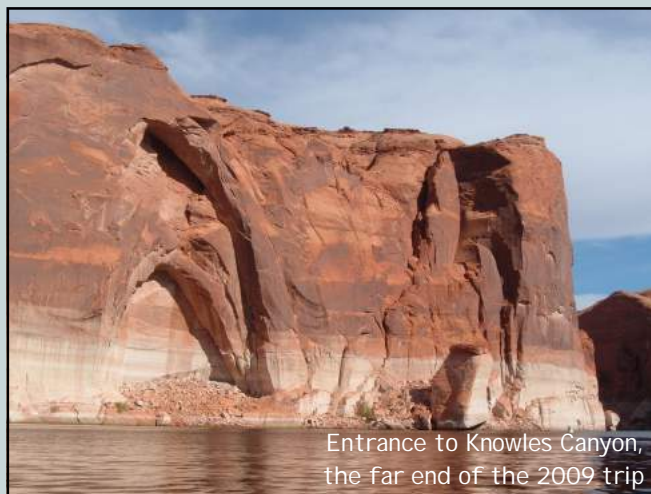


- ~~**PADDLE CHICAGO IN AUGUST:**~~ Jud and Dave advertised a fun week of paddling the Chicago River, Lake Michigan and other venues.

They were also looking forward to some deep dish pizza, a hot dog from a street vendor and catching a Cubs game at Wrigley Field. The hotdogs from King Soopers in 2020 didn't taste as good; we hope they'll put this trip back on the 2021 calendar!

- **~~LAKE POWELL HOUSEBOAT WITH HASK:~~** Dave and Jud were signed up to captain, and a half-dozen folks from the Houston Association of Sea Kayakers were paid up and excited to spend a week in late September on Lake Powell following the itinerary of the RMSKC's 2009 trip. But the virus was taking Texas by storm in June, and people worried about spending time in a confined houseboat kitchen. After many, many emails the trip was cancelled. The rental company gave them a full refund and everyone's planning to try again in 2021.

Trip organizer Sue Hughes says, "The thoughtful communications about 2020's constraints were so helpful, and as Facebook friends, I've enjoyed peeking into several of the HASK members' subsequent paddling adventures in Texas; I am hopeful we can do this trip next September."



Entrance to Knowles Canyon,
the far end of the 2009 trip

- **~~SUMMER IS FOR SILLIES:~~** This was to be Lake McConaughy's fifth annual November fundraiser; Clark and others have driven to Nebraska several times.

In 2018 they had to paddle in the bay below the dam instead of on the main lake because the winds were so strong. Then they fought high wind and blowing tumbleweeds almost all the way home. Maybe some of you will have that much fun this coming fall.



Tumbleweed from Nebraska

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.

KETCHIKAN TO JUNEAU

AUGUST, 2020

By Dave Hustvedt

While reading *Paddling* magazine I found an intriguing quotation:
"There is value in doing things that the mind cautions against."

So I began to plan a long kayak trip in the Alaskan Inside Passage. The Pacific Northwest was familiar; I'd been on extended paddles in the area five times. My wife Lou Ann and I first kayaked in the east arm of Glacier Bay in 2011. Later my paddling in the area included the Beardslee Islands in the lower Glacier Bay, a circumnavigation of Annette Island (south of Ketchikan), a trip through the islands north of Tofino (on the west side of Vancouver Island in Canada), and a return trip to the upper east arm of Glacier Bay. [You can read about these in 19-2b, 20-2b, 24-2b, 26-2b, and 27-1b.]

It seemed like a 300 mile journey from Ketchikan north to Juneau would be the thing to do. The general outline of the trip was:

- Drive to Bellingham, Washington
- Ride the ferry to Ketchikan
- Paddle north to Wrangell, then to Petersburg to pick up food for the second half of the trip
- Paddle on to Juneau and ride the ferry back to Bellingham

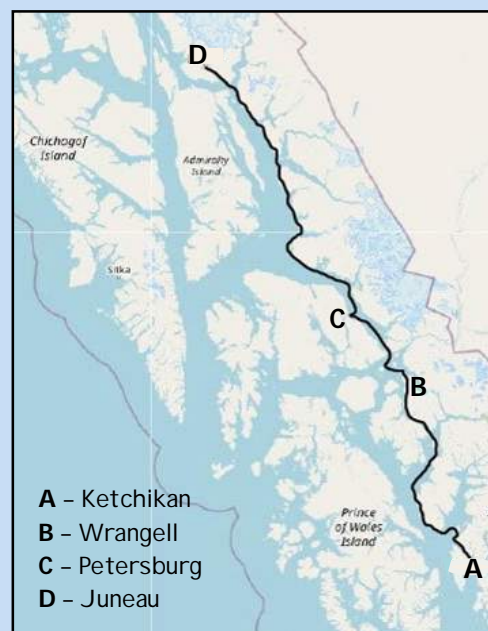
I bought detailed nautical maps and plotted a route for 20-mile days for a journey of roughly two weeks. Leaving from Bellingham in August of 2019. Unfortunately, the ferry crews went on strike and shut down the ferry system for most of that summer.

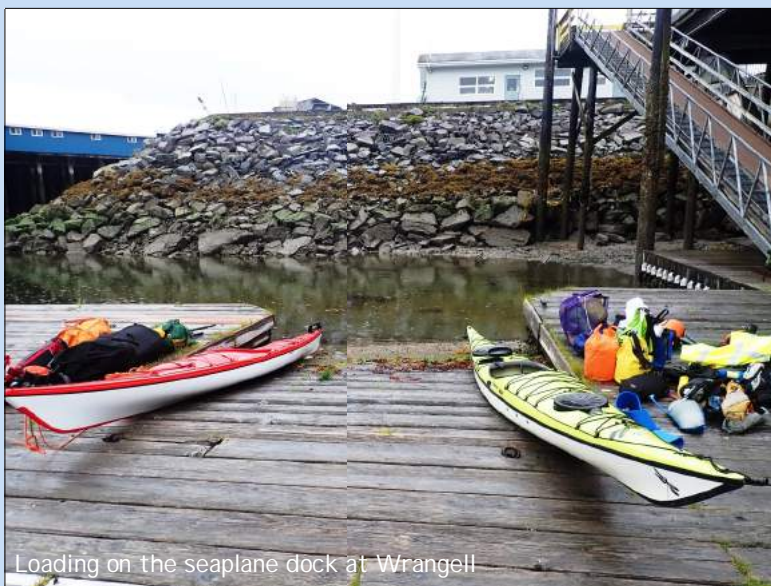
Undeterred, I rescheduled the trip for June of 2020 to take advantage of the longest daylight. I reconsidered the daily mileage, 20-mile days seemed aggressive, and planned a new itinerary of 10-mile days with stops again in Wrangell and Petersburg. The great virus pandemic forced the ferry system to shut down until August.

THE PADDLING PLAN, seven pages which included the following sections:

- Itinerary
- Lodging Information in Wrangell, Petersburg, and Juneau
- Ferry Reservations
- Estimated latitude and longitude of campsites
- Tide Schedules for Wrangell, Petersburg and Juneau, which I picked up at the Ketchikan Harbor Master's office
- Food List, for each day
- Equipment List and Location (PFD, day bag, hatches)
- Misc. Travel Notes

As it turned out the list of campsite locations was of limited value once I was on the route since the daily mileage was almost always more than ten miles; it averaged 17.





Loading on the seaplane dock at Wrangell

The trip took 18 days and 318 miles on the water, with overnight stops in Wrangell and Petersburg. It was rainy and cool almost every day. I paddled with someone recommended by Joy Farquhar, who was from the Seattle area and experienced in long trips. With the exception of Day 17, the trip was a panic-free succession of day paddles that went according to expectations.

MAPS: I assembled a set of nautical maps along the planned route. I cut up and laminated the maps showing important sections of the route; the most useful was a larger scale map that showed the entire route and was something I kept on my deck throughout the trip.

FOOD AND WATER: Mountain House dinners and breakfasts typically come packaged as 2-3 servings per package. To minimize trash and make the food more compact I repackaged them in single meal vacuum-packed packages. Lunches were planned to be tuna packages and tortillas. Thirty-two meal packages were prepared based on the trip plan. Fifteen of the breakfast and dinner packages were carried from Bellingham to Petersburg. The second set of 17 packages was mailed to Petersburg for General Delivery pickup.

Snacks for use while paddling were Welch's fruit chews, Clif Bars, and vacuum-packed peanuts. These were also divided into pre-Petersburg and post-Petersburg packages, which were mailed to General Delivery there.

My stove was a very efficient Jetboil Zip. I carried three 8-ounce butane canisters. However, even using the stove for breakfast, dinner, and coffee I only used 155 grams of the 230 grams of fuel in one container.

I carried a Katadyn water filter and a Steripen, as a backup, for water purification. Fresh water streams were common along the route. Strangely, the water even after filtration was a dark red color, probably leached from trees. The red color was evidently harmless since I drank it for almost three weeks without a problem.

SHELTER: My tent was a two-person self-supporting tent from Hilleberg (the Niak model.) The important features I have found for the Alaska environment are: waterproof, no mesh except at the entry, and a large vestibule for storing things you want dry, but not necessary inside the tent.

A Nemo inflatable sleeping pad was quite comfortable and compact. A good sleeping pad is so essential that I brought a second, smaller, backup pad. I also opted to bring a warmer sleeping bag than the temperatures might have suggested. The extra comfort at night is well worth the extra volume required to stow the bag in the boat.

Waterproof tarps are a necessity in Alaska. I carried an 8' by 8' tarp from Hyperlite made of a composite waterproof fabric and weighing 0.5 pounds. This came in handy for cooking and eating during the frequent rain. I used the matching ground cloth for the tarp to cover gear and protect it from the rain in camp. The additional and perhaps primary use for the tarp was to provide an alternative in case I had to camp someplace without enough room to set up the tent.

COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT: Communication equipment was of two types: radios and satellite communicators. The radios were standard marine handheld units. They were used primarily for contacting the harbor masters when paddling into one of the three towns on the route. They also came in handy for contacting my paddling partner when we were separated a couple of times.

COMMUNICATION GEAR, CONTINUED:

I actually carried three different types of satellite communicators. The SPOT device was used to send daily position reports to a preset list of ten people who were interested in following my progress. It can also send an SOS that will activate a rescue to the GPS position sent by the SOS.

The second device was a ResQLink by Cobham ACR. I wore this device on my PFD in case I needed rescue on my kayak or in the water. The ResQLink sends out my GPS location and flashes a light when activated. The device has to be registered with NOAA every five years and periodically be tested and have its batteries replaced by Cobham.



Crossing the Stikine Outlet near Wrangell

The third device was a Garmin inReach Explorer, also carried with me in my PFD. The beauty of this device is that it can communicate in real time via email through a satellite. It also has a tracking and mapping capability and could be used to navigate. It also downloads local weather forecasts that I found to be relatively accurate. Finally, it has an SOS feature like the SPOT, but with the email feature it can allow real-time communication with rescuers. The only downside of the inReach is that its internal batteries have to be recharged from a USB connection. I carried rechargeable USB compatible batteries for this purpose.

Finally, I used a Garmin eTrex 20x handheld GPS for real time navigation. It was loaded with the nautical charts to give detailed information. I mainly used it to track mileage, speed, and to record the daily campsites. It is powered by a couple of AA batteries which lasted 3-4 days if I set the screen on-time to 30 seconds or so. I only needed to actually look at the map screen occasionally. I also carried an identical back-up unit in case something bad happened to the first unit. (It didn't, but you never know.)

BEARS: I like bears, but at a safe distance and definitely not in my tent. Anti-bear preparation included a bear spray canister clipped to my PFD, a stainless steel .357 Magnum revolver in one of my PFD pockets, and a 10mm semi-automatic pistol with bear load ammunition that I kept in my tent on shore. As it turned out I never saw a bear (unlike Glacier Bay where bears are common). A local guide in Juneau told me that residents of the inside passage have convinced the bears that the shoreline is not safe for bears. The first couple of days I hung my food from a tree. After it became evident that bear activity was minimal, I put all the food and cooking equipment in a duffel bag tied to the base of a tree away from the tents. I dropped a handful of mothballs into the bag and my kayak since I had read that this deters bears.

KAYAK EQUIPMENT: The boat for this trip was a new Delta 17. It is a bit faster than my older Delta 15.5GT but has the same internal volume. However, the 17 is too narrow for more than one of the black plastic bear-proof food containers; I elected to not take any bear-proof containers and use different anti-bear strategies: hanging or mothballs. I took the usual kayaking equipment: two sets of paddles, paddle float, pump, and sponge. A set of small wheels for towing the kayak onto the ferry and around town was essential but awkward to pack. I added small diameter lines on either side of the cockpit. These were fairly slack to permit grabbing them easily to assist in re-entering the kayak if it capsized.

I wore a dry suit every day with polyester long underwear inside. It was a comfortable combination that did not overheat but kept me warm on the water.

KAYAK EQUIPMENT, CONTINUED: Good gloves are essential to protect the hands from extended exposure to seawater. Unfortunately, none of the regular kayaking gloves really worked. The waterproof foam-insulated gloves wore out and leaked after a couple of days.

In Wrangell I found cotton-lined rubber fishing gloves that did not wear out, were very flexible and provided a good grip on the paddle. I bought five more pairs in Petersburg.

An NRS deck bag in front of the cockpit kept snacks, batteries, a first aid kit, and other things handy. A few other items such as the wheels and tarps and wet gear that did not fit in the kayak were carried in a duffel strapped to the back deck of the kayak: clumsy looking, but effective.

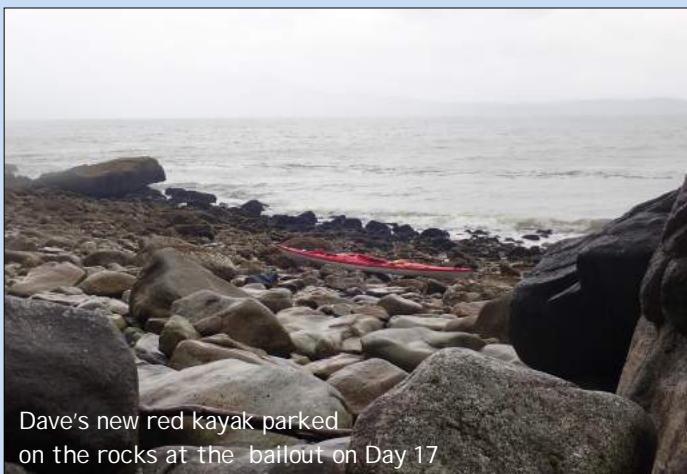


Debra Jo and Dave, in his new dry suit

ALMOST TO JUNEAU...

The weather for Day 17 was forecast to be rainy with 25 knot winds with waves to four feet. The previous paddling days had generally been rainy but relatively calm with waves less than two feet. The weather in the morning was actually calm with heavy fog. We navigated a six-mile crossing of the Snettisham opening by GPS with periods of essentially zero visibility. A pod of killer whales was hunting nearby. Shortly before reaching the end of the crossing the black and white tail of a diving whale broke the surface and disappeared two or three feet in front of my kayak. But the fun was just beginning.

As we reached the end of the crossing the fog began to clear and we headed out into the open water of Stephens Passage. It was then that the forecast wind came up from behind us driving four- or five-foot following waves.



Dave's new red kayak parked on the rocks at the bailout on Day 17

Turning around was not an option. The shore was nothing but big rocks with no beach. My paddling partner and I became separated. I had to brace a couple of times to keep from capsizing. At that point I headed to shore and managed to get my boat safely wedged on some rocks. Fortunately, the tide was going out so the kayak was not going to be carried away.

Wearing my dry suit, I was warm and comfortable even after a dunking as I got out of my kayak. My paddling partner was in a much worse condition. She had capsized, re-entered and made it to shore.

Unknown to me she had stopped wearing her wetsuit a few days into the trip. After some confused radio conversation with her, it was apparent that she was probably hypothermic. I hiked back the 300 yards to her and got her into a sheltered spot above tide line and helped her into dry clothes. After that I had to empty both kayaks and pull them up the rocks to tie them off above high tide.

I spent a fairly comfortable night in a rocky alcove instead of a tent. The next morning, Day 18, was calm with bright sun and no rain. I paddled back to my paddling partner's camp and found her on the shore loading her boat. Other than a damaged skeg and some minor dings her boat was seaworthy. We paddled 30 miles into Juneau harbor that day as if nothing had happened.

In retrospect we should have heeded the forecast of wind and waves and stayed in camp. However, weeks of benign weather and an urge to finish the trip led us to start out in what seemed to be just another foggy, rainy day. Rocky dangerous shores led to our continuing on in rapidly developing adverse conditions.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This was not an RMSKC trip; RMSKC believes that paddling with at least three when at sea is a prudent practice.

But we also recognize the truth in our former instructor, BCU 4-star Brian Curtiss's words, "The way to develop as a paddler is to try things you haven't done yet."

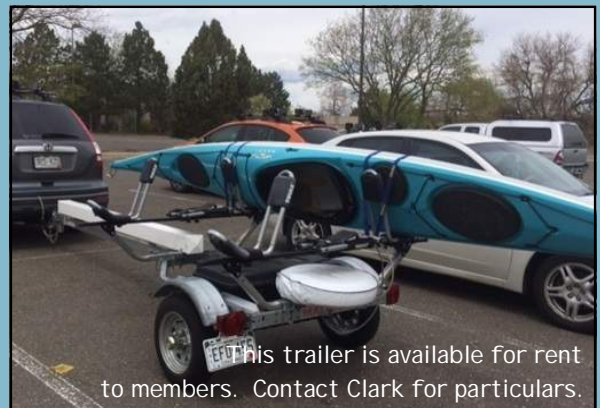


FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT



We recently took a poll:
99% of people were annoyed
when their tent fell down

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



This trailer is available for rent
to members. Contact Clark for particulars.

2020: The Year to Learn the True Meaning of PIVOT

By Marlene Pakish

Julie and I generally plan our coming year with the vacations we are going to take and where. The first weekend in April we were heading to New Orleans to watch the Women's Final Four tournament and meet up with friends from New York...pivot.



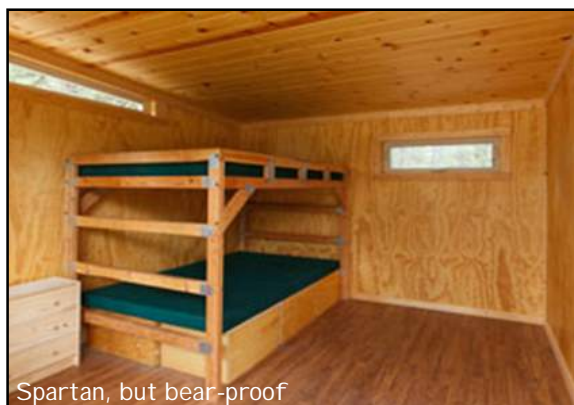
July, I was tentatively planning a trip back East to catch up with my family and coordinating with my sisters to also be there...pivot.

Julie, Leah Bornstein, Joe Findley and I had made plans to rent a houseboat on Lake Powell for five days. Not a club trip but a first-time trip for me or Julie to Lake Powell...pivot.

And then there was the Balloon Festival in Albuquerque, New Mexico that was planned with Julie's siblings. A yearly trip with her three siblings and significant others for five days, renting a VRBO...pivot.

So, here we sat...our vacation funds growing, as well as my vacation time, and no place to go. Until...Leah and Joe suggested a car trip to the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone National Parks. This would happen the same week we should have been on Lake Powell, but what a "grand" substitute! The dates for the trip were August 29th to September 5th, so we'd be getting out of there before the Labor Day weekend got started.

It was decided early on that none of us wanted to tent camp so Joe found small cabins at Headwaters Lodge and Cabins campground. I call them "bins" because all they had was a bunk bed, small dresser, table and two chairs. We were able to get two bins together so that we could share the picnic tables and fire pit.



We took two cars and headed to Wyoming with our kayaks and the “kitchen sink” because we were car camping, so why not bring everything!

So the adventure began....and so did the fiasco to get Wyoming permits. Here's how frustrating it was to get those permits:

- First, we had our kayaks inspected at a location right after the entrance to the Tetons. This, of course, had been closed on Saturday before 5:30 when we arrived so it was a trip back there on Sunday and yes, kayaks AND paddle boards had to get this inspection.
- But this inspection didn't give us the invasive species sticker, which we needed for Wyoming. We were told to fill out the form on-line and show the receipt to get that sticker. Since internet service was minimal, Julie spent an hour in a gift shop on her phone filling out this form AND she didn't even buy anything...that was my job.
- Besides the invasive species sticker, we also needed one for paddling on Jackson Lake and then would have to get yet another one for paddling in Yellowstone.

To make a very long and boring story short, we never got our invasive species sticker (can you say “run around”) nor did we decide to paddle in Yellowstone. All this before we even got our boats wet!

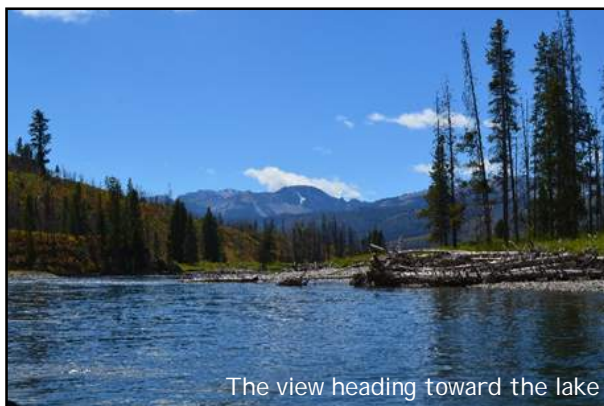
Monday the weather report called for rain so we drove into Jackson Hole and walked around, had lunch, made an attempt to get that stupid sticker and then headed back to camp for a nice dinner.

The weather for this trip was ideal, Monday was the only day it rained; the nights and mornings were chilly but the days would bring plenty of sunshine and high temperatures.

Tuesday we paddled the Snake River, which is absolutely stunning. We had two cars so being able to do a shuttle allowed us to paddle 10 miles on this beautiful winding river. It started out cloudy but gave way to a hot, sunny day. The rapids were fun along the way although it took some trial and error to figure out the best way to maneuver them, and Joe's knowledge of reading the water also helped.



Going down the Snake River toward Jackson Lake



The view heading toward the lake

Yellowstone was our plan on Wednesday so we headed out about 9:00AM. It was only a mile and a half from our campground to the South entrance of Yellowstone NP but it took us 45 minutes just to get to the gate! The unexpected influx of tourists surprised the employees at Yellowstone so they only had one person at the entrance. We did check out Old Faithful, the geysers at the West Thumb and also the Grand Prismatic geyser. The amount of people and the question on where to get a permit to paddle in Yellowstone solidified our decision not to paddle there at all. Plus there were areas closed because of the fires i.e., Lewis Lake and Shoshone Lake.

Since we were all in agreement not to venture back to Yellowstone, on Thursday we drove to Jenny Lake for the day's paddle. What a beautiful lake! We had a day of effortless paddling with bald eagle sightings and a WiFi connection for Leah so that she could catch-up on work e-mails. This is the kind of home office I would like!



Leah keeping in touch with the office



Joe and Leah

We found a sunny lunch spot on the far side of the lake and, as you can see Leah and Joe had their umbrella with them, which tells you it was hot.

We got off the lake just as the wind was picking up and white caps were appearing. It amazes me how many people start their day mid-afternoon, because the conditions on Jenny Lake had definitely deteriorated by the time we were off, but a number of people were just getting on the lake.

Of course, when in the Tetons, one has to paddle Jackson Lake. Friday was our day for this paddle, with another nice day in store. Joe and Leah started paddling an hour and a half before Julie and I since we, unfortunately, had left our paddles in our car at the campground. As the saying goes, "up the creek without a paddle". Yup that was us! We did catch up to them because we had our handy VHF radios so we could let them know when we were finally on the water. It was another gorgeous day, although there were motorized boats on this lake so we had to be very watchful of them.



Julie and Marlene on Jackson Lake



We headed back home on Saturday but only after Joe and I took an early morning trip to the Grand Prismatic geyser to get better photos of it from the upper view. The pictures I took didn't come out great but we did see buffalo when we were in the park.

All-in-all it was a fabulous trip with good friends. And upon arriving home, those damn Wyoming invasive species stickers were in our pile of mail!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Getting caught up on friends' lives at the Winter Party and PaddleFest, and while paddling during the season, is an important part of RMSKC.

Here's the latest from some of our members: 2020 wasn't all just Covid. There was good news—lots of outdoor activities, a son engaged, new grandchildren, new houses, and much more. But reports of health issues, a powerful nor'easter at the end of a country road, and the destruction of a just-finished cabin by Colorado's summer fires were sad reading.

DAN BELL: For me, the largest part of 2020 was spent doing exactly what I'm doing now: sitting at my desk and paddling around with my laptop.

Truthfully, the bulk of that time boils down to binge watching Netflix for hours and hours on end. I'm quite sure that I've wasted more time in that endeavor this year than I have cumulative for the entire decade that preceded 2020.



Flaming Gorge near the dam



I did get out for a small amount of paddling over the summer. In the middle of August I ran up to Dillon Reservoir for a few days of paddling and bicycling.

At the end of August I headed over to Flaming Gorge for a week's worth of paddling and hiking. I stayed in the Dutch John area near the dam [circled on the map]. It's remarkably beautiful at that end of the lake; much more so than the Wyoming desert portion that I had visited many years ago.

The high point of the year came in July when Cathy and I welcomed our first grandchild, Ellie. I can't yet claim to be an expert at this whole grand-parenting thing, but I believe I'm starting to catch on.

No one in our immediate family has been severely affected by the virus. Our kids work in the education sector so, for the most part, they escaped the furloughs and job losses that pervaded the service sector. None of us has contracted the virus so I'm counting us as remarkably lucky thus far, although our luck was likely enhanced by following CDC and local guidance on masking and distancing. Sometimes common sense works out in one's favor.

ANNETTE MASCIA, a former member says: "I'm bored to death but have been safe with sheltering at home since March. It's hard to motivate myself to do solo kayak trips, but I did make a single day trip to St. Elmo this fall to photograph the foliage color." She had a fabulous garden, with wonderful flowers, especially the lupines and these hot coral echinacea!





Anna and Gregg in Taos for her birthday

GREGG GOODRICH AND ANNA TROTH: We are staying healthy doing a lot of online shopping, no restaurants or large groups. We did enjoy a trip to Taos for my birthday in October. Of course we've been birding locally, and on some road trips around Colorado. Our goal is 20 species in all 64 Counties, and we have only two counties left!



Their rabbit population went way down when this guy came into the neighborhood. They see it and two others about once a month!

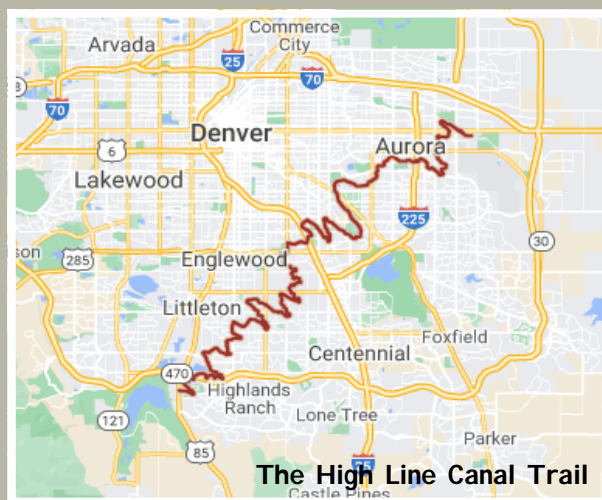
This fall we had a "Three-Jay Day" in our backyard: a Blue Jay, a Woodhouse Scrub Jay and, a first here, a Steller's Jay. We've also enjoyed our trail camera catching visitors to our backyard: coyotes, fox, raccoons and bobcats. Gregg did a lot of biking, and he and Harold Christopher biked the High Line Canal, 65 miles total. [See more details about the bike trip below.]



Gregg Goodrich and Harold Christopher on their High Line Canal ride, 2020

SANDY CARLSEN: You've read about the many paddling events Sandy organized this summer! She and Harold also did a lot of visiting with friends on the patio, and hiking and biking.

HAROLD CHRISTOPHER: In addition to his other activities, he biked the High Line Canal with Gregg Goodrich, in three legs of about 20 miles each, with Sandy and Ann as their support crew.



Harold and Gregg went across the Denver area from the southwest to the northeast, with Gregg reporting, "Some beautiful sections and some not so much. Also, some really great weather and some less than ideal. That's OK, it was still an excellent roll."

[Harold and Sandy have also biked with Tim Fletcher: the White Rim Trail, about 80 miles, in Canyonlands National Park twice, in 2017 and 2018; one of the trips was when Tim broke his collarbone.]

ANNE FIORE AND GARY CAGE: Anne and Gary got their boats wet a lot this summer despite the pandemic and social distancing and wind. Anne sent in this report:

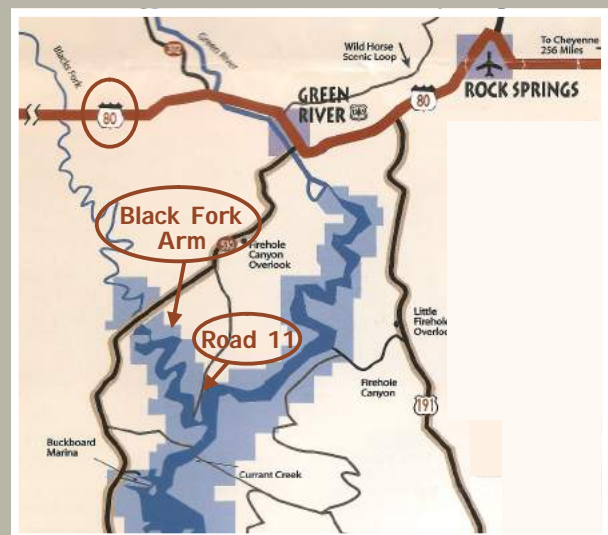
"Early in the season we put in at Union. At that point, the Longmont Rec Department hadn't decided how they were dealing with the epidemic and were charging fifteen dollars to get in! We and Dave Hustvedt got there before the park opened and had an interesting paddle in lots of wind. Sue Hughes joined us but only after the kiosk was staffed and wisely did not pay the daily fee to launch her boat. But she watched while we headed into the wind, not very far, and got turned around. After a few times we decided to abandon Union for the day. A week or two later we were all able to buy season passes. We paddled Union frequently, early on weekends to avoid the crowds of paddle boarders.

"Over Memorial Day we met Dave and Sue at Boyd Lake in Loveland. We had good weather and conditions for a spin around the lake. The parking lot was almost empty when we put in, but by the time we got out the beaches were crowded; social distancing was not being practiced.

"In mid-June we camped the weekend at North Sterling Reservoir: The lake is broad in length, not so much in width; it is not on an open plain, but rather tucked into a fold of the earth, and edged in cottonwoods, not cliffs, but there are bluffs that wander into the distance, and not gorges so much as grass-filled coulees. We had two days of paddling and lots of wind practice!

FLAMING GORGE, FIRST TRIP: "Over the 4th of July holiday, we went to Forest Road 11 (just past mile marker 21 on Highway 530) where, in the past, we've found various good one-night campsites. This time, our camp was right at the water's edge at the end of Road 11. It was the best one yet, but for the first time ever we noticed some mosquitos.

"The next morning we packed up our camp and put in at Anvil Valley. We had a late start due to a flat tire. Gary had a kayak-cooler which slowed him down in the afternoon wind, but it meant the beer was cold when we got off the water at a nice spot about three miles above Antelope Flat on the east side of the lake.



Gary's kayak cooler



Flaming Gorge photos by Anne

"The next day was a calm start but the wind came up, and between the waves made by the wind and the waves made by the motorboats, things got treacherous! I did not dare to pull out my anemometer to check the wind speed.

"On the 4th we paddled back to the Anvil area to set up camp across the lake and watch the fireworks; a display to the north was expansive, almost like a city display."



ANNE AND GARY'S SECOND FLAMING GORGE TRIP:

"At the end of August, we returned to our campsite at the end of Road 11. The next day, we headed up the Black's Fork Arm. Not far passed Lost Dog a wall of wind came up. We were able to take shelter in a cove. Here, somewhat protected, we clocked the wind at 18mph!

"After a couple of hours, it seemed like the wind had died down so we tried getting back to camp, but almost immediately realized this was not a good idea. Luckily, there was another cove, and we headed for that. Looking out and up the arm we could only see white caps!

"There was a tall rock cliff between us and the main lake, so towing our boats back to camp did not seem like a feasible option. Gary hiked up to the top of the ridge, found a road and could see the general area of our camp. We finally got tired of waiting, pulled our boats up into the cove and behind a log and hiked back to camp; at the top of the ridge we took a wind reading of 40mph.

"In the morning it was a 45-minute hike back to the boats, and a short paddle before loading up and driving to Green River for breakfast."

LEAH BORNSTEIN: We didn't hear from Leah Bornstein and Joe Findley, but Leah made the local papers with the news that Aims Community College, in partnership with JBS-USA, is offering free education for the children of JBS Greeley Beef's hourly employees. Read more about Leah on the Aims' website



CHRIS DUVAL: Chris, pictured on page 21 while kayaking in the icy waters of Lake Pueblo with Jay Bailey, reports that he did a lot of small group and solo paddling this summer. He also spent time learning as many Greenland rolls as he could. This fall he had shoulder surgery, but is hoping for a quick recovery and a Covid vaccine in the coming months. 2021 will be better!

STEPHEN TOMCHEK: Steve wrote in May that he didn't think he'd be kayaking with the club in 2020. He said, "I fell and broke my left forearm near my elbow in early May and had surgery with a plate and screws on May 15. Post op put me in a brace with two or three months of rehab." We hope his recovery went smoothly and that he'll be back on the water in the spring.

MARSHA DOUGHERTY: Marsha worked on her cabin in New Mexico before the weather got hot. She reported, "I did a patch repair on the roof. In doing so I discovered how nice it is to sit up there; the view is terrific. I also replaced the motor in the swamp cooler and sealed some holes in the bathroom wall where critters were coming in uninvited."

She also sent this update, to make sure the editor wouldn't invent anything: "I day-paddled with the club once a week and I worked outside gardening at my house in Lakewood. I spent time bird watching and I bought a new tricycle with a battery assist; Buster seems to enjoy riding in the basket."



Buster, riding in style

JACOB SCHOR AND RENA BLOOM: Jacob sent the Google Group a photo of his dog and the 12-foot cedar strip canoe he made last winter, checking to see if anyone wanted the left over pieces of plywood, and the book of instructions to go along with them, but not the dog!



Jacob paddling with Ruby

Rena wrote a report of a fearsome snow and ice storm they'd had at their Maine cabin: "It started Saturday with mild temps and wet and heavy snow. Then the power went out around 5PM, as the winds picked up. The trees were heavy with this first wet snow and were bending and swaying and falling. If anyone ever asks if a tree falling makes noise in the woods with no one there...the answer is yes. Crack and then a huge thud as it hits the ground. The noise was something but the wind finally quieted down by morning.

"The fellow who plows this side of the pond for the folks who are here, showed up with his truck and plow before 9AM on Sunday. He had already cleared one fallen tree with his chain saw from the road getting to us. There were strewn branches everywhere. And ice: the frozen mushy snow turned to rocky chunks of ice, and ice chunks falling from

the trees, and glacier-like snowy ice sliding off the metal roof. I wanted to just cry when I tried stepping out on the back deck and the door banged into the icy snow from the roof and wouldn't open.

"Then Monday morning arrived. Sky as blue as you have ever seen. The temps were just hovering above freezing, and the icy grey world started to lighten up and soften. Our Ruby thought it was heaven. She loves ice: eating it, chewing it, she even pulls off icicles from the rocks and chomps them with glee.

"200,000 residents were without power, the largest percentage of them in our county. Little by little the tree crews made their way around the area restoring power, but with only seven properties on our end of the private dirt road, we had to wait our turn.

"I was woken at midnight one night by the most intense lights and a massive truck coming down our narrow icy drive. It was the power company damage assessor out in the middle of the night. Of course he looked like a knight in shining armor to me! How he made it down the drive and managed to back that massive thing up the hill as he left is still a wonder. He said the crews would be here the next day; he just wanted to see what was down here.

"Luckily we were fine the whole time, with plenty of firewood. The wood stove plus the propane heater in the basement kept us warm, even too warm in the sleeping loft! The cabin has propane lights and a few beautiful Aladdin kerosene lamps that worked for reading. We had snow tires, and sand bags in the car. Jacob tried the tire chains which assured us both we could get out should we need to.



Jacob had just finished the mud room before the storm hit



"We have been to town where life is up and running; the librarians welcomed me and shared their electricity so I could charge our phones etc.

"What we didn't have was running water. The pump for the well uses electricity, something we just hadn't thought of, but understand now why there are ads in the paper for generators.

"We've gotten drinking water from neighbors with a generator for their pump, and Jacob schlepped water from the pond to flush the toilet; thank goodness it hadn't frozen over yet. For that we will be grateful to have power back. And the fridge, luckily it's been cold enough to have food in coolers outside.

"Humbling to be truly reminded of the comforts of modern life that we are accustomed to and may think are limitless. They're not. This was also a glimpse for me of the way the power from electricity stimulates our lives. We got to worry about falling trees, water, and heat, instead of the virus and politics for a fleeting moment."

LESLIE TAYLOR: "The cabin interior was almost complete, but alas, everything is ash now. All three buildings. I have 35 very vertical acres. About 20 acres were forest. Some trees are left. Some are burnt all the way into the ground, the fire was that hot! My son has planted some grass seed being passed out for soil conservation and has been doing some other soil conservation work. I have not been up there to see for myself.



The cabin Leslie and her son had just about finished before it was destroyed by fire, Summer 2020



"He and I have a rebuild plan for the long term; he has an eye on another spot for an eventual cabin. But for Summer 2021, we plan to put a slab on the old foundation ready for a metal building kit and build a deck next to the slab (and new composting toilet).

"I will probably be living in a very used RV that I will buy in Colorado in the spring. I would not mind living

in a tent all summer except for the bears that like to come visit in the night. I am not quite that brave of a frontier woman. So I'll be back in Colorado this summer, and will bring my little red kayak again.

"On a happy note, while the cabin was on fire, I was on a five-day paddle down the Suwannee River with Paddle Florida. That is a great group. The Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club should go on a trip with them."

TRACY AND JANET HAYES: We were paddling in Montana last month. When we got our boats inspected in Montana the guy gave us a Bighorn Canyon Lake map. I had never heard of it. When we were paddling Flathead Lake, I asked our group if they knew anything about it. Karen Amundson showed me Jud's 2018 Bighorn report that she had on a laptop. So we had a map and some info, and we were inspired to check it out on the way home. We paddled the north end.

GEORGE AND JEN OTTENHOFF: Last winter my wife and I made great plans for lot of camping and kayaking with our new camper this year. We had bought the trailer in early 2019, but for a number of reasons had only gotten to use it once. 2020 would be different. It certainly has been different — but not as we planned.

Covid 19 kept us pretty well bottled up all spring, but by June we decided that we needed to get out, since we could stay well distanced from anyone in a campground. To avoid the over-crowded weekends, we took a midweek trip to Jackson Lake State Park, 45 miles east of Greeley on the South Platte River. Jackson Lake is a 2400 acre reservoir, and the park has a very nice campground. James Michener called Jackson Lake an oasis on the plains. Because it is so close, and because it is very quiet during the week, Jackson Lake is probably our favorite place for a quick camping and paddling get-away.

We found a wonderful site right on the lake with a number of trees that provided very welcome shade. Most of the lake has concrete and large rock rip-rap along the edge, and I had to drive to the marina and boat ramp to launch my kayak. There is a very nice beach for launching kayaks just to the north of the boat ramp.

The weather was delightful for morning and evening paddling most of the time. The mornings were cool and calm, just about right for an hour and a half paddle half way around the lake and back again. By late morning the temperature got very hot — too hot to enjoy being on the water. It did cool down enough in the evening a couple days to enjoy an evening paddle.

Jackson Lake can get very windy at times, as we have experienced on previous RMSKC paddles there. One evening there were weather reports of a severe storm moving northeast from Denver, and we could watch the storm heading toward us. The wind got very strong, but fortunately the worst of it passed to the north of us.

There are a few hiking trails around the lake, and the large variety of birds makes for excellent bird watching, especially in spring. We often saw and heard wild turkeys around the edge of the campground.

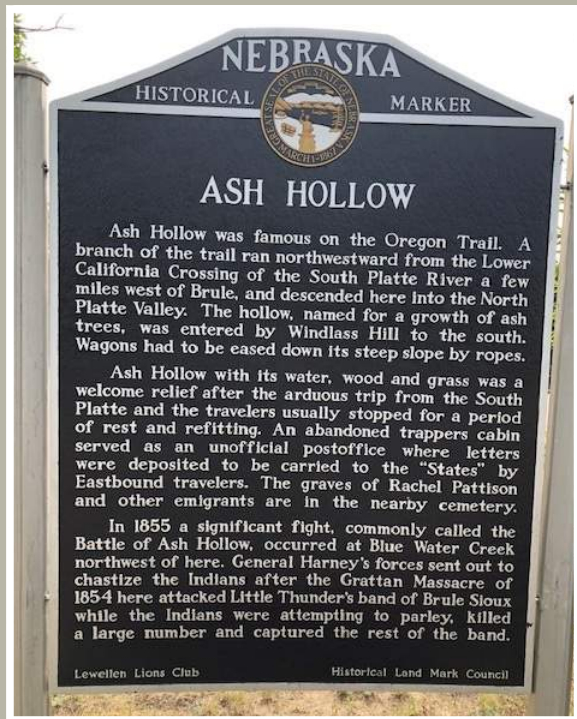
In September we drove farther down the South Platte River to Ogallala, Nebraska to camp and paddle at Lake Ogallala. Lake Ogallala is a small 320 acre lake that is on the east side of Kingsley Dam that creates huge Lake McConaughy. The water level in Lake McConaughy was very low, but the level in Lake Ogallala was kept fairly high. An interesting thing that we discovered was that because of the operation of a hydroelectric plant that discharges from Lake McConaughy into Lake Ogallala, and also because of the use of the water in Lake Ogallala for irrigation, the water level was highest every morning, and decreased during the day. It was almost like observing ocean tides.

A friend of ours was serving as the campground host, and had saved us a wonderful site right on the lake from which we could launch kayaks. I repaid her by introducing her to sea kayaking.



George and the camp host

Since the lake is relatively small, I was able to get around it in a little over two hours of fairly steady paddling. Because the lake and campground sit right below the very high Kingsley Dam, it is more protected from wind, and the paddling is very enjoyable. There are also some small reed islands that are fun to paddle around. Lake Ogallala is a state recreation area, and has a lot of wildlife. On my morning paddles I saw a large variety of birds, including pelicans, herons, bald eagles, ospreys, and a number of other raptors and songbirds.



We found the area around Ogallala to be well worth exploring. It is on the Overland/Oregon Trail, and there is a lot to see. One day we drove a few miles to Ash Hollow State Historical Park, which was a welcome shady resting stopover with a good water spring for wagon trains at the approximate midpoint of the Oregon Trail. The park has a museum which portrays the fascinating history and geology of the region. We also climbed Windlass Hill which is a high bluff overlooking the valley, from which the wagons were carefully lowered into Ash Hollow, and from which numerous Oregon Trail wagon wheel ruts are visible.

We enjoyed our time at Lake Ogallala so much that we extended our stay an extra day. We had perfect fall weather, but the forecast of a cold front moving in convinced us that it was time to head home.

Lake Ogallala is a place that is definitely on our list of places to visit again. I'm thinking of making a kayaking tour of the lakes in the South Platte/Platte River valley by starting at Jackson Lake, then moving northeast to North Sterling Reservoir, and finishing at Lake McConaughy/Lake Ogallala. Maybe next year.



Sunrise at Jackson Lake

Members' 2020 Updates continue on the next page

RMSKC is serious about monitoring risks and paddling safely; here's a different issue about which members should be aware:

and meaningful relationships with friends, family and nature. Paddlers may experience cravings and emotional highs after brief exposure. Continued exposure can cause multiple boat purchases and reduced garage space. Prolonged use may result in heightened fitness, and environmental awareness and appreciation.

Kayaking is addictive and is a leading cause of good health, mental well-being

JAY BAILEY AND CHRIS DAVENPORT: In 2019 Jay and Chris arranged to buy an Impex *Currituck* from Abitibi of Québec. But as Jay says, “A kayak created in Québec that does not have distribution established in the western United States is a delivery conundrum, or a travel opportunity.” The closest location along their spring delivery route would be Jasper, Alberta, about 850 miles NNW of Boise, Idaho. That set the stage for a six-week trip in our short wheelbase 2003 Dodge van conversion known as Squeaky Pete.

“It was an exciting moment when we saw the Abitibi truck coming up the road loaded with brightly colored canoes and a large banana carefully wrapped for the journey.”

They spent several days in the Jasper and Lake Louise Provincial Parks and then drove toward Glacier National Park. “It was interesting to notice how we were greeted throughout our travels. Squeaky Pete managed an introduction to everyone we encountered. People were friendly in a way that is hard to describe. The van defined us before we ever got out of it. People were willing to suggest camping options that were not on a map and usually the camping was free. Other local knowledge was often shared about parking, food and the more interesting routes to where we might like to go, and the best local brews.”

They didn’t make it to British Columbia for kayaking in 2019 due to scheduling conflicts even though they were over half way there, and it had been a couple of years since they’d been to the ocean. They were sure that would be the destination for 2020!



The river connecting upper and lower Payette Lakes near McCall, Idaho

“Summer Dreams for 2020? Of course we had them; we had all summer to travel if we chose to! We dreamed of paddling in Barkley Sound of Glacier Bay, and in the Gulf Islands of the inside passage on the east side of Vancouver Island.

“Planning started in October, 2019 for our kayak adventure to British Columbia. In March of 2020 Covid happened. Chris and I were both still working a little; we are nurses and Covid made the decision to completely retire easy.



Abitibi's delivery truck



Chris unwrapping her boat



"The rest of the story: state parks closed down. Travel in the United States was discouraged. Canada closed the border to southern neighbors and we all plunged into what became a debacle.

"Early in the spring we held out hope for a road trip. As time went by it became apparent that travel would continue to be complicated. I've done one camping trip in my old van to fly fish in the South San Juan Mountains of Colorado.

"People did come down to paddle Lake Pueblo. Anne Fiore and Gary Cage came to paddle in the bayou one time; we launched from the Swallows Road access for a day paddle. Of course Jay Gingrich and Jane Lewis came from Buena Vista; we paddle together fairly often. We have also been paddling with Chris Duvall and Sam Campbell through the spring and summer. They came down from Colorado Springs.

"In September we spent five days camping in New Mexico; the campground in New Mexico had been closed all summer but after Labor Day it was opened to 50 percent capacity. [Now they're completely closed to any non-residents.]

"Dang, it is hard not to be down and out about this. The paradox is that as we've gotten older, we have more time. The time that we have is being stolen away by Covid.

"We will hope for a better travel summer in 2021. If going to Canada is unwise or impossible, we will stay in the states. Our six-week adventure in 2019 in our old van has shown us that there are many amazing kayaking and cycling locations to return to and to be discovered. We hope all of you are able to remain positive and creative in these unusual times."

KRISTY AND RICH WEBBER: Kristy wrote, "We came home from Ecuador in December in order to get some legal documents we needed from the State and Federal governments in order to apply for a more involved visa from Ecuador. Thank goodness we did! We cannot go back, and I am glad to not be there right now.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rich was in the Peace Corps in Bolivia and Costa Rica, and Kristy has taken Spanish lessons several different times in Cuenca, a lovely colonial town in the southern Ecuadorean mountains. They had bought an apartment and were planning to retire there.

"Ecuador has done an excellent job (except for Guayaquil) of trying to control the spread of the virus. However, that has required a much stricter stay-at-home approach than the US. They have a curfew at 4:00 pm and prior to that time they are only allowed to go to the grocery, pharmacy or hospital. They do have many small restaurant businesses offering meal delivery. That may become irrelevant as there may be an imminent implosion of their economy because they rely so heavily on oil exports.

"We were fortunate to rent out our apartment to an expat couple who needed to move and who were grateful to have the outdoor terrace space our apartment offers. Though we cannot go back for quite some time (ever?) we are so lucky to have someone living in the space."



Rich and Kristy
at a BodyBoatBlade workshop

SUE HUGHES: "My daughter's husband had a temporary duty assignment at Ft. Carson this summer, so she was in Longmont for a couple of months. I loved having them around and I didn't do too much paddling. I did go to McIntosh one afternoon to practice after Jim Dlouhy's class on paddling in the wind; it was blowing like crazy and I had a great time and taught myself some new things about my skeg. But a couple women in sit-on-tops made the paper after they had to be rescued from the cattails!



Photo by Jim Eldridge,
who just happened to be passing by.
Maybe we can get him kayaking next summer!

"Another day I paddled at Union and it was so windy I had to wedge my kayak and the car between the stand-on-top kiosk and their gear hauler to be able to get the boat on the car by myself; I am sure it would have blown off if I hadn't found this protection.

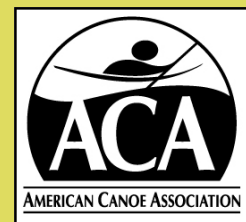
"Other than that, I was in my boat for just a couple of paddles with Anne Fiore, Gary Cage and Dave Hustvedt and some by myself. I saw lots of wading birds, including some large ones I didn't identify, near the end of the summer when the water was more shallow near the shore."



Willian Hughes Schneller,
the focus of Sue's summer

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 RMSKC 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 may join RMSKC day trips if they provide a current ACA card; they must also sign a paper waiver naming RMSKC 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 only to club members; additional criteria for members' participation may be included in the trip description at the discretion of the trip leader.

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