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EARLY SUMMER, 2016  
Vol. 24 No. 1b

# The MOUNTAIN PADDLER

REPORTS AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST  
FOR OUR PADDLING COMMUNITY

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### EDITOR'S NOTE

by Sue Hughes

This issue has the last of the paddle reports from our 2015 season, some from the beginning of 2016 and a handful of wonderful articles written by RMSKC paddlers who have been traveling, or researching topics of interest to our members.

Not all the news was happy; paddle safely to paddle again another day. And plan to attend PaddleFest at Chatfield Reservoir on June 25.



Moki Tree Reflection, 2015

# REMNANTS from the 2015 SEASON

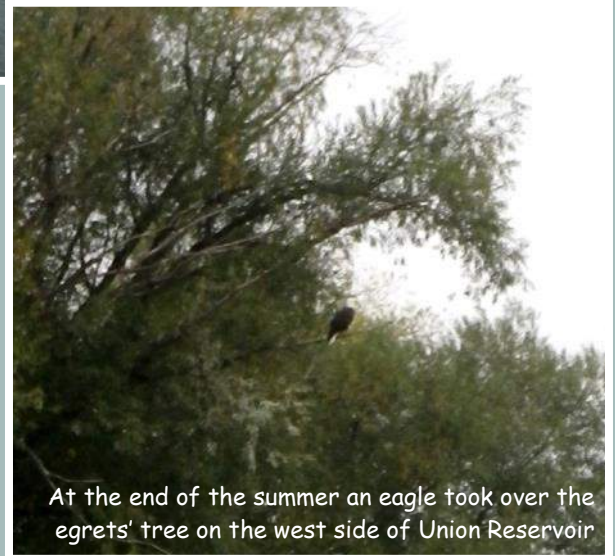
Kristy Webber, Gary McIntosh,  
Rich Webber, Jim Dlouhy and Ray Van Dusen

Of course RMSKC paddles and impromptu get-togethers happened last year after we published the Summer 2015 issue of the *Mountain Paddler*, but not many of them were recorded.

Here are a few pictures from Union Reservoir, and on the next page is Marsha Dougherty's account of 2015's camping trip to Lake Powell.



One day we were surprised to find an incredible amount of trash on the southeast section of Union. We practiced our boat handling while collecting it until our decks were full.



At the end of the summer an eagle took over the egrets' tree on the west side of Union Reservoir

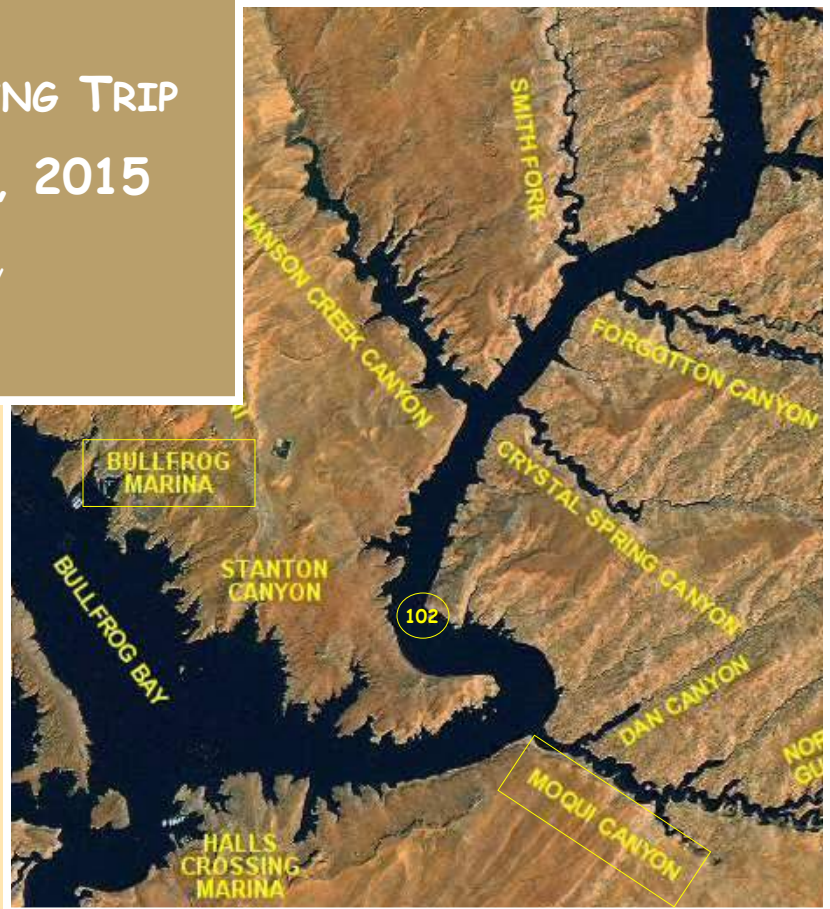


A sunny day in the late fall



# LAKE POWELL CAMPING TRIP SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2015

by Marsha Dougherty



**FRIDAY:** We were up by 6:45AM, put in at the Bullfrog Marina boat ramp and were ready to go on time. It was a beautiful day! Those attending were Clark Strickland, Tim Fletcher, Sue Hughes, David Hustvedt, Brian Hunter, co-leader, and trip leader Marsha Dougherty.

We paddled up-lake, scouted river right and saw some spots to camp but they were all taken by houseboats. We paddled Moki Canyon up to the end. All the camping spots prior to that were taken by houseboats. At the end is a nice large beach where we camped. My GPS lost reception at the end; David's GPS said 9.25 miles for the day.

**SATURDAY:** We broke camp and were paddling by 9:10AM. We paddled the other arms of Moki [spelled Moqui on some maps] where we saw a beaver. Then we paddled from the mouth of Moki across the channel and then across again diagonally to our lunch spot near buoy marker 102.

That was a fair amount of open water and there was some boat traffic to be aware of. We kept a good pace and we all stayed together, within 15 feet of each other.

I think the trick to staying together is that everyone has to stay side by side and the person in front has to stop paddling if they can't see everyone, well actually each person has to stop paddling if they can't see everyone.



The boats are stacked so it's hard to tell, but the photographer could see all the other five: gray, blue, green, yellow, and a bit of orange.





Then we crossed again and paddled and scouted river right [the west side of the channel] where there were camp spots, but our destination was the mouth of Hansen Canyon [spelled Hanson on this map] where we camped for two nights. My GPS showed 11 miles but I had a loss of reception. Brian's showed 17 miles but he did some extra scouting.

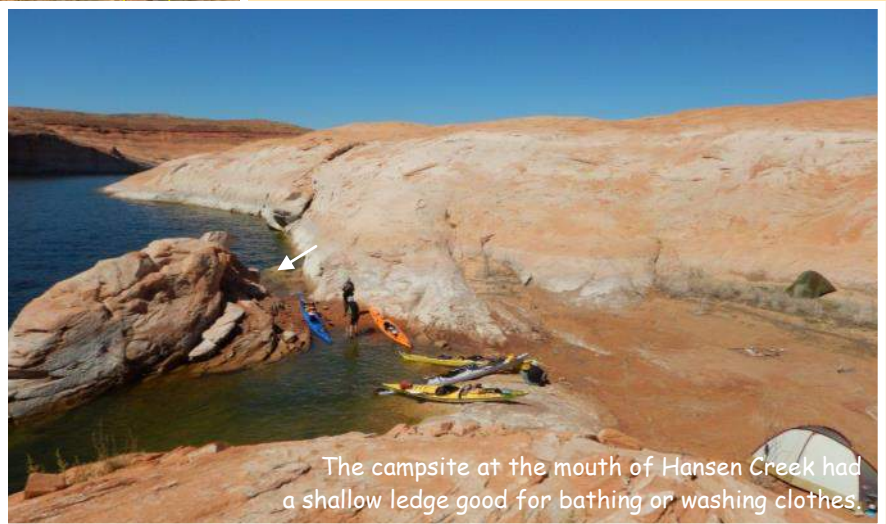
The Hansen camp spot is deluxe with an upper viewing area where it was nice to sit and relax.

**SUNDAY:** We paddled Hansen (there were small camp spots in there if you are not too fussy and a cell tower, btw) , made a pit stop at camp and then paddled across to Crystal Spring Canyon.

In Crystal Spring the walls are sheer. We saw only one place to get out, but an exquisite alcove and spring at the end.



At the end of Crystal Spring Canyon



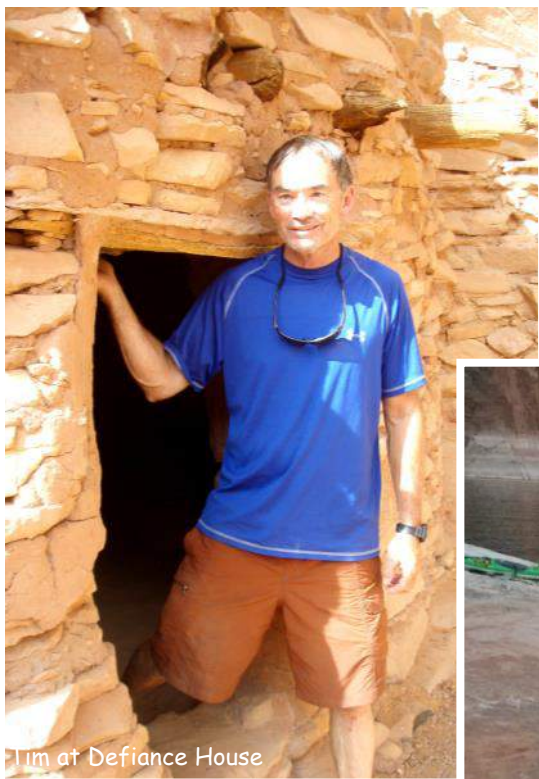
The campsite at the mouth of Hansen Creek had a shallow ledge good for bathing or washing clothes.

**MONDAY:** We broke camp at Hansen and paddled to the campsite where we camped the year before [the ☆ on the map]. It is on river right and about a half mile before Knowles Canyon; you can see the double arches at Knowles' entrance from the campsite. This year the water was 3 or 4 inches higher than last year and the lower area was under water so everyone camped up on the rocks.

After dropping off some gear, David, Sue and I went back to paddle Smith Fork Canyon. It had a walk or hike at the end that we didn't do and some beaches and places to camp. [The top photo on p. 39 is the far end of Smith Fork Canyon.]







Tim at Defiance House

**MONDAY, CONTINUED:** Brian, Tim, and Clark crossed the channel and paddled Forgotten Canyon since Tim and Clark had never seen the Defiance House ruins that are there.

That night we decided to leave the following morning, a day earlier than planned, because of a possible storm coming in. Everyone secured their tents and gear when it started to get windy.



It started blowing really hard around dinnertime but the wind stopped for our paddle the next day.



Luckily rain didn't pour down through the shallow basins that made such nice tent sites.

Our location on Monday also meant that in order to paddle unexplored territory on Tuesday we would have to go farther away from Bullfrog, which we hadn't scheduled time to do.



An especially lovely sunset on the last night



**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22:** On the paddle out we took the time to explore some fingers on river left that we have never stopped at before. We really had a nice time.

Thank you to all my camping buddies for making this a lovely trip.

**NOTES FOR NEXT TIME:** The campsite which is in sight of Knowles is 13 miles from Bullfrog; we should plan to camp farther north and then make the paddle out in two days.

Another thing we noticed is that Lake Powell is nearly deserted on Monday, so if we make the drive day a Sunday and put-in on Monday we would have first choice to camp just about anywhere.

Green River is a good distance for stopping for the night on the drive home, but motel rooms there were sold out; maybe next time we should make a reservation. We stayed at the Super 8 in Grand Junction for \$63.00 a room. The Comfort Inn was across the street and if I remember right they had a better free breakfast.



The author in a slot canyon on the way back to Bullfrog; Clark is behind her



Brian

## LAKE POWELL REFLECTIONS



Marsha



**POOL PRACTICE:** RMSKC members didn't wait until summer weather to get on the water. The usual collection of folks who practice at Meyers Pool in Arvada were joined by the people getting ready for the Alaska 2016 trip and some new members. Everyone was willing to help with rescue training and contribute helpful hints.

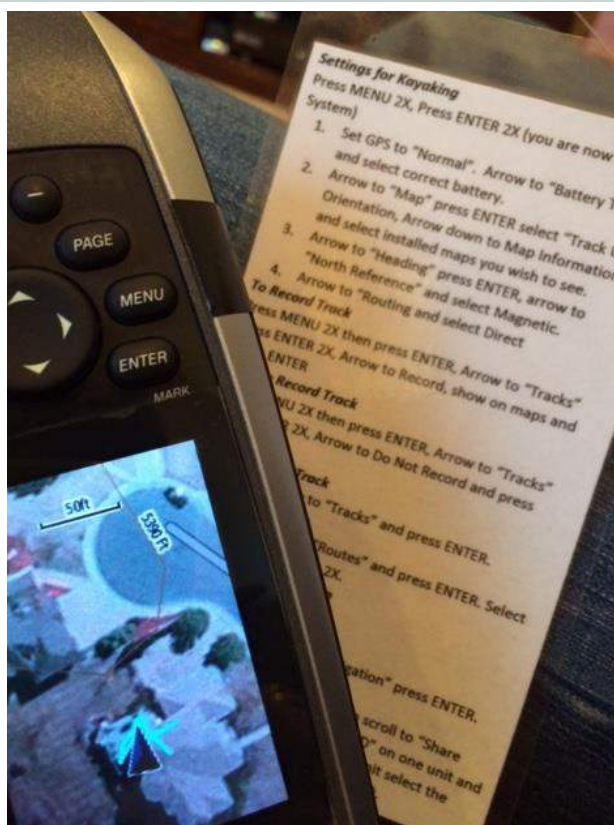
## INSTRUCTION AND EARLY 2016 PADDLES



Paddle Coordinator Jud Hurd practicing a paddle float reentry



Brian Hunter with new member Von Fransen



**USING A GPS:** In March, Sue Hughes, George Ottenhoff and Von Fransen met Instructor Brian Hunter at Von's house in Littleton for a couple of hours of introduction to GPS usage. Brian had a good outline to help people with the vocabulary and basic concepts, and laminated sheets for quick-look help.

Then they took a practice walk to find a cache of energy bars.



George, Von and Brian

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jay Bailey, who lives in southern Colorado, emailed these wonderful descriptions of his Lake Pueblo to us this spring. I'm reprinting them here so we can archive them on the website for future paddlers to enjoy.

On the next page are some particulars about the timing of Spring's arrival in 2016 for people who may want to paddle there early next year.

**LAKE PUEBLO, FROM JAY BAILEY:** February 26's paddle on the west end of Lake Pueblo was like the sudden scream of a red tail hawk. I have been paddling Lake Pueblo since 2000. I have paddled the west end of the lake yearly to experience the estuary that develops there in early spring as the lake fills. It is an ever changing landscape from year to year and the opportunity to witness this transition is relatively brief. The transition begins in winter when it is inaccessible by kayak due to ice. Each year ice off and accessibility depends upon the temperature and wind activity.

This year ice off happened with unusually warm weather mid-February. Late February through March an estuary will exist that is magical. The lake extends deep into the Arkansas River Canyon. Cottonwood forests are flooded creating a very wide labyrinth of passageways and soughs. The resulting ambiance is a Colorado bayou. The habitat is very attractive to wild things. There exists a wilderness that is haunting.

We launched from the Turkey Creek access on the north side of the river/lake in blustery 7mph wind. It was chilly early on with light overcast skies. The first couple of miles we paddled on obvious lake. The old dead cottonwood trees that provide rookery for nesting great blue heron, osprey, and cormorant were under water. The main channel of the river through the forest ahead of us was not visible. We had to hunt for it. Once we found the main channel we realized that we were still on the lake and there was no current to be found. On each side of us was a vast flooded forest extending from canyon wall to canyon wall. Without sunshine it was dark and somewhat foreboding.

There is a slough that I know of river left after progressing up the main channel that provides one of the few places to land on this section of the river. We landed there for a food break. While there a great horned owl serenaded us from somewhere deep in the forest. Owls and raptors are entering into mating season. We were surrounded by evidence of healthy beaver activity. Bald eagles can be seen anywhere on the lake this time of year but the highest concentration is on the west end; we saw a dozen or more eagles. We saw hundreds of ducks resting here on their migration north. As we approached these huge flocks they would rise off the water with a startling sound. Many migrating birds will visit this estuary before summer. It won't be long before cormorant, heron, wood duck, bufflehead, pelican, song birds, and American avocet will be arriving. After our lunch break we paddled farther west wanting to find current. We paddled for some time but we never encountered the river. For the return paddle the wind died down and conditions were pleasant.

I am not sure how far west the lake extends. I have never paddled as far west on lake as we did Friday. Colorado Springs is now storing water in Lake Pueblo resulting in a larger lake. Beginning in mid-March down stream water rights will start calling for water from Colorado lakes primarily for irrigation. Spring run off and down stream water release will determine the fate of Lake Pueblo's estuary.

To experience the estuary by kayak, the next couple of months is when it exists. Ideally one would want to make several trips. It is possible to launch from the wildlife area access road on the south side of the lake/ river. This rough dirt road is found off Highway 96 about seven miles west of Pueblo. This road is dusty, bumpy and several miles long. But you do eventually arrive at what is now lake with an easy launch. This launch will not exist once the lake begins to recede. Probably the easiest and closest launch for the west end of the lake is Swallows Road. Swallows Road is a couple miles or so west of the Pueblo West's McCulloch West Boulevard exit. Simply turn south onto Swallows road and drive until you literally run into lake.

This is an easy launch. This launch will also disappear as the lake recedes. As the lake recedes the launch sites recede with it as one would expect. At the north gate to Lake Pueblo State Park there is a wildlife area access road. This road leads to two small craft concrete ramps (now under water) and Turkey Creek. The Turkey Creek launch is best used when the lake is up. Other wise it is a long carry to water.



I hope many of you will take advantage of this magical place. It is perhaps the best sea kayaking or canoeing in Colorado and beyond this time of year. I plan to be on the water every opportunity I have to explore before the lake recedes.

**EARLIER DETAILS ABOUT LAKE PUEBLO, FEBRUARY 15:** Ice is off the lake for now anyway. If we get an extended cold spell that could change. The water temperature is still 38 degrees. The lake is within five feet of maximum fill for this year; it's really big right now. Two days ago they were pulling out the south shore public dock and the launch was closed. In the next few days I plan to paddle to the west end. Raptors are beginning to show up in pairs. The eagles are still around and will be for another month or so. I haven't noticed cormorants as yet. There are a few Great Blues around. It will be another month before nesting activity starts in earnest for this springs rookeries.

**LAKE PUEBLO UPDATE, APRIL 8:** The water is beginning to drop though the south side launch remains closed due to high water. The eagles are long gone. About a week ago the turkey vultures began arriving. The American White Pelicans began arriving in early March this year but it wasn't until the end of March that they showed in numbers. The cormorants and the Great Blue Herons are here and beginning the nesting process. I discovered a Great Horned Owl nest in Dripping Water Canyon. Soon there will be fledglings to feed. I haven't been on the west end of the lake for a while. We plan to paddle there tomorrow. The water is warming up and soon we will be able to escape the tyranny of the dry suit.

It's a long drive for many of us, but these descriptions make the paddling sound just lovely. As he says, "Come for the water—stay for the Mexican food."



Tree swallows back in the bayou at Barr Lake, May 14, 2016  
Find the complete list of birds seen and details of the paddle on page 16.



# SPRING ON THE SOUTH PLATTE, 2016

**MULTI-CLUB SPRING KICK-OFF; EVANS TO KERSEY OR KUNER:** Cancelled for rotten weather the week before, the 13<sup>th</sup> Almost-Annual Multi-Club paddle was held Saturday, April 2nd. It was billed as "almost-annual" because of the two-year break in tradition caused by the Flood of 2013 having washed out the put-in at Evans.

This year the people from Rocky Mountain Canoe Club and the Poudre Paddlers arranged to use a farmer's land a bit farther down stream. There was plenty of parking, but the put-in itself was more like a drop-your-boat-and-hope-you-can-land-in-it. It resulted in a spread-out group of 30+ paddlers—good for a bit more solitude on the river than this paddle used to provide but not so good for the first-timers on the trip.



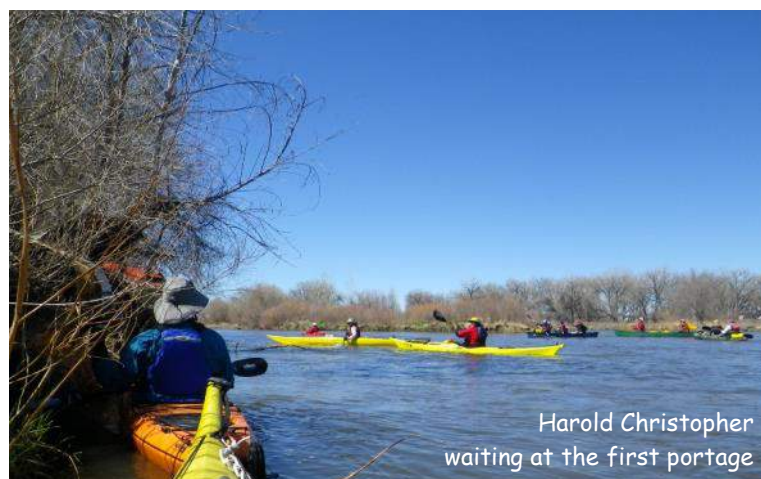
Andy McKenna, in red  
with the helpers at the weir dam

There were a pair of indispensable helpers at the first weir dam; the water was higher than usual and there wasn't much room to walk around it. More water did mean that not as many people got hung up on sandbars as they used to.

The second portage, at the lunch stop, seemed about as it had in the past, but with maybe a longer carry.

The museum of old cars that held the river banks in place had clearly taken a beating in the flood. The pictures below don't show the full the difference but it was striking. They were still there, but sadly much less identifiable.

[If you're interested, there are several longer and more exuberant reports of this paddle from past years on our website.]



Harold Christopher  
waiting at the first portage



2009



2016; after the flood



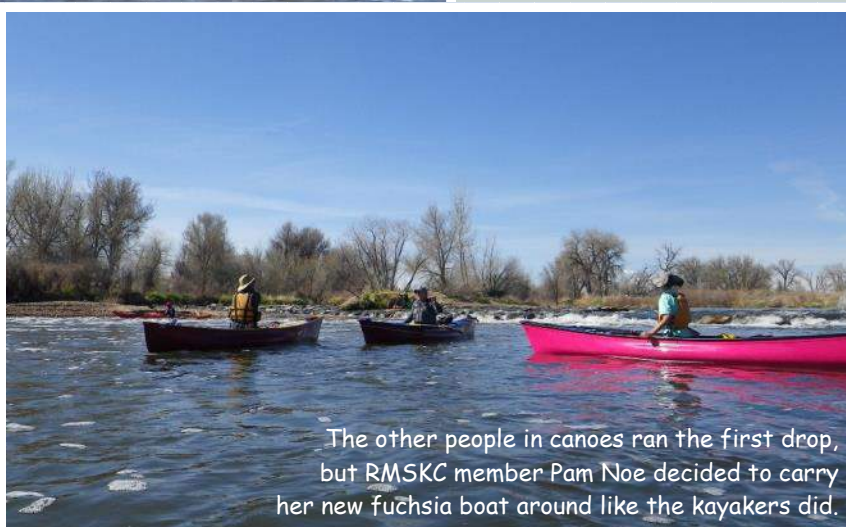


Ray getting back into his boat after the first portage.

**THE SOUTH PLATTE WITH CANOE COLORADO:** It was warmer the following Saturday when three kayaks joined a handful of canoes from Canoe Colorado to paddle the Brighton to Ft. Lupton section of the South Platte.

The group enjoyed a lunch of Mexican food at La Estrellita on Main Street in Brighton, where several of them ordered goat meat tacos.

*Early Season 2016 Paddles continue on the next page*



The other people in canoes ran the first drop, but RMSKC member Pam Noe decided to carry her new fuchsia boat around like the kayakers did.



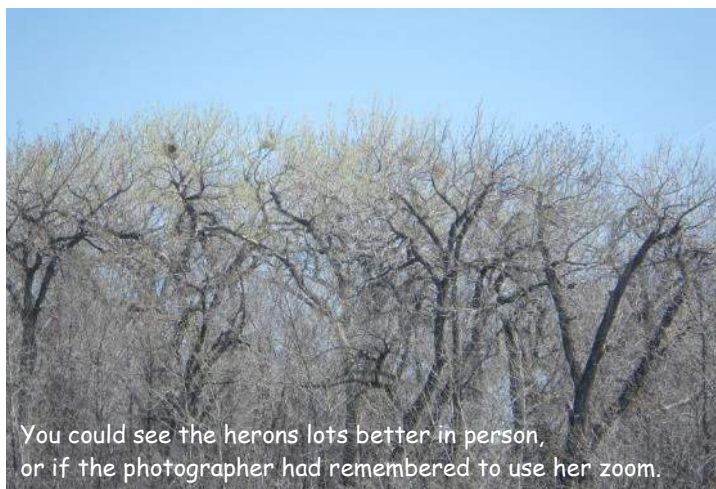
Confluence Kayaks' annual swap meet was April 9-10. They had the previous season's demos and rentals for sale, as well as discounted in-season products.

People could consign personal gear with a 10% commission for store credit, or a 20% cash-back.

**PUT THIS SALE ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2017**



Mica, Tammy Haven and Brian Hunter



You could see the herons lots better in person, or if the photographer had remembered to use her zoom.

#### LONETREE IN APRIL, COLORADO CANCELLED:

The Thursday before this April 16<sup>th</sup> outing, trip leader Sue Hughes paddled the reservoir west of Berthoud to check it out. The water was high, at least a handful of herons were on active nests in the rookery and all three nooks we usually enjoy were open enough to sneak back into.

Almost a dozen huge earth movers were scraping the land to the east to build a golf course, but the water and wildlife didn't seem affected by their activity. The paddle looked good-to-go.

Maybe not; the forecast for Saturday got worse and worse. Some of the paddlers remained interested, mostly to try out their foul weather gear for *Alaska 2016*, but by Friday night even the die-hards realized Saturday wasn't going to be an RMSKC kind of day.

They were right: by noon, Dave Hustvedt, who lives in the mountains above Boulder, couldn't find his boat under the three feet of snow that had fallen at his house.



April 16, 2016  
Dave Hustvedt's kayak



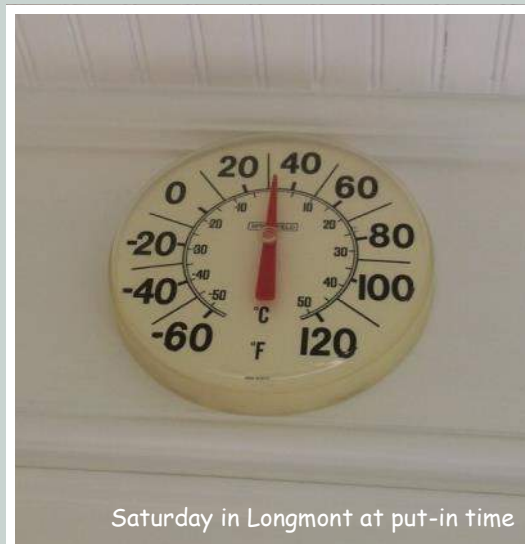
April 16, 2016  
People near Salida did paddle

**ANNUAL END OF APRIL AT MCINTOSH:** This paddle has been held the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in April for almost a decade; it's been called the *Mud Hen* for the last handful of years because it usually coincides with a local race by that name.

This year RMSKC had a clean up paddle at Chatfield for Earth Day on April 23, so kayaking on "Small but Free" Lake McIntosh was scheduled for the following week, April 30.

Like the Lonetree Reservoir paddle two weeks earlier, this one was cancelled the night before because of snowy rain and near-freezing temperatures.

Calling it was the right decision. Saturday morning at 10:00 it was in the low 30s with a 20 mph wind.



Saturday in Longmont at put-in time



## EARTH DAY CLEANUP AT CHATFIELD RESERVOIR



The Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club supported the American Canoe Association's Green Earth Day Cleanup by holding a water-borne trash collection paddle at Chatfield State Park on Saturday, April 23, 2016.

RMSKC members Marsha Dougherty, Tim Fletcher, Sue Hughes, Dave Hustvedt, Clark Strickland, and Kristy Webber were joined by Kerry and Pauline Edwards of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club. The day was cloudy and cool, but the forecast high winds did not materialize and the moderate breeze did not adversely affect the cleanup. The water level was high, providing good access to the vegetation along Kingfisher Cove and the inflow of the South Platte River into Chatfield Reservoir, where the shore side trash picking took place.



Chatfield State Park Operations Manager Jennifer Anderson coordinated permits and administrative arrangements, including waiving park entrance fees for cleanup participants. Park Ranger Lauren Turpin met the group and offered to rendezvous by patrol launch with the kayaks and canoe to pick up trash. Communications protocols were established between Ranger Turpin and Trip Leader Strickland and the group prepared to launch.

Clark Strickland distributed mesh ACA trash collection bags and conducted a brief pre-launch meeting. Group members were paired up to provide for a safe paddle. The group paddled around the perimeter of Kingfisher Cove, traveled up the South Platte to the State Park bridge and then into the lagoons east of the South Platte inlet.





Pauline and Kerry Edwards showing the usefulness of a canoe for transporting bulk trash

Four RMSKC paddlers had scouted the area on the day before and were surprised to find that there was relatively little in the way of floating plastic and beverage containers in the area.

Taking a little more time and care produced a substantial amount of bottles, cans, styrofoam containers and pieces, and some large items, including a steel fencepost. About 50' of plastic safety fencing was cut into four pieces by Dave, Clark and Tim, who wrestled the pieces out of the shallow water near the lagoon.



Standing: Tim Fletcher, Pauline Edwards, Kerry Edwards, Dave Hustvedt, Kristy Webber, Clark Strickland, Marsha Dougherty Kneeling: Sue Hughes

The well-travelled canoe of Kerry and Pauline Edwards was perfect for transporting the large items like the rolls of derelict fence, so it was not necessary to call Ranger Turpin for trash transport. The Edwards' bore the gentle teasing about the scow that they were paddling.

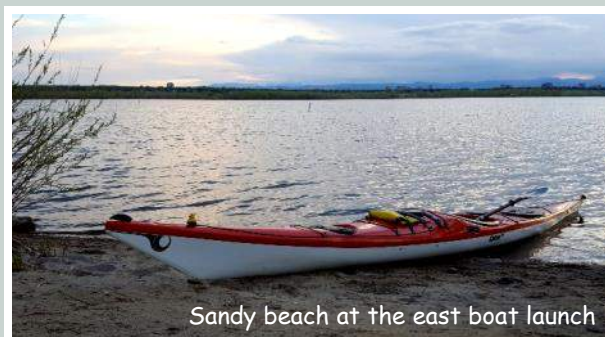
In about three hours, the group's total trash haul amounted to more than 40 pounds. The trash was deposited in a dumpster at the Kingfisher Cove parking area and Clark notified Ranger Turpin that we were safely off the water. The paddlers enjoyed a leisurely lunch talking about places they'd paddled, or wanted to, and getting to know Pauline and Kerry. Everyone was heading home by 1:30.

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**WEDNESDAY EVENING CHERRY CREEK PADDLES:** RMSKC members have been enjoying regular Wednesday evening paddles at Cherry Creek State Park. Brian Hunter and Clark Strickland co-lead the official RMSKC ACA Paddle America Club paddles, and held the first one of the 2016 season on April 6.

The group meets at the east boat launch at Cherry Creek State Park and launches at 6PM. We paddle counterclockwise and usually poke our bows into Cherry Creek or Cottonwood Creek. Bird life is varied and abundant.

After each paddle the nearby Casa Vallarta [4002 South Parker Road] is the cerveza and nachos refueling stop.



Sandy beach at the east boat launch



## WEDNESDAY EVENING CHERRY CREEK PADDLES, CONTINUED:

At that first outing, Brian and Clark had a nice chat with Rik Lawson and his son Jac who were scoping out the park. Rik liked what he was told about RMSKC and the Lawson family soon joined the club.



We did not find a pot 'o gold at either end of this rainbow, but the memories of a nice paddle are treasured.

Rik, after paddling his recreational boat with us for a few weeks, found a used Current Designs *Pisces*\* and has been out on every Wednesday. Belle Bashaw and Jud Hurd have also braved evening traffic on various Wednesdays.

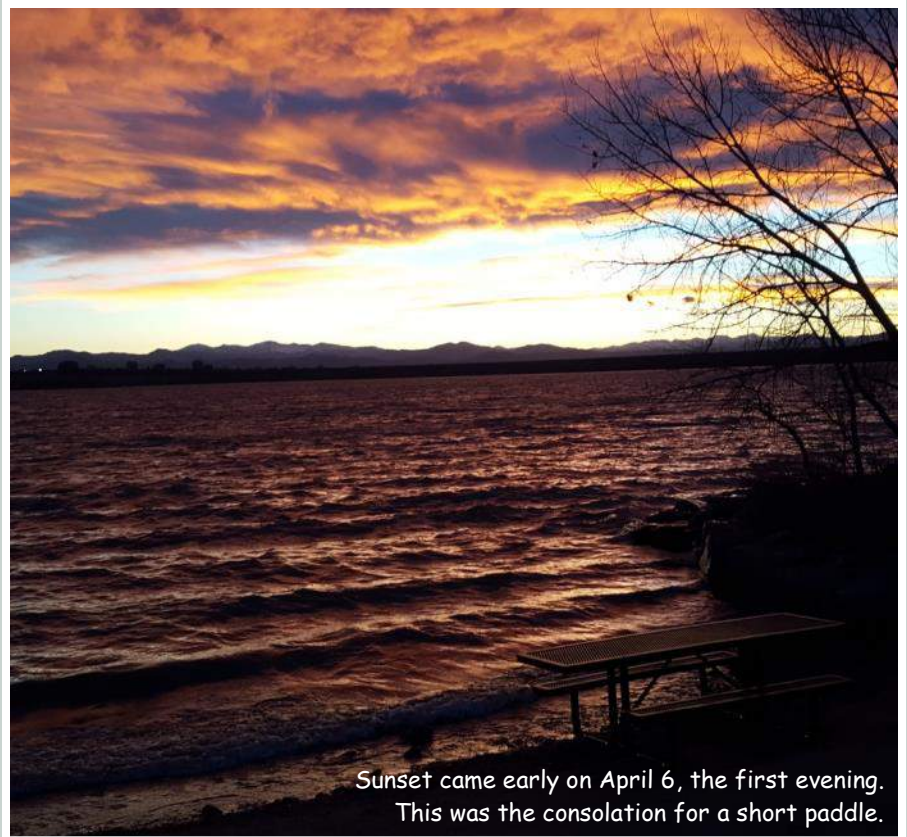
\* Designed and first built in early 1982, the *Pisces* was one of Current Designs' first two models. It is a high volume American touring style boat and was manufactured by Current Designs until the mid-1990s.

The paddles in April and so far in May have been pleasant, but cool. The water temperature has been in the 50s. On one evening, paddling was delayed briefly by a nearby thunderstorm, but after seeing the bad weather pass by to the north, a nice evening paddle was accomplished.

Sunsets have ranged from very nice to spectacular and the lengthening daylight has meant that we get a slightly more extended time on the water each week.

We'd love to have more club members join us. Be sure to leave enough time to accommodate the traffic to make the 6PM launch time.

If you plan to come, it's best to let Brian or Clark know so that you can be informed if weather forces cancellation of a Wednesday evening paddle.



Sunset came early on April 6, the first evening. This was the consolation for a short paddle.

This article and the one before it, *Earth Day Cleanup at Chatfield Reservoir*, were written by Clark Strickland.

**BIRDING AT BARR LAKE, MAY 14, 2016:** Driving to Brighton some of us were dubious about the weather, but it didn't rain and the wind died down, and since we were dressed for the 50° temperatures it wasn't a problem. The hard-core birders wished the light was better for seeing markings; the rest

of us just enjoyed the overcast spring day, got some exercise and had a nice time catching up on each other's lives.

Barr Lake has installed a number of white basketball-sized buoys to make an interpretive water trail. Each of them has a container with a sheet of printed information. We stopped and read a couple of them.



Trip leader Gregg Goodrich and Anna Troth

Here is the list of the birds we saw that Gregg Goodrich submitted to eBird—a global online database of records used by birders around the world.

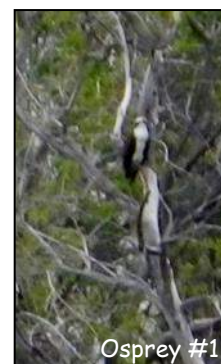
E-bird is a free resource that makes it easy for birders to keep track of what they see, while making their data available for scientific research, education, and conservation.



Clark Strickland and Jud Hurd  
listen to George Ottenhoff read the facts

- 5 Mallard
- 3 Western Grebe
- 30 Double-crested Cormorant
- 35 American White Pelican
- 5 Great Blue Heron
- 2 Black-crowned Night-Heron
- 4 American Robin
- 2 Red-tailed Hawk
- 4 Spotted Sandpiper
- 2 Ring-billed Gull
- 2 Eurasian Collared-Dove
- 4 Mourning Dove
- 1 Barn Owl
- 1 Belted Kingfisher
- 2 Northern Flicker
- 4 Western Kingbird
- 1 Eastern Kingbird

- 1 Blue Jay
- 1 Black-billed Magpie
- 8 Tree Swallow [photo on page 9]
- 3 Black-capped Chickadee
- 8 House Wren, most only heard
- 12 Swainson's Thrush
- 5 Yellow Warbler, all heard
- 1 Yellow-rumped Warbler
- 2 Osprey
- 8 Chipping Sparrow
- 20 Red-winged Blackbird
- 5 Common Grackle
- 2 Brown-headed Cowbird
- 10 Bullock's Oriole
- 1 House Sparrow
- Canada Geese
- Coots





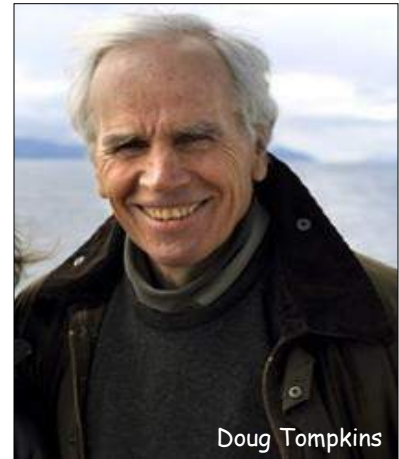
# DOUG TOMPKINS

by Sue Hughes

Doug Tompkins, founder of the North Face gear company, famous conservationist and outdoors adventurer, died last December in a kayak accident in southern Chile.

**A SUMMARY OF THE INCIDENT:** Tompkins and five other experienced kayakers were paddling on General Carrera Lake, on the Chilean side of Patagonia. The lake is about as far south of the equator as central Montana is north and it was not yet summer there. Although it isn't far above sea level, General Carrera is a large body of water with a lot of fetch, surrounded by mountains with ice fields which drain into it, and its waters are always cold.

Wind developed and the boats overturned. They were not dressed for the 40 degree water temperature and before they could be rescued Tompkins had spent two hours in the water; he died of hypothermia.



Doug Tompkins



It horrified everybody, especially those who kayak in cold water. There were discussions back and forth; Jay Gingrich sent a series of emails and links about it. One of them was to an article about Doug's legacy and the lessons we should learn from his death written by Darren Bush, owner of Rutabaga Paddlesports\* in Madison, Wisconsin.

Darren described a hypothetical paddle in Lake Superior as it might spin out of control. He says people get in trouble "when a series of small, almost insignificant decisions compound into an escalating mess." An escalating mess from casual choices? His examples are calls everyone has made. He reminds us that we all say in our heads, "Not me, not today." But it could be any one of us; it could be any day.

It is titled, "**GET OVER THE 'NOT ME, NOT TODAY' SYNDROME...**" He writes well and makes a convincing case for changing our ways. You can find it at: [http://www.silentsports.net/?p=23922#\\_](http://www.silentsports.net/?p=23922#_)

A sobering account of the accident from another source is online at: <http://www.canoe kayak.com/news/everything-we-know-about-doug-tompkins-death/#XhRu5E1zPCEDkIEr.97>

\*Rutabaga Paddlesports runs the annual *Door County Sea Kayak Symposium* on Lake Michigan at the tip of Wisconsin's "thumb". Several RMSKC members attended in 2015. You can read about their experiences at this well known event in last summer's issue of the *Mountain Paddler* (23-2b ).





EDITOR'S NOTE: Brian has been studying *Greenland* paddles and paddling for a long time.

Last spring, when he was on the east coast visiting his mother, he attended the Traditional Inuit Paddlers of the Southeast's symposium in Aiken, South Carolina.

## TRADITIONAL INUIT PADDLERS OF THE SOUTHEAST

by Brian Hunter

Traditional Inuit Paddlers of the Southeast (TIPS) is

an annual kayak gathering that brings *Greenland Style* paddling to the southeastern United States. Novice to expert paddlers get together to learn and teach paddling strokes, maneuvers and rolling techniques, and to appreciate the ingenuity of the type of equipment used for thousands of years by *Greenland* hunters.

**BRIAN'S REPORT:** On May 15-17, 2015, I attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Traditional Inuit Paddlers of the Southeast (TIPS) retreat near Columbia, South Carolina. It was a Qajaq USA event featuring two exceptional and world renowned *Greenland* style paddlers, Chris Crowhurst and Dubsie.

Uncle Dave, a Qajaq USA volunteer, brought six skin-on-frame qajaqs, about a dozen *Greenland* paddles and several different sizes of *tuilik* ("doo-ee-leek"), which are Inuit spray skirts with a hood and arms.



The author  
back right with a paddle

Qajaq USA is an organization dedicated to preserving some of the traditions and techniques used by the Inuit, and to raise awareness about the roots of the paddling activity that many enjoy: [www.qajaqusa.org](http://www.qajaqusa.org)



Also provided were several *avataq* ("av-ah-tock"), the sealskin flotation bladders that are attached to a harpoon. There were even some harpoons.

This gear was from the Qajaq USA collection; it travels to different Inuit style events around the United States. The participants were encouraged to try all the different equipment and received instruction on their proper fit and use.





The norsaq, or harpoon throwing stick, used to launch the harpoon is under the harpoon hidden on the far side of this paddler. Norsaq's are also used in several variations of emergency rolls.

## HARPOON THROWING PRACTICE

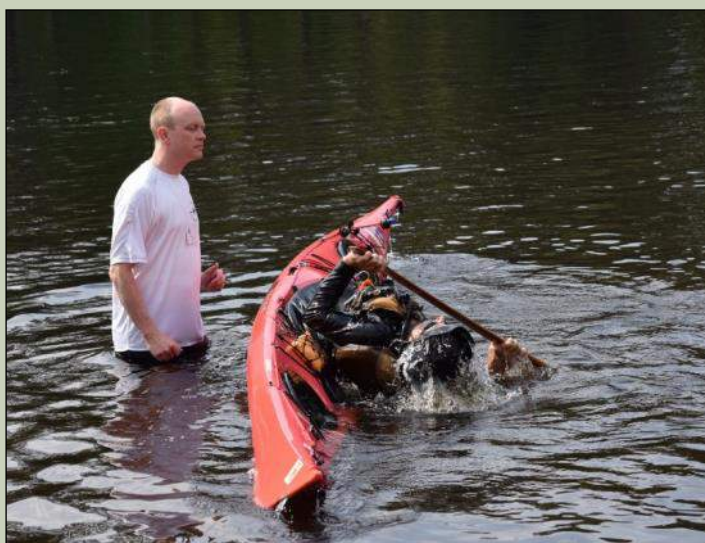
There were classes in using the Greenland style paddle, often called a "stick," and many other subjects. Harpoon throwing was one of them.

One of the instructors, Chris Crowhurst, said in his blog, "I liked how TIPS de-emphasized rolling and provided opportunities for forward stroke development, maneuvering, harpoon throwing, ropes and paddle making, as well as presentations on history, Greenland competition, etc.

This really allowed the attendees to get a rounded view of Greenland style kayaking."



In this picture you can see the harpoon in the air and the norsaq in the paddler's right hand.



The instruction by Chris, Dubside and Uncle Dave was truly excellent; every participant I spoke to was thrilled with the training and learned new skills or improved existing ones.

## ROLLING LESSONS

But rolling is a life-or-death skill for hunters in the Arctic's icy waters, and it was a big part of the symposium. There were classes on the many different types of Inuit rolls from beginner to advanced "combat" rolls.



Learning the hand roll with Chris Crowhurst



Dubside [no last name] travels all over the US to demonstrate rolling, and the rope gymnastics that are used to teach rolling skills where the water is too cold to practice them in the ocean, and he competes in and judges rolling contests in Greenland.

He's amazing; check out a rolling exhibition: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i\\_8Lh6ldWng](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_8Lh6ldWng)

Or a rope demonstration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URONCFjK0j0>



Dubside demonstrating rope gymnastics that simulate rolling



## YOGA

Both mornings of the event started with yoga for qajaqing. It was the first time many of us (including me) had ever tried it.

After those two session I am convinced that yoga can improve qajaqing skills by stretching and strengthening the muscles used in paddling. I believe it is especially useful for rolling qajaqs.

## IMPROVING BALANCE



Trying to paddle a balance board



Playing around on three boards



## MAKING GREENLAND PADDLES



Paddle making seminar



Brian demonstrated his portable work bench and how he glues up his paddles.

There were 21 participants at the second annual TIPS from all around the US, and one from Mexico who was a German citizen. Skill levels varied from novice to those performing rolls with a brick in one hand.

We all went away feeling grateful for the new paddlers we met and the skills we learned or improved. Many of us will cross paths again at other Qajaq USA paddle events.



Early morning serenity at Aiken, South Carolina

**SOME HISTORY OF KAYAK CONSTRUCTION:** For the most part the sea kayaks (qajaqs) we paddle today were inspired by the Inuit people of the Arctic. The skin-on-frame (SOF) qajaqs they made were designed to hunt marine mammals, birds and do a little fishing, too. Bringing home enough food to keep the village fed in very harsh sea states and cold water drove the design of these highly specialized water craft and related accessories. Different areas of the Greenland coast also influenced qajaq design that were specific to that location.

Greenland qajaqs and paddles were tweaked and improved to perfection over a period of several thousand years. Originally they were made solely from found and harvested materials specifically for a single person. Measurements, called anthropometrics, were obtained from the length and width of various parts of the paddler's body. For example, the length of a particular qajaq might be three times the length of the paddler's outstretched arms from fingertip to fingertip, and the width equal to the width of his hips plus two fists with the thumbs tucked in.

EDITOR'S NOTE: As the article on TIPS mentioned, Brian has been interested in Greenland paddling for several years. People new to RMSKC can look in the publications available on our website for articles he's written on Greenland paddles and how he makes them: *Paddling with a 2x4* in the Mountain Paddler, Summer, 2013 (21-1b), and *How I Make Greenland Paddles* in the Mt. Paddler, Summer, 2014 (22-1b).

In searching for those cites, I realized Brian has been listed as the author in the *RMSKC Index of Publications* more than twenty times. Some were short event or paddle reports, but more than half were major articles. Here and on the next page are portions of the Index sorted to show the titles and topics of his longer articles.



Brian Hunter

| TITLE   | SUBJECTS  | AUTHOR       | ISSUE   |
|---|---|--------------|---|
| <i>Rudder vs. Skeg</i>  | Weather cocking, locked stern, advantages and disadvantages of rudders, advantages and disadvantages of skegs, how to counter weather cocking, kinked cable, retrofitting a rudder, gas pedal rudder controls lee cocking | Brian Hunter | 2015,<br>23-1b, <i>Mt. Paddler</i><br><i>Early Spring, 2015</i> |
| <i>Thoughts on Paddling as a Group</i>                        | Safety in a group, paddlers' responsibilities when paddling in a group  | Brian Hunter | 2015,<br>23-2b, <i>Mt. Paddler</i><br><i>Summer, 2015</i>       |
| <i>Rolling: It's a Little Like Learning to Ride a Bicycle</i> | Videos, reasons learning to roll is valuable, advantages of a roll, pool practice,  | Brian Hunter | 2015,<br>23-2b, <i>Mt. Paddler</i><br><i>Summer, 2015</i>       |
| <i>Kayaking on the Edge</i>                                   | Benefits of edging, physics of why edging works   | Brian Hunter | 2014,<br>22-1b, <i>Mt. Paddler</i><br><i>Summer, 2014</i>       |



| <b>TITLE</b>  | <b>SUBJECTS</b>  | <b>AUTHOR</b> | <b>ISSUE</b>  |
|---|--|---------------|---|
| <i>How I Make Greenland Style Paddles</i>                               | References and sources of information, pictures of Brian's workbench, grain explanations, gluing steps, attachments to the workbench: clamps and jigs  | Brian Hunter  | 2014,<br>22-1b, <i>Mt. Paddler Summer, 2014</i>       |
| <i>The Splendor of Shadow Mountain Lake</i>                             | Gratitude, beauty, fishing, flowers, mule deer, Grand Lake   | Brian Hunter  | 2013,<br>21-2b, <i>Mt. Paddler Fall, 2013</i>         |
| <i>Paddling With a Two by Four</i>                                      | Inuit, Aleut, skin-on-frame, Greenland, making a Greenland paddle, paddling with a Greenland stick, advantages of a Greenland paddle, disadvantages of a Greenland paddle, <i>Greenland Paddles Step by Step</i> | Brian Hunter  | 2013,<br>21-1b, <i>Mt. Paddler Summer, 2013</i>       |
| <i>Boat Modifications: for Safety, Control, Comfort and Convenience</i> | Boat modifications, carry toggles, security bolt, hatch cover security, bungees, thigh braces, back band, perimeter lines, under-deck stowage bungees  | Brian Hunter  | 2012,<br>20-1b, <i>Mt. Paddler Early Summer, 2012</i> |
| <i>Some Basic Knots for Kayaking</i>                                    | Which knot to use, knot jargon, ten knots with pictures and good instructions  | Brian Hunter  | 2012<br>20-2b, <i>Mt. Paddler Late Fall, 2012</i>     |
| <i>SERIOUSLY SICK? Just Driving Home from a Trip?</i>                   | DVT, safety, causes, pain, dehydration, blood clots  | Brian Hunter  | 2011,<br>19-2b, <i>Mt. Paddler Fall, 2011</i>         |
| <i>Heavenly Paddling on the Green</i>                                   | Moving water, Labyrinth Canyon, monoliths, mesa, <i>Canyonlands River Guide</i>  | Brian Hunter  | 2011,<br>19-2b, <i>Mt. Paddler Fall, 2011</i>         |
| <i>Advanced Do It Yourself Dry Bags</i>                                 | Making dry bags, specialized dry bags, heatseal, fabric, bow bag, custom dry bags  | Brian Hunter  | 2010,<br>18-3b, <i>Mt. Paddler Fall, 2010</i>         |
| <i>Kayak Towing</i>   | Rescue, skill  | Brian Hunter  | 2010,<br>18-2b, <i>Mt. Paddler Summer, 2010</i>       |
| <i>Kayak Camping for the First Time</i>                                 | Kayak camping class, Granby Reservoir  | Brian Hunter  | 2008,<br>16-3,  |

# THE WEBBERS RETURN TO BAJA

by Kristy Webber

Last November my husband Richard and I had so much fun participating in a "Sea Paddler Training" course located out of Loreto, Baja California del Sur, México that we made the unexpected decision to return for the "Loreto Islands Builder" trip this March.



I say unexpected because getting to Loreto is not the easiest or cheapest kayak destination for us, but we were hooked and wanted another infusion of the magic of the Sea of Cortez and of Ginni Callahan's company leading these trips, Sea Kayak Baja Mexico (SKBM).

For people in Colorado, getting to Loreto means an overnight in Los Angeles, and then an Alaska Air flight to Loreto the next day. There are other suggested ways to get there (including driving), about which you can read at Sea Kayak Baja Mexico's website: [www.seakayakbajamexico.com](http://www.seakayakbajamexico.com).

When we arrived we stayed at the modest but very comfortable Angra Hotel for a couple days prior to the trip. Although it was not in the center of the appealing historic part of town, we enjoyed walking through the streets down to the main plaza and the seaside malecón [sea wall or jetty] each day, so it was perfect for us.

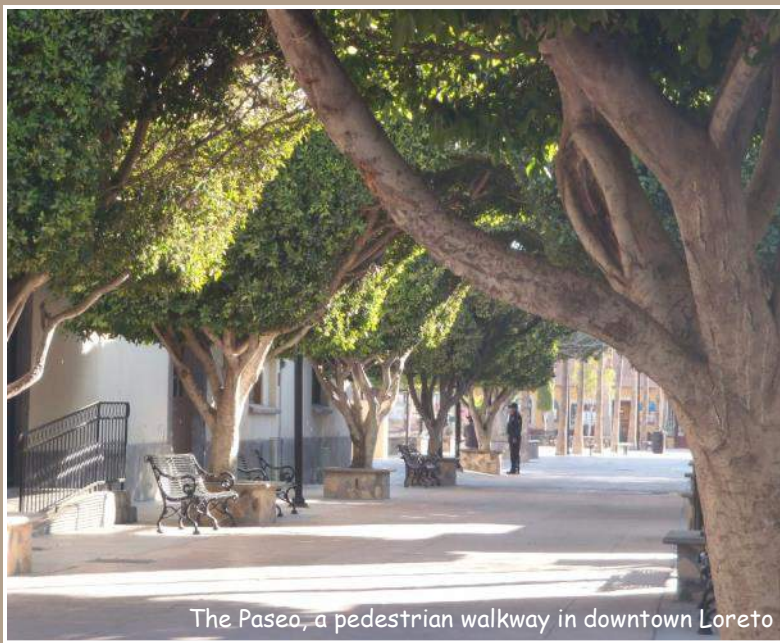


Kristy and  
Richard Webber





Misión de Nuestra Señora de Loreto



The Paseo, a pedestrian walkway in downtown Loreto

SKBM's "Builder" trip was all about seeing spectacular wildlife and the jaw-dropping beauty of the area, and not intended as a course in which to learn more kayaking skills. However, one cannot help build skills when paddling in such varied sea conditions. Two guides with us, Edgar and Ramon, were quite willing to help any one of us work on any particular skill in which we had interest. Edgar was particularly helpful to me on one challenging paddle.



SKBM provided quality boats and gear for the excursion. I paddled an NDK Romany and Richard paddled an NDK Explorer. Five of our group used European style paddles and the other four used Greenland style paddles.

All in the group were experienced paddlers. On the first three nautical mile crossing to Danzante Island for lunch, I slightly nervously wondered if such a brisk pace was going to be maintained for the next six days of paddling. Mostly, it was. [A nautical mile is 1.15 statute miles]

Day One's paddling was in mild weather with calm seas, and provided an opportunity to get used to being in a boat, being in a group and carrying the cargo needed for camping for six days. All water and provisions were provided by SKBM but the load was distributed among all the paddlers. Our first delicious lunch was indicative of the excellent and satisfying meals that followed.



Edgar cooking lunch

After lunch we did another 3 nm crossing to Carmen Island to camp for the night. After landing, several people opted to snorkel in the cold water and were rewarded with a variety of fish sightings. In the glow of the early evening we watched whales spout off in the distance between Danzante and Carmen and a pod of dolphins playing off shore. It was a wonderful beach site except for the nearby light tower. Anyone leaving their tent in the middle of the night lost intermittent privacy in the flashing light.

Day Two unfolded with a paddle around the southern end and up about a third of the eastern shore of Carmen to our next camp site. The first impression of this site was disturbing because the beach was littered with fish bones and carcasses, especially the heads of baby hammerhead sharks. It was obviously used as a fishing camp.



Rich Webber

But after adapting to the situation and contemplating the realities of how fishing is often done in the Sea of Cortez, we were able to appreciate the magnificent scenery all around us. Richard and I both decided to brave the cold water to snorkel, although I had to bail early due to a severely leaking mask. (Check your equipment before you go!)

The weather was forecast to change to high winds. On schedule, the late afternoon winds began to push waves onshore and we had to move our tent back against the cliff behind us to avoid a wet surprise as the tide rose in the night.

The next day, white caps were clearly visible outside our somewhat protected beach. We had already planned to spend a second night at that campsite, but would have had to do so anyway because of the wind.

The group determined that it still might be possible to paddle up the coast a bit around a headland on the third day. Richard wisely chose to stay in camp to protect his problematic shoulder. As the rest of us paddled into the exposed water, I began to have my doubts. I was at the limit of my comfort level in

terms of the wind and waves and was definitely having trouble keeping up. Feeling myself to be comparable to the other paddlers, I kept asking myself why I was struggling.

Then Edgar shouted over to me that I was dragging a dry bag (politely referred to as my "poop bag") off the stern of my boat. It was acting as a sea anchor. He unclipped it for me and with his sound forward stroke advice, he calmed my nerves. Without the extra drag and with renewed confidence, I found the entire experience to be the most exhilarating and challenging paddling I had ever done.

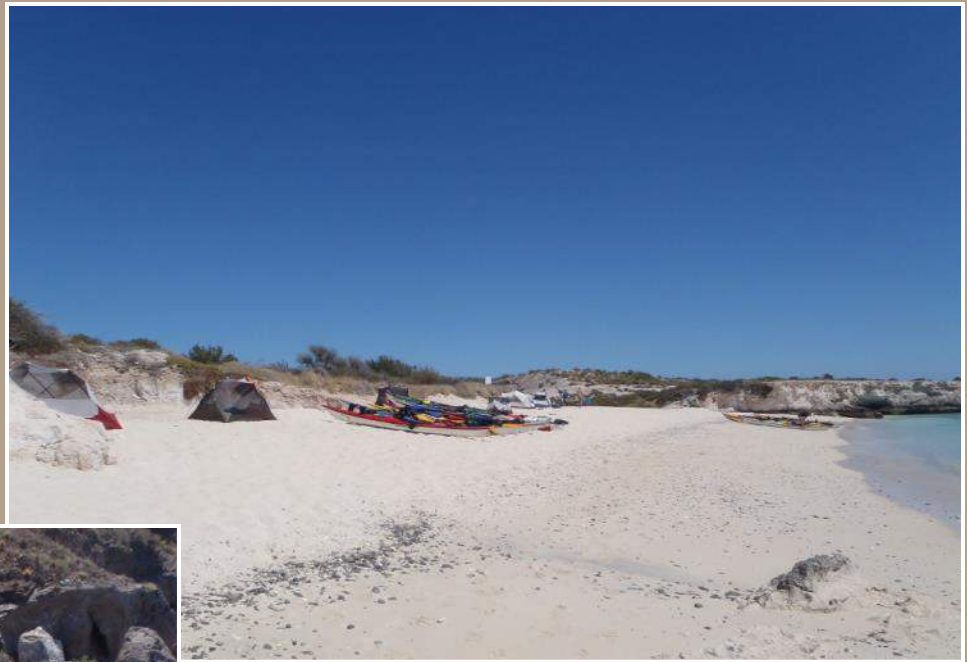
The following days unfolded with whale sightings (including the less frequently seen Blue Whale), jumping Mobula Rays, occasional sea lion heads, dolphins and a dizzying variety of birds. The Sea of Cortez is vibrant with life. The hiking that we did was enriched by the local flora knowledge of our guides.



Endemic Baja sea gull



The paddling continued to challenge and delight us with wind-driven bumpiness. We found ourselves crossing watery paths with other groups of paddlers unable to cross to Danzante due to the wind. The fourth night we shared a beach with another Sea Kayak Baja Mexico group doing a longer "Naturalist" trip.



A windy day meant sharing a beach with another group

One of the joys of that day was actually at night. Our guides gave us a 360 degree presentation of the night sky, highlighting planets and constellations with a laser beam. It was magic.

The last crossing to Danzante required ferrying across the wind and currents through exhilarating rough seas, but rewarded us with lots of wildlife sightings and a circumnavigation of the island.

However, there always seems to be at least one something that can throw a wrench into the works on each trip we have taken. The wrench on this trip came in the form of a massive luxury yacht drifting into view on the final night of the trip. This multi-million dollar homage to conspicuous opulence chose to park itself in front of our campsite in one of the most beautiful coves of the trip. Lit up like Paris and with aggressive audio

speakers, it issued loud head-banging techno music all night long (truly until dawn) that no earplugs could defeat. Such incongruity of experiences was memorable.

It was a trip rich with memories. Our final crossing to the mainland was taken slowly on dead calm seas, almost as if we were trying to prolong the trip. The Sea of Cortez is a jewel for kayaking. Sea Kayak Baja Mexico offers paddlers a genuine and unfussy direct experience of this environment. We highly recommend the adventure.

Find miscellaneous editorial asides with more information about these and other RMSKC members, travel in Loreto, and Baja in general on the next page.

There is also a fabulous picture of Kristy surfing.

# MORE ABOUT LORETO AND BAJA



Kristy surfing in Baja during the Webbers' November, 2015 trip.



Andrew Emlen playing a Bach suite at LoCo Roundup, 2010

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kristy didn't mention it, but the wake-up call on the morning that they were sharing the beach with the natural history group was a flute and guitar duet played by Ginni Callahan on flute and Andrew Emlen, one of the naturalists, on guitar.

Andrew played Bach cello suites at Ginni's "kayak camp" several summers when I was there and has led almost two hundred Roads Scholars' kayak tours in the lower Columbia River valley where he lives. He's a Lewis and Clark buff who can bring the history of their time and expedition alive with costumes and music, and he records with a local groups Willapa Hills and the Skamokawa Swamp Opera.

EDITOR'S NOTE #2: The Webbers spent a couple of days in Loreto, a pleasant village of about 15,000 people. Both Rich and Kristy speak Spanish. Rich had Peace Corps language training and spent a few months in Bolivia before the entire mission was expelled from the country in 1971; poor fellow, he had to finish his tour on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. Kristy has traveled to Cuenca, Ecuador, for several sessions at Spanish language schools there.



The Angra Hotel

The Angra Hotel where they stayed in Loreto is often used by SKBM's clients; it has a nice open patio area for a meal or a glass of beer.

NOTE #3: My first kayaking was with SKA in Loreto where I met Ginni, who was leading the trip; it was her last season with them before starting SKBM. Before I went I read a novel about the area called *King of the Moon*, by Gene Kira. His writing is like a cross between John Steinbeck and John Nichols, who wrote *The Milagro Beanfield War*. Amazon readers give it 4+ stars and I would too. It is excellent.



# USEFUL ARTICLES FOUND IN OUR EARLIER CLUB PUBLICATIONS

By Sue Hughes

Hunting for photos when we were revamping the website in early 2014 led me back through years of RMSKC publications.

The newsletters from before 2008, when we started publishing by email, didn't have many pictures, but I found some wonderful and useful articles, and learned a lot of Club history. [See the article on page 31.]

All the issues I could locate at that time (the ones before I became a member were paper copies Larry Kline had saved and graciously lent me) are available on the website. Here are the highlights:

Stan said, "I highly recommend RMSKC members joining other clubs in the Puget Sound region for trips in the San Juans, or any place else in the world."

In 2011 Stan White wrote about a trip in the Pacific Northwest when he paddled with the NORTH SOUND SEA KAYAK ASSOCIATION to Stuart Island, northwest of San Juan Island in the San Juans. What a good idea he had!

Hum...it seems that RMSKC members have been doing that for longer than we realized. In the back issues there was an account of a trip to the Georgia-Florida border where Ernie Frank joined the APALACHEE CANOE AND KAYAK CLUB from Tallahassee to paddle the Okefenokee National

Wildlife Refuge with them. The account of his spring paddle in that beautiful land has lots of helpful details. It definitely got me thinking about a trip to do next March or April.

In another article, Matt Lutkus, who was an RMSKC instructor and President before he relocated to Maine, wrote about joining the CANADIAN GREAT LAKES SEA KAYAKING ASSOCIATION and then paddling with them on Lake Huron's South Georgian Bay.

Other especially interesting articles:

- Four time Greenland National Kayaking champion, Maligiaq Padilla, was at PaddleFest in 1999.
- *Incredible Boat Damage* [2006] illustrates why everyone should carry repair supplies.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Articles of interest in publications from 1999 to 2008 have been scanned and posted in the **EARLIER ARTICLES** section in the Club Publications pages of the RMSKC website.

The **CURRENT PUBLICATIONS** section has complete issues from 2008 to the most recent.

Use the **INDEX OF PUBLICATIONS** to search for subjects of lasting interest in either earlier articles or more recent issues. There is a link to it on the first page of the Club Publications section.



2006: Randy Thompson  
duct taped his split keel

*Continued on the next page*

More older articles with interesting or useful topics:

- 2001—*Stranded by the Moon* reminds us how much trouble not really understanding tidal changes can cause Rocky Mountain paddlers.
- Cumberland Island National Seashore, off the Georgia coast, is a wonderful destination but presented some ocean paddling challenges. It's a nifty place with good camping, ruins of a Carnegie family mansion and wild horses; we should plan a trip there.
- 2001—*Solo on Lake Powell* warns about the problem of wind on Lake Powell and should be a must-read for everyone who paddles there.
- People escaped the Colorado winter with their friends; dolphins delighted them on the Texas coast and in Florida. Both articles have lots of specific information on where to paddle.
- Ed Berg paddled and wrote about Shoshone Lake in 2003, a destination many have enjoyed.
- Dick Dieckman described building his Pygmy Goldeneye [2007].
- We should have read about paddling the Maine Island Trail [2004] before we went in 2014.
- Barb Smith, the former Publications Editor, wrote a thoughtful letter about the benefits of being on the club's Steering Committee [2008].

## EVEN EARLIER ARTICLES COMING TO THE WEBSITE AND THE INDEX SOON

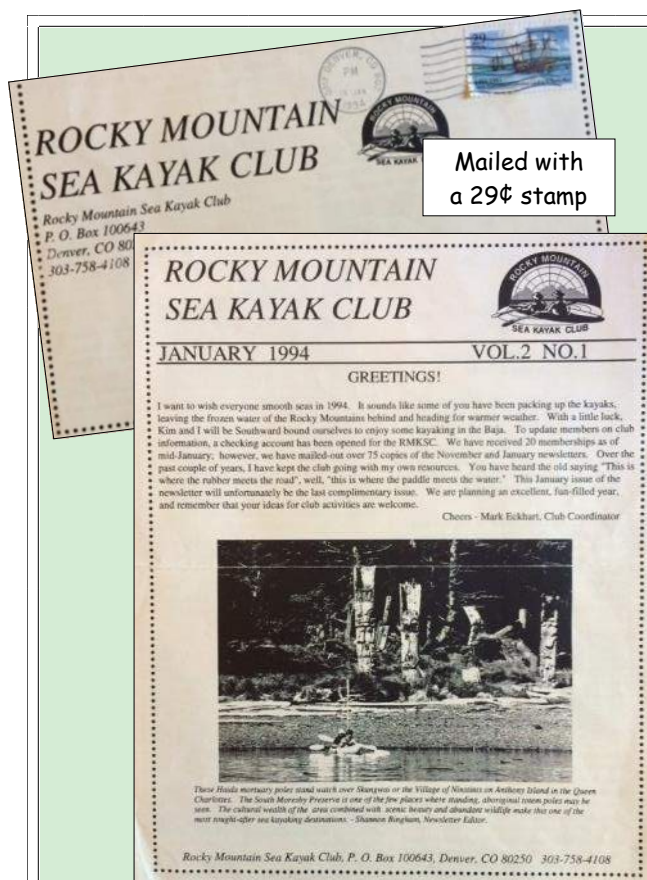
I scanned and posted those articles a couple of years ago. Recently I met with Harv Mastalir, who was active in RMSKC from the early 1990s to about 2002 or 2003. He and his wife, Susan Martineau, were the Newsletter editors for a couple of years.

He lent me issues from before Larry Kline's time, including one of the earliest, Vol. 2, No. 1, published in January, 1994.

It's a tedious process but I plan to scan the portions of Harv's pre-1999 newsletters that are of lasting relevance and post them on the "Earlier Articles" section of the website. Some you may want to read are:

- *Finding Your Dream Kayak*, and *Buying a Boat—About Dealing with Dealers*
- Paddling in Belize, and another about kayak sailing in Belize
- RMSKC member Brian Roberts' travels and paddles in Australia and New Zealand
- Kayaking in Baja from Mulege to Loreto, which is just north of the section the Webbers were doing this spring
- Another article about trouble with the Pacific Ocean's tides, this time in Prince William Sound
- Paddling Blue Mesa, Yellowstone, the Green River, Lake Michigan and Dillon Reservoir in November, for the first Penguin Paddle
- An article from a fellow with the Tromsø Sea Kayak Club in Norway; interestingly, his wife, Ann Odasz, and their children, Johanne and Tobias Albrigtsen, were members of RMSKC about twenty years later and paddled Sterling Reservoir with Jud Hurd in 2011.





Mailed with  
a 29¢ stamp

## CLUB BACKGROUND

### found in OLDER RMSKC PUBLICATIONS

by Sue Hughes

According to Harv Mastalir, who first paddled with RMSKC in 1992, the club was started in 1989 by Mark Eckhart, who lived in Denver at the time.

It grew quickly; it was on a list of local sea kayak clubs in *Sea Kayaker* magazine and paddle shops in the area helped

spread the word. Harv said it was a loose-knit group of friends, with about 20-30 core members, who paddled and kayak-camped together whenever they could.

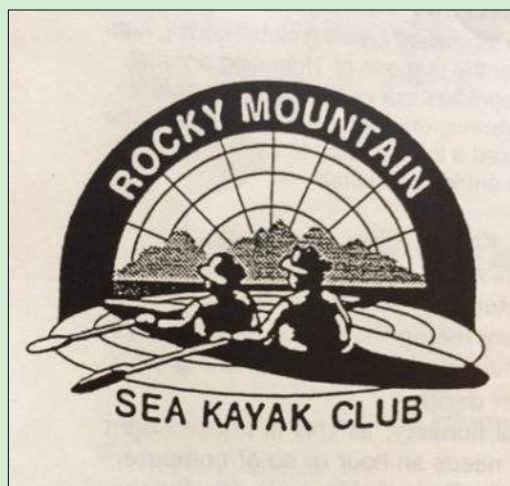
From the bits and pieces in his newsletters that I've been sorting, it seems that the early members were younger than the majority of our current membership, more likely to be paddling with a loved one and lots more likely to be paddling a double. [The original logo showed paddlers in a tandem.]

They were active; there were almost yearly trips to Yellowstone, Lake Powell, the Loma to Westwater section of the Colorado River and the Green River. There were after-work paddles that changed locations to accommodate where people lived. Destinations we don't do often happened regularly: Lake McConaughy in Nebraska and the San Juan River. A few of these trips were listed with menus; someone was organizing and buying food for group dinners!

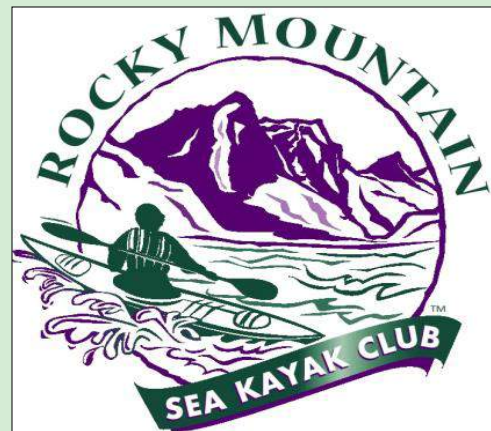
Several paddlers were especially ambitious. There were calls for participants on a Lake Powell trip from Hite to Wahweap and back; 325 miles of the Maine Island Trail; a week paddling off Vancouver Island, BC and a three-week trip on the Colville River in northern Alaska.

The Club newsletters started in 1993. The Vol. 2, No. 1 example I have was on nice 11 x 17 paper folded into an 8½ x 11 booklet that was then folded in half with room for an address on one outside portion; they cost 29 cents to mail. In January of 1994 Club Coordinator Mark Eckhart, who had been publishing them with his own resources, began charging. Shannon Bingham edited the newsletter.

In addition to the paddles mentioned above, the early editions published gear lists, an outline of how to plan a trip, suggestions about selecting a boat and articles on many more topics that remain pertinent years later.



In 1995 members discussed and selected the logo we still use, although not all agreed that it was a necessary change. Shortly thereafter a banner with the new logo was purchased to hang at put-ins.



It looks like the club had 60+ members through the late 1990s. Harv said that Mark and Kim Eckhart, Mark's brother Paul Eckhart, Tom Kinsella and Donna Nedde, and he and his wife Susan Martineau, whom he met on his first RMSKC Green River trip, were the backbone of the group.

There was November 1997 coverage in the *Summit Daily News* about the club's first Penguin Paddle on Dillon Reservoir, organized by Bobbe Belmont. The article states that RMSKC began 5 years earlier [all other sources use the 1989 date] and had 130 members. [Membership lists in the early 2000s have 80-90 members, but I didn't find one with that many names.]

A 1998 issue thanked Mark and his wife Kim for providing leadership over the last 10 years. The Executive Committee offered them a lifetime membership for their service and appointed Mark's brother Paul Eckhart president. At that time Tom Kinsella and his wife Donna Nedde were handling the newsletter, which was a paid position. The job was later passed to Harv and Susan, who also oversaw membership and the library.

**SUBSEQUENT LEADERSHIP CHANGES:** Susan Martineau stepped down as Newsletter editor in the summer of 2002 to focus on her business, and Barb Smith took over. Barb resigned in 2008 and convinced me at my first PaddleFest gathering that being in the thick of things would be fun, which it has.

A Newsletter in 2002 solicited nominations for the "first elections ever" but the call for nominees went unanswered. Larry Kline, who had joined the Executive Committee as Treasurer, was appointed President. He served until 2006, when Matt Lutkus took over. Larry says there were no elections; Matt simply stepped forward from his position on the Steering Committee just as he had.

About that time Matt Lutkus organized the ACA instructor group (Matt, Brian Curtiss, Dan Bell, and Gary McIntosh) and arranged training at a personal cost of more than \$500 per person. Each is still paddling, but they are no longer active instructors for RMSKC. How to get instructors certified at an affordable cost so we can provide instruction at a reasonable price continues to be an issue for our Steering Committee.

After Matt, Larry became President again and in 2010 was elected to a new term in the first election that actually occurred. During Larry's terms RMSKC became an ACA PaddleAmerica Club, codified guidelines for Trip Leaders and Trip Participants, and began work on club bylaws, with Rich Broyles spearheading that task. Following Larry, Jud Hurd served two terms, during which the bylaws were ratified. He then moved to Paddle Coordinator when Clark Strickland was elected.



# Of Rules, Regulations and Non-Member Capsizes

by Harv Mastalir



Overnight and extended trips are open only to current RMSKC members who have signed a current Release of Liability Form.  
Day paddles at local reservoirs are open to visitors and guests.

A non-member capsize on a recent club trip has raised concern for safety issues on our club paddles. We have a prominently placed rule that excludes non-members from overnight trips. This rule has been put in place for the safety of all people involved.

It is important that each individual on every overnight trip has evaluated their ability to successfully complete the trip. Each member has also signed a liability form that states quite clearly that the individual member understands that they are taking responsibility for their own safety.

Any non-member paddler has not gone through this evaluation process and acknowledgement of responsibility and puts at risk all the members in the club. As a club we will have to decide on a system to minimize this type of problem. We will be looking at this and other issues at a general club meeting Saturday, January 27th. We invite all members to attend this meeting.

From a  
newsletter  
dated 2000.

One of the constant threads in the newsletters over the years is how to paddle safely. Another has been the tension between a club that is a loose-knit group of friends and the demands for more organization to protect everyone, especially the organizers, in case of an accident.

Eventually, at some point in the mid-2000s, the decision was made to affiliate with the American Canoe Association so we could be protected by the insurance they offer. RMSKC became a ACA Paddle American Club.

I hope to have more information about that decision from Larry Kline when he returns from traveling. I have also tried to reach many of the members from the old days. Only a few of the emails have bounced, but I have not gotten very many responses. Stay tuned...maybe next issue.

## MEMBERS FROM THE EARLY YEARS:

I contacted Harv Mastalir through Google; he is a prize-winning fine furniture maker living and working in Black Hawk. Take a look at his website: <http://www.harvmastalir.com>

He has paddled in New Zealand, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and both arms of Glacier Bay, Alaska. This summer he's going to Desolation Sound (in British Columbia about halfway up Vancouver Island) College Fjord in Prince William Sound, southeast of Wittier in Alaska, and has plans for two trips to Yellowstone Lake.

Mark Eckhart owns Long Haul Folding Kayaks in Cedaredge, Colorado.

I think Donna Nedde and Tom Kinsella are also still in Colorado. Bobbe Belmont wrote *Dangling Without a Rope* and takes boating photographs for advertisements and kayaking websites. Barb Smith has recovered from a horrible bike accident, but I don't know if she and her husband are still paddling. I hope to have some follow-up on their lives since they left RMSKC's inner circles in another issue.



Harv Mastalir

EDITOR'S NOTE: People new to paddling in the arid west will find that the procedures for human waste disposal here are much more stringent than they are in places where organic matter rots quickly.

An article for paddlers about handling this issue in our environment was published in the Summer, 2014 *Mountain Paddler* (22-1b).

In this latest article you'll find expanded specs and more thorough construction information from Harold Christopher, with helpful pictures of the process and photos of the parts. Following that are some other, related points about waste disposal in the West.

## HUMAN WASTE DISPOSAL: CONTAINERS, PART II

### GOVERNMENT AGENCIES' REQUIREMENTS APPEAR INCONSISTENT:

- The Bureau of Land Management specifies 4 inches of height in 3 inch diameter tube per person per day for solid waste storage. Doing the math  $V = \pi r^2 h = 3.14159 \times 2.25 \times 4 = 28.25$  cubic inches, which rounds to 30 inches<sup>3</sup>/day. You can find their requirements and how to build a container on their website: <http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/portable-toilets-kayak.php>
- The National Park Service requirements aren't as clear. They don't seem to have a capacity suggestion: <https://www.nps.gov/cany/planyourvisit/rivertoilets.htm>. Harold found the 40 inches<sup>3</sup>/day figure from a paddling website.

### CHART WITH BOTH SETS OF SPECS, FROM HAROLD:

| Diameter in Inches | BLM or NPS | Number of Days if 4" | Number of Days if 8" | Number of Days if 12" | Number of Days if 16" | Number of Days if 20" | Number of Days if 24" | Number of Days if 28" |
|--------------------|------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3                  | BLM        | 0.9                  | 1.8                  | 2.8                   | 3.7                   | 4.7                   | 5.6                   | 6.5                   |
| 3                  | NPS        | 0.7                  | 1.4                  | 2.1                   | 2.8                   | 3.5                   | 4.2                   | 4.9                   |
| 4                  | BLM        | 1.6                  | 3.3                  | 5                     | 6.7                   | 8.3                   | 10                    | 11.7                  |
| 4                  | NPS        | 1.2                  | 2.5                  | 3.7                   | 5                     | 6.2                   | 7.5                   | 8.7                   |
| 6                  | BLM        | 3.7                  | 7.5                  | 11.3                  | 15                    | 18.8                  | 22.6                  | 26.3                  |
| 6                  | NPS        | 2.8                  | 5.6                  | 8.4                   | 11.3                  | 14.1                  | 16.9                  | 19.7                  |
| 8                  | BLM        | 6.7                  | 13.4                 | 20.1                  | 26.8                  | 33.5                  | 40.2                  | 46.9                  |
| 8                  | NPS        | 5                    | 10                   | 15                    | 20.1                  | 25.1                  | 30.1                  | 35.1                  |

### HAROLD ON TUBE CONSTRUCTION:

"Making a tube with one end glued shut is pretty simple. I got the PVC pipe from ReSource in Boulder for 25 cents a foot. I had the contact cement and I got everything else at Lowe's. The total cost for a tube was about \$10. I've found a better solution for opening and closing it. [See the red caps on the next page.]

"Although I couldn't find it through the NPS, a paddling website said that they say you need 40 cubic inches per person per day. The tubes I've made are 4 inches in diameter and about 20 inches long, or about 250 cubic inches, so they're good for about six NPS days, or more than eight BLM days.

"If you've got your tools and work area ready to go, it really only takes about 15 minutes to make each one."



## THE PROCESS



1. Secure the tube to the miter saw assembly with a cam strap; it snugs the cylinder down even better than a vice.



Harold Christopher, the researcher and handy man behind this article

2. Cut the PVC pipe with a fine-toothed saw and sand off the rough edges.



3. Put the cap in place dry and wrap painter's tape around the tube above it, to mark the tube and protect it from the cement. Remove the cap for Step 4.



4. Paint on the primer and then the second part of the 2-part contact glue as the product directs. Put the cap in place; the bond will harden almost instantly.

## THE PARTS



E



F



H



I

E. Two-part glue for PVC pipe

F. Glue-on permanent end cap

G. Glue-on female threaded part with its removable screw cap

H. Side view of a compression cap that doesn't require a threaded fitting

I. Top view of the compression cap that snugs down with its wing nut

## MISCELLANEOUS RELATED MATTERS

- The BLM website's directions suggest using a BAYONET HOOK on one end of a waste tube. Is that just a strange name for a cap that has an attachment filament so it won't get separated from its tube? That would be a good idea, but they do cost more than the regular screw tops.
- Another point is whether the WING NUT CLOSURE on the red lid will poke or catch on things. Stay tuned to learn how they worked out from the people who will be using these stoppers.



Illustration from  
the BLM website



Bayonet Hook

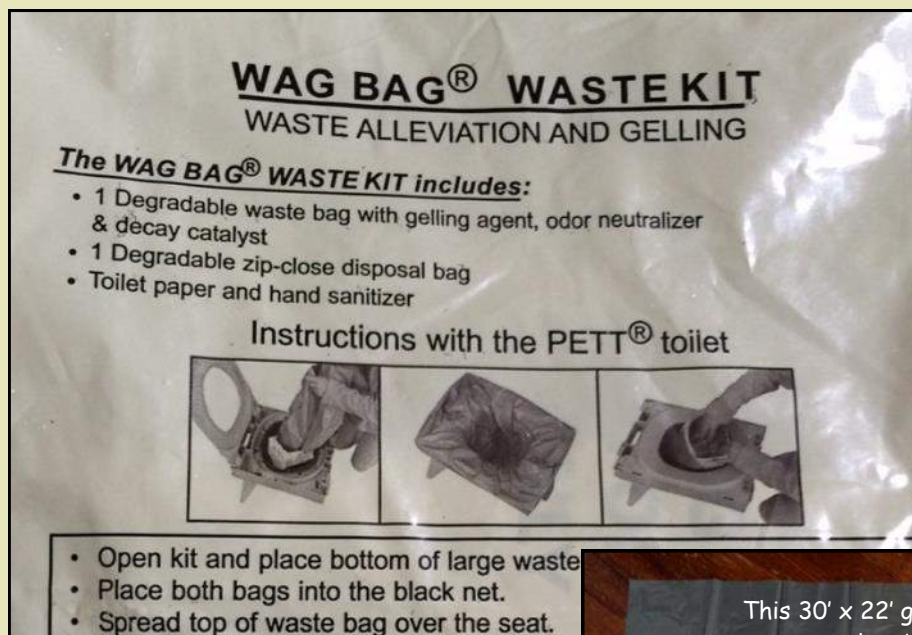


## RELATED MATTERS, CONT.

- Tim Fletcher commissioned a FLEECE COVER for his boom tube to keep the PVC from scratching his new boat. It probably makes the tube easier to carry, and could even hold a Ziploc bag of supplies. His is day-glow orange.
- Some people use WAG BAGS [for Waste Alleviation and Gelling] and then store those bags in their tubes. That protects the thin bags from critters, contains the smells for happier companions, and keeps their tubes cleaner. However, although wag bags previously came in two sizes, the only ones available now seem to be designed for use with a portable toilet seat; they contain so much extra plastic that they might fill up a waste tube lots faster than the design specs would suggest.



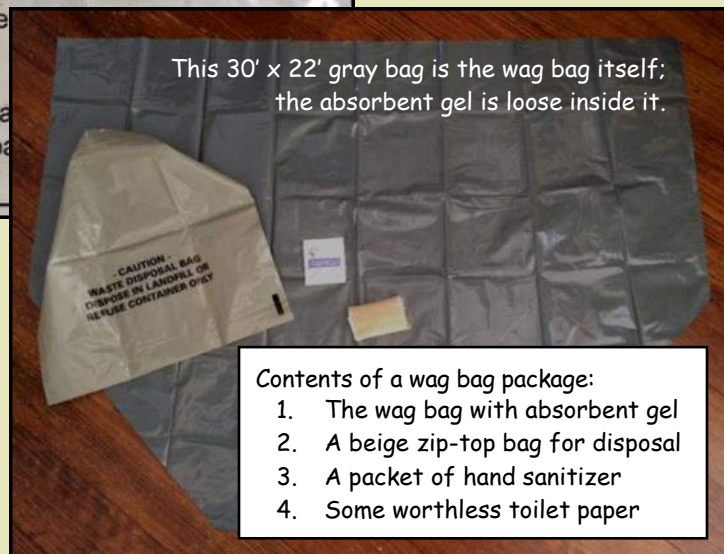
Tim's waste tube



FYI: The Wag Bag company is now called Clean Waste, to distinguish it from firms selling baggies for dog doo.

Their products are available directly from their website, other on-line sources, or local outdoor gear stores like REI.

A wag bag's exterior package, with pictures to illustrate how to use it with a toilet seat frame.



Contents of a wag bag package:

1. The wag bag with absorbent gel
2. A beige zip-top bag for disposal
3. A packet of hand sanitizer
4. Some worthless toilet paper

## ANOTHER RELATED ISSUE

- **LIQUID WASTE:** The recommendation for disposing of urine while camping near western rivers or lakes in desert country is, "Pee in the water." For those of us used to walking 200 feet from a water source to take a leak this feels strange. The reasoning is that here it's better to dilute urine in a river or lake than leave it on the rocks or sand because in this environment it won't get washed away by frequent rains, and popular campsites and shorelines may develop a nasty urine odor.

We've heard people say, "On rivers, men go upstream and women go downstream." Maybe that's easy to remember because men urinate standing *up*, but most of us have never seen paddlers in a mixed group do anything but look for a tree or rock and hope for the best. Probably it's something we should start to practice when we are on a river.

Some female paddlers use a variety of containers as chamber pots, others carry a funnel-like device, which is the only way to go when wearing a dry suit. Women new to desert camping can google "female funnels for urine" and find a wealth of products. Final reassuring thoughts: spray skirts provide some modesty and other female kayakers are useful sources of advice.

**EDITOR'S RANT:** No matter where you are or how you handle it, for crying out loud, pack out your toilet paper, every time! Finding a private nook with other people's "Kleenex" left behind is disgusting.

Any sport carries with it risks, and it is everyone's responsibility to understand those risks and decide whether they are prepared to accept them before undertaking an activity.

RMSKC wants everyone to paddle safely: take lessons to improve your boat control and rescue techniques, and own and use the proper equipment for the water temperature and possible changes in weather.

Kayaking is no different; it can be dangerous if not done in a safe manner and should never be undertaken without proper training, experience on the water with more capable paddlers and the correct use of safety equipment.

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

RMSKC is serious about monitoring risks and paddling safely, and we have another warning:

Kayaking is addictive and is a leading cause of good health, mental wellbeing 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.

Roughly paraphrased from Paddling's *Buyer's Guide*, 2016



# TRASH TRACKERS

The RMSKC paddlers who were camping at Lake Powell in September came across a small powerboat named *Trash Tracker* back in a tight canyon. They wished the volunteers who were using it to clean up the area had been nearby because they would have liked to ask them about their work.



Then, as they were paddling out a couple of days later, they saw the Trash Tracker mothership, a well-used older houseboat, trailing the runabout.



View Trash Trackers' photos and videos on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=trash%20trackers>

Trash Tracker's website says, "The Trash Tracker program is a joint effort between the National Park Service and Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas to clean up the 1,960 miles of the lake's shoreline.



Jud, paddling toward Bullfrog Marina with bags of garbage the group collected in 2014

"Trash Trackers are members of the NPS Volunteer-In-Parks

Program and spend five to seven days aboard a houseboat that has been donated by Aramark. Volunteers for the Trash Tracker program work together to pick up anything left behind along the shoreline."

It sounded like a good way to spend more time at Lake Powell and Sue Hughes applied, at exactly 7:00AM on the first of February as the website instructed, but it seemed that pre-formed groups of people were placed in the weekly slots instead of individuals.

Maybe next year a group of RMSKC members will try again. It wouldn't be a new experience to any of us; picking up trash is something most of us do every time we're out. Interested? Check them out: <http://www.nps.gov/glca/getinvolved/supportyourpark/trashtracker.htm>



One morning at Union

# WHOOOPS again?

Last summer we published an article entitled *WHOOOPS!* It described three boat hauling accidents caused by the disastrous combination of strong winds, highway speeds, J-cradles, and missing bow and stern tie-down lines.

We don't think we are calamity prone,  
but here are two more incidents to consider:

From a 2006 article on our website: Brian Curtiss and Randy Thompson decided to take their fiberglass sea kayaks where only plastic white water boats should go. Wrong. As Randy said, "They were just not the right tool for the application."

His kayak split in half down the keel line for about four feet [see the picture on p. 29]. Brian Curtis chopped the stern of his completely off. After repairing the boats with a roll of duct tape, a couple of cam straps and as much garbage as they could find for flotation, they made it to the take-out.



Something else to think twice before doing: Sue Hughes has a kayak for camping that's lots heavier than her little white fiberglass *Slipstream*. That plastic boat is prone to oil canning because the bulkhead between the day hatch and the aft compartment was removed for easier packing.

When she got home from last fall's Lake Powell self-supported trip she decided to inspect the bottom of the boat as she was taking it off the car. Wrong.

More unwieldy than her usual kayak, it got away from her, bounced against the side of the car and then bounced again on her head. It only made a small abrasion, but she got a huge headache and a beauty of a black eye.



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