

# 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].

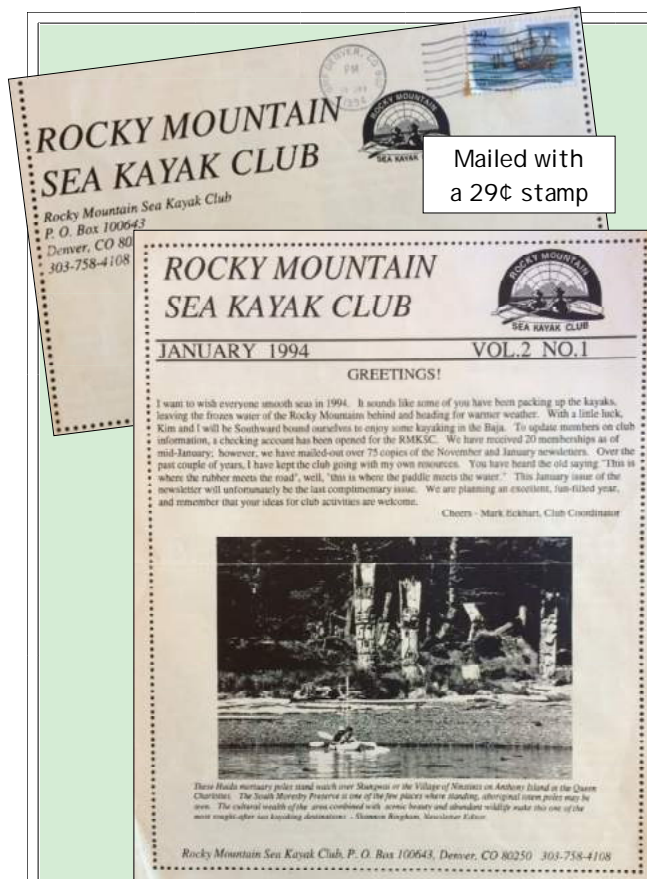
## EVEN EARLIER ARTICLES COMING TO THE WEBSITE AND THE INDEX SOON

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.



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# CLUB BACKGROUND found in OLDER RMSKC PUBLICATIONS

by Sue Hughes

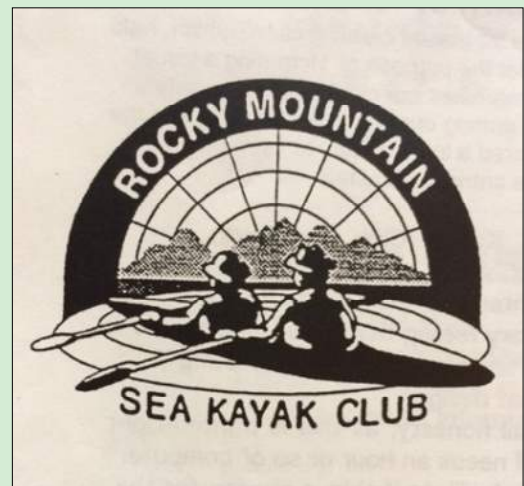
According to Harv Mastalir, who first paddled with RMSKC in 1992, the club was started in 1989 by Mark Eckhart, who lived in Denver at the time.

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!

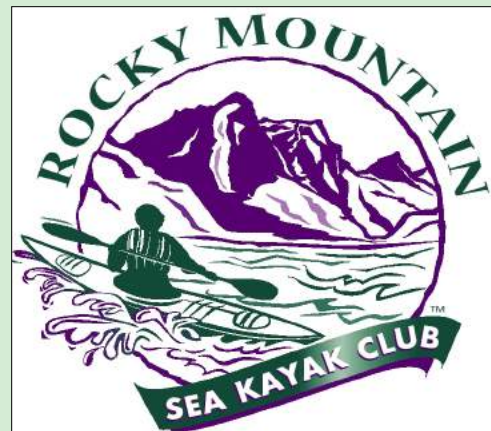


Several paddlers were especially ambitious. There were calls for participants on a Lake Powell trip from Hite to Wahweap and back; 325 miles of the Maine Island Trail; a week paddling off Vancouver Island, BC and a three-week trip on the Colville River in northern Alaska.

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 capsized 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