

2nd Annual Opening Day Gross Reservoir Paddle

Story and Photos by Matt Lutkus

Nine paddlers including trip leader Brian Curtiss once again celebrated the annual opening of Gross Reservoir with a Memorial Day circumnavigation of this gem of a lake nestled in the foothills west of Boulder. The weather with temperatures well into the 80's was a stark contrast to last year's pea soup fog. Several of us had not been back to the reservoir since then so it was our first chance to soak in some terrific scenery. The water level was low which meant carrying the boats a couple hundred yards to the shoreline. We were assured by the rangers that that would change quickly: with Boulder



Creek running at 1,000 cfm, they anticipated it would fill in ten days.

The water in the lake is frigid since, as one of my co-paddlers noted, the water in the creek was ice and snow the day before. One paddler who found that he had overdressed for the air temperature, found instant relief with a quick eskimo roll.

An otherwise very mellow day of paddling was made a little more exciting for those four members of the group who tried their river paddling skills at the point where Boul-

der Creek feeds into the Reservoir. We had just one capsized followed by a swift rescue - all captured by the cameraman on shore.

For those who have not been to Gross, there is some great information on the Reservoir using the link on the Club website. In not much more than an hour, including a five mile drive on a dirt road, one can enjoy an alpine lake paddling experience.

