



FOUNDED 1989
ACA PADDLE AMERICA CLUB

(LATE) SUMMER OF '09
VOL. 17 No. 3b

The MOUNTAIN PADDLER

ARTICLES OF INTEREST
FOR OUR PADDLING COMMUNITY

THE EDITOR'S NOTE

by Sue Hughes

This is the Summer issue. Find that hard to believe? Here's the story, for those of you who may have almost forgotten about Club publications:

Some said the Newsletter had gotten too long, and in July it was separated into two parts, the *RMSKC News* and the *RMSKC Mountain Paddler*. That seemed like a good idea, and the *News* was sent to you in August. In it were "From the Cockpit" by President Larry Kline, reports of Club business, Club announcements and the RMSKC schedule for the rest of 2009.

Then I went to BCU lessons on the west coast, had a series of Life Events, started learning Italian, and paddled with Club members on Lake Powell. Weeks turned into months and the Summer issue of *The Mountain Paddler* languished so long on my computer I grew hazy about how to use its Publisher program; I began to think of almost anything else to do instead of getting back to the work of finishing it.

I am sorry for the delay because in this issue there are some wonderful articles and pictures that I wish you'd gotten long ago. I'm also nervous that you may stop writing for the *Mountain Paddler* which would be sad, because letting each other know about our paddling adventures or kayak related knowledge is one of the very best aspects of Club membership.

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GETTING DISCOUNTS ON KAYAKS AND ACCESSORIES

By Brian Hunter, Onshore Coordinator

Times are tough and money for toys is hard to come by, but recreation is more important than ever; it helps to relieve stress and there's definitely more of that these days! Discounts will help stretch those dollars for new equipment, but how can you get them?

The simple answer is to ask! If you are a member of RMSKC you have an ACA card and that can be your ticket to get prices reduced. Several stores in the Front Range have agreed to provide discounts to our members; all you need to do is show you ACA card and ask for the reduction they've already offered us. But these days *all* retailers are looking for sales and will use any good reason to give you a discount, so even if they're not on the list of merchants offering Club members a percentage off, show them your ACA card and ask.

OK, so you are going to ask for a discount; how much reduction should you expect? Everyone is in business to make a living and everyone in business should get a fair profit. Therein lies the problem: what is a fair profit? The amount of discount that's reasonable depends on how much wiggle room or profit there is on an item. Kayaks generally have less profit because they are costly to make, costly to ship and costly to store. Clothing generally has a huge markup, particularly if it is made in the Orient. Most stores will give a 10% discount and some give a 15% but you can always ask if any other incentives can be offered. For example, when buying a kayak with a small discount will they throw in a skirt, a cock-pit cover, or a paddle float?

Discounts get bigger at the end of the season when shop-worn items can be had at deep discounts, and next year's new designs and models will make even pristine last-season equipment less attractive to keep in inventory. Remember, here in the Rockies many stores change from their summer inventory to winter inventory in September or October, so start looking in late August.

Also at the change of seasons many companies sell their rental and demo kayaks and accessories. This can be a great time to haggle on price because the items are used or even abused.

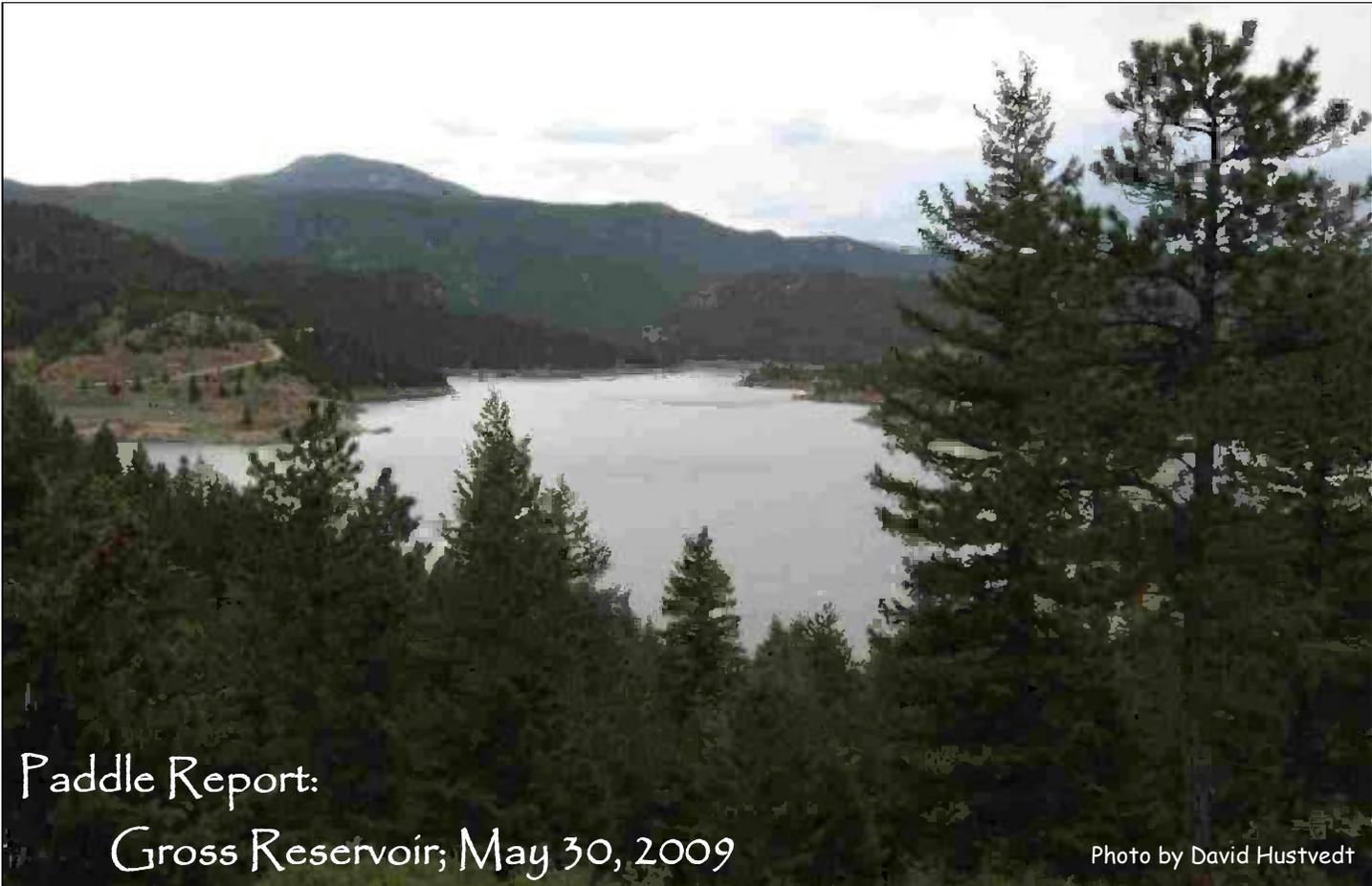
Rental and demo items are sold at kayak Swap Meets, too. When people consign items to a swap meet they usually put a higher price on the item with a minimum price known by the shop; ask if the marked price can be lowered. →

Another hint: sometimes when making a big purchase it's a good idea to just look and weigh your options the first time you go to the store. In a few days go back and get more serious.



Brian took the Club banner to lots of Swap Meets this spring where he checked out the deals, arranged discounts for our members, and spoke with kayakers interested in RMSKC.

Regardless of how you work it, always be polite and keep in mind that the store selling gear wants to stay in business, and if they're selling good gear, we want them to stay in business, too!



Paddle Report: Gross Reservoir; May 30, 2009

Photo by David Hustvedt

The Gross Reservoir area is beautiful, the kind of beauty that brings us to and keeps us here in Colorado; beetle kill is not so noticeable around the shore and trees come down to the water line in most places. Although at last year's annual paddle the water level was probably 100 feet low, this May it was only about fifteen feet below full pool, judging by the high-water line on the rocks. As always in the spring, the water temperature was cold enough to need protective paddle clothing: 41° at the Boulder Creek inlet and around 47° in the rest of the reservoir.

On the last Saturday of May, Ranger Rick met Club members at Osprey Point and invited us to drive to the water's edge to unload, which was much nicer than last year's long carry down to the water. In accordance with Colorado boating regulations, he checked to see that we all had PFDs, whistles, and names and addresses in our boats, and inquired where we had paddled recently because of the quagga and zebra mussel invasion. Lou Ann Hustvedt had us sign in and her husband, David, gave a quick review of paddle signals.

Twelve boats were on the water shortly after 10:00 and we paddled to the inlet where Boulder Creek enters the reservoir. As you approach Boulder Creek the water becomes turbid and flows quickly which is quite exciting; when we got to where the current was strong you could paddle upstream 100 feet or so and play around.



Photo by Brian Hunter

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

We started back toward the dam, but before we got that far we noticed thunder clouds forming behind us, so David gave the "group up" paddle signal to talk about weather strategy and where we wanted to have lunch. We decided to go for the picnic area on the far end near the dam, as the clouds seemed to be moving to the west. While there we looked at a brochure that said Denver Water has tentative plans to make the Gross Reservoir

dam either taller or build a larger one farther down, and that building would start in 2012 and go until 2015 or so.

When people finished lunch we had another quick group talk and decided the weather was OK, so we went up the last arm of the reservoir to the end of Forsythe Canyon, where a small creek enters. By then the water was smooth as glass and we all enjoyed that loop.

Heading back we had some threatening clouds and wind and a little rain but it never amounted to much.



Photo by Brian Hunter

After a leisurely 7.0 to 7.6 miles, depending on who you were paddling with, we took out at 1:45. A good time was had by all, thanks to Lou Ann and David Hustvedt who led the trip.

Paddle Report written by Marsha Dougherty and Brian Hunter.

Editor's Note: Although there is a brochure that says Denver Water plans to enlarge, or even move, the dam that holds Gross Reservoir's water, thereby eliminating this lovely spot as a paddling venue, I couldn't find more than a brief mention of these plans on the internet; I've called Denver Water three times and emailed them twice but have gotten no information to share with you.



Top: David Hustvedt, James Klein, Bettina Klein, Anne Fiori, Gary Cage, Rick Webber, Brian Hunter

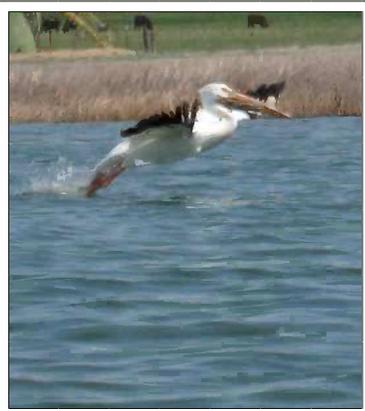
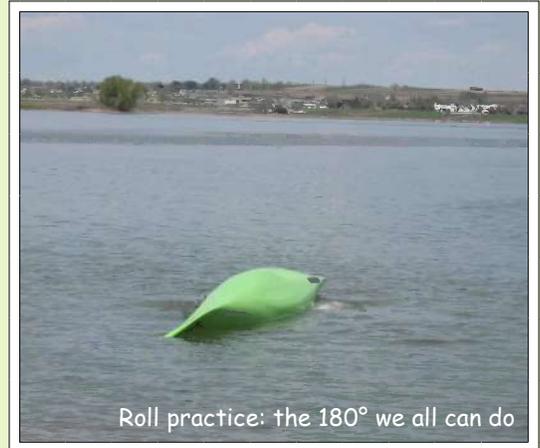
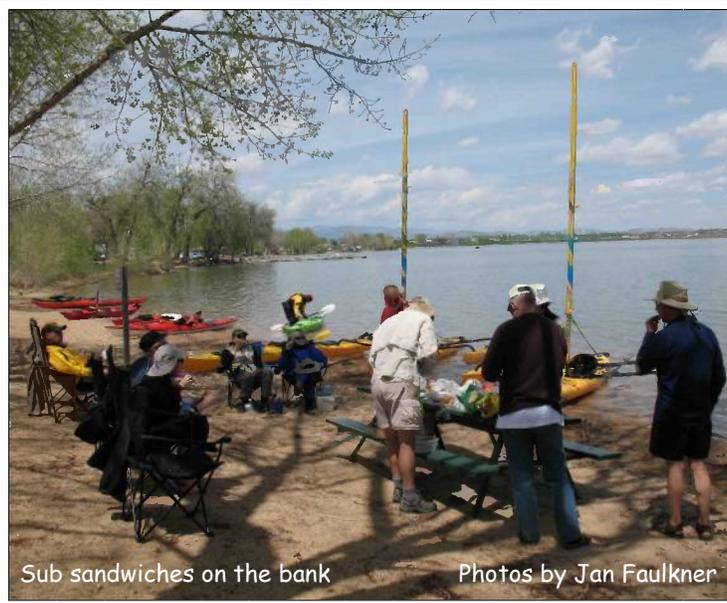
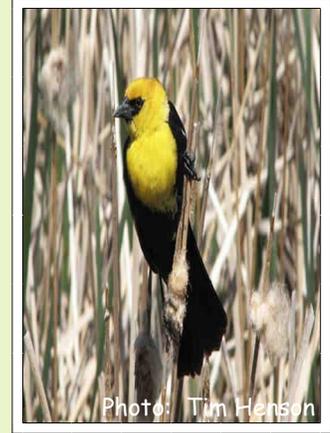
Bottom: Lou Ann Hustvedt, Marlene Pakish, Julie Reckart, Kristy Webber, Marsha Dougherty

SPRING PADDLE REPORTS

Union Reservoir Annual Spring Paddle and Picnic; May 9

Larry Kline reported: We had clear skies, light winds and nice temperatures as fifteen of us paddled around Union Reservoir. The yellow-headed black birds filled the shoreline cattails and giant, white American pelicans soared overhead.

After an easy paddle of three miles we came ashore and enjoyed submarine sandwiches for lunch; no one in our group practiced being a submarine, however, although Ray Van Duesen did "bob for carp". Thanks to Jud Hurd and Brian Hunter for organizing this year's spring paddle at Union.



MORE PADDLE REPORTS

Cherry Creek Reservoir Tour de Shore; May 16

The group had good weather; the wind was light at 8 knots with sunny blue skies. A good time was had by all.

Pictured: Marsha Dougherty, Jud Hurd, Frank Bering, Larry Kline, Rich Broyles, Gary Cage, (Anne Fiore is behind Gary), Mike Anson and Jan Faulkner



Photo by Brian Hunter

Lake McIntosh; May 23

Marsha Dougherty, Jud Hurd and Sue Hughes enjoyed a couple laps around McIntosh "Small-But-Free" Lake in Longmont. The skies were gray but the company was good. Marsha and Sue exchanged boats on the home-ward stretch; trying out another paddler's gear is often a side benefit of Club paddles.

Boyd Lake; June 13

Trip Leader Jud Hurd reports: In the middle of June, Marsha Dougherty, JJ Scervino and I got together for a fun day of paddling on Boyd Lake, just east of Loveland. Conditions were perfect: the lake was high, the sun was out and there was just a little breeze to keep us cool. We launched at the jet ski beach at 10 am and paddled north to circumnavigate the lake. The north end of Boyd is no wake so we didn't have to contend with speed boat wake, just jet skis. And since the lake was so high we were able to paddle back into areas you normally can't reach.

As we continued around the lake we ran into three other groups of kayakers—a guy by himself, a guy and a gal and a foursome. Of course, we always stopped to chat for a few minutes and tell them all about RMSKC and encourage them to check out the web site.

Even though this is a state park, there are private residences along the east shoreline. Most of these are pretty big houses and it was fun to dream about having a house on the lake with your own private beach and dock. You could

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PADDLE REPORTS, CONT.

just walk out your back door, get in your boat and go. Oh well, maybe some day. About half way down the east shore the state has built a large dirt and rock extension out into the lake. We speculated on what this might be; JJ thought it was going to be the site for some high-end condos since it is about the only stretch of east shore not already built up. Who knows?

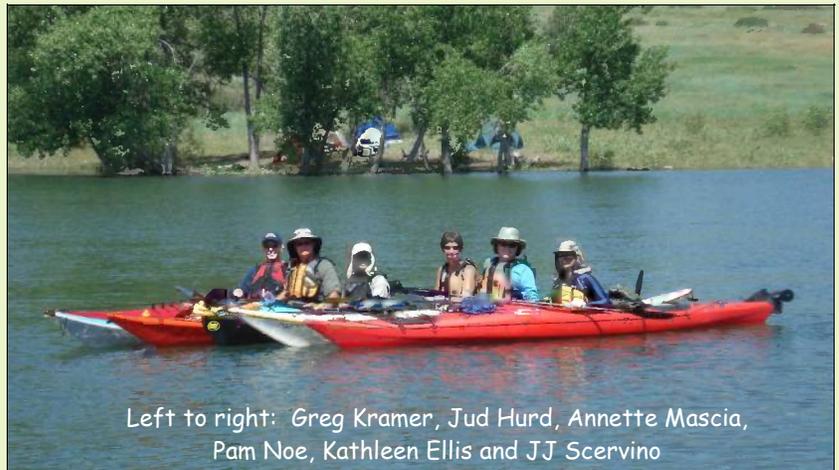
As we continued south we ran into the usual big boat wake fun but we made it to the end and across the lake to head back north following the west shore. The west shore is Boyd Lake State Park and we pulled into shore to hike up to one of the nice bathrooms at the campgrounds and to have a snack.

After a brief rest we continued north past the swim beach where a band was playing at the concession area for their Music by the Lake program, so we got a little serenade along the way. I guess it is either a band or a boom box on somebody's boat; you are going to get one or the other on these popular lakes.

We finally made it back to our put-in after paddling a little over four hours. JJ's GPS said we had gone eight miles. It was a great day, great paddling and great friends. I hope to see more of you the next time we do this lake.

Horsetooth Reservoir; July 11

On Saturday, July 11, Jud Hurd led another day paddle north of Denver near his home in Ft. Collins. Kathleen Ellis, Greg Kramer, Annette Mascia, Pam Noe, and JJ Scervino joined him for a great day on Horsetooth Reservoir. It was picture perfect with sunny skies, a few clouds and a light breeze.



Left to right: Greg Kramer, Jud Hurd, Annette Mascia, Pam Noe, Kathleen Ellis and JJ Scervino

As everywhere in the state, the water was really high and they were able to poke their noses way back into the coves. The majority of the group launched from Satanka Bay on the north end about 10 AM. They paddled out of the cove and down the peninsula on the west shore until they got to the first large cove. This is really three coves, Soldier Cove, North Eltuck Cove and South Eltuck Cove, that empty into a large basin separated from the main lake by a small island. As they entered this area they saw a kayaker paddling toward them who looked intent on joining the group. It was Greg who had launched from North Eltuck Cove by parking in Lory State Park and walking down to Horsetooth, which will save the car parking fee of \$7 if you have a State Park annual pass.

After introductions all around they continued to explore the three coves. Horsetooth is just into the foothills west of Fort Collins and it is a beautiful setting: deep clear water, high red rock walls, and green rolling hills dotted with houses. It was a lot of fun to explore the coves and see all the boats rafted together enjoying the lake. Horsetooth is one of the largest lakes in the area so it gets a lot of big boat, ski and jet-ski traffic, and campers along the west shore. One nice thing about Horsetooth is there are outhouses at strategic places which are convenient when nature calls.

PADDLE REPORTS, CONT.

The paddlers continued to cruise at a leisurely pace down the west shore and explore the coves, and pulled into Quarry Cove for a break for lunch in the shade of some tall trees. The water was so inviting that a few had a short swim. When they left Jud looked down and could see a fire ring about two feet under his boat: just an example of how high the water has been this year.

When it was getting time to head back the group didn't want to cross the lake with all the boat traffic, so they elected to just turn around and paddle back down the west shore. With all the boat traffic they had some really big waves to contend with but, as Pam said, "Waves are our friends." Mostly they were able to just ride up and over them, except the one that had to be 10-12 feet high which caught Jud broadside. He stuck his paddle out for a left side brace, but being at least six feet above lake level all he caught was air and over he went. Not an unusual situation, reports Jud. So, off for a swim to shore, dump out, get back in and continue. Greg left the others as they approached the large cove, and they headed back to Satanka and took out. They all agreed it was a great day for a paddle, a lot of paddling fun, good fellowship with good friends, and a beautiful setting. Jud, who wrote this report and sent the group picture, hopes more people will join him on Horsetooth Reservoir next year.



FAVORITE PICTURE, SUMMER 2009

By Jan Faulkner

OTHER CLUB HAPPENINGS

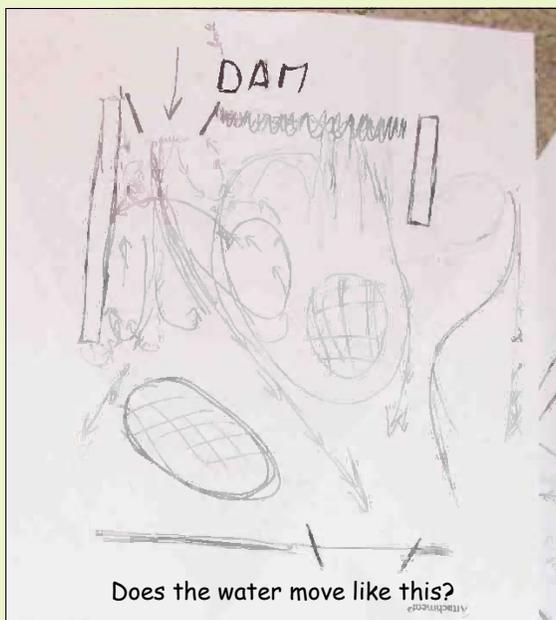
REI Spring Sale; May 3

Early in May, Brian Hunter manned the RMSKC's booth at REI in Boulder for their annual Anniversary Sale. He set up all his equipment, with nifty laminated labels, next to an impressive display of information about the ACA, safe paddling practices, past issues of the *Mountain Paddler* and details on joining the Club. Kids jumped in and out of his kayak and he and Sue Hughes talked to shoppers about boats, kayak camping, places to paddle and paddling with the Club. Larry Kline was also there, and gave presentations about his trip with Dick Dieckman and George Ottenhoff through the Missouri Breaks and about our Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club.

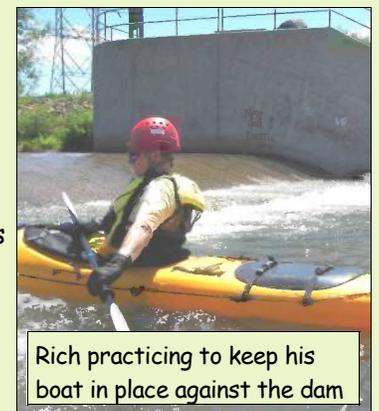


Introduction to White Water Paddling at Union Chutes; July 8

Five Club members (Rich Broyles, Sue Hughes, Brian Hunter, and Lou Ann and David Hustvedt) met Larry Kline to work on paddling moving water with eddies and an easy Class II chute. It was a well-designed class in the controlled environment at the foot of a 3-foot water drop on the South Platte, near Santa Fe between Oxford and Bellevue.



Larry began by explaining CFS (cubic feet per second) and asking people to look down at the dam and overflow chute and sketch the movement of the water roaring through. He discussed what it was doing and basic theory for paddlers in moving water. Then the class reviewed low bracing on land, in calm water, and eventually in the fast-moving foam at the bottom of the drop.

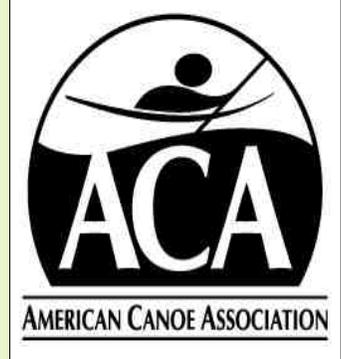


Rich practicing to keep his boat in place against the dam

After that it was practice and more practice—paddling back and forth through the moving water, crossing the eddy line where the water changes directions and yanks a boat's bow, and ferrying back to return and start all over.

By the end of the day everyone felt much more confident in moving water; it was a fun and useful workshop! The only sad note was the photographer/instructor was too busy to take pictures when the students were paddling the rougher, more impressive water.

MORE CLUB HAPPENINGS



ACA Lessons; July 3 and 11, and August 22



Bow up, stern down
and Sue Willey's boat is empty

New, or almost new, club members (Larry VonDeBur, Sue and Mark Willey, Bettina and James Klein, and Ben and Tim Fletcher) and repeating students (Marsha Dougherty, Sue Hughes, Brian Hunter and Pam Noe) were enthusiastic about our

instructors' lessons this summer which were conveniently taught at three venues: in July on Soda Lake in Morrison and McIntosh Lake in Longmont, and on Chatfield Reservoir in late August. Keep Club lessons in mind for next summer; on a space-available basis they are free for members repeating the class. Sue said even skills she thought she already knew worked better after a good review.



Kick your legs out to help your reentry

RMSKC'S PaddleFest 2009; July 18

Jan Faulkner and Mike Anson, among others, were early birds at Roxborough Cove on Chatfield Reservoir to help our Onshore Coordinator, Brian Hunter, set up for PaddleFest. They found that Brian had a box of donuts waiting, the coffee going, and the RMSKC signs and his BBQ already in place. Mike and Jan unloaded tables and set up screened shelters, and in no time the shady beach we've enjoyed before was ready for our Club members, almost forty of them, who began arriving shortly past 9:00.



Larry starting the free-for-all

The get-together began with Brian Hunter's "Pack Your Boat" demonstration on shore and Larry Kline's "Follow The Leader" in the water. Larry lead a series of skills practices (bracing, stopping, and precision paddling) which ended as a rowdy game of kayak tennis that revealed some of our players' highly competitive natures.



Rich Webber's wicked arm



PaddleFest 2009, Continued

Photos by Jan Faulkner



Kristy Webber and Brian H. cooked

People sat in the shade and visited or tried out friends' boats, and we had a tasty lunch of brats and hamburgers with sides and desserts brought to share.



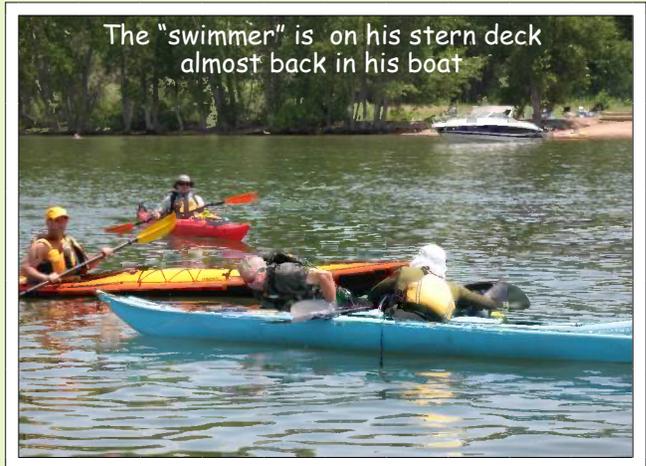
Instructors Matt Lutkus and Brian Curtiss demonstrated some kayak basics: boat design and how it affects steering, edging for efficient turning, and T-rescues, knowledge of which is an vital part of safe paddling with your friends.



Brian edging his boat



T-rescues begin with emptying the swimmer's boat



The "swimmer" is on his stern deck almost back in his boat

The rest of the day was a mix of groups paddling together, more chatting with friends and casual races. When it was over the clean-up was speedy because everyone had brought their own stuff and picked up after themselves. It was a lovely picnic for forty people with less than half a trash can of garbage. Go us!

HOW TO DO IT #1:

Ted Wang's directions for mounting a bilge pump under the front deck:

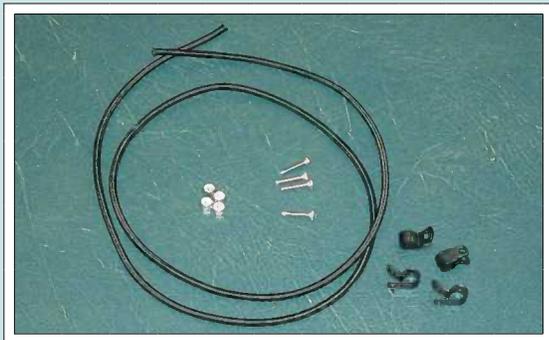


During a recent class from the Kayak Academy I was admiring George Gronseth's under-deck location for storing his bilge pump and a small sponge. He's a firm believer in minimizing the clutter on top of his kayak, as he does a lot of rough water and rock garden paddling, and I can see his point.



I took a look at his installation and for less than \$3.50 in parts and about an hour's labor: voilà...my pump is hidden. The only tough part was getting over the cringing feeling about drilling four holes in my deck. Here's what you need:

- 2' of 5 mm or 6mm bungee cord
- 4 stainless steel pan-head bolts 8/32" x 1/2"
- 4 5/16" L.D. wire clamps
- 4 8/32" locking nuts (with nylon inserts)



The bolts might need to be longer if you have a plastic boat, as the deck will be thicker than composite boats. Measure before you go to the store.

Find the centerline of your boat (I measured seam line to seam line) and mark lightly with a pencil. Take a piece of paper and mark the center line on it. Tape the paper template on your top deck, lining up the center lines. Determine the spacing and location you want for the bolts (mine are 6" apart, on center, across the width of the deck and 7.5" apart, on center, lengthwise.)

You'll need to figure out, in advance, where you want your pump to be stowed relative to the front of the cockpit combing. I have mine so the pump is "hidden" in front and completely out of the way, so I don't hit my knees on it getting out on the shore or during a wet exit. Mark on the template the spots for the holes.

Bore the four holes, using a 5/16" drill bit. Once the holes are drilled, enlarge them *very slightly* by "scuffing" the holes with the side of the bit. This will make inserting the bolts easier. Insert the bolts into the holes.

Cut the bungee cord in half, being sure to burn the ends so it doesn't unravel over time.

Getting the tension on the cords is a matter of trial and error, but start by tying an overhand or figure 8 knot in one end of each bungee. Fold the wire clamp over the knotted end and slip it over the bolt. Loosely attach the nut, just enough to hold everything in place. Estimate how much slack you want to leave in the bungee, and then tie a knot in the other end of the bungee, and repeat the previous assembly. Try putting your pump in place.

If the pump is too loose or too tight, readjust one of the knots to lengthen or shorten the bungee accordingly. Once you get it right, tighten the knots down as tight as possible. I might even coat mine with glue after I've seen if the knots have any tendency to come loose, but they shouldn't if they're pulled really tight.

After everything is where you want it, tighten the bolts but not so much that you crack your hull. I used a socket wrench inside the boat and a screwdriver up top. If you're worried about leaks, you could put a dab of silicone sealer between the deck and the bungee clamp.

Insert your pump, and stand back and enjoy your handiwork! It's a slick modification, and I can see how I could modify it to make a "knee tube" to stow other gear that I don't want on top of the deck.

EDITOR'S NOTE: People I paddle with in the Northwest all use Greenland paddles at least part of the time, and I was so excited when I found out that Rich Webber had made one for himself. The first time I saw it I blathered on and on, asking if he'd taken pictures of the process and assuming he would write an article for the Newsletter. He was noncommittal and I let it drop. Later I asked again in an email and got a laconic response: "No article. No pictures. But here are links for anyone who might be interested." Caramba, that wasn't going to work...but then his wife, Kristy, came sent this delightful account.

HOW TO DO IT #2:

Carving a Greenland paddle
with basic tools and
instructions off the web:



Kristy: I tried to interview my husband about his paddle. He is a man of few words, as you have already experienced. Here is how it went, with my extrapolation in parentheses.

KW: Why did you build a Greenland style paddle?

RW: Because I wanted to. (Because I have always enjoyed working with wood and I am fascinated by these paddles.)

KW: How did you hear about Greenland paddles?

RW: People talking about them. (Watching videos in which people were rolling and paddling with them and being impressed that something that looks a lot like just a stick can be used as a paddle so skillfully.)

KW: Why did you use redwood?

RW: I didn't. I used cedar. (Why is my wife so oblivious?)

KW: What sort of tools are required?

RW: A saw.

KW: Can you use a hand saw? Did you use a Skil saw?

RW: A band saw is the best. (I used a Skil saw because I did not care that much about being precise this first time around. I was too excited about making a paddle.)

KW: What did you do first?

RW: I bought some wood.

KW: And?

RW: I followed the template. (I found directions on the internet, downloaded them and followed them. It involved taking measurements of my hand grip and the length of my reach. I traced the information per the instructions. Then it was a matter of cutting the rough shape out of a 2x4 with my skill saw and then working the wood down with a plane and sander. After I thought it was pretty close to what it should be, I took it to Meyer's pool to try it out. It definitely needed some adjustment—the shaft was too thick. I worked the wood some more and then put tung oil on it. I added epoxy at the tips. It still is not symmetrical. However, it works; I have been able to roll my kayak with it. By the way, do you want me to make one for you?)

RW: The link to a video of a guy making a paddle is: www.carvegp.com and the written instructions can be found at: www.qajaqusa.org/QK/makegreen2.pdf



Rich Webber with
his Greenland paddle

Photo: Brian Hunter

DON'T DO IT:

Sue Hughes's first and last experience caulking bulkheads; dirty diapers were more fun:



My Orca, bless her stable, cheap and indestructible hull, had bulkheads that leaked like strainers. In fact, you could see a quarter inch of light around parts of each one; no water-tight storage for kayak camping or air-tight compartments for flotation on that boat.

I Googled the subject and didn't find a thing except an essay on kayak maintenance and repair on the Southern Nevada Paddling Club's website. It's a pretty good set of instructions, and I supposed Nevadans could have as much to say about kayaking as Coloradoans:

Recommended sealants: 3M's 5200 Fast Cure or any other marine grade polyurethane sealant. Silicone may be used, however, once you use silicone in an area, nothing else will stick to it in the future. This may cause problems if you need to do further repairs.

Then I wrote Pyranha and got delightful emails from Dinver, who lives in the UK. He recommended using Lexel (he hadn't had any experience with 3M's 5200) and wasn't worried that I'd pulled lots of what appeared to be silicone out of the cracks between the bulkheads and the hull. He said:

"I'd scrape off as much off as possible, and it and then clean the area well with alcohol."

What kind of alcohol? Denatured? Isopropyl? Rubbing? Gin? That was sounding good and I hadn't even started yet.

Deciding to forego the gin and disregard his advice, I went to find a tube of 5200, hopefully in black to blend with the bulkheads. It's made it in black, but there wasn't any in Colorado. In fact, there hardly seemed to be any here at all. Many phone calls later I finally located a tube at Home Depot.

Now where was the stupid caulk gun? And how does the tube open?

Back to Home Depot to get another tube that had the proper pull tab on the end. But now I had to hurry because the 5200 said it requires a week to cure and I had an RMSKC class coming up!

An old letter to my Washington kayaking friend reveals the only good news:

"Lucky I didn't dump the boat while the bulkheads were as leaky as they were because it probably would have sunk on me and I'd still be there, on the bottom, being eaten by the carp in Union Reservoir."

She suggested I write Sterling Donalson in her home town of Bellingham, Washington, for guidance, which I did, not realizing what a Famous Person he is. No reply; I suspect he thought the Orca was a lost cause.

Back to Dinver, who said the bulkheads had shifted and that I should try to push them back into place so there'd be less of a gap around them. Another letter to the long suffering Brit:

"Image of the day: Old lady sitting in her cockpit backwards, trying to get her feet in to push on the back bulkhead, wobbling and pushing and grunting. Time for a beer." [There seems to be a common thread here.]

Although the rear bulkhead did look like it had been located farther back at one time, neither one moved at all. Dinver agreed that lots of beer might be an answer.



(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Back again to the Nevada Paddling Club directions:

Bulkhead Caulking:

1. Remove all old caulking. Clean surface with scraper, sand paper, then alcohol.
2. Use 3M Marine Adhesive Sealant 5200. Use a caulking gun and apply in sections of six to eight inches. Place kayak at an angle so adhesive flows towards bulkhead. The adhesive tends to cold flows; rotate hull to control direction of flow. When the first section is stable, complete caulking the next section. This material takes 48 hours to completely cure.
3. When the first side has fully cured, then repair the opposite side of the bulkhead.

OK, #1 was done, but #2? The 5200 tube required a caulk gun but have you tried kneeling next to a kayak to get one into a hatch to circle around the bulkheads? Or, worse, all the way down to the toe end of the cockpit side of the front bulkhead? I contorted myself to the point of chiropractic care and gave up.

Amazingly, I awoke in the middle of the night with the answer: The only way to caulk bulkheads is to position the kayak upside down, elevated high enough so you can get under it. By kneeling under the boat and reaching up into the cockpit or the hatches you can actually reach the bulkheads and see what you are doing. (I put mine on lumpy old sleeping bags tied to saw-horses, but having it even higher would have been better.)

Some other pointers about the rest of the "Bulkhead Caulking" instructions: First, 5200 does not flow in the manner the Nevada website suggests; it oozes but it is *not* controllable. Tipping your boat so the stuff positions itself into the joint won't work.

Additionally, it is the consistency of Desiden baby ointment, although even stickier, and will not wipe up with paper towels. You'll need lots of soft rags (old diapers?) to clean off the extra that gets all over. Cut them up; it's easier to use a small rag and throw it out than to try to fold and refold a goopy bigger one.

You'll also need to wear thin latex gloves because of the mess; have extra pairs because you'll get so gummed up the rags won't help and you'll want a fresh pair.

Even having the boat upside down, there may still be places where you will need to push the caulk in by hand. Having a helper squirt it on your finger for you may be necessary; smoothing it with the back of a plastic spoon makes a neater finish.

One final point: 3M says their product should cure lots longer than the 48 hours the Nevada directions indicate before it becomes waterproof.

The end of the saga? That summer I wrote:

"I borrowed a Tempest 170 for the "Advanced Strokes' class. Advanced I'm not, but I had way more control of it than the Orca which sits a-curing on the front porch."

In a week I wrote again to report that the bulkheads were completely watertight; I was so proud!

Now, a couple of years later, those hatches are still pretty dry but I've realized I will never, ever deal with leaky bulkheads myself again, and the beginnings of "I need, need, need a better boat" were even longer ago than I remembered.

RELATED WEBSITES:

Sterling Donalson, kayak designer, maker and master repair person who did eventually send a gracious answer to my email:

<http://www.sterlingskayak.com>

3M 5200:

<http://www.3m.com/product/information>

Nevada Paddling Club, for other, more useful, maintenance and repair information:

<http://www.kayaknevada.org>

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here is an account of the 2008 Kayak Camping Class's capstone trip by instructor Larry Kline. Because there were two other articles about the class in last fall's newsletter, it was decided to hold Larry's description until this summer to encourage participation in the 2009 sessions. However, word of mouth and the earlier reports must have been publicity enough because the class filled within days of being announced in April. If you are interested, be sure to respond quickly when the 2010 sessions are advertised next spring.

24 HOURS OF GRANBY

By Larry Kline

They did it! Five of our RMSKC members completed the 2008 kayak camping class: Sue Hughes, Brian Hunter, Jud Hurd, Marlene Pakish, and Julie Reckart. Congratulations! They couldn't have done it without the help of co-instructors Rich Broyles, Dick Dieckman, George Ottenhoff and Ted Wang. Even I learned some tips from the students. Never too old, they say!

The final exam of this three session class took place over 24 hours at Granby Reservoir on the 20th and 21st of September. We packed our boats, put in at Sunset Point at noon and paddled past Deer Island to Surprise Cove and on to Rocky Point on the east shore where we found a perfect camp site.

Along the way we did some navigational tests to see if we could identify the islands (so clearly depicted on the map) with the reality of the landscape in front of us: not always an easy task.



Does all this stuff really fit in the boat?

After setting up camp (we each found a cozy campsite) and putting up a tarp at our kitchen, we paddled off for a six mile trip up and back Granby Arm to the inlet of the Colorado River. We saw a bald eagle and some loons, or were they hooded mergansers in their fall plumage?

On the way back showers began their off-and-on dance; we cooked under the tarp while the rain came and went. We had a great potluck dinner with everyone sharing their outdoor cooking skills with each other.

Later we made a big camp fire, but when the showers reappeared after dark, we squirted the fire "out" and pushed the flaming logs aside. The next morning Julie notified us that despite this "firefighting" effort and accompanying rain, the wind had reinvigorated the flames in a mere 15 minutes. Yikes!



yum! Marlene and Julie's pumpkin and bean soup...all gone.

We were awakened (all except Julie!) at midnight by the high-pitched howling of coyotes just 100 yards or so away. It was the loudest and shrillest many of us had ever heard.

The next morning we awoke to intermittent Rocky Mountain showers and cooked breakfast (again) under the tarp; a good way to get really acquainted. Julie and Marlene made a great veggie omelet; Sue had real oatmeal - to her surprise - she thought it was instant; Larry had his Spam and tortillas plus some of the veggie omelet; Rich had Pop Tarts with peanut butter; Brian had an MRE. You get the picture—a real gastronomic experience, and we had Dick's leftover brownies for "dessert".



Thank goodness for the tarp.



Marlene contemplates repacking her boat in the rain.

While two members of our class of seven decided to drop out after the first classroom session, they also accomplished the objective of the class which was to see if kayak camping is for you. If you find it is not, not to worry; that's what the course is all about!

After packing up, also in alternating showers and sunshine, we paddled straight back to the put in, and then off to the Pearl Dragon in Granby for an authentic Chinese lunch. Ted Wang vouches it is as good as you can get in Beijing, and he's been to both places! All agreed it was tasty; a true culinary delight in the Rockies!



Sue wringing out her rain fly, which had done its job.



Sunny at last, the flotilla re-crosses the channel in a group.

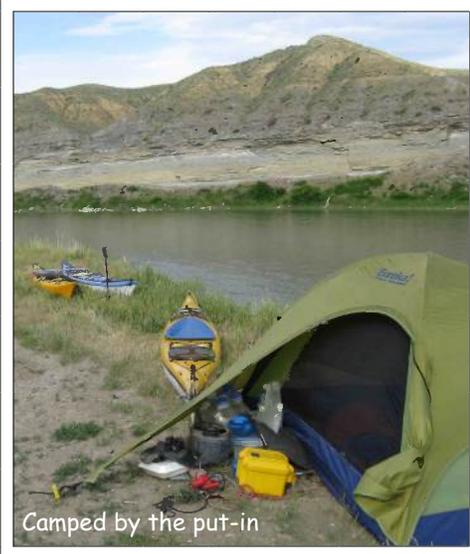
If you haven't already, read other accounts of last year's Camping Class sessions by Brian Hunter and Jud Hurd in the Fall, 2008, newsletter. It's on the Club's website: <http://www.rmskc.org/Newsletters/Newsletters.htm> A report of this year's camping will be in the next *Mt. Paddler*.

ZIPPING THROUGH THE MISSOURI BREAKS

By Kathleen Ellis



The author, showing off her clean mukluks, a situation that never lasts long on the river



Camped by the put-in

Pam Noe, Eric Niles, Ray Van Dusen and I had a great time paddling the Missouri Breaks in late June. The trip was longer than some because we put in at Carter, upstream of Fort Benton, and took out at Kipp's Landing, 164 miles away, but we did it in five days.

The ferry operator in Carter and his dog were helpful and friendly, there were no concerns about leaving my car at the landing (five miles south of Highway 87, west of Ft. Benton) and the Kipp's Landing take-out was also a safe place to leave vehicles, but the drive and shuttle logistics were daunting. When I got home, my trip odometer showed over 2,000 miles. The shuttle to get gear and cars situated before we put in took seven hours, and it took another three and a half hours for Ray to return my gear and me to Carter after we took out. If you prefer, it is possible to hire an outfitter to help; they'll meet you at the take-out to drive you and your gear to the put-in, or move your car to the take-out while you're on the river.

The BLM sells very nice river maps for only \$4.00 apiece. You will need two maps, which you can pick up in their Ft. Benton office or order ahead of time their website. The BLM website also contains other important information about requirements for paddling this area.

The stretch of river we paddled is Class I with no actual rapids, although there are many named rapids in areas that were dangerous for steamboats, for example, Deadman's Rapid. Ray almost hit 10 mph in one of these stretches. The days were long, with sunrise at 5:30 am and sunset at 9:30 pm, which made it relatively easy to get up early to put in several hours of paddling; we were on the river at 7:00 or very shortly thereafter every morning. One day we paddled 47 miles, courtesy of the tail winds and a long day on the river.



Kathleen and Pam catching a tail wind and moving right along

(Continued from page 18)

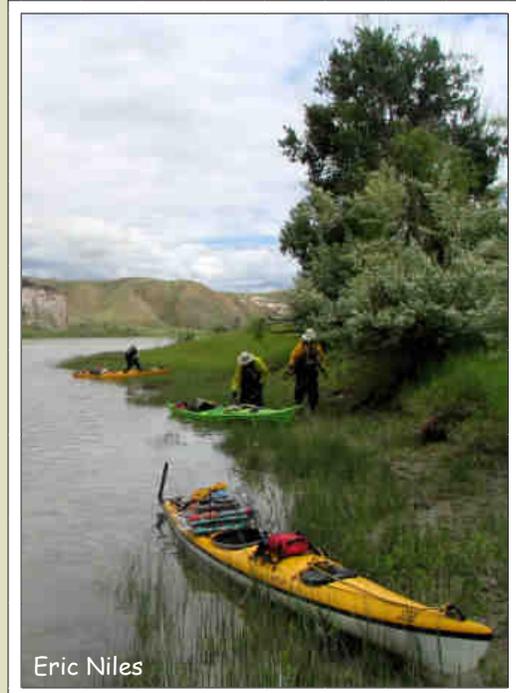


One morning there was a simultaneous sunrise and rainbow. Listening to Ray sing the birthday song to Eric at full voice before put-in that day was unforgettable. Much of the time the paddling was idyllic with clear skies, calm breeze, and beautiful scenery. Air Force jets practicing maneuvers provided some unexpected entertainment. The birds, wildlife, old homesteads and geological formations were amazing. The journals of Lewis and Clark describe the area, which is rich with history.

There were times when rain seeped through

my neoprene skirt, leaving me soaked and occasionally chilled until I figured out how to deal with the wet stuff. Next time I will take the Gortex pants with zippered legs instead of snug cuffs so I can put them on over my mukluks. Although we did not see any rattlesnakes, we always had to be aware of where we were putting hands, feet and, well, everything. There were no mosquitoes to speak of. The wind was strong for a couple of days but for the most part, it was a tailwind.

After we took out, we headed for the nearest real food, which we tracked down at the American Legion in Roy, population 387. The Legion Burger was as big as your head, and loaded with bacon, cheese and fried mushrooms. I felt no guilt about all of that artery-clogging grease after our long paddle. The art work on the walls added to the ambiance and was unique, especially in the ladies' room. It was the perfect place to end our trip through the Missouri Breaks.



Photos by Kathleen Ellis, Eric Niles, and Ran Van Dusen

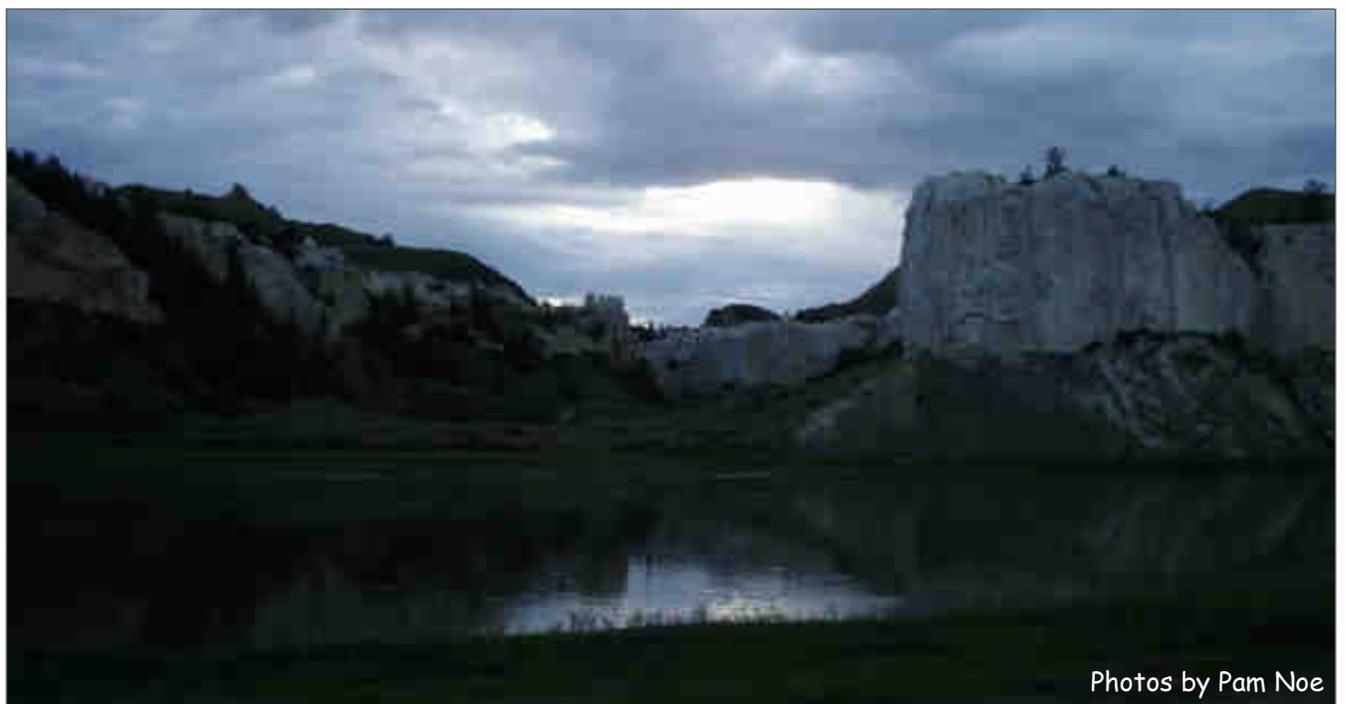


BUGS ON THE MISSOURI

Roger with the BLM office, who helped with maps for an earlier Missouri Breaks article, wrote:

Insect activity varies on how wet the spring is and how quickly the puddles dry. Normally:

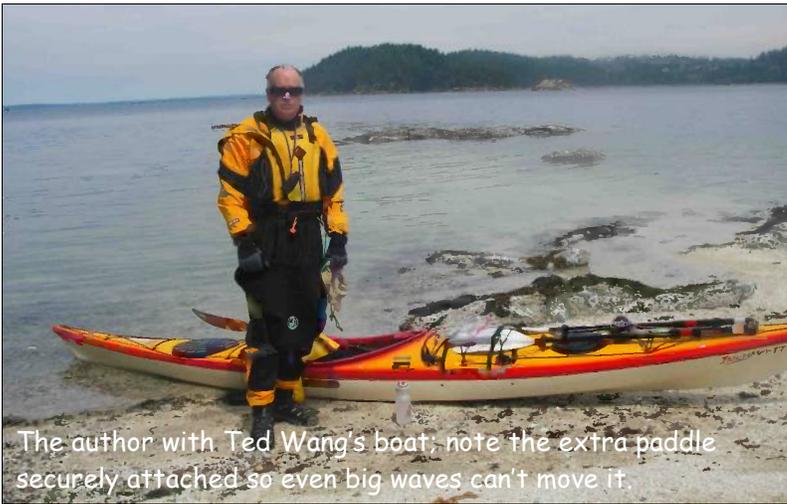
- Mosquitoes run from June to mid-July
- Biting flies and deer flies start about July and run through August
- Gnats start in July and run through August, mostly in the lower section



Photos by Pam Noe

SHUTTLE ARRANGMENTS: Pam Noe reports, "I picked up a business card from an outfitter who was dropping off paddlers at Coal Banks. His company will drive vehicles to the takeout, or if there are five or more people, they will pick up paddlers, boats and gear at the take-out and drive everyone to the put-in. Nice guy, from Adventure Bound." [Coincidentally, these are the people that Dick, Larry and George used, and were pleased with, on the trip they made to this area a couple of years ago.]

Adventure Bound
877-538-4890
www.adventureboundcanoe.com



The author with Ted Wang's boat; note the extra paddle securely attached so even big waves can't move it.

PADDLING IN PUGET SOUND

By Larry Kline



Putting in on a flood tide; remember to research the tides carefully...



...this picture was taken only fifteen minutes after the one above!

There is a good reason the pictures on this page and the next are of calm seas and mostly clear weather, or were taken from shore. When it did get rough I was too busy paddling through the many waves and currents to consider even picking up my waterproof camera lying on my spray skirt. To snap a picture would take just three seconds, but that's time I did not have.

Remember, tides winds and currents are more common in Washington than 10 mph winds and one foot waves here in Colorado. If you aren't comfortable paddling Class II rivers or on windy lakes with two foot waves, and if you don't have your own dry suit or full wet suit, then seriously consider an outfitter's trip rather than a self-guided trip in Puget Sound or along the British Columbia coast.

The currents there run as fast as two mph and the experience is like paddling a half-mile wide river. For instance, Rosario

Strait which you must cross to get to the San Juan Islands is four to six miles wide.

Even the locals take the ferry across before setting out on week-long trips; it's big water up there!

I was fortunate to have Ed Wang, our most distant Club member (he moved from Granby to Bellingham, Washington, last October) as my guide as we did three different day paddles near his new home, some 90 miles north of Seattle. He taught me a few good seafaring tricks. I'm glad he did.

We paddled Birch Bay [A] within view of Vancouver, British Columbia, with two-foot white-capping seas (6 miles), Chuckanut Bay [B] (11 miles), and Burrows and Allan Islands (9 miles) near Anacortes [C].

And, by the way, he has a lake in his backyard; Lake Whatcom is eight miles long and up to a mile wide and just a five minute drive from his front door...nice!



- A Birch Bay, northwest of Bellingham a little farther off the map
- B Chuckanut Bay, a small bay directly south of Bellingham
- C Anacortes, with Burrows and Allan Islands around to the southwest



What it's all about—getting to remote areas



4' waves from a far-off ship in Rosario Strait

FROM TED WANG, LARRY'S PADDLING PARTNER AND OUR CORRESPONDENT IN THE NORTHWEST: In the spring issue of the *Mountain Paddler* I referred to the value of having "local knowledge" of conditions expected in the area where one intends to paddle. Here are the links to websites used for that purpose in the Puget Sound area.

Out here it's routine to take a look at this information, as well as that included in the *Tides and Currents Atlas*, *Captain Jack's Almanac*, and other reference materials; understanding the combined effects of weather patterns with tides and currents is a *vital* part of safe sea kayaking in the Pacific Northwest.

WIND/WEATHER: (San Juans)

http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/total_forecast/marine.php?marine=PZZ133

GOOGLE MAP/SATELLITE:

<http://demo.geogarage.com/noaa/>

TIDES:

<http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/tideshow.cgi?>

CURRENTS:

<http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/currents09/cpred2.html#OR>



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www.columbiariverkayaking.com/baja
- Confluence Kayaks
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- Golden River Sports
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