

Even the "Over the Hill" gang was there!

Report on Paddlers Workshop 2004, Sunday, June 6, 2004

By Gary Greeno

About 27 people enjoyed The Paddler's workshop at Chatfield Reservoir "Gravel Pit" ponds on Sunday, June 6th. The spirit of the occasion was voiced by Gary McIntosh as he said, "A year ago, I couldn't even paddle, and if it weren't for more experienced members helping me out, I wouldn't even be here."

The venue was a small pond surrounded by trees and the beauty of the foothills. The pond was sheltered from the wind that was kicking up whitecaps on the larger adjacent pond. The water was clear and warmer than expected. Everybody brought a dish to share, and yours truly did the cooking or "the burning" if you would have eaten one of the brats I cooked.

Newsletter editor Barb Smith and her husband Terry are skilled, well equipped veterans. They taught Jim and Joyce Nykolayko novice paddling skills. Here Jim and Joyce look on as Barb demonstrates dry entry techniques while Terry points out details of the technique.



Susanne Lorenz and her husband Frank Zegler came down the hill from Idledale and brought the whole town (three people) with them. Susanne runs an adventure based travel company from her home there.

Susanne shows excellent sensitivity to her students. Here she instructs Darlene Currie, the Idledale Postmistress, in the elements of kayaking. Susanne and Frank are superbly equipped with equipment they can paddle any where in the world (and do).

Frank had a great water fight with Nadia, the young daughter of Karin Dietrich as he taught her how to use the bailing pump. Karin and Nadia took advantage of James Carol's "duck boat" as a safe paddling platform for their first time on the water. Karin has a wonderful Swiss accent, beautiful auburn hair and her daughter is as pretty as she is.

The quietly competent Dan Bell teamed up with club treasurer, Matt Lutkus to help

Chuck Jenkins (70 years young) get on the water for the first time. Chuck is a real bargain hunter. He bought an excellent zipper fronted spray skirt with suspenders and pockets from Confluence Kayak for \$35. Here Dan works with Chuck on the water.

Michael's Masterpiece

Michael Adams, a new member since February, has crafted a beautiful strip boat. Mike brought his family and came to show it off and have other club members try it out. Unfortunately, the 16 inch cockpit was too small for yours truly to get in. (Ouch) but others gave it a whirl.



Non member, Paul Stone drove down from Laramie so he could see Michael's masterpiece. He wants to build his own as well. He and Michael hooked up on the RMSKC web site and are developing a friendship based on a mutual love of boat building. Michael and Paul join others in the club that have done beautiful work.

It is hoped that these skilled craftsmen and others in the club who have built their own boats return to Paddle Fest in July here at Chatfield to show off their work.

Back from Iraq

Paddling instructor, James Carrol is a big,



friendly guy with interesting stories about Iraq. Just back from there, James actually met an Iraqi truck driver that didn't want to kill him, but helped him steal a watermelon off of his truck.

"Tom Kinsella taught me how to paddle, and now I am paying it back!" James is a fun guy to be around. Here he flies the same kite he had with him in Iraq. Welcome back James and thank God you returned safely! If you want some paddling lessons give him a call at 303-429-8790. He is also available as a paddling buddy if you would like to go out for a day paddle.



Gary McIntosh.

Look Ma, No Paddle Re-Entry

Gary McIntosh, the wunderkind of RMSKC

A year ago, he didn't know which end of the paddle to put in the water. Luckily with a kayak paddle it doesn't make any difference. Gary is now one of our more accomplished paddlers. He can roll his boat and here is a sequence of shots where Gary successfully re-enters his boat without a paddle. Gary is very active in the club and is always willing to help

Gary taught at the spring pool session as did several of the other instructors who helped this day. Gary is very active on the many trips offered by the club. Gary is diabetic and wears an insulin pump, but it sure doesn't slow him down. He and Matt Lutkus looked like they were dressed for an arctic expedition. Wet suits, dry suits, rescue vests and on and on. We are lucky to have individuals who thirst to learn more about paddling. Matt is in Seattle on a paddling and training expedition as we speak.

Even the Over the Hill Gang Showed Up!

Some infamous members of the Colorado Springs "Over The Hill Gang" showed up on the recommendation of Sheila Maio (formerly Blackwell). Sheila is a long time club member

and a notorious member of the "Over The Hill" gang as well. RMSKC members Sheila and Joe Maio recently got married. Congratulations you two! Thanks for sending the Vosses our way!

"OTH" Gang members Dwayne and Janet Voss showed up with two beautiful brand new 12 foot boats. These little boats are perfect for what Janet and Dwayne want to do. They want short day paddles where they can feel safe and enjoy the out of doors and meet people. Joyce and Jim Nykolayko who joined the club at the workshop have similar boats. Nature focused day paddles are perfect for this type of boat. The club must not forget that there is a wide range of skill, talents and interests in our members. Volunteers are needed to lead such trips.



Not pictured were non - members Chad Thompson with his Klepper foldboat who came with his friend Melissa. Also not pictured, club member Bill Gordon (damn yankee) was there with his new boat. As usual Bill jumped in and helped those who needed it. Thanks Bill!

"All in all, it was a pretty good day" to quote President Reagan.

Don't forget Paddlefest!

Sunday, August 1st at Chatfield, is the next big event. Come and show your stuff. Participate in timed 1K paddles and slalom events, long distance circumnavigation of the lake, and learn compass navigation. Kayak rolling - can you roll a loaded kayak? Enter the wooden boat show and show them off. Enjoy more burnt brats and share a dish and meet new people. Remember, to participate in the RMSKC events, non-members must pay \$6 and sign a waiver. See my plea for volunteers. If we can't get participation, we can't have the events.