

---

# **Dillon Reservoir 1st Annual Penguin Paddle, 15 November 1997**

**Icy Paddlers © Summit Daily News**

**by Matt Samelson, Summit Daily News Staff Writer**

With Ice forming around the edges of Lake Dillon at the Frisco Marina, fifteen sea kayakers pushed off into the water. The Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club paddled off into their first version of the polar bear club with the temperature hovering around 15 degrees. "Hopefully this will work and become an annual event," said Tom Kinsella of Denver. "This will be fun." The paddlers were planning on spending two to three hours on the lake and having lunch on the water. Bobbie Belmont of Frisco has been a member of the club for one year and organized the outing. "I thought about how I wanted to get to know what it's like to have and Arctic Experience," Belmont said. "As she looked out over Lake Dillon, Belmont said, "This is one of the best places to kayak in the state." The Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club has about 130 members across the state. The club began five years ago and the popularity of the sport continues to grow in Colorado. "Since we're landlocked, we do a lot of trips on rivers and lakes," Kinsella said. "While Denver has more SCUBA shops per capita than every other state except Hawaii, sea kayaking popularity is beginning to take on the same proportions in Colorado. "There are more paddlers by population in Colorado than in the San Francisco Bay area," Kinsella said. During the summer months, members of the club paddle every week at Boulder or Chatfield Reservoirs. The club also sponsored trips on Lake Powell and Green River this summer. During the off season, from January through May, the club has pool sessions teaching basic kayak skills.