

Paddle Fest 2005

July 16, 2005

What a ball. This year's event featured a gear swap, a friendly atmosphere; good eats, fun games, wet exit practice, a rolling lesson and relaxing and swimming in the cool waters of Chatfield Reservoir. This was our first event that was supported by several excellent commercial Sports companies; Alpenglow in Golden and Wildwasser in Boulder.

Our commercial partners set up tents and provided demo gear for interested kayakers. Alpenglow donated 2 gift certificates; one for \$50 and one for \$30 and a free kayak rental. Wildwasser donated a wonderful Prijon dual purpose float and inflatable gear bag to spice up the awards for the race participants.

The event was well organized by Dan and Sheryl Hunter. Two gas grills got a workout at lunch supplying Brats and Sausage for all comers. The food table was loaded with potato salad, macaroni salad, German potato salad, salad salad, buns and condiments. Between the club, Alpenglow and Wildwasser, 2 Tons (only slightly exaggerated) of cold drinks were provided including three kinds of GatorAid, three kinds of Coke, Sprite and enough cold water to add a half inch depth to the lake.

Landis, owner of Wildwasser in Boulder brought a semi-trailer loaded with gear. He showed a beautiful silver carbon fiber paddle that could vary both the length and feather angle. Landis is a Prijon wholesaler who covers 14 states. Landis gave us all a lesson in rolling. Landis demonstrated how one could start out bracing, and by practicing deeper and deeper braces, one could learn how to continue the process through a roll. Landis demonstrated how to keep your braces symmetrical. He demonstrated back roll braces, front roll braces and sculling braces. Front rolls are useful in a river setting where you don't want to expose your face to rocks. I was very impressed and for the first time, I believe that with sufficient practice, I can do it too. Landis is impressive. He taught himself to roll when he was 14 years old.

Brian Curtis and Randy Thompson helped Kathleen & Roy Dawson practice their wet exits, while Ellie Sciarra was the resident water sprite, swimming all afternoon when she wasn't in a kayak. Randy Thompson of Alpenglow was everywhere. Helping people try equipment and helping with set up and take down. I was so impressed with his spirit and willingness to help.

It was good to see Ray Van Dusen, owner of the River Mouse and long time member of RMSKC show up. Ray has recovered the use of his shoulder after several operations and is beginning to get back into paddling. Ray has led many trips for the club. Because of problems with his wrists, part of his recovery has been the use of a new custom built paddle he made for himself. Ray assembled it with parts from various manufacturers. It was light (carbon fiber) with bent shafts that allowed your hands to rest in a natural position. Ray said he couldn't have done without it. I believe if you have problems with your wrists, Ray would help custom build a paddle built specifically for you.

Barb Smith, our very loyal newsletter editor, handled the registration for the club. She was recovering from a knee operation, and it was good to see her finally gather her courage and try one of Landis's boats in her first time on the water after a painful ordeal. Ron Pernicka didn't compete but enjoyed watching the action and relaxing in his kayak.

Pygmy boats are popular, Dan Hunter and Wolfgang Reitz brought their Artic Terns they built last winter at Wolfgang's Auto shop in Boulder, Gary Greeno brought his vintage Golden Eye and Randy Thompson brought a beautiful Pygmy Coho with a recess rear deck that is very helpful in backward rolls. Wolfgang placed second in the Slalom in his Artic Tern.

(continued on next page)

(Paddlefest continued)

THE GAMES

There was an ambitious event program for the day. A 2 kilometer distance course and a five hundred meter slalom course were run with excellent participation from both the men and the women. The 2 K relay race and the Up the Creek Race were not run due to lack of time and the attraction of practicing and playing around in our kayaks.

2 K Distance Run

In the 2 K timed race, Eric Nyre posted the winning time for the men in an 18 Foot Perception with a 21 inch beam, coming in at 11 minutes and nine seconds over the 2 Kilometer course. Eric tried the course twice, once with his paddling scull with \$500 8 foot carbon fiber oars and then with his Perception. He was off course in first try, but hit it dead on in the second. Wolfgang Reitz placed second by posting 11 minutes and 25 seconds with his 17 foot 2 inch Artic Tern with a 21 inch beam. Eric left after the 2 K event and forfeited his first place Rubber ducky to Wolfgang. Rounding out the field for the men; Brian Curtis place third with 12:14.

For the women, Ann Hopkinson screamed across the finish line in 11 minutes and forty four seconds in a 17 ½ foot by 23 ½ inch kayak, Joan Theis placed second with a time of 14 minutes and thirty seconds in a 15 ½ foot 24 inch boat. Ellie Sciarra placed third with a time of 14 minutes and 44 seconds in her 14 foot by 24 inch boat. This was an excellent time for such a short boat. Sheryl Hunter and Marsha Dougherty completed the field in fourth and fifth place.

500 Meter Slalom

Ann Hopkinson won again for the women with a time of four minutes and 25 seconds, with Joan Theis taking second in "about" 5 minutes. Marsha Dougherty and her guest, Karen Hefner, ran the course for fun, but they would have taken 3rd and 4th. Brian Curtis "won" for the men with a time of 4 minutes and thirty seconds. Randy Thompson and Gary Greeno completed the field with 4:59 and 5:45 respectively.

A note of special thanks to Eric Nyre and Randy Thompson from AlpenGlow who showed up early and saved the day for the races by helping set up the 2 Kilometer and 500 Meter Slalom courses. Eric is working on his MBA at Regis. A special thanks to Randy, who stayed all day, provided demo equipment and cold drinks, helped interested kayakers and stayed to help take break down and pack up. Also a big thanks to Rich Meyer for setting up and manning the garage sale and for supplying the extra brats. He put quite a bit of effort into it as well as adding more shade for the event. Thanks Guys!

After the races, a drawing was held among the race participants to award the prizes donated by AlpenGlow and WildWasser. Wolfgang Reitz, Sheryl Hunter and Marsha Dougherty won the \$50, \$30 and free kayak rental gift certificates from AlpenGlow. And Ellie Shiarra won that wonderful combination float and gear bag from WildWasser..

This years overall PaddleFest award goes to Alpen Glow and WildWasser for helping make this a fun, exciting event.

What to do better next year?

My ideas?

- Register the make and model of boats.
- Get help time keeping.
- Put a better mooring system on the buoys so they won't drift.

How about yours? Send any suggestions to:

Gary Greeno
garygreeno@msn.com