



Education and Safety

Meet Gary Greeno—our New Safety & Education Advisor

I'm Gary Greeno and I'd like to introduce myself. I am responsible for the RMSKC Education and Safety program. I'm the guy who will be setting up the beginners day workshop at Chatfield Reservoir on June 8 and the PaddleFest tentatively at Chatfield on July 20.

I am interested in your ability to kayak safely and knowledgeable and will be working on programs to enhance your skills in these areas.

Also, I am looking for people who would like to help me teach kayaking and safety skills to our membership, so send me an e-mail if you would like to help. So far, Mike Forbes has volunteered to teach rolling skills and Patty Lee and Mike Napier have indicated an interest.

I have an idea I would like your input on: "What do you think about keeping a personal paddling skills log book", and having club "experts" sign off on various paddling and safety skills as you accomplish them in the field, and at various club events?

What are ideas you would like to see implemented in the

training and safety area?

Here is a bit of background on me: I built 3 kayaks (Pygmy - 1 Osprey and 2 Golden Eyes) in 1995 hoping that my two teenagers and wife would get involved, and we could take family trips together. I then got involved in teaching Boy Scouts how to build frame and canvas kayaks and led the troops kayaking program for several years. I developed the "Kayak Rodeo" for the scouts which taught the kids how to pack for overnight trips and how to navigate in an annual event at Cherry Creek Lake.

I am currently teaching homebound kids for Cherry Creek School District and am developing a web design course for them. I "retired" from Lucent in 1996 and have been trying to find a steady job since then as I have two kids to put through college.

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RMSKC Trip Rating System

Ratings and category criteria are based on the majority of trips (both lake and river) that the Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club sponsors. The club rating system is not intended to cover the universe of kayaking experiences one could encounter elsewhere.

Skill Factor : **Beginner** - Paddlers should be able to control their boat in calm conditions using the rudder. No previous trip experience is required.

Intermediate - Paddlers should be able to control their boat without using the rudder and have skills in bracing, wet exits and wet re-entry. Some previous trip experience is required.

Advanced - Paddlers should be able to control their boats in waves, wind and moving water.

NOTE: This factor does NOT attempt to describe the strength or stamina of a paddler, only their knowledge of and ability to apply various paddling skills.

Duration Factor: **Short** - Less than 4 hours on water each day.
Moderate - 4 to 6 hours on water each day.
Long - More than 6 hours on water each day.



Distance Factor : **Short** - Paddle less than 5 miles on lakes or 10 miles on rivers.
Moderate - Paddle between 5 and 10 miles on lakes or 10 to 20 miles on rivers.
Long - Paddle more than 10 miles on lakes or 20 miles on rivers.

Hazard Factor: None - Flat water to slow moving water. Warm water temperatures. No obstacles.

Moderate - Lakes with 1 to 2 foot waves with or without underwater obstacles. Cool water temperatures. Moderate fast moving water with class I rapids or shoreline snags.

Extreme - Lakes with predictably windy conditions during the day. Waves 2 feet or more. Cold water temperatures. Moderately fast to fast water with Class II or greater rapids.