



ROCKY MOUNTAIN SEA KAYAK CLUB



Summer 2008

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We welcome your questions and comments. Let us hear from you!
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Membership: Individual-
\$40 Family-\$50 per
year

Includes ACA and
RMSKC

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From the Cockpit by Our President Matt Lutkus

The streams and lakes in Colorado are full and it's a great time to be paddling. Hopefully, all of you have been able to join in one or more of the Club activities we have had this season or have otherwise been able to enjoy the great Colorado outdoors from the vantage point of your sea kayak. If you have not been able to join us in one of the trainings or events, there is still plenty of opportunity this season. Check out the Club Calendar in this issue.

My thanks again to everyone who pitched in to make another great Paddlefest. We have no doubt found a new permanent location for this event—in the shade of the cottonwoods at the edge of Roxborough Cove.

Your Club Steering Committee (SC) has been busy mainly planning the Club events. In addition, there are several business items that I would like to share with you. First, the SC voted to pay the Club dues for the four ACA-certified instructors in recognition of the considerable amount of extra time needed to maintain their certifications and provide skills training at a nominal cost to members. The net proceeds after class expenses go into the Club treasury so it is

clearly a win-win for the Club and its membership. (As an aside, even though I am one of the four instructors, I went ahead and paid my dues myself to avoid any appearance of conflict as President.) Second, the SC has reaffirmed its policy that no non-members are allowed on multi-day trips, and guests must sign waivers and pay the appropriate fee for day paddles. Third, the SC discussed and strongly supports the ACA requirement that helmets be worn when paddling Class II river rapids. Information on this ACA requirement will be provided on the website for trip leaders and interested members. Finally, the SC decided to eliminate the forum from the Club's website due to the few members who were actually using it and the time involved in maintaining it and the fact that we now have the Yahoo! Users group that is available to all members.

As a final note, the Club's biennial election of officers will take place in November. Please give some consideration to running for President or another position. It is a great way to learn more about the Club and get even more involved in this great sport.

ON THE NORTH PLATTE: A First-Timer's Report of a Great Trip by Kathleen Ellis

When the club members met for breakfast at the J.W. Hugus Restaurant in Saratoga, Wyoming putting in on the N. Platte River, I had no appetite. Prior to this trip my limited river experience was on relatively slow moving rivers. Thanks to Ray Van Dusen, I had spent a morning on the S. Platte learning something about eddies, ferrying, and running a small drop. However, I was intimidated by the North Plate River, which raced by within a few yards of the restaurant window. All of the comments about how much higher than usual the river was running added to my trepidation. Fortunately, going home was not an option, as I rode to Saratoga with a friend. Had I left, I would have missed a great experience.

We all managed to get on the river without swimming or tangling with the island of partially submerged bushes just downstream of the put in. Once we were blasting down the river, I think we all had a great time, including the novices. The first day, there were lots of strainers, some areas of confused water, and one drop. Occasionally the strainers held things you would not want to share space with, cows apparently not being very good swimmers, so I was paying close attention to Ray's advice on reading the river. There were pelicans, bald eagles, blue herons, rookeries, beautiful scenery, and hundreds of

cows. If you have any issues with camping in cow pies, this is not the trip for you. Along the way, we stopped at the Overland Trail crossing, where the travelers left some graffiti that is in great condition (http://www.projectfrontdoor.com/cms/d/Platte_River_Crossing.php gives a brief history of the crossing.)

"Had I left, I would have missed a great experience."

When Brian Curtiss had suggested a potluck dinner, we turned him down in favor of bringing our own food. Despite our stated preference for dehydrated food, we cheerfully helped him eat the dinner he prepared in his little oven, a dish involving bratwurst, green chilis, crescent rolls, and horseradish sauce. We were a long way from city lights, so the stars that night were incredible. The next morning, we got up to the scent of Brian's fresh cinnamon rolls, and we were gracious enough to help him eat these as well. We didn't want him to have to carry them out.

The next day most of the group paddled around the edge of Eagles Nest Rapids. Didn't take any photos, but you can find pictures of the rapids at <http://photokayaker.fit2paddle.com/>

C1666358270/E20061102104539/index.html A couple of us decided we would line our kayaks around. I discovered that this is not as easy as it looks. After I nearly sunk my boat, Brian towed it out of the current. The rest of the trip was a blast.

In fact, it was so much fun that some of us decided to run it again two weeks later with Canoe Colorado. The water was still high but not quite so intimidating. We had a strong headwind the first afternoon, and the folks in canoes were working hard. Ask Brian about the surprise he got when packing his kayak the second morning. Waves along the way were fun, and we all ran Eagles Nest Rapids without swimming. Nothing like a little experience.

As a novice, I am grateful for the generosity of the experienced paddlers in the group, on this trip and at other club events. They will hound you out of your arm paddling and other bad habits, rescue you if you swim, give you a hard time about air bracing, instruct you on how to pack your boat, and help you acquire the skills that allow you to have a great time on the water.

Thanks, guys.

RIVER TRAINING on the COLORADO in GLENWOOD CANYON

By Sue Hughes

"Oh, I really WANT to be on that water!"

How many, many times have I gone through Glenwood Canyon and looked out the window thinking that? Probably at least half a dozen, by car or train...long before I ever paddled a kayak anyplace.

I signed on with Brian Curtiss, Gary McIntosh and Larry Kline (with Pam Noe and Eric Niles, who wasn't paddling) for their river training without remembering

where, exactly, Dotsero was.

What a strange emotion when I realized I was on the river in the exact water I'd fantasized about so often!



"Oh, I really WANT to be on that water!"

Meeting at Dotsero Bridge (no one decided to camp the night before) took a couple of U-turns but I made it by 10:00. No problems with gear, boat lines, extra paddles. No problems at all until I tried to put the boat in headed down stream: time for my first river lesson!

After that, one or the other of the instructors was always within shouting range for bits of advice. We practiced eddying out and ferrying, and then they provided lots and lots of hints about river reading.

It was smooth going from Dotsero to Bair Ranch, where we took out. Eric and Pam's early morning scouting made the plans for a next-day run to Grizzly Creek unlikely, so we shortened the weekend to a one-day training. Larry gave a mini-lesson on thalweg (the theory of water's movement as it moves within its confining banks) before he and



Carole took off for city pleasures in Glenwood Springs, and the rest of us loaded our boats to drive upstream to Lyons Gulch.

We ate lunch and got back in the water, along side a class of white-water boaters, to head back to Dotsero. Oh, my! Probably it wouldn't have been a big deal for most kayakers, but it was my first faster moving river water and it caught my attention!

Brian and Gary practiced their moves



...and I just paddled along in awe of the water and the amazing experience they were helping me have.

"I just paddled along in awe of the water and the amazing experience"

Every single snapshot has this same expression: an ear-to-ear grin!

...Talented instructors and grinning me aside,

the very best of the whole day was this picture of Pam Noe. Don't you wish you'd been with us?

Many thanks to Eric Niles for helping move boats and for running ahead of us through the brambles to photograph all the fun!



PADDLEFEST, 2008



Paddlefest, 2008 was held June 21 at Chatfield State Park, under the shady cottonwoods on the south shore of Roxborough Cove.

Everyone agreed we couldn't have had a more lovely spot or better weather. There was even, almost, enough parking for us all!

"Finally a site with shade."

A selection of coffees—including Southern Style with chicory—was provided by Brian Hunter as almost four dozen members and guests arrived and unloaded. Matt started a round-robin of introductions with short "favorite paddling destinations" and Gary and Ray set up the Slalom Race using their clever beer-cup and milk-jug markers. Some of our best paddlers competed; no one remembers who won but they all had fun and the novice boat handlers were thoroughly impressed.

A group paddled off around the cove to look for wildlife, while others enjoyed the foot or sail-powered boat Mike and Jan brought, tried out friends' kayaks, checked out the items in the gear swap, or just sat and caught up on the news.

Later in the morning Gary McIntosh schlepped bags and bags of stuff down the hill for a review of "What's What" in the gear world. Some of it was new to many of us, and we all were interested in his opinions about what's worth the money and what isn't...and methods of handling the solid waste issue on river trips!



After a lunch of brats, burgers and drinks provided by the Club, with a selection of pot-luck goodies rounding out the menu, we joined Larry Kline and Ted Wang for a discussion of packing for multi-day trips. So many people wanted to learn more about boat loading and camping that a prep class and overnight "Introduction to Kayak Camping" class has been created. Larry's written a couple hundred emails getting it off the ground and the participants are all excited.





To end the day our ACA instructors demonstrated and taught rescues and other skills—always lots of fun when the water is warm and the wind is calm.

Gary, Matt and Brian instructing a new member, who learned to roll way too fast.

Gary demonstrating an extended paddle sculling brace.



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Calendar Sept—Dec 2008

September and October

September 7 - 10:00 at Horsetooth Reservoir, Satanka Bay on the North end of the lake - Meet Jud Hurd for a leisurely paddle down the west shoreline to explore the coves. Bring your lunch and plenty to drink. Horsetooth Reservoir is a Larimer County reservoir and there is a \$7 per car and a \$7 per boat fee. There is a self pay fee station just as you cross the dam at the north end.

September 14-9:30 at Soda Lake - ADVANCED SKILLS CLASS AND ROLLING CLINIC- Our instructors are offering this free class and opportunity to learn and practice any skills you want. Contact Gary McIntosh (303-234-9907) for more info or to sign up.

October 4 - 10:00 at Boulder Reservoir - Trip leader Matt Lutkus.

Oct 18-19 - Pueblo Reservoir - Trip leader Jud Hurd. Please contact Jud at hurdofcows@earthlink.net or 970-377-9277 if you plan to go on this trip. We will drive down Saturday morning and spend Saturday afternoon exploring Pueblo Reservoir. We will spend the night with a Sunday morning paddle and then drive home Sunday afternoon. As a group we can decide if we want to camp out or get a motel or everybody just do what they want. More details will come as we get closer.

November and December

November ? - Annual meeting and election of officers.

November 8 - Penguin Paddle at Dillon - Plan to launch at 9:30 from the Frisco Marina. Mike and Jan will take us on a tour of the islands and/or the Snake River arm (depending on participant interest) with a snack around 11:00. A BBQ and optional hot tubbing will be held at Mike and Jan's townhouse following the paddle. Directions to their townhouse will be provided at Dillon.

Holiday Party: Dec- More info to follow.

Club Bulletin Board

Day Paddle Locations

Chatfield Reservoir

Fee

Chatfield Ponds

Fee

Boulder Reservoir

Fee

Union Reservoir

Fee

Aurora Reservoir

Fee

Barr Lake

Fee

Lone Tree Reservoir

Bear Creek Reservoir
and Soda Lakes

fee

Steering Committee

President: Matt Lutkus 720-480-2719 mattlutkus@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Dick Dieckman 303-980-0573 rdieckman@juno.com

Membership: Dick Dieckman 303-980-0573 rdieckman@juno.com

Newsletter: Gary McIntosh 303-234-9907 garymcin@yahoo.com

Website: Gary McIntosh 303-234-9907 garymcin@yahoo.com

Brian Curtis 303-581-9045 bc@asdi.com

Event Coord: Jud Hurd 907-532-0178 hurdofcows@earthlink.net

PR: Kari Fraser 303-443-4463 kfraserinfionline.net

Our members continue to get the latest club and kayaking information via the RMSKC Yahoo Group.

If you don't belong and want to sign up, go to RMSKC's website, where you'll find directions on page 6 of Newsletter Vol. 15 #3, or contact Brian Curtiss at bc@asdi.com if you have any questions.

Ads in RMSKC Newsletter are free to all members. Contact the Newsletter editor for info.

Help Fill the Newsletter

Send the editor a write-up of a great trip or an article on any paddling topic to put in the newsletter. We're also looking for pictures and descriptions of your recent on-the-water experiences, websites that are useful, helpful hints, you name it! Anything, short or long, of interest to other paddlers should be submitted to the editor.