

# Union Rez Club Paddle/Picnic

By Terry Smith

Photos by Sharon Blackburn

It was a perfect day for a paddle and picnic. The sky was blue, the mountains of the Front Range white, the water as smooth as glass and the air filled with the birdsongs of spring.

Barb Smith led a leisurely lap around the lake, where we were entertained by the boisterous singing and territorial displays of the hundreds of yellow-headed and red winged blackbirds. The lake was full and rimmed with cattails which were teeming with birds. We cruised near several groups of stately white pelicans. We also saw several varieties of ducks (grebes, coots and mallards), great blue herons, cormorants, and gulls. At one point a 4 ½ foot long bull snake swam purposely through the middle of our group. It looked as though it had come from the opposite side of the lake!



We all enjoyed the fact that Union Reservoir is a “no wake” boating area. It was nice to enjoy the sounds of nature rather than those of obnoxious power boats. The view of the Front Range was exceptional, with Longs Peak and Mount Meeker providing a spectacular backdrop.

Next up was the picnic. The Club supplied cold drinks and charcoal. Cindy Miller paid dearly for starting the charcoal. She was attacked by a swarm of bees, getting stung twice on the head and neck. The swarm was so bad that the rangers closed the site. We moved to another spot and grilled our brats and buffalo burgers. Everyone was asked to bring a side dish or dessert of their choice and the selection couldn't have been better if we had actually planned it. Alpenglow Sports provided two \$25 gift certificates. A drawing was held and they went to Nick Curtiss and Cindy Miller. Thanks, Alpenglow!



After lunch, some of the group opted for more paddling (or rolling practice), some had other commitments, while others just sat on shore and enjoyed the day.

In attendance were: Karen Bowers and Mark Honhart (their first Club paddle), Sharon Blackburn, Terry Chase, Brian and Nick Curtiss, Sally Edwards, Larry and Carole Kline, Cindy Miller, Ron Pernicka, and Barb and Terry Smith.