



WATERLINES



Newsletter of Poudre Paddlers

April, 2008



Last Year's crew on North Platte River, Glendo to Guernsey. This is an annual Club event on a Class I river, with one stretch of Class II.

Annual Club Meeting:
Fort Collins Senior Center
1200 Raintree
Sunday, April 20, 5-8 p.m.
Pizza, Pop and Paddling
RSVP to Deb Hinde
dhinde1@msn.com

Dues are due: Send or bring to mtg

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Welcome to Spring, 2008, Paddlers!

From the Prez...

Are you all getting the paddling “itch” like me? I sure hope so! It seemed like a long winter, and exceptionally cold. With our bountiful snow this year and a little luck, we’ll have an extended paddling season to enjoy.

Do any of you have a “life list” of things you’d like to do, see or accomplish? I do, and many of them involve paddling adventures. Some are even in the completed category and that feels good. My yet-to-do list includes an Alaskan and/or Canadian river journey, paddling in Costa Rica and even in a truly distant land such as Russia. I would also like to learn to sea kayak and understand tides. I would love to paddle where I might see some whales. Last, and certainly not least, are the plans to paddle the many rivers that I haven’t made it to yet—the ones I learn about from all of you. These include the Rio Grande, the Buffalo, more sections of the Green and Colorado. A “life list” doesn’t have to be grand and difficult to achieve. The stories you share at our club meetings and in our newsletter are always so eloquent and your pictures so inviting that it is making my list quite long! (Note to husband: Honey, can I please retire soon???)

I hope that our volunteers inspire all of you as much as they inspire me. Our great club, The Poudre Paddlers, offers trips, classes, great newsletters and more trips! Lets celebrate our skills and enjoy this beautiful country in which we live. I invite all of you to dust off your boats and join our many events. And please offer some

yourselfes! If you have a favorite paddling spot, let our Trip Coordinator post a gathering on our club calendar and send an email out to the membership. Check out this issue for the current list of trips that will grow with the season. I’m looking forward to seeing each of you out there. Just look for the lady in the boat wearing the orange PFD and a big smile on her face!

Debbie Hinde, President
Poudre Paddlers



Editor’s Note: For wonderful maps for paddling, hiking or mountain biking, check Latitude 40 maps at <http://latitude40maps.com> . Their Fruita Map is the best map I’ve seen for the Loma (Ruby-Horsethief) run.

Boaters' Safety Checklist from ACA

- Be a swimmer** Know the difference between, and when to use, aggressive and defensive swimming. Stay within swimming distance from shore.
- File a float plan** Note where you intend to put in, take out, and when you expect to return. Give it to someone who WILL call for assistance if you don't return on time.
- Wear a lifejacket and keep it snug** It must not be able to slide over bottom rib!
- Assess your boat's flotation needs** For flotation to work effectively it must fit snugly into the craft and be securely tied into place.
- Carry a spare paddle**
- Always dress for an unexpected flip.** Include eyeglass straps.
- Wear a Hat or Helmet** A helmet is important where upsets are likely or when sprayskirts or thigh restraints are in use. A hat protects from the sun.
- Chart and Compass or Map of the River**
Know where you are and how to get out in an emergency.
- Carry a Whistle or Sound Signaling Device**
- Throw bags and other rescue gear**
- River knife**-When there are ropes or straps, including throw bags and throw ropes.
- Bilge pump and/or Bailer** Always carry a device that can get water OUT of the boat.
- Self-rescue devices such as paddle float, slings, and tow ropes (sea kayakers)**
- Sunscreen** Be sure it's good for UVB rays, too!
- Drinking Water**
- Light/Signal**
- Proper Footwear** Should grip rocks. Sandals can entrap you on thigh straps.
- UV Eye Protection** Choose a good pair of sunglasses **and a strap.**
- Drybag** Dry clothing, cameras and cell phones are great after a long day.
- Appropriate Clothing** Always dress for weather and know what to expect.
Temperature changes rapidly. Layering clothes insulates better than a single garment.
- First Aid Kit with matches in dry bag**
- Duct tape/small repair kit**

Be a Leader!

Pre Trip Planning

Know the waters to be paddled. River guide booklets and topography maps are valuable references in trip planning. Plan alternate routes.

Set-up locations for put-ins and take-outs along with possible lunch break stops.

Consider time and distance. Arrange the shuttle, perhaps one part-way for emergencies.

Equipment - What you take is all that you have to survive and rescue yourself, including water, food, navigation aids, safety, rescue equipment and extra clothes.

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2008 Poudre Paddler Events 2008

Sunday, April 20, 5:00 PM — 8:00 PM: Annual Poudre Paddlers Club Meeting

Mark your calendars!! We will gather at 5:00 pm, Sunday April 20nd, at the Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive. Soda and pizza will be provided. Just bring yourselves, mingle and have fun. This is open to the public, all Poudre Paddlers members and guests. (To get to the Senior Center take Shields north from Drake and turn west onto Raintree. Go about 300 feet and the Senior Center is on the North side of Raintree.)

Contact: Debbie Hinde, Poudre Paddler President.dhinde1@msn.com (970) 669 6247

Friday, May 2: Blow Off Work Friday!!!!

- It's been a long winter and, if you're dying to get the canoe back on the water, well, thank God it's Friday because this is your chance. We will start at the Evans Ball fields just south of Greeley and paddle to Kersey and/or to Kuner. Class I water, but paddlers must be able to navigate strainers (dangerous limbs in the water). There are two portages around spillways. This trip takes 5 to 6 hours, perfect for a nice outing on a spring day. Contact Mike if you plan on tagging along. We will meet at the I-25 and Hwy 34 Park n' Ride at 9:00 a.m. and then convoy to the put-in (Park n' Ride: West on Hwy 34 at the I-25 Loveland exit. The parking lot is on the North side east of the outlet mall). Contact: Mike O'Brien (970) 482-2623), brokenpaddle@mywdo.com

Saturday, May 3, 8:00 am: Springtime in Saratoga, North Platte Float

Class 1+ float, prior experience floating a river is required. We will float from Treasure Island heading north, stopping for lunch at the Hobo Hot Springs in Saratoga, and finishing at Pick Bridge, about 12 miles. The

North Platte flows between the Snowy Range on the east and the Sierra Madre Mountains on the west. It is lined with cottonwoods and large bluffs. Contact: Roger and Diana Faaborg, (970) 669 4182, roger@rff.com

Friday, June 6 to Sunday, June 8: North Platte River Six Mile Gap to Treasure Island. Wilderness/ranchland, great camping, fishing, kids welcome. You should be able to run Filter Plant (Class II+), loaded with gear, to do Six Mile Gap (nothing quite like Mad Dog, though). Fri-Sun, hot spring at the end with good food in Saratoga, WY. The classic Western float. Contact: kenbauer@comcast.net, (303) 709-8781 evenings

Sunday, June 22: Sleeping Elephant on the Poudre, Class II at medium flows, Class III at high flows. Beautiful run on a less traveled upper stretch of the Poudre River. The first part of this stretch is fast and full of rocks and requires quick moves. The lower part is less rigorous but has a good potential for strainers. Class II+/III- whitewater experience is required. Participation is limited so reserve a spot well in advance. Contact: Mark Riffe, mriffe@fs.fed.us, (970)224-9812

Saturday Jun 28, 6:00 AM — 9:30 AM: Lake to Lake Triathlon, Meet at the Loveland Swimming Beach at 6:00 am. Races start at 6:30 am. Enter from Taft next to the Fire Station, which is just south of the 29th and Taft intersection. Class I flat water. Once again we are privileged to be able to help on the swimming portion of the race. It is easy duty, all that is expected of us is to position our canoes on the lake and monitor the swimmers as they swim by. It is a good way to

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Check Website for Added Events

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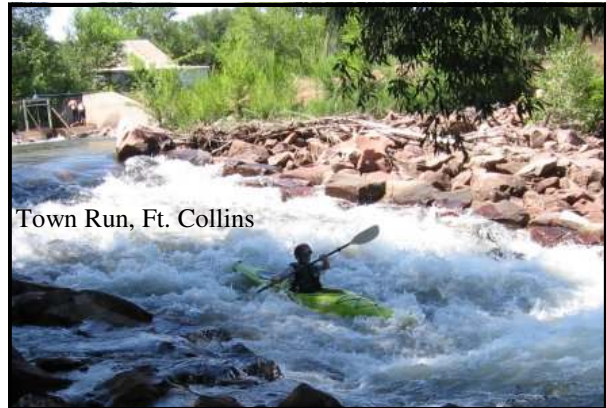
relax on the lake and take in the spectacle of hundreds of swimmers racing by. This is the only opportunity to get on Lake Loveland for the year. No lifeguard experience is necessary. Breakfast and a T-shirt is provided and usually \$100 dollars goes to the club. If you are interested in helping contact Dan O'Brien at the address below. Bring an extra life jacket. Contact: Dan O'Brien (970) 203-0489, bluedango@comcast.net

Sunday, June 29th, 10:00 am: The Town Run - Poudre River, Shields Street bridge to Prospect Street bridge. We will put in at the Shields Street bridge and float downstream to Prospect Street, taking about 3-4 hours to do so (depending upon water level and size of group). This trip includes all type of water: expect some tight maneuvering, standing waves, powerful curves, slow stretches and pleasant scenery along the way. And, of course, the Coy Boat Shoot and Cheese Grater will be part of the fun. There are two short portages around diversions along the way. Paddlers must be able to confidently handle Class II water. Contact: Mike O'Brien (970) 482-2623, brokenpaddle@mywdo.com

Saturday, July 5 – All day – Poudre River Festival. Picnic Rock Picnic Area, Poudre Canyon.,

Come out to Picnic Rock from 10am-5pm on Saturday July 5th for music, food, drinks, and river fun at the 19th annual Poudre Riverfest! Picnic Rock will host the event for the third consecutive year. Admission is free! Join everyone for Fun Runs on the Filter Plant all day. There may be a Filter Plant float at 1:00 pm. Contact Mike Pearson, [michealpearson \[at\] yahoo.com](mailto:michealpearson[at]yahoo.com)

Thanks to Events Coordinator Roger Faaborg



Town Run, Ft. Collins



Glendo-Guernsey, North Platte River

Canoe For Sale

15-foot Grayling Canoe, fiberglass, with paddles. Old but very little used. \$300. Also, Yakima canoe rack. Contact Eric Hermann, 482-8339

Please Consider Hosting a

by Roger Faaborg

As a youth, I floated the Raccoon River in Iowa. It was great fun! Then I grew up and had to make a living. After the kids got old and left, I thought it would be fun to float rivers again. But I was no longer in Iowa and I didn't know where to go. Where do you put-in and where do you take-out? What are the obstacles on the way? I wanted to avoid trespassing and I definitely wanted to avoid shotgun-wielding farmers. Poudre Paddlers solved my problem. I checked the list of trips and signed up for ones I thought interesting. Each Poudre Paddler event had a host who was familiar with the float and made it all possible.

The more trips that are offered by Poudre Paddlers, the more fun we will have. The first time down a new river is always the most exciting. Have you floated the Dismal? What is it like? Is it dismal? You will never really know until you float it. But to have a lot of trips, we need people to host them. The trip host is essential to a successful float.

To maximize our fun, we need more trips and more hosts. So I encourage everyone to become a trip host. This need not be for river trips only: Most members are avid flat-water paddlers, so please consider hosting a lake trip!

What is a host responsible for? The host

needs to know the put-in and take-out points and anything special about them. (For example, the put-in on the Blue River involves lowering boats by rope down a steep slope to the water.) The host should know the major features of the route, by experience or written descriptions. It is good to know the approximate length of the trip and the paddling time involved. It is not necessary to be the strongest paddler of the group. Knowing the difficulty of the trip is also very important, so people can decide whether it matches their skills. Most trips run Class I or II, some with "III-spots." Class IV and V are not club-sponsored trips!

□ Class I.- Easy. Smooth water; light riffles; clear passages, occasional sand banks and gentle curves. The most difficult problems might arise when paddling around bridges and other obvious obstructions.

□ Class II.- Moderate. Medium-quick water; rapids with regular waves; clear and open passages between rocks and ledges. Maneuvering required. Best handled by intermediates who can maneuver canoes and read water.

□ Class III.- Moderately difficult. Numerous high and irregular waves; rocks and eddies with passages clear but narrow and requiring experience to run. Visual inspection required if rapids are unknown. These rapids are best left to canoeists with expert skills.

Although many trips involve floating rivers,

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Trip for Poudre Paddlers

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you can also host trips at local lakes or reservoirs.

The trip host decides the date and time for the trip, maximum group size, minimum age, and any special equipment needed. The host is the central contact point for information. This is important in case of changes because of bad weather. The host collects the liability waivers, which can be printed from www.poudrepaddlers.org. The host will go over a basic safety review before the float. Poudre Paddlers requires that all members wear PFDs. The host organizes the shuttle and designates a lead boat and sweep boat.

There are several things the host is not responsible for. **The host is not responsible for keeping people safe. The assumption in Poudre Paddlers trips is that we are an association of equals, and therefore everyone is responsible for themselves and their own behavior.** A trip host is a volunteer, not a guide, and not an instructor. As a member of the paddling group, the trip host has the same right to enjoy the water and the scenery as any other participant, and should exercise it.

I urge everyone to host a trip. To host a trip, contact Roger Faaborg at roger@rff.com or call him at (970) 669 4182. Just provide the following information:

1. Location of Trip:
2. Date of Trip:
3. Rating of Trip: (like Class I)
4. Short Description of Trip:
5. Contact Information: (Host name, e-mail,

and phone number)

I will add this trip information to the calendar at www.poudrepaddlers.org. Let's fill the calendar with an event each week.

One more item. When you are done paddling at a Poudre Paddler event, take a moment to thank the host. They are volunteers and make these trips possible.



North Platte Treasure Island Run

Black Rocks on Loma Run, Colorado River



Poudre Paddlers Instructional Program

INSTRUCTORS AND CLUB-SPONSORED TRAINING

Through club-sponsored training, Poudre Paddlers gives club members opportunities to enhance their paddling skills. The club offers classes for beginning canoeists to learn basic paddling strokes and for whitewater enthusiasts to enhance skills for bigger water. A fee of \$10 per non-ACA member will be added to classes taught by certified instructors to cover insurance cost. All class participants must have their club dues current for the **2008** season to begin classes. **You will need to have or rent your own boats and gear. You must be a competent swimmer!**

Poudre Paddlers instructors with ACA certifications

Eric Hermann - 970-482-8339, Solo and Tandem Whitewater

Debbie Hinde - 970-669-6247, Basic Solo & Tandem River and Whitewater Tandem

David Karan - 970-224-5621, Solo and Tandem Whitewater

Other Poudre Paddlers Instructors:

Mike O'Brien - 970-482-2623

Joe Schmid and Katie Christensen - 970-484-7857

Karen Roth - 970-482-4360

Steve Cassells - 303-684-9252

To Sign Up for Poudre Paddlers Classes: Check fees and insurance in the listings, below. Many classes are free. To sign up for a class, just follow three easy steps:

Contact the instructor so he or she is expecting you and include you on their training roster. Instructors can also offer preparation details, directions to the training location, and suggestions for the class.

When you arrive at the training location please pay the instructor the class fee. If you are not a club member, or your membership is not current for **2008**, you may pay the \$20 membership fee also at this time. You must sign the Club waiver before the class.

PLEASE REGISTER AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS BEGINS. OTHERWISE CLASSES MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF SUFFICIENT STUDENTS.

Introduction to Canoeing (Flatwater)

Date/Time: April 19, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. **Location:** Riverbend Ponds, on Timberline just north of the Poudre River.

Instructor: Mike O'Brien (970-482-2623)

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Poudre Paddlers Instructional Program

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Class Fee: \$25

Description: This is an entry-level class for anyone wishing to learn to canoe. No experience necessary, but any experience you have paddling a canoe will be helpful. You will learn all of the basic strokes . . .the right way. Many of us have poor-form strokes that make paddling inefficient and less enjoyable. Paddling techniques include forward & back strokes, sweep, and pry, j- and stationary stern pry, stroke recovery, and effectively linking strokes. Some of these strokes will be learned and practiced, while others will be introduced and taught in more depth in more advanced classes. Some of the basic safety issues will also be covered, including exit and reentry, personal flotation devices (lifejackets), avoiding entanglement from gear or poorly equipped canoes.

Basic Tandem River Canoeing (Moving water)

Date/Time: May 3 and 4 (two full days: If river flow is too low, we will postpone day 2 until May 18) 9am to 3pm. **Location:** Riverbend Ponds and Poudre River

Instructors: Eric Hermann (970-482-8339) and Debbie Hinde (669-6247) **Class Fee:** \$30.00 per boat. **Add \$10 Insurance fee for each non-ACA member**

Description: This class will build upon the lessons learned in the Tandem Flatwater class. The basic strokes will be applied on moving water (up to Class I+). Your strokes will be refined through demonstration, practice, individualized feedback and instruction. Communication and coordination between tandem partners will be discussed. The sequence of moves to accomplish eddy turns, peel-outs, and ferries will be introduced and practiced. Boat tilts and other methods that also help you stay upright will be discussed and demonstrated.

Beginning River Rescue and Safety Class

Date/Time, Instructor to be determined. Class Fee: FREE.

Description: Safety and rescue skills for Poudre Paddlers wanting to run rivers. Fundamental safety equipment, basic boat rigging for safety, understanding and recognizing hazards, reading rapids, self-rescue skills, and on-shore rescue of swimmers will be covered. As time allows, other safety and rescue issues may be addressed including: minimizing the risk of capsizing, safe boat entry and exit, and boat-to-boat rescue. **If you attend this class, you will get wet!** Please wear suitable clothing and bring extra dry clothing too. **Consider renting a wet suit or dry suit.**

Introduction to Solo Canoeing, Basic River Solo Canoeing, Introduction to Tandem Whitewater and Introduction to Solo Whitewater, Reading the River— These may be taught if enough people are interested. **Contact Eric Hermann.**

ACA Boaters' Safety Checklist, continued from page 3

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File a Float Plan with someone who will notify others if you don't return on time.

Participant Responsibilities - Unless the trip is an instructional or a commercially guided trip, most trips are of a common adventure trip format where each participant takes responsibility for personal participation, the selection of appropriate equipment and the decision to run, scout or portage rapids. More experienced paddlers should assist those with less experience in making proper decisions on the trip. Paddle within your limits—and those of the group.

On Water Behavior and Etiquette

Be a competent swimmer with the ability to handle yourself underwater, in moving water, and in holes.

Have a properly fitted Personal Flotation Device (PFD), and **WEAR IT!**

Keep the craft under control. Do not enter a rapid unless reasonably sure you can paddle

it or swim the entire rapid if you have to.

Be sure to keep an appropriate distance between craft (keep boats behind and in front in view). Normally, stay between the lead and sweep boat, both of which should be experienced boaters. Allow 3-4 boat lengths between boats in rapids.

Keep a lookout for hazards and avoid them.

Know your emotional and physical limitations. Group members need to constantly assess the behavior of others in their group.

Respect the rights of anglers and land owners when paddling.

ALL PADDLERS NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR:

Low light conditions, ways to contact help, minor medical emergencies, outings that extend past the estimated return time, other boat traffic, weather pattern changes, and lightning (get off the water, then to a safe place away from high trees or cliffs, or overhangs.)

Colorado River Landmark: Dewey Bridge burned by careless child



Tips For Paddlers (Send questions for later tip questions)

Loading a boat onto a car: If it is windy, park the car facing directly into the wind—no side gusts to grab the boat. Empty all water and gear from the boat. Be sure to get help unless you really know your stuff lifting solo! The two grabbers stand on the same side of the boat and pantomime for each other how they will flip and lift the boat. In high wind, a third person holds the front painter in front of the car. Lifters then flip the boat and place it on the rack. Be sure to keep the boat level during the lift, or water will shower the shorter lifter! I am short; I know this! In winds, front person holds the boat gunnels down on rack while rear lifter straps it down. Include ropes holding the prow and stern ends to the car—bumper or elsewhere—because sometimes both boat AND the rack may peel off the car.

For tying the canoe in front without ropes rubbing on paint, you can attach nylon web loops or grommeted strips to bolts on the chassis in the car's engine compartment, allowing the loops to protrude from the edges of the hood. Tree-wrap strips from nurseries are great for this (tip from Jim Work). My front tie is a clip-on strip of eighth-inch steel cable, which doesn't impede visibility.

For greater ease, an extender bar on one of the car rack tubes lets you prop one end of the canoe on this, then easily lift the other. Or, pad the rear top of the car and slide the boat up over this, onto the rack.

Never walk away from a racked boat before you have securely strapped it down!

Broaching: This term means getting a boat pinned sideways, usually against a rock.

Once the boat pins like this, current rolls the upstream side under and fills the boat with about a ton of force, often leading to a **wrap**, which means the boat collapses and wraps around the rock like a big rag. Usually the boaters see it coming; however, the natural impulse is to lean away from the obstruction. This only lowers the upstream gunnel and insures your doom. **Instead, from about three feet away, tilt toward the obstruction. This keeps the upstream gunnel raised to keep the current out.**

Never allow yourself to get between the boat and the oncoming pin! NEVER!

Next, you might be able to push the boat frontward or backward, whichever looks easier, so the current will push harder on one end, pushing the boat past the rock. If this isn't immediately successful, one paddler should abandon ship—leap onto the rock or into the water and swim, perhaps into the eddy caused by the rock. Which paddler? The one on the “short end”—the end that extends less from the rock, assuming it's slightly off center. This allows the current to push harder on the other, now heavier, end of the boat. If the evacuee lands on the rock, he or she can fend the boat off to one side, **always keeping the upstream gunnel raised above the current.**

If the obstacle is an overhanging tree (strainer), leap for it and climb it as fast as you can.

Remember in times like these, save the human before saving the boat. The boat can be replaced, unlike you—no matter what your spouse says!

Flotilla-Club Officers

President.....Debbie Hinde 970-669-6247
Vice Pres.....vacant
Treasurer.....Mary Peck 970-484-6309
Membership...Will Golson and Deb Artzer
970-207-0101, 970-282-9135
Trips/Events...Roger Faaborg 970-669-4182
Marketing.....Debbie Artzer 970-282-9135
NewsletterEric Hermann 970-482-8339
Conservation ..David Karan 970-224-5621
InstructionEric Hermann
Webmaster.....Will Golson 970-207-0101

Please visit our website,
<http://www.poudrepaddlers.org>
for membership forms, waiver,
updated calendar and more.

Members, contact Will Golson
to be placed on the listserve for
announcements.

Poudre Paddlers Club
P.O. Box 1565
Ft. Collins, CO 80522