



WATERLINES



Newsletter of Poudre Paddlers

June, 2008



Photo: Mike Koliha

North Platte Trip Needs a Bonfire! See Mike Koliha's Account, too, page 6

[Above, Ken Bauer and Deb Koliha steam at the fire. Don't let these accounts scare you. In 23 years, it was the highest water and lousiest weather Trip Host Ken has ever seen.]

by Doug Kretzmann

The bright sun turned the river from brown to silver, luring us down the primrose path (bit muddy for primroses, though). A clear blue sky to begin with, the last we'd see for 3 days, with low, grey clouds already sneaking over the horizon. While waiting for the shuttle drivers to return, I improved the shining

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A Message From the Prez...

First we had some paddler un-friendly weather and barely any water. Now we have more water than we could imagine this late into June! With all this water, the whitewater enthusiasts have been hard at it. Many thanks to Dave Karan, Roger Faaborg and Will Golson for their weekly (or more often!) runs on the Poudre. Appreciation as well to Roger for his North Platte, Lone Tree and Town Runs. Yay to Ken Bauer for Six Mile Gap, Roger (again!) for the St. Vrain, Mark Riffe for Sleeping Elephant (fondly Snoozing Pachyderm), and by the time you read this, to Mike O'Brien for the Town Run, Dan O'Brien for the Loveland Lake-to-Lake Triathlon and to Mary Peck and Katie Christensen for a Dowdy Lake camp-out. That's quite a bit of fun for one paragraph!

Now I want to put a seed of a thought out there for germination. Most of the above listed events are for those who paddle our "heartier" western rivers. The hosts mentioned above are those who have offered trips to our club year after year, and for which we are truly grateful. Those folks love the fast moving water and more power to 'em for volunteering their time to our club. You can see where this is leading right? We need some flatwater and easy-river hosts too! I remember when I stepped out of my comfort zone and offered to host a trip simply because I wanted to go paddle with people that enjoyed the same. You do not have to be an expert paddler to offer a trip. All you have to do is set a place and time and ask people to join you. How about another Lone Tree paddle? Maybe Dixon Reservoir? Hog Park or Big Creek Lakes are beautiful camp and paddle locales. Please think about it.

Now that I've put in my plug, what am I going to offer? Well, I'm glad you asked! I have fully intended to have our Beginning Safety and Rescue class and our 2nd Annual Paddlers Rodeo. Safety and Rescue means I want you in the water! That means I need safer flows and preferably a few more degrees of warmth in that water too. I've reserved Saturday, July 12th for this. I never would have thought I'd be worrying about too much cold water that late in the season but it's only 3 weeks from my writing this letter! Let's hope it will work. As for the Rodeo full of games and classes and fun, I'm scheduling August 24th. Save the dates!

See you on, near, in and around the water,

Debbie Hinde



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hour fishing, hooking, I thought, a monstrous brown trout. Instead, up came the biggest sucker I've ever caught, 22" or so. There's no second act with the sucker: quick fight, then belly up to fate with scarcely another twitch. Quite a handsome fish all the same. A couple of smaller brown trout, then a beast, 18" with a jaw like a crocodile. His dorsal fin came sailing up through the thick water making me think it was another sucker, but he went several rounds.

Upstream from the steep put-in at Six-Mile is Stovepipe Rapid, Class IV at this water level, which a couple of rafters hiked up to inspect. They'd just come from the Grand Canyon,



Photo by Doug Kretzmann

but gave the North Platte another day to subside before they attempted this canyon.

Below, 3600 cfs was flushing through Six-Mile Canyon. Ken Bauer, Roger Faaborg, Debbie and Mike Koliha, Dick Livingston, and I put in.

From the put-in there was an awful lot of activity, and no time for photos. A pity, since the waves were fearfully impressive. The whitewater canoes and the inflatable were in their element. Mike and Deb were in a well-loaded tandem boat with not much freeboard.

They handled the rapids without problems, but tended to emerge at the tail-out with gunnels level to the water, and waist-deep inside the boat. A swamped canoe like this is very unstable: the usual procedure is to catch an eddy and bail.

Today the high water turned a sequence of class II rapids into one single class II-III rapid, leaving very few eddies, and those few mandated a close personal relationship with the willows. So, the rest of us got some rescue practice. Chasing an inverted canoe through the rapids with no time to read the water for the best route, just ripping through the rocks and holes in hot pursuit, is good for the adrenalin generators. Add in a strong cold blustery wind that kept blowing the boat sideways, and the whole thing became a bit of a tightrope dance: perhaps not the brink of disaster, but certainly an excellent view of it.

After all that excitement, I needed to have a quiet spot of fishing to calm the nerves. More healthy happy brown trout and then a rainbow, full of jumps and aerial flourishes.

I stayed up late that night, closed the camp down at 8:30, as we all collapsed into bed just ahead of driving mists. In the middle of the night I got up for middle-aged reasons, and it was the pitchiest sort of black, with a cold drizzle blowing by.

The inflatable canoe went into Dick's tent with him. I guess some guys really love their boats. Actually he was using it as an air mattress. Quoth Dick upon emerging the next morning, "and it comes with an attachment, named Zelda.."

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Next morning, cold grey skies. A wind with bite of ice and snow. Midsummer in Wyoming, and welcome to it. Packed up camp and fished for a bit, this morning's piscatorial chapter included a 12" cutt-bow [hybrid between a cutthroat and rainbow] which I'd never seen here before. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department doesn't stock the river, but there are private ranches nearby that probably stock dumb trout for the paying clients. I'm happy to see the stockies going feral.

Only one rapid of consequence left, Douglas Rapid, just downriver. We scouted this one since we could. Instead of washing out, the rapid had just bulked up magnificently, huge standing waves curling into white foam. The sun reappeared briefly. In its light the waves seemed lit up from within, glowing brown and gold like tiger's eye. I remember taking a small boat out into the swells off Shark Point, the westernmost tip of Australia: the huge wine-dark waves rolled in with a thousand miles of ocean behind them. These waves were a kind of landlocked miniature version of that emotion; driven by snowmelt rather than ocean.

Mike and Deb decided that Ken and I could run their boat down, while they took video. We approached the entrance carefully, backpaddling and quartering into the waves to keep the boat dry. After the first quarter mile there was a narrow channel between boat-eating holes which was the must-make move. Going in there we paddled hard, crashed through with the water slapping into my chest, but stayed up and only half-filled the boat. That was fun, in fact.

We pulled over after that for a little snack, taking advantage of the brief sun.

Onwards, as the weather closed in again. The sun kept trying to emerge, a bleary yellow eye in the clouds, but it wasn't trying hard enough. The rain began, driven hard by an upstream wind into our faces, like being pelted with small cold pellets. The tempera-



Six Mile Canyon: Mists at 1100 cfs by Roger Faaborg, 2007. Compare with flow on right...

ture was medium 40s. As this all soaked slowly into us, on a river which was snow yesterday, it became distinctly cold. Reaching camp at 4 p.m., we immediately dragged up a heap of driftwood, soaked it in Coleman fuel and torched it, no energy to accomplish anything except to steam gently in front of the fire. I had a backpacking tarp secreted at the bottom of the dry bag. We put it up with some paddles for tent poles, then performed the hypothermia pavane, twirling slowly between shelter and the fire. We did get five minutes of sunset light with a rainbow and a bald eagle working his way homewards. My camera batteries had died by that point so you'll have to take my word for it.

It was cold and miserable enough that I didn't

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get any fishing in. Ken and Dick sat around the fire swapping military tales but I collapsed at 8:30 again.

A few rattles of rain swept over the tent in the night. I pulled an all-nighter, which for

this river. The rest of us saw orioles, warblers of various degrees of beauty, tanagers, bald eagles both fledged and immature. At the takeout, I paddled up the backwater to explore, meeting a huge beaver, which dove into the water with remarkable grace.



Same view, at 3600 cfs, 2008. by Doug Kretz, amm. Note the encroaching pine beetle kill.

At the Hobo Hot Springs, the cold weather and high waters had cooled it off to a mere 105 F, so I could actually get in. Usually it's up at 110-120—too hot for my thin skin. Ken found someone who knew his first wife's parents, and they had a good chat about the snows of yesteryears, the refinery tanks, etcetera. Wyoming has a half million people for the whole state, so it's like that. The neighboring swimming pool had a free swim day, several kids frolicked under the eye of a chilly-looking lifeguard clad in a wetsuit, hoodie and towel.

a middle-aged man like me, means I slept all night without having to get up: very exciting. In the morning, the flysheet clattered as I opened it up, being covered in frozen rain. In that frosty dawn we moved like lizards, slow and careful. We'd planned to leave early to have more time for the Hobo Hot Springs in Saratoga, but it was no go : we waited for the ice to melt off the tents.

Lunched late at Saratoga's Stumpy's: fine cheeseburgers and chocolate malts, which Mike paid for in his gratitude for deliverance from the fell rapids of the first day. Thanks, Mike.

More 'busy' water in Ken's term; that is, only 2-3 foot waves, as we forged on to Treasure Island. This stretch of river has a lot of islands and riverine forest, so the birdlife is extraordinary. Ken saw a pileated woodpecker, his first in 15 years and only the second in 23 years of running

Another Take on a Wet North Platte

by Mike Koliha

The good news is there were several people on this trip that had excellent rescue skills. The bad news is we gave them plenty of opportunities to practice them. Last year was 1100 cfs, this year was 3600 cfs. Last year we had three days of sunshine; This year, three hours. We heard that most rapids would actually get washed out. What we didn't find out was that the waves tended to get bigger. Lots bigger.

We started into the first rapid and had a bit of a wave come over the bow into the boat. One wave, no big deal. Another one... Then another. This is starting to become a big deal. Pretty soon—really soon actually—the boat was gunnel full and more like a walrus on land than a graceful watercraft in its proper environment.

We tried to get into an eddy to bail the boat. At 3600 cfs, there are no eddies, just willows lining the shore. Bummer. Needless to say, the boat finally bumped something hard enough to go belly up. We had lots of help getting the boat and ourselves to shore. Thanks again, guys. When you're on a roll, you're on a roll. Not just once, but three times did we swim that day. The last time, when Debbie came in on the throw line and hopped up onto shore, she was told that we were at our campsite for the first night. Yep, she didn't have to get into that boat again that day. She was sooooo glad about that.

We unloaded our gear—all there after three inverted float trips. At least we can pack the boat well. Some dry bags were only fairly

dry. Fortunately, in the brief real sunshine the important things dried out. Bedtime came early that night. Really early.

Needless to say, when our canoe ran Douglas Rapids, it was run by Ken and Douglas. I wasn't sure if I was ready for another swim. I knew Debbie wasn't. (See movies at http://home.comcast.net/~mikekoliha/canoe/sixmile_080606/) We spent the second night camping on BLM land just above Bennett Peak Campground. The first order of business was a really big bonfire that left everyone warm up and dry. We sort of saw the sunshine for about 10 minutes just as it was setting.

The last day we woke to ice on the tents and frozen wetsuits, and we scuttled to Treasure Island quickly as we could in the strong headwinds. A nice hot dip in Hobo Hot Springs in Saratoga wrapped up the final day in the area. The drive back over the Snowy Range is still spectacular and they still had lots of snow up there.

If we ignore the swimming on the first day, all of the rain, minimal sunshine, putting on the frozen wetsuits, ice in the canoe seats and the headwinds, it wasn't too bad of a trip.

Will we go again next year? Probably not if it is running near 3000cfs. At 700-1200cfs, maybe).

Editor's note: I've run this same stretch about a dozen times between a scratchy 450 cfs and a fast 1700. Ideal is 700 - 1500. It is my favorite nearby mountain canyon trip. Filter Plant on the Poudre at 2-3 on the Pine Vu Rock is a good comparative practice run.

Pickin' Down the Rio Chama with Chuck Pyle

By Mary Peck

At a January concert, Colorado singer/songwriter Chuck Pyle mentioned his annual raft trip on the Chama River in Northern New Mexico. We like Chuck's singing a lot but weren't very keen on rafting the Class II/III Chama, so Tom called the owner of Arkansas River Tours, Bob Hamel, to see if he would accept canoes. Tom liked our qualifications and said yes, as long as we had helmets, flotation and wore **his** PFD's. The additional caveat was that he had the final say on the canoe, depending on the water level.

The Chama River sits between two reservoirs—the upper El Vado and the lower Abiquiu. The river flow is then controlled by releasing water from the dam at the El Vado reservoir. The Chama's flows for Memorial Day weekend were all over the board—from 200 cfs rising to 600 cfs and even a threat from the dam people (did I spell that right?) that there may be very little release of water for that weekend. Of course, since this was a rafting trip, that was worse news for the rafters than for us. However, Bob said to bring our canoe – I think he figured if there was not much water they could hitch a ride with us.

We stayed overnight at a motel in Chama with our friends, Mike and Suzanne Phelan. When we awoke that morning there was snow on the ground and the temperature was 32 degrees!! So, being a pessimist when it comes to weather, I put on ALL my clothes, including stocking cap, long underwear, many layers, gloves, neoprene booties

and full rain gear. (We left the neoprene suits back home in the drawer—stupid, stupid, stupid). Meanwhile Suzanne and Mike showed up at their car with shorts on!

By the time the shuttle was finished at noon it had warmed up a few degrees. Bob told us that the river the day before had risen to 2500 cfs!! Oops. This is when Mary started worrying—a lot. By the time we got on the river, however, it had dropped to 1600-1800 cfs. Still, higher than the guides had seen in years. This meant a pushy river, large waves but not so many rocks.



Down the Chama. Photo by Mike Phelan

The first day was a bit cold, especially for Mike and Suzanne but, with my anxiety level fairly high, I wasn't sure I even noticed the cold—but then again, I looked like an Eskimo. As my friends who canoe with us will tell you—Mary is her own worst enemy. The Chama River is a fairly mild river. The rapids are class II for the first two days and few

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and far between. The two class III rapids are not until after lunch on the final day!! What timing—I couldn't even get over the anxiety until the take-out.

The trip was great fun. The rafting company carried all gear, all food and, best of all, the groover! We usually stopped fairly early in the day, set up our tents and then leisurely watched, over G&T's, wine and beer, as guides in their 20's (and Bob, of course) put together gourmet dinners. The females in camp decided the guides would make great "catches," particularly when we saw that they did dishes too. After dinner and during lunch we were serenaded by Chuck Pyle. An anesthesiologist from Frisco played the autoharp, so we had several duets. Beautiful music, beautiful canyons, great food and good companions! The group was 20 strong

(15 guests and 5 guides) from Texas, Carbon-dale, Frisco, Cheyenne and Fort Collins. Everyone was great, interesting and helpful. We couldn't have asked for better companions. And, of course, not to forget my companion of some 40 years—Tom. He gets ribbed a lot about being in the back of the boat doing the "air brace" (if any of you need lessons—he's the one) but what a paddler! Over the years we have become a darn good team—even in the canoe.

The second and third days were warm with little wind—always a blessing. From the second camp we hiked up one of the canyons. The upper Chama is one of the prettiest canyons I have canoed, with huge old-growth Ponderosa pines, tamarisk-free banks, spacious campsites, and of course, the spectacular sandstone canyon walls.



Tom Peck muses to Chuck Pyle's Music. Mike Phelan Photo

On the third day, the rapids loomed. But not until after lunch! The river was quite calm at first—the calm before the storm you might say. And then we were there. The first one was long and a bit rough—and, should I say, fun? The water was high enough to keep us above the rocks. The next one was longer and waves higher—3

feet, maybe—with a hole at the bottom. With great effort we missed the hole and were almost home free. There was one more class III, a 90-degree turn into a rock wall! But it was short, really short! All we had to do was make the turn. Again, the water level kept us safe, and by now I was giddy that we had come through all of them upright, with little water in the canoe. But it is unfortunate that the water was making so

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much noise you couldn't hear me screaming, "THE HOLE! THE HOLE! GO RIGHT! GO RIGHT!"

I should take a moment here to say—"Thanks, Tom, your air brace was great." People are always telling us to keep the canoe with the open side up. We did. And the take-out was five minutes away. What a ride. What a thrill. The trouble is, next time we do it the water level will be different, the river will be different—there may be rocks. Did I mention that I am my own worst enemy?

Note: The owner, Bob Hamel, and guides were great. I highly recommend this trip. They do it every year over Memorial Day weekend (in a wet year, maybe once again in August) but fill up quickly by February. Their web site is: www.arkansasrivertours.com and phone, (800) 321-4352. You may even convince Bob to let you take your canoe!

He did suggest a possible raft-supported canoe trip for the Poudre Paddlers if there was any interest.

You can hear Chuck Pyle; he plays at Avogadro's number several times a year. His web site is: www.chuckpyle.com. Chuck probably doesn't care if you take your canoe or not.



Mike Phelan Photo

First Aid Kit for Boat Trippers

by Eric Hermann

We carry first aid kits, like most emergency gear, hoping never to use them. We want them to be accessible, dry and compact, yet cover any injury or illness we might face on trips often far from roads. Most river rules mandate a major kit on overnight trips, and rangers will sometimes check their contents.

I'm no expert. The web provides plenty of access to those who are, like known wilderness medical authors, and groups like NOLS, National Outdoor Leadership School.

What follows is nowhere near a full account. For that, read the books and take the classes. For a list of suggested books on paddler first aid, try http://www.paddlermagazine.com/issues/1998_3/health.html.

A good read is "Put a Doctor in Your Pack: Looking Inside First Aid Kits," by Michael Hodgson at http://www.mountainzone.com/gear/First_Aid_kits_Review.html, and I'll draw some ideas from that.

According to one study, the most common backcountry problems were insect bites, wounds, blisters and sunburn. "Asthma, allergic reactions, and lacerations were the most common of the serious medical problems." Boaters must consider hypothermia, so keep warmth ready! It seems that outbackers carry an average of 48% of the first aid supplies they need. So, stock your kit, pack it water tight, and maybe keep it in your car, ready for use anytime. See Mark Zen's excellent web page on hypothermia: <http://www.dotzen.org/paddler/cpr/hypo.html>

Below are the contents recommended by the Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association. http://www.gcpba.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=73&Itemid=51

INTRUMENTS

First Aid book, small, waterproof *to refresh your memory*
Paramedic shears/knife, 1 medium size *clothing/tape/dressings*
Razor, 2 safety type *removing hair for taping, suction*
Tweezers, 1 medium (maybe tick tweezers too and hand lens) *splinter removal*
Safety Pins, 10-20 various sizes *triangular bandage*
Cotton Swabs, (Q-tips) 1 package *cleaning lacerations and eyes*
Note pad/pencil, 1 pad *recording all procedures*
CPR face shield, 1 *used as a barrier device*
Disposable gloves, 2 pair *used as a barrier device*
Pen light, 1 *extra light/ [use a small led headlamp or squeeze lamp]*
Snakebite kit, 1 kit [Sawyer Extractor]

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WOUND MANAGEMENT

Antibacterial soap, 8-12 oz. bottle *cleaning wounds*
Moleskin, 1 pack *for blisters* [and Molefoam, Spenco Second Skin]
Band-aids, 1 pack, 1" *for lacerations, scrapes*
Butterfly closures, 15-20 various sizes *for closing lacerations* [Use wound closure, or suture, strips
Anti-bacterial ointment, 1-2 tubes *antiseptic for wounds*
Carlisle dressing or Kotex, 3-5 (4" wide) *for large bleeding wounds*
Ace bandage, 2" or 3" *for sprains*
Chemical ice, 1 package *to reduce swelling*
Sterile pad gauze flats, 18 (2" x 2") *for small wounds*
Sterile pad gauze flats, 18 (4" x 4") *for large wounds*
Adhesive tape, 2 (2" rolls) *for bandages, sprains*
Triangular bandage/safety pins, 4 (40" size) *for arm or leg support*
Roller gauze, 5 rolls (2" x 5 yards) *for holding gauze flat*
Sam splint, 1 *for arm and leg splinting*

MEDICATIONS

Ex-lax, 1 small package *constipation*
Syrup of Ipecac, 1 bottle *to induce vomiting*
Eye drops, 1 bottle *eye wash*
Kaopectate, 1 bottle *diarrhea* [Immodium works better]
Ear drops, 1 bottle *clogged ears*
Water purification tablets, 1 bottle
Vaseline, 1 bottle *dry skin/lips* [improve suction for Sawyer Extractor]
Oral glucose, sugar, honey, 1 tube *treatment of diabetic condition*
Neosporin ointment, 1 tube *for the control of infection*
Thermometer, 1 (in plastic tube) *for fever/hypothermia*
Baby shampoo, 1 bottle *to wash an open wound*
Robitussin, 1 bottle *for cough and cold relief*
Antacids, 1 box *for indigestion*
Alcohol swabs, 10 packets *for surface cleaning*
10% povidone-iodine solution, 10 packets/1 bottle *disinfectant*
1% hydrocortisone cream, 10 packets/1 tube *to prevent infection*

Add to this a 20cc irrigation syringe, Clorox hand wipes, a dental repair kit, sterile eye pads, knuckle bandages. Extra latex gloves can keep water out of finger wounds. I have rarely seen band-aids or adhesive tape that is really waterproof. One made by Smith & Nephew really works—hard to find. Have duct tape! I include a mini led lamp, and a trash bag on which I spread kit contents to keep them clean, and then use the bag for first aid scraps. Include a hand lens for splinters and an eyeglass repair kit.

Check out other lists on the web, especially the Comprehensive Medical Kit from Chinook Medical Gear, recommended by NOLS, at http://www.chinookmed.com/index.cfm/fa/product.display/product_id/244/Adventure%20Medical%20Kits%20Comprehensive%20Kit.cfm

According to a NOLS study, sprains, strains, and cuts accounted for 56%, and fractures and

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dislocations accounted for 4.6% of all injuries. Diarrhea accounted for 60% of illness cases and several others were dental problems.

Two doctors long with the Wilderness Medical Society and with extensive backcountry experience commented on the contents of first aid kits. Use SAM splints, they said, which can be cut and molded to fit any extremity, and an irrigation syringe to cleanse wounds. Butterfly strips have now been replaced with wound closure strips, which can be ordered from supply houses like Chinook Medical Gear, Inc. <http://www.chinookmed.com/> -- phone 1-800-766-1365. Tincture of benzoin wiped on the skin cleans sweat and helps bandages adhere better. So will Purelle. I keep a disposable safety razor to clear away hair, and to shave off tiny cactus spines that I can't pull. For blisters, use Spenco's Second Skin—and catch them early, when they're just hot spots. For snakebite, get a Sawyer Extractor, the only snake bite kit actually acknowledged as useful in certain situations. Use the safety razor around the area first. Afterward, get the victim to a hospital where anti-venin may be given safely. Throw away the old suction kits with little razors. They're useless and dangerous.

For all meds, check with your group for allergies to drugs. Tylenol for fever and pain, Ibuprofen for inflammation. Benadryl for mild allergic reactions. Now, consider the Epi Pen for more serious allergic reactions that might otherwise be fatal. I paid a doctor about \$80 for the training that allowed him to write me an Epi Pen prescription. Then I found that Epi Pens cost another \$90 or so, AND they expire inside of a year. Spend all that if you're with a group of kids, maybe, but tell any serious allergic adult not to come unless they bring their own Epi Pen. Insist that anyone with a personal medical problem carry their own emergency equipment, like inhalers.

Michael Hodgson recommends purchasing a commercially packaged kit from one of the following companies: Atwater Carey (800/359-1646), Adventure Medical Kits; <http://www.adventure-medicalkits.com/> (800/324-3517), Outdoor Research; <http://www.orgear.com/>, (888-4-ORGEAR), and Chinook, mentioned above. "Other commercially packaged kits cannot hold a candle to any of these," he says. I find that buying a commercially packaged kit costs about double what buying the ingredients costs.

For a waterproof case, options include a surplus ammo can—very secure. Paint it white, to ward off sun, with a red cross. A Pelican plastic case is nicer, lighter and softer. I use a clear dry bag the size of a rugby ball, which is kept inside a gear dry bag. Let others know where it's kept!

I also carry a mini-kit for cuts, blisters, pain meds, etc. It's in a ziplock, kept in my ever-present day/emergency bag. Ask each boat in your group keep a mini-kit, too, so you're not digging out the big kit for each splinter or cut. Keep the big kit for big needs—hopefully never opened!

Long-Term Officer Dave Karan Moving to Boulder

[Editor note: Please send me responses to David's thoughts. What do members think?]

By David Karan

After 16 years, I am leaving Fort Collins. Having been with Poudre Paddlers from the beginning there are some reflections I would like to share.

A partial history of Poudre Paddlers: Mountain Shop employee Sarah Siggelkow began Poudre Paddlers over 15 years ago as a marketing program for her boating department. She published a simple newsletter and taught a few lessons. The club grew to a couple of dozen members. I got involved with the club because I wanted to meet paddlers, wanted lessons and back-up when running whitewater. Then Poudre Paddlers died . . . almost. Frankly, Mike O'Brien, I and a few others rescued and rebuilt Poudre Paddlers as an independent organization. For a short time there was a triumvirate of co-Presidents: Mike O, Randy Starr and Greg Muliner. I published a full newsletter and started a real instruction program. From the efforts of the new leaders, the club and its programs grew.

Issue #1: *Having a fuller trip schedule.* We need more trip hosts. There is a tendency to do private trips. For multi-night trips especially, the temptation is to control who participate for safety and enjoyment. The Club has encouraged new hosts with only partial success. Hosts are not "leaders," but set up the parameters of a trip, discuss safety and rescue when needed, screen participants, set limits on the number of participants, etc. We use a legally solid waiver, to be signed not only when joining or rejoining the Club, but at the beginning of every trip or class.

Issue #2: *Burn-out of volunteers and officers.* **Every club** relies on a small core of volunteers, and they usually need more help or replacement and do burn out. Yes, active people do contribute more than others and new blood is vital. But a small group of people doing most of the work is just a fact of life in any voluntary group. Some of us have served in virtually every office for the entire life of Poudre Paddlers. Our officer corps has grown to ten. But we still struggle with "rites of succession." Terms of office are supposed to be two years, and the vice-president is supposed to be practicing for the presidency. Presently, Debbie Hinde has served two years and is ready to pass this office on, but there's no vice-president. Past presidents included Mike O'Brien and Me (five years each) and Eric Hermann (three).

Issue #3: The natural tendency to form cliques within a group. Occasionally, a member says Poudre Paddlers is run by too small a group of people, or seems exclusive in some way: too dominated by canoeists, maybe, or too whitewater-oriented. Poudre Paddlers has tried many approaches to resolve to these issues. All members are encouraged—okay, nagged—to host trips and serve as officers, or to help teach classes. The answer is, simply, to get involved!

Issue #4: *Money.* How do you raise and spend club funds? We have chosen not to incorporate as a non-profit because of the amount of labor to establish and maintain 501(3)c status. The history is that initially Mike O. and I supported the club out of our own money. It took a number of years be-

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fore the club went in the black and became self-supporting. Dues started at \$10, are now \$20, and we have no need to increase them further. Officers or other volunteers don't receive free memberships or other perks. It is a volunteer organization and should remain that way. The only exception: lifetime memberships to Matt and Dan Evans honoring the unique role the Mountain Shop played in the history of Poudre Paddlers.

How much should we charge for classes? In the private market, our classes would cost between \$100 and \$200 each. We offer safety-related classes free and charge \$20/day/person for others. In the past, class fees have been a bit higher. Instructors should not take the course fees or other pay because the club is voluntary. On the other hand, some instructors pay over \$400 to certify with the ACA, and over \$200 to re-certify every four years. The balance that has been struck is that certified instructors receive some "reimbursement for expenses" related to teaching and a stipend to use for re-certifying. What do we do, if anything, about potential liability to trip hosts, instructors and officers?

Issue #6: *Establishing and maintaining good relationships with the wider community.* We don't provide kayaking classes to avoid competition with businesses who do. Outfitters get a free subscription to the newsletter. We have done many service projects. We have, in partnership with Friends of the Poudre, kept the Lower Picnic Rock recreation area open. We are engaged with the City of Fort Collins, Larimer County, and conservation groups through our Conservation and Boating Access Committee. Occasionally, we donate funds to relevant worthy causes, like porta-johns at Picnic Rock, Friends of the Poudre, SaveThePoudre.org, and money

pledged to the Fort Collins River Enhancement Project, which includes a proposed paddling park. We have a good relationship with Denver's Rocky Mountain Canoe Club.

The Future: Over the years, we have tried many programs, like singles trips, rescue rodeos, more children's programs, ways to attract younger kayakers, and some programs have succeeded. We need new programs to invigorate the club and serve our members even better. Interest seems to be waning in the Canoeing Instruction Program. We need to expand our trip offerings, especially on flatwater and for multi-night canoe-camping. Somehow we must get members to overcome their reluctance to host trips and trips need to be open to all whose abilities qualify. We need to stay on schedule for 4-5 full newsletters per year (a key member benefit). There is also much to be done in the community. We should be lobbying Colorado Division of Wildlife for access to their lakes. We need to be working for better access to the Poudre below the canyon mouth. We should be even more active with SWIG (Strategic Water Interest Group) a coalition of local, state and national environmental groups working on water-related issues in our region. We need to get back to doing regular river cleanups. We need more fully to represent the interests of paddlers and the environment itself. We need to continue to provide leadership in the paddling community in Northern Colorado.

I sincerely hope that this information helps Poudre Paddlers to continue to thrive. I will continue to be active with the club but feel I can not serve as an officer while working and living further away. I will continue to teach, host trips and paddle with y'all. It's been a privilege.

Flatwater Paddle Places in the Area

(Thanks to the Klemperers, Mary Peck, and Mike Koliha for gathering and typing these)

Riverbend Ponds Natural Area—Series of lakes. Parking. Wildlife viewing. Porta-potty.

1. North side of Prospect Road east of the Poudre River bridge
2. Timberline Road south of Mulberry, Fort Collins. Turn east off Timberline just north of Poudre Bridge.
3. Summit View Drive between Prospect Road and Mulberry Street off of Cherly Street

Horsetooth Reservoir

County Road 38E West of Taft Hill Road

Multiple access points. Reduced access fee of \$7 for paddlers. Scenic. Motor boat traffic. Official access from South Bay, Inlet Bay and Santanka Bay. No access from the dams. Unofficial access from Eltuck Cove in Lory State Park (~ 300 yards at high water)

McMurray Pond

West of North College Ave (CO 287). Turn west on Hemlock Street (3 blocks north of the Poudre River Bridge) follow road across RR tracks and around Forest Service training facility. Park at the end of the road, 400' to the pond. A Fort Collins natural area, moderately scenic. Low water and algae at times. Popular spot for spring and early summer roll practices but gets pretty green later in the season.

Dixon Reservoir

Located in the City of Fort Collins Pineridge Open Space just south of Hughes Football Stadium. Access off of Count Road 42C. Good sized reservoir and a great early season paddle. When the water levels are high you can paddle around in the woods on the north shore. The water gets low and green in late summer, you may want to tie your lawn mower to the front of your boat.

Windsor Lake

Access at Boardwalk Park 100 North 5th Street in Windsor. \$5 per boat for Windsor residents \$7 for non-residents. Non-motorized boats only on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday till noon. Contact Windsor Parks and Recreation for information 970-674-244.

Pine Ridge Reservoir

Located southwest of Loveland past Carter Lake. Somewhat scenic and the fishing is good. Larimer County Parks fee required for vehicles.

Lone Tree Reservoir

Located south of Loveland. Go south on Taft Avenue through Loveland past HP. Turn west on Highway 60 at the large water tank. Follow 60 west until you see the signs for a left turn to Lone Tree. On the east side of Lone Tree is a Heron rookery. In May and June they are very active, it sounds like you are in a jungle. Bring your binoculars. DOW managed, so habitat stamp needed. Buy where hunting licenses are sold.

Douglas Reservoir

Located north of Fort Collins near Waverly. Take 287 (College Ave) north to Highway One. North on Highway One for 4 miles to County Road 15 (go straight to get onto 15, don't go towards Wellington). Go 1.2 miles north on 15 and take a left onto County Road 60 (follow the signs to Douglas). Go .4 miles on 60 and then take a right onto Lavina Drive at the power station. The lake is visible to the north. Fairly large reservoir and can be glassy calm in the early morning and late evenings at sundown but can get very windy in the afternoon. Paddlers, however, have been harassed by some local that thinks he owns the lake and it is his duty to inform you that there is no swimming. There have also been problems with the Department of Wildlife (DOW) who only want fishermen using the reservoir. So, stick a fishing pole in your boat. The good news is there is no fee –but you need a habitat stamp.

Union Reservoir

East of Longmont off County Line Road, about 1/4 mile north of the route 119 crossing. Large low-wake lake. Has swim beach and campground with 14 sites that can be reserved—no hook-ups. No alcohol or glass containers. 303-772-1265. Fee for auto entry, \$6.

Dowdy Lake, and other Red Feather Lakes. Pleasant mountain setting, an hour away. Turn west from Highway 287 at Livermore, about 20 miles north of Fort Collins.

Poudre Paddlers Club Roster

The club roster is available on the website:

<http://www.poudrepaddlers.org/>.

Select **Membership Roster** from the navigation menu.



Dressed for the cold: Roger Faaborg, Deb Koliha, Ken Bauer and Doug Kretzmann at North Platte put-in, Six Mile.

Flotilla—Club Officers

President.....Debbie Hinde 970-669-6247

Vice Pres.....vacant—Need new Person!

Treasurer.....Mary Peck 970-484-6309

Membership...Mike O'Brien 970-482-2623

Trip

Coordinator....Roger Faaborg 970-669-4182

Marketing.....Debbie Artzer 970-282-9135

NewsletterEric Hermann 970-482-8339

Conservation ..David Karan 970-224-5621
(Dave's leaving, need new person!)

InstructionEric Hermann

Webmaster.....Will Golson 970-207-0101

Coming Events –see www.poudrepaddlers.org

Saturday, June 28: Loveland Lake to Lake-
assist swimmers. Contact: Dan O'Brien (970-
203-0489).

Sunday, June 29 The Town Run Poudre. Trip
Host: Mike O'Brien (970-482-2623)

Monday, June 30: Monday Off at Dowdy
Lake. Contact: Mary Peck, MaryMPeck 970-
484-6309

Saturday, July 5: Poudre River Fest at Picnic
Rock: Food, music, celebrate!

Saturday, July 12: Safety Class. Deb Hinde.

Friday-Sunday, July 25 -27: Glendo to Guern-
sey. Our most popular easy river. Contact Dan
O'Brien, (970) 203-0489

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