



WATERLINES



Newsletter of Poudre Paddlers

November, 2008

GECCCOs Girl Scout Troop Goes Aquatic, Aims Worldwide for Adventure, Learning

Editor's Note: Poudre Paddlers enjoys a special relationship with Maggie Hayes' Girl Scouts. They borrow our canoes each year for their big "Aquatic Days," and recruit our instructors to help. Most frequently Debbie Hinde, and also Steve Cassells and I, have been privileged to work with these paddlin' girls. They have a real attitude, a full-contact "yippee!" approach to canoeing—and to adventure in general—with a solid commitment to safety. In honor of what Maggie has done, let's step aside as Nola Catlow, a long-time Geccco, tells the story. By Nola Catlow...



Maggie, top left, and GECCCOs, Niobrara Trip

It's seven o'clock on a Thursday evening and people are gathering in Maggie Hayes' cozy living room. Schedules and sign-up sheets are being passed around, a typical beginning for a GECCCO meeting. As everyone settles in, Maggie, the leader and founder of the Girl Scout group, takes the stage. Continued, page 3

Be Sure to Attend our Photo n' Potluck
Tuesday, Dec 9. Senior Center, 6-9 p.m.

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From the Prez: Hello, Paddlers....

I don't know about you but it feels like we should still be out there paddling and I hope that some of you have been. The weather and water levels have really been pretty agreeable for our form of recreation. I'm seeing many of the local lakes still full (or close to it) and I just checked the flow of the South Platte and found that it is 600 cfs – a great flow rate! See for yourselves at

http://www.dwr.state.co.us/SurfaceWater/data/detail_graph.aspx?ID=PLAKERCO&MTYPE=DISCHRG

There are exciting goings-on behind the scenes with some new members contributing great ideas and efforts to help our club while long standing members are stepping up and offering to chair some new and modified positions to help the club too. I'll save the details for our fall meeting but we are sure appreciative to these people!

A seasonal note for those of you who store your boats outside during the winter (and not in the hallway of your apartment like I did during my college days): please remember to loosen the screws holding wood gunwales to the canoe body. Cracked gunwales are no fun!

I hope to see you soon, whether on the water or elsewhere, as long as we're enjoying the outdoors.

Best Regards, Debbie Hinde



Officers, Members Meet to Revitalize Club

by Will Golson [Please contact any club officer with questions, ideas or concerns].

Club officers and concerned members met in late October to discuss how to encourage members to take a more active role in the running of the club, how to establish a flatwater paddling community within the club, and how to address the upcoming presidential vacancy.

To spread the workload, we want to establish event coordinators for the club's business and social activities. An event coordinator would organize, manage, delegate, cajole and do whatever else is necessary to pull the event off. Events include annual meetings, the annual rodeo, and special events, like insuring a club presence the Friends of the Poudre's Poudre River Festival. Note that

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Geccos, continued

In 1997, Margaret “Maggie” Hayes created the first and only

high-adventure Girl Scout group in the Fort Collins and Loveland area. Before GECCCOs, Maggie was the leader of a Junior Girl Scout troop. The girls in the troop were all about to move on from Juniors to Cadets, but they didn’t want more of the same. They wanted to do all the “boy” activities.

With this in mind, Maggie, along with co-founder Chris Oberhoffer, started an outdoor adventure group. When asked why she took on such a challenge, Maggie replied, “Because the girls wanted to do things outdoors.” Everything Maggie did was to give the members of her troop the same opportunity as boys to experience the outdoors. GECCCOs was originally based on backpacking, hiking, and camping, and later evolved into a multi-sport unit.

But until a year after its founding, the group was nameless. The acronym “GECCCO” was conceived by the original founding group of girls during a winter camping outing. Huddled around the cabin’s single heating stove, the girls created the acronym, which stands for Girls Experiencing Camping, Canoeing and Cycling Outdoors.

GECCCOs has evolved tremendously since its creation in 1997. The first component of the adventure group was the camping and backpacking. They remained the focus of the scouts until, in 1998, Leslie Wharton, an active figure in the group, discovered an opportunity for GECCCOs to expand. Wharton played a major role in the acquisition of seven canoes for the girls to use. Even after

adding cycling to the growing list of available adventures, canoeing remained a favorite.

In 2002, GECCCOs hosted the first Aquatics Day, a day camp designed to get younger girls interested in canoeing and other high-adventure water sports. Debbie Hinde, a member of the Poudre Paddlers, helped in the process of planning and participating in Aquatics Day. Then, in 2005, GECCCOs became part of Girl Scout Day Camp, program for Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts. The GECCCO group taught a water safety section of the two-day event. Both of these summer programs have become annual happenings for GECCCOs.

Besides teaching water safety and hosting day camps, the GECCCO group has been on many adventures. The first trip for the group, back in its backpacking days, took place in 1997. It was a backpacking trip to Lost Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park, and the first extended hike for many of the participants. After five and a half miles of steep elevation, sleet and freezing rain, the group finally reached their camp, which was bare and above tree line. “It was miserable,” recalls Maggie, “but quite an experience.”

The first canoe trip for the group was a completely different story. The GECCCOs traveled to Missouri, where they floated the Current River, a calm and peaceful ribbon of water that took them past caves and cliffs in the Ozark Mountains. They jumped into the water from low outcroppings along the banks, and swung from rope swings hung from riverside trees. As the group expanded and more girls became interested in canoeing, Maggie decided to incorporate river training.

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The Poudre Paddlers assisted in creating a program to teach the girls how to safely maneuver a river. The river trips have remained a favorite activity for many of the girls, and two or three are usually planned each summer. Tom Catlow, a GECCCO parent, has become the group's unofficial river guide. "GECCCO river trips are a great experience for our girls for so many good reasons including learning wilderness camping skills, river safety skills, appreciation for nature, and they're just plain fun," said Catlow.



The interest in water sports was not just for canoeing. GECCCOs has gone on kayaking expeditions as well. In 2000, the group went sea kayaking off the San Juan Islands in the Pacific Northwest, and another trip is currently in the works.

A few years ago, the GECCCOs summited Mt. Kilimanjaro, and they aim for Costa Rica this summer.

Back in Maggie's living room, the group is recalling past river experiences to the fourteen new members the group received this year. As well as reviewing past trips, they are

discussing plans for future ones. A current hot topic is the kayaking trip planned for 2010 to either return to the San Juan Islands or discover new territory in the Florida Everglades. GECCCOs has expanded both in numbers (the original twelve is now averaging forty) and in the range of activities. Maggie Hayes has worked through tough challenges to give her scouts the same outdoor opportunities that were intended when GECCCOs was founded.

The Features of Lonetree

by Roger Faaborg

On May 11 a group of Poudre Paddlers set out to circumnavigate Lonetree Reservoir. I had fished there several times but I didn't realize how much there was to see. There are five major features to view as you go counterclockwise around the lake from the boat launch.

To get there, go south on Taft Avenue through Loveland past HP. Turn west on Highway 60 at the large water tank and drive until you see the signs for a left turn to Lone Tree.

First a word about access. To visit Lonetree you need a Habitat Stamp. It costs about \$10.00 and lasts one year. It is good for one person and gets you into a large list of State Wildlife Areas. If you purchase a fishing license at the same time, the Habitat stamp costs only \$5.00. The money goes to preserve wildlife habitat. Think of it as a donation to wildlife. The boat launch and picnic area are on the West side of Lonetree.

South Bay - Going right from the boat launch you enter a large bay. In the spring, when the reservoir is full, you can paddle up a small stream. Try to paddle as far as you can.



Once, upon just entering this bay, I observed the courtship dance of two Western Grebes. My first thought was, "It looks just like it does in those nature programs on television."

Heron Rookery - The next stop is the Great

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Blue Heron rookery. You should keep your distance as to not disturb the nesting Herons. The rookery can be a very noisy place with the young crying for food.

North Bay - After a long paddle north, you come to another bay. This bay is very round and has no apparent inlet.

Outlet Canal - Next to the North Bay is an outlet canal. If you paddle to the end, there is a water diversion structure that controls the level of the reservoir.

There is a man-made dam on the north part of the reservoir and another inlet canal enters there.

Inlet Canal - The inlet canal is not the easiest thing to find. Follow the northwest shore line and look for a stream running into the reservoir. The stream has many fallen trees so paddling it is an adventure.

Spring is a good time to paddle Lonetree as the water is usually high. In the fall the duck hunters present a problem as it is unnerving to paddle with shotgun fire coming from the shore.



A Morning on the Lower Blue

by Steve Luttmann

Sunday, September 14 greeted us with fog and temperatures in the 40s. We dutifully loaded up and drove from the Pumphouse Campground to the put-in, confident in the forecast for sunshine and mid 60s. We were not disappointed.

The Lower Blue river begins at the dam that forms Green Mountain Reservoir. From the dam, the river flows north until it joins the Colorado river near Kremmling. Passing through a spectacular wooded canyon, the river drops 180 feet in four miles and bisects two national forests, with Arapaho to the east and White River to the west. Private land abuts the river once it exits the canyon near the take-out.

The river was running just under 1000 cfs as a group of five Poudre Paddlers arrived with a variety of boats: Will Golson with a Mad River Outrage, Dick Livingston with his Sea Eagle Explorer, Deb Hathaway with a tiny yellow Jackson Kayak, and Brad Davidson with a Bell Ocoee. I chose an Aire Tomcat inflatable kayak for this trip as I had not seen this run before and because Class III was at the upper end of my experience. We parked at an elevation about even with the top of the dam and looked down into the canyon through the trees, to see a blue and white river rushing by. That view only reinforced my decision to take the inflatable.

The approach to the river is a very steep drop of about a hundred yards. We used rope to lower the boats, one by one, to river level and then carried our gear down an adjacent



The rope launch for the Blue Run

winding trail.

Mostly a Class III pool-drop run through a series of boulder gardens, this is one of the most scenic stretches of river in Colorado. Soon after the put-in is a series of moderate rapids leading to the focal event... The Wall.

The Wall's wave train runs along a sheer rock face and is big enough to swamp the inattentive open canoeist. Will and Brad showed considerable skill and negotiated the stretch beautifully, although some pumping was required. Deb Hathaway, who had been practicing her rolls on the way downriver had a chance to do one for real, but the the water was turbulent enough that she had to make a wet exit. Brad and Dick caught her boat and guided it ashore and I offered her a ride downstream in my Tomcat. We were doing fine until we had to negotiate the second of two small dams. I was a little out of position

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Two Takes: A Snowy Range Fall Trip Featuring

By Mike Koliha

Friday started out kind of cool for canoeing, but we paddled for a little while anyway, lots of fleece and neoprene. The wind kept pushing us around and it was starting to get a bit dark. We bailed and roasted marshmallows.

Saturday morning we didn't paddle on Lake Marie at all, too much wind and a bit on the chilly side.

Saturday afternoon, North Platte River: The weather got a lot warmer (maybe because we dropped a couple thousand feet in altitude). We paddled from Hobo Hot Springs in Saratoga to Foote campground, about five miles, and then headed into town for dinner at the Wolf Restaurant.



Mike Koliha, Mark Riffe, Roger Faaborg, Steve Luttmann, Brent Duckworth

Several of us camped at Foote and paddled from Foote to Pick Bridge on Sunday.

The North Platte was running fairly low (350 cfs at Seminoe) and we really had to watch for gravel bars and such, but all in all, I really liked the trip. There wasn't much wind to contend with—on the river anyway.



Roger goes twin-bladed

Medicine Bow Waters and Wyoming Weather

By Brent Duckworth

Friday night, as we headed up to our campground in the high lakes of the Medicine Bow/Snowy Range area, the weather was mostly cloudy, partly cloudy, and sunny for a couple of minutes. It was Wyoming. And you know what the wind was mostly doing.

But at 6:00 pm we dutifully went kayaking in Brooklyn Lake.

All you can say about the water in Brooklyn Lake is that there was not ice on it, but there should have been. Mark Riffe put a sail on his canoe and was on a nice reach when a gust of wind tipped him and sent him swimming. The water was cold enough to hurt a bipolar bear. I, being on my first club trip, had found out that canoeists are a tough group, or at least a lot tougher than I.



A red-tailed hawk, above, and Sheep Rock, below, on the North Platte

Thankfully, Saturday & Sunday we headed down the mountain to Saratoga. We hit the North Platte on Saturday about noon and launched the boats. The river was perfect. After some good floating we soaked in the hot pool and later stuffed ourselves with Wolf Burgers. Roger liked the water so much he decided to canoe a second day. On the second day we saw every kind of eagle: bald, golden and big.

Did I mention the wind was blowing on the river too? Thanks, Roger, for a great first trip.



Ruby, Horsethief Canyons: September on the Colorado

by Greg Clark

A September weekday trip seemed like a good time to get out on the river. Most children are in school, meaning most adults were at work, leaving the river to the real slackers of the world. We took our first overnight family river trip Tuesday through Thursday, September 9-11. Our trip members included my 13-month-old daughter, Marlie, our yellow lab Oscar, Fred (my retired father who traveled out from North Dakota), my sister Jana, her boyfriend Sean, and their dog Casper. I had done the trip in May of this year, with a different group of people at nearly 20,000 CFS, which made the trip fast, with extremely wet campsites. Needless to say, I was excited to get out and see the river at around 5,000 CFS and see what a dry campsite looked like.



Front row: Oscar, Greg and Casper
Back row: Jana, Sean, Fred and Marlie

Fred and Sean were nice enough to shuttle a car down to the Westwater take-out in Utah, while the rest of us stayed back and attempted to pile gear on the raft. Jana was nice enough to babysit and limit Marlie's rock consumption to a minimum while the dogs ran off energy and our raft filled up with gear. Right about the time the shuttle crew got back, we were finished packing and ready to celebrate with a can of whatever tasted good right then (Marlie enjoyed some juice from a sippy cup).

We started around noon, floating three miles to camp at the mouth of Rattlesnake Canyon. The beginning of the trip was mellow and starts to get you into the canyons. We had a few sprinkles of rain, set up camp, and even though it was 4pm, Marlie was in no mood for a nap. Since everyone else was sleeping, I decided to put Marlie into her backpack, take Oscar and Casper, and head into the Canyon for a hike. I

heard there are nearly as many arches back in the canyon as Arches National Park. We hiked for about an total in the dry creek bed, but didn't make it to any arches. At least Marlie fell asleep. The campsite at the mouth of Rattlesnake Canyon is beautiful. It's high enough out of the river that you can see up and down river over a mile. You can also see the mountain bikers across the river riding the rim of the canyon.

Day two started out well: It was warm, sunny, and countless beautiful canyons to see once again. We saw a bald eagle up in a nest, river left – probably the same one I saw earlier this year. We met up with a party barge of two rafts and three kayakers. They seemed to be enjoying their time on the river, and were just a few steps shy of a keg party. I was having flashbacks to Fourth of July tubing float trips down a river in Minnesota –

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good for them! We did get an early afternoon wind and rain storm. From what I hear, this section of river is famous for these. I gave up rowing, and parked on the side until it was over. Marlie was able to try out her new rain suit and enjoyed the sound of the rain so much she fell asleep.

Rapids? We did have one wave big enough to splash over the front of the boat; Marlie slept through the two seconds of excitement. We camped at the first campground at Black Rocks (15.9 miles). There is a mile of beautiful gray-black colored rocks and have been weathered by years by river water. They look out of place, and almost like you are on another planet. There are plenty of camping spots here, and going mid-week during the fall we couldn't see any other campers nearby. Jambalaya with cornbread was the dinner plan for Wednesday, which turned out great, despite Casper's best efforts to eat all the raw chicken and sausage prior to it being placed in the pan. He slept in the vestibule that night.

Thursday brought the remaining 13 miles as we entered Utah. We stopped at a small island for lunch and floated down the river with the dogs, enjoying the cool water as the sun beat down and make it hot for the first time in three days.

With highs in the 70's and lows in the 50's, it was a great way to spend some time with family, and hopefully get my daughter addicted to the outdoor at an early age. The biggest thing that I learned from this trip is that smaller children cannot reach their arms around their life jackets to feed themselves, and so, Princess Marlie needed to be fed while she was on the raft. I don't think she minded too much.



Jana relaxing near Moore Canyon. Note the brown tamarisk at rear. To see why, turn page!



Casper proving that dogs can sleep sitting up in a raft

Welcome to Colorado, *Diorhabda elongata*!

By Marija B. Vader
mvader@gjfreepress.com
Grand Junction, CO, Colorado

[Ed. Note: On a recent Ruby/H trip we noticed a general die-off in progress among the tamarisks. Here is why. Reprinted with permission: Thanks, Marija!]

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — Tamarisk-munching beetles are eating their way across Mesa County's waterways.

By this time next year, once-healthy, fluffy green and lavender stands of tamarisk in Mesa County will begin to brown, all thanks to the tiny striped beetles from Asia, marching by "brute force numbers" through the colonies of tamarisks.

An invasive plant species, tamarisk is thought to drink up to 100,000 acre feet of Colorado's river water annually, enough to supply half the population of Denver, said Tim Carlson, executive director of the Tamarisk Coalition, based in Grand Junction.

Tamarisk also chokes out native plants, and wildlife prefer native plants to the tamarisk, said Carlson. "When it really gets dense, it really is very poor wildlife habitat. From the birds' and bunnies' standpoint, they would really much prefer the cottonwoods or willows."

Tamarisk beetles have been released in Horsethief Canyon, below Loma on the Colorado River. They're also in Flume Canyon and Devil's Canyon in McInnis National

Conservation Area, No Thoroughfare Canyon, Dolores River, Gunnison River in Mesa County and along Parachute Creek in Garfield County, Carlson said.

They've also been released in northwest Colorado, along the South Platte River and on the Arkansas River, primarily downstream of Pueblo Reservoir.

Already, tamarisk stands along the Dolores River have begun to brown, said Dr. Dan Bean, director of biological pest control and manager of the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Palisade Insectary.

Next year, the Bureau of Land Management and Insectary staff expect complete defoliation from Loma to Utah and "major beetle movement into the Grand Valley," the BLM said. By June boaters and hikers along the Colorado and Gunnison rivers and their tributaries will begin to see the tamarisk beetles' work, Bean said. "The people in Grand Junction will see the plants start getting hammered," in the spring," Bean said. "It's all predictable."

Three years ago, tamarisk beetles were released [on the Dolores] upstream of Gateway and near Bedrock in a program that partnered the insectary with the BLM. "It was a big success," Bean said. "They've pretty much defoliated all the tamarisk on the Dolores River. It was impressive."

Officials also released the beetles downstream of Loma. Those bugs are "taking off, moving upstream and downstream," Bean said. "Coming in from Utah is another big

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wave of beetles.”

The beetles were studied 10 years before they were released in the United States, Bean said. They were imported from Asia, where the tamarisk originated.

“This insect has had more research on it than any other insect in biocontrol,” Carlson said.

When tamarisk was introduced into the United States, it was done so without the beetle, its natural enemy. As a result, tamarisk has taken off throughout the West.

The beetles’ only food is tamarisk, and “We’re just reintroducing these guys to their hosts,” Bean said. And then, “they don’t leave an area until they pretty well destroy all the tamarisks.”

Once they decimate a tamarisk plant, their keen smell searches for new sources of food and they fly off in search of it.

“They are very sensitive to the smell of tamarisk,” Bean said. “They can also smell each other and are drawn to each other.”

It takes multiple defoliations to kill the tamarisk plant. Even so, biologists and entomologists expect nature to reach a balance between beetle and plant.

One of the first releases of the tamarisk beetle was in western Nevada in 2001. Now, mortality of the tamarisk is at 80 percent, Bean said.

“It will never wipe it out entirely. After they start knocking back the plant population, there will be some balance eventually,” Bean said. “They do it by brute force numbers.”

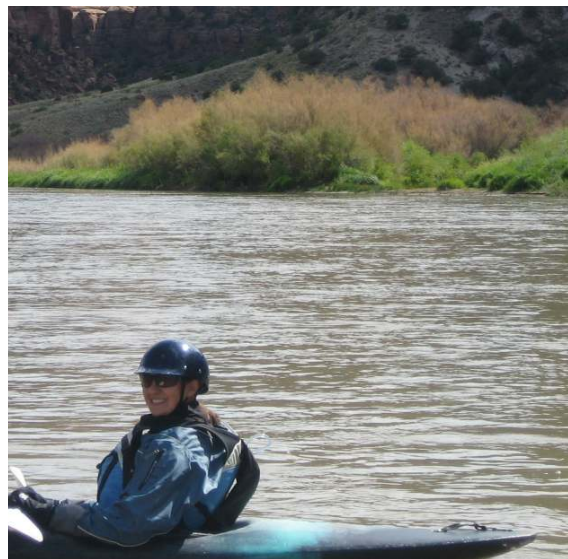
He’s heard a complaint that introducing the beetles will change the ecosystem, but to that, he says good.

“We hope it does. It’s difficult to have a plant that has no natural enemies,” Bean said. Of the beetles, “We’re very confident they won’t change host plants.”

“If we knew there was a downside, we wouldn’t have gone through with it. That’s part of the 10 years in researching it.”



Our hero, *Diorhabda elongata*, and the dying tamarisk in its wake (best seen in color on website)



Paddler Meets Killer Bridge: The Hull Story Here!

by Dave Hoag

What a tough year on the hardware: The Windsor tornado damaged my house, my teenage daughter totaled our car, and I single-handedly managed to wrap *two* of my three canoes on the Poudre River's Killer Bridge within three weeks.

No, this wasn't a first attempt by a novice. Introduced to fast water canoeing on Wyoming's Snake River in the mid 70's, I continued paddling on a regular basis, floating such local rivers such as the Upper Green, Hoback, and New Fork in a 13-foot Coleman Canoe. These rivers are reminiscent of the North Platte river in Six-Mile Canyon, mostly class I thru II, scenic paddling with an occasional rock gardens.



I developed the habit of solo canoeing after my wife Holly would no longer accompany me in the same canoe *on a river* due to several swims, like one on the upper Green where she lost both her wedding ring and sunglasses, and another that left us nearly

hypothermic chasing our canoe along the snowy banks of the Snake.

I relocated to Northern Colorado, and one spring day I noticed a few canoes among the rafts and kayaks on the lower Poudre and my interest was rekindled. I paddled Filter Plant, and by late June had moved up to the Bridges and Lower Mishawaka Runs. I liked walking the shuttle, enabling me to scout. Once, though, I nearly stepped on a rattlesnake!

I acquired a used 15-foot Royalex Wenonah Prospector with a shallow arch hull and moderate rocker. By no means a whitewater play boat, the Prospector seemed a good compromise. As soon as the river hit 2.5 on the rock gauge, I was at it again and joined the *Wednesdays on the Poudre* group. They are a mix of experienced core members as well as novice paddlers. I have come to enjoy the mid-week floats with these fun hogs. A much safer way to enjoy whitewater than I have been accustomed to.

This past winter I acquired another canoe, a vintage Blue Hole Sunburst II, one of the earlier whitewater designs. At 14.5 feet, it is long by today's whitewater standards, but my standard has always been long. This became my boat of choice on the Poudre. So I took it down the familiar Lower Bridges run at a flow just above 3 on the rock gauge, got behind the power curve at Pinball Rapid and took a swim. I swam left and exited the river at a full run (through poison ivy as my uncovered ankles would soon learn). I watched the swamped Blue Hole flow through the final rapids to Killer Bridge. Like a hole in

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one, it rotated sideways at the last second, hit the bridge pylon square-on, then submerged.

It wrapped around the bridge pylon just below the surface with the wooden gunwales shattered and both flotation bags imploded from the extreme water pressure. It appeared to be unsalvageable until the river dropped. This boat had previously survived going airborne during the Windsor tornado, where it brought down a telephone line. About three hours after the canoe caught the bridge, it suddenly came off the pylon and drifted into the first eddy. With the help of kevlar cloth, epoxy and some red oak, it was repaired and has since passed the same bridge pylon a couple of times.

I joined the Wednesday group for another afternoon Bridges run. Since the Blue Hole was still under reconstruction, I brought along my Prospector. When one of the group members capsized his canoe above Killer Bridge, I launched from an eddy on river right to help recover his Bell Prodigy. Before I caught up to the Prodigy, it caught an eddy and I caught a rock. I scrambled out of the water just as my overturned canoe hit the *same bridge*.

The Prospector pinned on the pylon for a only few seconds, but the damage was done. I ran down the road and recovered the tweaked canoe in an eddy below the Roller Coaster Rapid. A heat lamp helped to reform Royalex hull to its original configuration, but one vinyl gunwale still looks like a dog chewed on it. Beware of the bridge!

My ardor for the Poudre is still high, and

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The Blue Hole, Killer-Bridge Blues!

Bridges on a Happier Tune

By Deborah Hathaway

It was a long and arduous journey that we endured many times this summer, from Boulder to Fort Collins, for the pleasure of enjoying the Wednesday night runs with the Poudre Paddlers: Brad in his canoe, and me (Debbie) in kayak, downriver we went. The high point of my summer was the night I rolled up after dumping in Red House Hole on Bridges. After hundred's of practice rolls, it was amazing to actually do one where it counted! (Now, if I could just do that again in the canyon on the Lower Blue....maybe next year!) We really have enjoyed the company of this group and thank the leaders for putting it together.

Revitalizing the Club, continued from page 2

An event could certainly have more than one coordinator (e.g., the rodeo).

Coordinators do not go it alone. Club officers and other members have plenty of expertise in organizing such events and will be available to help.

In addition, we would very much like to see more emphasis on flatwater trips. The white-water enthusiasts have coalesced around the weekly Poudre Canyon runs, which have led to weekend trips further afield. With all the flatwater boaters in the club, it certainly seems realistic to establish something analogous, e.g., put several day trips or weekend outings on the schedule as well as recurring events, like 'every other Tuesday on XXX'. To this end, we invite interested flatwater boaters to participate as flatwater coordinators, working with the Trip Coordinator, to establish an active flatwater group within the club.

Regarding officers, the club is faced with the following:

- Debbie Hinde will be stepping down as President and no one as yet has stepped up to assume this role.
- Some officers may be on the verge of burnout after many years of service to the club. The club leadership positions seem to circulate among the same people, with some even holding more than one position.

Our greatest need is President, although interest in other roles would be welcome. See officer description at <http://www.poudre paddlers.org/officers/officers.php>. The President position description is reprinted below.

Normal Tasks:

- Schedule meetings of the Officers, usually in the spring and fall.
- Write the minutes of the meetings or designate someone to do so.
- Chair the All-Member Spring and Fall meetings
- Understand the function of the club and be aware of our activities. Be a “face” for the club to members and to new contacts outside.
- Write a letter for each issue of the newsletter.

Ways to represent the Club:

- You-Can-Paddle-Days hosted by local stores (Assist Publicity Chair)
- Offering your phone number on club literature, in the newsletter, on the website
- Meeting people on the river, on the road (because your canoe and/or bumper sticker is on the car)
- Poudre River Festival and other river events that you are able to attend
- Help organize and/or participate with local organizations that are looking for boat support (such as school teachers)

MANY of the above items can and are being done by other officers and non-officer club members, not just the President!

Please Note! The President’s job can be as involved as you want to make it. You can delegate or you can stretch out and take on new endeavors. This is a great way to get to know the club and its members more closely.

Gadgets!

Bill Ashworth's Handwash System: Yes, We Can!

By Bill Ashworth

Attached is a photo of a **camp hand-washer** that I use when I lead overnight trips. We usually set it up at the same time the groover is sited.

Materials:

- three paddles lashed as a tripod, bucket, bleach
- Make a dipper from a tin or plastic can with two punches on the lid for hanging and one punch near the bottom for a washing stream.
- rope or strap for lashing and a cord for hanging the dipper can
- bar soap in a sock or antiseptic soap in dispenser



Directions for assembly: Fill the bucket with river water and treat with bleach and set on ground next to tripod; hang the dipper on tripod. Be sure to drain onto gravel area, not into plants as shown.

Directions for use: Drop the dipper into the bucket to fill, then hang off the tripod
- wash hands in the stream from the dipper

Richard Ferguson's Favorite

My favorite canoe gadget is called a canoe safe. It is a dry box with a screw on lid that straps down under the seat. it is 16" by 10" by 8". I would not say that it is bulletproof in construction, but it has survived a few flips without taking on water. I use it as convenience storage, a good place to put odds and ends and to keep them dry. If I had expensive gear, like a camera, I might put it in a ziplock bag as secondary protection, especially since taking things in and out of the safe tends to track moisture into the safe, probably due to wet hands. <http://www.boundarywaterscatalog.com/browse.cfm/4,114.htm>

Paddler Recipes Emphasize Simplicity

Tortilla Pizza from Steve Cassells:

Ingredients – medium-sized flour tortillas (usually everyone wants 2-4), Pizza sauce (plastic squeeze bottle or canned) A 6-8 oz bottle will do about 10 pizzas. Grated mozzarella cheese (grate it before and bag it) 1 lb of cheese will do 10-15 pizzas.

Toppings – bring your favorites – sliced olives, mushrooms, sliced pepperoni are easy to carry (hamburger, sausage tougher).

Preparation-

Large skillet (so two can be cooked at a time) and spatula, Cooking oil spray.

Lay out all the ingredients and let each person build his own. Start with the open tortilla, put sauce on ½ of it, then cheese and toppings. Don't overload, as it has to be folded over and retain the filling.

Once two are made and folded, heat until cheese is starting to melt, then flip and continue until cheese is melted and the outside slightly browned. EAT IT UP.

From Deb Zwitter—no idea what to call it ...

Needed: Fire and stick, Pillsbury (or other) crescent rolls in tube, butter, cinnamon, sugar

Instructions: Separate rolls and wrap each around the end of a stick, with overlapping sections. Toast it until it is golden and looks like something you would like to eat. While it's hot, roll in butter and sprinkle/roll it in cinnamon sugar. Eat by picking it off the stick.

From Mike Koliha

Note the simplicity—even the clean-up!

One of my favorites, a Breakfast Burrito.

At Home: Cook sausage, eggs, cheese and whatever else you normally include. Wrap in your tortillas. Keep the finished burritos small in diameter. Double wrap your burritos in aluminum foil and freeze, so they act as ice in the cooler.

In camp: They are typically not ready to eat on the first day of the trip, depending on the weather, but when you're ready, put a bit of water in the bottom of a fry pan, lay your burritos in the pan and put on the lid. You can go Lincoln Log style and get up to six burritos in a largish pan. Steam burritos until well-heated. If the burritos are too big in diameter, or still cold, it may take a bit longer to heat them through. Otherwise, it takes about 15 minutes to get them ready to eat.

Clean Up: Dump the hot water and recycle foil—not too tough. No plate or silverware!

Other things that work with the prepare at home and freeze method...

* spaghetti and meat sauce. **[Ed.: Don't trust ziplocks to boil: see note, next page]** for pre-cooked pasta, one bag with pre-cooked sauce. Somebody commented on one of our trips that you could use a similar method to do a quesadilla, and it certainly sounds OK to me - just take the quesadilla from the bag and heat.

(Continued from page 7)

and unaccustomed to bracing with a passen-Blue, cont.

ger, so Deb and I both swam toward her boat. Dick Livingston made the run look easy in his Sea Eagle, and it's always comforting to know there is a support boat available in time of need.

To see The Wall, follow a link to a video that was shot by some kayakers on the same day.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dBMCsbMoQw>

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Killer Bridge, Cont.

I have a greater fear than that of The Bridge: Ever-increasing water demands will threaten the Poudre just as increased oil & gas drilling has radically altered my past home of Sublette County, Wyoming. One can easily envision the current "political slogan "drill, baby, drill!" someday morphing onto "dam, baby, dam!" I hope not. I still prefer bridges!

From Debbie Artzer: Tamale Pie-from The Back-Country Kitchen by Teresa Mar-rone

A wonderful one-pot, easy meal. [see note about cooking in ziplocks, right below]

Combine in freezer-weight pint plastic zipper bag: ½ cup cornmeal, 2 T. buttermilk powder,

1 tsp. baking powder, ½ tsp. salt.

Combine in quart-plastic zipper bag:

1 cup dried cooked ground beef

¼ cup dried diced tomatoes

¼ c. dried diced red/green bell pep-pers

¼ cup freeze-dried corn kernels

1 T. chili powder blend

3 or 4 dried pickled jalapeno rings, broken up, optional, ½ tsp. salt

The bag with the cornmeal mix

Carry separately:

3 T. butter or margarine, 2 oz. co-jack or other cheese (or ½ c. shredded)

At camp:

Pre-heat camp oven if necessary. Place the butter into the bag with the cornmeal. In me-

dium pot, boil 2 ½ cups water. Add ½ cup of the boiling water to the bag with the cornmeal; stir to blend. Seal the bag and set aside. Add the ground beef mix to the remaining 2 cups boiling water in the pot. Cover and let both items stand for 10 min. stirring occasionally.

While the meat and cornmeal are standing, shred or coarsely chop the cheese. After the 10 min. standing period, sprinkle the cheese on top of the ground beef mixture. Pour the cornmeal batter over the cheese and meat. Cover and bake in a camp oven until the cornmeal is springy when pressed lightly with your fingertip. This will take 30 – 45 min. depending on oven temperature.

Serve with riveritas!

Ed. Note: Ziplock boiling is deemed un-safe by the manufacturer of Ziplocks. It could release cancer-causing chemicals into food. Research safer procedures, possibly bags made for boiling.

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Be sure to visit our excellent website:

www.poudrepaddlers.org

(Thanks, Will!)

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