



# WATERLINES



Newsletter of Poudre Paddlers

April, 2009

## Poudre Paddlers Has Full Calendar!

Poudre Paddlers Trip Coordinator Roger Faaborg has put together our calendar for Club events for the season. You will see the results of Chuck Connelly's labors to include flatwater events, making paddling accessible for everyone. Also note the four classes on the schedule so far, April 25, May 2, June 3 and TBA.

**We still need contacts for some events, so please help by signing up.** You don't need to be a skilled paddler to be a contact. Hosts and contacts are not liable for people's safety.

**Sundays all April, 3:30-5PM** Mulberry Pool Roll Session. Call Rocky Mountain Adventures at 970-493-4005 to reserve your spot in a practice session. Mulberry Pool, 424 W. Mulberry, Fort Collins. Practice skills.

**Sundays all April, 10:00 AM — 1:00 PM** RMCC Pool Session George Myers Pool, 7900 Carr Drive, Arvada. The Rocky Mountain Canoe Club has graciously invited the us to join them during their pool sessions in 2009. Pool fee is \$8.00 per person. Contact Karen Jankowski, wwc canoe [at]comcast.net 303-989-4833

## Sunday, Apr 5, Annual Poudre Paddlers Club

**Meeting,** 2—5 p.m. Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive Public welcome. Ice cream sundaes. Learn about Poudre Paddlers. Bring guests! (Directions:

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## Poudre Paddlers' Classes for '09 Season

Poudre Paddler classes teach beginning canoeists basic paddling strokes and river enthusiasts enhanced 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 **2009** season to begin classes. **You will need to have or rent your own boats and gear. You must know how to swim!**

**To Sign Up for Poudre Paddlers Classes:** Check fees and insurance in

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## From the Prez...

After the change to daylight savings time, a sixty-degree day and a pool session last Sunday, the boating season's got to be getting close. Another sure sign of spring is the event calendar is filling up. First up, March 22nd, was the multi-club float down the South Platte, hosted by Debbie Hinde—a great season kickoff.



This year we want to start scheduling regular flatwater evening outings. The club has long had a weekly 'Tuesday-(or Wednesday or Thursday)-Night-on-the-Poudre' for the the whitewater crowd. According to our records, (well, we try anyway), two-thirds of the membership have an interest in flatwater paddling. There is a fair amount of potential here for a weekly (or bi-weekly or tri-weekly) outing. Chuck Connelly has put together some concrete ideas to discuss at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting, April 5th at the Senior Center, will feature a sunny afternoon, ice cream and likely a couple of guest speakers talking about their worthy causes. We'll also hear about the trips we have planned (and those we would like to), our instructional offerings, and the latest conservation and access concerns facing our region. The usual call for trip hosts and event volunteers will be issued. It's more fun when the toil is shared. And yes, dues will also be accepted (\$20/household).

Sometime soon you should receive an email with the contact information the club has about you. Please respond to it with corrections.

Will Golson

# How Did I Get This Way? (Chapter 1)

by Greg Brigham

Let's just say that I am a very lucky person in regards to my summer recreational activity of choice (kayaking). From my time as a Cub Scout to more recent opportunities to paddle on the Arkansas, Poudre, Dolores, North Platte, Colo-

rado, and Green rivers, I have been in the right places at the right times. I hope this trend continues. Here's how it all began for me.

My boating career began humbly enough in 1969 with my Dad on a less than stellar Cub Scout trip on the Little Miami River in southwestern Ohio near Cincinnati. Eleven miles. Eleven long miles. It rained. A rivet popped out. A submarine takes on less water than the canoe we paddled. We spent a lot of time on shore emptying the boat and trying to jam small sticks into the rivet hole. "Anybody got any gum?" Duct tape? Nope. Not much fun for a seven-year-old. It was probably less fun for the seven-year-old's dad. I may have whined a bit. Oh yeah, we got stuck on a lot of rocks. It was my dad's first trip too.

The next year's trip was a bit drier. We still couldn't paddle a straight line or avoid any rocks. Our semi-fatal mistake was listening



Greg in the Ark's Zoom Floom, August, 2008

to the bus driver and his coaching. "Yeah boys, all you have to do to turn is paddle on the same side." Ummm. Wrong. Never listen to the bus driver for advice. As a result of this far more "successful" trip, my dad was able to con Mom into going on a canoe trip, and thus, change my life forever. On this first trip with Mom, I learned a very valuable lesson. Here it is: When Mom paddles, I get to sit in the middle of a cold aluminum boat with my younger brother and be bored out of my mind. I didn't get to paddle anymore. This created a very undignified and uncool situation for a young person (me). The upside was that Mom couldn't help Dad make the boat go any straighter.

After a couple more trips that summer and fall with similar results, Mom and Dad decided that canoeing could be a fun activity for the family and signed themselves up for a weekend of canoeing lessons that were taught by members of the local chapter of the

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## “How Did I Get This Way?” Continued

*(Continued from page 3)*

Sierra Club. These lessons were on the Whitewater River in southeast Indiana. What a great name for a river! What an intimidating name for a river! What a misnomer for a river. The Whitewater was and is, for the most part, a nice Class 1 float. Perfect for lessons. My parents learned well.

After that cold March weekend, they did a lot of research looking for the perfect whitewater canoe and \$400 or so later, they were the proud owners of a shiny brand new 17-foot Grumman shoe keel canoe, three aluminum-shafted plastic-bladed paddles, and 4 orange kapok-filled horse collar style life-jackets. Not PFDs. Lifejackets. It said so on the labels. 1971 was a good year for style. Imagine two very square hippies and their kids headed to the river in a dark green VW Beetle. Ready to rock the whitewater world.

Whoa there, pardner! Not so fast. The road to the Whitewater Hall of Fame still has some big potholes. Such as me getting out of the middle of the darned boat and the fact that my parents still hadn't mastered eddy turns or ferrying. Let me tell you that the 11-mile trips became extremely long and very boring for the now nine-year-old boy due to the endless ferrying and eddy turn practicing they were doing. What diligence. It must have been hard for them to maintain patience with an irritable child hounding them. I'd never heard of a kayak at this point in my boating career. That was about to change.

Late in the spring of 1971, Mom and Dad signed up for a trip on a Class 2-2+ section of the Youghiogheny River in southwest Pennsylvania (The Yock, as it's pronounced

by hardened river veterans). A lot of firsts happened on this trip. I saw a runaway truck ramp, a river with clear water, a Class IV rapid or two, two C2s, and..... a kayak. It was brown. It was 13 feet long. The kayak was paddled by a boy named Jeff, who was accompanied by his dad, Ray McClain. Ray became a very famous boater. Really. In Wisconsin. Google his name. I digress. Back to the kayak. It was beautiful. It was paddled by one person. Problem was, it wasn't me doing the paddling. I do believe that I begged to try it out. I mean, I begged a lot. I was pretty sure I could handle the fashion faux pas of wearing a skirt with a helmet. Anyway, back to the canoe: We had a fine day paddling from Confluence to Ohioptyle and then visually checking out The Loop, a Class III-IV stretch of water downriver from where we (Mom and Dad) had paddled. I sat in the middle. Again.

The next day, ooh boy. My journey to paddling immortality makes a quantum leap. Our group boated the Casselman River, an undammed tributary of the Yough. According to the American Whitewater Association, the Casselman has mostly Class II rapids and a couple of Class III-ish spots. It was a low-water day. The sun was shining. The siren song of the kayak called to me. I know how Odysseus felt. I wasn't as strong as he was and couldn't resist the call. After a mile or two of slow going, I begged my way into Jeff's kayak. I put on the spray skirt, buckled the helmet on, and climbed into the spacious boat. Lots of room in there. No foot pegs. No hip pads. Room to move. And, don't forget, I looked cool in my orange life vest, t-shirt, jeans, canvas shoes, spray skirt,

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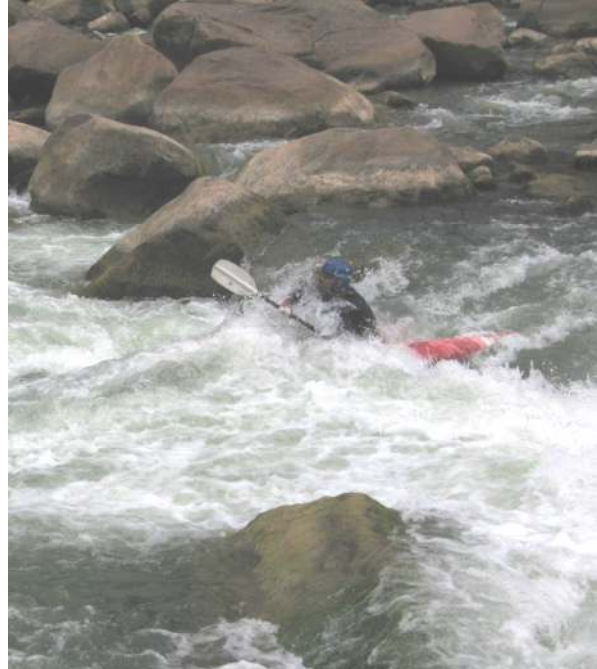
and Cooper helmet. It felt good. It felt right. I was home.

Maybe reality should step in here. I will say that I had a great time zigzagging all over the place and the experience didn't last nearly long enough. I hit and got stuck on a lot of rocks. I also ran a nice solid Class II rapid cleanly and heard some loud cheering from the folks on shore (my parents and Ray). I assumed it was cheering anyway. The rapid had a nice chute with a defined vee and some large tail waves that ran smack into a rock wall. I did great. I was pumped. It was my first big adrenaline rush. I was ready for more. I was.....kicked out of the boat. Jeff wanted to paddle again. Rats.

Next thing I know, I got to help on my first portage because the water was too low for one of the Class III sections. As we got close the takeout, the river channel narrowed. My parents disagreed and/or miscommunicated on a route through a tight section and I experienced my first sideways pin in a canoe. Put a dent into the side of the boat. Nice dent. Big dent. First dent. It wasn't my fault. I was only a passenger with an eyewitness account to tell.

Sometime after we got home from that trip (maybe a year or so later), I talked my way into an agreement with my parents that I would pay for half of the materials to build a boat of my own using a mold the Sierra Club borrowed from another club every year. I don't know if I ever really paid for my half (\$40), but whatever I paid was worth every penny. It was a green boat. A green boat with a flower print deck. I didn't get to choose the deck material. Thanks, Mom. I

didn't mind too much. It was a boat made for its time. A period piece. Orange vest, white helmet, green boat. My "look" became complete when it rained. My "dry top" was a Hefty Bag. It's tough to beat the combination of cotton and plastic for lasting warmth. I didn't care. I had my own boat. Trips never again seemed so long. I controlled my own destiny. My brother sat alone in the middle of the Grumman. For a couple of years, I had a good time following Mom and Dad in and out of eddies and ferrying across chutes (not realizing the great practice I was getting). I followed them all over the place until..... Well, that story will have to wait. Let's just say that I experienced my first extended side surf and swim a couple of years later.



Greg boofs the hole in Hell's Half Mile, Lodore Canyon, Green River. 2006 by Eric Hermann



# Poudre Paddler Calendar for 09 Season, continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

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.)

**Sun Apr 12**, 11:00 AM — 3:00 PM Easter Paddle on Lonetree Reservoir. Meet at south boat ramp. Directions: Take 287 to 14th Street S.W. in southern Loveland. Go west on 14th Street S.W. to Cummings Avenue (21). Go south on Cummings Avenue (21) to 16E and take 16E west to the Lake. . Leisurely Easter Sunday paddle. Bring a lunch. For bad weather, Melinda will cancel the day before, so it is best to tell her you are going so she will know whom to contact if there are changes. Contact Melinda Meyerhoff, melindameyerhoff [at] hotmail.com 970 587 5511

**Sat Apr 18**, 9 a.m. – 12 Loveland Waterway Cleanup. Celebrates Earth Day. Contact Loveland Stormwater Dept. 970-962-2772.

**Sat Apr 25**, 9:00 AM — 4:00 PM Flatwater Canoe Class Riverbend Ponds in Fort Collins. Contact Mike O'Brien, brokenpaddle [at] mywdo.com 970 482 2623

**Sat May 02 — Sun May 03** Moving Water Canoe Class with Debbie Hinde and Eric Hermann. Riverbend Ponds and Poudre River Alternate river day Saturday, May 9, if weather or river flow cancels May 3. Contacts: Debbie Hinde, dhinde1 [at] msn.com or debbie.hinde [at] woodward.com 970 669 6247 and Eric Hermann, eherrmann [at] frii.com, 970 482 8339.

**Thu May 07**, 5:30 PM — 9:00 PM (Every Thursday evening from May Rise to end of season) Filter Plant or Bridges on the Poudre For Filter Plant, meet at Gateway Park. For Bridges, take out. Filter Plant Class II (III-) **B r i d g e s C l a s s I I I ( I V - ) PFD, helmet and canoe flotation required** Filter Plant is class II with one III- rapid, which can be easily portaged. Many fun play spots. Filter Plant can be broken up into sections to get people ready to do the entire run.

Before the highest water and later in the season, we will float the Bridges run, a solid class III with some rapids that are class III+ or class IV- at some water levels. Bridges is a significant step up from Filter Plant. You must have, at a minimum, solid experience on runs like Filter Plant. Contact: Will Golson, golson [at] frii.com 970-207-0101

**Sun May 10** — All day Town Run on the Poudre: Shields Street to Prospect Bridge. Rating: Class II (Boat chute and Cheese Grater can be portaged.) Takes 3-4 hours. **WATCH THE TRAFFIC AT THE SHIELDS STREET BRIDGE!** This trip includes all types of water: expect some tight maneuvering, standing waves, powerful curves, slow stretches and pleasant scenery. And, of course, the Coy Boat Chute and Cheese Grater will be part of the fun. Two short portages around diversions. Paddlers must confidently handle Class II water. Bring a lunch. Current Water Level: If you have a long drive, check the gauge at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?06752260> We need at least 150 cfs to float. RSVP: Mark Riffe mriffe [at] fs.fed.us 970 224-9812

# Poudre Paddler Calendar for 09 Season, continued

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**Sun May 10**, 11:00 AM — 3:00 PM  
Mother's Day paddle on Lonetree Reservoir.  
For directions see April 12. Join Melinda for  
a leisurely paddle. Bring a s lunch. For bad  
weather, Melinda will cancel the day before.  
So it is best to tell Melinda if you are going.  
Contact: Melinda Meyerhoff, melindameyerhoff [at] hotmail.com 970 587 5511

**Thurs. May 14** 5:30-9 p.m. Thursday  
Poudre Run. See May 7 entry.

**Sat May 16** — All day “Springtime in Saratoga”: North Platte River - Treasure Island to Pick Bridge Meet at Treasure Island. (Call Roger for directions). Rating: Class 1+, prior experience floating a river is required. We will float from Treasure Island, with lunch at Hobo Hot Springs in Saratoga, and finish at Pick Bridge. If the weather is bad, we will reschedule the trip. Contact: Roger and Diana Faaborg 970 669 4182, roger@rff.com

**Thurs May 21** All day on the Poudre. If you've never run the section at that day's level, **you must** Contact David Karan **poudreman@comcast.net**. 970 631 1296.  
**Thursday regular evening run:** See May 7.

**Fri May 22**, 5:30 p.m.—Poudre River Run, Bridges, rules as above. David Karan.

**Sat May 23**, 11 a.m.-all day. Mentoring Trip on Filter Plant, Poudre River. Not a class, just mentoring on the run. Must contact David Karan at least 3 days before.

**Sun May 24**, 5:00 PM — 8:00 PM Douglas Lake north of Fort Collins. Pleasant float and potluck barbeque at Douglas Lake. (If bad

weather, the float will be Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> so RSVP! Chuck Connelly, charlconnl [at] aol.com 970 204 1812.

**Thurs, May 28**, Poudre.. See May 7 entry.

**Tue Jun 02**, 6:30 PM — 8:30 PM Paddle around Boedecker Lake Contact needed.

**Wed June 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free River Reading Class.** May add on-river session on Sat June 6, noon-5 p.m. for those who have done Filter Plant. Contact D. Karan, above, by email **by May 1!**

**Thurs June 4** Poudre, See May 7 entry.

**Fri Jun 05 — Sun Jun 07** (Or one of the next two weekends) North Platte River from Six Mile Gap to Treasure Island, Wyoming. The date will be set around April 15th depending on water flow. Wilderness and ranchland, great camping, fishing. You should be able to run Filter Plant, 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. Rating: Class II (II+) Contact: kenbauer [at] comcast.net, 303-709-8781 evenings.

**Sat Jun 6**, noon -5 p.m. **Free River Reading Class**, on-river portion. See above

**Sun Jun 7** - Filter Plant/Bridges/Lower Mish- Exploratory Trip, (no leader: must be able to self-rescue.) Potential high water so be prepared! Contact David Karan, above.

**Tue Jun 09** 6:30 PM — 8:30 PM Pinewood

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## Poudre Paddler Calendar for 09 Season, continued

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Lake west of Loveland. Contact needed.

**Fri June 12** Town Run on Poudre. Details see May 10, **but contact Mike O'Brien** (970-482-2623) brokenpaddle [at] mywdo.com

**Tue Jun 16**, 6:30 PM — 8:30 PM Lon Hagler Reservoir. We need a contact.

**Thurs on Poudre** – See May 7 entry.

**Tues Jun 23** – Flatwater event, to be determined.

**Sun Jun 28** — All day: Poudre River, near Sleeping Elephant Mountain. Class II medium flows, Class III high flows. Beautiful less-traveled upper Poudre. The first part is fast and rocky and requires quick moves. Lower part is easier but has a good potential for strainers. Class II+/III- whitewater experience required. Space limited-reserve well in advance. Contact: Mark Riffe, mriffe [at] fs.fed.us, (970)224-9812

**Tue Jul 07**, 7:00 PM — 9:00 PM Paddle Boedecker Lake. Need contact.

**Thurs on Poudre** – See May 7 entry.

**Wed Jul 15 — Tue Jul 21** Dowdy Lake--one of the Red Feather Lakes. Chuck has reserved a group campsite several days, so paddle for one day or many. Contact Chuck Connelly, charlconnl [at] aol.com 970 204-1812. Let Chuck know days you'll camp.

**Thurs on Poudre** – See May 7 entry.

**Fri Jul 24 — Sun Jul 26** North Platte River -Glendo to Guernsey, Wyoming. Paddle all day Saturday. Rating: Class I+ with an optional Class II wave train. Camp in Glendo State Park Friday. Potluck for campers Saturday night. Contact Dan O'Brien, bluedango [at] comcast.net or or (970) 203-0489.

**Tue Aug 04**, 7:00 PM — 9:00 PM Paddle Boedecker Lake. Need contact.

**Thurs on Poudre** – See May 7 entry.

**Sat Aug 08** — All day Pumphouse on the Colorado River near Kremmling. Join us for a weekend on the Colorado and the Blue August 8-9. (Date may change to August 21-22 if weather is bad or there is not enough water.) Saturday run the from the Pumphouse Campground to either the Yarmony or State Bridge, as group prefers. Class II with one III- rapid. Bring lunch. Paddlers should be comfortable on Filter Plant at medium flows. Host: Steve Cassells, scassells [at] lcc.wy.edu, 303 684 9252. Please RSVP.

**Sun Aug 09** —We will run the Blue River, possibly twice. This is a class III run. Paddlers should be comfortable on Bridges at medium flows. Scenery is gorgeous throughout. Camp Fri. at Pumphouse Campground and Sat. at Green Mountain Reservoir. Host: Steve Cassells, scassells [at] lcc.wy.edu, 303 684 9252. Please RSVP.

**Tues, Aug 13** Flatwater event, to be announced.

**Thurs on Poudre** – See May 7 entry.

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## Poudre Paddler Calendar for 09 Season, continued

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**Tues, Aug 18** Lon Hagler Reservoir. See May 10. Contact needed.

**Thurs on the Poudre will continue into September if we have water.**

**Tues Aug 25** Flatwater, to be developed.

**Sun Sep 06**, 6:00 AM — 10:00 AM  
Horsetooth Reservoir - Daybreak Cruise.  
Contact Chuck Connelly, charlconnl [at] aol.com. 970 204-1812. Please RSVP.

**Check the website for updates and for more complete information!**

**Please volunteer as contacts!**

## Poudre Paddler Classes for 09 Season, continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

the listings, below. Many classes are free. To sign up for a class, just follow three easy steps:

Contact the instructor so they are expecting you and include you on their training roster. They can also offer preparation details, directions to the training location, and suggestions for their class. Do this at least 2 weeks before class, please.

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 **2009**, you may pay the \$20 membership fee also at this time.

**YOU MUST REGISTER AT LEAST 14 DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS BEGINS. OTHERWISE CLASSES MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF SUFFICIENT STUDENTS.**

### **Introduction to Canoeing (Flatwater)**

**Sat Apr 25**, 9:00 AM — 4:00 PM Flatwater Canoe Class Riverbend Ponds in Fort Collins. Contact Mike O'Brien, brokenpaddle [at] mywdo.com 970 482 2623  
**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.

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## Poudre Paddler Classes for 09 Season, continued

*(Continued from page 9)*

### **Basic River Canoeing**

**Sat May 02 — Sun May 03** Moving Water Canoe Class taught by Debbie Hinde and Eric Hermann. Riverbend Ponds and Poudre River Alternate river day will be Saturday, May 9, if weather or river flow does not allow us on river May 3. Contacts: Debbie Hinde, dhinde1 [at] msn.com or debbie.hinde [at] woodward.com 970 669 6247 and Eric Hermann, eherrmann [at] frii.com, 970 482 8339.

**Class Fee:** \$15.00 per paddler. **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.

### **Reading the River**

**Wed June 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free River Reading Class.** May add on-river session on Sat June 6, noon-5 p.m. for those who have done Filter Plant. Contact D. Karan by email **by May 1!** poudreman@comcast.net

This class will focus on “friends” and “foes” (i.e., river features which can either help you or get you) and picking a line through rapids. We will discuss different kinds of hydraulics, different kinds of hazards and general safety when running whitewater rivers. No boat or equipment is needed for the Wednesday session. The on-river session may or may not be offered depending on

interest and water levels. Fully equipped boats (and paddlers) are required (i.e., boats with flotation, bow & stern lines, warm-when-wet-clothing (maybe wet/drysuits if high water), and of course a good lifejacket).

### **Beginning River Rescue and Safety Class**

Dates and times to be determined. This class is usually taught in a classroom, and then on the Poudre. It is free, since it's safety.

**Instructor:** Debbie Hinde (970-669-6247) and Randy Knauf (970-663-4598)

**Class Fee:** FREE.

**Description:** Safety and rescue skills are essential for any paddler. This class is 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. 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.**

### **Poudre Paddlers instructors with ACA/SEI 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*

## CLASSIFYING “CHARACTER” OF WATER

By David Karan

Besides the Class I-VI scale of difficulty, there are other ways to think about and classify waters.

### RIVERS/MOVING WATER

Pool/Drop: This is pretty self-explanatory. Rapids (“drops”) are followed by slower sections that make for easy recovery. They are quite amenable to an eddy-hopping.

Continuous/pushy water: Rapids are close together, continuous. Paddlers must keep the bow pointed downstream, shift the boat laterally, and maintain fortitude and adrenaline level without respite, read the water quickly and intuitively on the fly.

Large rivers: Large Rivers can be challenging even without apparent rapids. With rapids, these features can become truly awesome. Big boils, whirlpools, tidal currents, huge eddy walls and depressions are some such features. Wave trains and thalwegs (the main current) can make it difficult (or impossible) to swim to the shorelines.

### OPEN WATER/FLATWATER

Lakes: There are different sizes and different ecological characters but a lake is a lake, at least to this author. However, the Great Lakes, Yellowstone Lake and some others really resemble sea paddling more than lake paddling. Motorboats and drunks can be fearsome. Waves and chop can be challenging to canoes, much less to kayaks. Distance from shore and water temperature when at that distance can be hazardous. Different rescue techniques can apply than on rapidly moving rivers (e.g., boat-over-boat rescues, re-righting the boat and reentering by climbing in and, in the case of kayaks, using floats on the paddle ends to provide a stable platform for reentry).

Marshes/swamps: The Okefenokee in Georgia and Florida is a prime example. Grass “prairies” have no solid ground, and narrow channels snaking through them, islands, blackwater areas with cypress trees with buttresses and below water extensions that break the water’s surface as “knees” and prolific birdlife are some of the features of this most exotic paddling atmosphere. Sometimes this character is combined with ocean/sea characteristics like in the Everglades.

Ocean/seas: We’ve all been to the ocean: shoreline has surf, farther out, swells. Knowledge of weather patterns, currents, and river estuaries call for special skills and equipment. Canoes? Maybe, with skill and practice, but kayaks and other craft are more suitable. Hazards include open expanses, surf on the way out and back, and getting washed onto rocky shores. Hypothermia and exhaustion are particular hazards, especially in swims.

Estuaries combine characteristics of marsh/swamp areas with those of the ocean. They can have whitewater in ebb-and-flow tides through narrow channels like inlets. Estuaries combine salt and fresh water, hosting a tremendous diversity of flora and fauna. Sharks love them! They also hold large numbers and varieties of birds.

This classification of “character” is admittedly subjective—just my own perception based on experience, though much less with non-riparian environments—for what it’s worth.

## Flotilla: Poudre Paddler Officers

President	Will Olson	970 207 0101
Vice President	Mike Koliha	970 226 0426
Trip Coordinator	Roger Faaborg	970-269-4182
Newsletter	Eric Hermann	970-482-8339
Instruction	Eric Hermann	
Conservation	Steve Luttmann	970-498-9181
Membership	Deborah Artzer	970-231-0302
Publicity	Randy Knauff	970- 663-4598
Treasurer	Mary Peck	970-484-6309
Webmaster	Will Golson	
Past President	Debbie Hinde	970-669-6247

Be sure to visit our excellent website:

[www.poudrepaddlers.org](http://www.poudrepaddlers.org)

(Thanks, Will!)

Editor: Apologies to Randy Knauff, whose name I left off the Flotilla list in the mailed version.

Time to pay 09 dues! Mail \$20 check to address below, or bring to meeting. Use the application form from website or phone Deb A.

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