



THE SPRAY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COLORADO WHITEWATER ASSOCIATION

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Coming in 2012....

Winter Pool Sessions

Dates: Jan 8, 15, 22, 29
Feb 5, 12, 26
March 18, 25
April 1, 22, 29
May 6

Location:
Meyers Pool, Arvada, CO

Cost: \$9 pool entry

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watch this space!

COLORADO WHITEWATER

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Englewood CO 80155-5074

[HTTP://WWW.COLORADOWHITewater.ORG](http://www.coloradowhitewater.org)

Help Shape the Future of the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam

By Megan Hooker

The Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service are gearing up to do some long-term planning for the operation of Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River and they are seeking your input. The operation of the Dam is directly linked to the health of the Colorado River as it flows through the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon National Park. Through developing a Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (LTEMP EIS), the agencies will evaluate how to operate the dam in a way that is protective of the environmental, cultural and recreational values of the Colorado River while also meeting water supply obligations and providing hydropower.



Rafts lost in the scale of the Colorado River at Nankoweap. Photo by Karen Egbert

This is the first time that the operation of Glen Canyon Dam has been evaluated in 15 years. Since 1996, flow experiments have taken place in an effort to redistribute sediment and restore habitat and beaches. An Adaptive Management Working Group has studied these flow experiments, which include high flow studies that began in 2008 and will end in 2012.

The LTEMP EIS will incorporate the information gained from these and other studies to evaluate specific alternatives that can be implemented to minimize the adverse impacts downstream of the dam in the future. The LTEMP EIS will also consider dam operations in the context of climate change and examine whether to establish a recovery program under the Endangered Species Act for endangered fish species.

Input from the public will be combined with information from the Adaptive Management Working Group to inform the future of the operations of the dam. The final findings will impact river health through dam operations over the next 15 to 20 years and it's important that you're involved in the process!

You can help shape what the Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service consider in their LTEMP EIS. The public comment period is open until December 30, 2011. One of several public scoping meetings is being held on **Thursday, November 17, 2011, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**, at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel, 360 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, CO 80228

You can register for the meeting and learn more about a web-based meeting on November 15th at <http://ltempeis.anl.gov/involve/pubschedule/index.cfm>.

You can learn more about the Adaptive Management Program at <http://www.gcdamp.gov/>.

Megan Hooker is California Stewardship Assistant for American Whitewater. This article is reprinted with permission from American Whitewater.

CW MISSION

The Colorado Whitewater Association promotes the sport of whitewater paddling in the Rocky Mountain region. The club introduces new paddlers to whitewater, provides training in technique and safety, supports racing, informs the public about whitewater issues, including river access and conservation, and works to resolve related problems. CWWA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization run entirely by volunteers.

CW was founded in 1954, and is the oldest club in the United States of America devoted wholly to whitewater paddle sports.

CW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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QUESTIONS?

To Join CW, visit our website at www.coloradowhitewater.org and join online. To change your e-mail or other contact information, contact Helen Johnson at helen@coloradowhitewater.org.

2011/12 Spray Submission Schedule

The Spray encourages article submissions on all white-water related issues. Please send submissions to Julia Lee-Taylor at julial@coloradowhitewater.org

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Submission Date</u>
Jan/Feb	December 21, 2011
Mar/Apr	February 21, 2012
May/June	April 21, 2012
July/Aug	June 21, 2012
Sept/Oct	August 21, 2012
Nov/Dec	October 21, 2012

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Submissions

We welcome your contributions on topics related to whitewater paddling.

Written Material

We prefer e-mail submissions, preferably in Microsoft Word, RTF, or plain text.

Maximum length: 1,000 words.

Don't be shy, even if you don't think you're a great writer. We'll edit for length, style, grammar, and spelling as needed to make your writing more clear and readable.

Photos and graphics files:

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**Be sure to visit us soon as our
expansion will be complete by December 1!**

Watch our emails for Holiday Party / Grand Re-Opening Party!

Fall Dinner Photo Album

CW's Fall Dinner was held at the Golden Hotel on October 20th. Matt Rensel was there to capture the festivities on camera



The friendly and professional staff at the Golden Hotel can certainly show us how to have a good time!

Star quality! Scott Winkleman wins re-election as club president.



Not only is Karen Moldenhauer merchandise director par excellence, she is also now Events Director. Did you realize what you were signing up for, Karen?



Matt Rensel, Helen Johnson, and Mark Robbins, providing a cheery welcome.



Speaker John Matson entertained and inspired with his tales of a long career of adventures—and promoted his book, "Dancing on the Edge of an Endangered Planet".



"Golden Girls" Laurie Maciag and Patty Pinkham will be serving as Treasurer and Training Camp Director once more. Whether the Golden Hotel will tap them as the Faces of a future advertising campaign remains to be seen....



**THE
GOLDEN HOTEL**



Christl Findling will be "Shred Ready" in her new helmet, thanks to Golden River Sports

Bonnie Gallagher, looking very pleased with her new Casio waterproof camera, courtesy of Mikes Camera

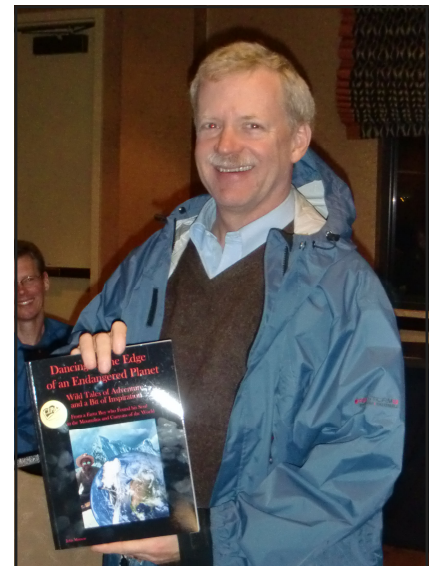


Jon Prouty, "reflecting" on how much safer he feels with his brand new Stohlquist PFD donated by Golden River Sports

Double winner Patrick Tooley, modeling his Redington rain coat, donated by Golden River Sports, and proudly displaying one of two books kindly donated by speaker John Mattson.



Jason Hall, testing whether RAB down jackets might improve his dance moves



Big thanks to our generous sponsors!



100 Days of Whitewater

By Patrick Brown

I pondered my goals for the year during the snowy nights of early 2011 and concluded that I would whitewater kayak 100 days in 2011. Considering that I escalated my kayaking efforts the past two years with significant skill improvements and 70 & 82 days on the water, it seemed logical that I should apply myself even more by reaching for the century mark.

You might be tempted to think that kayaking 100 out of 365 days in a year is not really all that challenging, since it is barely more than 1 out of every 4 days. But we are talking about kayaking, not jogging or swimming or biking, and I can tell you from my personal experience that it provides an entirely unique set of circumstances that both challenges and rewards the person who chooses to pursue this goal. First off, rivers within any reasonably close geographic region are not even flowing except for about 1/3 of the year. So now we have gone from kayaking 100/365 days to 100/122 days. Oops, I guess I should have considered that before committing to this undertaking.

Now I am going to throw in another pretty important constraint on this kayaking challenge. If I were a professional kayaker who could devote most of his time to this endeavor, 100 days would actually be a let-down. Or if I were coasting through my 20's without a steady job or home, it could be a cake-walk. But that is not my situation. I am a professional aerospace engineer who has 4 weeks of vacation per year and I am required to be in the office Monday through Friday the rest of the weeks. Furthermore, I live and work in Boulder, CO which is incredible, but it is not a location with a major river corridor, so simply saying 100 days in a year is not sufficient to explain the situation.

My kayaking year started out strong, but once I started to get into the thick of it, I began to realize that I may have bit

off more than I could chew. The fact is that the human body can only take so much. There was a stretch when I kayaked for 13 days straight and realized that I simply could not sustain that level of effort. One of the important things to remember about whitewater kayaking is that it is not only physically demanding, it is also a potentially deadly activity. What that means is that it is irresponsible and dangerous to participate when you physically are not able and after weeks of continuous kayaking, you reach the point that you simply are not able. Despite the fact that I felt guilty for not being on

the water, at some point I instituted a policy with myself that I *had* to take a day off about once per week.

At this point, I may have convinced you that kayaking 100 days in a year is extremely challenging, but I probably also left you wondering – why? Well, the first answer I can provide is the simplest and possibly the least satisfying- I said that I was going to do it, so I had to do it. Among all of the books I read over the winter, there was a common theme of *intrinsic motivation* – doing something simply for its own

sake. But there were dozens of additional reasons why this goal was so attractive and they usually were the flip sides of the challenges.

For instance, finding boating partners can be difficult, but the friendships that are formed on the water are priceless. When you trust other people with your own safety and life, a bond forms that is rare in day-to-day life. On a less dramatic note, I would also like to think that my incessant desire to kayak may have somehow inspired some of my friends to be on the water when they would not have been otherwise. And when I couldn't always round up the usual suspects, I found new friends to share the experience with. I think that we spend much of our life attempting to connect with other people, and my first-hand experience with kayaking has provided some of my most rewarding connections with others. For that reason alone, the 100 days was worth it.

For all of the fatigue and exhaustion, there was the obvious corollary benefit- physical fitness. Kayaking is an amazing



Patrick Brown at Crystal Mill Falls

Photo by Mark Robbins

workout that fully stimulates the senses, engages the mind, and gratifies the soul. There was also a second, more subtle benefit to the prolonged exercise- efficiency. At some point, I realized that I simply could not commit myself physically, mentally, and emotionally at the same sustained, high level, so I began to engage in efficient behaviors that allowed me to continue at a lower level of effort.

Let me tell you, 100 days is a lot of days kayaking. And with all of those days, I began to notice two more benefits that had to do with deliberate practice. There are two main challenges to overcome when practicing a skill- internal conditions and external conditions. The internal conditions associated with kayaking are formidable, as anyone who has "lost" their roll can attest to. Then there are the externals. The river flows change constantly, there are different rivers to kayak almost every weekend, the weather has a profound effect, and even the rapids themselves change character with time. However, if you spend an extended, successive time on the water, two things happen. For one thing, external conditions change much less on a day-to-day basis versus week-to-week or month-to-month. All of a sudden, it becomes possible to run the same stretch of river at the same flow with the same river on multiple occasions in a few days, and when that happens, the only thing that changes and that correspondingly makes progress are the internal conditions. In other words, by kayaking on a very frequent basis, it is possible to focus on the internal skills (strokes, rolling, etc.) without having to worry about running a new river at new flows. On the other hand, the variability of flows, rivers, and weather also contributes towards growth, since they force the paddler to adapt to the varying conditions. The adaptation stretches



A moment of serenity on the Big Sur wave

Photo by Robert Baca

the skills that were honed under controlled circumstances to new levels ultimately resulting in growth.

Finally, I discovered that one of the primary reasons for the 100 day kayaking goal was to step into the unknown. I didn't need to think through all of these possibilities before engaging in this pursuit, but I knew that I would encounter, begin to understand, and deal with each of them. It was much like running a river itself- ultimately, it was about putting myself in the situation and figuring out how I was going to respond to the challenge. It was not even necessarily all of the kayaking that mattered so much in the end. In fact, it was the act of deliberately defining a goal, and then actively pursuing it to its end that made this accomplishment so deeply satisfying.



Running the gnar on The North Fork of the Crystal

Photo by Mark Robbins

This article is abridged from a blog post by Patrick Brown. The full post may be found at: <http://rumitcu.blogspot.com/2011/09/100-days-of-whitewater.html>

Trouble in Paradise on the Colorado River

By Kyle Wagner for the Denver Post

As we pushed our way upstream chest-high in the cold current, slapping at the incessant, insistent mosquitoes, toward a silent stranger watching our progress from the shore, we couldn't help but make joking references to "Apocalypse Now." Except it wasn't Col. Kurtz wondering what kind of crazy people had abandoned their rafts somewhere downstream to confront him. It was an outfitter who had stolen our campsite. The reasons don't matter anymore. To this day, both parties believe that their rights were violated.

The real horror is that along the Ruby-Horsethief section of the Colorado River — the 25-mile stretch from the Loma put-in west of Grand Junction to the Westwater Ranger Station takeout — otherwise rational people have been doing some nutty things. Yes, nuttier even than our dragging a cataraft and packraft half a mile upstream before we swam to what should have been the sweet campsite we'd hauled ourselves out of bed early the day prior to claim.

Here's just a sampling during a long weekend trip:

A raucous two-day drunkfest thrown by people who jammed dozens more people into a campsite than legally were allowed ("Hey," one of them yelled as some of their group went through the rapids at Black Rocks. "Come down to the last camp tonight, it's gonna be a blast. Plenty of alcohol and other stuff, if you know what I mean!").

An evening of fireworks, including bottle rockets.

Four groups aside from us who had their campsites hijacked, forcing them to steal others' campsites, forcing at least one group to have to raft to the takeout in the dark.

Two other groups arrived at their campsites to find that rafters had not used their "groovers" — the slang term for portable toilets, it refers to the grooves left on one's behind from the original ammunitions lock box rafters used — and instead had simply used the bushes near tent sites.

A 9mm pistol — a ranger confirmed this — was fired against the rocks of the most popular camping area, which happened to be filled with families. A 9mm? Seriously?

"That doesn't sound like fun," says Katie Stevens, national conservation area manager for the Bureau of Land Management, whose Grand Junction Field Office manages the land adjacent to the river, along with McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area. "This is exactly why we're changing the way we do things there, to fix the user conflicts you experienced."

Enough is enough, BLM says, and so starting next season, boaters who want to camp on this section likely will have to register and pay a fee for a permit, through BLM for Friday and Saturday nights and self-issued the rest of the week, from May to September. The change, which still needs to be approved this fall, came after an analysis of the area and a public comment period that ended in July.



Late afternoon glow at the Black Rocks section of Ruby Canyon.

Photo by Patty Pinkham

"For the most part, people's responses were positive about there being something implemented," Stevens says. "Not everyone agrees about what should be done, but that something should be done, yes, definitely."

Grand Junction resident Katherine Jenkins, who fly-fishes Ruby-Horsethief as well as the Upper Colorado "every weekend I'm upright and functioning, and the car starts," and has lived on the Western Slope for several decades, says she laments the need for a permit system, but is resigned to it. "I wish it hadn't come to this," Jenkins says. "You pay a bit of a fee for the Upper (Colorado), but this is going to be a bit costlier, and I think the outfitters are going to wind up with some of the nicer campsites. But geez, the last couple times I was down through there, it wasn't much fun, was it? People acting like idiots, really."

Actually, we had a blast during the time we spent headed downstream. In fact, it was everything a river float should be — relaxing and picturesque on the water, and off the water, we were able to alternate arduous hikes with enough time in camp each night to lazily stargaze at a clear sky. Bighorn sheep picked their way along the shore as we rowed, and a herd of them grazed at the back of our first night's camp near the edge of Mee Canyon. Bald eagles circled overhead, and colorful lizards darted out of the way while we hiked. During our time at Black Rocks, we donned our PFDs (personal flotation devices) and grinned the whole time as we bobbed and weaved through the waves. And then we hiked back to the top and did it again.

But then we were forced from our first-choice campsite, and spent a couple of nervous hours at the second one waiting to find out if we were going to be bumped by someone else who had reserved it.

"That's exactly what happens, there's a domino effect because people bump down the river," says Stevens. "Sadly, it has been the few who ruined it for the many."

And there have been many indeed crammed into this small river section on the weekends. According to BLM, the 2010 visitation estimate is around 22,000 user days for Ruby-Horsethief, with more than 20,000 nights of camping — 50 percent of that use coming on Friday and Saturday nights — Stevens says, and the highest numbers in June, July and August.

"There are a lot of people who just love that section of the river," she says. "And so many of them have told us they have just seen a real decline in the way it's being treated, and the way people are treating each other."

There are so many reasons this section of the Colorado is one of the most popular in the state for private boaters. Not only is it one of the least challenging to raft — the toughest portion is one Class II-rated series of rapids at Black Rocks, with the rest rated at Class I — but it's also a red-rock-lined scenic smorgasbord, courtesy of Ruby and Horsethief canyons, both of which also provide numerous opportunities for hiking.

In addition, near the beginning of the trip, Rattlesnake Canyon is famous for its arches — the second-largest collection after Arches National Park — although it can be a long, hot hike to get to them (you have to scramble up onto the canyon to see the biggest group, which is about a five-hour trek, but you can see a few from the trail).

But "user conflict" has become an understatement here, and the system BLM finally put into place several years ago to begin to address the campsite issue has been simply asking campers to sign their names on a log-in sheet for one of the 28 campsites and then expecting them to hope for the best when they arrive downstream.

"I ran my first commercial trip there in 1973," says Tom Kleinschnitz, owner of Grand Junction-based Adventure Bound USA. "I've been hoping for comprehensive management of this area since I was in my 20s." Kleinschnitz says he and other outfitters are concerned that they will be pushed out of the picture. As it stands, seven campsites have been added to the 28, and 20 percent of those are being allocated for outfitters based on "historical use," Kleinschnitz says. About 30 outfitters regularly run the Ruby-Horsethief section, and so far, no plan has been announced for dividing the campsites up among them.

"We'll come up with a rotating system," Stevens says, but Kleinschnitz, who says he believes the fees should also be levied upon day boaters, hikers and other recreational users in the surrounding McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area, is concerned that charging by camp size will penalize his guides, who will often have to guess at group size ahead. Once the plan is approved, the new fees will be based on the group size, which will determine the assigned campsite.

Kleinschnitz also points out that after boaters have paid a premium for campsites along Ruby-Horsethief, they might start to compare it to car-camping experiences, where smaller fees buy access to facilities. "Now here at this remote camp, you're hauling your own poop, hauling your own trash and hauling your own water. And you've paid \$50 for this patch of dirt," he says. "They'd better have some good patrolling, is all I'm saying, or there could be some push back that will be no different from the stuff you have going on now."



It sure is busy here!

Photo by Patty Pinkham

Kyle Wagner is travel editor for the Denver Post. She may be reached at: 303-954-1599, travel@denverpost.com, twitter.com/kylewagnerworld, facebook.com/traveldenvpost. This article was originally published in the Denver Post on 10/8/2011, and is reprinted with permission from the Denver Post. See the original article at: http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_19057123

Insiders' guide

If approved this fall, the new permit system would likely be in place May-September. Permits would be issued through the Bureau of Land Management on a first-call, first-served basis beginning on the Monday six weeks before the first Friday in May for Friday and Saturday nights. Sunday-Thursday campsites would be available on a self-issued permit basis, whereby boaters would fill out a permit at the launch area, pay the fee and drop it into a tube. Fees would be non-refundable.

On Fridays and Saturdays, 29 sites would go to private boaters, six to commercial. Sunday-Thursday there would be no commercial allocations. A new camping site at May Flat would be designated for boaters who miss their campsite.

Cost: Small site (one to five campers) \$20 a night; medium (six-14) \$50; large (15-25) \$100. Day use is free.

More info: To see a copy of the proposed changes: blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/mcnca.html.

AHRA Citizens' Task Force Report

By Leslie Tyson

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area Citizen's Task Force (AHRA CTF) quarterly meeting was on October 27, 2011. We discussed several topics, including:

Private boat use in Section 3 of the Arkansas River (Brown's Canyon), based on counts at Rincon. Private boater rationing on this river section was originally established with fishermen in mind. AHRA staff count private boaters, commercial boaters, fishermen, white water users, people who are taking out, float bys, put ins, etc. Use went over 75% of the ration on several days but over 100% on only one day. AHRA staff also surveyed river users to see if they felt this section was crowded – surprisingly, not many did. AHRA has decided to continue to study this river section. Thank you for considering the private boater rationing and dates when choosing to run this section of river.

Christo's Over the River. There has been some discussion over whether or not CTF should have an opinion on this project. I'm sure many of you know that the Environmental Impact Statement came out for review lately. It isn't short. At the CTF meeting, several local residents spoke against the OTR project. Their input was very valuable. The AHRA vote was: 7 against, 1 for, 4 abstentions (government representatives mostly). Generally, commercial outfitters feel they could receive a boost in business from the project. Opposing voters cited the long construction period, river access, fishing access, river safety (no plan, no discussion yet), private boater permitting, environmental impacts, soft economic cost benefits, etc. As one of two private boater representatives, I brought up the issues of private boat permitting and river safety. I can see the merits of permitting this section of river during the exhibit, but the system could be easily implemented elsewhere along the river corridor, if required. We've enjoyed the current self paying system. Maybe times are changing.

New Management Plan for the Recreation Area. Monies have been set aside to start work on a new Management Plan for the park, to replace the old one from January 2001. Since then, river users and the river experience have changed. We are looking forward to this endeavor.

Merger between Colorado Departments of Parks and Wildlife. This merger will form the new Department of Natural Resources (DNR). There are reports produced by several staff transition teams. Please see the DNR website: <http://dnr.state.co.us/DPW/Pages/Default.aspx> The public is invited to comment. The reports will eventually be presented to the State Legislature for further action.

Your input is very valuable, and appreciated. AHRA has set up a comment page on the AHRA website. Please visit <http://www.parks.state.co.us/Parks/ArkansasHeadwaters/VisitorComments/Pages/ParkComments.aspx> to leave your comments and concerns about any issue on any section of the Arkansas River. Also, if anyone has input on any of these topics, please let me know so I can take your views to the next meeting, which is scheduled for January 12, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie T., Private Boater Representative, AHRA-CTF

Update: BLM approves Over the River project

On Nov 7th, the Bureau of Land Management officially approved Christo's proposed art project, "over the River". This project aims to drape fabric canopies over 5.9 miles of the Arkansas river in Bighorn Sheep Canyon, during two weeks in August 2014. The project still requires approval from CDOT, and from Fremont and Chaffee counties.

Read the Nov 8th Denver Post article at: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_19285982

Read Christo's project homepage at: http://www.christojeanneclaud.net/prog_river.shtml

Read about opposition to the project at: <http://www.roarcolorado.org/index.html>

did you know.....?

You can keep abreast of all the latest river-related action, politics, news, and much, much more, by 'like'-ing Colorado Whitewater Association on **facebook!**

Federal Judge Halts Uranium Leases in Dolores River Basin

By Nathan Fey

In a major victory for clean air, clean water and endangered species on public lands, a federal judge on Tuesday halted the Department of Energy's 42-square-mile uranium-leasing program that threatened the Dolores and San Miguel rivers in southwestern Colorado. Five conservation groups had sued to halt the leasing program, charging that the Department of Energy was failing to adequately protect the environment or analyze the full impacts of renewed uranium mining on public lands.



The 53-page ruling invalidates the Department's approval of the program; suspends each of the program's 31 existing leases; enjoins the Department from issuing any new leases; and enjoins any further exploration, drilling or mining activity at all 43 mines approved under the program pending satisfactory completion of new environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act.

Conservation groups challenged the Department's current leasing program for not complying with the National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act. The Colorado Environmental Coalition, Information Network for

Responsible Mining, Rocky Mountain Wild, Center for Biological Diversity and Sheep Mountain Alliance sued the Department of Energy and Bureau of Land Management in July 2008 for approving the program without analyzing the full environmental impacts from individual uranium-mining leases spread over 20,000 acres and for failing to ensure protection of threatened and endangered species prior to authorizing the program.

In July the Department attempted to thwart the lawsuit by initiating a new "environmental impact statement" for the program but continued to administer the program under its prior flawed approval. The Department also refused to conduct a full EIS analysis in 2008, instead issuing a FONSI ("finding of no significant impact"), which was also struck down as part of the court ruling.

Uranium mining and milling resulting from the lease program will deplete Colorado River basin water and threaten to pollute rivers with uranium, selenium, ammonia, arsenic, molybdenum, aluminum, barium, copper, iron, lead, manganese, vanadium and zinc. Selenium and arsenic contamination in the Colorado River basin from abandoned uranium-mining operations have been implicated in the decline of four endangered Colorado River fish species and may be impeding their recovery.

Nathan Fey is the Colorado Stewardship Director for American Whitewater. This article is reprinted with permission from American Whitewater.

CW Board Election Results

Congratulations to our newly-elected
(and rotating) Board Members:
Events - Karen Moldenhauer
Publicity/Advertising - Jodi Lee
Webmaster - Scott Winkleman

Many thanks to retiring Board Members:
Robert Baca, Julie Berg, Dede de Percin, Craig
Gilbert, Gary Grooman, Julia Lee-Taylor, Michelle
Rensel

Openings are still available!

for Competition, Playboating, Secretary, and Spray
Editor positions. Please consider joining in. Meet-
ings are usually the 2nd Thursday of the month,
and often include snacks and/or libations!

The Golden Community Rodeo needs YOU!



Volunteers are what make this
annual event happen!

Willing? Interested? Able?

Please contact Robert Baca,
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CW advice columnist: Boating Betty



Dear Boating Betty,
Kayaking is my life! I get on the river as much as I can., and
when I'm not boating I love hanging out with other kayakers. However I've
noticed recently that the ladies tend to always be on the other side of the
campfire from me. What's up with that? Do I smell or something?

— Confused Casanova

Dear Confused,
You know, you could be on to something. As Betty sees it, you have a couple of courses of
action open to you. You could rinse all your gear—your drytop, your booties, your floatbags, every-
thing—in fresh water and let it dry, every time you get off the river, to stop it going moldy. But serious-
ly, who has time for that?

Your other option is to become a rodeo fiend, and never get off the water. Your extra time
on the water will reward you with enhanced skills, leaving the spectators (many of whom are female)
gasping in admiration. Any aroma will remain firmly in your boat where it belongs—until you leave the
river. And by then you'll be too tired to interact. The only arms you will need will be those of Morphe-
us. And he has no sense of smell.

-BB