

PPWVC

The Ark

Pikes Peak Whitewater Club

President: Gordon Stringer

Vice President: Greg Horton

Secretary: Lori Welsh

Treasurer: Kurt Schroeder

Membership Director: Jim McGee

Trip Coordinator: Jim Sprouffske

Web Master: Lori Welsh

Newsletter Editor Chris Brobin

Table Of Contents

Page 1	Andrew McDaniel
Page 2	The Torpedo
Page 3	Boater-X
Page 4	Pine Creek Rapid
Page 5	Fun on the Numbers
Page 7	Our Voices-Kurt Schroeder



Andrew McDaniel

On Monday June 20 2005, Andrew McDaniel and two friends decided to float the Whitewater Park in Pueblo Colorado in an air mattress. His mother, Carol McDaniel was quoted later as saying” I told him never go over there on anything, anything, nothing ,I’m not taking you to the 4th street bridge, you’re not allowed there”. Sadly they didn’t head her advice and the raft began to disintegrate immediately. When the boys looked like they were in trouble Andrew pushed the other boys aside and disappeared into the waves. His

body was recovered a few days later.

I collected articles from the papers and comments from Mountain Buzz. If anyone wants to look through everything I will try and put it into the files section of our Yahoo group page.

I know I speak for everyone when say that I have nothing but sympathy for Andrew's family.

which I'm really proud of because I had to sit and wait for calm water a few seconds.

But it reminded me that my roll needs constant repetition because I was letting myself get sloppy in flatwater, and that ain't good on the river. I'm looking forward to more trips to the Pueblo playpark for more practice.

Dane



Dane Patterson Parkdale

The Torpedo

Dane's Version

Oh, on the Milkrun, I had a decent line set up and I was shooting through some squirrely water with a lot of small (torso-sized) rocks at the start of the run. I started to flip on one, and I got a good left side brace, just skirting the rock. Out of nowhere comes this yellow boat - I think I heard someone scream "yeehaaw!" and Gary plowed into me like I was the Lusitania.

Fortunately for Gary, I slowed his momentum and he was fine. I, however, capsized and got to experience what cheese feels like through a cheese-grater. I was in about 3 feet of water, with head-sized rocks all around the bottom, and my head bounced off them for a little while before I decided this wasn't a suitable roll spot for a beginner, and I had to swim. I was going sideways or backward, so I didn't get any open-face hits - everything was off my helmet.

All total from the weekend I had two short swims (self-rescued into eddies), and 4 combat rolls - one of



Dane Patterson Parkdale 2005

Gary's Version

Here's the real story! We ran the Milk Run at 795. It was a great run with a nice channel to take it pretty easy - for floaters and backpaddlers. There were plenty of boulders and holes to jump in and surf as well - little beginner type surfing, of course!

There were a few nice challenging events, where you either dodge boulders on gravel (read real boney) or you converge into the channel. I was trying to take the harder lines to get some practice on eddying out and steering through rocks. However, I realized I needed

to get away from the upcoming “cheese grater” event that Dane spoke of. So, I headed aggressively to river left (forward strokes with a very vertical paddle angle, if I remember correctly) and realized that two obstacles were in my way - a big rock and a bigger Dane.

I tried to squeeze by the rock and avoid Dane, but as I leaned into the rock my stern swung out and pushed Dane conveniently out of my way - it WAS a great stabilizing effect. I safely maneuvered out of the rapid, peripherally watching Dane bounce his way to “safety.”

I realized the error of my ways, and caught many eddies on the Frog Rock run to avoid bunching up. This made for some very interesting and exciting ferries out into the middle of rapids to avoid rocks. It was a very good trip.

I do have to say, that although I COULD have been a contributing factor to Dane’s swim, I had no part in making Mary (a paddler on the Frog Rock run) scream! That was all Dane’s doing.

Gary



Gordon Stringer Parkdale 2005



Greg Horton Parkdale 2005



Pine Creek Clean Run
June 18 2005

Boater-X

Chris Brobin

I attended the Boater-X Saturday June 18th, 2005. The concept was quite simple. Each boater ran The Pine Creek rapid on the upper Arkansas River solo and the top 16 men then ran in four heats of four. The last two being dropped and then two heats of four followed by the final heat of four.

It was interesting to watch the paddlers go through the main rapid. In the first two of the heats of four the lead boater paddled so aggressively that they penciled into the big hole. Most people going into the hole got a violent ride and then swam. Mike Brown was using a safety rope to catch people the boaters could not save. I watched one boater Mike helped to the side after one particularly nasty swim and he did not move for quite some time. He seemed to have no interest in his boat or anything beyond recovering.

The top boaters were interesting to watch. They made a solid class V rapid look fairly easy and allowed me to scout it for a run later in the summer. Katy Selby had the top time amongst the women, but said she was uncomfortable running the rapid with three other people (she also talked to me like I was a beginner, so naturally I had to do it a couple of weeks later). The top guy on the solo run (Clay Wright) also chose not to run with four other boaters because he wasn’t feeling well. I wonder how he would do on his best day! Teva Games Champion Dane Jackson was present but did not compete.



Pine Creek Rapid June 18 2005

A lot of us were curious to see what would happen if two boater were in the hole simultaneously. It happened twice, but both times some one was on their way out when the other came in, so there was no carnage that way.

It was simply fascinating to watch people race down such a challenging and narrow course.

The river rose 500 cfs from 1200 to 1700 during the five hours of competition. Both Mike and I noticed a particular rock slowly get wet and finally covered with water as the day wore on. Early on I was confident I could run the rapid (I did not have my creek boat with me). But as the water rose I began to have my doubts. Any slack the rapid cut people slowly disappeared until every boater had to at least skirt the edges of the big hole.

At the end of the day Andy Maser won first place followed by Dunbar Hardy and Marty Rood in the men's race. Only two women did Boater-X and I could not find results. Katy Selby went on to finish fourth in the Pro women's freestyle event.



Pine Creek June 18 2005



Pine Creek June 18 2005

Pine Creek Rapid

Chris Brobin

In, "My Life with the Eskimo", his seminal work on arctic exploration, Viljalmur Stefansson states several times that having an adventure is a sign of incompetence. Now this is a bit overstated for kayaking, since the developing kayaker certainly needs to push their limits. They will take lots of swims on easier stretches of whitewater. When the rapids get more difficult, of course, swims start to have negative consequences and the last thing you are looking for is an "adventure".

I scouted the Pine Creek rapid on the Arkansas upstream of the Numbers for five hours during the Boater-X competition at FibArk and saw plenty of adventures. I got a chance to see some truly outstanding paddlers run the rapid. There were also some not so outstanding paddlers getting pummeled by the big hole. I became interested in running the rapid, but waited until the level came down a bit(700 cfs).

I was fortunate that I found a partner for the trip in only two calls. Don Grall has an intense work schedule and also said he didn't have the right boat for the run, but Seth Yearout did and agreed to the idea.

We scouted the rapid and then drove up to Granite and used the four miles to warm up. Then we scouted the rapid again from the other bank.

This was my run. The beginning of the rapid is marked by a very large boulder on river right. The

second I passed this rock all of my thoughts switched to “Paddling Mode”, I felt quite correctly that failure was not an option. My first move was to go river left to avoid a hole then stay left for a bit and move right staying river right for the next couple of hundred yards. One of the things that gives this rapid a high rating is the relentless pounding you will get if you swim starting near the top. The rapid is very narrow and very fast. The next series of drops which Milo called triple drop I ran on the right. I probably could have hit them dead center, but I didn’t want to slow down. I then stayed river right.

I suspect that the number one reason people do not run this rapid is the huge hole two thirds of the way down and the way it needs to be run. The best way to run it (and the way Seth and I both ran it) is to stay right and follow a tongue down a slot and then move further right , which puts you at the top of another tongue that starts to bring you left leading to a third tongue/eddy fence which swings you left over the top of the hole. A couple of stout paddle strokes and I was past and able to see Seth in an Eddy after his successful run.

No adventures i’m afraid.

What gets people in trouble is trying to get left of the hole too soon. The best line is to stay right as long as you can and sweep left right in front of the big hole. Anything else slows you or spins you and helps drop you into the worst spot on the run.

There is still some fairly continuous whitewater for bit then we ran the numbers. From the bottom of number one to just past number 5 only took twenty minutes. While Seth went to get the car I got a chance to chat with Milo (anybody who runs the Black Canyon of the Gunnison solo has my full attention). He and a friend put in right at Pine Creek.

Seth’s comment on the Yahoo Groups, “ We came, we saw, we skirted huge holes. This is a good level to build confidence for higher flow runs. “
End of story.



Number One at 1400
The Numbers Arkansas River
2005

Fun on the Numbers

Mike Brown

I like the Numbers section of the Ark. Even though it’s a hundred or so miles away, it’s a home run for PPWC. Numbers is one of those runs, where I always have a smile on my face by the time we reach the takeout. The major rapids are fun, and there is plenty of play or just opportunities to keep busy making moves through the entire run, besides what you can do with numbers 1-6. This year I’ve found a couple of things I like to do on different rapids so I’ll share a few with you. Hope you all enjoy them as much as I do.

Stealth put in - Nice warm up with a quality stretch that gets you warmed up by the time you reach the normal Numbers put in. I’m not advocating the stealth put in as I heard a rumor they are ticketing vehicles parked up there now, and it is trespassing after all. I have not used it in my last few trips. Besides It’s always nice to use the normal put in that AW played such a key role to secure. Thanks AW. I know, a shameless plug but here’s another, Join AW today.

Number 1 - Big fun, I like the left tongue entry. I’ve done a right of center entry too, but tail stands at the top of a big fun rapid are more fun when you’re in the mood for big play. Nice eddy in the center allows you to move to either side in control and smiling. Easy to

eddy hop down each drop from there. I got to chase a swimmer through the last few drops once this year, kind of speeds things up a bit.

Number 1.5 - Some fun, I just found out this year that what I always thought was Number 2 is actually 1.5. What I thought was 3 is 2 and what I thought was an unnamed riffle is 3. Changes my whole perspective on the middle of the run. I found the hole in the top right of 1.5 this year, rolled up, and thought that was a big feature for a fraction of a Number. I used to enter and stay right, I've been entering about center and working left lately, just for a change of pace.

Number 2 Good fun, most enter right and work left, last few trips I've entered left, moved a bit right in the chute and cruised from there. Feels like cheating cause it's such a smooth line.

Number 3 Bit of fun, how much can I say about what I thought was an unnamed riffle.

Number 4 Plenty of fun, I've never scouted here before this year. I've always, like most folks ran right right, left to avoid the drainage ditch, except once last year when I went into the drainage ditch. Don't ask me why. See I always tell people don't follow my route, I like to experiment, though I can't recommend this one. This year Rick Dukes suggested looking at Number 4 to check on possible options. I was up for that because I always wanted to see it at a more leisurely pace than I get when looking for landmarks on the fly. Since scouting I've run the rapid 3 times, with a slightly different route each time. My favorite has been enter right, locate the big boulder near the left shore about halfway down the main chute, catch the eddy beneath the boulder, move back into the river center tongue, just the left of the main hole, catch another eddy on the left, decide whether to move right for fun before you move back left for the final chute. Lots more interesting than right right right left. Thanks Rick for recommending we scout the lines to me. I enjoy Number 4 more now that it's become a what shall we do today type of rapid.

Number 5 More fun, I've been upside down a couple of times in Number 5 and it's no fun. It gets pretty violent down there. I've got a scar on my helmet from the last time, but I've found the problem and taken corrective action. You may already know the answer,

but if not, you can benefit from my experience. There is a nice little tongue just to the left of center on the top drop into the rapid. Taking this drop on that tongue with a slight left hand angle is smooth and sweet. It puts you in a perfect spot for smooth sailing or eddy hopping down the rest of the rapid. Sure, there are other ways to do it, but I've become quite fond of this little tongue.

Below 5 to 6 bonus fun, slalom time lots of stuff to do.

Number 6 Fast fun, nice chute, some holes to miss and eddies to catch. Some of the holes are impressive when you go past them. I've had the, this might suck, feeling when I've come closer than I planned on occasion.

Below 6 to the take out, more bonus fun, lively to the end. Nice boof rock at moderate flow levels right before the railroad bridge take out after the river bends right and on the left side. Big air last week on this one. After the shuttle, hang in BV for a while, food, stop by our friends at CKS, pretty soon BV playpark, the longest in the world... thanks Jed and Katie. Great way to end the day.

See you out there and remember to join AW today!
Mike



Number Six at 1400
The Numbers Arkansas River
2005



Bill Tiedt
Sunshine
Royal gorge Section
Arkansas River
August 2005



Lynn Koester
Sunshine
Royal gorge Section
Arkansas River



Mike Brown
Sunshine
Royal gorge Section
Arkansas River

Our Voices

Interview with Kurt Schroeder

Chris Brobin PPWC

CB-When did you join the club?

KS-1992

CB-What is your favorite river/section?

KS-Everything. I've done the Grand Canyon. Also the Yampa was great, the scenery rivaled the Grand Canyon.

Locally the Fractions section of the Arkansas is real fun. The scenery is terrific.

CB-What changes has the club undergone?

KS-With Gordon Stringer the Club the club is trying to do more organized things. Katy and James being certified has helped. Getting people involved helps rivers. We are bigger, we routinely have over one hundred members.

Electronic communication has been huge.

CB-Most outrageous thing you've done Kayaking?

KS-On the Westwater Section of the Colorado River there is a room of doom on the Skull rapid. There is a monster hole that will destroy you. If people get caught in it they have to get helicoptered out. When setting up to run it my paddle broke. I tried various things and finally threw away the short half and C-1ed through the rapid.

CB-What river that you have not done, would you like to?

KS-Middle Fork of the Salmon.

CB-When were you club president?

KS-1998-2003.

CB-What were your goals going in?

KS-Mostly keeping beginners engaged, hoping they would stick with it.

CB-Is there going to be a play park on Fountain Creek?

KS-It's not going to happen. I would be shocked if it did. The reasons being expense and lack of water. With Pueblo's new park, I don't see much sense in pushing it here.

A consultant name Gary had reservations over water availability, that it would have to recirculate.

CB- Was there anything different about the club ten years ago?

KS-Not really, the club evolves. New people come in. The opportunity for the club to grow is getting better with the new boats.

I'm optimistic about the future of the club with Gordon et al.



Steven Gleason
Sunshine
Royal gorge Section
Arkansas River



Mike Griffinn Parkdale
Arkansas River