



# The SPRAY

Colorado Whitewater Newsletter

## Contents

### Feature Stories

The Haves and Have-  
Nots

Page 1

Spring Kick-Off

Page 4

### Education

Classes and Pool Prac-  
tice Sessions

Page 6

Boating Betties

Page 7

### Conservation

Obama Protects  
Browns Canyon

Page 8

South Platte River

Clean-up

Page 9

### Kids in Kayaks

Meet Dorothy:

Page 10

### Events

Spring Dinner

April 23, 5 - 10:00 pm

Page 4

Betties Flix Night

April 24, 6 - 9:00 pm

Page 7

Platte River Clean-up  
and Party

April 25, 11 – 7:00 pm

Page 9

Training Camp

Weekend

May 15-17

Page 1

## Training Camp 2015 – The Haves and Have-Nots

By Elizabeth Austen

There are those who *have* been to Training Camp and those who *have not*. The *have-nots* do not know this is CW's biggest and best event. More than 150 friends show up for two days of amazing river classes with certified instructors, camping, catered meals, cool schwag, a silent auction featuring a Jackson Rock Star playboat, and a huge party Saturday night!

The *haves* only *think* they know the drill. Go to Cotopaxi on Friday, set up camp, see who is there, make dinner, have some beverages, watch kayak porn, check in, sign a waiver and brace for the chaos tomorrow morning – WAIT! Stop right there! This year is different. *Haves*, take note: classes are already set up, sizes limited, and instructors assigned.

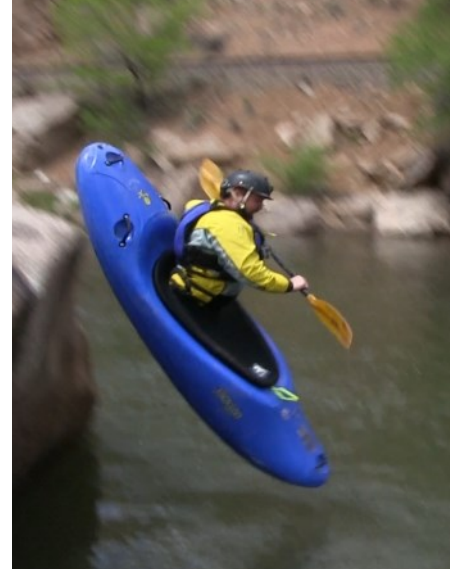
Instructors have chosen their classes and their own support teams ahead of time. We have an amazing line up from Beginner Kayak Essentials, to Intro to Play Boating, to Level-Up Boot Camp, and everything in between. Two new classes have been added: Intro to Slalom and Stand Up Paddle Board – Transition to Whitewater. There is something for everyone.

There is still room for on-river volunteers who are solid class III+ boaters with solid rescue skills and standard rescue equipment. If you desire to help, check out the course offerings at [www.coloradowhitewater.org](http://www.coloradowhitewater.org) and contact the instructor for the class you are interested in.

If you wish to arrange your own boating group, you can still participate as a “fun hog” for a \$50 fee. There is value in being a CW member, but membership is not required unless you are in a class. Fun hogs still get to camp out and join the gang for meals and music. This year we hear CW's own John Leventhal's band, Nokuthula, featuring Afro-pop, fusion dance music.

Make sure you are a *have* this year. [Click here for more information and to register for this May 15-17 event!](#) Plan ahead to get the class you want. As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, the registration fee will be raised to \$200 per person.

[Click here to contact Training Camp director Elizabeth Austen](#) if you have questions or would like to help with the event.



## Mission Statement

Colorado Whitewater (CW) promotes the sport of whitewater kayaking in Colorado and 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.

## Membership

CW is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization run entirely by volunteers. Visit [www.coloradowhitewater.org](http://www.coloradowhitewater.org) for membership info and to join the club. To change your contact information, contact Ryan Lee at: [ryanleedba@yahoo.com](mailto:ryanleedba@yahoo.com).

## Contributions & Advertising

To submit SPRAY content, contact Carrie Root at: [carrieroot@mac.com](mailto:carrieroot@mac.com). To advertise in the SPRAY, contact Jodi Lee at: [jodilee23@gmail.com](mailto:jodilee23@gmail.com).

## Legal Statement

The SPRAY is the official newsletter of Colorado Whitewater and is published semi-monthly. Subscription is free to CW members. Material published in The Spray may be reprinted only with the author's permission. Views and opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent CW opinions and policies. Publication of paid advertisements herein does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised or of the advertiser.

## Publication Address

455 Sherman Street  
Suite 300  
Denver, CO 80203

## From the Editor

Spring is in the air, temperatures are rising, and rivers are starting to run. It's time to pack your gear, pile up the boats, and schedule out your paddling season. This issue of the *Spray* gives you a peek into so much that Colorado Whitewater and our partners offer for boaters of all ages and skill levels.

You don't want to miss amazing events right around the corner! From the CW spring dinner, to the Platte River clean-up event and after party, to a pumped-up and re-defined training camp, you've got lots of options to keep whitewater on your brain.

If you have little paddlers, be sure to share the Kids in Kayaks page with them, too!

See you on the river!

*Carrie*



**Royal Gorge  
Whitewater  
Festival**

**June 26-27 | Cañon City, CO**  
**RoyalGorgeWhitewaterFestival.com**



The poster features a large background image of two kayakers in a white raft navigating turbulent whitewater rapids. A large crowd of spectators is visible on the rocky banks. Two smaller inset images are on the right: one shows a person performing a high jump or vault over a blue mat, and the other shows a cyclist on a paved path with orange traffic cones.

**DOWN RIVER**

The Source For All Your River Equipment

**30th Anniversary**

— SINCE 1985 —

**RAFTOPIA**

**Spring Sale & Boat Swap**

**APRIL 10TH - 12TH**

**JOIN US FOR:**

- VENDOR EXPO**
- GEAR RAFFLES**
- CLINICS & WORKSHOPS**

[www.DOWNRIVEREQUIP.com](http://www.DOWNRIVEREQUIP.com)

303-467-9489

12100 W. 52nd Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO 80033



## Spring Dinner 2015

Join your CW community for an amazing night with:

**Darcy Gaechter and Don Beveridge**

As they present:

**The Amazon - Headwaters to the Sea**

With a bonus Water Rights Action presentation



**When:** April 23, 2015, 5 - 10:00 pm

**Where:** Blue Bonnet, 457 S. Broadway, Denver

**Price:** \$25 for members; \$30 for non-members

[Click here to find out more and register for this event.](#)

## Spring Kick-Off/Movie Night a Huge Success

On March 4, nearly 200 friends of the CW community came together at the historic Oriental Theater in Denver to enjoy local food and drinks, view beautiful paddling films, and raise money for the club.

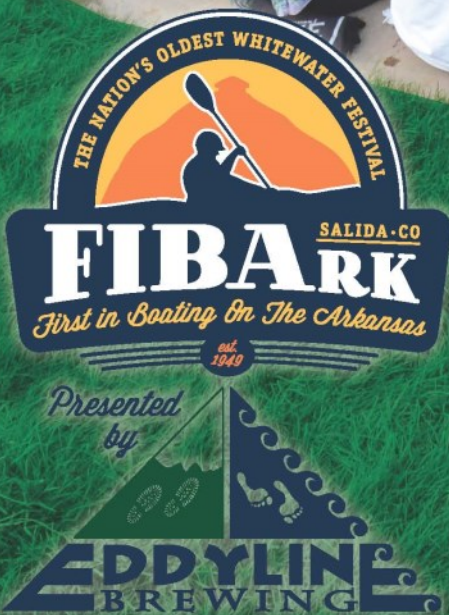
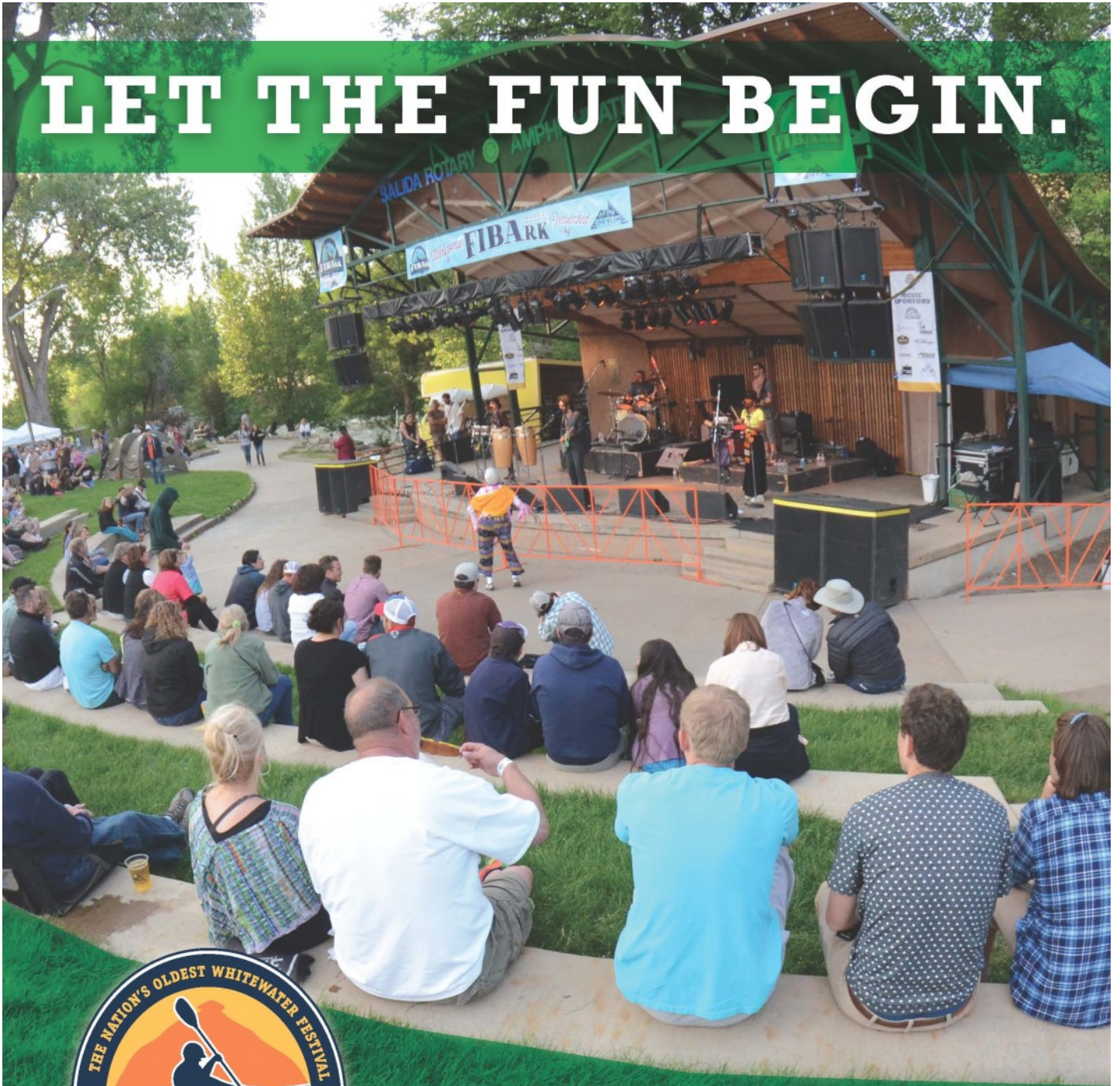
“Judging from people’s comments on the night, it was a great success,” Terry Sandlee, CW event coordinator and event emcee said. “Many people have expressed that they had a great time and that the films were amazing.”

This was the first year that CW hosted Rapid Media’s Reel Paddling Film Festival at the event. The festival gathers film submissions from around the globe and picks winners that will inspire people to try paddling sports. CW’s kick-off event headlined the film, *The Grand Canyon of the Stikine*.

Camaraderie was seen among all who attended the event, where an estimated 50 percent were not CW club members. Food and beer were flowing, thanks to Matt’s Snack Shack and the house bar. Christina Walker organized raffle prizes from numerous local and national sponsors, including Jackson Kayak, Pyranha, Down River Equipment, AAA Inflatables, Confluence Kayaks, CKS, Nite Ize, Bad Fish SUP, Ice Mule Coolers, Level Six, and Soft Side Up SUP. Representatives from Down River Equipment, CKS, Bad Fish SUP and Ice Mule Coolers were also on hand to talk about their offerings.

Fun and purpose blended seamlessly at the event, which raised approximately \$2000 for CW’s mission to safeguard rivers and support the growth of paddling sports. A huge thanks goes to all who sponsored and attended the 2015 Kick-Off event!

# LET THE FUN BEGIN.



## JUNE 18 -21

for the Nation's Oldest & Boldest  
Whitewater Festival

FREE Live Music & Performances

[WWW.FIBARK.COM](http://WWW.FIBARK.COM)

## Classes and Pool Practice Sessions

If you have already attended a CW kayaking class this winter, you have given yourself an incredible head start on the paddling season. If your kayak is still collecting cobwebs in the garage, now is the time to get into shape, both physically and mentally, for running rivers. There are still a few opportunities to take advantage of pool practice sessions at Meyers Pool in Arvada. If you are just beginning your kayaking obsession, the Beginner Kayaking Class has one more session available with ACA certified instructors and warm pool water. The Boating Betties play park series is just beginning, too. If you're late to the party, just show up for a pool session and ask for some help. There is always someone willing to give you a hand and you will make amazing new friends as you work out in a fun environment.

You do not need to register for a class to attend the open pool sessions. Simply show up at the pool and pay a \$9.25 per-person entrance fee. Sessions are offered from 1 - 5:00 pm on April 19 and 26. You do need to register to attend a CW class. The \$9.25 entrance fee is in addition to the CW class fee.

Meyers Pool is located at 7900 Carr Drive in Arvada. Please rinse out your kayak before you come to the pool, or use the provided hose on the pool deck. It is always a good idea to rinse off your gear after practicing in a chemically-treated pool.

CW Member Specials:

10% off all  
in-store  
purchases\*

\*some restrictions apply

Half off kayak  
rentals

**CKS**  
MAIN STREET

Arkansas River - Buena Vista, CO

100 miles of class II - class IV  
Colorado's largest river park  
High alpine lakes  
Abundant camping

**CKS Main Street**  
719.395.9206  
cksmainstreet.com  
shop@cksmainstreet.com

## Beginner Kayaking Class

This introductory class provides a safe introduction into the world of whitewater kayaking. Over the course of two, three hour pool sessions and one outdoor flat water/moving water weekend, you will learn about boats, essential gear, basic paddle strokes, river safety, and we'll introduce you to the kayak roll. No experience required.



The class will meet from 1 - 4:00 pm on April 19 and April 26, plus the Flat water/Moving Water Weekend on May 2 and 3. The instructors for these classes are Nik White, Amy White, Elizabeth Austen and Debbie Hathaway.

**Cost:** \$180 course fee, plus \$9.25 pool admission for each pool session. Includes rental equipment (boat, spray skirt, and paddle) for the two pool sessions.

[Click here to register for the Beginner Kayaking Class.](#)

## Boating Betties Classes and Events

Boating Betties is an instructional and mentoring program intended to encourage CW women members. As a "Betty", you will build confidence, master skills, and create strong friendships, both on and off the water.

### Betties Flix Night – Friday, April 24, 6 - 9:00 pm

Watch women-specific instructional videos and hang out in the shop, on the sofa, or in the pool with other Betties. Bring your boat and practice moves in the pool as the movies play, or bring pool toys and just float!

This event is located at: Confluence Kayaks, 2373 15th Street, Denver, CO 80202. There is no entrance fee, but bring your own drinks and money to order pizza.

### Betties Whitewater Park Series – Tuesdays, April 28, May 5, and May 12, 6 - 8:00 pm

If you are a level-B "confidence builder" Betty, a level-C "river runner" Betty, or a level-D "working whitewater" Betty, join us for this series of classes at the Clear Creek Whitewater park in Golden. Come for just one session, or all three. The cost is \$20 per session and registration closes 48 hours before each class.

[Click here to stay updated on new Boating Betties classes and register.](#)

## Obama Protects Browns Canyon

On February 19th, President Obama used his authority under the US Antiquities Act to protect more than 21,000 acres of public lands surrounding Colorado's Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River.

Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country. According to the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), commercial rafting on the Arkansas River, which runs through Browns Canyon, brings in roughly \$60 million to the economy. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon was awarded "Gold Medal" status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.



Recent polling from the Colorado College showed that 96% of Coloradoans support the protection and conservation of natural areas. Local businesses and conservation organizations also support the declaration.

"We thank President Obama for acting today, and honoring the decades of work so many of Coloradoans have invested to protect Browns Canyon", said Nathan Fey, Regional Director at American Whitewater. "If it were up to Coloradoans we would have protected Browns Canyon years ago, so we should all be proud that the president has acted when congress could not."

The Antiquities Act has been used to protect other landscapes important to paddlers, like the Grand Canyon and Dinosaur National Monument. Under the monument proposal introduced by former Senator Mark Udall, Browns Canyon will not be managed by the National Parks Service, but will continue to be managed by the Colorado State Parks. The president's proclamation of Browns Canyon National Monument honors the spirit of Udall's legislation that followed a multi-year process of input from local residents, paddlers, ranchers, and businesses. *(Reprinted with permission from [www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org).)*



# CONSERVATION

## South Platte River Clean-up Day

Colorado Whitewater is hosting the 10th Annual South Platte River Clean Up event on Saturday, April 25, from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm, in celebration of Earth Day. This all-volunteer event is being organized to pick up trash along the river.

More than 200 participants showed up in past years, removing more than two tons of garbage from the river. The event is known as the best river stewardship event in the Denver metro area. This year we anticipate a larger turnout, as CW has partnered with American Whitewater, Confluence Kayaks, and Down River Equipment to present the event. Participating in the clean up is a great way to give back to your community and care for the river that winds its way through the heart of Denver.

The clean-up will take place in two sections, covering about ten miles of the river. Section one will start at Centennial Park and float to Grant Frontier Park. Section two will start at Habitat Park and float to Fishback Park or City of Cuernavaca Park. Shuttles will be available. An after party will take place in a private room at the Denver Beer Co. from 4 -7:00 pm. Food trucks will be on site and participants can refuel and swap stories from the day over a variety of beers.

[Click here for more information and join your fellow paddlers to give back to the river!](#)

### Outdoor Adventures!

*ATV Tours, Balloon Flights, Canoe Trips, Horseback Rides, Glider Rides, Zip Line Tours + Winter Adventures. Book your fun today online!*



**Kayak Lessons**



### Raft Trips!

**Over 70 Discounted Raft Trips!  
Spread the word! Sign-up online**

### Rentals

**Rafts, rafts on trailers  
rigged and ready to go  
Kayaks, Canoes, Duckies,  
Stand up paddleboards**



### Stand UP Paddling

**Lessons, Rentals,  
Sales**

**BOC**  
**BOULDER OUTDOOR CENTER**

**www.BOC123.com**

**Call 303-444-8420**



## Meet Dorothy

*Dorothy Hazel is a fifteen-year-old kayaking kid who knows that if she wants to enjoy paddling our rivers, she also needs to take care of them. Read below to find out what she has learned about river dams.*

What would a river look like if there were no dams? What if the fish swam and the current flowed free? There are more than 87,000 dams in US rivers and not all of them are needed. Taking out useless dams makes rivers more beautiful, provides safer paddling opportunities, and gives fish a better home.

We do need some dams. They are used to create power and control water flow and storage. Dams also create jobs and give families a place for recreation. For example, 50-year-old Glen Canyon Dam provides people with water and power for their homes. It also creates a lake that more than 2 million people use for fun activities.

However, unneeded or poorly maintained dams are dangerous and harmful to the environment. If a dam is not properly taken care of, it can burst, with the water crashing into towns and cities below. In 1976, the Teton Dam on the Snake River in Idaho burst, killing 11 people and causing two billion dollars in damage.

Dams can also be bad for kayaking and rafting. Many whitewater runs have been changed or erased completely by dams. Sometimes dams force paddlers to get out of the river and carry their boats past the dam, or paddle down manmade drops on the side of the dam. If you boat down the dam by mistake, it could kill you. A dam on the Arkansas River above Salida, Colorado, has artificial drops so kayakers and rafters can get down the river. Even though that river run should be considered good for beginner paddlers, I used to be afraid to paddle it because of the dam.

Dams can also destroy our beautiful nature. The Hetch Hetchy dam in Yosemite Valley, California, ruined a beautiful valley John Muir described as, "...a grand landscape garden, one of nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples." Dams also make it harder for fish to swim upstream to spawn and have caused a huge decline in the wild salmon population. Removing unneeded dams would help to restore fish populations.

While it may be surprising, dams can be removed from rivers. The Edwards Dam in Maine was one of the first dams in the US to be removed and, in the thirty years since then, another thousand have followed. Yet there are many more rivers that need to be released. If you had a choice of seeing a river flow free or a fish trying to jump a dam and failing, which would you choose?

One way you can help protect our rivers is to join whitewater organizations, such as Colorado Whitewater (CW) and American Whitewater (AW), that speak up for dam removals. With more than 87,000 dams in the nation, chances are high you live near a dam that is not needed. Learn about dams that could be removed and stand together with your kayaking friends to get the job done. Kids can make the world a better place and help others enjoy more safe, fun, and free flowing rivers.

# Golden



# River Sports

806 Washington Ave.  
Golden, CO 80401  
(303) 215-9386  
GoldenRiverSports.net

## Spring Swap and Sale Coming Late April

**Your Colorado Kayak, SUP and Fly  
Fishing Experts!**

**Come check out all the new 2015 apparel  
and including kayaks from Pyranha and  
Wave Sport as well as SUP from Hala Gear!**

**50/50 Deal: Put 50% down now and pay  
for 50% by May 31, 2015. Take your gear  
home now with half down and pay for  
the rest by the end of May!**

**Great Deals on Closeouts Available.**

**Demo's and rentals available in all models!**



**Like us on Facebook for all  
the latest info and deals!**

*Photo by Brett Hochmuth*

**CW Members  
ALWAYS get 15% off!**



## Honoring Kim Saltus Johnston

The world lost a passionate adventurer and citizen on October 6, 2012 with the passing of Kim Saltus Johnston. Kim's family is working to dedicate a memorial along the banks of the Arkansas River in her honor. Kim had an enduring connection for more than 30 years with the Arkansas, the Town of Buena Vista, and the river community that has called it their home. It is only fitting that we join with Kim's family to place a memorial here.

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) have presented Kim's family with the option of constructing a covered shelter along the river, with possible locations at Fisherman's Bridge or Hecla Junction. A plaque would be installed in Kim's honor. In the shade of this shelter, friends Kim made can join with friends she would have made and perhaps tell a story or two that inspires others to live life exceptionally, just as she did.

The donation goal to make this shelter memorial a reality is \$10,000. AHRA would then provide the balance of funds needed for the memorial installation. You are welcome to contribute to the Kim Saltus Johnston Memorial Fund in whatever measure you feel is correct for you. Donations for the memorial will be accepted through May. [Click here to make a donation.](#)



Join our Colorado/Chile Kayak Trip and receive an annual **Paddle Pass- Free!** (\$599 value) Learn more at: <http://rmoc.com/world-adventure/kayak-the-world/>



ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR CENTER  
800.255.5784 · RMOC.COM

denizen