



THE SPRAY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COLORADO WHITEWATER ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 59, NUMBER 2, May-June 2013

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Big Winner

Gail Gill was the CW Spring Dinner Raffle winner and will be paddling a new Jackson SUP board this season.



Golden Playpark Update Page 10

COLORADO WHITEWATER
455 Sherman Street, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80203
www.coloradowhitewater.org

2013 Colorado Snowpack: A Cinderella Story

By Erik Rist

If the Colorado snowpack were a basketball game then the last two months would be the buzzer beating three point game winner. Until late in March conversations about the impending water season had a tone as if everyone's dog had died. Now that summer is here, it actually looks like we will have great water... at least pretty good water... probably.

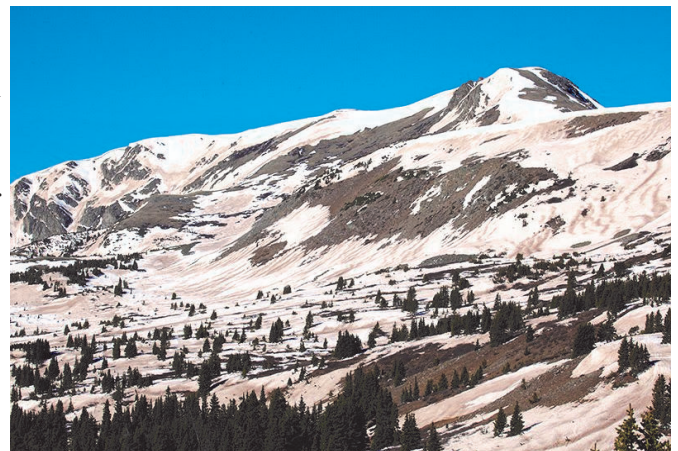


Here are some relevant snow water equivalent basin percentages as of May 15th:

- The only two headwater snotl sites that matter for Browns Canyon and Numbers: Brumley 105% & Fremont 99%
- The Upper Colorado Basin: 103%
- S. Platte Basin: 113%
- San Miguel, Dolores, Animus, and San Juan Basins: 40%

While things look good for the North and not so good for the Southern part of the state, the numbers don't tell the whole story. According to the industry experts I have consulted for this article, this is the first year of the new 30 year cycle as calculated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. What this boils down to for us is that a 110% number this year would actually have translated to approximately 100% last year. It's like inflation. The same percentage that would have bought you an entire happy meal last year will only get you the cheeseburger today.

Another bummer is that one of our spring snowstorms was a dirty storm. Occasionally high winds in another state kick up dirt into the atmosphere and it falls back to Earth in a snow storm that blankets our mountains. This thin layer of dirt lurking just below the surface will eventually be uncovered by the melting snow and when it does... watch out! White color reflects light while dark absorbs light. Once this darker dirty layer is uncovered it will absorb more heat and accelerate the snow melt. This may cause a quicker more dramatic peak.



Continued on Page 7

Dirty Cottonwood Pass May 2010

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Bart Pinkham - Owner

Golden



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Thursday Memorial Day to
Labor Day at the Golden Playpark!**

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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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MEMBERSHIP 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 hellionbiz@gmail.com.

2012 Spray Submission Schedule

The Spray encourages article submissions on all whitewater related issues. Please send submissions to Erik Rist at erik@ristlaw.com.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Submission Date</u>
Jan/Feb	January 1, 2013
Mar/Apr	March 1, 2013
May/June	May 1, 2013
July/Aug	July 1, 2013

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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:

We much prefer bitmap, jpeg, pdf, or tiff format, but can work with others. Please use a minimum resolution of 300 dpi.



COLORADO WHITEWATER 2013 SPRING INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Simply come to the pool (Myers) to practice and tune up for the upcoming season on your own without instruction. The pool will be open for kayaking practice from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Sundays, starting January 27, 2013 through May 5, 2013, except for February 17, March 31, and April 14, 2013. **Cost:** \$9 pool entry fee. **Myers Pool: 7900 Carr Drive, Arvada**

ACA + Swift Water Rescue

Colorado Whitewater has partnered with Renaissance Adventure Guides for ACA Swiftwater Rescue Clinic's for only \$175 this year which is over 25% off of list price! This clinic is for all Colorado Whitewater members who are kayakers, canoeist, rafters, duckie captains or just like splashing around in the river.

Somewhere, at sometime, you will wish you knew what to do in a river emergency. Just rescuing gear can turn into a nightmare, never mind rescuing a person. Quick response time and the knowledge to set up a rescue safely are skills you should have as a boater. Make this the year to bring your rescue skills to a higher level. Friends owe it to friends to be capable of river rescue. Kayakers must be of Class II-III ability. Rescue lifejackets are considered personal equipment and are highly recommended. This clinic qualifies as an ACA sanction course.

Itinerary Day1:

Equipment needed for rescues
How to handle a rescue situation

Equipment vs life threat
Rescue organization
Communications
Lunch break
Throw Bag Rescues
Toe Systems: swimmer/boat/paddle
Walking in Rapids
Unconscious swimmer rescue
River Extrication Backboards
Zip lines
Floating platform rescue

Day 2:

Anchors Z drags
Bridge Abutment Rescue gaining access
Unwrapping a kayak/raft
Vertical pins
Ankle entrapment
Lunch break
Run mock rescues
Rescue evaluation

Note: This clinic will be customized based on river features, water levels and students needs and skills.

Recommended Gear List

Class participants should bring as much of this gear as they can)
River Rescue Book (book of your choice)

Kayak, Canoe, Raft or any other type of river water craft
Knife (one hand accessible)
Whistle
Carabineers (4 or more)
Prussic Loop (3 or more)
Webbing (about 8')
Drybag to put rescue items in
Lifejacket with rescue belt
Tow Tether for Lifejackets with rescue belts
Throw Bag
Pulley (at least 2)
Lighter
Warm clothing
Energy Food
First Aid Kit (contents based on paddlers training and remoteness of trip)
Duct Tape
Waterproof light

Optional Items

Gibbs Ascender (climbing ascender)
Rapid Air (compress air in cylinder for trapped boater)
Saw or wood cutting device
Z-Drag Crib card
GPS
Radio
Cell Phone
Signal mirror
Pocket Knife
Multi-plyer tool
Bee Kit
Static Rope

Location

The location of this class may vary greatly based on river levels and weather. Class will held on the front range MOST LIKELY be held at Waterton Canyon. Location will be firmed up at the latest 1 week before class

Knots

This class will go over a series of rope knots that are very helpful for swift water rescue scenarios, safety, mechanical advantage and every day use. These knots will be helpful to not only kayakers but also, rafters, SUP, river boarders or even aspiring swr professionals. During this 3 hour class we will provide in

-person instruction on how to tie each of the knots below, some basic scenarios on when you would use them, as well as a section of cordelette to keep as well as printed instructions to take home and keep practicing.

Aug 7 at 2750 W. 5th Ave, Denver, CO 80204.
Cost: \$15

[REGISTER May 8th](#)

Mechanical Advantage

This class will teach the basics of mechanical advantage. We will teach the principles of creating anchors, vector pulls and 3 to one pulley systems. These skill sets will be useful for not only kayakers but rafters, SUPers, river boarders or even aspiring SWR professionals. During class you will be taught the principles of mechanical advantage and will be provided a crib sheet for a 3 to one z-drag.

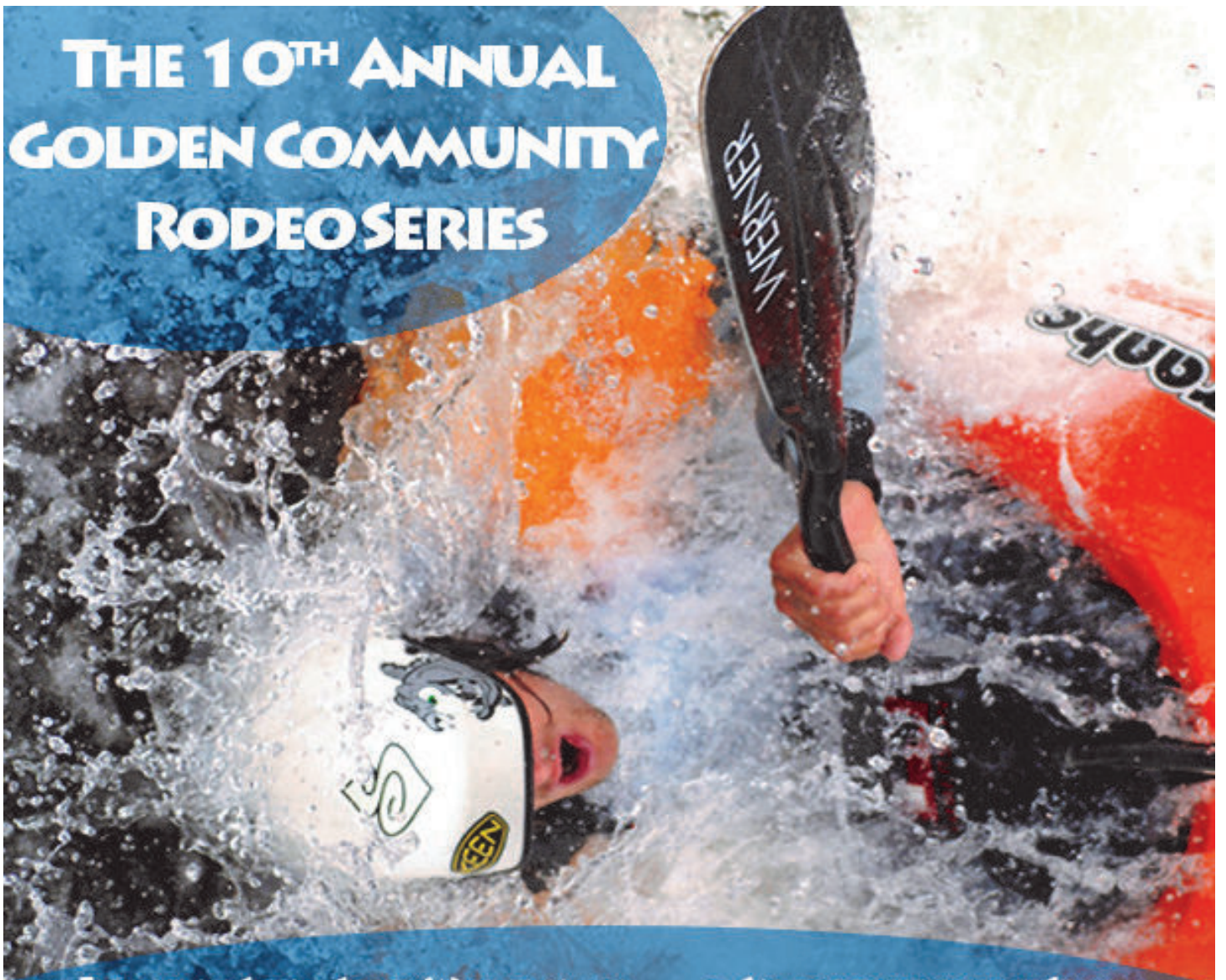
All materials for class will be provided however it will be expected that you know how to tie the following knots prior to class. Please note that all of these knots are taught the prior week in the Knots for Safety class.

Figure 8 on a bight, double loop figure 8, followthrough figure 8, figure 8 bend, alpine butterfly, double fisherman's, prussic, one sided over hand bend in webbing.

Aug 14 at 7pm. Where: 2750 W 5th Ave, Denver, CO. Cost \$20

[REGISTER May 8th](#)

THE 10TH ANNUAL GOLDEN COMMUNITY RODEO SERIES



- EVENTS AT CLEAR CREEK WHITEWATER PARK IN DOWN TOWN GOLDEN
- WEDNESDAYS, MAY 22 & 29 @ 5:30 PM
- OPEN TO ALL PADDLERS OF ALL SKILL LEVELS
- CATEGORIES INCLUDE SPORT, INTERMEDIATE, AND EXPERTS
- PRIZES AWARDED TO 1ST, 2ND & 3RD PLACE IN EACH CATEGORY

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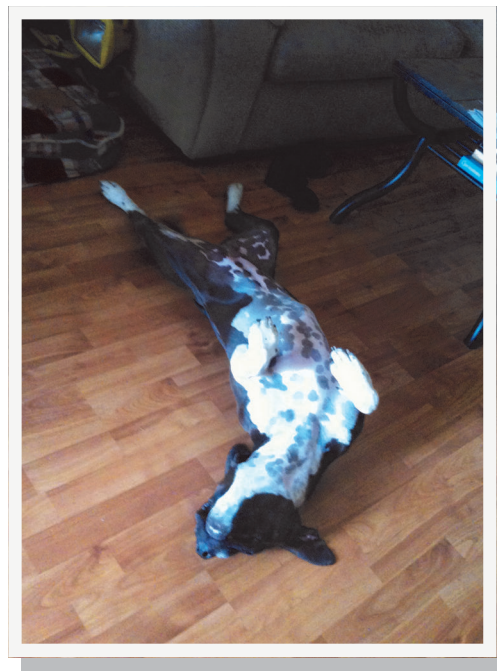
Snowpack Update Continued from page 1

Yet another major factor is manmade. As the snow melts, municipalities and water rights holders have the opportunity to stockpile water in reservoirs or allow it to flow down stream. As we all know, the reservoirs have been scarily low this year. Particularly interesting are the empty reservoirs at the headwaters of the Arkansas. What I have been told is that last spring those reservoirs were significantly drained in anticipation of a big spring snow fall... this painfully did not happen. It is hard to know how much water that would have gone down the Arkansas River this year will be diverted to refill the reservoirs there. It may be a similar pattern around the state but it is hard to say.



What does look promising is that the flow program agreement, implemented to maintain boatable flows on the Arkansas River, should be in effect this year. That will mean that the flow through Browns Canyon will theoretically not drop below 700 CFS until August 15th.

The one thing that is for sure is that we will have a MUCH BETTER water year than anyone would have predicted back at the beginning of March AND my dog is alive!



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Clear Creek Playpark Updates

Despite all the hub-bub, not a lot will be changing this year at Golden's Clear Creek Whitewater Park on 10th Street.

Here's what you can expect:

Parking will become a bit more cramped as some of the spaces have been merged in conjunction with the sidewalks being widened. Be respectful of parking in the nearby neighborhoods. Perhaps consider using the Rec Center's lot instead. Remember - no parking at the Library nor the History Museum until after hours.



Entry/Exit: Be aware of new fencing along the river. Please try to use only designated egress areas as they are trying to regrow some of the riparian areas (interface between land and river). Other areas have been opened up as well.

Drinking/Smoking: Absolutely no drinking or smoking (of any kind). Tickets will be issued this year, just not warnings.

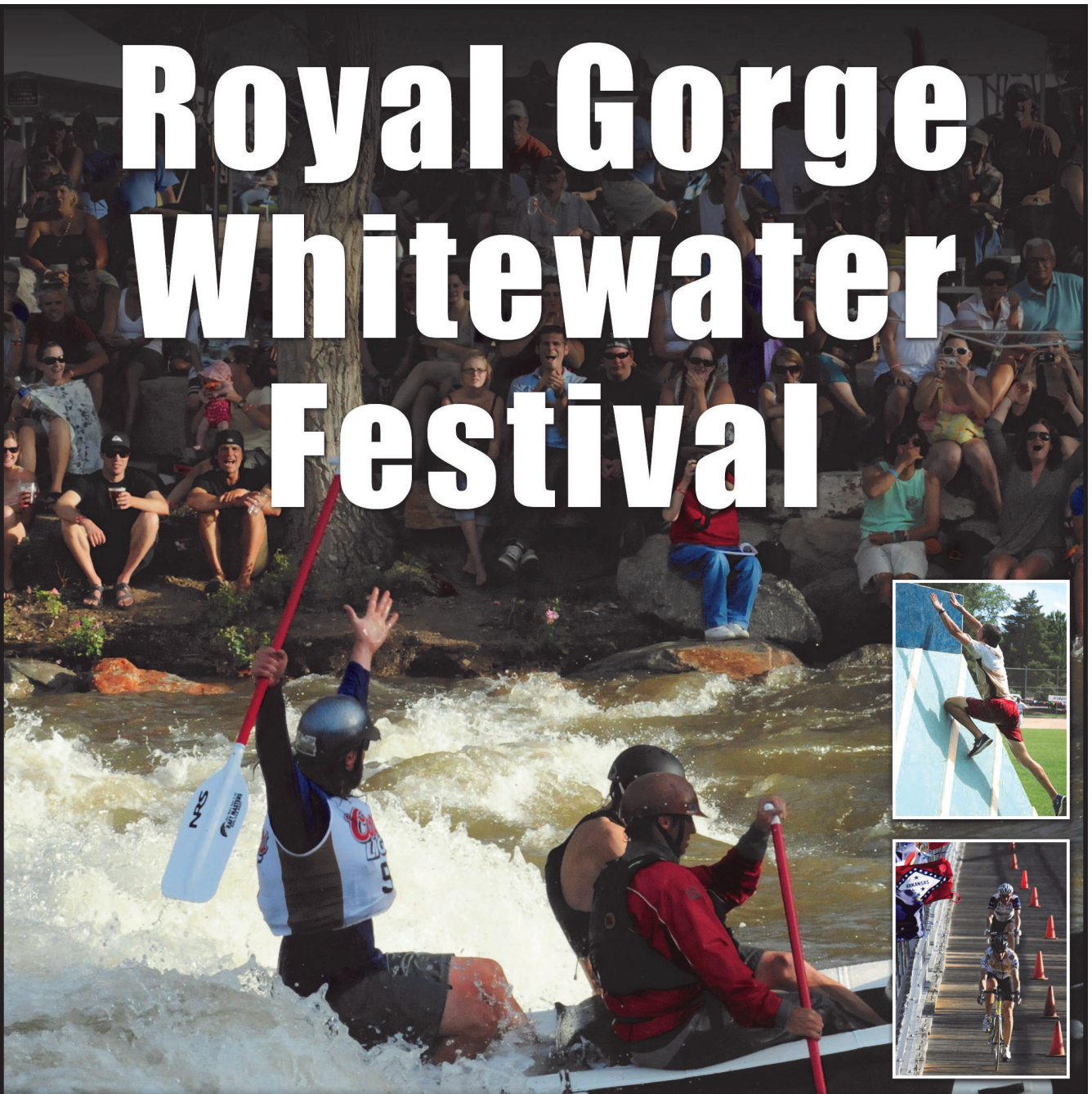
Leash 'Em: Pets must be leashed at all times. As always - scoop the poop!

Rangers: Ten new rangers have been hired specifically to monitor the Clear Creek corridor. Be respectful - make new friends. Rangers love kayakers as we tend to take good care of ourselves, each other and occasionally the stranded tuber.

-Patty Pinkham



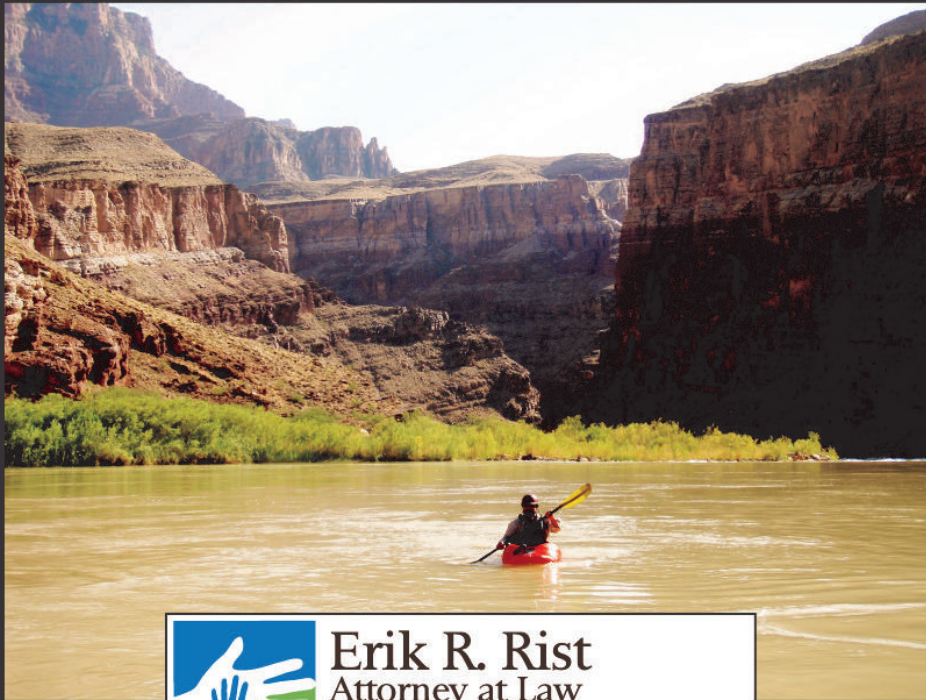
Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival



June 21-22 | Cañon City, CO

RoyalGorgeWhitewaterFestival.com





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Attorney at Law

Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning

CW Events

May 17-19: Training Camp
 May-June: TBA Golden Rodeo Series
 June 7-9: Poudre Weekend
 June 21-23: Durango Weekend
 July 12-14: Arkansas Weekend
 Sept 6-9: Upper-C Weekend
 TBD: Fall Dinner

CW Classes

May 15: Swimmer/boat Recovery
 May 17-19: Training Camp
 June 1-2: Swiftwater Rescue
 July 20-21: Swiftwater Rescue
 Aug 7: Knots
 Aug 14: Mechanical Advantage

Colorado River Festivals

May 18: Rapids & Rhythms River Fest (Pagosa Sprngs)
 May 24-26: PaddleFest (Buena Vista)
 May 22&29: Golden Rodeo Series
 May 31-June 2: Lyons Outdoor Games
 June 6-9: Mountain Games (Vail)
 June 13-16: Fibark (Salida)
 June 21-22: Gunnison River Festival
 June 22-23: Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival (Canon City)
 July 13: Cruise A Thong (Pagosa Springs)
 July 20: Cruise A Thong (Glenwood Springs)
 Aug 9-11: Bailey Fest
 TBD: Rocky Mt. Surf Festival (Glenwood)
 TBD: Gore Race

