



The SPRAY

Newsletter for Colorado Whitewater

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 4 **Jamestown at Ground Zero**
- 5 **Going Over the Edge with Rafa Ortiz**
- 6 **Local Happenings**
It's Winter...Now What?
For the Brave
- 8 **Instructor's Corner**
Ask an Instructor
Storing Your Gear
- 11 **Gunnison Flow Study**
- 12 **Boating Betty**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 7

Fall Dinner is Here! Don't miss world renowned Rafa Ortiz talk about going "Over the Edge." Tickets on sale until Nov 1st or contact Rachel Garza at extravagarza@gmail.com

December

Watch for the *Spray Special Instruction Edition 2014*.

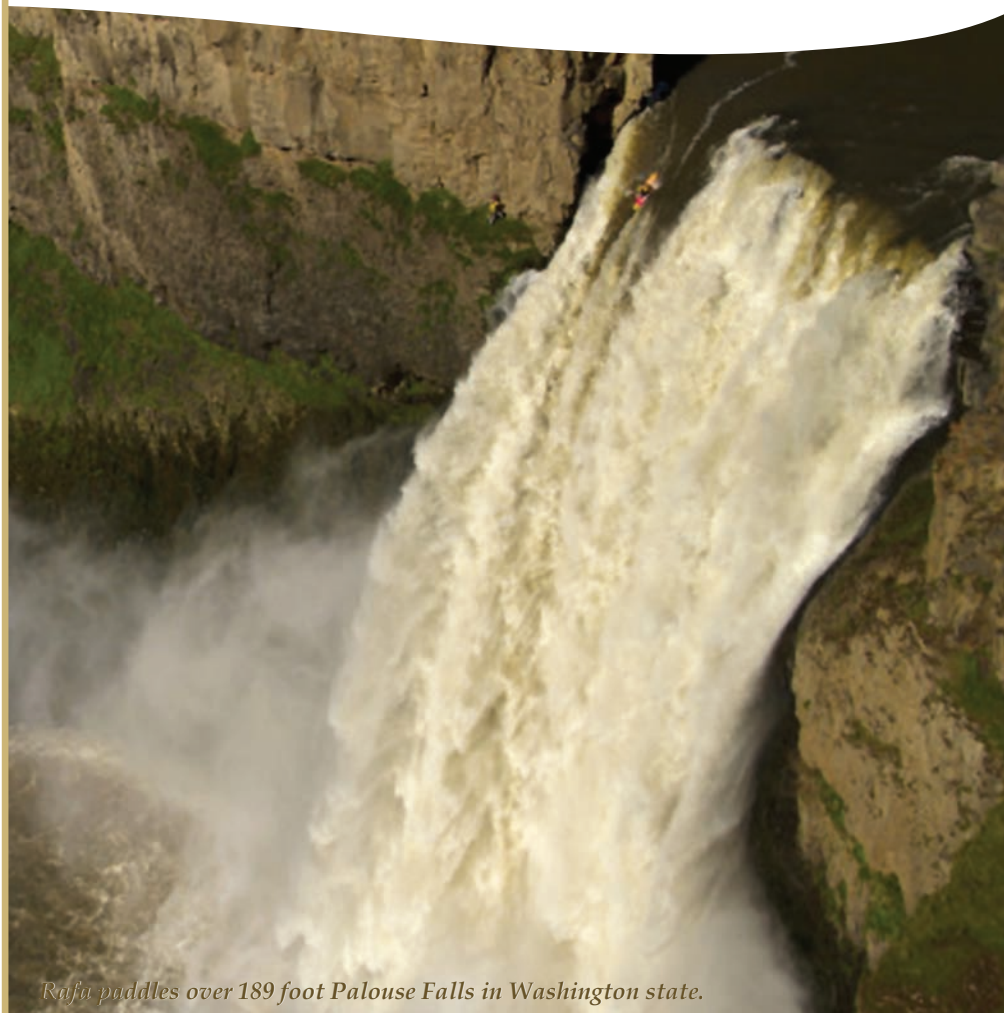
Visit the Events page on the CW website for more information.

Going Over The Edge with Rafa Ortiz

By: Rachel Garza

Kayaking is a lifestyle like no other. It is a sport that will test your endurance, strength, agility, and mind (and also your patience). When one kayaks, there are moments of sheer joy and play, interrupted by a second's notice with total focus. The type of focus where the blur of a rapid becomes a million droplets, and deafening waves become music propelling you into the unknown. It is a place where you often forget to breathe.

(continued page 5)



Rafa paddles over 189 foot Palouse Falls in Washington state.

Mission Statement

Colorado Whitewater promotes the sport of whitewater paddling 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. CW is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization run entirely by volunteers.



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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.

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Want to Contribute?

We welcome and encourage your contributions on topics related to whitewater paddling.

Email submissions to cwspray@outlook.com

Deadline for Jan-Feb Issue

December 16

Golden



River Sports

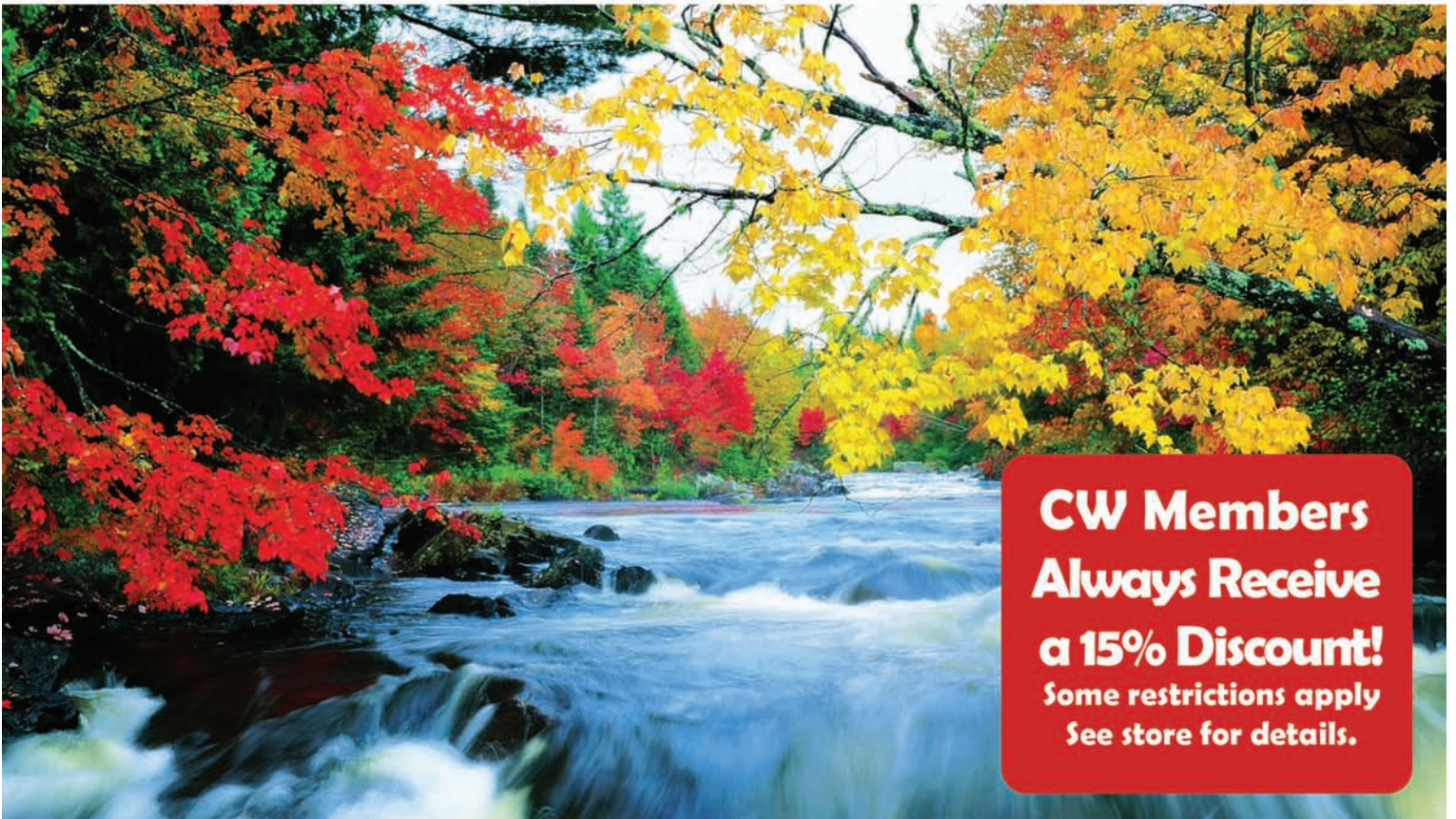
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- **Demo and Clearance Kayaks on Sale Now! Wave Sport Project X's (48/56) Now Only \$599!!!**
- **Take Advantage of Layaway for Christmas! Never Too Early.**
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- **Snowshoe rental packages available for this winter: ONLY \$20!**
- **Build-Your-Own Fly Fishing Rod Classes Thanksgiving through Christmas (makes a great gift). Sign up today!**



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Dry Pants - Dry Tops - Rash Guards - Helmets - PFD's - Paddles - Shirts - Booties - Kayaks

Jamestown at Ground Zero

By: Suzanne Marie and foreword by Debra Cronin

Colorado Whitewater members Suzanne Marie and Erik Flink experienced firsthand the severe floods that overtook the Front Range merely a month ago. Their small town of Jamestown, nestled in the mountains, was particularly affected by the disastrous floods. In the article below, Suzanne and Erik share their experience of devastation and continued recovery.

...

On September 12, 2013, torrential rain overwhelmed the small mountain town of Jamestown. In a matter of only 24 hours, 18 inches of rain drenched the town creating extremely dangerous flash flooding and mudslides. Jamestown bore the brunt as a slurry of water, mud, and debris raged through the town. In an instant, Jamestown became “ground zero” of the disastrous floods.

The disaster temporarily isolated the mountain town from the outside world until residents were finally evacuated by helicopter. They left behind their homes and their livelihoods; not knowing when they would return. In its path, the flood devastated several homes, displaced numerous residents, and claimed one life.

It has been over a month since the flood now. County, State, and FEMA inspectors have been assessing heavy damages to the infrastructure of the town, including roads and water supply. Most residents have been forced to live elsewhere and will likely have to do so thru the winter.

“It looks like ‘Katrina’ in the mountains,” according to one FEMA inspector.

The floods left behind millions of dollars of destruction, but the people of the town are digging in and starting the recovery process. Numerous volunteers, including CW’s own Mark Robbins, Jodi Lee, and Ryan Lee came up for two weekends in October to dig out people’s homes, cars, and personal items. Even whitewater kayaks!

We are part of an unusually close knit community of 300 (including dogs), who are still in constant turmoil and recovery. If you would like to make a difference for Jamestown, come on up with your shovel, or make a tax exempt donation specifically to Rebuildjamestown.org. Donations will help us meet our 10% matching fund to the State and FEMA’s 90% funding to rebuild our infrastructure. Your donating \$\$’s make an exponential difference to our hometown re-growing itself!

Visit Rebuildjamestown.org to donate or learn more.



Suzanne Marie finds her Jackson 2Fun buried amongst mud and debris.

Boulder Creek After the Floods

By: Laurie Maciag

The Colorado floods left a swath of destruction and in its wake, devastated some of our most beloved places to boat, including the Boulder Playpark.

In response, several CW members and others from the kayaking community are coming together to assist. From planning meetings to clean-up efforts, volunteers have been rolling up their sleeves, revving up chainsaws, and providing muscle to help clear some large, hazardous trees and debris from Boulder Creek. Gary Lacey, an in-stream design engineer, has also graciously volunteered his time to help document a plan for the rehabilitation of Boulder Creek.

But more help is needed before spring run-off. If you would like to be included on future correspondence on how to help, contact David Holzman at dholtz6@comcast.net.

Volunteer hours count towards the community contribution for FEMA funding. CW is also asking our members to contact Boulder City Council to encourage allocation of recreational related flood relief money to river projects at council@bouldercolorado.gov.

(continued from cover)

Kayaking is primal. It transports us to a time we left behind a thousand years ago, when civility began to numb our senses. It is the place where man meets Earth, and travels through Her veins on a journey of self-discovery, sport and passion.

Every kayaker has a story. This November, Rafael "Rafa" Ortiz is coming from Mexico to share his journey with us during Fall Dinner. If you don't know Rafa, his arrival is nothing short of epic.

Rafa began kayaking during his mid teens in Mexico where, at the time, the sport barely existed. He now is a local hero in South America, and is becoming known around the world for his big drops and spectacularly brave whitewater paddling. He is arguably one of the best big drop kayakers in the world. He also has participated in numerous first descent expeditions. Known for running some of the biggest and "gnarliest" whitewater, his demeanor remains humble, happy, and unmistakably free.

"I take a long deep breath and let it out slowly. I splash the water on my face with my right hand to sooth my nerves. I look out at the horizon line once more and then focus on my line of descent. My first strokes bring me into the current, leaving behind the last chance to bail out. I paddle slowly to the edge of the abyss, so focused that I don't even fear the frenzied water. Everything happens in slow motion.

I reach the edge, and at the last instant, I can see it all. This is the most wonderful sight in the world, the one you get at the lip of the big drops. And then I fall." -Rafael Ortiz

Sponsored by Jackson Kayak, Red Bull, Oakley, Teva, NRS Gear, and many others, Rafa has reached a level of athleticism and boat control that few can fathom. He has been featured on the cover of National Geographic

Traveler (2010), in ESPN Magazine (2011), Men's Journal (2007, 2011), the cover of México Desconocido or "The Unknown Mexico" (2004, 2006) and Expedition Magazine. He has also been featured on

television stations NBC and MSNBC for his 129 foot drop of Big Banana Falls, the second tallest falls ever paddled.

Not captured in all of this notoriety, however, is just the sheer pleasure that one feels while in Rafa's presence. Naming his own kayak move "the Burrito Flip" and taking time to teach the youth of South America and Mexico about kayaking, Rafa is truly an ambassador of the sport. His spirit is exuberant, and he is just downright funny. My greatest wish is to have everyone share this experience at Fall Dinner, and ride the "veins of the Earth" for one incredible evening with Rafael "Rafa" Ortiz.

"...I reach the edge, and at the last instant, I can see it all. This is the most wonderful sight in the world, the one you get at the lip of the big drops. And then I fall."

**Over
The
Edge**

November 7, 2013

**A Passion for Big Drops, Overcoming Fear,
and the Discovery of Mexico's Whitewater**

**A CW Fall Dinner Evening with
Internationally Renowned Kayaker
Rafael "Rafa" Ortiz**

Space is Limited! Reserve by Nov 1st at COLORADOWHITewater.ORG

It's Winter...Now What?

By: Debra Cronin

The weather has turned cold. Snow sprinkles the ground. But you're not ready to hang up your paddle for an entire winter. What do you do? You travel to warmer climates!

Tropical destinations such as Ecuador and Costa Rica provide breathtaking scenery, warm water, and world class paddling during Colorado's frigid off season. And both countries provide a tropical whitewater experience, yet in their own unique ways.

Ecuador has one of the highest concentrations of rivers per square mile in the world, with year-round flows and excellent accessibility; making it a sought after kayak destination. The towering Andes Mountains and Amazon Rainforest set the backdrop for Ecuador. The many rivers of Ecuador originate high in the Andes and cascade through the mountains parting to either meet the Pacific Ocean or flow into the Amazon Basin.

Ecuador is as much a whitewater experience as it is a visual and cultural experience too. Ecuador's rivers range from rolling Class II, continuous Class III-IV, all the way to incredible Class V creeking. Rivers such as the Upper Río Napo (known for Class III big waves and calm pools), are an amazing way to experience the Amazon Rainforest, while the The Río Toachi provides quite the river experience West of the Andes. And when you're not on a river, you're immersed in the sights, sounds, and life of Ecuadorian culture.

Costa Rica is another infamous paddling destination that also boasts amazing whitewater, but with a different flare than Ecuador. In addition to accessible, world renowned whitewater, Costa Rica has rain forests abundant with

monkeys, colorful birds, biodiversity as well as miles of white sand beaches, and a variety of kayaking opportunities.

The waters in Costa Rica offer a variety of kayaking from whitewater, to flat water, to even sea kayaking. For the whitewater paddler, Costa Rica is rich with rivers ranging from Class I to V. One of Costa Rica's prized rivers is the Pacuare River, which has been recognized by National Geographic as one of the world's top 10 river trips. In addition, Costa Rica is home to several lakes and over 800 miles of ocean coastline. There's a water adventure for all levels and interests.

Once you choose a destination, it's time to plan your travel. The most painless way to accomplish your kayak adventure is through an experienced outfitter. The advantage of going through an outfitter is that they are specifically experienced in the logistics of planning an international kayak trip and are experienced guides to safely navigate your river outings. There are many outfitters out there to choose from. Locally, we have Small World Adventures and Renaissance Adventure Guides. Both offer travel packages to accommodate the kayak adventure enthusiast.

So if you're wondering where to paddle in the winter and want to keep your kayak skills fresh, head to warmer climates. Ecuador or Costa Rica are the perfect combination of warm destination vacation and kayak adventure all in one. And planning through an outfitter makes it easy to get there. Shake those winter blues and paddle on!



Costa Rica

Come and enjoy warm paddling adventure in Ecuador, a tropical paddling paradise. Class II - V trips are available.

Quality Lodging | Great Food | Expert Guiding
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 A D V E N T U R E S



For the Brave

By: Debra Cronin

Last year, over 40 paddlers showed up to the Shoshone put-in on January 1st to kayak the mile and a half run. Temperatures crept to barely 17° Fahrenheit. Snow crunched beneath booties. Cold spray skirts barely stretched around decks. Icicles formed on helmets with each splash. But for the brave, it was an invigorating and promising way to ring in the New Year!

The New Year's Day paddle on Shoshone has become a bit of a tradition. Paddlers from all around gather each January 1st to paddle the icy waters of the Shoshone on the Colorado River. The snowcapped rocks and ice shelves give the Class III run a different character and a change of scenery. Temperatures have ranged in the past years from below freezing into the 40's.

After ringing in the New Year with a frigid float, revelers gather at the Grizzly Creek takeout to share stories, clasp hot chocolate (and other libations), and share their excitement for the paddling season ahead. This coming New Year's Day is sure to continue the tradition. Show up if you dare to be brave. And don't forget your drysuit!

Ask an Instructor

Now that the paddle season is over, is there anything special I should do with my gear for the winter?

If you don't plan on doing any cold season paddling, you're probably going to store your gear for the winter. With a little extra care before stashing everything away, you can easily prolong the life of much of your equipment. And save yourself money in the long run! Give everything a good cleaning and make sure you store equipment properly. Follow some of the tips from *Storing Your Gear for the Winter* and you should be set until spring returns once again.

CW INSTRUCTION 2014

The *Spray Special Instruction Edition* Is Coming Soon!

You talked. We listened. And in response, our CW instructors have been working diligently on fine-tuning the 2014 instruction schedule to meet your learning needs. New and exciting classes are being added with a line-up that will have you boating ready for the 2014 season. Classes start late January so watch your inboxes for the *Spray Special Instruction Edition 2014!*

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Storing Your Gear for the Winter

By: Debra Cronin

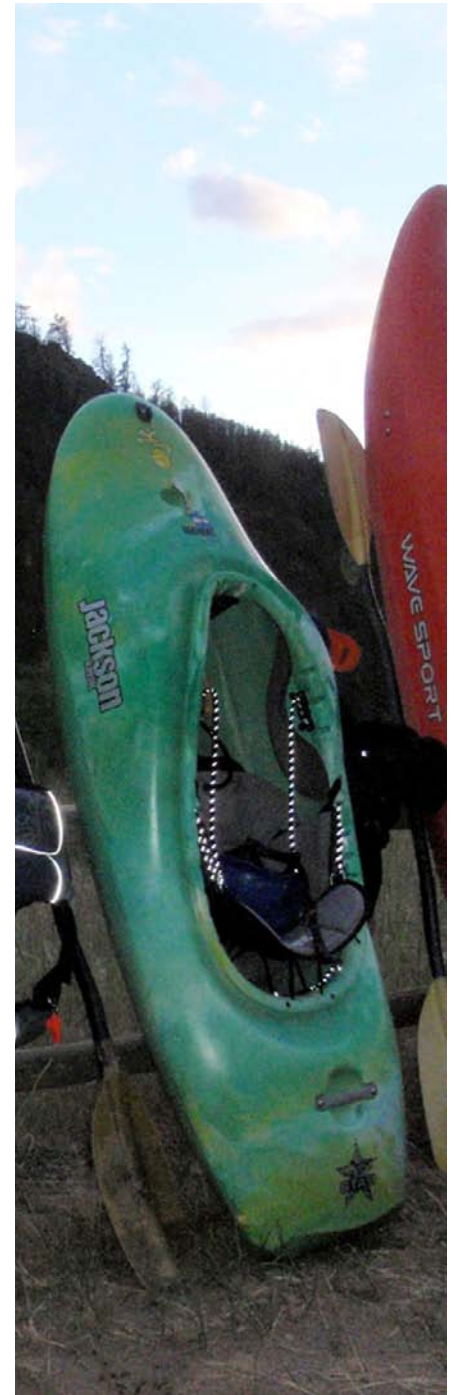
It's that time of year again. The days are gradually getting cooler. Leaves are falling from the trees. And many of our favorite rivers are reducing to trickles. The river season is coming to a close for most of us and our attention turns now to winter sports, which means it's time to store your gear for the coming winter.

A little cleaning and proper storage will go a long way in prolonging the life of your kayak gear. The following articles will walk you through some basic care and storage to prepare for the long winter ahead.

K A Y A K C A R E

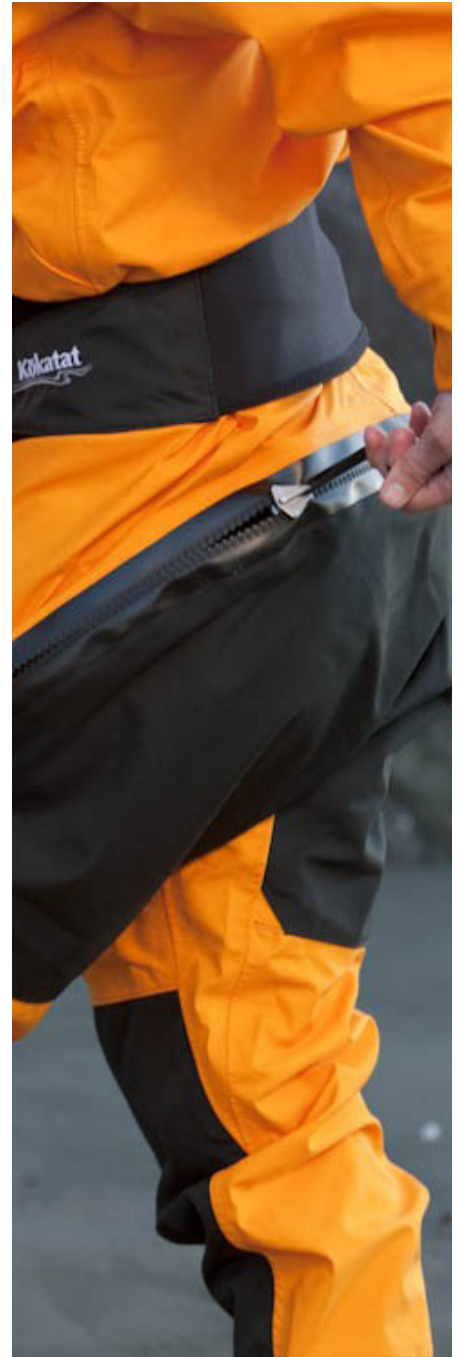
Plastic kayakers are made of some of the most durable material and can withstand some of the harshest beatdowns on the river. Yet when it comes to storage, plastic can also be very susceptible to warping and deformation, especially under a kayak's own weight. Here are some tips for kayak care and storage.

- Before storing your kayak, wash it well in clean water and mild soap. Let the boat dry completely and make sure there isn't any water on the inside. A little bit of water left in the boat can freeze during the winter months and damage the plastic.
- Kayakers are just as susceptible to the damaging effects of sunlight as your other gear. As an additional step, you can treat the plastic of your kayak with a UV protectant spray. Treat the plastic according to product directions before you put it in storage and again when you take it out of storage for next season.
- It is best to store your boat either on its side suspended or standing upright. If you have the room and choose to suspend your kayak, there are a variety of storage options from hooks and cradles to saw horses and suspenders. A trip to your local kayak shop or a web search should help you find what's right for your storage space. If you don't have the room to spare, you can also store your kayak on end. If so, stand your kayak on its stern. This is the point of the least amount of stress on your boat.
- A deck cover is also a good idea for storage to keep out dust and creepy crawlies. If you must store your boat outside, at least cover it with a tarp to keep out dirt and water.



Next to your kayak, your dry gear can be the most expensive equipment when investing in this sport. Dry gear is often a combination of latex gaskets, zippers, sealed seams, and treated material and requires its own special care.

- Wash your dry gear in cold water with mild soap specially formulated for water treated apparel. Don't use any harsh chemicals, detergents, or bleach. If using a washing machine, use a delicate setting with a high volume of water and a gentle spin cycle. If your washing machine does not have these features (as with some HE washers), handwash in a bathtub or large basin. Give your garment an extra rinse cycle with only water to remove any soap residue.
- Consistent use, time, and washing can wear down the Durable Water Repellency (DWR) of your dry gear. Restore DWR with spray-on products and follow manufacturer's directions. Manufacturers recommend Granger's XT Proofer Spray or Nikwax® TX-Direct Spray-On™.
- Gaskets require their own special care. You should be washing them frequently through the season to remove dirt, oils, and sunscreens and treating with a protectant like 303. If you weren't vigilant during the season, now is a great time to wash and treat your gaskets before storing.
- A busted zipper is as good as a new drysuit. Take some extra time to clean zippers with a soft brush and mild soap when you wash your suit. Then lubricate with some paraffin, beeswax, or zipper lube. A dab of Vaseline at the ends will also help with sealing, but keep petroleum based products away from gaskets.
- Allow your dry gear to completely dry before storing. Most manufacturers recommend hanging your dry gear by hanger in a cool dry place. Sunlight, heat, extreme cold, and exhaust fumes (such as in a garage) are all damaging to dry gear. If hanging is not an option, you can gently fold your dry gear and store it flat in a protective bag.



Don't forget your other pieces of kayak gear either, like PFDs, spray skirts, helmets, gloves, and of course your booties! You may be drinking out of those next season!...Get the boater funk out and give the rest of your gear a once over cleaning before storing. Most items can be washed in mild soap and water and rinsed well or refer to manufacturers care instructions. Be sure to dry everything completely before storing for the long haul and wait patiently for spring run-off to arrive again!



In Other News

Gunnison Flow Study: Success, Next Steps Underway

By: Chris Menges

posted October 14, 2013

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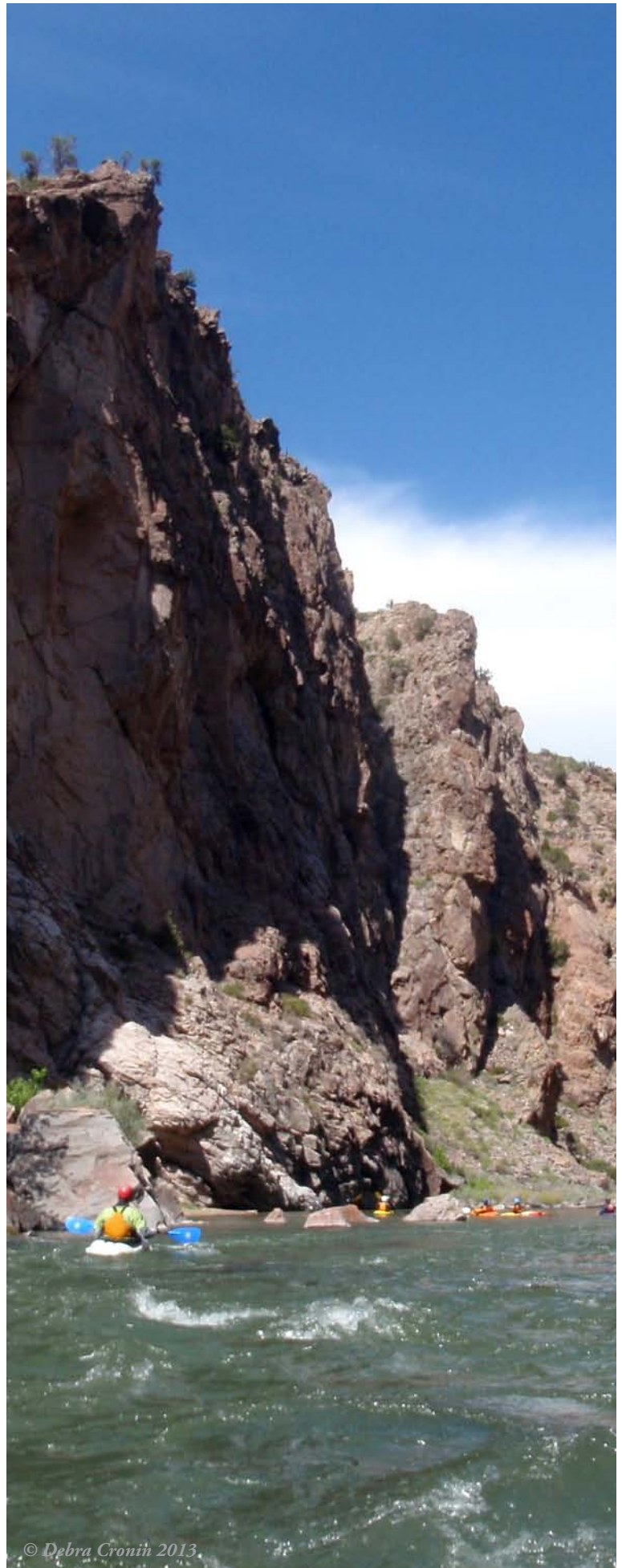
American Whitewater is pleased to release this report on the results of our summer 2013 Gunnison River Flow Survey.

Over 331 paddlers responded to the Survey, allowing us to define the full range of whitewater flow needs on 17 of the Gunnison River Basin's most commonly paddled sections of river like Oh-Be-Joyful creek, the Gunnison Gorge and the Taylor River. Respondent data was organized to identify minimum, acceptable and optimal flows for whitewater boating, as well as flows that provide niche whitewater experiences from technical low water to challenging high water trips.

AW is currently working with water managers to leverage this data into long-term flow protections at the regional, state and federal levels. Recently, AW staff presented the results and recommendations from our flow study to the Gunnison Basin Roundtable. We asked the Roundtable to integrate the flow study results into their Nonconsumptive Needs Assessment, develop a quantitative metric to analyze opportunities to protect recreational flows in the forthcoming Basin Implementation and Colorado Water plans, and set a goal of balancing the protection of recreational flows with other priorities like agriculture and municipal supply. The presentation was well received and we are happy to report that this group of dedicated water managers has expressed a willingness to collaborate with us in advancing these recommendations.

You can view a full copy of the report here: [Stream-flow Evaluations for Whitewater Boating – Gunnison River Basin](#). It contains results and recommendations as well as methodology and additional information on respondent statistics.

We would like to express our gratitude to all of the dedicated paddlers that took time to provide feedback on the Survey! We are pleased to report high levels of confidence that this data will enable the management community to better evaluate opportunities to protect recreational flows in the Gunnison Basin now and into the future.



Boating Betty

Dear Boating Betty,

My girlfriend is a kayaker and has been invited on a Westwater trip. She says she's trying to get me invited too but doesn't know if there will be room. Is she giving me the straight scoop or is she trying to go on this trip without me?

- Concerned BF

Dear Concerned,

I have no way of knowing whether or not your GF is giving you the true story. However, your dilemma does offer a "teachable moment" for CW members by listing *Boating Betty's Hierarchy of People on Overnight Raft Trips*.

1. On the top is the permit holder. If he/she also rows a raft, they are the unquestioned authority on the trip & can invite whoever the hell they want.
2. Next are the rafters. You pretty much need a bunch of rafters to pull off a multi-day river trip. They provide the kitchen equipment, groover, firepan, etc., and the ability to carry it down the river along with all the passengers' and kayakers' gear. The rule of thumb is that one raft can support 3 or 4 people (including the rafter). There's also an unwritten rule that rafters are able to invite one person of their choice on the trip if they choose.
3. Tied in third are either raft passengers or kayakers who can provide some sort of special function or service on the trip. For instance, being a kick-ass kayaker is beneficial to help boat scout, chase down swimmers, gear, boats, etc. Or if you have medical training.
4. Next are chicks. Especially cute ones who are fun. These trips tend to be a little "dude heavy" so more women are usually welcome on these trips, especially ones who will help out with all the work that needs to be done.
5. Next are kayakers and passengers who you've been on the river with before and who you know will pull their weight. You know what to expect from them.
6. Last is anyone else.

As you can see, your ranking on the hierarchy is at best #5, so it's entirely possible your GF is being completely honest. However, Westwater trips are renowned for intoxication, debauchery, and general hijinks so it's also possible your GF wants you nowhere nearby.

If you do get invited, *Boating Betty* advises you to be fun, make sure you're doing your share of the work, and to bring extra (good) beer for the rafters.

-Boating Betty



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