


The Confluence

The Journal of Colorado Plateau River Guides
Volume 3, Issue 3, Summer 1996

	<p>Bert Loper</p> <p>Charles Silver Russell</p> <p>Samuel Adams</p> <p>Abbey's Boots</p>	<p>Stillwater Canyon</p> <p>Animas La Plata</p> <p>Glen Canyon Dam is Broken</p> <p>The Prez Sezs</p> <p>Drug Testing</p>
---	--	---



Tom Wimmer, Bert Loper and John Richardson at Loper's hermitage in Red Canyon. Glen Canyon below Hite, 1915. Photo by Eugene C. LaRue, LaRue Collection #1262. Courtesy of the United States Geological Survey Photo Library, Denver Federal Center.

The Confluence

...wants to be the quarterly journal of Colorado Plateau River Guides, Inc. Colorado Plateau River Guides is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to:

* Protecting the rivers of the Colorado Plateau.

*Setting the Highest standards for the river profession.

* Providing the best possible river experience.

* Celebrating the unique spirit of the river community.

Guide Membership is open to anyone who works or has worked in the river industry of the Colorado Plateau.

General Membership is open to those who love the rivers of the Colorado Plateau.

Membership dues:

\$ 20 per year.
\$100 for 6 years.
\$195 for life.
\$295 Benefactor.

General Meetings and Board of Directors Meetings will be announced.

Officers

President	Susette DeCoster-Weisheit
Vice President	Michele Reaume
Secretary/Treasurer	John Weisheit

Directors

Bluff	Tim Thomas
Green River	Sean Brown
Moab	Steve Young
Vernal	Tom Hicks

Colorado Plateau River Guides
P.O. Box 344
Moab, UT 84532-0344
(801) 259-8077

Faxes accepted: Please call first.

We need articles, artwork, poetry, photos, stories, and opinions. This journal is composed with Microsoft Word on an IBM PC. If you use a word processor, we can translate most programs. Otherwise, please send your text double-spaced. Please include useful photos, charts, diagrams and artwork. There really is no deadline, but the beginning of each quarter works best.

E-mail: cprg@sisna.com

Editor: John Weisheit

ISSN # 1078-425X

A Disclaimer

The opinions and statements made within the pages of The Confluence are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the position of the guide membership, the board of Colorado Plateau River Guides, nor Canyon Country Volunteers. If you have an opposing or supporting viewpoint please send your comments to CPRG.

From the Eddy

For 1996 only three issues of *THE CONFLUENCE* will be printed. Look for the first issue of 1997 in March. Some CPRG members and I are involved in a 110+ day river trip from Flaming Gorge to Pearce's Ferry (minus Lake Powell). The theme of the March issue will somehow celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Flavell and Galloway expeditions of 1896. Roy Webb has been approached to write an article about George Flavell and he very kindly accepted the invitation. I will attempt to do an article about Nathaniel Galloway, as I think I have enough stuff from the Marston Collection to assemble something very interesting and revealing. Roy has had a very successful lecture tour about George Flavell, and this lecture tour is still happening in Utah; so watch your newspapers for announcements. Speaking of newspapers, watch for installments of our river trip in the Times-Independent of Moab.

CPRG OFFICE TEMPORARARILY CLOSED TILL FEBRUARY FIRST

Please send any correspondance, editorials, articles, and etc., to the CPRG Post Office Box and wait patiently for our return to process that information. THANKS!

Special Thanks To:

Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program for a Lifetime Membership
Winthrop C. Allen for a Six-year Membership

A Reasonable Request

At the request of readers, we will now include the last names of the people who appear in the photos of The Confluence. There was a reason for this oversight: a general feeling of preferred anonymity. Anyway, in Volume 3, Issue 2, page 4, we have: Joseph Lekarczyk and John Weisheit. In Volume 3, Issue 1, Page 31, we have: Tim Thomas, John Weisheit, Susette DeCoster, Joe Englbrecht, Nancy Allemand, Jose Tejada, Rose Kaszuba, Steve T-Berry Young. With Kent Frost we have Susette DeCoster-Weisheit, John Weisheit, Don and Denise Oblak, Carol Van Steeter, and Scott Mitchell (the Moabites are wearing shades).

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Susette DeCoster-Weisheit for serving as the first president of CPRG. She accomplished making CPRG a recognizable entity on the Colorado Plateau. CPRG will grow in strength and maturity because of her efforts.

Letters to the Prez

Dear Susette:

In the Spring issue of *The Confluence*, you asked members to write Dave Wood at Canyonlands National Park concerning the new River Management Plan. I have [written to Dave and] would like to elaborate on a couple of points.

Since 1988, when I began guiding through Stillwater and Cataract canyons, I have watched the canoe traffic through Stillwater increase dramatically. As I state in my letter to Dave, vast numbers of ignorant canoeists are destroying Stillwater Canyon. While canoeists often receive a pre-launch talk from their shuttle drivers at Mineral Bottom, the canoeists impacts clearly attest to the fact that these brief talks do not suffice. The number of canoeists must be limited, and the NPS desperately needs to educate them on proper river etiquette.

As for motors on the Green, I have been disgusted by the hypocrisy of the anti-motor gang. The strongest advocates of a motorless Green own and/or drive jet boats on the Colorado. How can the people howling up and down the river in such offensive, obnoxious boats return to Moab each evening and demand that "people must have a place in the world without motors"?! Such self-serving hypocrisy makes me nauseous.

Many of these people call a motorless Green a "compromise"; a "compromise" which will significantly increase their business. I believe that most of the CPRG [membership] would agree that jet boats adversely affect the "wilderness experience" in Canyonlands much more than the small outboard motors used by rafts. As I stated in my letter, I suggest that motors on the Green be limited to 40 horsepower or less, a true compromise which allows for only small, relatively quiet motors. But, after further thought, why should any of Canyonlands be plagued by the roaring jet boats? Perhaps motors on the Colorado should also be limited to 40 horsepower or less. Such a policy, would make both the Green and the Colorado more peaceful.

I know that many of the folks intimately involved with CPRG and *The Confluence*, might disagree with my opinions. But, I also know many members of CPRG who fear that the opinions expressed in *The Confluence* might be perceived as their own—a sort of guilt by association. If you wish CPRG to present a united front to the Powers-That-Be, perhaps you should take more time to gauge your members' opinions before representing them.

Thanks for your attention, Susette, and have a great Winter.

Pete Walka



Comment from John Weisheit: The CPRG Board has never made an official stand to endorse a motorless Stillwater Canyon. If members of CPRG feel that we have made such a stand, I apologize for not making this more clear in the pages of *The Confluence*. I am however trying to initiate an open forum on this and other issues for the membership to consider in view of the River Management Plan (RMP) before Canyonlands National Park. **Thank you very much Pete for helping to get this process started!**

As an employed jet boat driver, who picks-up canoeists in the vicinity of The Confluence, I am aware of a few abuses by canoers. From time-to-time I do shuttle back unused portable toilets and feel that food scraps and charcoal are ending up in the river rather than in proper landfills; but these abuse's also occur on a few professionally guided river trips as well. This particular problem may be our own; for not giving better orientation talks at put-ins; for not setting a better example.

As to my personal opinion on a motorless Stillwater, I have had some difficulty with this issue myself for many years. Dave Wood, the RMP administrator, has two letters from me: the first says—make it motorized; the other, sent a year later, says—make it motorless. Dave approached me about this recently and asked me to clarify my position. For the record, I am for a motorized Stillwater Canyon because these canoers depend on boats of 920 cubic inches that digest over 100 gallons of fuel to bring them home. It does not seem consistent to give such visitors a righteous voice in the motorless arena.

However, if there was a righteous voice in the wilderness it is probably Holiday River Expeditions, because they do not use motors on any of their trips, except for the run off Lake Powell; this outfitter deserves to be heard and listened too with great respect. However, I do wonder at times if the no motor issue is really that important to the Holiday crews who launch river trips often on the noisy Colorado River side of Canyonlands. Maybe the real problem is: its crowded on the Green River side and the noisy Colorado still makes for the better wilderness experience. If this be true, then the no motor issue is really not the big problem in Canyonlands; it's the overcrowding on the Green. Maybe no motors on the Green would only serve to increase the congestion of both the Green and Colorado rivers. Maybe the best solution is just to leave it the way it is!

As the editor of this journal I am committed to consolidate the membership opinion; to make it work for those of us who really care and who will be here for the next ten years when the next river management plan comes around. I have an opinion and you have an opinion, but if we don't get our opinions on the table and discuss them reasonably, we are going to end up with a RMP that none of us will really be happy with. I don't want to suffer through such an ordeal with a community of boaters that I admire, respect and enjoy working alongside.

Anyway, I do believe that there should be a place for motorless boating and feel that place is Desolation and Gray canyons. I feel this way because three to five day motorized assisted trips in these canyons is an insult to the experience for both the customer and the guide. I will clarify that I desire marketing concepts to change in the commercial sector. Longer trips may not sell, but I think we need a place where we can enjoy a high quality river trip without encountering "marketing strategies" along the way. Such a discussion will soon take place in the river management plan for the BLM jurisdiction in Eastern Utah. By then, as a boating community, we will be well practiced to state educated opinions, and be ready to make effective decisions.

I would enjoy hearing the opinions of all CPRG members and company owners. I encourage you to write with the idea of being published in *The Confluence* and for your opinions to be shared with:

Mr. Dave Wood; River Management Plan; 2282 SW Resource Blvd., Moab, UT 84532.

desperate to put a few positive items, though absurdly exaggerated, into his journal:

August 11- "*Built a cedar raft five by sixteen feet, and upon this we took passage, ran down the river 30 miles passing through...wheat we found over 6 feet in height.*"

Adams next point of reference he called "Rapid Canyon". Here, he reported, "*We pushed her out and in a moment she shot like an arrow down the rapid descent. We both grabbed the cross-piece on the raft to which our provisions were lashed; she sank four feet under the surface, but rose again in the distance of eight yards, when in turning an abrupt angle in the river, she struck and parted. here we lost a huge portion of our [remaining] provisions.*"

Did Captain Adams quit? Not a chance. They built another raft and descended another 40 miles. The destruction of this last raft left the party with only five days' worth of flour and bacon. Captain Adams finally called it quits.

He had probably reached a point some distance above the Eagle River confluence, 150 miles down the Blue and Colorado rivers. This section has a drop of about 3,000 feet, far less than the 6,000 feet he claimed in his journal. Although no one drowned, four boats and four rafts had been sacrificed and eight of his ten men had fled. Somehow Adams rationalized that only a "narrow territory" divided him from the lower Colorado upon which he and Trueworthy had driven their little steamer three years before. Again poor Adams was wrong. The most difficult portion of the route actually lay ahead in the thundering cataracts of Glenwood Canyon, the black gorge of Westwater, the graveyard of the Colorado—Cataract Canyon, and the immense depths of the Grand Canyon.

Although no one drowned, four boats and four rafts had been sacrificed and eight of his ten men had fled

At the time Adams turned away from the river, Powell and his men were passing the junction of the Little Colorado River, headed for the heart of the Grand Canyon. Powell became the hero of the Colorado, Adams the goat. Yet Adams persevered heroically. Most men would have quit after the first disaster, far up the Blue River at Boulder Creek Rapids. If Adams had been honest in the account of his trip, entitled "*Expedition of the Colorado River and Its Tributaries, a Wonderful Country Opened Up*"; if he had avoided condemning his adversaries; he might have found more of a place in history. In point of fact, he was the first to descend the upper Colorado, a river which still attracts hordes of river runners each Summer.



From the Prez

As this issue goes to press we will be conducting our Fall Meeting for CPRG; we hope to discuss many interesting and controversial topics. It is also time to hold elections for two new directors and a president.

Yes, it is time for me to say good-bye to the presidency. I must admit, at that very first CPRG meeting when I said, "O.K. fine I'll do it", I had no idea that I would be doing it three years later. Of course I have enjoyed the position and look forward to helping the next president settle in. Before I leave the position I want to once again plead to the membership for **active support**.

During my stint as president I have watched CPRG grow from a concept into an organization of guides who are quite diverse in their opinions, on the issues that concern river ecology and the guiding profession. I have asked myself and the Board of Trustees, "How can we effectively make needed changes and keep harmful changes from occurring?" I am not sure that there is ever a right or wrong answer, however, one thing is certain: the CPRG Board needs **membership participation** to establish a direction.

Unless you are willing to formulate a thoughtful position and communicate your ideals, then the CPRG Board will have to assume that the membership doesn't care; the CPRG Board will then be mandated by their majority vote. From CPRG's first day I struggled with the burden of representing the various factions of this diverse industry. I found out very quickly that this cannot be done. I rely on the persons who are willing to invest time into this organization by communicating with me. If the CPRG Board takes a stand on an issue, and it happens to be contrary to yours, then you have every right to make an objection or to request enlightenment. If you are opposed to the direction of CPRG, then you should consider running for office, or at least attend a Fall or Spring Meeting. To be effective in this industry of diversity I feel we also need diversity in our Board.

If it sounds to you like I'm on a letter drive, your right. I want the new president to be swamped with letters of opinion, ideas, encouragement, and offers of help. I want to see his/her job made easier by a membership that cares enough about an issue(s) to take a few minutes to jot down their feelings on a postcard or in a letter. If you find yourself complaining about an issue, and you have not written a letter, then you are doing nothing to effect change. So, jump up grab a piece of paper and write.

I am sure you will hear from me in *The Confluence* again and next time I hope my comments will be printed next to a letter with your name on it. So long for now and thank you for allowing me these past three years of service on the CPRG Board as the CPRG president.

Wilderness Medicine Seminars October 1996 to March 1997

Wilderness Medicine Institute
P.O. Box 9
413 Main Street
Pitkin, Colorado 81241-0009

Voice: (970) 641-3572

Fax: (970) 641-0882

E-mail: wildmed@fcinet.com/wmi

Web site: <http://www.fcinet.com/wmi>

Please contact Wilderness Medicine Institute for class locations, availability and detailed prices. Write today for their catalog!

DESCRIPTION OF AVAILABLE COURSES

WILDERNESS EMERGENCY MEDICAL

TECHNICIAN: This course is designed for outdoor leaders, search and rescue teams, backcountry rangers, rural ambulance attendants, and other individuals who provide emergency care in remote settings. Exceeds DOT requirements. 180 hours. \$1,495 to \$1,635.

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER: Designed to provide leaders, guides, rangers and travelers with the knowledge needed to deal with emergencies in remote settings. Emphasis is placed on prevention and decision-making. Exceeds DOT requirements. 80 hours. \$400 to \$590.

WILDERNESS FIRST AID (WFR REFRESHER): Introduction to long-term patient care for trip leaders, counselors, guides and rescue teams. Recertification for current card holders from the following organizations: SOLO, NOLS, WMA or WPT. 2 to 3 day courses \$89 to \$125.

EMT-B REFRESHER/TRANSITION COURSE: State of Colorado approved refresher and upgrade. Also qualifies as a NREMT refresher. Practical test given on 11/12/96. \$185.

WILDERNESS/RURAL EMT/FR MODULE: Upgrades EMT's and/or First Responders to the current standards in wilderness/rural prehospital medicine. \$295.

WILDERNESS MEDICINE INSTITUTE SPECIAL: Enroll for the EMT-B Refresher/Transition course and the Wilderness/Rural EMT/FR module together and save \$100.



Abbey was driving it rather than the familiar old gray panel truck he was known to use. Abbey was reading the Moab Times-Independent, eating a jelly doughnut, as Kemosabe tapped on the passenger window, and spoke his first words to Abbey, "We need to talk about last night." Abbey shuffled the paper, while juggling the doughnut and opened the door. Kemosabe sat down in the passenger seat and introduced himself, calmly advising Abbey he was not there to do anything but to let him know that he should get rid of the evidence, which the San Juan County Sheriff's Department and the Utah Highway patrol had on him.

Abbey's eyes widened. Surprise and subdued, he said, "It's kinda' humbling...I just got so...". His words trailed off into silence. The air seemed thick in the Volkswagen bug—tight quarters. Abbey offered Kemosabe one of his doughnuts. Then Kemosabe said, "You need to switch out the tires, and get rid of your boots that you wore on the raid. Bury them—now! Monkeyman is waiting at his house for you. He's got a place picked out and ready to bury everything."

Abbey tried to explain why he did it, but could not summon the right words. Kemosabe reached for the door handle and said, "I enjoyed Desert Solitaire, next time wear moccasins...gotta go." They shook hands briefly and parted. This was the way Abbey met Kemosabe. Fate had intervened and placed a bond between the men that would endure till Abbey's death, years later. Their meeting had remained unspoken until now.

Monkeyman and Abbey loaded the evidence into Monkeyman's camper-truck and headed for the grave site chosen for the evidence, known to this day by only two men—and maybe a buzzard or two circling over the area from time to time.

This incident can be corroborated by evidence taken and filed by the investigating agencies in San Juan County, Utah, that were dispatched to the scene that day. The only evidence linking Abbey and Monkeyman to that scene that day. The only evidence linking Abbey and Monkeyman to that area was buried. The boots could be "resurrected" and bronzed but there are only two "monkeys" alive that know where these boots are located. One has another life in another place, and Kemosabe...well he's still trying to sort out why he saved Abbey's hide, because looking back, if Abbey had been busted, it may have well have resulted in even more fame and cash income from the publicity, than he'd received up to that point. Then again, maybe the Lone Ranger would never have surfaced. The conviction could have made Kemosabe famous—but an outcast among environmentalists. But Kemosabe chose to remain true to himself and his good friend, Monkeyman. Let history judge what it wants and let the eco-raiders, saboteurs, tribal copy-cats and green panthers form their own opinions. The myth will remain by the perpetuation of the truth—and the legend is sound and true.

And about those old boots, buried in a canyon—so many to search in.



CPRG MEMBERSHIP FORM

Colorado Plateau River Guides
P.O. Box 344
Moab, UT 84532
(801) 259-8077

- I would like to renew my membership to CPRG. Enclosed are my dues.
- I would like to join CPRG. Enclosed are my dues.
- Please send a complimentary copy of THE CONFLUENCE to this prospective CPRG member:
- I would like to give a gift membership to my friend:

Membership dues:
(Please check:)

- \$20 per year.
 \$100 for 6 years.
 \$195 for Life.
 \$295 Benefactor.

Membership status:
(Please check:)

- Guide Member (Must have worked in the river industry.)
 General Member (Must love the Colorado Plateau.)

Name/Organization: _____

Company/Freelancer: _____

Permanent Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Summer Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Comments and suggestions:

To preserve the integrity of this issue please consider photocopying this form. Pass it around and help us **GROW!**

Colorado Plateau Professional Guide Institute

Presented by
Canyonlands Field Institute
P.O. Box 68, Moab, UT 84532
800-860-5262 or 801-259-7750

Guide and Outdoor Education Training Fall 1996 to Spring 1997

Colorado Plateau Professional Guide Institute (PGI) is an inservice educational program for land and river guides, outdoor educators and wilderness/river rangers; designed to promote protection of public lands, to manage risk, and to enhance visitor satisfaction. All courses are based in Moab, Utah, and are open to the public, 18 years of age and older. Call or write Canyonlands Field Institute for program outlines and registration packets. PGI courses include one undergraduate credit from CEU or USU for a \$10 - \$20 extra filing fee (college credit is not applicable to Emergency Medical Training Courses). Discounts on all courses are available to members of CFI. Full and half-tuition scholarships are also available. Enrollment is limited and these programs fill quickly, so call today!

DESERT WATER '97: Calling all guides to this Spring "rendezvous" and workshop! Moab evening lecture by well-known river advocate followed by a full-day on the Fisher Tower Daily. Focus on riparian ecology and Western water issues. Cookout dinner at Big Bend Campground with storytelling and socializing. Talk with agency leaders, outfitters and gear reps. This course co-sponsored by CNHA, BLM, NPS, UGO, CPRG and CFI. **April 11 (eve.) and April 12, 1997. FEE: \$15. Includes dinner and a commemorative T-shirt!**

LEVEL ONE INTERPRETIVE SKILLS: For first year (or new to the area) river and land guides. Natural history, desert and river etiquette, and teaching methodologies. 20-hour course certificate. Based at Professor Valley Field Camp. Meals included. **May 9 (eve.) - May 11, 1997. Instructors: Dan Murphy and Tom Corcoran. FEE: \$65.**

LEVEL TWO INTERPRETATIVE SKILLS: For trip leaders and experienced guides who want to improve upon their naturalist skills and teaching methods. Outdoor practicals and video feedback. Based at Professor Valley Field Camp. Meals included. 20-hour course certificate. **May 3 (eve.) - May 4. Instructors: Ann Walka and Tom Corcoran. Fee: \$65.**

LEVEL ONE RIVER SKILLS: For novice river guides and private boaters. Topics include river ecology, rigging, rowing, paddling, safety, patching, low-impact camping, and etiquette. One night on the Colorado River and one night at Professor Valley Field Camp. Meals included. 20-hour

course certificate. **April 18 (eve.) - April 20. Instructors: Michele Reaume and others. Fee: \$125.**

LEVEL TWO RIVER SKILLS: Moab class session with two nights on the Dolores River. Paddling and rowing techniques in technical waters. Exercises in catching eddies, strainer and foot entrapment rescues, shallow-water crossings, Z-line/boat wraps and boat repairs. Trip leadership, safety talks, rescue/evacuation scene management. Meals included. 25-hour course certificate. **May 16 - 18, 1997. Instructors: Michele Reaume and others. Fee: \$200.**

WESTWATER CANYON RIVER RESCUE: Class session in Moab. Two nights on the river. Meals included. An intensive course for experienced boaters. High volume rafting, instream rescues, rigging, swimming rapids, righting flipped boats, Z-lines/rope work, safety talks, trip leadership, rescue/evacuation management. **April 25-27, 1997. Instructors: Barry Miller and others. Fee: \$260.**

AMERICAN RED CROSS EMERGENCY RESPONSE: This 48-hour course is designed for any professional who may be called upon to give first aid in the line of duty. Lectures, outdoor practicals, and videos. 3-year certification. Includes 1-year CPR. **November 11 - 16, 1996. Instructors: Michele Reaume and others. April 14 - 19, 1997: Instructors: Jim Brags and Sheri Griffith. Fee: \$180.**

EMERGENCY RESPONSE RECERTIFICATION: 20-hour course for those whose certification in American Red Cross Emergency Response will expire in 1997. 1-year CPR included. Bring your own workbook. **February 24 - 26, April 7 - 9, and November 3 - 5, 1997. Instructors: Michele Reaume and others. Fee: \$80.**

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER REFRESHER: This 32-hour course is for those who desire to renew their 3-year certification in Wilderness First Responder. Includes 1-year CPR. **January 13 - 16, 1997. Fee: \$225.**

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER: This 72-hour course emphasizes backcountry care in a prolonged transport context. Includes lectures, videos, outdoor practicals. 3-year certification. Includes 1-year CPR. **January 18 - 27, March 17 - 26, and May 27 - June 5, 1997. Fee: \$400.**

EMT REFRESHER COURSE WITH WILDERNESS EMT CERTIFICATION: This 56-hour course provides the Wilderness Upgrade based on recommendations of the Wilderness Medical Society. Outdoor practicals. **March 2 - 11, 1997. Instructor: Steve Lyons. Fee: \$400.**

Ask about Whitewater Academy for teens. **July 26 - July 2, 1997.**

CFI is also currently seeking a boatman/instructor for employment in the 1997 season.

**Colorado Plateau River Guides
P.O. Box 344
Moab, UT 84532
(801) 259-8077**

FORWARDING AND RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED / ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SPECIAL RENEWAL PROCEDURE: **If there is a label affixed to this box it means it's time to renew your membership to CPRG. Please complete the form on page 26 and mail it to CPRG with your check or money order and correct postage. Thanks for your continued support!**

Renew: 0996 means expiration occurs in September of 1996.