

Flipline Spring 2018



Greetings

Hello readers and welcome to the **Spring 2018 edition of the Flipline**. If you have a trip report, want to lead a club trip, or provide a photo for name that river, have news you think our members would like to know about, *or would like to present a trip or topic at any meeting*, please submit it to cspoores@gmail.com. Our next Flipline will be the **Summer Edition**, and should come out in July/August. Thanks for Reading!

The AWC will be Co-Hosting the Mother's Day Races this season. IF you would like to volunteer please reach out, we are still in need of some additional volunteers. This will be mostly "land based" activities, if you are looking for water based, we can accommodate that too. The more volunteers we have the smoother the event. You can volunteer by following this link: [Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Club Officers

Club Officers can always be reached by emailing: board@adobewhitewater.org email.

On behalf of the AWC Members I would like to say THANK YOU and JOB WELL DONE, to Therese, Jessica, and Bart for your time serving the Club as board members. It is a thankless job and one that we all greatly appreciate. SYOTR!

Flipline Spring 2018

President: Russell Cooper

Vice President: Scott Carpenter

Treasurer: Chad Morris

Secretary: Adam Hill

Member and Webmaster: Tom Fort

Member: Michael Carney (New)

Member: Theresa Watson (New)

Member: Scott Burchfield

Member, Education Coordinator: **Donna Koechner (New)**

Member: Corey Spoores

President's Letter

NM Boaters,

Spring is here. Although snowpack has been in the historic low category, I've been happy to see many of you out on the river. The AWC has been busy. Many of you are planning the mother's day race, and the club is playing a major role in hosting the event for the first time in many years. Please make it out to compete and have fun.

The AWC board has changed in the new year. We say goodbye to some wonderful board members: Therese, Bart, and Jessica and are welcoming some new additions: Michael, Theresa, and Donna. I'm deeply thankful for all the board members do. If you haven't yet say hello to the new board members.

AWC is again hosting clinics this year. This is one of our biggest events and opens up the love of rivers to new people. Please contact Donna or myself if you would like to support this event.

I've seen several trips posted on the club email and I hope to see many more. Especially given the weak snowpack I hope you'll all be planning some great trips. Just don't forget to invite me!

For the love of rivers,

Russ

Flipline Spring 2018

Treasurer Report

[Treasurer Report for FY2017](#)

Membership

At the time the Flipline went to press for the last issue we had **104 paid members**.

Club Meetings: Past and Upcoming

Past:

February- Norm Gaume presented updates to the Gila River Conservation issues

March- Steve Harris presented river flow forecast for the Chama and the Rio Grande. He also covered several conservation issues for northern New Mexico.

April- Michael Carney presented info on the Verde River in Arizona. He made the pilgrimage to the 6th Annual Verde River Race last month. This sounds like a great club trip next spring.

Upcoming:

May 8th, will be the next Club Meeting at Papa Felipe's, come at 6 pm for socialization and 6:30 for the meeting. Antonia Treverton will be presenting on kayaking with alligators and manatees in Florida.

Classes and Clinics

General Info: AWC will have online registration for our clinics this season, as always we will be forming a wait list as the clinics usually fill quickly. We will be sending out more information in the future specifically for the clinics. So please stay tuned!!

Women of Whitewater - June 16, 2018 - Pilar NM (ladies only)

Flipline Spring 2018

For more information or how to register please contact AWC. (*More information to come*).

ACA Raft Instructor Workshop and Certification - June 25 - 29, Canyon River Instruction, Salida CO

They have reserved two slots for AWC members to receive \$100 discount (full price is \$500) if they would like to participate.

IF you're the type of person who love to share your experience AWC has an offer to pay for half of the cost of entry for this certification. AWC just asks that you offer (with our help) 3 clinics for club members.

AWC Summer Clinics & Potluck - June 30 - July 1

This has been a great time in the previous years to build your knowledge base and meet new paddlers who can join your crew on your river adventures. For more information or how to register please contact AWC (*More information to come*).

Instructor Recertification, if you are holding an ACA Certification for instruction we will be offering a recertification clinic on the Sunday of clinic weekend, this is a free offering. **Red Tape:** To be qualified you must instruct during our Saturday Clinic. This will be a limited entry event. Cost for this is FREE....More information to follow.



Flipline Spring 2018

Name that Rapid.....Please submit your answers to the

Facebook AWC Chat Group



State ACA News

A recent article was published by The Guardian, about the water issues relating to stream ownership in New Mexico. Give this a read, it's titled [Who owns the water?](#)

Flipline Spring 2018

Kayak New Mexico

If you would like more information or would like to volunteer please contact Jane Bales, who is the President of the Board at KNM. She can be reached at the following email address jane@kayaknewmexico.org

Pool Sessions

Wednesday's: 6-8pm at the Geoveva Chavez Community Center, Cost is \$10.00

Thursday's: 7:45-9:45 pm at the JCC, These sessions will run from May through July.

River Trip Reports/ Stories

Kayaking the White Nile, By Jordan Williams

Over the last semester I was able to study abroad in Uganda, where I got the incredible opportunity to kayak on the famous White Nile. The warm, tropical water was a refreshing change from the snow melt rivers I'm used to in Colorado, and the high-volume play boating was something I have missed ever since spending two summers up on the Ottawa. While on the Nile, armed with rented gear from Kayak the Nile, I was able to spend two weeks on the huge rapids and the fantastic Nile Special Wave, where the latest installment of the Unleashed Kayak Competition was held.

Flipline Spring 2018



When I had finally gotten all my gear together I hired a car to take me to the island where I was staying, but when he dropped me off on a tiny beach and pointed to a small island about two hundred yards upstream and on the other side of the huge river, I realized we were not in the right place.

When I asked about the ferry, my driver looked at me like I was crazy and pointed to my Rockstar then back to the island, then got back into his car and drove away. Dejected I put on all my gear, shoved my clothes into the back of my play boat, put my computer bag under my skirt in front, and prayed I didn't flip over on my way to the island. After a few tries, I finally landed on the beach exhausted. Living on the Hairy Lemon Island filled with other international kayakers, tropical birds, and monkeys, was amazing, and it was just a

Flipline Spring 2018

short ferry to Nile Special.



The fast and steep wave gave you huge air without even trying, and once you got over its size, it practically threw tricks for you. At low water, local boys would manage the rope to help you get onto the wave, and everyone there was friendly and always helping each other out. I am honored to have been able to experience this truly magical place before it is dammed this upcoming year by the Isimba Dam. The loss of this beautiful and powerful wave, along with many other rapids on the Nile will be an injury to the entire whitewater community.

I Fell In Love with Whitewater...By Theresa Watson

I fell in love with whitewater after my first raft trip on the Snake River in Wyoming. Living as an adult in the Detroit region and then in Virginia Beach I didn't live in area that was conducive

Flipline

Spring 2018

to whitewater kayaking. So I proceeded to feed my passion by going on as many raft trips that I could afford. My brother joined me and we proceeded to raft most of the major rivers on the east coast such as the New, Fall Gauley, Chattooga, Cheoah and the Yough to name a few. For my retirement gift to myself we rafted the Grand Canyon. In all, I've been on more than 30 whitewater raft trips. After most trips my brother and I would find a cool section of the river and sit on the side watching the rafters and kayakers. How I longed to be able to whitewater kayak, to be captain of my own ship. In my next lifetime, I told myself. At one point, just to be able to experience it, we took a 5 day whitewater kayaking clinic through NOC in North Carolina. In between rafting trips I would canoe and eventually got a recreational kayak paddling some flat water and many of the creeks that fed into the Rappahannock River which in turn feeds into the Chesapeake Bay.

Little did I know that one day my dream would be realized. I wouldn't have to wait until my next life. Two weeks after I locked my classroom door for the last time I moved to Albuquerque in the summer of '14. I didn't come for the whitewater. I didn't even know it existed in the middle of the desert. Eventually I discovered the meet-up and my adventure into whitewater kayaking began. Last fall I took the three whitewater classes through KNMI. I sold my recreational boat and bought my '16 Karma Jackson. I set as my first goal to paddle the racecourse.

In preparation I practiced at Rio Rancho through the winter. My first attempt on the racecourse ended when lightning forced us off the river. We had to haul ourselves and kayaks up a 45 degree slope with loose rock and a multitude of cacti and then find a ride back to the put-in. My second attempt was through the meet-up early in August. Like the first attempt I was nervous. Mostly, I didn't want to swim and hold the group up. I've become comfortable in being attached to my kayak upside down in the river! In all my raft trips, I never swam except when the guide purposely flipped the boat in the "fluffy box of kittens" rapid on the Gauley. The Rio Grand was running at a little under 300 cfs, quite doable for a newbie. Well I did swim-four times to be exact but I had company on three out of the four. Our leader even swam once. So I didn't feel too bad. On one rapid, another kayaker and myself ended upstream from our kayaks and we had to crawl our way back to the road and make our way back down to the river where our boats were. I've been here before I thought. The highlight of my paddle was the Sous Hole rapid. As I came over the rapid I felt my kayak preparing to flip and I instinctively braced and kept myself upright to the cheers of my paddling buddies! I think they were most excited that I didn't swim as opposed to my execution of the brace.

Flipline Spring 2018

Completing my first season as a whitewater kayaker I have already set my goal for the next season-the kayak roll. I've taken four lessons already and you'll find me in the Rio Rancho pool most Saturdays!

Last But not Least

The Adobe Whitewater Club of New Mexico is working at building a more active club. Do you have any ideas that you would like to voice? Stories of how it was better “back in the day”? Please share these ideas with us, we are constantly striving to make the AWC a great Club. Or if you would like to present a topic or be a guest speaker at any of the club meeting please let us know.

Club Trips

Upcoming Trips

We are looking for some club trip organizers this spring. Would you like to Organize a Club trip? It's simple, just read the information below. Organization will take place via email and the AWC Chat message board on Facebook.

Past Club Trips

Flipline Spring 2018

Turkey Bash: This past November we held an inaugural Thanksgiving Paddle Trip called the Turkey Bash. This year we kayaked the Rio Grande Race Course, with a level of 500 cfs fun was had by all in attendance.

New Years Day Paddle: Several members of the greater whitewater paddling community attended the annual NYD Paddle on the Race Course. Again our water level was a fluffy 500 CFS (ish). We had 10 kayaks, 1 shredder in attendance and later me a nice couple in a whitewater canoe from Pagosa Springs who came down to enjoy the beautiful weather.

Below is a lot of information on Club Trips, don't be intimidated, read the below info and remember you're just an organizer.

Why Club Trips?

What is the purpose of the kayaking club if the club does not hold club related activities. Do you know someone who wants to come? Great bring them along and then send them to the website to join the club.

What are the responsibilities of the trip organizers?

Organizers who are unable to fulfill their trip commitments should obtain a substitute organizer and notify AWC via email, or the AWC Chat Board on Facebook.

MONTHS BEFORE THE TRIP

Determine put-in and take-out points.

Determine rendezvous time.

Select an alternate trip in case of high or low water, where possible.

Select camping arrangements, if required.

List the expected level of difficulty, wet/dry suits? Closed boats?

Flipline

Spring 2018

Mail/E-Mail this information to the newsletter editor and Webmaster in time to be published just before the trip.

Organizers who are unable to fulfill their trip commitments should obtain a substitute organizer and notify AWC via email, or the AWC Chat Board on Facebook.

WEEK BEFORE THE TRIP

If conditions change choose an alternate paddling location for the trip. Maintain a roster of persons signed-up for the trip with names, phone numbers, e-mail addresses and experience in order to notify them in case of a change before the trip. Do not just cancel the trip and then paddle somewhere else.

DAY BEFORE THE TRIP

Find out the water level, make sure it is suitable for the trip as planned. If you cannot go on the trip please find another organizer.

Guests may join us on our trips. However, please encourage them to join our club for their own safety and enjoyment. If the participant is an active member of another club like Rocky Mountain Canoe Club, they are welcome on any of our scheduled trips. **Club members enjoy the camaraderie, the mutual liability waiver and the satisfaction knowing that their dues are supporting the club services that they are enjoying.**

Read the [American Whitewater Safety Code](#).

DURING THE TRIP

Please note that “Trip Organizers” are just that, organizers..

All on-the-river “responsibilities” are those of the individual or the group as a whole. In fact, the “trip organizer” does not have to go on the trip. They’re simply the main contact that coordinates the meeting time and place, and puts interested participants in contact with each other. That is as far as their responsibility goes.

AFTER THE TRIP

Ensure that a trip report is written and sent it to the newsletter editor as soon as possible.

Trip Participant's Responsibilities

Flipline

Spring 2018

MONTHS BEFORE THE TRIP

Pick a trip to match your skills and ability. Rate yourself with the * [Keel-Haulers Self-Rating System](#). Do not pick trips that are rated more than 3 points beyond you or your partner's ability.

*Currently this list is not all encompassing to our local rivers but it does have several listed in the west. Know your score. If you are in doubt of your skills and abilities please communicate with the trip organizers to help make a determination, for your safety and the group's safety. Remember there will always be other trips within your skill set in the future.

WEEK BEFORE THE TRIP

Notify the trip organizer by phone or e-mail of your intent to join the trip. No one's paddling ability or knowledge of the river exempts them from this common courtesy. Plan your food, transportation and rendezvous. Please become a club member, guests are welcome but encouraged to join.

Read the [American Whitewater Safety Code](#).

Double up, help conserve fuel. Try to take as many boats and people with you as possible. Let the trip organizer know if you need transportation or if you can bring someone else with you. If you have to cancel out of the trip, let the organizer know as soon as possible, so that the other paddlers won't waste time waiting for you to arrive.

DAY OF THE TRIP

Meet promptly at the appointed time. Check to see that you have all equipment with your boat before starting on the shuttle. Plan to participate in the auto shuttle, and let the group know when you are ready. If you have a physical disability, are under a doctor's care, or may need medicine, let the group know.

DURING THE TRIP

Know and practice the [American Whitewater Safety Code](#).

AFTER THE TRIP

Flipline Spring 2018

Leave the river and its surroundings cleaner than you found them. Drive home carefully; you will be tired.

DISCLAIMER

Remember that water sports are a potentially dangerous activity. Each participant is responsible for assessing his or her own ability and from refraining from activities that are beyond their limits. The club, its officers and members simply cannot and do not take responsibility for anyone when they are participating in a planned or spontaneous club activity.

Only YOU are responsible for your actions and safety. Read the [American Whitewater Safety Code](#). It's purpose is to serve as a guideline for river trips.

As stated in the code,

“A river trip should be regarded as a common adventure by ALL participants.... Participants share the responsibility for the conduct of the trip and each participant is individually responsible for judging his or her own capabilities and for his or her own safety as the trip progresses. Participants are encouraged (but are not obligated) to offer advice and guidance for independent consideration and judgment of others.”

Remember, water sports are a potentially dangerous activity. Members assume any and all risk when choosing to participate in an activity and the Adobe Whitewater Club, its officers and members are not responsible for any damages resulting from such participation.