



JPL HIKING +

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East Fork Carson Canoe Trip

May 16-19, 2002

Trip dates: May 16 - 19

Meeting: None - contact leader

Limit: 12 persons

Cost: food, gas, camp fees

Trip leader: Kevin Miller

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The East Carson river is located near Markleeville on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada. We will be paddling a 20 mile Wilderness Run from Hangman's Bridge to the diversion dam. Unlike most JPL canoe trips, this is a river camping trip and we will be carrying all our gear, food, and water in our canoes. The river is quite different from the more numerous pool-and-drop rivers on the western slope of the Sierra. The gradient is a steep 27 feet per mile, but it is fairly continuous, and the largest rapid on the river is rated a class II. In fact, this section of river is an almost continuous stretch of class I and II rapids. The river season on the eastern Sierra is much shorter than on the western slope. The scenery is excellent, and we will get a chance to stop at a hot spring and paddle through a small canyon.

Plan to drive up on Thursday, and camp in one of several campgrounds near or on the way to Markleeville. Early Friday morning we will meet at Hangman's Bridge where we will outfit our boats. We will paddle all day, play in the rapids, and camp near Sidewinder, the most difficult rapid on the run. On Saturday, we break camp, and continue downstream to the take-out in Nevada. Most people will want to spend the night near here in a full service campground since it is about an eight hour drive home.

Persons who wish to come on this trip must contact the leader for maps and other details. You should have either attended our beginners' class or have experience running class II rapids. Required equipment includes: a tandem or solo canoe or a kayak, a paddle for each person plus one spare paddle per boat, a personal flotation device (life jacket), river clothes, camp clothes, camping gear, and dry bags. River clothes should be an inner layer of polypro (or a similar synthetic material that can keep one warm when wet) and a water proof outer layer. Alternately, one may wear a wet or dry suit, or a

wool shirt and pants. Warm (and dry) camp clothes will be needed for Friday and Saturday night, although we will only have to carry Fridays clothes on the river. You should be prepared for warm days, cold water, and cold nights. Storms are not unusual at this high elevation (5500 ft. at the put-in) in May. Camping gear should include a sleeping bag and tent. We should be able to supply the required cooking gear. While many people use two plastic garbage bags to keep things dry, I recommend that a dry bag be used at least for your sleeping bag, dry clothes, and food. Dry bags are available at many local sports shops, and are usually located with the fishing gear.