

SPOKE TALK



Sharing the road with cyclists

Spring in Routt County means longer days, warming temps and muddy trails, although after this week's weather, you could be forgiven for thinking winter is still here.

For many of us, this is the time of year to dust off the road bike and head out on our public roads for some exercise and fresh air. For others, it's the time of year to start leaving the car at home and ride into town for work or fun. One way or another, this is a busy time of year for our roads.



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It's also the perfect time of year to think about road etiquette. We often hear the

phrase "share the road" without thinking about what it really means. We apply it to others but not to ourselves.

For cyclists, "share the road" means riding as far to the right of the lane as is reasonable. Wind, debris, visibility or speed of travel will all affect that call. Sometimes the middle of the lane is the safest place to be. Under no circumstances is a cyclist required to put themselves in danger to let a vehicle pass.

"Share the road" also means minimizing, but not eliminating, two-abreast riding. There is a commonly-held belief that Colorado law requires single file. It does not.

If you come upon a group riding two abreast, wait a moment while they organize to let you by. It only takes a moment. When they let you pass, thank them for the courtesy. Or, wait for a safe place to pass. Motorists are permitted to cross double-yellow lines to overtake cyclists, agricultural vehicles, joggers and other slow-moving road users.

At Routt County Riders, we encourage motorists to view cyclists as no different than pedestrians in a crosswalk. We have a right to be there. You should expect to see us and expect a slight delay in your drive when you do. But give us some space and a friendly wave, and we'll do the same.

Then we'll all be in a better mood to enjoy the arrival of spring.

Ian London is a local attorney and member of the Routt County Riders board of directors. His views are his own.

CRUISING DOWN THE RIVER



ELEANOR C. HASENBECK/STAFF

From left, Tom Kleinschnitz, Dylan Roberts, Bruce Finley, Greg Hamilton, Cyndy Hines and Kent Vertrees float by Steamboat Rock in a raft through Echo Park in Dinosaur National Monument Monday. The group participated in Friends of the Yampa's Yampa River Awareness Project over Memorial Day weekend.

Athletic director named

Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club hires 6-time NCAA championship coach

John F. Russell
Steamboat Pilot & Today

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS — It took seven months, but earlier this week, the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club announced it had hired Dave Stewart as director of athletics.

"It was always part of the plan to hire someone, but October wasn't the conducive time for finding a quality candidate going into the season," said Jon Nolting, who left the role of director of athletics to become associate executive director of the club in the fall. "Plus, all of the planning had already been done ... so, we went ahead into the winter knowing that we would come back to this in the spring."

Nolting said the wait paid off, and he is thrilled to welcome Stewart to the club's leadership team. Stewart was previously head Nordic coach at the University of Denver.

Stewart, who won six National Collegiate Athletic Association national titles while with the University of Denver, also is thrilled to be moving to a mountain community and the club he fell in love with when he first started visiting Steamboat more than a decade ago.



COURTESY PHOTO

Former University of Denver coach Dave Stewart will be coming to Steamboat Springs to fill a position as the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club's director of athletics.

"I've spent a lot of time in Steamboat Springs over the last 15 years or so," Stewart said. "The community is special, obviously, and so is the position. Being able to work for the club, giving these kids an opportunity to get exposed to snow sports and athletics, is something I'm really

passionate about."

For the past 13 years, Stewart focused his efforts into building winning teams at the University of Denver where he worked as an assistant for one year, before moving