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Colorado River Outfitters elect board members

by Cailey McDermott

Bill Dvorak of Nathrop and Bob Hamel of Cotopaxi were among recently elected **Colorado River Outfitters Association** board members.

Like Dvorak and Hamel, most members opted to continue on the board. The lone new member is Jeff Hale of Glenwood Springs

The outfitters are a non-profit trade association representing more than 50 licensed professional whitewater rafting outfitters.

Micah Salazar, administrative coordinator, said directors were elected during the general membership meeting in November. There weren't many nominations, he said.

Duke Bradford of Arkansas Valley Adventures moved from past chairman to at-large director, Salazar said. A normal term is one year, but a board member may seek reelection as many years as he or she likes, Salazar said.

Hamel, past chairman, said he's been a director about 15 years. Last year he was chairman of the board; in the past he's been a drainage representative.

"The past chairman helps with continuity of the organization and keeps everything flowing one term to the next," Hamel said.

Dvorak, said he's been involved with the association since its inception in 1988.

"Professional river outfitters needed an organization that represented us," Dvorak said, "looking after our interests in conservation and environmental issues.

"When the press needs information, we are the folks to go to. We keep the industry up to speed," he said.

Chairman is Johnny Cantamessa of Highside Adventure in Dillon.

Vice chairman is Darryl Bangert of Sage Outdoor Adventures in Vail.

Secretary-treasurer is Dvorak of Dvorak Kayak and Rafting Expeditions in Nathrop.

Past chairman is Hamel of Arkansas River Tours in Cotopaxi.

At-large directors are Burce Becker of GEO Tours in Morrison and Duke Bradford of Arkansas Valley Adventures in Dillon.

The Clear Creek-South Platte drainage representative is Chris Campton of KODI Rafting in Frisco.

Dinosaur-Westwater drainage representative is Tom Kleinschnitz of Adventure Bound River Expeditions in Grand Junction.

Taylor-Gunnison drainage representative is Ches Russell of Scenic River Tours in Gunnison.

The Arkansas River drainage is represented by is Kevin Foley of Performance Tours in Buena Vista.

Animas, Piedra and Dolores river drainages are represented by Alex Mickel of Mild to Wild Rafting in Durango.

Colorado and Blue river drainages are represented by Jeff Hale of Rock Gardens Rafting, Glenwood Springs.

The North Platte-Poudre drainages are represented by David Costlow of Rocky Mountain Adventures, Fort Collins.