

The DDRC Current News

Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club—Visit our website at www.down-river.org

March 2006

FINE PRINT - The DDRC Current News is published monthly by the Dallas Downriver Club and is provided to its members either by First Class postage or by email. Opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and may or may not reflect the opinion of the club or its officers.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of articles, announcements, events, trips, etc. is the 1st Thursday of the month. It is on a come first served basis therefore sooner is better.

DDRC BOARD MEETINGS are held every **second Thursday** of the month - **7:00 PM** @ Enchilada's (directions on back of newsletter). All members are welcome to attend to learn more about club business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Sympathy and Friendship — The DDRC wishes to extend our deepest sympathy to Gail Shipley on the loss of her Father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Gail.

Officer nominations — Officer Nominations were taken, elections will be held at March meeting. Nominations so far are: President - Bryan * VPresident - Sam * Treasurer- Thomas * Secretary - Kay * Newsletter Editor - Carolee

Turn in most miles paddled logs — Award will be in March.

Trips & Events

Weekly thru April 14 — Friday Flips

3/4-5 — San Marcos Trip — Replaced Kiamichi Trip. Camped at Pecan Park and participated in the river cleanup on Saturday—some paddling on Sunday.

3/16 — DDRC Meeting — 7 p.m., Enchilada's Restaurant, 6526 E. North west Highway

3/16-19 — Adaptive Paddling Workshop for Kayaking — Instructors/students/volunteers—read p. 4 for more.

3/18 — Urban Paddle — Meet at Rowlett Creek—ready to paddle at 10 a.m. Come prepared to paddle for a couple of hours, and bring a potluck lunch, tables and chairs to enjoy the lunch that follows. Bring your bike for even more fun. See page 5 for directions and details.

3/24-26 — Upper Guad — (Fri.—Sun.) Paddle sections between FM3351 and Rebecca Creek near Spring Branch, TX Sat. & Sun. camping at **Weidner's Ranch Campground**. Potluck dinner Sat. night. Expect lots of small rapids and rock gardens, fiberglass or any other fragile material boats would not be recommended, especially if flow below 200cfs. Contact Bryan Jackson at 972-979-2519 or email Hollowcreek@paddlinpals.com. Weidner's Ranch is located east of US 281 on TX 311 about 3/10 mile past the TX 311 bridge over the Guadalupe. Map online.

4/1 — Brazos River Cleanup — Page 8

4/8 — Hidalgo Falls River Festival — Page 8

4/14-16 — Mulberry/Big Piney Rivers — Page 8

4/20 — DDRC Meeting — 7 p.m.

4/22-23 — Outdoor kids Adventure Day — Page 8

4/29 — Kiamichi River Expedition — Page 8

4/29 — Urban Paddle — Date may change

5/6 — Medina River Cleanup — Page 4

SOUTHWEST PADDLERS
<http://southwestpaddler.com/>

Don't Miss Your Chance to Flip for Fridays Five days remain 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14

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Victory for Caddo

From the Texas Committee on Natural Resources:

HARRISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT VOTES FOR CADDO LAKE REFUGE AND SENATOR KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON IMMEDIATELY TAKES POSITIVE ACTION!

The Harrison County Commissioners passed a resolution Tuesday asking Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and Congressman Louie Gohmert to support putting the remaining 2,200 acres of the former Longhorn Army Ammunitions Plant under management of the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge. According to a statement given to the Marshall News Messenger by Senator Hutchison's press secretary on Wednesday, the senator is writing the Department of Defense to ask the Army to go forward with putting the remaining land into the Refuge!

Last summer, Senator Hutchison and Representative Gohmert had requested a "hold" on conveyance of this land while Marshall businessmen pushed for using the location for an industrial park. Ms. Hutchison had written the Marshall News Messenger saying that there should be a public hearing to obtain the opinions of the local people about the refuge vs industrial park issue. The Commissioners' decision Tuesday followed on the heels of a HUGE turnout by Caddo Lake and Caddo Refuge supporters the night before.

Local Caddo supporters did a fabulous job of generating support for the Refuge. Kudos to the 200 people crowded into the public hearing in Marshall Monday night. Caddo folks made a wonderful presentation in support of the Refuge!

People to thank for their leadership and support:

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-5922, email link at Hutchison.senate.gov

Harrison County Commissioners, 200 West Houston Suite 313, Marshall, Texas 75670, 903-935-8402

The Honorable Jeff Thompson, jefft@co.harrison.tx.us,

The Honorable Jerry Lomax, jerryll@co.harrison.tx.us,

The Honorable Emma Bennett, emmab@co.harrison.tx.us,

Our special thanks also to the Greater Caddo Lake Association, the City of Uncertain, and the Caddo Lake Chamber of Commerce and Tourism for leading the charge to protect this very special area.

Thanks! Janice Bezanson, Executive Director



Rio Vista Dam

Located in San Marcos on the the San Marcos River, the Rio Vista Dam is essentially a dam about 6 feet tall built in the 1880's and on the verge of collapse. To find out more, check out the following link:

http://www.luv2paddle.com/cgi-bin/forums/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=3699

This link is basically a forum for areas all over Texas. The Canoe Racing Forum is generating a lot of comments along with respective links to getting a feel for the situation.

Thank You

We're 2 for 2 so far this year thanks to the power of the pen! Thanks to everyone who wrote letters and signed the petitions! Great job everyone!

Hi Bryan,
Thanks to widespread opposition from the public, the Commissioners Court of Harrison County (in northeast Texas) voted today against a plan to build an industrial park on land intended for the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

Acting on behalf of a group of private developers, last September Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and Rep. Louie Gohmert, were able to put plans on hold to protect the important wildlife habitat found in Caddo Lake's forests and wetlands.

Joining with our allies at the Greater Caddo Lake Association and the Texas Committee on Natural Resources, more than 880 Environment Texas supporters contacted Senator Hutchison and Rep. Gohmert and asked them to stop the development plans and protect the Refuge.

In response, Sen. Hutchison said she would defer to the local community in Harrison County to decide the fate of the Refuge. Today, the Harrison County Commissioners Court voted 3-2 to ask Sen. Hutchison and Rep. Gohmert to lift the hold on plans to protect the Refuge. It is expected that they will do so, and that Caddo Lake will be protected.

Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of Texas' environment! It's really paying off.

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Adaptive Paddling Workshop

Mark your calendars for March 16—19. The American Canoe Association (ACA) will be offering an adaptive paddling workshop in kayaking in Dallas, TX, in cooperation with the Red River Division of the ACA and Kayak Power.Com.

This is a four-day Adaptive Paddling certificate course for instructors that includes how to compensate for a paddler's loss of function due to disability, adaptation techniques for equipment and instruction, how to focus on the paddler's ability and facility and program accessibility. The course involves classroom and hands on learning.

On March 18 and 19, individuals who have significant mobility impairments can participate to receive instruction in sea kayaking from expert instructors. Students learn how to compensate for function lost due to their disability, how to adapt the boat and paddle to best suit their needs, and complete the ACA Introduction to Paddling course.

This course includes paddling instruction in a pool session and paddling on calm water with the instructors. Paddling is a great sport to enjoy with family and friends because water is the ultimate equalizer.

On Saturday March 18, the course will meet at Bachman Recreation Center. On Sunday March 19, at Jackson Point, White Rock Lake Park

This is the first time this course has been taught in the Dallas area, although it has been taught around the country for the past 16 years. The lead ACA instructors will be Janet Zeller from NH, Scott LeBlanc and Mike Swope from TX .


Pre-registration is required for this course and space is limited! For more information and registration forms, students, instructors and volunteers may contact Mike Swope, of the Red River Division and KayakPower.Com by phone at 214-669-1663 or by e- mail at mike.swope@gmail.com. Information is also available at <http://www.texasapw06.com>

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MEDINA RIVER CLEAN UP MAY 6TH 2006

EXTRA CAMPING FOR TWO NIGHTS, WITH SHOWERS AND RV ACCESS AVAILABLE THIS YEAR. MORE FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT. ENCOURAGE YOUR CLUB, PADDLE GROUP OR GROUP OF FRIENDS TO JOIN YOU AND PARTICIAPTE. CHALLENGE A LOCAL GROUP TO CLEAN UP A SECTION OF ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL RIVERS IN THE HILL COUNTRY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

bbrischetto@wireweb.net OR mikrvanwinkle@hotmail.com

MARCH URBAN PADDLE MOVES TO MARCH 18

The Urban Paddle will be early this month, Saturday, March 18, as there is another DDRC trip the last weekend of March (look on the DDRC site for more info!). Venue will be Rowlett Creek just north of Lake Ray Hubbard. Go east on LBJ to Centerville, north to Miller, east to the creek. Map attached below. We will paddle up the creek as far as we can go (or may come back and paddle down toward the lake as far as we can go), viewing some wildlife (including fishermen!) through the Rowlett Creek Nature Preserve, and then back to the put-in to feast on potluck offerings. There are no facilities, so you'll have to go to the corner store. Bring your camp table and chair. You know rest of the drill. See you at 10 a.m. Look below for a post-paddle event...off-road biking at the preserve!

MARCH POST-PADDLE EVENT!

For those of you who have mountain bikes and enjoy off-road trails, bring your bike. After paddling (and eating lite...we wouldn't want anyone to get sick!) we'll go up to the preserve and do the trails!

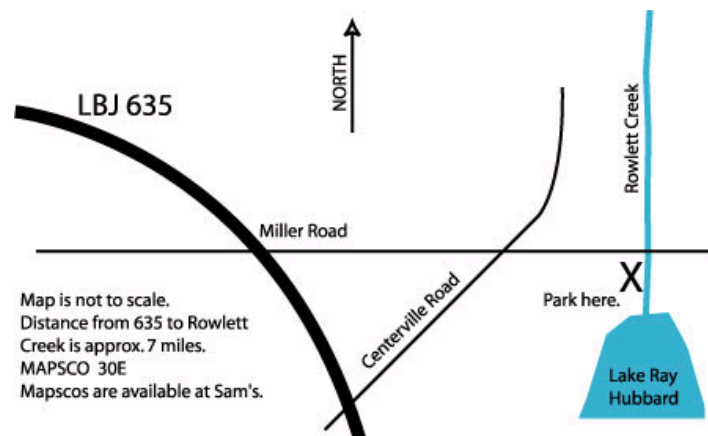
Attention all DDRC Members:

As we roll into spring various local groups, paddling clubs and the TRPA will be hosting cleanups on rivers around the state. In April its the Brazos' turn. Its not too much to ask for all the enjoyment that our rivers give us each year, to spend a day a couple of times a year giving back. Personally, I think that should be enough motivation for anyone to do their fair share, but this year I am going to sweeten the pot.

- 1) Any DDRC member that participates in any two TRPA river cleanups will receive a FREE DDRC TEE SHIRT. In addition. 25 miles credit towards the 2006 most miles paddled award for each cleanup. 2 cleanups = 50 miles, the more you clean the more you earn.
- 2) Any DDRC member that participates in any two TRPA river cleanups and one of either Watermelon Cleanups in preparation for TRC XI, races for free in TRC XI.

What a deal, what a concept ! Clean rivers, be a friend to the environment, get free stuff! Cleanups will be posted in the newsletter, on the website and email reminders.

Bryan Jackson, DDRC President



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Seminole Canyon

A Trip Report Graciously Shared by Fellow Paddler Gay Culbertson

Thursday, Dec. 22, dawned cold and clear as I headed up to the Pecos River high bridge launch site for my paddle to Seminole Canyon and Seminole Cave. I had been planning this for a long time and was really looking forward to seeing the caves again. I launched at 9:02 and headed down the Pecos to the confluence of the Rio Grande, then headed left down the river. Amistad Lake has backed up both rivers so there isn't any flow, just flat water and high canyon walls. I had the river to myself this morning except for some goats high up the canyon wall in a cave and a pair of hawks circling above. The river was calm and clear until I turned the corner and entered the Rio Grande. Here the wind picked up a little and made the first couple of miles pretty chilly as I was in the shade from the high cliffs on the Texas side. However, by 10:30 I was able to shuck the fleece and enjoy the sunshine and warmth.

Several miles downriver I was surprised to see a large power line going across into Mexico, but soon saw there were several large houses there. Around the bend I saw a couple of houses on the Texas side. I remember a Mexican rancher tried for years in the 70's to get a line run from the US side, and I guess he finally did. I don't know who owns the houses, but they would make a nice place to stay as they are on a small side canyon.

The Texas side of the river is prettier with its many caves and erosion features. The Mexican side is shorter and has no caves at all—both sides are the same rock, so I don't know why. The caves aren't caused by river erosion as they are too high above the old river bed—the Mexican side being lower would mean the river would have had to me several miles wide to carve the caves that high up. You can see evidence in many of them of water seeping out leaving stains so I imagine this is how they were formed. It's amazing how much a little seepage can erode the soft limestone pockets (there isn't enough rain to help speed the process)—many of these caves are as big as houses. There are a few that can be accessed by boat and will be explored on another trip. The cliffs are so steep and the original river so far below that few have been inhabited or used as rock shelters. They would still be interesting to explore and take photos from.

About a mile down from the confluence of the rivers is Parida Cave on the Texas side. There is a boat dock there and you can access the small kayak landing on the left of the big rock on the left of the ramp. As I had explored this on a previous trip, I didn't even stop.

There is a wonderful canyon on the Mexican side of the river that is well worth exploring for its beautiful high walls and incredible erosion features—many look like works of art.



(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

There are a couple of canyons on the Mexican side that will require further exploration and two short ones on the Texas side that I did explore and found some interesting caves in them. One would make a great hike out of the canyon and offer a wonderful view of the river. The cave, Pink Cave, would be fun to explore and supposedly has some paintings in it. Since it doesn't have a landing and the water was cold, I didn't get out of the boat to explore it this time. In warmer weather this would be easy to do. Many of the caves that are accessible and would be fun to explore require getting out of the boat and getting wet up to your waist as you scramble up the rock piles.

Seminole Cave is one of the best examples of cave art in the US as it is in a large under hang and the dry weather has protected them for thousands of years. There are dozens of paintings along the wall with the Panther being the most famous. The park service has a nice boat dock here as this is the only way to access the paintings—there is no trail to the cave. The cave is fenced off to protect from vandalism, but the mesh is large enough to take photos through and there are several signs explaining the paintings and some history. I remember growing up in Del Rio we used to go up and touch the paintings—this was way before we know we weren't supposed to! It is difficult but not impossible for a kayak to land here. There are two places on either side of the dock where you could get out into the water and then climb up the rock. Since it was still cold and didn't want to get wet, I got under the dock's ramp and used it to pull myself up out of my boat onto the steps that go down into the water. That wasn't a pretty site and I'm glad no one else was there at the time! Getting back in was a lot easier.

After eating lunch, I headed up Seminole Canyon to see if there are any places to camp and found a great place where the water ends. It gets real shallow at a wide flat spot and there is plenty of camping room as well as the canyon to explore. If one could camp here, this trip would be an easy overnighter and allow plenty of time to explore the canyons on the Mexican. As it is, it is a long day trip—it took me 11 minutes shy of 7 hours to complete the 19 mile round trip with a ½ hour stop for lunch at Seminole Cave. I

averaged 3.9 mph and was feeling the fast pace by the end of the day. Exploring the side canyons and some of the caves would add a couple more hours to the trip, so spending the night in Seminole Canyon would really make the trip more pleasurable.

This is a wonderful and beautiful trip and well worth the effort because of the scenery and the cave paintings. There is plenty of parking at the put-in along with a potty. There's an incredible view at the put-in of the high bridge and the high canyons. There isn't a potty at Seminole Cave however there are some places to get out of the kayak and answer the call. I will be doing this trip again Memorial Weekend and hope to explore the side canyons.

Paddling Events — See the online events Calendar for more details

Saturday April, 1 2006: Brazos River Cleanup—The folks down in Glen Rose are planning a river cleanup on the stretch from Hwy 67 down to Brazos Point. No canoe?...No problem, Low Water Canoes (254) 897-3666 will provide free canoes and a shuttle. Tres Rios Resort is offering free camping and Ranch House BBQ is providing dinner on Saturday evening. For more info, contact Ed Lowe at Texas Water Trails (214)-358-0612

April 8-9 - Fifth Annual Hidalgo Falls River Festival —on the Brazos River Near Navasota, Texas to be held at the TRPA Hidalgo Falls property. Events include a 28-mile downriver race from Koppe Bridge Landing south of College Station to Hidalgo on Saturday morning, a "Boatercross" head-to-head elimination race through the rapids late Saturday afternoon, a concert and auction on Saturday night, and on Sunday a whitewater giant slalom race through the islands in the Falls, a whitewater rodeo, and a more leisurely 3.5-mile float trip from Hidalgo to Hwy 105. Information about the location of Hidalgo Falls, TRPA ownership, pictures, etc. can be found at the Hidalgo Falls website: <http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/hidalgo.html>

April 14-16 Mulberry / Big Piney Rivers in NW Arkansas—Leaving Thursday evening and camping at Long Pool Campground near the Big Piney. Depending on flow, both rivers can offer up to Class III whitewater for your paddling enjoyment. Intermediate to advanced skill levels will be required for this trip. Paddling the Big Piney on Friday, the Mulberry on Saturday and maybe a short run on the Big Piney on Sunday before coming home. If you are coming, please be at the March 16 DDRC meeting for a brief planning meeting directly after. Saturday night's potluck will have an Easter theme hopefully featuring Bryan's famous KFB! RSVP to Bryan Jackson Hollowcreek@paddlinpals.com 972-979-2519

Saturday April 22 - Sunday April 23, 2006 Outdoor Kids Adventure Days —This event allows kids to experience a number of outdoor sports, including kayaking and canoeing. Texas Parks and Wildlife, Grapevine Parks and Recreation along with several other neighboring cities are sponsoring this event. Over 1,000 kids are expected. We need many volunteers to help organize and safely help these kids enter and exit boats on the lake. We need volunteers from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday April 22, 2006 and Sunday April 23, 2006 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. There will be a Saturday dinner provided for volunteers and possibly overnight camping at Meadowmere Park. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Dave Holl at 972 412 7691.

April 29-30 Kiamichi River Expedition—We will meet at K River Campground at 10am Saturday and shuttle up or down river depending on flow to where we will put in for a 2 day 1 night paddle on the Kiamichi. We will be camping on the river, so bring everything you will need. 1 breakfast, 2 lunches, 1 dinner, camping gear, water, sun block and whatever else you can think of. The Kiamichi is very remote and largely undeveloped so come prepared for peace and quiet. We will work out the shuttle details closer to the actual trip date. Total paddle will be between 12 and 25 miles depending on flow. RSVP to Bryan Jackson Hollowcreek@paddlinpals.com 972-979-2519



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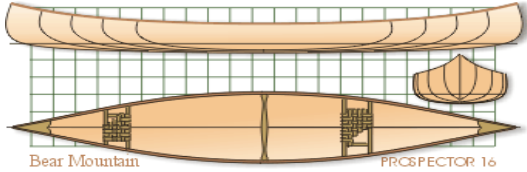
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*The Official Newsletter of the Dallas
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Next DDRC Meeting
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DDRC Meetings are the
3rd Thursday of every
month.

