

The DDRC Current News

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

May 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

No Urban Paddle in May — But plan to join us in June. Stay tuned to the events calendar for updates.

Meeting location changed — Our regular meeting spot (Enchilada's Restaurant on Northwest Highway) has closed. The May 18 DDRC meeting will be held at the White Rock Lake Bath House Cultural Center, (see address & map on last page). The June 15 meeting, (and all going forward until we notify you otherwise) will be at the Greenville Avenue location of Enchilada's Restaurant (7050 Greenville Ave., Dallas, TX 75231, 214-363-8969, www.enchiladasrestaurants.com)

In our thoughts — The club wants to wish Bonnie Haskins good health and a speedy recovery from her ruptured appendix. That's gotta hurt!

Did you win the massage at the 2005 Trinity River Challenge? — If so, please claim your prize! Call Marilyn Scholl at 214-208-3528.

Newsletter content needed— Hey gang — April was full of trips and events. Please share your adventures with us for our reading enjoyment! Email content to Newsletter Editor Carolee Doty at dotyc@lisd.net

Trips & Events

See Page 2 & 3, plus online calendar for event details.

5/6 — Medina River Cleanup

5/12-14 — Guadalupe River

5/17 — Oct. 10/25 — Lake Grapevine Paddle and Roll

Sessions — Every Wed. after 5 p.m. through October at

Rockledge Park (no charge). For info. contact Keith Smith (940)566-4869 / keith_ccw@fastmail.fm

5/18 — DDRC meeting at White Rock Lake Bath House Cultural Center

5/21-22— Jerry & Roy's Excellent Adventure-Lower Mountain Fork

5/27-30 — Lower Mountain Fork Fishin' Expedition II

5/27-29 — BTV Memorial Day Sabine Trip

6/3 — Turning Point Extravaganza at Bachman Lake

6/7 — Jackson Kayak Demo at Grapevine paddle & roll

6/10 — Brazos River Moonlight Float

6/15 — DDRC meeting at Greenville Enchilada's



The place we've all been looking for at one time or another is in Alaska!

Paddling Events — See the online events Calendar for more details

May 6 Sixth Annual Medina River Cleanup— Register: 9-12 a.m. at Bandera City Park, Maple St. at the Medina River Bridge, Bandera, Texas 78003. Free barbecue: 5-7 p.m. Awards for Trash: 6 p.m. Free t-shirts for all participants Free camping: May 5th and 6th at the Bandera City Park and at Pioneer River Resorts (across 173 from the park - <http://www.pioneerriverresort.com>). There are new restrooms at the park and Pioneer River Resorts (formerly Jelleystone Park) has free showers and RV sites are available to river cleanup participants (\$10 per vehicle, less than half their normal rate.) For reservations call 1-800-543-2185 or email Linda or Lloyd Rantall at info@pioneerriverresort.com. For questions about the cleanup, write to Bob Brischetto at brischetto@wireweb.net.

May 12-14 (Fri-Sun) Upper Guadalupe River—We will be paddling sections of the river between FM3351 and Rebecca Creek near Spring Branch, TX and camping at **Weidner's Ranch Campground** (east of US 281 on TX 311 about 3/10 mile past the TX 311 bridge over the Guadalupe.) Potluck dinner Sat. night. As this stretch of the Guad. contains rapids and rock gardens, fiberglass or any fragile boats would not be recommended. For more info, contact Bryan at 972-979-2519 or Hollowcreek@paddlinpals.com.

May 21-22 Jerry & Roy's Excellent Adventure

For those who can't get away over Memorial Day weekend Jerry Johnson is leading an overnight trip on the Lower Mountain Fork from Reregulation Dam to Ashalintubbi. WW Trading Post & Canoes will provide a shuttle, and will also shuttle gear from the put-in to the camp site so nothing gets wet coming down through Presbyterian Falls. The total trip will be 18.8 miles.

For more information contact Jerry via e-mail at jjohnsn3@sbcglobal.net, or call Jerry at 817-354-5395.



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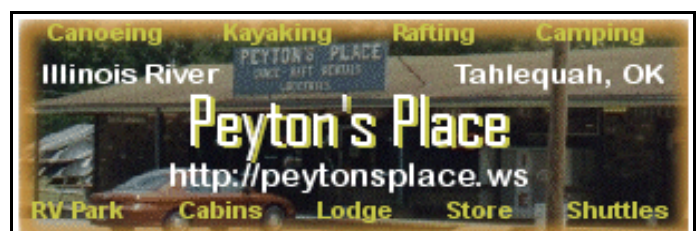


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(Continued from page 2)

May 27-30 Fishin' Expedition II

We meet at Ambush Adventures outside of Broken Bow, OK for a two night trip, fishing our way down the Lower Mountain Fork to the Little River. Bring everything you need to fish, eat and sleep for two nights. Hopefully if it goes like last year fish will be on the menu! OK fishing licenses are available on line and are highly recommended, as well as whistles. RSVP to Bryan Jackson Hollowcreek@paddlinpals.com
972-979-2519

June 3 Turning Point Extravaganza

Adaptive paddling program for paraplegics from Texas and the surrounding states. This event will be held in the Bachman Lake Recreation Center. Please call Dave Holl 972 412 7691 for volunteer opportunities.

June 10 Brazos River Moonlight Float Trip

The Brazos River below Lake Whitney Dam is the launch site for the Moonlight Float trips, which continue downriver about 8 miles to The Outpost (formerly Dick's Place) at FM 2114 and the Brazos River.

Gather at Riverside Park on the east side of the lake just below the dam at about 5:30 PM. There is a boat ramp and a small parking area. We will unload boats at the ramp, then shuttle vehicles down to The Outpost before we launch. Vehicle parking at The Outpost is free, but there is a fee of \$6 per boat for taking out there.

Bring dinner and beverages for yourself, a camp chair and a headlamp - we WILL be paddling after dark. Technically, we are required by law to have a white light, visible from 360 degrees, on each boat after dark. If interested contact Jerry Johnson via e-mail, or call 817-354-5395.

STOCK UP AND SHIP OUT!

Get the paddling gear that'll make your trip complete.

We carry a wide assortment of kayaks and canoes from Ocean Kayak, Perception, Dagger, Old Town, Wildnerness Systems and Mad River. When you are ready to get that first or next boat get 10% off all paddling accessories when you buy your boat from REI.



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Jackson Kayak Demo Dates: 6/7, 7/5, 8/2, 9/6, 10/4

Rockledge Park, Lake Grapevine 6—8 p.m.

(Dave Holl Kayak Instruct dave@kayakinstruct.com)

Sun & Ski Kayak Demo Dates: 5/14, 6/11, 7/9, 8/13, 9/10, 10/15

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<http://southwestpaddler.com/>

As a participant in any DDRC activity, an individual assumes the responsibility of evaluating all inherent risks before participating and assumes any risk of death or injury inherent in the sport. The participant waives claims that may arise against the club, its officers, members, servants, agents and/or trip coordinators, for death or injury to person or property, including claims of vicarious liability and claims arising from civil recklessness or any degree of negligence. Not waived are claims against an individual who causes injury intentionally or with criminal recklessness and claims among driver, owner and passengers of a motor vehicle for injuries.

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Canyons of the Rio Grande

By Marc Mc Cord (Installation 2 of 3)

On February 24, 2006, members of Dallas Downriver Club, Adventure Club San Antonio and Alamo City Rivermen began an 8-day journey along the Texas-Mexico border through Colorado, Santa Elena and Mariscal Canyons ...

We arose early on Tuesday morning and planned a relaxing, short paddle into the entrance of Santa Elena Canyon, where we intended to layover on Wednesday before paddling out on Thursday afternoon. We paddled through Entrance Rapid, a Class II boulder garden that required a little tight maneuvering due to the low water, and were awe-stricken by the beauty and grandeur of those gigantic mountains that form this gorgeous canyon in the Big Bend of Texas. No matter how many times you come here it is always a joy to paddle into this tight canyon where the walls rise right out of the river and tower 1,200-1,500 feet overhead. The colors created by the position of sunlight and shadows are an ever-changing palette of natural scenery that no human could create or duplicate. We found a suitable Mexican side campsite, set up our tents, then started getting ready to prepare and enjoy a dinner of USDA heavy-aged beef steaks, baked potatoes and grilled vegetables. In spite of the heat and the "hard" paddling, we might have actually been gaining weight on this trip, though our canoes were starting to get a little lighter as we consumed mass quantities of food and beverages. Tuesday night in the canyon was truly spectacular - we could see the mountains silhouetted by the faint moonlight of a waxing orb that had just passed the new moon phase. This is nearly as close to heaven as it gets. All that was missing were some hot wimmin to keep us company!

Our initial plan was to layover on Wednesday and just explore side canyons, relax, take a million photographs (we accomplished that feat!) and enjoy a day in a gorgeous, natural wonder that few people will ever see because the only way in is in a canoe, kayak or raft. Some in our group wanted to make sure that we arrived at the Santa Elena take-out ahead of our shuttle drivers on Thursday, so we broke camp early on Wednesday, then paddled down through Rockslide Rapid (Class II to IV, depending upon flow conditions) to our Wednesday night campsite at Fern Canyon just below Arch Canyon, two Mexican side canyons that cut into Santa Elena a few miles above its mouth. The photo at the right depicts us standing on the boulders that form Rockslide rapid, scouting the best line to get through them to our intended campsite for Wednesday night. In low-water conditions the maneuvering is tricky, but not particularly difficult. In high-water conditions this can be a monster obstruction that is capable of breaking bones and boats in a heartbeat.



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We safely navigated Rockslide, then paddled on downriver past Arch Canyon to a perfect campsite on the Mexican side at Fern Canyon. It was here that we encountered our first sighting of humans (other than a Mexican caballero sitting on his horse high on a cliff above Colorado Canyon). Two of the Terlingua outfitters (Big Bend River Tours and Far Flung Outdoor Center) were putting people in canoes on the river at the mouth of the canyon for day trips up the river and back down again. None of the paddlers we saw stopped where we were other than a couple from Kansas who hiked up Fern Canyon for lunch, then left again. Could it possibly have something to do with our having been on the river for five days without bathing? Nah! We smelled like roses and lilies.



After setting up our campsite for the last night in Santa Elena Canyon Dirk, Scott, Gary and I hiked up Fern Canyon as far as we could go without doing some serious mountain climbing. The photo at the left shows us working our way up the canyon amid huge limestone boulders that were sometimes slick, especially if we got our feet into the small stream of water that was trickling out of the canyon down toward the river. Fern Canyon is never more than perhaps 100 feet wide, and often much narrower than that, but its native beauty is awesome. House-size boulders have, over the years, fallen from their lofty perches to rest on solid rock below, often right on top of the small stream of water we encountered there. We found a pool of very cool mountain water where Steve later took a bath, and though he looked and smelled better than the rest of us he said that the water was really cold.

It would have been great to have arrived at Fern Canyon the day before and had more time to explore it. Our trek only went a short distance, but with climbing shoes and more time we could have found splendid scenery that lay just beyond our eyesight. The hike into Fern Canyon was physically demanding for us older guys who spend more time on computers than in gyms or on hiking trails. I am convinced that there are some remarkable sights yet to be discovered by us further up that canyon, and so we have an incentive to return to Santa Elena, as if any additional prodding would be necessary.

It would be very special to see the color changes as the sun rose, soared overhead, then set upon that vast cleft in the limestone walls of Santa Elena. Surprisingly, we saw no signs of animal life in Fern Canyon. To me, it looked like a perfect place to see mountain lions and possible black bears.



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We camped that night and enjoyed a meal of Cajun sausage, pan-fried potatoes and leftover vegetables from a meal the day before. We were right on schedule, as our supplies were quickly dwindling. We had planned and coordinated our trip perfectly, and we all had lighter boats as we prepared to leave Santa Elena Canyon late Thursday morning. The setting sun cast a beautiful glow all over the canyon and the colors were dazzling. Nightfall brought another spectacular lightshow of stars. As the moon rose in the sky its direct path to us was blocked by the mountains, but we were treated to a scene of moonlight on the canyon walls starting many feet above the canyon floor. It was simply grand being here in this gorgeous canyon among friends with whom I had paddled on many trips over several years. I think that we all agree that we must return here as soon as possible, though it might have to wait until after another Lower Canyons trip, which we hope to do later this year at either Thanksgiving or Christmas.

After a breakfast of burritos we struck camp and leisurely loaded our boats for our departure from Santa Elena Canyon. We were just a few short miles from our take-out and had a 2 PM rendezvous with our Far Flung Outdoor Center shuttle drivers. Around 11:15 Am, we began our slow paddle to the take-out about 0.9 miles below the mouth of the canyon and the confluence of Terlingua Creek. At the mouth of the canyon we began encountering many landlubber tourists who were walking the Texas side along an observation path created by the National Park Service to allow viewing up into the canyon. While not quite as grand as seeing it from a canoe, the view at the mouth looking into the canyon is quite scenic, and this is a favorite destination for visitors to Big Bend National Park.

We arrived at our take-out about 90 minutes ahead of our shuttle drivers, so we had time to unload the boats, suck down some drinks, snack a little and take a few photos before they arrived with our vehicles and trailer. For many paddlers this would have been the end of the line, but we still had two more days of paddling Mariscal Canyon with an additional group of ACSA members whom we were meeting that night in Chisos Basin, but not before returning to Far Flung Outdoor Center to retrieve our extra ice chests full of food and beverages, find a place to shower and get the bolts we needed for repairing a couple of broken canoe seats (probably caused by all the excellent meals we enjoyed on this trip.)

To be continued in June...

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The John Rymill Memorial Antarctic Kayak Expedition

In early February 2006, a team of Australian sea kayakers sailed to Antarctica for a ground-breaking 40-day expedition. Beginning at the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, the three-man crew (Laurie Geoghegan, Stuart Trueman, and Andrew McAuley) paddled their sea kayaks unsupported for over 1,000km south along the coast to Marguerite Bay – *further south than any sea kayak in the world has ever been before*. This challenging expedition on the world's harshest continent requires an enormous amount of planning, preparation and training. To learn more and read expedition updates, visit: www.andrewmcauley.com

This expedition traces a fascinating historic link with John Rymill, the celebrated Australian explorer who led the British Graham Land Expedition (BGLE) to Antarctica in 1934-7. Rymill had strong links to kayaking; he learned this craft in the Arctic from the Inuit people with Gino Watkins, the famous British explorer who died while kayaking alone in Greenland. Rymill's three-year expedition on the Antarctic Peninsula explored parts of Graham Land where no human had ever set foot before. The John Rymill Memorial Antarctic Kayak Expedition retraced the travels of Rymill and his men, camping at many of the same places they camped at, although taking somewhat less time than the three-year adventure!

If you are interested in sponsoring any of the team members for possible personal appearances at kayak-clubs in the USA, to discuss their unique Antarctic expedition, please contact Peter Janssen of Dallas, TX at kayakxpn02@sbcglobal.net for more details.



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The April Urban paddle adventure took us to Rowlett Creek. About nine boaters enjoyed a beautiful day of paddling and a wonderful lunch among friends, new and old. We were thrilled to have three visitors join us, and look forward to seeing them again on future trips. I encountered two soccer balls and two water snakes. I kept the balls and left the snakes! We also saw men fishing with a bow and arrow. I had never seen a bow with a fishing reel on it! There's probably a name for that contraption and sport, but I don't know. We encountered many more paddlers on our return trip and discovered a much better exit strategy in a little slip that seemed designed just for us. A great time was had by all. ~Cathy

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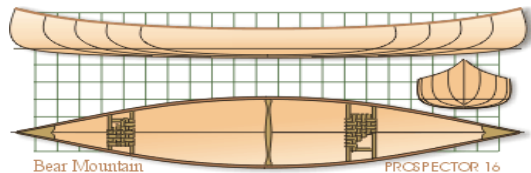
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Attention all DDRC Members:

As we roll into spring various local groups, paddling clubs and the TRPA will be hosting cleanups on rivers around the state.

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

DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB

P.O. Box 820246
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*The Official Newsletter of the Dallas
Downriver Club*

Next DDRC Meeting
Thursday 7:00 PM
May 18, 2006

White Rock Lake
Bath House Cultural Center
521 E. Lawther Drive.
Dallas, TX 75218

DDRC Meetings are the 3rd
Thursday of every month.

The June 15 meeting will be at the
Greenville Avenue
Enchilada's location. Check the
DDRC website often for the latest
events and meeting location news.

