

The DDRC Current News

Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club—Visit our website at www.down-river.org July 2007

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 @ On the Border** (directions on back of newsletter). All members are welcome to attend to learn more about club business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletter content needed— Hey gang...Please share your adventures, recipes, photos, classifieds with us for our reading enjoyment. Email content to newsletter editor Carolee Doty at la_sirena_84@yahoo.com.

Volunteers needed for the TRC and other upcoming events. Please see page 8 for more info.

Whomever won massages from Marilyn Scholl at the last 2 TRCs, please call her at 214-208-3528 to make arrangements with her.

Trips and Events

Details will be posted in the newsletter the month before the trip and on the online calendar when planned.

July 1—TRC XII

Registration opened

- Canoe Raffle

tickets on sale

July 19—Monthly

Meeting—On the

Border

July 28, Aug. 25—

Moonlight float

Aug. 25- Trinity

River Trash Bash

Sept. 1 -Watermelon

Cleanup

Sept. 8 -TRC XII

Win This Canoe



Plus 2 paddles and 2PFD's. Drawing will be held at the awards ceremony at TRC XII. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and will be available at the July and August meetings, on Race Day and by mail at "I Want That Boat" c/o DDRC P.O. Box 820246 Dallas, TX 75382

Paddling Events — See the online events calendar for more details

July 1—Raffle tickets went on sale for TRC XII. We will raffle an Old Town Expedition 169 (16'9") with 2 Carlisle golden light paddles and 2 PFDs. This is Bass Pro's version of the Discovery 169.

July 19— Monthly Meeting at On the Border Restaurant, 75 and Knox. Be thinking about how you might contribute to making TRC XII a big success.

July 28, August 25— Moonlight Float on the Brazos River at the Lake Whitney Dam. We will put in at the boat ramp just below the dam at 5:30 and take out at the Outpost 8 miles downriver, provided they are releasing enough water to get us all the way down. The take-out fee at Outpost is \$6. Bring your dinner, beverages and head lamp. Call Jerry Johnson at 817-354-5395 for details.

August 25—Trinity Trash Bash. We will team up with Keep Carrollton Beautiful to put as many as 75 volunteers out on the river in canoes to pick up trash as well as give some folks a taste of what paddling is like in the DFW area. Paddle Bound Outfitters, Kayak Power and North Texas Canoe rental have provided rental canoes free of charge to accommodate about 60 paddlers, and DDRC members provided enough to handle the rest.

September 1—Annual Watermelon Cleanup. We will focus on cleaning up the park area where we hold the race, getting the last of the river trash that was missed the previous week and removing any major obstructions that could pose a hazard on race day..

September 8— Trinity River Challenge XII at McKinnish Park, Carrollton.



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TRINITY RIVER CHALLENGE XII

Preparations for Trinity River Challenge XII are under way. Early registration opened on July 1 and tickets for the canoe raffle went on sale the same day.

The TRC is actually a three-week event since the race is preceded by two weekends of cleaning up the river along the race course and in McInnish Park. On August 25th is the Trinity Trash Bash.

North Texas Canoe has already committed to loaning boats for this year, so make sure you thank Richard Steppe when you see him. We will still need extra boats that day, so if you have any extra canoes or kayaks that you can bring to McInnish park or need them transported, please contact Sam Sloan and let him know. Then, on September 1st is the Annual Watermelon Cleanup of the park itself—the staging, registration and lunch/awards area. This is also when most of the various race day committees work on any last minute details. The following week is the big race, with contestants coming from far and wide.

This year's race features a few changes in the rules, including: a restructuring of the recreational kayak classes, a few procedural changes to help get racers into the water in a more organized fashion at starting time and a change to solo canoes that allows racers age 50 and older to use a double blade paddle if they choose to. Also, a new award will be presented this year in honor of our friend and race sponsor, Julie Basham, to the fastest time turned in by a female paddler in a recreational class.

Putting the TRC on every year is a lot of work. We have been fortunate that we have a core group that comes back year after year to oversee the preparation and race day execution. These folks are great at what they are doing, but they need your help to make it happen. We currently need several people to coordinate with Sam Sloan to visit businesses around the area to solicit or collect race donations. We send out dozens of letters every year asking for support, but they need to be followed up on to ensure that we get the donations that we depend on to help defray the cost of putting on the race. We also need people to help at the cleanups and to fill the following race day jobs:

Harbor Masters
Timing and Registration
Food Preparation and Serving
Safety Team

Please contact Sloan or Bryan Jackson to volunteer. Thanks in advance for volunteering. We know we can count on you to help us continue to build on the success of the past TRCs and make TRCXII the best yet.

A “LITTLE” ADVENTURE

By Bryan Jackson

Doug Bryans (from Paris, TX) had been scouting the Little River in SE Oklahoma for several months. He had made maps, spent time driving up and down old logging roads and befriended a local hunting guide in his efforts, but the river had not had sufficient water to paddle, until late April. Since there is no USGS gauge on this stretch of the Little, Doug contacted Buddy Dunlap, who lives near the river for flow data. To our delight Buddy reported that the river was a few inches over the low water bridge near his house in Cloudy, OK. Marc McCord, my wife Gloria and I set out and met Doug in Paris, then headed out to find Cloudy.

Getting to Rattan, and then to Cloudy is about the same distance as going to the Kiamichi. The upper reach of the Little is less than 30 miles east of the Kiamichi, almost directly in between the Kiamichi and the Glover. From looking at Doug's maps, it has about 30 to 40 miles of navigable river, provided you can get to it.

We met Buddy in Cloudy and he offered to shuttle our vehicle back from the put in. Next time we go, we are definitely taking a vehicle with higher ground clearance. Those logging roads were pretty rough on my oil pan. At one point near our put in we were several hundred feet above the river on a tiny gravel and rock road. We had a spectacular view of what looked like a pretty nasty rapid. Gloria eyed it nervously and wondered out loud if maybe she should have stayed home.

The put in we selected was a washed out low water bridge about 16 miles from our take out in Cloudy. The water was moving fairly well and we told Buddy to meet us at the low water crossing near Cloudy around 4 pm. Buddy and the folks who were camping at the put in, thought we were crazy for even thinking about paddling this run and were offering stories of man eating wave trains and whirlpools ahead. Undeterred, we set off down the river and not far along; we came across the rapid we saw from up high on the logging road. It was not as bad as it had looked, but it did almost toss Gloria out of the boat. Fortunately, she was able to catch herself and away we went. We had sixteen miles of almost non-stop fun, with a good moving current, even in the pools and long wave trains to ride, along with a couple of small drops.

The few people we saw along the way seemed to be surprised to see us going by. A few even walked down to the bank so that they could watch us until we were out of sight. We arrived at the takeout about a half hour before Buddy arrived to pick us up. Buddy then took us back to his hunting lodge where he entertains his hog hunting clients. After spending some time chatting with Buddy, we headed back to Paris and had dinner at the local Chili's. That particular night was prom night, so all the kids were decked out in the finest evening wear and we were all in wet tee shirts and shorts and possibly not smellin' too good. Made for quite a contrast.

Hopefully if we keep getting rain, we will be able to go up and do this one again. I would like to even camp up where we put in and possibly do the section above the washed out bridge. If anyone is interested in checking the area out I have maps that Doug made with all the access points marked and Buddy's contact info.

SOUTHWEST PADDLER
<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 any 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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DDRC T-shirts available at our
meetings for \$10 each.

KAYAK AT TWILIGHT ON LAKE RAY HUBBARD

Rowlett, TX - Rowlett Parks and Recreation & Kayak Instruction, Inc. are offering several special kayak Twilight Paddles on Lake Ray Hubbard this summer. The launch location is Paddle Point Park, across from Lakeside Park off of Miller Road, and gives access to 100+ acres of backwater on the lake. Paddle dates are August 16, and September 13 from 7 – 10pm. Come dip your paddle and enjoy the sunset and early evening with other paddlers, you do not have to be a resident of Rowlett to participate.

Dave Holl of Kayak Instruction Inc. explains, "You will be able to listen to the sounds of the evening while we paddle on the lake. Having a group go out and share in an event like this is very enjoyable. Paddlers of every age and skill level will be welcome, you can bring your own equipment or rentals will be available. We will make sure you have what is needed for this event."

For more information contact Rowlett Parks & Recreation 972-412-6170, Dave Holl at 214-629-4794 or visit www.kayakinstruct.com

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A Gloverly Day

By Carolee Doty

On June 29, waters in Oklahoma were high, as everywhere, so we decided to try out a river we don't usually paddle - the Glover. Doug Bryans has connections up there, so we checked with them as to river level. Taking off from Fourney at 7 am (five of us in John's car), we met up with Doug in Paris and arrived in North Pole, OK (!) at 10 am to arrange for a shuttle. Luckily, Doug chose a 20-mile takeout point. By noon we were off and running....at about 3.5 mph. The river is a beauty, with lots of class I and II falls, holes and wave trains. We all took at least one unplanned swim at one time or another, as we were dodging large boulders in a swift current most of the day. It definitely was a day to hone our maneuvering and "river reading" skills. We had heard stories about "Meat Hollow" falls (cleaning deer meat....or making oneself into meat?!) When we finally arrived there just before sunset (after 16 miles of paddling), three of us headed straight for the rocky shore to "portage" around—not an easy portage, but first choice for a tired body in waning daylight! We were off the river at 7:30 and headed straight home (via Paris) without even our usual stop for dinner. We all decided that the day before we were there, with a little more water, the river would've been just perfect as to maneuverability. As it was, we had a great chance to practice skills (luckily not rescue skills) on a beautiful river.



CARROLLTON DAM
10,000 CFS (6-27-07)

Dancing the Paluxy Two-Step

By Marc W. McCord

Saturday, July 7, was a beautiful day following weeks of endless rain. All our Texas (and Oklahoma) rivers are full of water and flowing. Our lakes are teeming with water resulting in dam releases that are keeping the rivers screaming like banshees. So, a group that included Chris Keese, Ken Bickle, John Kuhlenschmidt, Sam Sloan, Walter Velez and myself decided to do what we never get the opportunity to do – paddle the Paluxy River near Glen Rose.

We met at Big Rocks City Park in Glen Rose at 9:00 AM, then departed for our put-in at Baker Crossing about 2.4 miles above SH 51 at the Community of Paluxy. Along the way we stopped at several access points to check the river, including the SH 205 bridge and the low-water access on CR 1008, then drove to Baker Crossing to launch. When we arrived there was nobody else in the vicinity. The road was closed, but we drove down near the river to begin unloading. We must have sent a signal, because suddenly everybody in Somervell, Hood and Erath Counties started arriving. First was a family that just wanted to look at the river, possibly considering tubing it. Next came some bow fishermen who attempted to drive their 4WD vehicles across the flooded low-water bridge (they did make it successfully, though it was impossible to see any fish that could have been in the water.)

Around 10 AM, we launched and began a nice ride downriver. The Paluxy was tight and narrow with swift currents and tree strainers. It did not take long to start hitting some Class I to II rapids, though most were gentle and not challenging. We were averaging over 4.5 mph without really trying, and at one point hit 4.8 mph before settling down to a modest 3.7 mph for first half of the trip.

At SH 51, we came to a big debris field stacked against a bridge piling, with a swift current around the right side that was protected by a big tree hanging over the water. Sam and I made it through safely, but Walter got into the tree and was flipped out of the boat. His double blade paddle that was inside the boat caught on a tree branch and snapped in half. His single blade paddle went decided to go downriver without him, as did his canoe, floating upside down in a very swift current. We were about 5.6 miles downriver, and 3.4 miles below where he flipped, when we finally got his boat unpinned from a tree and dragged to the bank of an island, where we stopped for lunch. It was the first excitement in a day that came to be filled with endless challenges and thrills all the way to the end!

We encountered several decent rapids along the first half of the trip, which ended at the Edwards Crossing (Lanham Mills) low-water bridge. On river right below the bridge is a nice county park at would be great for a campsite on an overnight trip. The bridge creates a very strong hydraulic current when water is flowing over it, and below the bridge is the first of the really great rapids that we encountered that day. It was a solid Class II with two huge holes and a long wave train. Sam came first, flipped in the hydraulic, then swam/walked downriver a short distance to where John and I were taking photos. Chris ran along the river left bank and broke through the hydraulic with ease, ran the rapid, then pushed Sam's boat to where John and I were located. Ken came next, and flipped his kayak in the hydraulic, but stayed with the boat and drifted down to the rest of us. Walter took a sneak route on river right and avoided most of the rapid, but he did not flip. I went back to my boat, lined up with the center of the rapid, shot across the bridge paddling as hard as I could and broke through the hydraulic right into the teeth of the rapid. It was a wet, refreshing and exhilarating ride. John then took the route along the far right side without incident.

The next 9.1 miles were filled with numerous Class III to III+ rapids, many with huge holes and boulders, though we seldom saw or hit anything solid. We were bailing our boats after every rapid, most of which gave us very long rides with bows pitching sometimes as much as 45 degrees before slamming us back to the surface. Unfortunately, we did not have much time for photography below Lanham Mills because we were running, then bailing.

The real excitement began when we reached the SH 205 bridge where a girl had drowned just a few days earlier, and where a game warden drowned while dragging the river for her body. John, Chris, Ken and Sam portaged on river left. I intended to run the dam with John taking photos. Once everything was set, including a downriver safety, I picked a line, began paddling as hard and fast as I could and hit the dam running. I broke through the hydraulic, then turned back into it and surfed the wave up against the dam before backpaddling out without any great difficulty. Walter decided to try it also, but using a single blade paddle, did not gain a adequate forward speed. He also got slightly turned toward the left bank just at the dam, and flipped in the hydraulic, which sucked he and the canoe into the dam. As hard as he tried, Walter could not extricate himself from the pull of the hydraulic. John made several attempts to reach Walter with a throwbag, but missed on every one. Chris grabbed his throwbag and nailed Walter with one throw. By this time, I was making my way up to the dam with my throwbag, getting caught in barbed wire along the way.

I got to the dam in time to assist John and Chris in pulling Walter from the river, eventually locking a fireman's grip onto Walter's arm and pulling him up onto the dam. Walter was badly shaken by the experience. It took probably ten minutes to get him out of the river, and he was exhausted, trembling and lucky to be alive. He had tried going to the bottom to flush out, but that did not work. He tried swimming across the hydraulic, but that did not work, either. A rope rescue was the only thing that could get him out of the current. Walter's canoe was still trapped in the hydraulic and churning. It took at least 20 minutes before the canoe decided it has played as much as it wanted and washed out of the current. Ken and I went after the boat and secured it in the river.

While we were doing this a drunk launched himself from a rope swing on right river, became entangled in the rope, then slammed into the rock wall, seriously injuring himself before sliding down the wall into the river. Immediately, John, Chris and Ken headed over the help him. He was washing downriver and was unable to swim because of his injuries, which he did not perceive as serious. Chris coaxed him to grab a gunwale, and then paddled him back to the bank, assisted by Ken and John. Once on the bank, the guy started to realize the extent of his injuries as being serious. He was unable to climb out of the river, as was clutching the rope swing to stay stabilized along the bank. His friend called EMS, and eventually a rescue crew arrived on the scene. After strapping him to a backboard and injecting him with two morphine shots they decided that he was so seriously injured that they called for an air evacuation to a hospital trauma center for treatment.

We departed for the remainder of our trip, and it was an E-ticket ride all the way to the US 67 bridge. Below Highway 67, the river starts to pool because of the new dam at Big Rocks City Park, a ridiculous and dangerous structure that has already cost one human life and which will eventually kill more people. We added to the dam, took out at 7:15, and headed back to Baker Crossing to retrieve our other vehicles. Our moving average for the trip was 4.6 mph over the 20.8 miles, though our overall average speed was 2.6 mph due to stops for lunch, recovery of boats, paddlers and the rope swinger. The current was fabulous the entire day, though it did frequently make stopping to bail boats difficult.



After a sumptuous dinner at Burger King we headed home, relishing the next opportunity to paddle the exciting Paluxy at a flow over 1,000 cfs. It is a trip to remember, but not one I would recommend for paddlers without at least strong intermediate level whitewater paddling skills, swiftwater rescue training and some First Aid training. It definitely requires being about to manage your boat in fast-moving water with big waves, deep holes, strong cross currents and long wave trains. All things considered, this was the very best whitewater trip I have ever taken in Texas or Oklahoma, and I cannot wait to do it again!



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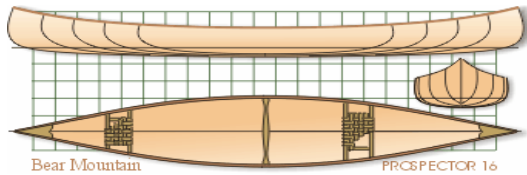
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Attention all DDRC Members:

During the year, 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 T- SHIRT and 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*

Postage

Next DDRC Meeting
Thursday 7:00 PM
July 19, 2007

On the Border
3130 Knox St.
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972-528-5900

**DDRC Meetings are the 3rd
Thursday of every month.**

**This will be the site of our
meetings until further notice.**

