

The DDRC Current News

Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club—Visit our website at www.down-river.org February 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 Tuesday** of the month - **7:00 PM** @ At Half Price Books on Northwest Highway. All members are welcome to attend to learn more about club business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paul Boling Update — Paul arrived home Jan. 20 and has been getting rehab daily as an out-patient. Tuesday they went to the DMA on a rehab trip! At this point, he is walking with a cane - last weekend he drove for the first time—with Ann in **his** kayak helmet. Just kidding! They look forward to being at the DDRC meeting next week.

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

Trips and Events

Details will be posted in the newsletter the month before the trip and on the online calendar as they become available.

2/15— Monthly Meeting at On the Border

2/17-18— Upper Mountain Fork

3/3—San Marcos River Cleanup

3/17-18— TBD

4/6-8—Mulberry, Big Piney Rivers

4/22— Garland Earth Day

4/28-29— Kiamichi River

5/12-13— Illinois River

5/26-28- Memorial Day Trip on the Little River

See page 4 for more information.



Paul Boling at the Baylor Rehabilitation Institute with Jaws' therapy dog, Sam

If you do not receive the newsletter by email but wish to be notified of trips by email, contact Bryan Jackson at hollowcreek@paddlinpals.com.

Spring Fest - A San Marcos River Paddling Festival

March 30-April 1, 2007

As Tommy paddled swiftly down the San Marcos River he wondered why so many dams blocked the river. The dams had not been used in decades. When he ran into dams like the one at Thompson's Island, made of piled up rocks, and such, he got out and cleared a path for his canoe to pass. One dam, Rio Vista, was actually run-able in his race boat; though he rarely did it because his race boat was his vehicle of choice, and it usually wasn't worth breaking it for the chance to run the falls. So Mr. Tom Goynes started campaigning to have dams like these removed to return the river to a more natural state. This led to the formation of the TX River Protection Association, www.txrivers.org, which fights the damming and drying up of our precious Texas Rivers.

Tom's tireless efforts to protect our rivers have had far reaching effects, but many of his greatest victories are hard to measure. The war rages on for many of us, and while in most battles it is hard to see victory for either side, Hidalgo and Rio Vista Falls will forever mark the success of a man who has led the paddlers of Texas for 40 years through his love of the river. The mere fact that Tom shows up to fight for what he believes in is a victory for the rest of us, paddlers, because every drop of water that he saves or keeps flowing is one that not only we get to paddle, but our kids might get to enjoy. . . So come celebrate the newly constructed Rio Vista Falls with Tom and your fellow paddlers from around the state on his home river, the ever-flowing San Marcos March 30 – April 1, 2007. Preregister: <http://www.redriverracing.org/springsfest.htm>

Demos

Instruction

Competitions

March 30 – April 1, 2007 at Rio Vista Falls Park, San Marcos, TX

Demos:

Discover what new or used kayak suits you best with the help of San Marcos's own kayak shop: TG's Canoe/Kayak, and representatives from all of the major manufacturers!

Instruction:

Try fishing from a kayak or hone your paddling skills with the guidance of caring, nationally certified, local instructors from San Marcos's own non-profit, paddling school: The Olympic Outdoor Center; including US National Team members, Olympians, and Olympic hopefuls! Don't miss the video and picture presentations on your potential Adventure Trips to Mexico, the Southeast, the Appalachians, Colorado, and the Ottawa!

Competitions:

Cheer on your local team The Red River Racing Team as they compete against teams from around the country on their home course: Rio Vista Falls or put your paddle in for the Texas State Relay race or the San Marcos Marathon! Then enjoy a Freestyle Canoe performance during dinner at the San Marcos River Pub's crawfish boil!

Seminars Include the following and more:

Never Ever- Don't miss this chance to try kayaking with the care and guidance of instructors from the Olympic Outdoor Center. Technique defines the quality of your paddling experience so do not let bad habits take root. Learn to paddle right, right from the start. \$10

Demos – Do you have a boat on your wish list? Come try your dream boat before you buy one. Boats are available to paddle from manufacturers like: \$10 **Whitewater: JACKSON KAYAKS, RIOT, LIQUIDLOGIC, PERCEPTION, DAGGER, WAVE SPORT, AND EURO** Recreational: **WILDERNESS SYSTEMS, DAGGER, LIQUID-LOGIC, PERCEPTION, OCEAN KAYAKS, OLD TOWN, HERITAGE, AND RIOT. Canoes: OLD TOWN, WENONAH, BUFFALO, and ALUMACRAFT.**

Water Divas – Ladies learn to paddle much more quickly than most men so why should you be held back by some guys that think that they know better? Come learn from instructors who live and breathe the sport, and understand what you are facing while learning to paddle. \$20

Swiftwater rescue – Do you know what to do if you get into trouble in a river? Would you enjoy your time on the water more with friends and family if you knew how to help them if they get into trouble? Come experience, analyze, prepare for and execute rescue scenarios with the guidance of professional rescue instructors. \$20

Kayak 101 - Have you tried kayaking, and want to learn more? Get started with some help from seasoned veterans, and certified instructors that can help to make your progress quicker and more fun. \$20

Canoe 101 – Did you know that most kayak technique was developed by canoers? Come learn why, and other surprising things about canoeing. \$20

Fishing 101 – Do you want to be where the fish are without them knowing that you are there? Discover where to go, what to bring, and how to catch the next “big one” from a kayak or canoe. \$20

360's – Do you flush out of your favorite wave when you start to turn? Then practice spinning back, and enjoy another dimension to your kayaking. \$20

Get Vertical – Would you like to jump your kayak out of the water? Modern whitewater kayaks can all get vertical; it is fun to use the power of the water to fly out of the water. Come play with instructors that can unlock the potential of your kayak. \$20

Rafting/ River permits – What do you paddle if you want or need to bring more than just the most basic equipment on the river? Some of America's best stretches of river require multi-day trips, and only allow limited access. Find out how you can join local and national groups to do these trips, and plan to organize your own trip with the help of experienced instructors. \$20

Whitewater – Do you see a natural playground or a hazard when you see whitewater rapids? Water creates natural playgrounds when it falls through rocks that can be dangerous. Learn how to use the power of the water to play with it in your boat safely. \$20

Stroke Drills – What makes good paddlers “smooth?” The quality of your strokes defines your experience in a boat. So practice the skills that make the good paddlers so good.

Intermediate Whitewater – Do you like whitewater? Then tap into your paddling potential to take your enjoyment of the sport to the next level. \$20

Paddling Events — See the online events Calendar for more details

February 17-18 - We will be heading to the Upper Mountain Fork and camping at River Bend /Beaver's Bend North (or whatever its being called this year) in Smithville, Ok. The plan is to paddle either Eagle Fork Creek, The Glover or the Upper Fork depending on which is running the best. Intermediate or better skills advised for Eagle Fork and the Glover. Potluck planned for Saturday night. Current weather calling for warm days and cold nights, so plan gear accordingly. Contact Bryan Jackson for more info.

March 3-4 -The DDRC will be lending a hand to the TCRA and TRPA to help clean upn the San Marcos River. We will be camping at Pecan Park or Spencer's for free and the actual cleanup will be Saturday. There will be a free dinner at Spancer's on Saturday night for all participants. Sunday we will paddle from Pecan Park down to FM 1979. For more info, contact Bryan via email at Hollowcreek@paddlinpals.com or call 972-979-2519.

April 6-8— Mulberry/Big Piney Rivers, Arkansas—We will be camping at Long Pool Campground and paddling Friday and Saturday. Bring items for a pot luck dinner on both Friday and Saturday nights. We will return home on Sunday. Intermediate skill level required. Contact Bryan Jackson for details.

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April 14— Brazos River Cleanup near Glen Rose TX. Join the Friends of the Brazos and volunteers from all of the Dallas area paddling clubs to give the Brazos a spring cleaning. Meet at Tres Rios Campground at 8:30 am. Bring rakes, shovels or a pick or digging bar as there be big trash on the Brazos. Last year we dug up close to 150 tires ! Barbecue lunch will be served to all volunteers after the cleanup. For more info, contact Ed Lowe @214-358-0612 or email twt-edlowe@msn.com

April 28-29 Kiamichi River We will be camping at KRiver campground and paddling Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday. A potluck dinner will be held Saturday night. Bring bug spray, the ticks should be in full bloom by then. Skill level Beginner and up. Contact Bryan Jackson for more info.

May 5 Medina River Cleanup We will be camping in Bandera (camping area TBD) Friday and Saturday night. River cleanup on Saturday and provided we have sufficient flow, we paddle the river on Sunday. Contact Bryan Jackson for more info.

HELP SAVE TEXAS PARKS

As many DDRC Members recall, Randy Bell from TP&W visited our meeting last year and showed us how the state parks were deteriorating due to lack of funding. TP&W is supposed to get ALL of the Sporting Goods tax but the Legislature has been capping the funds and using the overage to balance the State budget. This has in part caused TP&W to have to resort to some of the outrageous license fee increases seen of late and their failed attempts to institute registration fees on canoes and kayaks to make up for the diverted revenue just to keep vital programs funded and the lights kept on. Rich Grayson, our TP&W and TRPA rep sent me the email below regarding an attempt to have the money uncapped and returned to its rightful recipient. Please reach out to your local State Reps as Rich has indicated below and express your support for giving TP&W the funding it rightfully deserves.

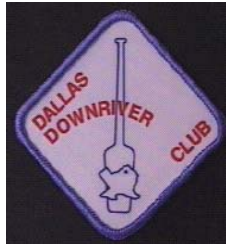
As you may be aware, much of the funding for Texas state parks is supposed to come from a tax on sporting goods, which produces more than \$100 millions in state revenues per year. Consumers of sporting goods believe their taxes are going for state parks, but in 1995 the Legislature capped the amount of sporting goods taxes that could go to TPWD at \$32 millions. In recent years, the Legislature has not appropriated even the \$32 million.

State Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville, is expected to introduce legislation to lift the cap on the sporting goods tax. "The current conditions of Texas state parks are in dire shape -- close to disaster," Hilderbran has said. "Some of the state's 114 parks are embarrassing. Declining budgets have resulted in staff cuts, reduced operating hours, deferred maintenance..." In fact, TPWD has closed some park facilities and is trying to sell off some of our precious Texas park land.

Contact your state senator and representative soon and urge them to strongly support long-overdue funding for our Texas state park system. Specifically, ask them to support lifting the "cap" on the sporting goods tax and to release previously-appropriated funds for use by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. To learn who your state rep and state senator are, go to <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/> and enter your address.

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New for this year, bring your paddle, skirt and PFD and demo the entire line of Jackson kayaks. This event is appropriate for all skill levels, beginners to experts.

Where: The Colony Aquatic Park Pool 5580 North Colony Blvd.

When: Friday nights, **October 27, 2006 through April 20, 2007 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm**

Costs – \$5.00 Pool rental, Free Jackson Kayak use, \$5.00 PFD – skirt – paddle rental

Only 3 Hours from Dallas, Oklahoma City or Tulsa

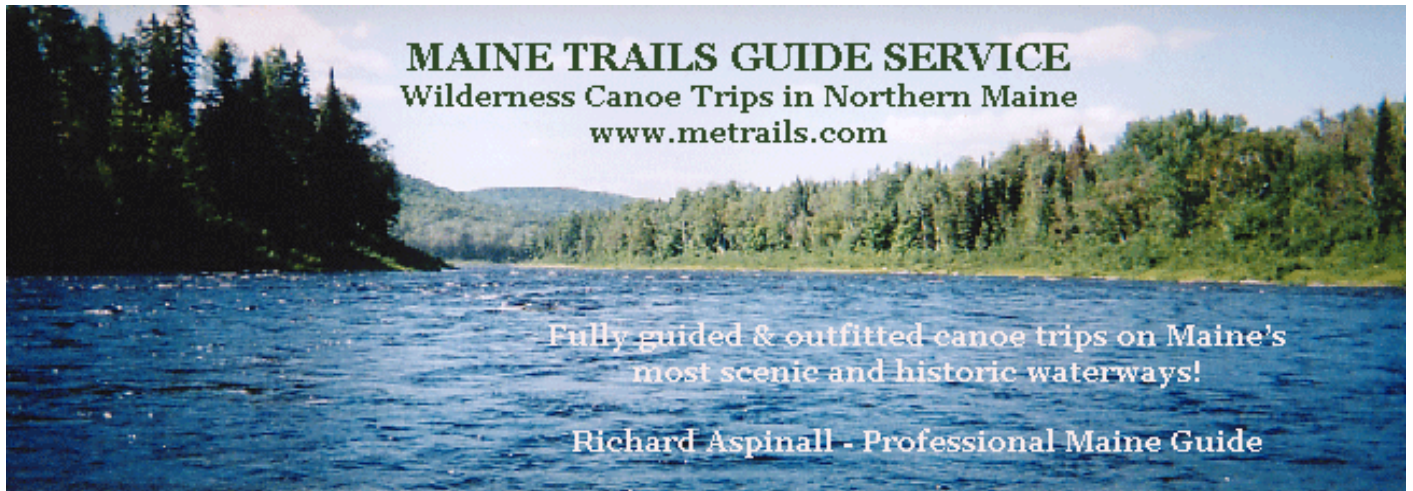


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Dear Dallas Downriver Club Members:

I am in the process of booking guided trips for the 2007 paddle season and wanted to introduce you & your club members to the canoe trips that I offer at [Maine Trails Guide Service](http://www.metrails.com). We offer many different exciting wilderness canoe & backpacking trips in Maine for adults & youth, and special rates are given to larger size groups. For specific trip details, check our website www.metrails.com or feel free to call anytime with questions or concerns. I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to serve you in the future. Thanks for your time.

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For all positions, we look for employees who can provide excellent service to our customers, demonstrate support and respect for their team members and have an interest in paddling, as well as other outdoor recreational activities, including hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, cycling, and more. In addition, you must have the ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. We know that you are paddlers and want to be outside, so we are flexible about how we schedule hours. We just want more paddling experts in our store. Previous retail sales and customer service experience is preferred.

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Support HB 450 to Ban Glass Containers

IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT A BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PETE GALLEGU THAT WOULD BAN GLASS CONTAINERS FORM TEXAS RIVERBEDS. IT IS LISTED AS HB 450 WHILE IT WILL NOT COMPLETELY SOLVE THE LITTER PROBLEM IN RIVERS, IT IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO READ IT AND IF YOU SUPPORT IT PLEASE WRITE OR CALL REPRESENTATIVE GALLEGU AND LET HIM KNOW YOU SUPPORT IT. THE HONORABLE PETE GALLEGU, TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, P.O. BOX 2910, AUSTIN, TX. 78768-2910. 512-463-0566.

This bill would ban "possession... of glass containers... within boundary of a state owned riverbed...". I guess that permits them on shore? At least it's a step in the right direction.

Rich Grayson

Eight Days in the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande, Part 3

by Marc McCord

Following a hair-raising rescue of Walter's canoe, our group food for two days and Larry Welch, we made camp at the hot springs of San Rocendo Canyon and prepared to enjoy about 36 hours of not having to break camp or paddle our loaded canoes. We were surrounded by huge mountain walls on all sides in a wide river valley that gave us an excellent view of the very starry night sky. After setting up our campsite we began the tasks of getting ready to prepare and enjoy a delicious dinner of grilled chicken quarters with seasoned, grilled vegetables and lemon poppyseed rolls. After dinner we had a powwow to discuss what went right and what went wrong during our rescue that day. We talked about what we did, and what we should have done so that we could do better the next time. It was an open and frank discussion intended to get everybody thinking critically about the mechanics of an effective swiftwater rescue of a loaded canoe pinned in mid river.

Walter had spoken with our Mexican national audience for our rescue show, and determined that they were heading back into the interior of Mexico with no food, little water and hardly the proper clothing for desert conditions in the winter, which ranged from very cool nights to very hot days. We gathered together some of our expendable food supplies that would not require cooking and Walter took it to them. They were very pleased with our gift, and after eating a small amount and drinking some hot coffee we provided they set out under the cover of darkness to try and make as many miles as they could before the hot sun rose the next day.

Wednesday was a truly great day. It was actually bordering on hot, with a bright sun and very gentle breeze. Now, everybody has his or her own idea about how to spend a layover day, especially at a place like the hot springs of San Rocendo Canyon. A few of our group chose to spend the day lounging in the warm waters of the hot springs. Most of us bathed and did laundry so that we could start the second leg of our trip with clean bodies and clean clothing. The day began with a late wake-up, and sleeping in was nice. The low water, moderate headwinds and pinned boat had taken some of our energy, and today was a day for relaxation. We started it with a hike to the bluff overlooking our campsite. There are a couple of ancient adobe ruins on the bluff, one obviously a dwelling and the other probably a water cistern. We took photos and enjoyed the view from high above our campsite, and a few in the group, led by the intrepid Virginia Villarreal, climbed to the top of the mountain. They had too much energy left! In late morning, Zoltan, Larry Welch, Virginia, Walter and myself decided to hike up San Rocendo Canyon where we found the famous "Man and Dog" rock, a mineral leeching formation that gives an amazing resemblance of a hieroglyph of a man with his dog, and we took turns posing for photos in front of the rock. We walked about 3.25 miles up the canyon before turning around to head back. By now, it was a very hot day, and we took advantage of opportunities to rest in the shade and drink water or warm Gatorade as we made our way back to camp.



After doing a little "house cleaning" in preparation for departure the next day we began preparing a dinner, which was most welcome since most of us ate neither breakfast nor lunch this day.

We dined on homemade beef stew and jalapeno cornbread, eating until there was nothing left.

We knew that tomorrow was the big day - it was Thanksgiving, and we were thankful that we would be ending the day just below Upper Madison Falls, the baddest drop on the Rio Grande.

We began Thanksgiving day with a hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs, then loaded our boats and set out for some great rapids and a lot of fun. Or at least, that was the plan. We had little problem at Bullis Fold Rapid or Palmas Canyon Rapid, both easy Class II's on that day, but Rodeo Rapid was a solid Class III+, and it was unforgiving. Walter ran it and flipped. He was wearing my helmet, and I went downriver to retrieve it before my run, but could never get to Walter due to boulders, cane and salt cedar lining the riverbank along the Mexican side. The others ran the rapid, and I did not get to see them, but I assume all made it, though much wetter for the experience. I launched from a very shallow area, and as I was attempting to turn my boat around to get forward the current caught my stern and began sucking it into the rapid backward, though I was actually sideways. Much preferring to run this rapid in my saddle facing downriver, I worked to turn the heavily-loaded canoe, but it would not cooperate. Well, running backward would be much better than sideways, so I tried to heel it around to get straight backward. That did not work, either, and I ended up demonstrating why one should NOT run big whitewater rapids with large standing waves and big holes sideways. I rode most of the rapid steadily, but the upriver wall of the last standing wave was just too much, and it flipped me upside-down and deposited me into the river. I quickly grabbed my boat and worked my way to the left bank where I began emptying water and getting ready to re-enter my canoe. Larry Rice came along, belayed my boat, and extended an arm to help pull me back inside. That was one wild and wet ride, but it was the last fun of the day on the river.

Upon arrival at Upper Madison Falls we realized our worst fears - the river was too low to run the drop, lining was going to be a major task and the portage was of killer proportions. After spending at least a half hour wading across the river current to the island and carefully scouting both sides, then some serious discussions about options we elected to portage, strongly influenced by the suggestions of both Gib and Zoltan. I will forever curse their names for suggesting that course of action. We spent over three hours hauling gear about 10 feet up a muddy, slippery embankment, slogging through very deep mud while doing so, then carrying gear and boats across about 20 yards of soft sand and thin grass before having to tote everything up and down through crevices in boulders and jungles of river cane to a spot about a quarter mile away where we could re-enter the river and re-load our boats for the short run down to our campsite below the bottom of Upper Madison.

All the while we were hearing the almost constant sounds of high-powered rifles cracking from the tops of the Texas side mountains. After careful observation we determined that they were not shooting at or anywhere near us, so we went about our business of doing the portage from hell. What a way to spend Thanksgiving Day! But, we made up for it by preparing and devouring a lemon pepper pork loin cooked in Gib's rectangular Dutch oven on a bed of yellow squash, zucchini, tomatoes, red potatoes, onion, bell pepper, carrots, celery and seasonings. It was a feast worth enjoying after a particularly trying day on the river. Come back next month for the exciting conclusion to the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande.



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Family Picnic 2007

Plans are being made for a family picnic to be held sometime in June before it gets too hot. Suggestions are being entertained as to where exactly to have the event or the possibility of it becoming a weekend trip for the kids, similar to Cad-doween. Look for details here soon.

Officer Nominations Are Now Open

Nominations are held at the January and February meetings with elections held at the March meeting. So far the nominees are :

President - Bryan Jackson Vice President - Sam Sloan

Treasurer - Thomas Taylor Secretary - Kay Crowe

Newsletter Editor - Carolee Doty



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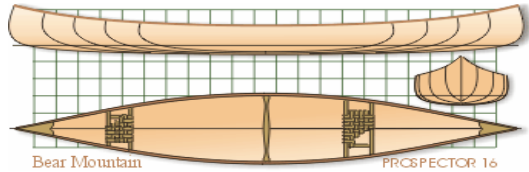
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Attention all DDRC Members:

2007 membership dues are now due!

Time to get your 2006 paddling logs in for the Most Miles Paddled awards. Deadline is the February meeting.

Don't forget, you get double miles for participating in river cleanups and BONUS miles for volunteering in Earth Day, Outdoor Kids Adventure Days and other activities through the year.

Nominations for Officer elections will be open at the January and February meetings with elections being held in March. Elected offices are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Newsletter Editor.

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*The Official Newsletter of the Dallas
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Next DDRC Meeting

Thursday 7:00 PM

February 15, 2007

On the Border

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

