

# The DDRC Current News

Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club—Visit our website at [www.down-river.org](http://www.down-river.org) March-April



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Intercoastal Waterway off  
Goose Island, TX

Photo courtesy—John Kuhlenschmidt

## Trips and Events

**March 20 DDRC Monthly Meeting**, Circle Grill, NW Hwy. (See p. 12)

**March 21-23 Kiamichi River Easter trip**—This trip will take us up to visit our friends at K River Campground for an Easter weekend paddle on the Kiamichi on Saturday, with some possible side trips to some of the adjacent whitewater creeks on Sunday if time and flow permits. Saturday night we will have a potluck dinner with an Easter theme, featuring one of my favorite dishes, dutch oven rabbit stew. Watch your email for details. Bryan Jackson (972-979-2519)

**April 4-6 San Marcos Springfest 2008**

**April 5 Brazos River Cleanup**— Meet at Tres Rios Campground at 9:00 A.M., near the confluence of Brazos River, Paluxy River and Squaw Creek, 2322 County Road 312, Glen Rose, Tx. ( 254-897-4253) Complimentary Ranch House BBQ dinner after clean-up (1:30 - 5:00 pm) Free canoes and shuttles provided by Low Water Canoes and Rhodes Canoes. Complimentary camping at Tres Rios April 4, 5, 6.

**April 11-13 Texas Lakes Trail Trip**—We will be going to Fort Parker State Park in Mexia to paddle the Navasota River and adjoining lake from the Confederate Reunion Park state historic site. Friday night is optional, Saturday night is an alligator hunt. Pets and small children are welcome (bait needed) For more details, contact Tom Taylor (214-335-5058) or: [tomtaylr@swbell.net](mailto:tomtaylr@swbell.net)

**April 12 Hidalgo Falls River Festival**— Please see DDRC website for details as they become available.

**April 17 DDRC Monthly Meeting**, Circle Grill, NW Hwy.

**April 19-20 South Llano River Trip**—Meet at the South Llano State Park, Hwy 377 near Junction, TX at 9 am Sat. We will be camping at the So. Llano State Park campground, paddling 11.5 miles to the campground on Sat. and a possible 5 mi. from the campground to town on Sun. See the Event Calendar on the website or call Sam Sloan (214-826-6159) for more details.

**April 25-26 Upper Guadalupe River trip**—More details to follow as they are available. Please check website.

**May 3 Medina River Cleanup**—Eighth Annual Cleanup, rain or shine, brings 100-200 dedicated volunteers, lots of events and fun and a phenomenal amount of junk collected! Free camping Fri and Sat. on the river at Banderita City Park or across the street (Hwy 173) at Pioneer River Resorts ( great showers, pool and hot tub), free T-shirt, free BBQ and entertainment 5-7 Sat night (and they had great sausage wraps Sat morning!), and they will cook chili dogs on Fri night if you call for a reservation. (1-866-371-3751 Linda or LloydRandall) RV rates \$11.

**May 3 Texas River Marathon**, 260 miles, 100 hours, “world’s toughest canoe race,” see website for details.

**May 11-18 Buffalo National River Trip**—See DDRC website or call trip leader, George Lackey (325-944-0175).

**May 15 DDRC Monthly Meeting**, Circle Grill, NW Hwy.

**May 24-26 Lower Mountain Fork and Little River Memorial Day trip**—More details to follow in the May newsletter and on the DDRC website as they are available.

**Wednesday Nights Paddle and Roll Sessions** at Rockledge Park on Lake Grapevine.

## Having fun is hard work

Hard to believe that it's been over four years since I was first elected DDRC President. A lot has happened in those years and I think that overall I am leaving things at least a little better than I found them. None of it however is of my doing alone. I can't think of any one out there who at some point over the years has not stepped up to the plate to pitch in by leading a trip, organizing an event, volunteering for some thankless task, building a canoe, participating in a cleanup or what ever else has come along that needed to be done. I hope that that same spirit gets carried forth as our new president takes over.

But cleanups, fundraising and races are not and should never be the driving focus of what we do. First and foremost we are together as a group because we enjoy what we do and whom we do it with. We are supposed to be having fun, safely of course, but fun nonetheless. I think from time to time we forget that and allow things to get in the way of our enjoyment. Not this year, I'm just going to have fun, regardless of whether it's running the TRC or leading a trip and I urge you all to do the same.

This means making it fun for everyone, including those that work very hard every month to keep the DDRC running. You may be asking yourself, "How can I make it fun for everyone?" but it is very simple.

Write a newsletter article about that trip you just went on. There is no rule that there has to be only one report per trip and certainly no rule that Sam, Marc, Carolee and myself have to write them.

Share your experience by leading or organizing a trip. Some of the most memorable trips we have taken were close to home and only required someone saying "hey, I'm going to ( insert your destination here) on Saturday. Does anyone else want to come along?"

Do you know of someone that might make an interesting guest speaker for a meeting?

This and a hundred more little things just like them can help make it fun for everyone. When we work together, we make each year better than the one before.

For 2008 have fun, be safe and help share the load! Thanks for your fine support over the years and I will see you on the river.

Bryan Jackson, President

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Newsletter content always needed-** *Please* share your adventures, recipes, photos, classifieds with us for our reading enjoyment. Email content to newsletter editor Carolee at: [la\\_sirena\\_84@yahoo.com](mailto:la_sirena_84@yahoo.com).

*We will try a Swap 'n Shop section again in the next issue. If there are good items you don't use (or items you need!), please email them to the editor. Include a **brief** description with the color, age, size, functionality, etc.*

**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 clubiness.



## Alamo City Rivermen Freeze Trip

By Sam Sloan

The annual Alamo City Rivermen freeze trip turned out to be just that. We arrived Friday nite and it was cold, rainy and dark, but the rain tapered off and we got a cheery fire going. Sat. nite dropped to 21 degrees, some claim 18. The water faucets in Pecan Park froze up. On Saturday morning, several of us from Dallas and a few from Alamo City put in on the San Marcus at Old City Park.

Arriving at Rio Vista dam, only one person ran the dam because of the cold, and he capsized. He was prepared with a change of dry clothes, so we were soon off again. The next hazard was a big fallen tree across the river. The banks were too steep to portage, so with Zoltan's assistance, we each climbed over. Marc managed to spill just where the current was going under the log and he got a cold bath. He was wearing a wet suit, so had some protection. We took out at Pecan Park with plenty of time to get a warm campfire going and start food preparation.



Gib Hafernicks of the Alamo City Rivermen did his usual magic with the dutch ovens for dinner that nite. The stew and peach cobbler were delicious. . . Suprisingly, the crowd was a lot smaller than in the past, maybe 50 or 60 people altogether. The DDRC was represented by Sam Sloan, CaroleeDoty, David Nevers and his son, Rich Grayson, Marc McCord, Jaws and his friend DianeSunday Sam, Carolee, Zoltan, Marc, Jaws and Diane put in at



Pecan Park and went down to Staples. At Cottonseed Rapid, several of us had already run it and were waiting on the others, when the big goose that was guarding the bank above the rapid and harassing paddlers decided to follow us through. It was hilarious! He and the rest of us made it thru fine. It was a fun trip, but had several of us shoppin' for heaters!



Photos courtesy of David Nevers



## Goose Island, February, 2008

On a rainy Saturday, with a forecast of better weather to come, Sam Sloan and Carolee Doty took off for Goose Island State Park to meet Steve Crowe, John Kuhlenschmidt and Earl Atnip. Steve, John and Earl had gotten there earlier Saturday but the winds were still high, prohibiting paddling or much fishing. The park was beautiful, right on the coast, and the RV area out on the point (cement wall vs. beach) was nice and had lots of relaxed RV people. We tented right behind John's RV and had water and a cement "room" (roof, floor & 2 walls) with electricity and a table! Sunday proved to be a great day all the way around - paddlers had a good morning excursion along the inland waterway, seeing pelicans, dolphins and an osprey diving for lunch; fishermen had much good fishing time, some luck, and lots of fun; the mermaid was ecstatic to be in saltwater and bask in the warm sun! Neighboring fishermen passed up the chance to clean their fish by giving them to us for dinner! Along with Earl's and John K's catches, we had a marvelous Sea Trout dinner. Earl delicately filleted and cooked them to perfection in foil—others' goodies to completed the feast.



John K's good lookin' Sea Trout

On Monday morning before sunup, Earl left to wend his way home via other fishing spots. Steve and John left for home, as it was very windy again. Sam and Carolee took off for the ferry to Port Aransas, as they had Monday and Tuesday off. Sam knows the area, and headed right for the bait and tackle store, a very good one, to buy a rod. Then it was off to the beautiful restaurant next door for a softshell crab sandwich...to die for!

Beautiful pelicans — yummy fish guts!



The wind had died down when we returned, and there was time for a quick paddle. Seeing a rosette spoon-bill take off from the shallows in the sunset was a real treat.

The 7-hour drive isn't bad, if you stop at the Czech stop in West and then in the Austin area (half way) to visit family (Pierre's) and eat. It definitely was a good time of the year to go and a beautiful location to paddle. The park is very friendly, the campsites and bathrooms, clean and nice. We will have to return for more fishing, wildlife viewing and swimming in the sun.





## Victories on Christmas Mountains, parks

Environment Texas celebrated two victories for preservation recently: stopping the sale of the Christmas Mountains to private interests and the voter approval of money for state parks.

The Christmas Mountains, adjacent to Big Bend National Park, were donated to Texas in 1991 by the Richard King Mellon Foundation and The Conservation Fund. The donors hoped that the Mountains would be protected as a public park or wildlife refuge; instead, Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson has tried to sell them off to private interests.

Environment Texas led the public campaign to save the Christmas Mountains and to have them added to Big Bend National Park. We generated letters from legislators and non-profit groups, dozens of news stories (including one in the New York Times), and collected more than 10,000 petition signatures.

On Feb. 5, the School Land Board voted to reject the sale of the Christmas Mountains and to keep the mountains in public hands. In addition, Commissioner Patterson ordered the mountains be opened to the public for hiking, camping and other low-impact activities.

We still have a lot of work to do to ensure the land is added to Big Bend National Park, including guarding against new obstacles Commissioner Patterson may put forth. (For the latest news on our campaign to save the Christmas Mountains, visit our newsroom.)

## Voters approve \$52 million for parks

Also on Nov. 6, Texas voters approved Proposition 4 with 58 percent of the vote. The proposition directs \$52 million in bond money to help fund badlyneeded repairs of state park facilities.

Years of budget cuts have left many of our parks in disrepair, lay-offs have reduced access at some parks, and protection of ecologically-sensitive land has been at a standstill. Some of our most cherished state parks, such as Enchanted Rock, Palo Duro Canyon and Garner State Park, will receive funds to make critical repairs.

Environment Texas will keep up the fight for full funding for our state parks, working to make sure that in 2009, the Legislature finally sets up a dedicated, substantial fund for our parks, including money to acquire new parklands.



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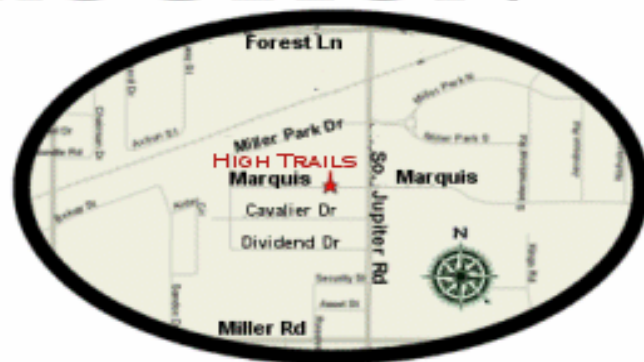
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### White Bean Soup

2 ounce(s) sliced pancetta or bacon cut into small strips  
 1 cup(s) diced onion  
 1 clove(s) garlic minced  
 2 can(s) cannellini or Great Northern beans (15-ounce) rinsed, drained  
 1 1/2 tablespoon(s) chopped fresh sage  
 1 can(s) chicken broth (14 1/2-ounce)  
 3/4 cup(s) water  
 Freshly ground pepper

Cook pancetta in a 2-quart saucepan over medium-low heat until most of fat is rendered and pancetta is crisp, about 7 minutes; remove pancetta with a slotted spoon and drain on a paper towel.

Stir onion and garlic into skillet drippings; cook over medium heat 5 minutes. Add beans and sage; cook 1 minute longer.

Add broth and water and bring to a boil; reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 15 minutes. Puree with a stick blender, or in batches in a blender or food processor, until smooth. Season soup with pepper to taste, and garnish each serving with crisp pancetta bits.

### THREE BEAN SOUP

1 can beef or chicken broth  
 1 can diced tomatoes  
 1 can black beans  
 1 can pinto beans  
 1 can red beans  
 1 cup (or more to taste) picante sauce

Put in ingredients into a pan and bring to a boil.

Serve with cheese and TORTILLA CHIPS. This

Recipe can be doubled or tripled.

Marion Balceszak, DDRC



## Middle Sabine River Trip

By Bryan Jackson

You know what they say about the “best laid plans”? Well its true sometimes and the unlucky plans went awry were the ones for the Sabine fishing trip. I had gone down and scouted the put ins and take out. I watched It had rained up by Mineola on the dreaded and feared Upper Sabine the previous week and apparently it takes a while for that rainfall to make its way down to Carthage. Combine that with a couple of thunderstorms in the Marshall / Longview area and presto, instant flood. The river jumped up 12ft in a very short time and showed no sign of going down soon enough for the sand beaches we had planned to camp on to be useable, not to mention the effect the high muddy flow was going to have on the sand bass fishing, which was why we were going to start with, so I decided to move the trip to Cooper Lake State Park.

After some last minute phone calls and emails, our now significantly smaller group decided to meet at the Doctors Creek Unit of the Park on Saturday. We could paddle around on the lake and fish to our hearts content, then come back and have a nice dinner. As I hit the road Saturday morning it was sunny and warm in Forney and it looked like it was going to be a great day, until I got somewhere between Commerce and Cooper on TX19/24. I drove under a huge cloud cover and I noticed the wind had come up. When I reached the Park, I found our happy little group huddled around a camp stove making coffee. After about an hour the cloud



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cover blew out, but the winds persisted. Lige and Marion decided they had enjoyed about as much as they could stand and headed back to Dallas, but not before they gave me a couple of pounds of fish to cook “just in case” the fishing was bad.

Fortunately I had read my own article in the last newsletter and I was prepared for the cold. I set up my “winter palace” (at the proper angle to best withstand the wind thanks to Dale) complete with end table, throw rugs and of course my Mr. Heater in a matter of a half hour or so. By then the wind had diminished slightly and we decide to put in and try our luck.

The paddle was ok, but the fishing left much to be desired. After a few hours, everyone straggled back into camp. Fishing from shore and in the creeks in the campground yielded no better results. Fortunately, back in my tent I had Lige’s bag of frozen fish thawing in a pan of water. We decided to fix our dinner before dark. Our feast featured Lige’s fish, which I deep-fried, corn casserole, wild rice and broccoli and assorted other goodies topped off with a nice hot cobbler for dessert. Darn good thing that our cooking skills are not as flighty as our fishing skills.

Like every other county in Texas lately, Hopkins county had a burn ban in effect. Fortunately, through the wonder of gadgetry, John K had brought along his portable propane-burning fireplace. We set it up in the least windy area we could find, but it was symbolic gesture at best. While it was very pretty, it was no match for the wind as far as keeping us warm went. It did however attract the attention of the local Park Ranger, who stopped rather abruptly during his rounds and was ready to lock us up until he realized that it was not a real fire. It was the highlight of the evening and worth every penny that John paid for the fireplace.

We did get plenty of time to catch up with old friends, as it had been a while since Rick Schell had been along on a trip. We also got to know new member Tim Stanton, who was out for his first (and hopefully not his last) DDRC trip.

It was great sleeping weather and the wind did eventually die down during the night, but I did have to roll over as the bright orange glow from Mr. Heater was keeping me awake. The next morning I packed up and headed back early, but it was a nice day and the rest of the group, joined by Sam who was just coming in as I was leaving, paddled and fished for a while longer.

The Doctor’s Creek Unit is located on the north side of the lake and is a little tougher to get to than the more popular South Sulphur Unit, but it s definitely worth the trip. It might be a good choice for a future Texas Lakes Trail trip, especially if they get that southerly breeze during the summer months too.

## Friday Night Flips in Full Swing at the Colony Aquatic Center

WHEN: Every Friday Night from October 2007 to April 18, 2008 7:30-9:30pm

WHERE: [Colony Aquatic Park](#), 5580 N. Colony Blvd. The Colony, TX 75056

DETAILS: Indoor heated pool, at the Colony Aquatic Park, is the perfect learning and practice environment for beginner or advanced kayakers. Friday Night Flips allows the public to work on basic to advanced skills. Sessions are open to the public for viewing, full fleet of instructional kayaks available. For more information on kayaking, lessons or winter practice sessions call 214-629-4794 or visit [www.kayakinstruct.com](http://www.kayakinstruct.com)

COST: Free to observers, \$5.00 pool use fee to participants, boats & paddles provided at no charge, PFD & helmet required and available for additional \$5.00 if needed

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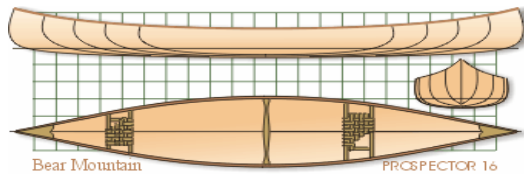
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## DDRC Newsletter Ad Rates

Type of Ad	Per Insertion	Annually
Business Cards (member)	5.00	50.00
Business Cards (non-members)	7.50	75.00
1/4 Page display	20.00	200.00
1/3 Page display	30.00	300.00
1/2 Page display	35.00	350.00
Full Page display	50.00	500.00

To advertise, contact Bryan Jackson at 972-564-2318 bryan.jackson@paddlinpals.com. We can take most any format. All ads are payable by check to: DDRC, ATTN: Newsletter Ad. P.O. Box 820246, Dallas, TX. 75382

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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 XII, races for free in TRC XII.

The Official Newsletter of the Dallas  
Downriver Club

P.O. Box 820246

Dallas, Texas 75382

Postage

**Next DDRC Meeting**  
**Thursday 7:00 PM**  
**March 20, 2008**

**CIRCLE GRILL**  
**3701 Buckner Blvd.**  
**Dallas, TX 75228**  
**214-327-4140**

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

