

The DDRC Current News

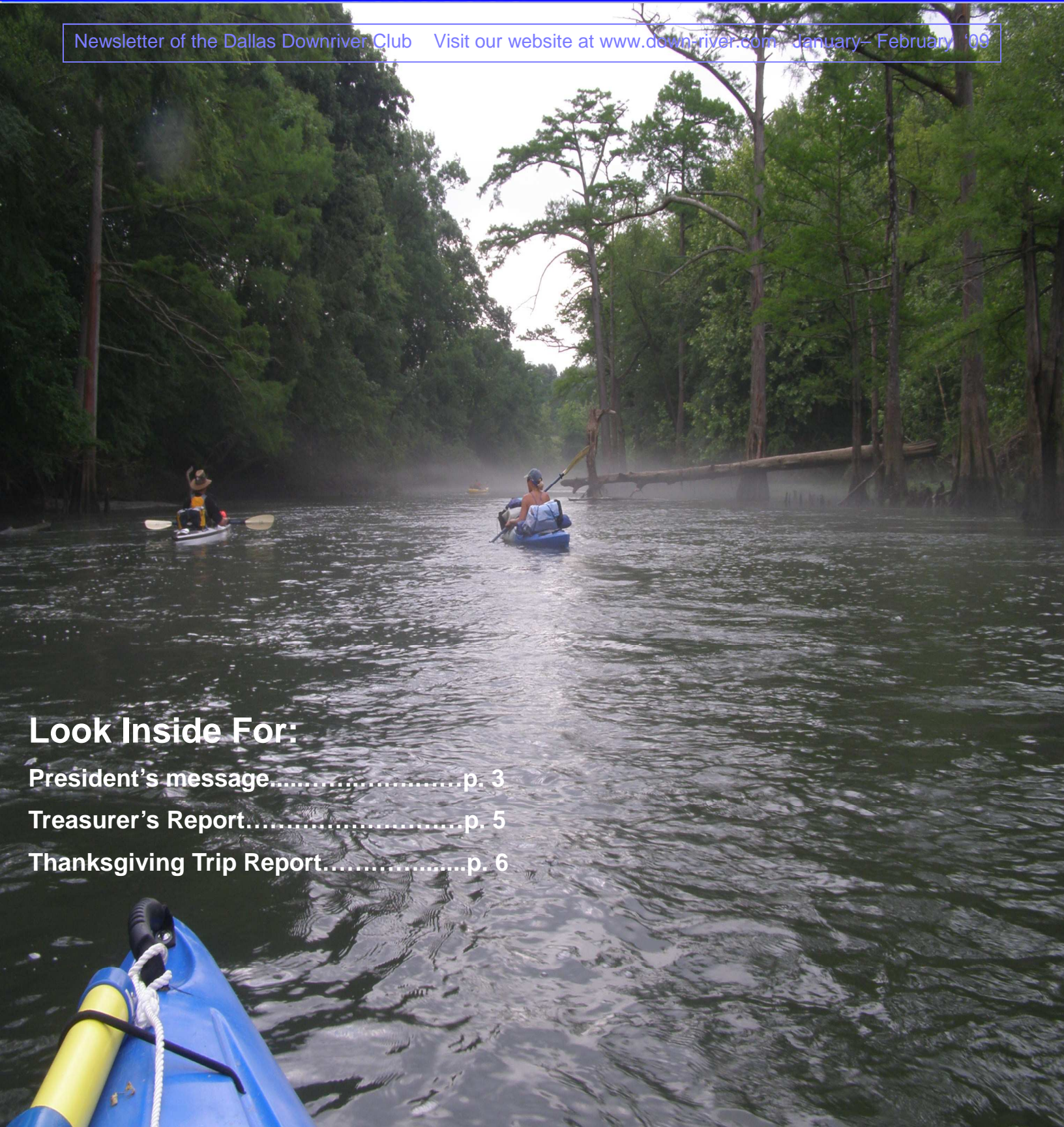
Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club Visit our website at www.down-river.com January– February '09

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Trips and Events

Fridays through April 2009 — Friday Night Flips— 7:30-9:30 at The Colony Aquatic Park Pool, 5580 North Colony Blvd. Practice your paddle and roll strokes in a heated pool with Kayak Instruction, Inc. Call Dave Holl at 214-629-4714 or check the website at www.kayakinstruct.com. Equipment can be rented for a \$ 5.00 fee. There is a \$ 5.00 pool fee. Come every Friday through April 17th.

January 15— DDRC Monthly Meeting at the Circle Grill, NW corner of Buckner and I-30.

January 17-18— 1st Annual Polar Paddle— We will be paddling the Little River from Oklahoma into Arkansas. Meet at The Little River boat ramp in Horatio, AK, on Saturday morning at 9am. We will paddle 3 miles to a high island to set up camp and begin preparing dishes for the Dutch Oven Cook-off. Bring a dessert or main dish for the cook-off or a side dish, bread, etc, to contribute to the meal. On Sunday morning, we will paddle 8 miles to the take-out. Contact Bryan Jackson for questions (972-979-2519), or check the website.

February 14-16 — Goose Island State Park— Please see website soon, or call Steve Crowe at 940-484-7361 for details on this fun coastline paddle near

February 19 —DDRC Monthly Meeting at the Circle Grill, NW corner of Buckner and I-30.

February 28 - Urban Paddle— DFW location to be announced. :)

February 21—March 1 - Upper Canyons of the Rio Grande— This trip will include the Santa Elena Canyon, the Great Unknown and the Mariscal Canyon. It will be an 8-day, 78 mile paddle of Class II-III+ waters with layover days at each end. Contact Marc Mc Cord at 214-221-1290 for more information or check the website.

March 7-8— San Marcos River Cleanup— The DDRC will be lending a hand to clean up this beautiful river. Camping will be at Pecan Park Campground. Cleanup will be Saturday and we will also paddle Sunday before coming home. Please check the website for more details.

March 19 —DDRC Monthly Meeting at the Circle Grill, NW corner of Buckner and I-30.

Elections will be held. Don't miss it.

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Letter from the DDRC President

The DDRC will have its annual general meeting, with officer elections, on March 19th.

Nominations for officer positions will be taken at the January and February meetings. Officer positions include President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Newsletter editor, and Secretary. Nominations can be made for any officer position, but some incumbent officers may want to run for another term. In the case of more than one candidate for one position, the club members present at the March meeting, will be able to vote for the candidate of their choice.

I will not be running for another term as President this year, but it has been an exciting and interesting year, and I especially would like to thank the other board members for doing a great job. I would encourage those that like paddling, and like a challenge, to run for this position. There are many benefits to being President, and you likely will meet new people, and make new contacts for paddling across the state.

I think the election is the most important thing the club does, because it assures the club of leadership for the coming year. If you are interested in an officer position, you must have another member in good standing nominate you. There is no pay for this, only the self esteem one gets, working for a good cause. If you have enjoyed the benefits that being in the club offers, please consider paying the club back with some of your time. Most positions require no previous experience, and though some work is required, they are generally fun to do.

If you have any questions about an officer position, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks, Sam

Sam Sloan

DDRC President

ddrcmail@yahoo.com

214-957-9374

2008 DDRC Christmas Party

- by Sam Sloan



The Christmas party went off well this year with ham, turkey, and tons of dessert. We had a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus, who brought us some good cheer. We also saw some familiar faces we hadn't seen in a while, which gave an opportunity to catch up on things.

Larry Lewis finally got his most miles paddled award for 2007, and Bryan had a slide show of the year's events. It was nice to have a good turnout, and to see everybody there. Everyone seemed in the Christmas spirit, and a good time was certainly had by all.

2009 Trip Planning

Well it's that time of the year when we start laying out the trip calendar and we could really use two things, trip leaders and ideas. With gas prices down, it might be nice to hit some of the places we have been avoiding at \$3 and \$4 a gallon. How about an early spring trip to the Illinois before the riff raff start showing up? Maybe a trip to the lower Sabine or Village Creek? Definitely a run out to the Big Piney and Mulberry or a visit to the Medina. Let us know where you want to go.

Since you already have an idea, why not lead the trip? Steve Crowe, Tom Taylor, Sam Sloan, Marc McCord, Dale Harris and Carolee Doty all stepped up to the plate in 2008 and did great jobs leading trips. I have said this before, but it warrants repeating, IT'S NOT HARD and there are probably 25 or so weekends a year when we are not doing anything. Lead an Urban Paddle, take us to your favorite spot or take us someplace you would not dare go alone (well, within reason). Bottom line is if you are doing it for the first time, you will have plenty of help and encouragement and it makes every trip more enjoyable if everyone pitches in and shares the responsibility. If you don't know where to start, speak to Sam or myself and we can get you headed in the right direction.

Bryan Jackson

Treasurer's Report

This year's running balance sheet is not much to look at, but we did have a lot of one-time expenses this year. We replaced the sound systems for the meeting and the race as well as buying ahead on TRC awards. These purchases dragged down our bank balance, but membership renewal is doing well and we currently have a bank balance of \$2026.69. Another big hit was on TRC XIII, which just barely broke even due to light turn-out. Provided we watch our pennies and make some changes to the race budget for TRC XIV, we should have a much better 2009.

DDRC Running Balance Sheet for 8 months ending 12/31/2008			
Income			
Dues	\$1,210.00		
Raffle	\$880.00		
Net from TRC XIII	\$63.79		
	\$2,153.79		
Expenses			
Raffle Merch		\$759.46	
Newsletter Printing and Postage		\$138.60	
Post Office Box Rent		\$168.00	
Internet Fees (Domain and hosting)		\$57.47	
Swiftwater Rescue Class		\$197.43	
PA system replacement		\$133.68	
Christmas Party		\$549.29	
Caddoween		\$96.35	
Awards		\$51.93	
		\$2,152.21	
Net Profit (Loss) YTD	\$1.58		

Thanksgiving on the Kiamichi

For those of us with family obligations, taking a big far away trip over Thanksgiving is out of the question. For the last seven or so years, I have been doing a Thanksgiving weekend trip and five of those trips have taken us to the same place, K River Campground outside of Antlers, OK for a paddle on the Kiamichi. The campground had not been open to the public for very long the first time we visited and we have watch the place grow as Tom and crew have added to and expanded the facilities over the years.

Last year's trip was quite rainy and cold, so we improvised a warm place to gather and have our meals by enclosing the campground's picnic pavilion with tarps and using John K's gas fireplace to warm it up. This year, there was slight chance of rain, but it was supposed to be windy and cold, so we took enough tarps to seal the place up just in case. Doug Bryans went dumpster diving at a carpet store in Paris, TX and found us a nice large piece of carpet to put down as we had quite a dust situation last year due to the campground contingent of dogs.

It rained most of the way up that Friday, so we were feeling really good about bringing all this stuff with us. Doug and I got to the camp in early afternoon and went about hanging tarps and getting our carpet down. Earl Atnip and his kids were already in camp and were out fishing. As others showed up over the course of the afternoon, they gave us a hand finishing up the pavilion. No too long after, Jaypo and the rest of the canine welcoming committee came by and an amazing thing happened. They came into the enclosed pavilion and stopped dead in their tracks when they got to the carpet. Apparently they associate carpet with being in the house, a place they are definitely not allowed. If they did come in they would stay on the dirt portion of the floor and not venture into the covered middle. This made everyone happy and

even if we did not need the shelter enclosed (which we did) it would have been worth the work. We had a good size crowd of 18 for this trip and we alternated between the fire pit outside and the cover of the shelter, catching up and enjoying the evening.

The river level for this trip was very reminiscent of our first visit 7 years ago as the river thundered by the campground at a mind numbing 20cfs. Fortunately, we have several options along the 80 odd miles of the Kiamichi between Clayton and the Red River.



We chose the section below Hugo Dam as there is usually enough water being released from the lake to get you down the river. The trip to the launch area below Hugo Dam takes about an hour to reach from the campground. The launch area is not terribly canoe friendly either as you have to carry boats down a long set of stairs and then over large rocks to get to the river. A new US 70 bridge is currently under construction a few hundred yards down river, which looks as though it will have good river access when completed.

We ran our shuttle and set off down the river, most of us seeing this reach for the first time. There is a lot less gradient than on the upper reaches, which made for flat mostly deep water. It was a pleasant day, sunny but not overly warm and we stopped for lunch at what we initially thought was the halfway point on our trip. Doug had been told by some of the locals that the overall distance for this run was 7 miles. My GPS did not have a map for this part of the river, so I could not get a good idea of the distance. Scott Weinert's did though and we could easily see that we still had quite a ways to go. We had plenty of time though and it was, as I said, a nice day.

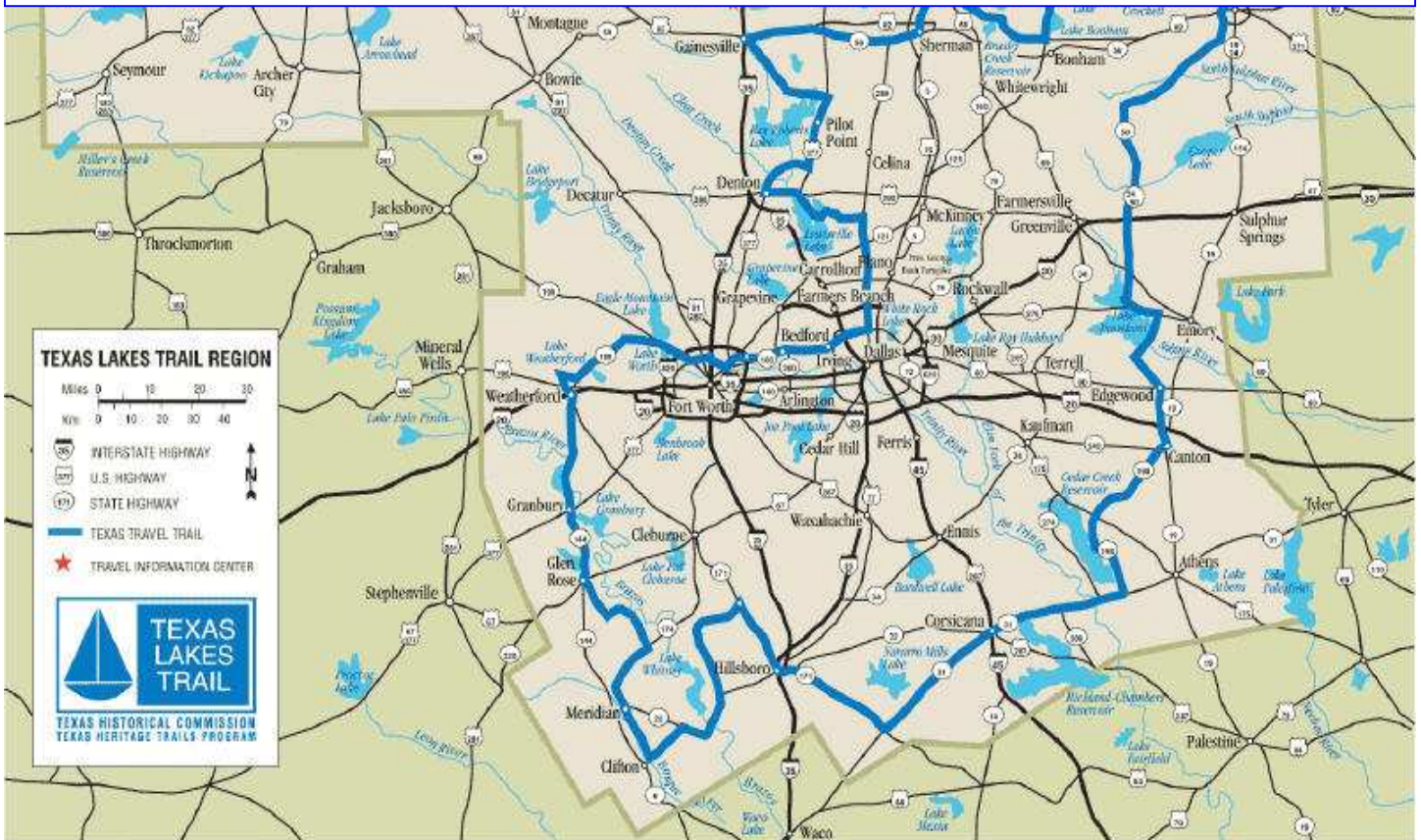
Seven miles turned out to be 12.6 at the end of the day, but we made it to the take out with time to get everything off of the river and loaded up before it got dark. Needless to say, we were a little late getting back to camp. Lige and Marion had come up in the afternoon to participate in the Thanksgiving Potluck and were out by the fire with Tom and the dogs waiting for us.

With all those people in attendance, the Thanksgiving potluck was one of the best. Fortunately Doug had the turkey smoked in Paris, so we only had to warm it up, there were two picnic tables covered with all manner of goodies and we enjoyed them in a virtually dog free environment, thanks to the carpet. We topped it off with a huge cobbler and a few hours around the campfire.



We woke up on Sunday to find that winter had arrived. The wind was blowing and it was really cold, so everyone packed up and headed for home.

Last weekend, John K., Marc and Thomas took a **Texas Lakes Trail** trip to **Meridian Lake State Park** at the “top of the hill country.” It was too cold and windy to paddle, so they scouted the Bosque River and ate great BBQ. In mid-March, the trip will head to **Clebourne Lake State Park**. This will feature lake paddling for the novice and maybe a trip to the Brazos River or it's tributary. We encourage those who've not been paddling in a while to come out with us, and even bring a friend who's not been before. It's a wonderful way to see the beautiful Texas lakes close to home! We need your support to keep this worthwhile program going.



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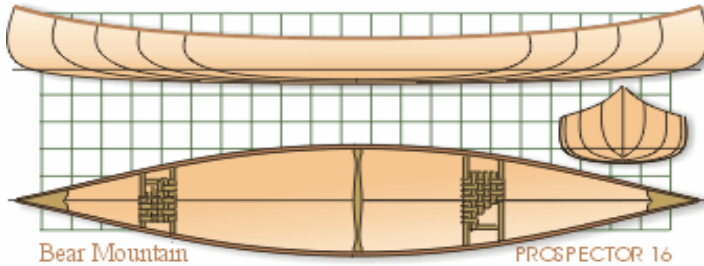
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FINE PRINT - The DDRC Current News is published monthly by the Dallas Downriver Club and is provided to its members either by First Class postage or by email. Opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and may or may not reflect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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletter content always needed - 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.

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The Official Newsletter of the Dallas
Downriver Club

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Postage

Next DDRC Meeting
Thursday 7:00 PM
January 15th

CIRCLE GRILL
3701 Buckner Blvd.
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DDRC Meetings are the
3rd Thursday of every
month.

