

The DDRC Current News

Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club—Visit our website at [www. down-river.com](http://www.down-river.com) July - Aug. '09



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Tom Taylor pursuing his favorite pastime

Trips and Events

August 1—Urban Paddle and Potluck Adventure This month's Urban Paddle will be held on Lake Ray Hubbard at the little park at the end of Barnes Bridge Road in Sunnyvale. Meeting time will be 9am. Directions and a map will be on the event calendar and an email will go out the week of the paddle.

August 8— Moonlight Float—Trinity Park in Fort Worth. Just in case you missed it last month, we are going back again. We will meet at the north end of Trinity Park, have our picnic potluck and wait for the sun to start going down. We will then set off on a trip around downtown Cowtown. It was beautiful in July, hopefully it will be a little cooler. Details will be on the event calendar.

August 20— Monthly Meeting at the Circle Grill. Ed Lowe will be on hand to give us a Friends of the Brazos update.

September 5-7— Labor Day Weekend Trip. Two nights and three days on the Lower Mountain Fork and Little Rivers between Eagletown, OK and Horatio, AR. Details on the Event Calendar.

September 19—Watermelon Cleanup for TRC XIV Time to give the Elm Fork and McInnish Park a good cleaning in preparation for the Trinity River Challenge.

September 26— Trinity River Challenge XiV

October 3-4 - Illinois River, Tahlequah, OK.. We will be camping at Sparrow Hawk Camp and paddling the river Saturday and Sunday. Details to follow.

October 24-25 - Caddoween Fun and spookiness for the whole family on Goat Island. Plan to attend.



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Kiamichi Wave Train Adventure

Memorial Day '09

by Bryan Jackson

All the rain we had in March, April and May that provided us with such great spring trips caused us to change our normal Memorial Day overnight trip on the Little River due to high water. We ended up on the Kiamichi, camping at KRiver and paddling day trips. Let me tell you, we had the absolute perfect water level for experienced paddlers.

However if you have been to the Kiamichi, you know that we are usually the only experienced paddlers up there and Tom's rental fleet was sure taking a beating with the river running at about 3600cfs. Not as high as we have paddled it before, but as I said the perfect level as far as I am concerned. The first day out, we ran up river to the second bridge over the river on OK2, about 14 miles from camp. We had great current the first two miles. As we turned the corner where the river goes under the first OK2 bridge, we found ourselves looking down the barrel of a full blown class II wave train that was close to a half mile long. It ended with a nasty side wave coming from the bank and hard right turn under the bridge, and was fantastic! All of our guys and girls made it, of course. However, we could not help but notice that there was an inside-out canoe wrapped around the bridge piling. Apparently, one of the canoes that Tom had put on the river ahead of us had not executed the hard right or the wave had gotten them. Fortunately, Tom had power boats patrolling the river who picked the unlucky pair up and ran them back to camp. We found the rest of their group downriver a bit in an eddy. They were clinging to beer cans with one hand and gunwales with the other and their eyes were wide with fear. We explained to them that if they were ever going to get back, they were going to have to let go of what they were holding on to and grab a paddle. They asked us if there were any more rapids like the last one, to which I replied, "No, the rest are much worse." They didn't find that very funny.

Moving along, we drifted with the current around Lost Mountain and came to that little rapid that you are probably familiar with that goes downhill on the right, then bends back to the left, and normally has a little wave at the bottom. Well, at 3600, the current runs hard on the right bank, running you right over all those big rocks that are normally out of the water and right into another big long wave train - not quite as rough

as the first one, but a ton of fun none the less. We heard later that our friends with the beer cans, wiped out here and were brought home by motor boat. The low water dam that we normally have to go around on river left, was also run able and was sporting about a 3 foot drop and another big wave train. We cruised back into KRiver covering the 13.6 miles in a cool 3 hours.

We were not the only visitors at KRiver that weekend. A huge group of treasure hunters were having an event and a large group of gold panners were there as well. The campground was just about at capacity. The treasure hunters had moonlight treasure hunts where all of the big lights in the camp were turned off and they were left in the dark with their metal detectors to find their goodies. Tom later commented to me that he probably should have gone around and picked up the doggie doo before that event (!), but nobody really seemed to mind.

On Sunday, we put in at the campground and did the 12 miles down to the US 271 bridge outside of Antlers. No big white water there but it was a really nice ride. As we got closer to Lake Hugo, the current slowed a bit, so it took us about 4 hours to make the run. Larry and I decided that 12 was not enough, so we had Doug drop us off up at Pine Creek and we did another 7 miles back to the camp. Monday I put Jaws and John K. on at Pine Creek since they hadn't experienced the great rapids on the upper section. The rest of us packed up and headed home. The really nice water lasted until about the middle of June up there. Now it's back to it's usual summertime trickle. Well, maybe we'll get some late summer rain. If so, I'll be there.

**Trinity River
Challenge XIV is
coming soon.
Safety, Food, Park-
ing and Timing Vol-
unteers needed!
Contact Dale or
Bryan to sign up**



Mark and Dale
practice starting a race
with a roll !

June 20th - Cleburne State Park

by Dale Harris

The Cleburne State Park is beautiful quiet and small lake and state park located southwest of Cleburne, TX. The lake is about one mile long and has scenic shoreline with places to swim and picnic. In addition, the lake at Cleburne State Park is a “no wake” lake so it is relatively safe for canoeists and kayakers. In total eight DDRC members showed up for the weekend, some arriving on Friday night and some on Saturday morning. It was a typical hot and windy summer day but most of us still got out and paddled around the lake for a couple of hours and even jumped into the water to cool off.

Mark McCord brought his racing canoe and offered to let us try it out. I took Mark up on his offer even though he warned me about tipping it over getting in or out. So I tightened up my life jacket and gave it a try. Mark was right -I tipped over, twice! But after that, I was able to paddle around without too much difficulty.

On Saturday evening we started cooking and telling the usual lies in camp when the park manager stopped by and spent about 45 minutes with us. He gave some history about the park along with the budget, regulatory and processes and procedures he has to deal with. Like new hire with little training and computer problems – they had just about everybody’s reservation wrong.

Going to Cleburne State Park was part of Tom Taylor and Steve Crowe’s idea to tour and explore the “Texas Lakes Trail” - members of the DDRC go to small parks with lakes not too far from Dallas. I have been on several of these trips and actually like them. Basically, it is car or base camping, so you can bring a few extra items. For example, Mark stopped at Home Depot and bought a 20 inch box fan to put in his tent. I guess Mark is so used to the Texas wind that he can’t even go to sleep unless he’s being blown around. Most of the state parks have mature trees and beautiful scenery and it makes a very relaxing camping trip. A few friends, good food, fishing and a fun paddle around the lake make it an enjoyable experience. For the DDRC members who have limited camping gear, kayaks or camping experience, these TX Lakes trips are the ideal place to get started. It is also kid friendly for young families.

Oh yeah! John K. didn’t bring any new gadgets and Tom T. spent so much time talking that Mark, Sue, Pat, Bruce, Liz and I couldn’t get a word in. <grin>



Summer Nights and Moonlight Floats

The June Moonlight Float was held on the Brazos below Lake Whitney. As everyone arrived, we were pleasantly surprised to find that there was water being released from the lake. The joy was short lived however, as the water level started dropping before we could even get boats launched. The release lasted only about an hour, not nearly enough to take us the 8 miles down to Dick's Outpost. We set off down river, going about a mile or two to some rocky cliffs on river left where we have had our moonlight picnics before. All who came along had a good time munching on our usual bountiful assortment of goodies, chatting and watching the sun go down. It's a shame we did not have a release since the moon rose very early and was huge and bright at our backs going back up river to the dam. We would have needed sunglasses had we been going the other way.

For July we moved the moonlight float to Trinity Park in Fort Worth ,with the plan being to have our potluck before we paddled the Trinity into downtown Cowtown. The thermometer in my truck read a blistering 107 degrees when I left my driveway that afternoon, and it took quite a while for it to cool off. Our picnic consisted of corn on the cob, chicken, veggies and dip, hot dogs (of course) and other assorted munchies. We found the largest shady tree we could and it did provide some relief from the heat as did a nice breeze that picked up towards dusk. Around 8:15 we took boats to the water and set off down the river, making a long circular route around the downtown area. We did not get a moon as it rose very late, but we did get a fantastic view of the Fort Worth skyline all lit up. It was very nice paddle indeed, even though the water temp was still almost 90 degrees at 9 pm. It was so much fun in fact, that we are going to do it again for the August MLF. Several folks were away and missed it. We should have, if not cooler temps next time, a earlier moon rise. The view of the city at night rivals any nighttime float in the country. Hope you can make it!



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meetings for \$10 each.

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Rowlett Creek Urban Paddle

by Larry Simpson

Paddling with Dallas Downriver Club is about having fun enjoying nature and the company of others. The Urban Paddle on June 27th was a great opportunity for both. We met at a small, unpaved parking area where Miller Road crosses Rowlett Creek. Though quite trashy, the put-in was easy enough and we headed south towards Lake Ray Hubbard. The thing you notice about Rowlett Creek is that it is completely unmanaged, which means that a few yards from put-in at the bridge you're surrounded by nature. When the creek opens up a bit near the lake you seem to have left civilization behind. There were tall trees, cattails, elephant ears and lots of birds. We headed across the lake and stopped at the Rowlett Road bridge to rest a minute in the shade before heading back. This also gave a late-comer a chance to catch up—luckily, she found her way through the river forks and pollen-covered water! On the way back you start to notice the other facet of being unmanaged - the pollution. Several dead fish and a door to a port-a-potty made the water seem much less friendly. There was even a live possum stuck on a branch in the water. He looked like he had no intention of taking a swim to get back to shore!

The take-out was a slightly different experience, as most of us tried to avoid stepping in the water at all. We decided to eat our lunch right there in the crowded (though grassy) parking area, making room under the one shade tree. With lots of food to share and friends to share it with, we had a great time... as long as we didn't think about where the rest of the port-a-potty was. ...or the slight fender bender we had getting out of the parking lot.



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TRC XIV Early Registration is now open!

This years TRC will be held on Saturday, September 26 at McInnish Park in Carrollton. We will have the 11.6-mile race for recreational paddlers, the 20-mile course for the TCRA racing boats, a new 5-mile junior tandem race for Juniors under 16, and a Junior/Adult race with an age limit of 12 on the junior paddler.

The Recreational Race will give awards by boat class and age group as well as the G.E. Rounsefel Trophy to the fastest male recreational paddler and the Julie Basham Trophy to the fastest female recreational paddler.

TCRA race will award by boat class by age with the fastest paddler(s) being awarded the Brian O. Lisle Trophy.

The 5-mile Junior Race will be restricted to tandem canoes only, with awards going to the fastest Junior team and the fastest Junior Adult team.

The registration fees will be the same as last year - \$25 per person early and \$30 race day for the Recreational and TCRA races; \$15 per person early and \$20 Race day for the Junior race.

All race participants will receive the highly prized TRC Race Tee and a hot Barbecue lunch. Extra meals or tees may be purchased for \$10 each (tees subject to availability on race day).

We need help securing sponsors for this year's race, as well as cleanup and race day volunteers. Please contact Bryan Jackson 972-979-2519 to volunteer or for more information.

Welcome New Members!

Nicole LeBoeuf

Paul Murphy

Daryl & Judy Tumbleson

Kelly Robinson

Cynthia Perkins

Henry Flores

LaQuita & Carl Toles

Connie Childress

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DDRC Volunteers Make a Difference

by Bryan Jackson

We had a couple of opportunities to get involved with some volunteer work in June and I would really like to thank those who stepped up and gave their time. The first one was at Fair Park, where we participated in the Outdoor Discovery event presented by the Science Place. Eric Nielsen, Brian Phillips, Dale Harris and myself braved 100+ degree heat to give kids canoe rides on the lagoon in Fair Park. We had a pretty good turnout and there were some pretty good prospective paddlers in the bunch. We also had an opportunity to tell folks about the DDRC and maybe picked up a few new members to boot. We plan to do some other events with the Science Place in the future, maybe a camping trip or a day paddle. We are still working out details.

Texas Tough put on a swim race and relay on Lake Carolyn in Las Colinas to benefit Children's Hospital. Morrie Fenlason, Larry Simpson and I volunteered to paddle safety for the swimmers. If you have ever done a triathlon with us, it was nothing like that - these people could swim, I mean really swim. The first race was a 1.2 mile affair; then there was a 400 meter swim for the "beginners", followed by a 4X400 meter relay that some people swam two legs of. These people were amazing athletes - we only had to take about three people out in rescue boats (two of them had swum over 3 miles that day). This event will likely grow in size next year and I would very much like for us to have a good relationship with it. I can't think of a better cause to support than Children's Hospital. As I said before, my deepest thanks to all of those who gave their time to these two events. There is no better way to spread the word about the DDRC than to get out there and get involved in the community.

White Rock Lake Urban Paddle

By Carolee Doty

The June Urban Paddle was lots of fun—the weather was good, the company, though a small group, was fun and had some new members. Just as we all got in, the boating leg of an "Adventure Race" was arriving at our put-in. It was colorful, fascinating, and amusing at times. About 75 yellow blow-up kayaks were launched at almost the same time, manned by one or two paddlers.....of all ability levels. It was definitely "rub-a-dub-dub, 2 men-in-a-tub." We then paddled up the creek a ways, and it was quiet and fairly cool (in retrospect!). We saw turtles, fish and several big snakes hanging from branches. (they were not interested in us at all) Some of us wanted to paddle down to the spillway. It was much farther than it looked, of course, and we actually had to paddle against a current returning to the boat house for lunch. Good workout, though. There were yummy treats and stories to share, as always, before we went our separate ways at one o'clock. Hope you can join us next time.

Race Application
Trinity River Challenge XIV
Saturday, September 26, 2009
 Registration fee includes a Tee Shirt and Lunch
 Solo Racers fill out 1 form each. Paddler #2 is for tandem teams.

Paddler #1

Name:

Address:

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Age on Race Day: _____

E Mail: _____

Gender: M F

Tee Shirt Size: _____ (M through XXL available)

Paddler #2

Name:

Address:

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Age on Race Day: _____

E Mail: _____

Gender: M F

Tee Shirt Size: _____ (M through XXL available)

Type of Boat being registered _____

Boat Length _____

Entry Fee (per Racer)

@ \$25.00 \$ _____

Rec or TCRA
Race

@ \$15.00 \$ _____

Junior Race

Extra Meal Tickets

@ \$10.00 \$ _____

Extra TRC XIII Tee Shirts (Specify Size)

@ \$10.00 \$ _____

This section will be completed by Race Registrar

Total

\$ _____

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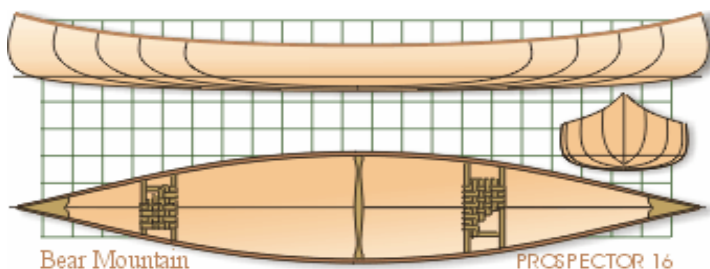
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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of articles, announcements, events, trips, etc. is the 1st Thursday of the month. It is on a come first served basis therefore sooner is better.

DDRC BOARD MEETINGS are held every **second Tuesday** of the month - **7:00pm** @ Dale Harris' house in Richardson. All members are welcome to attend to learn more about club business.

Trip Leaders Needed

No Pay

Lousy Hours

Great Food

Not Difficult

See Bryan For Info

The Official Newsletter of the
Dallas DownRiver Club

P.O. Box 820246

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Postage

Next DDRC Meeting
Thursday 7:00 PM
August 20, 2009
September 17, 2009
At the CIRCLE GRILL
I 30 and Buckner Blvd.

DDRC Meetings are the
3rd Thursday of every
month.

