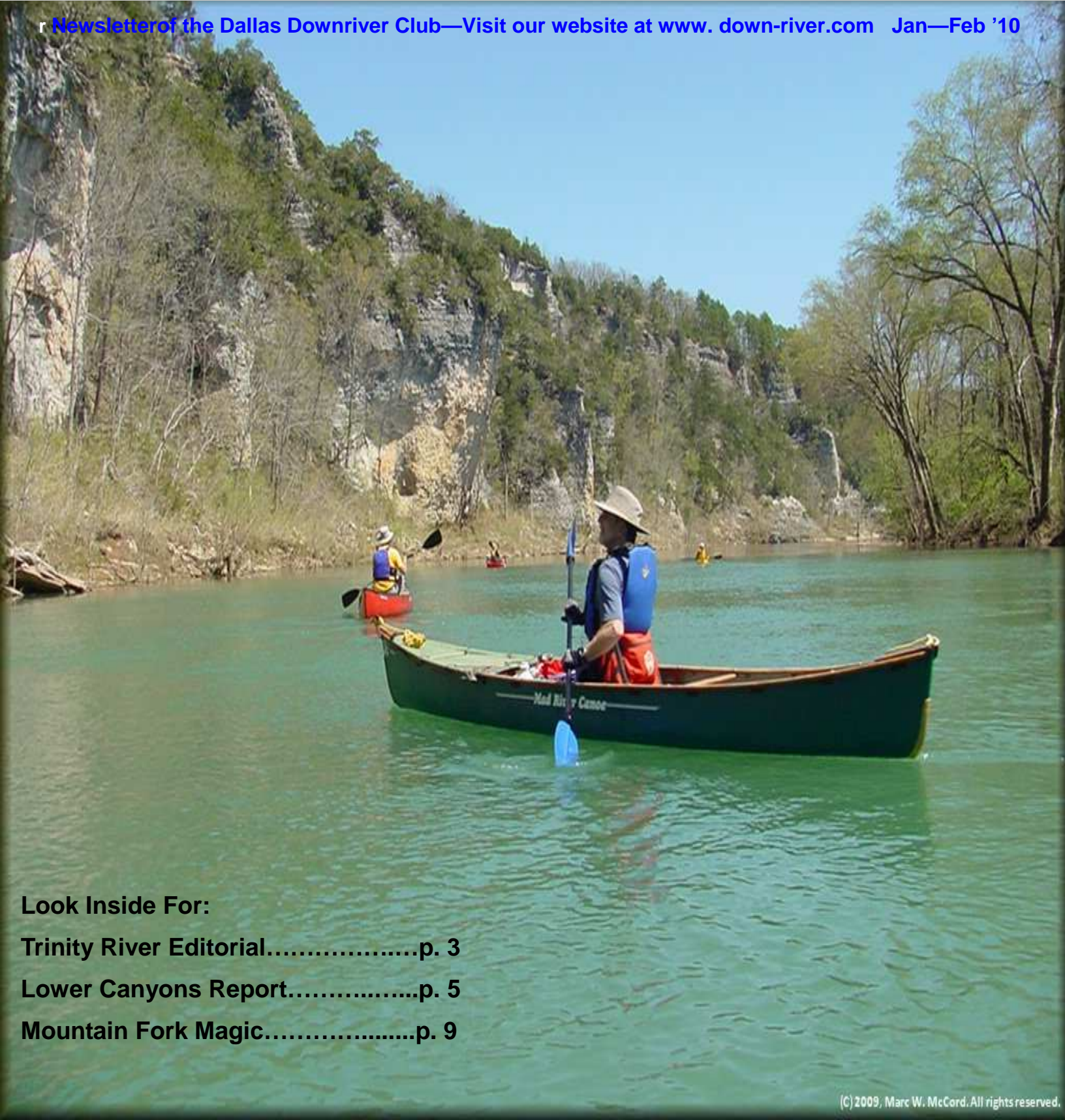


# The DDRC Current News

Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club—Visit our website at [www. down-river.com](http://www.down-river.com) Jan—Feb '10



## Look Inside For:

- Trinity River Editorial.....p. 3
- Lower Canyons Report.....p. 5
- Mountain Fork Magic.....p. 9

## Trips and Events

**Friday evenings —Friday Night Flips** at the Colony Aquatic Center (heated) pool, 5580 North Colony Blvd., last 'til April 16th. Contact Dave Holl for more information (972-412-7691) or check: [www.kayakinstruct.com](http://www.kayakinstruct.com). Times are 7:30-9:30 and the pool fee is \$5.00.

**January 30-31— 2nd Annual Polar Paddle**—We will be paddling the Little River from Oklahoma into Arkansas. Meet at Ashalintubbi 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, entrée, a side dish, bread, etc, to contribute to the meal. Plenty of firewood is available on the island, but bring something to cut it with if you can. On Sunday morning, we will paddle 8 miles to the take-out. Please email Bryan Jackson or check the website for more details.

**February 13-15—Goose Island Coastal Trip**—We will be camping at the State Park and paddling, fishing and birdwatching on the intercoastal waterway and the nearby barrier islands. On Saturday night, we will be dining at a local seafood restaurant. On Sunday, we'll stop at Goliad State Park. For more information, please call Steve Crowe (940-484-7361) or check the DDRRC website.

**February 18—Monthly Meeting** at the Circle Grill at the corner of Buckner and I-30.

**February 26-28 —Sabine Fishing Expedition**— Meet at the US 59 bridge in Carthage at 9 am Friday. We will be paddling the middle reaches of the Sabine River between US 59 and 2517, 29 miles. In this remote and beautiful stretch of the Sabine, the White Bass fishing should be good. Camping is great on the wide, sandy beaches. Call Bryan Jackson (972-979-2519) or check the website.

**March 5—7— San Marcos River Cleanup**— We will camp at Shady Grove Campground on FM 1979 in San Marcos. At 8:30 on Sat. morning, we will meet at City Park to receive cleanup instructions. On Sunday, we will paddle through the Rio Vista Dam and Cape Falls. Last year, camping was free, and there was a dinner that night. Please call Bryan Jackson or see the website for more details.

**March 6-14—Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande**— Paddling the Santa Elena, Great Unknown and Mariscal Canyons will be the focus of this 8 day trip led by Marc Mc Cord. Please call Marc ((214-221-1290) or check the DDRRC website for more details on this 92-mile paddle.

**March 18— Monthly Meeting** at the Circle Grill at the corner of Buckner and I-30.

**April 10—Brazos River Cleanup**—Tres Rios Campground, Glen Rose.

**April 15— Monthly Meeting** at the Circle Grill at the corner of Buckner and I-30.

**April 17-18— South Llano River Trip**—Check the website or call Sam Sloan (214-957-9374) for details.

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## Editorial: Trinity River Standing Wave? Thanks, but No Thanks. By Bryan Jackson

If you have not already heard, the City of Dallas is going ahead with plans to put a standing wave in the Trinity as part of the Trinity River Project. The contractor has been selected and construction is imminent. Great news, right?

On January 12, the TCEQ had a public meeting to unveil its revised plan to clean up the Trinity. According to the new plan several sections of the Trinity now meet or are soon expected to meet the minimum standards required for what is referred to as “contact recreation use”, so efforts are being re-allocated to the sections that need more work. The minimum standards do not by a long shot mean that the water is totally clean, but it is getting better. The sections that have or are expected to meet this standard are the Elm Fork below Lake Lewisville and sections of the West Fork below Lake Worth and through Arlington.

Guess which sections do NOT come anywhere close to meeting even this minimum standard? Well that would be what the TCEQ refers to as sections 0805-04 and 0805-03. The two sections start where the Elm Fork and the West Fork meet in Irving down to about I 20. 0805-04 is the section where the Trinity River Project parks and roads will be built, including the standing wave. This section is now considered one of the most polluted sections of river in the entire State of Texas. We will be putting the new allocation report up on the DDRC website so that everyone can read it, but suffice it to say the water quality is beyond nasty, with a smorgasbord of toxins and bacteria which could take years to clean up. The section is NOT safe for “contact recreational use”.

The Oak Cliff Advocate contacted me after the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> to get my reaction. Since I have been following this issue for a few years and am on the TCEQ mailing list, it really was not any big surprise to me, but he asked if it changed my opinion of the proposed standing wave. To be honest, I was unaware that it had even been approved, but I said that there was no way you would ever catch me surfing in it until the river was cleaned up. Taking a leisurely paddle down it is one thing - Charles Allen leads canoe tours on it safely all the time; but surfing it means that you are going to get water into every unprotected orifice by way of spray and rolling. You may as well just drink a big glass full. Since I spent over a week in the hospital a couple of years ago being pumped with antibiotics to kill my last river related bacterial infection, I think I'll just run over to Trinity Park in Fort Worth when I get the urge to surf. Once the wave is completed, if the water has not improved, I would urge everyone to do the same.

Apparently my opinion has rubbed the people who have been active in convincing the City to build the wave the wrong way. I guess the paddling community is supposed to be grateful regardless of the water quality. Really? Would these folks let their kids paddle in the wave given the present conditions? I think not. I think that this is a prime example where “having” won't be half as good as “wanting “ was. So thanks, but no thanks Dallas, keep the money you are planning to waste on this standing wave and use it to clean up your contribution to this filthy section of river. According to the TCEQ, you have a lot of work to do.



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## Thanksgiving on the Kiamichi

For the first time this year on a Kiamichi trip, we actually had relatively low water. Which was good as it gave us a chance to do a recon trip on Friday to find some of the stuff that was lost at Halloween. We were able to find Jimmy's canoe, right where he left it wrapped around the piling on the OK2 bridge. It was a little U shaped, but we straightened it out enough to transport it. We did not have as much luck with Dianne's paddle, but I had it on good authority that Santa was going to bring her a new one.

Saturday we loaded up Tom's bus and trailer with 10 or 12 canoes and kayaks and put in at Pine Creek. It was a great day, with plenty of sun and just enough water to get back to the campground without dragging. We even had enough to run the low water crossing, if you knew where to go. We got back mid afternoon and started working on the real reason we were all there anyway, Thanksgiving dinner.

As usual we had quite the spread, Cajun Fried Turkey and all the trimmings, desserts and goodies that you could possibly want AND it was all ready before it got dark.

Next year, we will definitely have to keep a better eye on the turkey though as Tom's dogs have gotten smarter. This year a couple of them created a diversion while another swiped the turkey carcass. I'm not quite sure we were done with it, but it saved some cleanup.

It was cool in the evening and the fire was quite comfortable, but between the paddle and the dinner, nobody was up long to enjoy it.

Seemed like everyone had a great time. Hope to see everyone on the Polar Paddle.



# Eight More Days on the Rio Grande

By Marc W. McCord

Every year it seems like the annual Thanksgiving trip to the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande gets better and more exiting. Actually, for the past three years we have been hoping to substitute a Pecos River trip, but the Pecos has not been cooperative and low flows have sent us back to the tried and trusted Lower Canyons, just as happened again this year.

The group was comprised of Marc McCord, Tim Stanton, Stan Pully and Tom Taylor from DDRC, Dirk and Beverly Davidek, Deb Benson and James Halsell from Adventure Club San Antonio and friends Roger Zimmerman, Sam Felts and David Felts from Victoria and Debbie Lageman and Michael Ludford from Tyler and Tony Sforza from Alpine. Half the group paddled 5 SOAR inflatable canoes while the other half paddled an assortment of 5 Royalex canoes with spray covers.

Another foot of water (the stage was about 4.38 feet at Rio Grande Village at the time we launched at Heath Canyon Ranch about 36 miles downstream), but the weather was nearly perfect. The temp dipped into the low 30's the night before we launched, but during the trip we had lows in the upper 30's to mid 40's and daytime highs in the low 60's to 80 range with mostly sunny, clear skies and light winds. This was truly a super trip with excellent conditions.

On Sunday, November 22, we launched for an 11 mile paddle to Maravillas Creek where we camped for the night. We encountered the first "significant" rapid at the end of day one. The early part of this trip varies between open desert and low hills, but by day two we were starting to see the tall mountains that define the Lower Canyons. Monday took us down more flat-water about 16 miles to Big Canyon, where we camped for the second night.

Day Three is where the real fun begins. We only had to paddle about 14 miles, but just before the campsite for the third and fourth nights we encountered the ever-present Hot Springs Rapid, a true Class III+ to IV obstacle that demands strict attention to boat control and placement. A couple of people chose to line the rapid, but most of us ran it without incident, though we did get a little wet, and were thankful for sunny days and being at our campsite immediately after the rapid.

Wednesday was Day Four, our planned layover where we would celebrate Thanksgiving with a feast of grilled chicken leg quarters, cornbread stuffing, scalloped potatoes and green beans topped off with Dutch oven apple and peach cobblers. Prior to eating, we had to work up an appetite, so several of us hiked up San Rocendo Canyon to "Man and Dog Rock", a prominent landmark where mineral leeching has drawn what appears to

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(Cont from pg.5)

be a man and his dog (or a man and his donkey, according to some) on the face of a huge boulder that will, someday, be a part of the rapid at Hot Springs.



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We also hiked to the top of the bluff overlooking our campsite below Hot Springs Rapid and took some amazing photos from that lofty perch. Others took the day off to bathe in the hot springs, do laundry or just laze around getting ready for the rest of the trip. We witnessed what MAY have been a small smuggling operation at San Rocendo Canyon, and watch in amazement as five Mexicans scaled the Texas side mountain in about 3 hours (It would have taken me about 3 days to do

that!) and later three of them returned – before dark! This is only the second time I have seen anybody other than our group in the Lower Canyons, and the first time we have seen a river crossing.

Day Five did not go as planned. We were later starting than preferred and ended up camping short of Upper Madison Falls, the biggest, baddest drop on the entire Rio Grande within Texas. Before reaching Upper Madison Falls we had an encounter with Rodeo Rapid, site of much carnage last year (none involving inflatable boats!), but we had little difficulty this year. Marc was strongly encouraged by several photographers to run Rodeo backward in his SOAR S-16, which he proceeded to do and make it look easy. In that boat it IS easy! A couple of hard boats took on a lot of water and had to be bailed.

We began our sixth day on the river with a short paddle of less than one hour to Upper Madison Falls, which then took another 2+ hours to get through. This is one that is equally tough in low or high water, but for different reasons. And, after Upper Madison comes Lower Madison, which is no cakewalk, either! But, we made it through both, though we did get to witness a truly amazing spectacular - Roger and James managed to high side and flip their heavily-loaded SOAR S-16, a feat that did not know was possible on a Texas river!



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We made it to a riverside campsite just a little above our intended destination of San Francisco Canyon, but we had an excellent campsite that we had used last year, and it was in better condition this year. In fact, we found excellent campsites all along the river, though



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most would have been better on a 9-12 day trip instead of 8 days.

Day Seven was a little windy, but warm and beautiful. We paddled nearly 18 miles to just below Middle Watering, where we had planned on spending our last night on the river, but some up front went right by it without stopping, so we found another suitable spot that we used last year and had a great last night on the river.

On Sunday, November 29, we paddled to the take-out at Dryden Pass known as John's Marina, a "marina" in name only. It is actually a foot trail down a steep hill from where vehicles are parked, but the ground was hard packed so we were able to back down to load gear and boats for the drive out. We were off the river by 11:30 AM, and on our way home by 2:00 PM.

Arriving at the take-out, we discovered the only negative experience of the entire trip. Somebody, apparently our shuttle drivers, had stolen two cell phones, a cell phone charger, some coins for pay showers (we didn't need them anyway since we opted for a motel room to clean up before eating dinner on the way home) and a flashlight. The flashlight ended up in another vehicle other than the one from which it came.

Ted Thayer in Marathon has always provided our Lower Canyons shuttles since we got taken in by Mike Scott, who used to do all our shuttles. We have never had a problem with Ted or his drivers, but on this trip they helped themselves to property that was not theirs', and this after we tipped them really well in addition to the high cost of the shuttle.

So far, all we have gotten was a bunch of lame excuses blaming illegal Mexicans for vandalizing our vehicles which were locked at the take-out, and STILL locked when we arrived!

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(C) 2009, Debbie Benson. All rights reserved.

(cont from pg 7)

Needless to say, we WILL be rethinking our shuttle arrangements in future years. This type of service is NOT what we paid for, and it is NOT what we are going to tolerate. While I have no doubt that Ted did not know about what happened, it was his drivers who helped themselves to our property. Ted has steadfastly defended his drivers, but there is no logical conclusion one can draw other than that the drivers were the thieves who stole our property. We will take steps to make sure they do not do it again.

And so, next year we are going to the Pecos (if it has water.) Actually, we are not planning the Pecos for this trip. Instead we plan to launch at Rio Grande Village on Sunday, November 7, and then paddle 10 days with four layover days among them through Boquillas Canyon and the Lower Canyons for a total of about 126 miles, taking out on Sunday, November 21. It should be the best trip of them all! We may actually make it to the Kiamichi for the official club Thanksgiving trip.

## 2009 Clean Up Schedule

<b>March 6</b>	<b>San Marcos River</b>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>Brazos River</b>
<b>May 1</b>	<b>Medina River</b>
<b>July 24</b>	<b>Upper Guadalupe River</b>
<b>Sept. 18</b>	<b>Trinity River</b>

**Getting involved with river clean ups is an easy way to make a meaningful contribution to the environment. You can also make every river trip, walk or bike ride a clean up by just carrying a litter bag with you.**



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## Trip Report by Earl Atnip      December 4, 2009

### Upper Mt Fork between Hwy 246 in Arkansas and Watson, Ok

Put in:

A dirt road about ¼ to ½ mile upstream of hwy 246 outside of Hatfield, Ar.

I put in along a dirt road that was just a little ways upstream of the Hwy 246 crossing of the Mt Fork. The outside temp was about 36 and I got away at 11:15. My destination is the River's Edge cabins about 12-14 miles down stream where my wife and I are staying for the weekend. The skies were clear with a light to moderate north wind.

I am paddling this by myself and have elected to carry my wetsuit but do not have it on. I am wearing a wicking under armor wear with nylon pants on bottom and neoprene socks and my NRS boots. I decided not to wear anything but my under armor on top. Once I got on the water and paddling I knew I made the correct choice. I could feel my body starting to generate the heat.

The river was at about 800cfs by my estimate and a chalky green. The first thing I noted was that the sun was right in my face and reflecting on the water such that it made it hard for me to read the small rapids. I made the hwy 246 bridge in 10 minutes and there were several small rapids. There are many small bluffs 30-50ft tall in the first few miles and some small rapids. I figured to be making 4 to 5 knots. There were several stretches of slow water over the first 2 hours.

I made the low water bridge at Beachton Rd in 1 hour and 50 minutes. This low water bridge is about 8 miles down from hwy 246. Caution you are advised to portage to river right. The left bank offers no portage away from the bridge and is a great opportunity to get sucked into the bridge. The portage was all of 25ft and took 60seconds or less to drag the yak over.

There is a nice cabin up on the bluff to river left just below the bridge. Once around the bridge I knew I had only 4 miles to go and had to be careful not to pass my take out. This stretch of river offered the most rapids of the trip. There were a couple 18-24 inch drop offs the first of which was well hidden but loud. I did not realize it was a drop off until I was right up on it although I could hear it from a good distance.

There were several points of river constriction by bluffs and some faster water but nothing of consequence. This was also the most scenic part of the trip which I witnessed a group of 4-6 deer crossing the river. There were several pretty nice class I-II rapids along the way with many big rocks lurking beneath the surface, some of which I found but for the most part avoided. As I was approaching the cabins I noticed a Bald Eagle flying above the bluffs over the cabins on river left.

My take out was just down river of these cabins on river left. The temperature dropped during the day into the low 30s and it was 14 degrees the next morning. This trip took me 2 hours and 45 minutes, I was not paddling hard but at a steady pace and stopped 20-25 times for pictures.

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## Club Bulletin Board

**Nominations are now being accepted for DDRC Officers for the 2010 season. Nominations are open at the January and February meetings, with elections held at the March meeting. The elected positions are:**

**President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Newsletter Editor.**

**Paddling logs for the 2009 Most Miles Paddled Awards are now being accepted. Your log should include When, Where, How many miles and a Witness for verification. Commercial mileage (miles you were paid as a guide for instance) are not eligible. Since you cannot win two years in a row, never think that you may have to few miles! Deadline for paddling logs is the March Meeting.**

**Committee Chairs are needed for 2010. Currently open are Trip Coordinator and TRC Raffles and Donations. Please contact Bryan if you can fill one of these.**

**2010 membership dues are now due. Please verify that your mailing address, Phone and Email on our roster is correct when you pay your dues.**



# DDRC Officers & Committees

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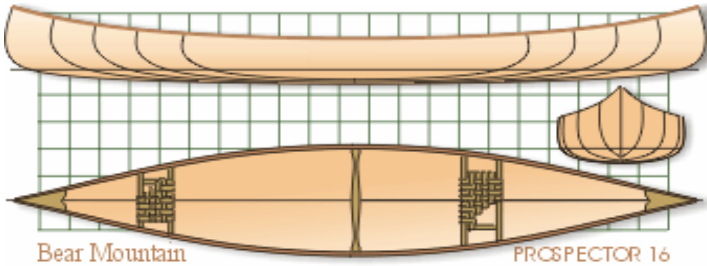
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**FINE PRINT** - The DDRC Current News is published monthly by the Dallas Downriver Club and is provided to its members either by First Class postage or by email. Opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and may or may not reflect 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 Tuesday** of the month - **7:00pm** @ Dale Harris' house in Richardson. All members are welcome to attend to learn more about club business.

## STOCK UP AND SHIP OUT!

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The Official Newsletter of the  
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**Next DDRC Meeting:**

**Thursday,**  
**February 18, 2009**  
**7 pm**

**CIRCLE GRILL**

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

