

The DDRC Current News

Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club—Visit our website at www.down-river.org

April 2001



Special points of interest:

- The Deadline for next month's newsletter is March 31st. Contact Susan Harkins at 972-470-0195 or via email at: shark@ethos.net. Please send articles, upcoming trips, boating tips and information.
- DDRC board meetings are held every second Thursday. All members are welcome to attend to learn more about club business. Contact club President Alan Tittle at 972-727-3586 or ATatDDRC@aol.com for time and location.



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President's Column

Alan Tittle—DDRC President

I have never enjoyed a sport as much as I have paddlesports, the quality camping at riverside, and the quality company of my fellow club members. We have some folks to acknowledge that have witnessed quite a few miles flow by in 2000.

Our March meeting saw our awards go out for the most miles paddled in 2000. The lady's winner was Beverly Swope with 284 miles, and the men's winner was Alan Lamb with 802 miles. Let's start keeping logs to turn in next February. Your log should consist of dates paddled, each river or lake seg-

ment you paddle (name and location), the miles paddled, and your witnesses' names. You might value this log for the memories, more than for the hope of a trophy.

It is very worthy to mention the names of the folks on the trophies. Hans Weichsel generously donated these very nice trophies, for them to be passed on every year to the member that has logged the most miles for the previous year.

These trophies are also memorials to two paddlers close to the club. The Selma Berring trophy is named for the sister of a dear friend

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Trip Report—The Brazos in March

Gloria and Bryan Jackson

I just got back from the first big float trip of the year and I have got to tell you that if you missed it, you missed out on a super trip! Sure, the weather didn't cooperate, but over 20 people braved the elements and made the best of it.

Most of us arrived on Friday afternoon and were treated to a warm sunny day to set up camp. Later we had a fantastic dinner and sat around the campfire catching up and renewing acquaintances, told tall

tales and listened to the weather radio.

During the night we were awakened to high winds and thunderstorms, we all found out how waterproof our tents were.

The next morning we had breakfast and headed down to the meeting point at Rhodes Canoe Rental to set up our shuttle. As we headed to the put in the skies opened up again and only the hardest (or the most foolish, you be the judge) put in at Mitchell Forge to begin the 12-mile float. Only 7 brave souls, including 2

rookies set out on the trip down the river.

We had good current and the wind at our back, and except for a few miles where the river turned to the north (this section was definitely not for the faint of heart) the trip down the river was chilly but fun. There was plenty of wildlife to see and eventually it stopped raining.

On Saturday night, everyone headed in to Glen Rose and had dinner at Hammonds BBQ. The food was great, as

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TRIPS, TRIPS and MORE TRIPS!!!!

Easter weekend, Fri. April 13—15 Big Piney and/or Mulberry River in Arkansas.

For experienced class III paddlers. The Big Piney is a remote paddle, mostly class II with technical class III segments. 10-14 miles daily with several stops for playboating. Shuttle daily from base camp, shuttle service to be arranged on Big Piney.

More details later. Contact Alan Tittle 972-727-3586 or email at ATatDDRC@aol.com



Easter Trip Number 2 (or one depending on how you view it), Fri April 13—15 Goat Island Caddo Lake

Come enjoy springtime at Caddo lake! Charles Edwards 972-560-5946 and Jack Deatherage 972-222-1407 or jfd2@airmail.net will host the campout on Goat Island. Parking at Pine Needle Lodge put-in is \$2 per day. Camping is primitive, so bring everything you need. Call Jack or Charles for more information.

Illinois River Trip—May 19 and 20

Come to the Illinois River in Oklahoma for a great paddling weekend. This river is a fairly good one for beginners and there will be car camping. For more information contact Bonnie Haskins at 972-254-9672 or Jerry Johnson at 817-267-5375

Annual Sabine River Trip Memorial Day—More info to come! Contact Sam Sloan 214-826-6159
svsloan@earthlink.net

Next Meeting:
Thursday, April 19th, 2001.
Enchilada's Restaurant, 6526 E.
Northwest Hwy

See you there!

Don't forget, May meeting will be
at White Rock Lake!

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*Moonlight Paddles on the Brazos River start in June! Mark you calendars now.
(The Saturday closest to the full moon June, July and August.*



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Miscellaneous Club Information...

We NEED Help

Help us resurrect the sequence of winners for the life of our trophies for **Most Miles Paddled!** If you know any of the past winners and the years that they won, PLEASE let one of the officers know (see page 7 for officers' names and phone numbers or email addresses).

Volunteers Needed for TRC!

The officers and the first chairs of the Trinity River Challenge are gearing up for the event to be held September 8th. There are important positions still needing to be filled. None requires a major commitment. Please consider volunteering. Contact David Nevers at: 817-466-1257.

EARLY NOTICE - The MAY meeting will be held at the White Rock Lake Cultural Bathhouse on the east shore of the lake. It is accessible from Buckner Road, south of Mockingbird Lane and north of Garland Road. Take Northcliff west from Buckner and you will head straight to the Bathhouse. The more comfortable temperatures of May have been a welcome break from the former July lake meetings. Bring your boats, barbecues, food and drink. Business proceedings are minimal. Please remember that no alcohol is permitted in the park and restrooms are not close to this location. In the event of rain please plan to meet at Enchilada's for a meeting of light business and heavy on trip planning

Teachers needed for Canoe Rendezvous

The Houston Canoe Club's *Canoe Rendezvous October 12-15, 2001* needs teachers for their Never-Ever Paddled classes. Let Alan Tittle know if you have the skills and desire to teach.



President's....

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to the club, Helen Berring Livingston. Selma lost her life in a kayak incident in Germany. Selma was swept into class 6 water when she capsized after a drop, then tried to swim her boat to safety. Helen gave many unselfish years to the club through elected office and in leading free kayak orientations. The Jim Stevens Trophy is in honor of a former DDRC President who had a massive heart attack after successfully running Groene Rapid on the Guadalupe River.

With these notes of caution please consider updating your knowledge of the many skills that it takes to experience wa-

tersports safely. Whenever possible you may help others from turning a minor emergency into a major emergency. Among them you might take Swiftwater Rescue, Red Cross CPR, Red Cross First Aid, and First Responder Wilderness First Aid.

Many risks are averted by knowing and following the Safety Code of American Whitewater, which is well detailed but concise. I recently joined American Whitewater and its publication is full of good information.

Paddle safely and be aware of your limits.



Raffle News...

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March on the Brazos.....

Continued from Page 1

was the company. Afterward we all went back to the park, lit another fire and talked until little by little everyone headed off to bed.

As a relative newcomer to the DDRC, I am constantly amazed at the camaraderie that permeates every trip that I have ever been a part of. New people are never treated as outsiders, but as welcome additions to the family. We may never log another mile on any river, but the friendships and the memories would last a lifetime. I really feel that this is our organization's greatest asset and I hope we can continue this great tradition.

Being the one of the leaders of this trip also drove home some

stark realities of the world that we live in. Jerry Johnson and I spent considerable time scouting the area looking for put in and take out locations around Glen Rose. Most of the access to this particular part of the Brazos is no longer available is due to the passing of a few very friendly land owners and by the abuse of those who have not treated the access with the respect and the care it deserves. Club members that have spent time developing relationships with landowners over the years should really be congratulated and we should always go out of our way to make sure that these landowners know how much they are appreciated.

SYOTR

April Schedule of Events

- **Every Friday Night**—Eskimo Roll Classes for Kayaks and Canoes, Beginning Jan 27 through April 13th @ 7 PM in The Colony. Contact Arnie Blatt: H) 972.416.9194
- **Every Saturday Night**—**Kayak Polo** At 7:30 in The Colony, through April 28th. Contact David Lamb: thelambs@flash.net
- **April 13-15, Big Piney and/or Mulberry River** in Arkansas. For Class III paddlers, Contact Alan Tittle 972-727-3586 or email at ATatDDRC@aol.com
- **April 13—15, Caddo Lake Easter Trip**, on Goat Island. Primitive Camping Contact Charles Edwards at 972-560-5946 or Jack Deatherage at 972-222-1407 for more info

May Schedule of Events

- **May 17th—White Rock River Annual Paddle Meeting!**
Bring food and barbeque grills, etc. Meeting content will be minimal! (NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED IN PARK)
- **May 19—20, Illinois River Trip.** This river is a fairly good one for beginners and there will be car camping. For more information contact Bonnie Haskins at 972-254-9672 or Jerry Johnson at 817-267-5375
- **Memorial Day—Annual Sabine River Trip**—More info to come! Contact Sam Sloan 214-826-6159
svsloan@earthlink.net

May 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Annual Paddle Meeting at White Rock	18	19 Illinois River Trip
20 Illinois River Trip	21	22	23	24	25	26 Memorial Day Sabine Trip
27 Memorial Day Sabine Trip	28 Memorial Day Sabine Trip	29	30	31		

As a participant in any DDRC activity, an individual assumes the responsibility of evaluating all inherent risks before participating and assumes any risk of death or injury inherent in the sport. The participant waives claims that may arise against the club, its officers, members, servants, agents and/or trip coordinators, for death or injury to person or property, including claims of vicarious liability and claims arising from civil recklessness or any degree of negligence. Not waived are claims against an individual who causes injury intentionally or with criminal recklessness and claims among driver, owner and passengers of a motor vehicle for injuries.

Results of Rio Grande W&SR Planning Meeting Announced

Reprinted from the "Terrell County News Leader" Volume 4—No. 15, Sanderson Texas, March 15, 2001.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK—(March 12, 2001) The Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River Partnership Team held their fourth meeting, the Landowner's Workshop, February 25 and 26 in Sanderson. The team is composed of federal, state, and county officials as well as representatives from private landowners, commercial outfitters, recreational users, and conservation organizations. The team's goal is to assure that all interested parties have a voice in the national Park Service's efforts to write and implement a River Management Plan for the Rio Grande.

Wild and Scenic River. All meetings are open to the public.

Close to 60 landowners attended. Their input was invited with regard to the planning effort and, after some spirited discussion, resolution was reached on three important issues.

The first is that the national Park Service will not pursue or use condemnation authority on any private land. This will be written into the plan. In addition, the Nation Park Service will also pursue designating the rest of the river through Big Bend national Park as Wild and Scenic from the Chihuahua/Coahuila state line in Mexico to the western boundary of the park. If ap-

proved, this would remove any possibility of the condemnation of private land along its entire length as over 50 percent of the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River would then flow through public land. It would require an act of Congress to change this section of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The second is that no new public access points on private land will be proposed along the Lower Canyons section of the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River. The traditional access points at Heath Canyon and Dryden Crossing will be maintained.

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DDRC Classified Notices Found

Mohawk Plastic Black Paddle
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214-424-4913 fax and home number

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The Third is that traditional use levels will be maintained with strict public use limits imposed if use increases to the point where the resource or visitor experience is threatened. Use over the years has remained fairly constant due to the length and difficulty of the trip through the Lower Canyons. Shorter, easier float trips are already available on the section of the river that flows through Big Bend National Park.

The partnership team members feel that the resolution of these three issues will allow progress on the other issues that remain to proceed at a more rapid pace. The landowners have agreed to work with the National Park Service on an individual basis to identify the outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) on their land and work cooperatively with the NPS on protecting them.

Superintendent Frank Deckert had these comments on the meeting, "We want to thank the ranchers and landowners who took the time from their busy schedules to attend the meetings and workshop. We feel that substantial progress was made in a number of areas and that would not have been possible without your participation. We also want to thank Terrell County for the delicious BBQ on Sunday night, which certainly got things off to a good start!"

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