

The DDRC Current News

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

August 2001



Special points of interest:

- The Deadline for next month's newsletter is August 31th. 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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Trinity River Challenge, Sept. 8, 2001 Watermelon Cleanup weekend: Saturday, September 1st!

It's time once again to race down the Trinity River! Since the proceeds from this event help our club get the revenue we use to further our river interests and projects, it pays to volunteer!

Please volunteer!!!

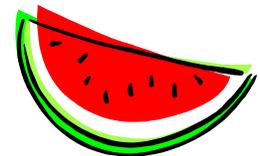
Lots of things go into this event. There will be registration at the beginning of the event, the race itself needs

sweeps and safety help, a Bake Sale, a Raffle, and as always the wonderful Barbeque lunch that is provided to the racers and volunteers. All of these events will need volunteers.

Watermelon River Cleanup!

One of the main things that will need to be done is a river cleanup the Saturday before the Race (September 1). Usually this is not such hard work,

since quite a few people show up and help, and the watermelon is always a refreshing treat. Materials will be provided so come on out, cleanup the river and have some fun!!!



More on Page 2

Taos Box Trip Report: Rio Chama (Part III)!

Glen Hart of Austin, Tx

The Rio Chama

We found out that water was being released on the Rio Chama, and that we might be lucky enough to do a self-support trip on Monday and Tuesday. The scheduled release dates, when water is released from El Vado Lake, begin in July. The Chama is a Wild and Scenic River, and permits for the weekend releases are issued by lottery. But since the lake was full from the unusually heavy snow pack, they were releasing 1,100 cfs. Rich Grayson and Joe Butler (co-author of

Lower Canyons Guide) gave us some great advice about logistics and campgrounds. We had not brought some of the gear needed for a self-support trip, but Warren loaned us some clothing, small dry bags, and a Bill's Bag. Thanks, brother! Warren was scheduled to return to Austin and couldn't go with us.

We were really excited to be able to paddle the Chama! Monday morning we drove the 80 or so miles to El Vado Ranch, a fishing camp operated by Dave Cooper, and arranged for the 50-mile shuttle. We decided not to bother with cooking, so we carried sandwich

stuff, jerky, cheese, and dried fruit, etc. After lots of bagging and arranging, we got on the river about 12:30. The total trip was 31 miles. The first 19.8 miles are designated as "wild", and the next 4.9 miles have a "scenic" designation. In my opinion, all of it was wild and scenic. The canyon scenery was beautiful. Douglas fir and ponderosa pines ascended the canyon walls, with piñon pine, oak, and juniper on the riverbanks.

We paddled ten miles on

Continued on Page 4

Volunteer Needs for TRC events

Volunteers needed for the following activities/events:

- Clean up Sat. Sept. 1 8:00-3:00** followed by Watermelon, contact David Nevers, David Harmon
- Sanctioning** ?
- Registration** Neil Licalsi (unavailable race day -NEED RACE DAY LEAD AND MUCH HELP)
- Finish Line/Records** Arnie Blatt (would like to race - NEED HELP)
- Awards** Al Currie
- Judging** Richard Steppe
- Cooks/Helpers** David Nevers
Bryan Jackson
Don Hughes
- Bake Sale** Cyndy Wilson
- NEED BAKED GOODS; Cookies, Breads, Brownies, etc. Home baked always do best**
- Safety/Sweep/Checkpoints** Jeff Peters (NEED MORE HELP)
Nancy Howse
Bill Howse
DeAnn McDaniel
Marilyn Scholl
Erik Rounsefells
- Raffle / Solicitation** Larry Lewis (Unavailable to handle raffle from here out) **NEED HELP**
- Raffle Follow Up** May need callers, TBD at meeting
- TABLES; Registration, Kitchen, Bake Sale Raffle, Finish Line** David Harmon
- Porta-Potty (Put in Only) ?**

If you have any questions or think that you can help with anything, please call David Nevers, Race Coordinator at (817) 466-1257



Next Meeting:
Thursday, August 16th, 2001.
Enchilada's Restaurant, 6526 E. North-
west Hwy

See you there!



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Sailing and Paddling the Scottish Isles

Alan Hardwick—Reprinted from *Paddler Magazine*, July/August 2001 Part of an article on kayaking with a mothership

“The West Coast of Scotland has some of the finest sea kayaking in the world,” said my friend Niall Johnsons, owner of Uist Outdoor Center. A quick glance at a map confirmed it: thousands of islands and outcrops dotted the crinkly coastline. And his concept of extended kayaks’ touring range by transporting them aboard a large sailing ship sealed the deal. I signed on.

Joining 11 others aboard the mothership in the bustling harbor of Oban, we soon investigated every corner of the 100-foot square-rigged wooden brigantine—originally built in L’Orient, France, in 1957—before pulling away to the isle of Mull. Though winds pinned us down for two days, our paddling got underway in Loch Sunart, a long thin finger of water that pokes into the side of Scotland. The first job was to figure out how to get the kayaks into the water. The simplest solution worked best: just sit tight and its dinosaur-backed profile kept the wind at bay as we set off. After the day’s tour, we were glad to get back on the anchored ship, at least until our leader had us partake in a confidence-building rescue practice. After a cooling dip in the sea, we appreciated the virtues of having a floating hotel and restaurant.

When the storm abated, we sailed up to Ardnamurchan Point, Scotland’s most westerly extremity. It was sailing lessons for all as bankers, financial directors, electricians, veterinarians and medical researchers scrambled up masts and haul ropes and the boat cut through the waves. We made closer contact with those waves when we began our second paddle from our overnight anchorage at Isle Oronsay. Strong winds drove up the sea between the island and the mainland, with the incoming tide turning it into a swirling river. Dodging the waves, we toured the coastline before climbing back aboard for dinner in the galley. The next day we toured some of the oldest rocks in the world, from the north tip of Rasaay island across to the isle of Rona. We lunched on a table of crystalline, pink pegmatite before touring Acairseid harbor, once known as Robber’s Port. It was easy to see why—the idyllic, hidden spot was used by pirates as a base for raids on unsuspecting ships. Back in open water we were rewarded with a different kind of booty in the form of feeding otters and seals as we headed for our pick-up

point.

From there, we motored to Gairloch Harbor, eating gourmet delicacies produced in the galley. After we tied up, masts and rigging starkly silhouetted against a crimson western horizon, the skipper permitted the opening of the liquor cabinet. Grey skies brought us back to reality the next morning, as did our paddle round the Shiant Islands. Once owned by Compton Mackenzie, author of *Whisky Galore*, these enormous columns of basalt are home to thousands of sea birds and a colony of rare black rats. The waters are also guarded by the legendary “Blue Men,” large kelp beds that arise from the sea to challenge unwary sailors.

The best sea kayaking experience for veteran and beginner like came the last day on a 20-mile circumnavigation of Canna Isle. Now owned by the national Trust for Scotland, Canna’s heritage includes three unique churches, a medieval prison, Viking burial site, religious shrine and tiny post office. A school of dolphin passed us on our way into a cave. Greeting us on the other end was a shoal of mackerel breaking the surface, golden sea eagles circling overhead, and a 12-foot basking shark swimming lazily beneath our bows.



We investigated numerous moon-shaped caves on the island’s north side, some just a paddle length in width and two paddles high. Others had 40-foot Gothic arch entrances leading to forked tunnels and hidden pebble beaches overhung with vegetation and waterfalls. As we tied up the ship for the last time, carefully docking the boat that had carried our kayaks, Niall’s mind raced with plans to come back next year to explore even more remote locations. Looking at the surrounding eager faces, I didn’t think he would be short of traveling companions.

On the west Coast of Scotland, having a mothership lets you bring all the creature comforts of home.

From Page 1

Monday. The flow at 1,100 was just fine, and there was plenty of current at almost all times. The guidebook we had gotten from the Pilar Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office, Rio Chama, by Stephen G. Maurer, listed flows of 1,200 to 2,500 as optimum. There were several Class II rapids on the first ten miles, but the scenery and tranquility were the main attractions. Jason was paddling in a borrowed RPM, and he had enough room to carry some of his gear. I carried the Bill's Bag, which contained our tent, sleeping bags, and clothing. I also carried most of the food and water. I was glad to see that the increased weight did not really affect the stability of my Probe 12. There's something special about a self-supported overnight trip on the river. It kind of brings out the Lewis and Clark spirit. I realized that I had not done an overnight trip since Warren and I took our Lower Canyons trip in 1994.

At mile 3, the Rio Nutrias enters from the east. We stopped at about mile 7.7 on river right to eat lunch at a really nice campground under the shade of some big pine trees. The campgrounds were well marked on the topo map from our guidebook. At mile 9, we entered the Santa Fe National Forest. We stopped for the night at mile 10, Aragon Canyon, where there is a fantastic camp. It has a nice landing area, plenty of pines, and lots of flat spaces. We camped with the sounds of Aragon Rapid, a fun little Class II which is just downstream from the camp. We arrived at camp around 4:30, so we had time to relax and enjoy the serenity.

The next morning, I got up at first light and walked the 2/3 mile trail into Aragon Canyon. I enjoyed the quiet morning as the sunlight slowly made its way to the tops of the trees. The trail ends at a high box canyon with a trickle of water from a small spring. When I got back to camp, I imagined the smell of bacon cooking, but unfortunately the morning's cuisine was limited to breakfast bars. Oh well, there's always next time!

We got back on the river at mid-morning, and enjoyed more rapids and scenery. The area from Aragon to mile 16 (Chama Rock) was the most beautiful part of the trip. High canyon walls, sheer, colorful rock cliffs, and lots of pines. Also, the gradient picks up some in this area. We stopped to take a look at Ponderosa Camp, on the right at mile 12.7. A nice one with some really big pines. The Rio Cebolla comes in from the east at mile 14. There is a major trail-head on the left about 1/3 mile past the Rio Cebolla, with trails to Hart Canyon (in Chama River Canyon Wilderness) and Navajo Peak (on BLM land). The Navaho Peak trail

looks like a tough one, climbing almost 1,000 feet to an elevation of 7,400 feet. We ate lunch at the campground across from Chama Rock, on the right at about mile 16.7. We considered this camp and Aragon to be the best campgrounds.

As Rich Grayson had told us, the 31-mile trip has two separate environments. The first 18 miles or so is in the high canyon, heavily forested with pine, and with steep canyon walls. Then the canyon opens up into high desert scenery, with beautiful colored sandstone bluffs and cottonwoods and other foliage typical of middle elevations. At mile 20.5, the area protected as "wild and scenic" ends, and private land begins. But fortunately, the scenery and aesthetics do not decline. Surprisingly, the most interesting rapids are between miles 22.9 and 31, even though the river canyon is much wider in this segment. Meandering Rapid, starting at about mile 23.6, is a long (about 3/4 mile) Class II rapid. There is a long island almost half-way down the rapid, with the best route on the left. The currents where the two branches meet below the island are interesting. Skull Bridge Rapid (Class II+) is at mile 27.3. Gauging Station Rapid (Class III) is at mile 29.4. Screaming Left Rapid (III) is at 30.1. Stay left away from the solid wall on river right. Most of the current goes right up against the cliff.

We had quite a bit of fun running the rapids. They were fairly brisk, and a couple of them were long. We thought the rapids were a little less difficult than indicated by their ratings. That was fine with me -- the water on the Chama is really cold, and I didn't want to take a swim, even in my wet-suit. And this is such a great trip that you don't need to have extreme whitewater. We took out at Big Eddy, at mile 31. Big Eddy is not really that big, but you can't miss the boat launch ramp on the left

We really enjoyed our Chama trip. Tremendous scenery, solitude, and a great river. We saw no other boaters and just a couple of persons near the put-in and take out. The weather was great -- clear, about 80 degrees during the day, and the low 40's at night. We saw red-tailed hawks, ducks (which even floated a couple of riffles with us), and several sets of Canada geese with their offspring on the water's edge. And Jason heard a bobcat or mountain lion during the night at Aragon Camp. I'm already looking into applying every year for a Chama permit. I hear that they are hard to come by, and I have to do this trip again. Next time I want to make it a three day trip, take side hikes, and also plan on doing some cooking. That way, I'll get to enjoy even more of this beautiful canyon. ■

August Schedule of Events

- **Every Wednesday Nite**—DDRC Roll, Paddle, and Rescue sessions 5:00 pm to dark at Lake Grapevine, Rockledge Park. Contact Keith Smith (940) 566-4869.
- **Every Saturday, 10:00 am**—Roll Classes in Kaufman. Contact Rand Oliver: 972.530.7307 for more information!
- **August 4—Saturday, Brazos River Moonlight Paddle**, Brazos River below Whitney Dam. Contact Bonnie Haskins, (972)254-9672, or Jerry Johnson at (817) 267-5375 or email: jjohnsn@airmail.net.

September Schedule of Events

- **Every Wednesday Nite**—DDRC Roll, Paddle, and Rescue sessions 5:00 pm to dark at Lake Grapevine, Rockledge Park. Contact Keith Smith (940) 566-4869.
- **Every Saturday, 10:00 am**—Roll Classes in Kaufman. Contact Rand Oliver: 972.530.7307 for more information
- **September 1—Saturday, Watermelon River Cleanup**, Trinity River—Contact David Nevers 817-466-1257
- **September 8—Saturday Trinity River Challenge**—See article Pages 1 and 2

September 2001

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|------------------|----------------|-----|--------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 River Cleanup |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Roll Class | 6 | 7 | 8 TRC!!! |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Roll Class | 13 DDRC Mtg | 14 | 15 Roll Class |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Roll Class | 20 | 21 | 22 Roll Class |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Roll Class | 27 | 28 | 29 Roll Class |
| 30 | | | | | | |

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.



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We're shredding our way to the 21st century!

Adventure Racing Comes to Moab

Reprinted from Paddler Magazine, July/August 2001

Visitors to Moab, Utah, this spring saw a cross section of frantic athletes paddling the Colorado River. Then, instead of relaxing at the take-out with a beer, they hopped on their bikes and raced 27 miles on the area's trails and followed that with a 6.5-mile trail run. It was all part of the first three Adventure Xstream races kicking off a new adventure race series.

As well as the bike, run and 17.5-mile paddle, the 50-mile race also included a 250-foot rappel. Designed for week-

end warriors as well as premier athletes, the event saw Vail, Colo.'s Mike Klose cross the finish line first at 5 hours 42 minutes, followed by Boulder, Colo.'s Ian Adamson—who recently set the world record for miles paddled in a day—at 5 hours 58 minutes. Both Mike and Ian were on Team Salomon/Eco Internet, which finished first in the Borneo Eco-challenge. "It was the most beautiful landscape I've ever raced in, especially the paddling portion," says participant Dan Abel.

The race series allows participants to register as solo, two- and four-person teams. Prizes are awarded to solo athletes and coed teams only. Athletes can also register as a three-person relay. The series heads to Vail July 7 before winding up in Durango, Colo., August 25.
Info: www.gravityplay.com

Make sure to participate in this month's raffle. Great prizes, and free tickets to newcomers!—

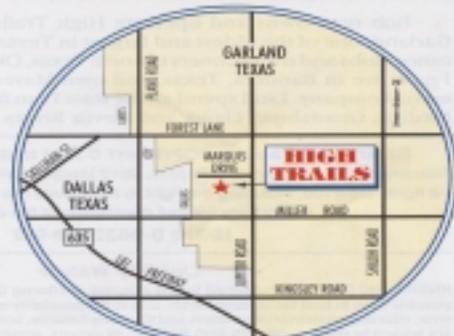


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| 1/2 Page display | 35.00 | 350.00 |
| Full Page display | 50.00 | 500.00 |

To advertise, contact Susan Harkins at 972-470-0195 to discuss artwork format. Are ads are payable by check to DDRC, ATTN: Newsletter Ad. P.O. Box 820246, Dallas, TX. 75382



Just a reminder, Along with autumn comes the Houston Canoe Club's Canoe Rendezvous, and the great DDRC Halloween Party at Caddo Lake—More in future newsletters.

DDRC Classified Notices For Sale

Winona Prism 17.5" Solo Kevlar Canoe
Great Shape, Low Miles, asking \$1200.00
Contact Rand Oliver at 972.530.7307

Volunteers needed!

Club members, Please volunteer for the upcoming Trinity River Challenge. This event brings in revenue that helps us with our River preservation projects , etc. Your help is needed. There are many, many jobs to do. Contact David Nevers at 817-466-1257 if you want to volunteer.

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|-------|-------------|------------|---|
| | | 635 (LBJ) | |
| | MEADOW ROAD | GREENVILLE | <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB August MEETING <hr/> Thur. 16th, 7:00 PM Enchilada's Restaurant 6526 E. Northwest Hwy. </div> |
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DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB

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Contact Marvin Dietel to change your personal information on the roster, or Susan Harkins receive this newsletter via email AND IN COLOR!

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newsletter to you!

