

The DDRC Current News

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

September 2001



Special points of interest:

- The Deadline for next month's newsletter is September 20th. 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 is here!

The Race is upon us! Saturday, September 8th is the annual Trinity River Challenge. DDRC sponsors this race annually. This 11.2 mile paddle-sport race will be on the Trinity River from Lake Lewisville Dam to McInnish Park in Carrollton. The Elm Fork of the Trinity River offers a flatwater paddle in a natural setting within the heart of the metroplex.

Whether you are trying to test your flatwater paddling ability against some of Texas' top racers or beat the heat in a beautiful aquatic setting, this USCA sanctioned race is the place to be. Race classes are

offered from USCA racers to recreational paddlers. The race will begin at 9:15 a.m. below the Dam. Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. and will close 15 minutes prior to the release of each racing classification.

An awards ceremony will be held at the river's edge at 2:00 p.m. in McInnish Park with hot food, bake sale, refreshments, and raffle. Shuttles will be available to return racers to the put in.

Racers receive lunch. For additional information, directions, sponsors and past race photos visit the DDRC web-

site at www.down-river.org or call Neil Licalsi, Registration Chairman, at 214-435-3150.

Proceeds of the Dallas Down River Club dues and fundraising are directed by membership vote to various river and water resource-related issues. Past contributions include organizations supporting river conservation, preservation, river access, and junior racing to name a few. Only a fraction of DDRC funds are required for operations. For last minute volunteer opportunities, Call race coordinator, David Nevers at 817-466-1257.

Fall Paddle Events—Be there!

Illinois River Trip

On September 22, 23, there will be a River Trip on the beautiful Illinois River. This river is great for beginning paddlers, and is really lovely in the fall. We will drive the 5½ hours, near Tahlequah, Oklahoma on Friday night and canoe Saturday and half the day Sunday. We will be camping at Payton Place both nights. If you want to go, or have questions, please call Bonnie Haskins at 972-254-9672, or Jerry Johnson 817-267-5375, or email:

jjohnson@airmail.net.

Trinity River Day

Spend October 20th on the Trinity River beginning at 9 AM with representatives from the Mayors office and Parks Departments of Dallas, Carrollton, Coppell, Irving, Lewisville and the State of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to see first hand the beauty and abundant wildlife on the river. A donation of \$15 per person is all the river expects of each participant (bring your own lunch and soft drinks). A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the Elm Fork Nature



Preserve for the cleanup of log jams on the river. Carrollton Parks and recreation and North Texas Canoes, Elm Fork nature Preserve and other canoe liveries in the area will furnish canoes and other equipment. To be a part of this media event, please contact Terry Sullivan at 972-492-3038 to coordinate canoe equipment and participants. Information, along with narratives by Local River Runners, will be presented at the lunch stop to add a history lesson to the trip as well.

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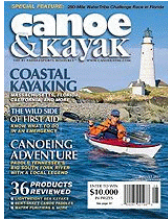
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Fall Paddling Events, Contd.

From Page 1

Southwestern Canoe Rendezvous 2001

On October 12, 13, and 14th, the Houston Canoe Club will be holding their annual Canoe Rendezvous. This year it will be at Brooks Lake, Sugar Land, Texas. This event will have lots of workshops, vendor samples, food and fun. You can usually paddle the latest in kayaks and canoes from vendors like Mohawk, Mad River, etc. Events include:

- Clinics for beginning and advanced paddlers taught by nationally renowned instructors!
- Test-paddle the newest canoes and kayaks on the market!
- ACA Freestyle Canoe National Championships!
- Family fun!

You can find the applications at the Rendezvous website:
<http://www.houstoncanooclub.org>. Deadline for your application is October 5th.

Annual Caddo Lake Halloween Party 2001!

The Dallas DownRiver Club formally invites you and your family or friends to help us haunt Goat Island on Friday Oct. 26th thru the 28th. Camp will be at the usual location on the Southwest corner of Goat Island near Pine Needle Lodge. Put-in and take-out will be at Pine Needle Lodge or Blair's Landing.

Saturday the 27th will include several events and contests:

- 12:00: Start of the pumpkin carving contest, bring uncarved pumpkin, knives, candles, pattern, etc., judging starts after dark. Plan on taking pumpkin home with you as they are not natural to Goat island!
- 2:00: Pinata for the kids
- 3:00: Best decorated tent site. All decorations must be removed when you leave.
- 4:30: Dutch oven cook-off, have your entry ready at this time so we can eat it for dinner!
- 5:00: pot luck dinner, please bring enough for your group.

After dinner: Trick or treating from tent to tent, bring treats or you could be tricked! We will have a Bonfire, so bring 2 or 3 pieces of firewood per boat. There will be a costume contest for kids and adults. Come go Apple bobbing with us. We will have Ghost stories, so bring your best! Maybe the "Lady of the Lake" will make her appearance. Pretty scary stuff! Prizes and awards will come from local paddle sports outfitter stores and the DDRRC. Camping is primitive so bring water and appropriate camping gear. Plan on leaving no trace of your stay on the island.

For directions and map to Caddo Lake and Goat Island, go to:

www.down-river.org/caddo2001.html

Any questions? call: Charles Edwards: 972/867-6579

Jack Deatherage: 972/222-1407 ☎



Next Meeting:
 Thursday, September 20th, 2001.
 Enchilada's Restaurant
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 See you there!



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I Will Survive: Wilderness Survival Tips

Reprinted from: *Women in the Outdoors*, Winter 2001
by Sue and Eric Hansen

“The majority of people who get lost in the wilderness don’t survive.” This startling statement may surprise those who love spending time in the outdoors. After all, how can a leisurely stroll in the woods turn into a life-threatening situation? But the man voicing these words of warning has spent more than 25 years dealing with people unprepared for nature’s perils.

Harry Oakes, Jr., founder of International K-9 Search & Rescue (SAR) in Portland, Ore., is an expert in locating the lost. With the help of search dogs, Oakes’s work has led him to compile simple wilderness survival tips for being properly equipped to endure outdoor elements. Following these suggestions will keep you safe until found.

From hikers and hunters to climbers and campers, getting lost is an easy thing to do, even for experienced backcountry travelers. For those who do wander off course, your level of preparedness determines your survival rate. According to Oakes, one percent of one percent is able to handle the situation. “The attitude ‘It’ll never happen to me’ is a factor in this low statistic,” Oakes said, “Odds would improve if more people asked ‘What if?’ before leaving home.”

So, what if you find yourself in unfamiliar territory? A compass and map—and the knowledge to use them—will put you back on the right path. Oakes advises caution to those who rely on Global Positioning Systems, “My number one rule is to rely on myself first, not technology.”

As for carrying a cellular phone in your backpack, it’s useful but not always dependable. Remote areas lack satellite range, and batteries can die. Plus, the current conditioning of people who think if they get into trouble, help is just a phone call away is referred to as “911 syndrome” among SAR personnel. This mentality makes individuals less alert to their surroundings.

If you don’t have the means to pinpoint your position, stay where you are. Mark your location with something bright—an orange bandana—to attract attention. Based on search data, 90 percent of people lost are within three miles of where they were last seen. And 80 percent of those are less than half that distance.

Four essentials are needed to keep you comfortable while waiting to be rescued: food, water, fire and shelter. Oakes recommends several compact items that should be carried at all times—even for one-day excursions.

Along with a minimum of two quarts of water, a high-energy food source—such as Power Bars—provides quick nourishment. And for instant warmth, tea bags, boullion cubes and Tootsie Rolls can be made into hot beverages. (Store these items inside a metal container, like a small coffee can. The

container can be used as both a cooking pot to heat water and as a drinking cup.)

To build a fire, matches—both waterproof and magnesium—and a candle work together as a fire starter. (After buying new candles for your survival kit, singe the candles’ wicks so they will reflare more quickly when needed. Also, Chapstick with a piece of cloth stuck in it makes an adequate candle substitution.) Gather dry rocks to form a circular fire pit and enough burn material—from twigs to wrist-size sticks—to fuel a fire overnight.

When constructing a fire, think teepee. Start with small tinder the size of a dinner plate. Hollow out a sopt in the middle for the candle. then place pencil-thin sticks on top, followed by thicker branches. Light the candle. As the fire becomes hotter, add larger logs.



If you find yourself in unfamiliar territory, a compass and map—and the knowledge to use them—will put you back on the right path.

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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
- **September 8—Saturday TRC**—see page 1
- **September 22, 23—Illinois River Trip**—See article Pages 1, contact Bonnie Haskins at 972-254-9672 or Jerry Johnson at 817-267-5375 or email: jjohnson@airmail.net

October Schedule of Events

- **Every Wednesday Nite**—DDRC Roll, Paddle, and Rescue sessions see above.
- **Every Saturday, 10:00 am**—Roll Classes Contact Rand Oliver: 972.530.7307
- **October 12-14—Fri-Sun. Southwestern Canoe Rendezvous**, see: www.houstoncanooclub.org
- **October 20, 21—Sat-Sun, Beginning Kayak Orientation**, contact Mary Beth Kvanli at 972-296-9910
- **October 20—Sat, Trinity River Day**, contact: Terry Sullivan at 972-492-3038.
- **October 27, 28—Annual Caddo Lake Halloween Party**, contact Charles Edwards: 972/867-6579 or Jack Deatherage: 972/222-1407

October 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Roll Clinic	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Roll Clinic	11 Board mtg	12 Rendezvous	13 Rendezvous
14 Rendezvous	15	16	17 Roll Clinic	18 DDRC Mtg	19	20 Kayak Orientation
21 Kayak Orientation	22	23	24 Roll Clinic	25	26	27 Caddo Lk Halloween
28 Caddo Lk Halloween	29	30	31 Roll Clinic			

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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From page 4

For shelter, select a spot near trees or rock outcroppings to shield you from the hot sun, wind or inclement weather. Collect boughs for ground cover to provide insulation. A space blanket or reflector (cocoon) bag also offers protection against penetrating cold.

Other gear necessary for your well-being in the woods include:

- a pocket knife
- toilet paper
- a signal mirror
- a plastic whistle (three blasts represents SOS)
- a first-aid kit
- personal identification
- a stocking cap
- rain gear
- extra clothing (preferably wool or polar fleece)

Being outfitted for outdoor survival is the first step toward physical safety. As for emotional security, always tell someone where you're going and when you plan to return. Oakes also encourages enrollment in a survival program to

better educate yourself in the sometimes-harsh ways of the wilderness.

As for family members and friends anxiously awaiting the return of a lost loved one, contact all available search and rescue resources—from law enforcement units to private SAR companies. "We're here to help," said Oakes. "We're trained to track down those who end up missing."

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



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-Aldo Leopold



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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

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