

The DDRC Current News

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

December 2003

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 - **6:30 PM** @ Enchilada's (directions on back of newsletter). All members are welcome to attend to learn more about club business.

DDRC Welcomes New Members
Stevens T. Crowe
Beth Henderson
Randy & Michelle Haberman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership Renewal

All DDRC memberships expire on 12/31/03 (except those already paid through 2004). Renew to assure continuous newsletter delivery and to vote in the upcoming Officer Elections. To pay by mail, send \$20 along with any address, email or phone number changes to :
DDRC Membership
P.O. Box 820246
Dallas, TX 75382-0246

2004 Officer Nominations

Nominations for club officers are being accepted for the following positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Nominees must accept or decline their nomination. Those accepting will be added to the slate. Members in good standing (dues paid) vote in January.
Nominations: President - Bryan Jackson Secretary - Gail Shipley
VP - Sam Sloan Treasurer - Sally Soldo
Newsletter Editor - Cathy Nelle (maybe)

Many Thanks to Jill Britt for donating a canopy to the club!

Upcoming & Ongoing Events & Trips

December 2003

Happy Holidays!

December 18, 7:00 pm: DDRC Christmas Party & Raffle

Come join the fun at the DDRC Christmas party graciously hosted by Don Hughes. Don will provide his home, briskets, bread, water and soft drinks. Bring holiday cheer, side dishes, desserts, desired beverages and lots of money for raffle tickets. Let the DDRC Raffle crew do your holiday shopping for you — Tickets are one for \$1, six for \$5 and 13 for \$10.

Party Location: 7249 Elmridge Dr., Dallas, TX 75287, 972-789-9618. See club website for an interactive map. Note: Avoid the High Five area where 635 & 75 meet. Come either Spring Valley (East/West) or Hillcrest (North/South). Elmridge is two blocks South of the Meandering Way and Spring Valley intersection. Or, if traveling North on Hillcrest, turn right at the first street past Alpha (Elmridge).

There will be no meeting at Enchilada's and no urban paddle for the month of December.

January 2004

Happy New Year!

January 31: Last Saturday of the Month Urban Paddle and Potluck Adventure

Weather permitting, the urban paddle will resume in January. Watch the down-river website or check the January newsletter for trip details as the date nears. Contacts are Pat Chamberlain, pchamberlain29@hotmail.com, 972-727-3586, or Phil Lang, phil_lang@sbcglobal.net, 214-564-9628.

January 31-February 1 (Sat. & Sun): Alamo City Rivermen's Freeze Trip

17th annual Colorado River trip and Island Camping. Firm commitments needed for planning purposes. Contact Gib Hafernick at 210-822-8901; Email: Gibguy@compuserv.com. Cost for Saturday night Dutch oven dinner is \$ 6.00 per person. Meet at Hwy 969 and the Colorado River at 9:00 am, Sat., Jan. 31.

Semi-Retirement for Roy



Roy Pipkin was scheduled to retire this month, but as luck would have it he seems to have found a new part-time job.

Congratulations Roy!

After a long and storied working career, he'll now have more time to spend paddling, watching his grandkids and raising Dachshunds. Let's hope the dogs like cats!

Newsletter EMAIL Issues

Please keep us posted of any changes in your email address. If you'd like to get the newsletter electronically, or haven't been getting it and you're wondering why, we might not have your correct email. Send the editor your email address at cathy_nelle@hotmail.com

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.

How Many Miles Have You Paddled this year?

A Message from the Prez

Do you know how many miles you have paddled this year? Did you keep a log? If so, you may be a candidate for the DDRC Most Miles Paddled Award.

In November 1991, long-time DDRC member Hans Weichsel donated two trophies to the club to be awarded annually, one each to the male and female members who had paddled the most miles during the preceding calendar year. The trophies are in memory of 1991 Club President Helen Livingston's sister, Selma Bering and former Club President Jim Stephens, both of whom died while on river trips.

Create or Update Your River Logs for 2003

Now's the time to create or update your 2003 river log so you can submit it at the January meeting. Winners will be announced at the club meeting in February. Last year, Pat Chamberlain won with logging only 36 miles! A far cry from the 250 or more miles the winner in the male category, Richard Steppe, logged!

So you see, you have the chance to be honored with the DDRC Most Miles Paddled Award no matter how many miles you've paddled. Any amount can win! Remember to bring your log (river log, not fire log!) to the January meeting and submit it to a DDRC board member.

Here's the scoop on who's eligible

The trophies shall be awarded to the man and woman who have paddled the most miles during the preceding calendar year provided that:

- The contestant has been a club member in good standing for at least the last six months of the year;
- If the contestant has been a member for less than the full calendar year, only the miles paddled while the contestant was a member of the club shall count toward determining the number of miles the contestant paddled that year; and
- Any miles paddled in a professional capacity (as by a professional instructor, outfitter, etc. in the pursuance of his/her profession, or for pay) are specifically excluded from consideration in determining the number of miles the contestant paddled during the year.

What miles can be counted?

- The miles to be counted are those which were actually paddled, rowed or captained by the candidate in a human-powered craft such as a canoe, kayak, paddle raft, oar raft, rowboat, racing scull, etc. Miles actually paddled while a paying passenger on an outfitted trip are also eligible.
- The miles may be paddled on any natural waterway (ocean, lake, river, creek, swamp, bay, etc.) or any relatively sizeable waterway, such as a beaver pond, man-made lake or man-made canal, anywhere in the world.

How to log your miles

- Mileage is to be measure to the closest mile from recognized publications, if available. These include *Texas Rivers and Rapids*, government maps, commercial maps, brochures, etc.
- Candidates are to maintain and submit a log in which they record for each trip the dates, waterway paddled, put-in and take-out points, type of craft paddled and the name of the trip leader or persons accompanying them, if any.

How the trophies are awarded

- The trophies shall be awarded annually and shall be passed on to the next year's winners. Should a winner, during his or her custodianship, move farther way than he or she is willing to travel to return the trophy, the winner will be required to return the trophy to the club before moving.
- Members are allowed to win a trophy in consecutive years.

NOVEMBER MEETING

By Sam Sloan

Howdy Folks, The meeting got off to a good start with four guests and a new member, Steve Crowe, introduced to the club. Pat gave a trip report on Caddoween - Rain,rain,rain; then fun Sat. night. Trip announcements were the Urban paddle at the Trinity green-belt Nov. 22 by Phil and the Neches trip Thanksgiving weekend by Bryan.

Thanks were made to Don Hughes for generously donating his home and time to the club Christmas party again this year. Congratulations were made to Mike and Faith for their wedding Dec. 6. Bryan Jackson presented a treasurer's report and picture slide show on the Caddoween and Illinois trips. 2004 officer nominations were also recorded.

We ended the meeting with our usual raffle, with the big winner leaving with a nice 5-day cooler. Hope to see you on the river.

Thanksgiving Paddle & Feast

By Sam Sloan

We had about 14 people show for our Neches trip, but we decided Village Creek would be closer to camp and more interesting. I'm sure it hit freezing Friday night, but it warmed up nicely Sat. We left camp at Indian Springs campground at 9 am and put in at Hwy. 418. Fortunately, we had decent current and made good time. The day was sunny and the twisty creek was pretty with a variety of trees. We had the Sandyman Nature Conservation Refuge on our right bank. We stopped for our lunch on a sandbar of white sand. The creek had seen heavy flooding the week before and there were several cut-throughs, though we mostly stayed with the main channel. An otter was spotted doing a swim-by near one of the canoes. We took out at Hwy. 96 after doing a pretty good paddle at 18 miles. Back at the campground we arrived tired and hungry, but glad we got off the river before dark. (We weren't sure we would.) A feast was already in the making; with Cajun fried turkey, gravy, sweet potatoes, sausage rolls, pecan tarts, chili and more! Potluck at its best.

Conversation led into the night with at least one long discussion on pecans. Do natives taste better than papershells? What is the difference between broken and shelled? Why do pecans taste like dirt? Sally was our most unlucky person on the trip with a chair lost in the river, a flat tire coming in at night, and a dead battery trying to leave Sunday (Ouch!). It got cold again, but we had tons of firewood. With all that food and exercise we had one quiet camp after people retired. One person complained of baying coon dogs, but to me it was a short lullaby before sound sleep. Thanks to all, it was a good trip.

Down the Aisle Trip Report

Happy Campers Mike and Faith O'Neill were married Saturday, December 6th in Mesquite. Next time we see them on the river, someone needs to tie some tin cans and a "Just Married" sign on the back of their canoe.

Congratulations !**Fabulous Friday Flip Night**

Come to Arnie Blatt's Friday Flip Nights. Bring your own boat and practice those rolls BEFORE you hit the chilly spring rivers.

Dates: Fridays, January 23 through April 9

Place: The Colony Aquatic Park (972) 624-2225

Cost: \$4 per drop-in OR \$15 for 5 visits

[5151 N. Colony, The Colony, TX 75056, email Swim(at)TCPARD.Com]

Down at the San Marcos B&B

As water in Texas becomes an ever more valuable natural resource, municipal, corporate and private concerns will continue to conjure up some awfully creative schemes to siphon more clean water from public streams and dump more dirty water back (if any). The **San Marcos River Foundation (SMRF)** is leading the way in a legal fight with the City of San Marcos over their 'Bed and Banks' permit application. This 'Bed and Banks' permit battle is being watched all over Texas by big cities that want to do similar permits for much larger amounts of water from rivers like the Colorado, Trinity, and others. But directly, the outcome of the 'Bed and Banks' controversy will be clearly visible when paddling the SM downstream of the city. The DownRiver Club has indirectly supported SMRF through its donations to **Texas Rivers Protection Ass'n (TRPA)** over the past several years. In fact, TRPA funded most of SMRF's B&B legal expenses in the Third Court appeal that SMRF won recently. SMRF and TRPA extend a big thanks to DDRC for that support! But just what the heck is B&B, really? Read on.... Rich Grayson

Bed and Banks

Dianne Wassenich - Executive Director, SMRF

Bed and Banks -- one of the most confusing water permits ever invented. San Marcos (the City) applied for a permit to take water out of the San Marcos River a few miles below their wastewater discharge point, and call it their own private water. They did not think they had to get a water right to do this, since it was their GROUNDWATER originally, and it was their own water to begin with, before it went through people's homes and then their wastewater plant. They had discharged wastewater for a hundred years into the river, and not claimed it as their private water, and so of course the state granted water rights for other people downstream all those years, based on what the state thought was the normal river flow.

Now that we have much better computer models, and a hundred years of weather and rainfall and flow data, and many more people, we all know that rivers are a limited resource. But in the old days, a rancher might have taken his pumped groundwater and directed it into a stream or creek to let it flow between the BANKS of the stream, in the BED of the stream, to a point downstream to water his cattle, diverting it into a pond for the cattle maybe. This was okay, but now the City wanted to call its wastewater a product like fresh pumped groundwater, and use the bed and banks of the river to transport it. What they really wanted was to dilute or *polish* their wastewater, using the river as part of their treatment plant, and lowering the dissolved oxygen in the stream with their wastewater, and then lower the oxygen level further by cutting down on the flow of the river. Rapid flow always helps get more oxygen in the water, slow streams get more stagnant.

But SMRF was not allowed to discuss polishing in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) hearing, back in the mid-90's, and neither were we allowed to discuss whether the water was private or public water. We think when the City discharged it for a hundred years, they abandoned it to the stream and it was then public water. This is clearly stated in Texas law, as is the ban on polishing.

The City did get the bed and banks permit from TCEQ after a long battle of a hearing with SMRF, but the permit had many restrictions on it. The City had to leave enough water in the stream to meet downstream water rights previously granted, and they had to leave enough for environmental needs. Not nearly enough, we thought, but TCEQ saw this as a compromise, I guess. The City hated it and sued TCEQ in District Court. So we thought we should stay in the game, and defend the restrictions at least, in case TCEQ did not vigorously defend them. So SMRF filed suit since we had not gotten due process when TCEQ banned us from discussing polishing and private vs. public water in the hearing, the two most basic issues in this whole permit process that should have been discussed.

The District Court said after two years of stalling that TCEQ's permit was fine the way it was written. The City hated that even more, and appealed in Third Court of Appeals. SMRF did too. SMRF won and the permit was thrown out completely, the whole thing. Now the City has asked the Third Court for a rehearing, which Third Court very seldom does. TCEQ did not ask for a rehearing, which is significant. Our attorney just wrote a brief on that and sent it to me today. We hope the Third Court will refuse to rehear but we know the City will go ahead and try to appeal to the Texas Supreme Court. SMRF will challenge any such appeals.

The City can use its wastewater to do reuse projects, without discharging it to the river, and we encourage that. They have one power plant they sell wastewater to already. We just don't want them to do this "indirect" reuse they are trying to do with the Bed & Banks permit. The City of San Marcos Bed & Banks purpose is to withdraw that river water downstream of their wastewater plant and send it to their drinking water plant, after it was cleaned or diluted by the river. DW

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance 10/30/03	\$2,967.10	
Receipts		
New Memberships	\$66.00	
Membership Renewals	\$80.00	
ACA Dues Collected	\$20.00	
October Raffle	\$117.00	
Total Collections	\$283.00	
Disbursements		
November Newsletter	\$42.22	
Postage	\$37.00	
Halloween at Caddo Lake	\$75.00	
ACA Dues Paid Out	\$20.00	
Raffle Items	\$81.21	
Bank Service charges (Nov)	\$12.00	
Total Expenses	\$267.43	
Sub Total	\$3,250.10	\$267.43
Ending Balance 11/30/03	\$2,982.67	

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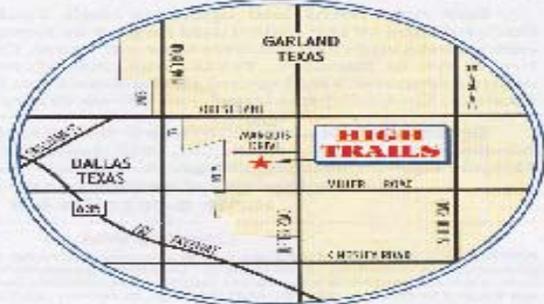
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November Urban Paddle and Potluck

by Phil Lang

When I was in high school someone told me that Dallas, Ft. Worth and Denton would eventually merge into one huge metropolitan multiconglomerate. I told them they were crazy! But, as you know, my friend was right. Back in November we took a little trip up to the Greenbelt which runs between Lake Ray Roberts and Lake Lewisville. This stretch of the Trinity is fairly secluded once you get to it, but it was non-stop city all the way up there - no matter which route one chose to travel. Our meeting place was the put-in right off Highway 380. We had about 14 people...the weather was mild but windy. We blew upriver for about an hour and then really worked out our arms coming back.

Lunch was interesting as usual. The afternoon favorite was Billy's pound cake followed by Darian's Ranch Dressing Dip. There were lots of inquisitive people wandering around the park asking who we were and why we were doing what we were doing and where the river went and how long we were going to be gone and.... Oh, the best part of the whole event was I ended up with an unopened bag of pretzels and a box of cookies. Life is good!

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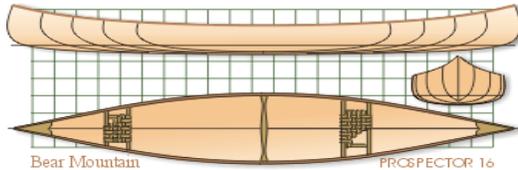
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DDRC Newsletter Ad Rates

Type of Ad	Per Insertion	Annually
Business Cards (member)	5.00	50.00
Business Cards (non-members)	7.50	75.00
1/4 Page display	20.00	200.00
1/3 Page display	30.00	300.00
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Trinity River Play Spots

By Phil Lang

Several months ago in one of our monthly meetings someone got up and mentioned something about some project someone was dreaming up about some crazy idea about turning the Trinity River into a whitewater park for kayaks and canoes.

Of course I ignored most of the announcement thinking it was just some ridiculous dream some engineer sketched up on a napkin at happy hour. I can't even remember who made that announcement. BUT, the other day while playing around on the DDRRC bulletin board, I happened across this string of messages talking about this project.

Well, according to the information I found, this little project has become a reality. Of course after discovering the hard way that everything on the Internet isn't always true (to be covered in another article), I decided to check this out for myself. So, Sunday I took a little trip West.



Dam 2

I recruited the DDRRC President, Pat Chamberlain, to accompany me (I had to bribe her with dinner at Uno's Pizza in Sundance Square). We cruised over to Trinity Park just West of downtown Fort Worth and parked right off of University Drive.

Lo and Behold!

There they were - three low water dams in the process of being rebuilt with the kayaker and canoeist in mind! The center dam seems to be complete. The upper dam looks to be about 90% complete and the lower dam has just been started.

All three dams are within about a half mile stretch of the river going through Trinity Park. It is my understanding this project was to be completed in October of 2003, but obviously they are running behind.

Nevertheless, it looks as though it could be complete by Spring. You can check out more detail and more pictures by going to the DDRRC bulletin board, selecting the DDRRC message board and then scrolling down to Trinity River Play Spots.



Dam 3

Excerpt from future San Juanderful! trip report from the First Great Wayne Robinson Memorial San Juan River Trip (June 2003)

(Look for the full story, appearing in three installments in the coming months.)

“...Five and a half miles past Grand Gulch, we stopped at Oljeto Wash for lunch and a brief ceremony in remembrance of Wayne, “Poppa Smurf,” as many of us affectionately knew him. Under a magnificent and severely undercut wall where the wash curved in to meet the river, Rich said a few words and scattered a vial of Wayne’s ashes alongside his beloved San Juan. I trust that he’ll always be about, watching over us as we paddle; gently and quietly encouraging us towards the kindness, concern, and charity which he consistently personified. Rest in Peace, our cherished friend.”

Holiday Turkey Casserole

This recipe is from former DDRC President Helen Livingston and was used on her annual Boquillas Canyon trip. It’s Christmas dinner in one pot! Mmmmm...good...and oh so easy! (Actually, it’s Thanksgiving dinner in one pot, but I didn’t get it in the November newsletter.) Thanks for the contribution Pat!

Please submit your camp cooking tips and recipes to the newsletter editor to share with the group. Our potlucks have become trip highlights — a wonderful reward of food and friendship after a day’s paddle. You know the food is good when the trip pictures include photos of the dinner table! Let us know what’s cooking in your outdoor kitchen. Here’s what’s cooking in Helen’s:

Ingredients:

1-1/4 cup	Rice
2-1/2 cups	Stock (can be made with bouillon cubes)
4 tbsp.	Butter
1	Large onion
1 cup	Cranberries
1 cup	Pecans, broken into small pieces
1	Orange, juice it and grate the rind
1 tbsp.	Chopped parsley (or more to taste)
2 tbsp.	Dried thyme
	Grated nutmeg to taste
	Salt and pepper to taste
2 cups	White turkey meat, cut into bite-size chunks

Chop onion coarsely and brown lightly in butter. Add rice and cook until rice becomes translucent. Pour in stock and let simmer slowly for 20 minutes. Add remaining ingredients and cook 5-10 more minutes on very low heat or until turkey chunks are done. This makes 5-6 cups.

Variations:

Over the years, there have been many varieties of this recipe. So get creative and “doctor” it up! Some suggestions:

- Add chopped celery
- Use a mixture of wild and white rice
- Add garlic powder
- Add Italian sweet sausage

Some notes from Helen:

- This can be frozen and reheated.
- Increase quantities per the size of your group. Helen estimated women would eat 1 cup and men would eat 2 cups, depending on what else was served, e.g., a salad and rolls
- She’s not convinced that the ten minute cooking time for the turkey is enough, so you could add them to the cooking process earlier than what is instructed above.

Happy Holidays on the river!

DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB

P.O. Box 820246
Dallas, Texas 75382

Postage

*The Official Newsletter of the Dallas
Downriver Club*

**DDRC Dec. Meeting is
Christmas Party at the
home of Don Hughes
Thursday 7:00 PM
Dec. 18, 2003
7249 Elmridge Dr.,
Dallas, TX 75240
(NOT meeting at Enchilada's
until Jan. 15, 2004)**

