

The DDRC Current News

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

January 2004

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**
Angela Jackson
Jaws

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership * Renew *
Keep your membership current for continuous newsletter delivery and to vote for club officers in January. 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. 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 VP - Sam Sloan
Newsletter - Cathy Nelle Secretary - Marilyn Scholl
Treasurer - Sally Soldo and Gail Shipley

Most Miles Paddled

Keep recording your miles paddled. Winners will be recognized in January.

Upcoming & Ongoing Events & Trips — 2004 New Year Highlights

Monthly: Last Saturday of the Month Urban Paddle and Potluck Adventure, 9:00 am. Explore local paddle spots, make friends, share a meal and have a good time. A great way to spend a half day close to home!

January 31 (Sat.): Urban paddle location to be determined. Contacts are Pat Chamberlain, pchamberlain29@hotmail.com, 972-727-3586, or Phil Lang, philip_lang@sbcglobal.net, 214-564-9628.

January 23 - April 9 (Fri.): Arnie Blatt's Fabulous Friday Flip Nights at The Colony Aquatic Park* (972) 624-2225 . Bring your own boat and practice those rolls. Cost is \$4 per drop-in OR \$15 for 5 visits.
*[5151 N. Colony, The Colony, TX 75056, email [Swim\(at\)TCPARD.Com](mailto:Swim(at)TCPARD.Com)]

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.

February 14-16 (Sat.-Mon.): Upper Guadalupe River

Paddling sections of the Upper Guadalupe between FM3351 and US 281 near Spring Branch, TX on Sun. and Mon., camping at Guadalupe River State Park. Advance campsite reservations are recommended. Expect lots of small rapids and rock gardens. Fiberglass or any other fragile material boats would not be recommended for this trip. If you have never paddled this stretch before, you owe it to yourself to check it out. It will become one of your favorites. For more info on the trip, contact Bryan Jackson at 972-979-2519 or email Hollowcreek@paddlinpals.com.

February 28 (Sat.): Urban Paddle and Potluck Adventure

March 27 (Sat.): Urban Paddle and Potluck Adventure

April 2-4 (Sat.-Sun.): Kiamichi River, Oklahoma

April 18 (Sun.): Hidalgo Falls River Festival. Hidalgo Falls on the Brazos River, near Navasota, Texas
<http://www-phil.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/hidalgo.html>

May 21-23 (Fri.-Sun.): Illinois River, Oklahoma

May 29-31 (Sat.-Mon.): Sabine Memorial Day Trip

June 5 (Sat.): Brazos River Moonlight Float

Christmas Party

Sam Sloan – DDRC Secretary

Our club Christmas party was held again at Don Hughes' house, which by the way looks like the perfect holiday setting with the cheery fireplace and all the collectables displayed around the house. Lots of food and a great raffle were the highlights and everyone seemed to be in the holiday spirit.

We have had two nominations for Treasurer; namely Gail Shipley and Sally Soldo. Marilyn Scholl was nominated for club secretary. The voting on nominee's will be at the Jan. club meeting. Speaking of January, don't forget those membership renewals! Members receive the monthly newsletter and can vote in club elections. Hope to see everyone in 2004!

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.

Are There Writers Among Us?

A Call for Submissions

Waterways Her Way: An Anthology of Women's Paddling Adventures
Raincoast Publishing, Spring 2005, Edited by Laurel Archer

Send submissions to:

Laurel Archer, 364 Morland Road, Comox, B.C. CANADA V9M 3W2
or laurel.archer@telus.net (For questions call 250-890-0989 or email .)

Waterways Her Way (working title) will be a literary anthology of creative non-fiction stories and personal essays about women finding adventure in paddling North America's rivers, lakes and oceans. Discovery is the general theme: the discoveries women make about themselves, their relationships, Nature, or the meaning of adventure. Possible specific themes include: artistic inspiration, women-only trips, solo expeditions, mixing romantic love and paddling, spirituality, mentorship, leadership, teamwork, whitewater thrills, competing in paddlesports, changes afoot in the paddling world, etc.

All in all, the collection will reflect the diversity of reasons women take up paddling, why they enjoy paddling, who they enjoy paddling with and why, and some of their best and/or worst experiences on the water. The multiplicity of emotions paddling watercraft evokes is often key to learning about one's self and the nature of traveling on water. Fear, passion, joy, frustration, peace, may all be part of the mix in any given experience. Stories about serene weekends canoeing on a southern lake, competing in whitewater slalom, sprint or rowing events, tripping in a traditional dugout canoe through coastal waters, paddling on a breast cancer dragon boat team, teaching paddlesports or guiding trips on Arctic rivers or the Pacific or Atlantic oceans are all welcome.

Journeying by kayak, raft, rowing shell or canoe, in the wilderness or through the urban sprawl, women paddlers' backgrounds also vary dramatically, and this will also be a theme in the collection. The editor invites women of all ages and walks of life to submit stories and essays about their unique paddling experiences.

Guidelines:

Submitting a work does not guarantee its publication. Approximately thirty submissions will be chosen for inclusion in Waterways Her Way, and the pieces will be selected based on literary merit and how well the pieces fit the themes of the collection. Both unpublished and previously published pieces are welcome. If submitting previously published material, please indicate on the cover page all pertinent publishing details and publisher contact information. The editor will undertake obtaining permission to reprint the piece should it be chosen for inclusion in Waterways.

(Continued on page 3)

The length of the stories or personal essays should run between 1500 and 2500 words, though pieces that are slightly shorter or longer will be considered if they have merit. Type, double space and paginate your work.

Submissions may be sent via post or email. If you are mailing your submission by post, please include two hard copies along with a cover letter that lists your all your contact information, including an email address where you can be reached, a short bio, and a word count of the submission. If you are submitting a previously published piece, please also provide the publisher's contact information.

For submissions via email, send only one copy of your piece with the first page being a cover sheet with author/publisher contact information, the short bio, and word count. Only MS Word (.doc), text (.txt) or rich text formats (.rtf) will be accepted, and the subject line must read "Waterways submission" or the attachments will not be opened.

The deadline for submissions is March 15th, 2004. Manuscripts must be postmarked by this date and a SASE enclosed for a response or return of manuscript. Payment will be \$100.00 (Cdn.) and a copy of the anthology. The authors of selected pieces will be contacted by April 30th, 2004.

About the Editor (Laurel Archer):

I am the author of Northern Saskatchewan Canoe Trips: A Guide to 15 Wilderness Rivers (Boston Mills, 2003), and my stories and articles have been published in such periodicals and anthologies as Chatelaine, Explore, Paddler, and Kanawa and Paddle Quest: Canada's Best Canoe Routes and its sequel, More of Canada's Best Canoe Routes.

I've paddled all sorts of watercrafts on waterways all over the world: including the Stikine and Nahanni rivers in Canada, Idaho's Salmon River and the Colorado through the Grand Canyon; and further afield, rivers in Costa Rica, Malaysia, Thailand, India and Myanmar. Most of my sea kayaking excursions have been along the coasts of Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands. When I'm not writing and adventuring, I teach lake and whitewater canoeing, and sea and whitewater kayaking for Strathcona Park Lodge's internationally known Canadian Outdoor Leadership Training (COLT) program, and race with a competitive women's outrigger canoeing team. For more information visit www.laurelarcher.com.

About the Publisher:

Raincoast Books is one of the largest independent, Canadian-owned publishers. With its imprints Polestar and Press Gang, we have been publishing outstanding books for over twenty years. Our publishing program has expanded greatly in the past four years, thanks in large part to the popularity of the Harry Potter and Griffin & Sabine series, the acquisition of Polestar and Press Gang and the establishment of a literary fiction and non fiction list.

Raincoast and its imprints have long been committed to celebrating the natural landscape and the experience of finding our place in it - both in our high-quality non-fiction publications and in our environmentally sound publishing practices. We have strong natural history and guidebooks as well as literary non-fiction titles. One of the cornerstones of the Raincoast publishing program is a series of travel/adventure writing books. The books in the Raincoast Journeys Series combine stunning photographs with gripping text about real-life experiences exploring some of the world's most interesting destinations - hiking the West Coast Trail, the International Appalachian Trail, through the Queen Charlotte Islands; paddling in Clayoquot Sound; and climbing sacred Himalayan peaks. We are committed to corporate responsibility and we are industry leaders in this area. We use practices in both our office environment and in the production of our books.

Texas Coast By Phil Lang

A couple of months ago I ran across an article in Texas Highways Magazine about kayaking the Texas coastline. Being an "inland beach bum" it immediately caught my interest. So I got on the internet and dug around till I had enough information to do a trip. I talked our Prez Pat into going with me- but only after promising her fresh gulf shrimp right off the boat. We headed down after Christmas and made a few stops on the way.

San Marcus was the first destination. The balmy weather had half a dozen yakkers soaking up the river at Rio Vista Dam. All the campsites were closed for winter so we headed to the lower Guadalupe and found two or three campgrounds open year 'round. The Guad was barely flowing.

Next we made our way to Port Aransas. The air temperature was still in the seventies. There was a 25 mph sustaining wind coming off the water. We found several campgrounds (RV parks) and finally settled in Mustang Island State Park. This was basically a parking lot on the beach.

Our first venture was out into the bay along one of several trails set up by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. These trails are documented on one of several maps available from an outfit in Houston. Several waymarks along the route make navigating fairly easy- especially if you have a GPS unit which I would HIGHLY recommend. The water was fairly clear- although the high winds were stirring things up a bit. There were several small islands further out with crystal clear water, sandy beaches and tons of seashells. The bird watching was great. There were some cranes out there that were so big they were scaring me. After paddling we ran into town for some grub. As we sat watching dolphins in the bay a northern came through, dropping the temperature about 15 degrees and changing the wind direction 180 degrees but still at about 25 mph. The next morning it was raining so we made the executive decision to head inland.

Guadalupe River State park was our final destination. The quiet, secluded campground was such a contrast from the noisy, bustling coastline that our ears rang for the first few hours. Temperatures dropped to the mid 20s at night but the days were toasty enough to do some hiking and paddling on the Guad.

If you are interested in paddling the coast, shoot me an email at philip_lang@sbcglobal.net, and I can get you all the information on trails and maps and contacts. But I would suggest staying in a hotel room- or perhaps purchasing a rig like the one in the picture!



TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance 11/30/03 \$2,982.67

Receipts

New Memberships	\$40.00
Membership Renewals	\$400.00
ACA Dues Collected	\$30.00
Christmas Party Raffle	\$300.00

Total Collections	\$770.00
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Disbursements

Christmas Gift Don Hughes	\$50.00
December Newsletter	\$58.95
Postage	\$52.40
Halloween at Caddo Lake	\$33.34
ACA Dues Paid Out	\$30.00
Raffle Items	\$148.25
Bank Service charges (Dec and new checks)	\$28.50

Total Expenses	\$401.44
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Sub Total	\$3,752.67	\$401.44
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Ending Balance 12/31/03 \$3,351.23

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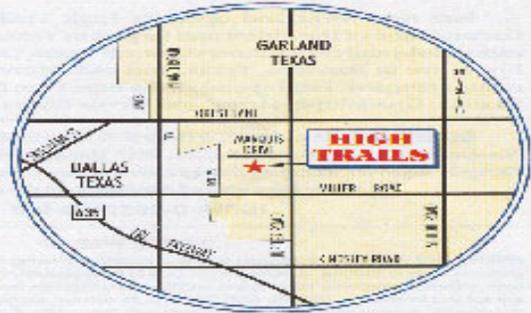
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Dutch Oven Pot Roast

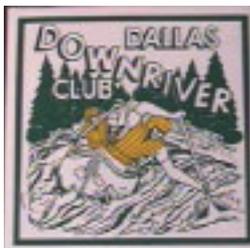
From the campsite kitchen of Bryan Jackson

- 2 to 3 pound roast
- 1 onion coarsely chopped
- 3 stalks celery chopped in large pieces
- 2 cups carrots cut in 2" pieces
- 6 to 8 medium potatoes (peeled optional)
- 1 can beef broth
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 3 tablespoons Wondra flour
- Salt and Pepper

Preheat Dutch oven with about 6 to 8 coals on the bottom. Brown roast and cook onions in vegetable oil. When browned, add celery, carrots, potatoes, and beef broth in Dutch oven. Cook with about 12 coals on the bottom and 12 on top for 60 to 90 minutes or until potatoes and carrots are tender and meat is well done. Remove roast and vegetables and stir flour into juice left in Dutch oven. Add more coals if necessary to bring to boil and thicken. Season to taste and serve over meat and potatoes. For larger roasts add 30 minutes per pound.

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 (get them at the DDRC meetings)



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San Juanderful! The First Great Wayne Robinson Memorial San Juan River Trip

By Ronnie Ash

“We never get to go anywhere...” [Installment 1 of 3]

On Sunday, the 8th of June, in the year 2003, 16 souls and one spirit, united under the combined banners of the Dallas Downriver Club and the North Texas River Runners, departed Mexican Hat, Utah, bound for seven days of glory in the lower canyon of the San Juan, one of Wayne’s most cherished rivers. In four rafts, three solo canoes, and two tandem canoes, we undertook what must surely be one of the best river trips in the entire catalog of waterborne adventures.

The river was friendly, the company congenial, and the scenery so mind-wrenchingly magnificent that occasionally one was forced to close one’s eyes just to keep one’s brain from overloading! Really, the San Juan is a most amiable water-course. The current flowed pleasantly along – in the absence of a headwind we could make 3.5 – 4+ miles per hour without hitting a stroke. There were, perhaps, 2 class III rapids worthy of note, but neither was excessively threatening. (I was hardly even scared!) There were sufficient riffles and rocks to engage one’s attention and preclude complacency, but the overall character of the river was welcoming and amiable. Of course, the rocks had cleverly camouflaged themselves by adopting the same color as the heavily silted river water, occasionally eliciting a surprised exclamation from a day dreaming boater, but it was all such great sport. In keeping with the brisk current and the multitude of rocks, there were hundreds of eddies with vigorous current differentials. The canoeists quickly discovered, however, that their heavily laden craft lumbered rather than danced through playful maneuvers!

Daytime temperatures were warm, in the 90’s and topping 100 on our final day, but the humidity was so low that we were not unduly discomforted, and rarely aware of sweating. Our experienced western river trippers and Manny Forkowitz, the floating urologist, constantly admonished us to drink more water, as dehydration is an ever lurking threat in such conditions. Hyperthermia was easily countered, since the San Juan is fed by snowmelt from the Animas River in Colorado. A quick submergence in the stream and you’d have to stand in the sun to keep from freezing! Nighttime temperatures were quite pleasant, in the upper 60’s I would guess, encouraging the sleepy paddler to break out a blanket, under a moon so bright that you wanted to wear shades.

The scenery was, truly, top shelf – Grand Canyon like, but on a slightly smaller, more intimate, and, shall we say, comprehensible scale. For some 50 miles we floated through, experienced, and were enthralled by a narrow canyon, 1000 – 1600 feet deep, with dramatically chiseled and layered walls of sandstone, shale, and limestone; with sculpted side canyons and washes dropping down to river level in huge undercut and hollowed steps. Mule deer with lovely velvet antlers, prairie chickens with facial markings like running mascara, families of Canadian geese making eddy turns and peel outs in perfect unison, collared lizards doing pushups to prove their prowess, soaring peregrine falcons, eerily intelligent ravens, and evening bats flitting erratically about added motion and life to the harshly beautiful landscape.

We traveled under the auspices of Weldon Sander’s permit. (You will see me at next year’s permit application party, for I must return to the San Juan!) Weldon oversaw and coordinated the planning and logistics, somehow managing to get 16 people and a freight train load of boats and gear to the put-in at the appointed time. He also struggled valiantly, while on the river, to keep us all in compliance with the Bureau of Land Management’s rules, since the BLM views the permit holder as responsible for any sins of the group. (On second thought...maybe one of y’all could get a permit and just invite me to come along!)

Aboard the rafts, we had Rich Grayson (who carried a load in his raft that would have stalled a locomotive), Jack and Yolanda Deatherage (Jack, a former SeaBee, proved to be one of the most animated and entertaining story tellers I’ve ever met), Cathy Curtis and her sweetheart, Bruce Cade (Cathy and Yolanda planned, purchased, assembled and organized the menu, and, bless their hearts, what a wonderful job they did!), the irrepressible Manny Forkowitz and his sister Ester, from Brooklyn (Yep, that is in New York City!), and our friends, the ever adventurous George Wilhelm and Linda Shields. Manning the solo boats were our esteemed leader, Weldon, Big John Simmons,

(Continued on page 8)

and Radio San Juan himself, Ted “Dr. Danger” Drake. The tandem teams were “Master” Diana McCown (a.k.a. “She Who Must Be Obeyed”), her amazingly able 14 year old niece, Caitlin, everybody’s Boy Scout - Curtis Boerner , and your humble reporter, “Uncle Ronnie” Ash. It was a most cooperative and agreeable group – Weldon did an amazing job of human resources management in assembling such a harmonious bunch of boaters.

Arriving in Mexican Hat the day before our scheduled put-in, we repaired to Goosenecks State Park, where, from the overlook, we could gaze dizzily downward at the river, over a thousand feet below, as it snaked through a series of huge loops, “entrenched meanders.” Hearts beat happily in awestruck anticipation, knowing that we ourselves would soon be navigating those monumental bends of the river. Obviously, this wasn’t Village Creek! We camped in the Park that night, and, once the waxing moon finally set, I was dumbfounded by the multitude of stars. I behold the full extent of the celestial spectacle so infrequently that I had quite forgotten how incredible the night sky can be. The sad fact that modern man has become so estranged from the infinite wonder of the heavens makes me think that we’ve paid a terrible price for the comforts and conveniences of the industrial world. (Just what is a Luddite, anyway?)

After the appropriate confusion at the put-in, rigging rafts, sorting gear, and apportioning loads, we climbed aboard our respective craft and committed our fate to the river. A mere half mile downstream, we encountered one of the San Juan’s more frisky rapids, Gypsum Creek. A parking lot size downstream V lead us right into a rather boisterous breaking wave. Some of us claimed it to be as much as six feet high! Needless to say, the canoeists were all exercising their bailers in the first available eddy, and realigning their notions about the correct line to take when paddling heavily loaded canoes!

One mile later, we entered the canyon. At the entrance, the strata of the canyon walls angled upward as they went downstream, but our eyes perceived them as level, giving the impression that the river slid off downhill at an alarming rate. (I expected to see a yellow sign on the riverbank – “Warning, steep grade ahead – rafts use lower gear!”) It was like paddling into the AntiGravity house on the midway, a disorienting optical illusion, but a terrific introduction to the adventures which awaited us.

As we drifted deeper into the canyon, the walls grew higher, the geology ever more overwhelming and wonderful. At Mendenhall loop we scanned the cliffs, searching for the prospector’s 110 year old rock cabin. After following a false lead on river left (Mendenhall’s summer cottage?), Weldon found and ascended a trail up to a flat saddle some 100 feet above the river and Mendenhall’s home was revealed, it’s roof beams still quite sound after so many seasons. The climate is so doggone dry that nothing rots! Although the ascent to the cabin was easy enough, we discovered a disturbing truth when we looked over the edge at the boats down below. The descent was a dern sight more difficult! This apparent inequality would reassert itself several times in the days to come!

Against increasing headwinds we looped around the Tabernacle, a massive geological edifice, and established our first camp in the Second Narrows. As the gear was unloaded and the camp constructed, the canoeists were struck dumb by the amount of equipment that the rafters carried and the luxury in which it permitted us to abide. (If you ever see an ad in the personals that reads, “Single male canoeist with low income and large sense of humor seeking single female with raft. Unshaven armpits OK,” you’ll know who wrote it!) As dinner developed, our admiration for the planning and culinary abilities of Cathy and Yolanda blossomed. Indeed, some of us would come to virtually worship them before the trip was over!

[To Be Continued...Tune in again in February for days two - four of the seven day journey.]



In Memory

It is truly a sad day for all of us paddlers with the Big Thicket Voyageurs. A major force in our club and friend to many has died on Christmas Day. Winston Padgett has lost his battle with ALS. (Lou Gehrig Disease). He will truly be missed.

Paul Laurents

DDRC Officers & Committees

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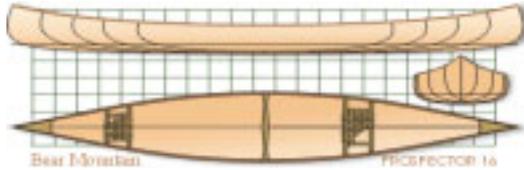
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DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB

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*The Official Newsletter of the Dallas
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DDRC
January 2004 Meeting

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