

# The DDRC Current News

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Volume 25, No. 12

The Official Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club

December 1998

## The Blanco Riverbillys

(sing to the tune of The Beverly Hillbillys)

by Debbie Meller

Now let me tell a story bout a river named Blanco  
at low water it can be pretty stanko  
then one day came a massive turd floater  
and down from Dallas came a group of whitewater boaters  
Kayakers that is  
Six in all  
Desperate for water

Well the next thing ya know there's a rapid called the Narrows  
the local folk said 'Stay out of there fellows'  
said 'that's a place you don't really want to be'  
so we loaded up our boats and we portaged grudgingly  
On foot that is  
Down the cliffs  
Hundreds of yards

Well it only took a week for the level to come down  
Steve Daniel, Jimmy Vick didn't think that they would drown  
they ran it down the middle and made Texas history  
the first to run the Narrows and take all the sweet glory  
Humbly that is  
First descent  
Texas style

## YES VIRGINIA, THERE IS THE TEXAS NARROWS

I had heard about a Class V rapid on the Blanco river, the section between the cities of Blanco and Wimberley, a couple of times and had thought 'Yeah, right.'. Then Glenn Hart from Houston submitted a trip report on the email group Canoetx describing the 'unrunnable' Narrows and multiple Class IIIs. I replied back immediately that next time he went I wanted to go with him.

The following week, Tony Cooper called to tell me that the Blanco was still up around 1000 cfs and that he and Shawn Hiatt were going. I got in touch with

Whitney Peters who was out of town on business and he took an early flight home. Tony contacted Shelby Shelton and Jimmy Vick from Fort Worth. I spread the word via Canoetx that we were going and Charlie Riou from Austin contacted me to say he'd run that section 6 years ago. We decided to meet he and a couple of his friends in Wimberley early Saturday morning.

Access on this section is few and far between. Every inch of land is private property and in fact the day before

*continued on page 5*

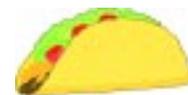
## DDRC December Meeting

Enchilada's will serve a buffet style dinner at the December meeting.

The menu will be:



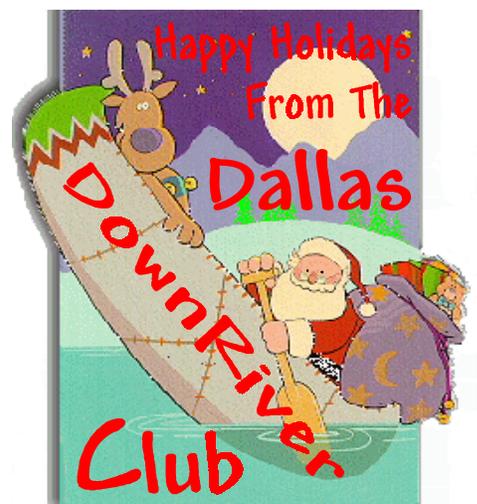
Cheese Enchiladas  
Beef Tacos  
Rice  
Beans  
Chips Hot sauce



Beverages not included  
Cash Bar will be available

Cost will be approximately  
\$10.00 pp

RSVP Jack - [jfd2@airmail.net](mailto:jfd2@airmail.net)



# 1998

## DDRC OFFICERS

**President:**

Jack Deatherage 972-222-1407

**Vice President:**

Debbie Meller 972-727-9290

**Secretary:**

Jamie Smolik 214-368-3745

**Treasurer:**

Chris Cockrell 214-340-3181

**Newsletter Editor:**

Steve Schleter 972-329-5502

**Internet Webmaster:**

Rich Grayson 214-827-0144

**Environmental:**

David Lamb 214-931-3068

**Librarian:**

Keith Smith 940-566-4869

**Roster:**

Marvin Dietel 972-564-1545

**Trip Coordinator:**

Suzanne Greer 972-271-4972

**Membership:**

Cyndy Meijer 972-342-5821

**Racing:**

Ben Kvanli 214-352-5446

**Raffle:**

Judy Purze 972-717-5053

Pat Tittle 972-727-3586

**Safety:**

Ken Lock 214-823-5263

**Training:****Canoes**

John Pullman 214-824-0213

**Kayaks**

Helen Livingston 214-821-6712

## President's Column

*by Jack Deatherage*

December already, this year has really flown by! Time fly's when you're having fun. Most of my gear has had constant use. May we have many more good years.

It's time to submit your permits for the western rivers. Get the paperwork or addresses off of our

website and send it in. Many of the good rivers are lottery

controlled, the more entries our club submits the better our odds of getting to go. Don't let things like not having a raft or big water experience scare you off. Get the permit and bring it to a club meeting and we will work something out!

Some of you may remember me talking about Goat Island and the class 2 permit system the State of Texas was going to start enforcing, looks like it has started. Ann and Barry from Pine Needle Lodge sent me a note about the first people that the Game Wardens asked to purchase a permit. Dec. 1st was the magic day. A group of us were there the weekend before and nothing was said. You may want to call Caddo Lake State Park before you go to Goat Island again! I'll let you know more on this subject later.

It's DDRC officer nomination time again. We always need new people to fill positions. Think of who is the most qualified and nominate them.

I would like to thank all of this years officers for a job well done. Our club is in good shape with a good reputation in the community and it's a direct result of the people involved.

Also would like to challenge everyone to become more involved with all of the clubs activities. Seeing a lot of the same faces doing the same things. White Rock Clean up is a good example. David Lamb and kids are doing it almost entirely by themselves. The next second Saturday of the month load your boat and have some fun.

### Get Connected on the Internet

DDRC's website is provided by Inturnet, inc., a local ISP based in Richardson. In addition to providing our club with FREE web space, inturnet also offers access to DDRC members at a 10% discount off the regular monthly rate of \$19.95 per month for unlimited, 24 hours per day access.

To top it off, DDRC receives a 10% bonus for each member signing up, so it's a double win-win for you and the club. If you want your own web pages, inturnet provides 10MB FREE space, enough space to create about 900 pages (more or less)! You will also receive an e-mail address so you can communicate easier.

Call Tod E. Weber at (972)783-0066 for an account and be sure to tell him you are a DDRC member so both you and the club get the bonuses, or contact Rich Grayson.

**Newsletter:** The DDRC newsletter, Current News, is a monthly publication distributed to club members and affiliated paddling organizations nationwide. The deadline for submissions is the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. Information may be submitted via e-mail, at [schleter@dallas.net](mailto:schleter@dallas.net), or fax/phone to Steve Schleter, at (972) 329-0729. Articles about and of direct interest to DDRC members will receive first priority, paid advertising will be given second priority, and other materials will be included on a space-available basis. Unless otherwise specified, all information about river trips will be added to the DDRC Internet website trip calendar.

**Change of Address:** Please contact Chris Cockrell, Treasurer, if you need to report a change of mailing address. If you fail to get a newsletter, it will be because we do not have a current address or your membership has expired. Chris will be happy to correct wrong addresses, and take your dues if you are in arrears.

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## The Environment Section

by David Lamb

This was a big month for cleanups. Our club participated in organized cleanups at White Rock Lake, the San Marcos River and the Guadalupe River.

Richard Steppe, David Lamb, Rachel Lamb and Alan Lamb participated in the San Marcos River cleanup on November 7.

White Rock Lake had a lot of extra litter in our Sunset Bay cleanup area due to heavy rains a couple of days earlier. We could see that the water had been up a couple of feet above the normal spillway level. This had cleaned out the creeks, but left trash all over our area. Rachel Lamb, David Nevers and David Lamb picked up two grocery carts, two tires, two buckets a seat cushion, a 55 gallon drum as well as numerous bags of trash. Much more work is needed on our area to shine it up. This was on November 14th. There was a Rediscover White Rock Lake party the next Saturday morning. We were able to get a bit of news coverage about paddling on White Rock on channels 4 and 8 and maybe 11.

DDRC folks went down for several weekends during November to work on cleanup on the Guadalupe River. I have many names, but may accidentally leave out some workers. Please let me know if

I left you off of this list and I will get that down next month. Folks that helped were Debbie Meller, Tre Roberts, Chris Cockrell, Suzy, Bud Fuller, Casey Hackathorne, Mark Poindexter, Dave with wife Angie, Ernie Smith, Jerry Kier, Charles Allen, Rich Grayson, Jack Deatherage and his son.

Other areas getting out attention included Bachman Lake around Point Nancy Carolyn, Denton Creek up through the slalom course and the Elm Fork of the Trinity from Carrollton Dam up past Furneaux Creek The Elm Fork still needs work. Although we had it all shined up for the Trinity River Challenge, the creeks were cleaned out by rains and we need to keep working up to the Lewisville dam.

Total bags cleaned up: 87 bags. This does not count the enormous efforts at Hueco Springs. It was so much that it is not that simple to measure. Year To Date: 537 bags.

Our next White Rock cleanup is December 12th in the morning at Sunset Bay.



### WANT ADS

Looking for used Penobscot-type ABS canoe. Contact Fred or Marilyn Zickrick at 903-465-5937 or [fredz@texoma.net](mailto:fredz@texoma.net).

Cat's Meow - North Face 20 degree bag. 3-season Royal blue shell, black lining. 80"x30"x20" fits 5'11". Loft 5.5" total weight 2 lbs. 14 oz. Sales for \$169. Used twice, still new, asking \$100 contact Kim @ 972-907-9178, leave message.

Pyranha Mountain 300 kayak with airbags and sprayskirt (med.) FC \$325; Paddle 206cm \$50; PFD(sm.) \$20; Helmet (med.) \$10. Keith (940)566-4869

To Buy: a Canoe 16 to 169 length and 55- 60 weight  
e-mail: [dalaniz@swbell.net](mailto:dalaniz@swbell.net)  
Jesse and Dorina Thomas

### Group Buy of ICF K-1s and Downriver K-1s

Start saving your change, mowing lawns, throwing papers, babysitting.

I am ordering a container of ICF K-1s and ICF Downriver K-1 racing boats in March, 1999.

ICF K-1 \$370 + \$100 shipping  
Downriver K-1 \$450 + \$100 shipping

ICF K-1s are available in high volume stable, medium volume unstable and high volume very unstable hulls.

ICF K-1s have your choice of pedals or T-bar, over or under stern rudder.

ICF K-1 layup - Polyester/Glass/Nylon

DR K-1 layup - Polyester/Vinylester

Other hulls and layups are available at additional cost

Let me know if you are interested.

David Lamb (972)931-3068  
[dlamb@adventureteam.com](mailto:dlamb@adventureteam.com)

The container costs \$2350 to ship here. I am covering any extra cost in shipping that these prices do not pay.

Thanks

### DDRC Annual Membership

**\$20.00/year - Individual or Family**  
**\$200.00 - Lifetime Membership**  
Due January, 1998

Send to:

**DDRC**

**P.O. Box 820246**  
**Dallas, Texas 75382**

## One Swine Day

by Yolanda Deatherage

*'Twas the day after Thanksgiving and all through the night  
Was anticipation of roasting a pig to delight.  
The spit was designed by Jack and Charles with care-  
There isn't a project you can't give that pair!  
The audience huddled to watch the prep of the beast  
With visions of how we were going to feast.  
With apple in mouth, "Babe" was placed on the spit  
And we all settled back for a long Caddo Lake sit.  
They rotated and sprayed with ne'er a fail,  
Checked the temp of his body-They covered every detail.  
Away Charles paddled to pick up more guests  
With Jack and Jeff continuing to cook with great zest.  
The fire blazed brightly in the fire pit  
And the pig, well, it kept cookin'  
On that 'merican made spit!  
When what to our wondering eyes should appear  
But a temp reading 180 in little Babe's rear.  
Supper was called by banging a lid  
At the edge of the bank – That's what Jack did.  
More rapid than eagles the crowd they did come  
And they whistled and shouted, amazed it was done.  
Now Jeff! Now Jack! Now Alan and Betty!  
C'mon Charlie... Gather 'round the camera is ready!  
The pictures were taken then followed a toast  
To those who made possible this incredible roast.  
Now Betty, she adorned the table four star  
With pine needles and pinecones and a candelabra!  
So up to the table Babe was placed, oh, so right  
The candles were lit and it was quite a sight.  
The hubbub subsided, the "ahs", they too faltered  
And Alan began carving sweet Babe on her altar.  
A bow on the curl of its tail it did carry  
Her ears were now charred; Babe's eyes were now cherries.  
The serving began, the pig somewhat devoured  
The visiting went on for hours and hours.  
The weather was great. The moon shone down bright  
So, as you know, it warrants a paddle at midnight.  
A relaxing paddle we enjoyed under stars  
A wonderful weekend we had experienced so far.  
But all things must soon end, despite our desire  
We await cabrito for Cinco de Mayo!  
Merry Christmas to all and to all a goodnight!*



### DDRC NEW MEMBERS

The DDRC would like to welcome the following people who have joined our club last month. We hope they have had the opportunity to participate in some of our events and trips. We encourage them to attend the meetings and introduce themselves to others. If anyone is missing below, we apologize and please let someone know.

Doug Hopkins	Dallas
Linda Matthews	Dallas
Fred & Marilyn Zickrick	Denison
Rudy & Wanda Geissler	Azle



### Treasurer's Report

Total = \$3504.21  
as of 12/7/98

*continued from page 1*

Charlie had been told by a landowner that he couldn't park at the takeout at Valley View road. So I asked him to bring a bicycle, which we stashed there then parked a car further up the road.

We put in at County Road 406 crossing at 10:45am. What we found were 12 miles of many fun, pretty Class II rapids separated by very long, very flat pools (typical Texas Hill Country river). There were two bonafide Class III rapids before the Narrows (which we were beginning to think didn't exist) and two Class IIIs after the Narrows. Plenty of surfing, enders, and squirts to be had. We complain about private land owners, but the river sure was clean, clear and not a soul around.

The Narrows is in the middle of this 12 miles. Preceded by a pool, all at once the river narrows and drops steeply about 40 feet to form the rapid, but the ground doesn't. The ground maintains its level, thus creating canyon walls to form along the river and rapid. We were then looking down from the top of these walls. Making up the 40 foot long rapid are four vertical 10-15 foot drops, causing a powerful amount of water to plummet and, in a

couple of places, slam into the canyon walls. It is beautiful, exciting, scary and runnable by expert paddlers in high volume creek boats. None of us fell into that category, so we portaged. It was a long couple of hundred yards to some steps leading down to the river on the right. Shawn, Tony and I contemplated launching off the 30 foot cliffs in our boats, but after they tossed in some large rocks which quickly hit bottom, we thought it safer not to. Whitney and I then contemplated throwing our boats in and jumping in after them. I chickened out so we just threw our boats in then met them on foot downstream at the steps.

I must admit the remaining miles, although dotted with rapids, were grueling for us whitewater kayakers because of the long pools. We got to the take-out, very sore and a little cranky, at 5:00pm.

A week later the level had dropped to 700 cfs. Jimmy Vick went back with Steve Daniel to make the purported first run of the Narrows rapid. I don't ever see myself running this rapid, at least not in the near future. I'm glad I went to see this Texas anomaly, but I don't think I'll do it again.

American Whitewater is compiling a list of rivers where boaters are having access problems. Examples include landowners who have posted no trespassing signs or strung barbed wire across rivers, or locked gates, or government agencies who refuse access to rivers. If you know of any local access problems, please report it to me at this e-mail or by mailing me at 475 Sierra Vista, Carbondale, CO 81623. If you know the landowner or agency involved, we'll send them a letter as well. Please use the report form at <http://www.awa.org>; go to Hot News on the home page screen, and then to the Access Survey. We use this information to highlight the problems we have accessing rivers and to open a dialogue to get them reopened. Thanks.

*Ken Ransford, Board Member, American Whitewater*

*Tel 303-607-9990 (Denver Wed & Thurs)*

*Tel 970-963-6800 (Carbondale rest of week)*

*Fax 970-963-6700*

The Dallas Down River Club is welcome at American Outdoor. Please visit us on the web at [www.americanoutdoor.com](http://www.americanoutdoor.com). We are a catalog and online store that prices below MSRP with free shipping and no sales tax.

Our 'Club Membership' is offered to clubs, groups and associations. This gives you 15% off anything you buy at American Outdoor. Simply let us know who you are when you call or email us and any member of your club can receive the discount.




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*"Quality that lingers"*

**Paddling the Devastated Guadalupe River:  
2 weeks and 2 days after the Flood.**

*by Mike Fox, Helotes, Tx*

I took my first paddle down the Guadalupe from a mile above "first crossing," down to the Loop 337 bridge over the Guad in New Braunfels. The river was still high - about 2000 cfs, and the devastation is still staggering 2 weeks later. It's about 12 crow-flying miles from Canyon Lake Dam to New Braunfels. They didn't let any water out of the dam that day, and yet by the time the Guad got to New Braunfels, they estimate it was flowing 100,000 cfs. They're guessing about 27 inches of rain fell. Amazingly, nobody died on that stretch of the river! There's still three cars in the river. Just below main Slumber, four tires of an upside down short wheel base car stick out of the water. River Bank Rafting Co. above first crossing and Rocking 'R' at Gruene are destroyed. River Bank used to be two stories, living quarters upstairs and rafts, bus, and truck storage downstairs. The upstairs collapsed on the downstairs and the upstairs split apart. The owner now lives in a little travel trailer 50 feet from the wreckage. There's picnic tables 20 feet up in trees. Saw one easy chair 15 feet up. Many thousands of pieces of clothing in the trees. Thousands of trees knocked down. Pieces of buildings, rafts, canoes, sheet metal roofing wrapped around trees everywhere. Refrigerators, clothes washers, freezers scattered here and there. Below Slumber to Cypress on river-left, some of the new 'high dollar' homes were flooded. In the old but nice housing area river-right below Gruene Crossing, two houses (one was on one story high pilings) were completely gone. Several houses had walls missing or were knocked catywampus. Some houses were structurally sound, but you could see the owners had gutted them down to the wall studs, and all the windows and doors were open to dry them out. Only two or three houses looked like they may have escaped significant damage. There was a crane with a clam bucket on the loop bridge over the Guadalupe pulling out debris that had piled up against the bridge. In the debris pile, there were three

of those huge freezer chests that you get 10 lb bags of ice from. Add a couple refrigerators, 5 or 10 inner tubes, 10 to 15 cooler chests, assorted barrels, boxes, peanut butter jars, and a hundred tons of trees, branches, and junk, and you get the picture. About 3 feet of the bow of a green Old Town canoe stuck out of the pile, and what you could see of it was in perfect condition. Other than that, it was a nice peppy run down the Guad on a beautiful sunny, warm day.



**Amusing definitions from White Water Europe Book Two by Peter Knowles**

**Boater/paddler** – deviant form of human.

**Camera vulture** – avaricious bird with a large black beak that hovers below rapids.

**Chicken shoot** – an easier way down a rapid that by-passes the main action.

**Kayak** – small boat shaped like a banana, with a hole in the bottom from which the occupant hangs. Can be propelled the wrong way up by experts.

**Kayaker** – extreme form of deviant paddler (semi-human): uses a double ended blade. Often called 'river maggots' by rafters because of their habit of infesting holes on a river. Canoeists and paddle rafters reckon that kayakers 'have twice the paddle but half the brains'.

**Paddle** – length of wood or plastic/metal: people hold one end and dip the other end in water to achieve a dramatic personality change.

**Play spot** – section of water used by over-grown children for water play with rubber and plastic toys. Those playing should beware the enticements of 'camera vultures'.

**Portage** – favourite activity of canoeists: not so popular with rafters. Wise boaters portage when in doubt.

**Put-in** – start of excuses and commencement of a river trip.

**Raft** – inflatable boat used for descending rivers: appeals to those with a rubber fetish. Referred to by kayakers as 'rubber bus', 'cattle wagon', 'pig boat', 'river barge', etc.

**Scout** – the act of inspecting a rapid or difficult stretch of river. 'When in doubt, get out and scout'. Excercise for eye muscles and imaginative excuses.

**Take-out** – finish point of a river trip – usually followed by a bar and lies.

## Good Buys on New Canoes

**Handcrafted wood-strip Chestnut Prospector, fiberglass in and out \$1295.00**

**Old Town Canadienne, Ivory, 17'2", 69 lbs. fiberglass, \$785.00**

**Old Town Northern Lights, green, 18'6", 72lbs. fiberglass, \$795.00**

**Old Town Penobscot, 17' 1" red, 65 lbs. Oltonar/Royalex, \$775.00**

**Old Town Camper, dark green, 16', 59lbs. Oltonar/Royalex, \$725.00**

### Sit on top Kayaks

**Solo, 13'2", 44 lbs. aqua, \$349.00**

**Spirit, 11', 32 lbs. 2 white, \$325.00**

**Penguin, 9'6", 29lbs. 1 yellow**

**1 purple, \$265.00**

**Contact: Ann & Barry Bennick, 903-665-2911 or**

**[caddo\\_lk@prysm.net](mailto:caddo_lk@prysm.net)**

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<b>75</b>	<b>WALNUT HILL</b>		
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