

# The DDRC Current News

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The Official Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club

April 1999

## Little Missouri River, Arkansas

by Debbie Meller

**How many of you out there have ran the Little Mo? Raise your hands. Not many huh? That's because it doesn't come up that often. It started raining cats and**

dogs in Arkansas on Friday, March 12. Tony Cooper was closely watching the gauges, as he does so well. We touched base early Saturday morning and found the Little Missouri USGS gauge at 7 feet. He and Shawn Hiatt met at his house and then I met them at the McDonalds in New Boston, Tx.

When we got to the takeout, under the 84 bridge near Athens Ark., the gauge read 38 inches. A good level. Before we left for the putin two guys from Little Rock showed up, Bill Keathley and David 'Rooster' Bibbs. They had both ran it years before and decided to do it with us.

The putin was at the Albert Pike Recreational Area off Hwy 369, not far from the takeout. We put our kayaks in on the downstream side of the bridge, which had six inches of air space under it. I wish I could tell you the weather was warm and the sun was out, but it was just the opposite. It was in the 40s and overcast all day. In fact at one point the temperature dropped significantly and the sky dropped a shower of sleet. Fortunately, that didn't last long and we were all dressed appropriately.

This was a very pretty and playful intermediate river. The river was narrow with limited eddys in many sections. Several gorgeous micro waterfalls ran down the side of the hills, feeding the river. There were continuous class II waves and holes to surf and spin in. There

was one bonafide class III rapid, halfway through the run, called the Winding Stairs rapid that had a large wave at it's entrance and a good playhole at it's end. I took pictures while the guys caught enders in the hole. I am quite wimpy when it comes to flipping over in such cold



temperatures, so my playboating was restricted to surfing waves and only those holes I felt confident weren't going to flip me (sounds a lot like my warm weather playboating too, now that I think of it). I need more experience at it to 'toughen up'.

Nothing on this river was a keeper though. The only spot for that kind of potential was a ledge or wall at the bottom of Edgar's Surprise rapid that ran diagonally downstream from the river left bank to the middle of the river. At either lower or higher levels (probably lower) this long side surfer

could probably get pretty sticky, but at the level we were at it was only a bit grabby and everyone punched through either the very top (Rooster), bottom (Bill and I), or middle (Shawn and Tony). Rooster, Bill and I ran this ledge while Shawn and Tony were still surfing waves above. We took much glee in eddying out below and hoping they would be surprised by the ledge so we could see a thrashing. We were let down when, as I said, they were able to punch right through. Keeping to the far right would have totally bypassed this ledge. Almost immediately downstream from this ledge was a similar but smaller and shorter ledge on river left.

One last bit of excitement came when we ran Acceleration Rapid. It was full of waves several feet high and lots of holes. I was cresting the top of one wave, in no particular hurry, when I looked down to discover I was going to drop into a pourover. After a mediocre attempt to paddle downstream out of it without success, I stopped paddling to see where it would take me. Would it take me to the side and surf me?

Would it stern ender me? Would it just flip me? It sent me out with what felt like one of the most beautiful stern enders! A few seconds later I heard the guys talking behind me and I asked who had the camera. They just looked at me smiling. Then one of them said that they weren't paying attention to where they were going and got surprised by that pourover. I asked them again if they saw my stern ender in it and they said no. Oh well. It really happened though.

I would highly recommend this 8

*continued on page 4*

# 1999

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**Safety:**

Mary Beth Kvanli 214-352-5446

**Training:**
**Kayaks**

Debbie Meller 214-727-9290

## President's Column by Jack Deatherage

For those of you that did not attend the March meeting this is your official announcement of the 1999 Hans Weichsel's Selma Bering Annual Memorial Awards for the most miles paddled. These trophies are presented yearly to the men and women that go the extra mile and

keep a log of their activities so that they will actually know how many miles they have put on their river craft. This year it was my honor to sort thru the water stained ? and worn river logs and tally the results. The women's award went to Wanda Deital for 142 miles. The men's to Charles Edwards for 780 miles. They get the honor of displaying proudly for all to see the large trophy that goes with this award. Next year this award could be yours. Your name is already a finalist! To be considered for this honor just keep track of your river miles, ocean cruises and outboard miles excluded. Present your log to the proper authorities next January or February and your almost there.

I hope all had a nice Easter. We had a group of 25 or so invade Goat Island for the weekend. The tornado that tore thru Benton, La. was a few miles North of us so other than a couple of hours of rain and a few hundred lightning strikes we had good weather. When your hide under a big tarp you feel dry and safe. Now driving home Sunday night we hit a hurricane. There should be a large volume of water heading down the Sabine River!

### 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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### DDRC Annual Membership

**\$20.00/year - Individual or Family**  
**\$200.00 - Lifetime Membership**

Send to:  
**DDRC**  
**P.O. Box 820246**  
**Dallas, Texas 75382**

## A U S T I N PADDLEFEST '99

is right around the corner. It is April 17-18 at Festival Beach in Austin, Texas. It's main focus is to educate the general public about paddling and what it is that paddlers do. If you have a love for the sport, we really want you to come!! Saturday is the primary day for the following activities however Sunday is the day for some clinics and the whitewater rodeo. Here's a bit of what you can find that weekend. Call (512) 292-8278 or check out the web site <http://www.AUSTINPADDLING.ORG> for more details:

**BOATS GALORE!** Always wanted to try a canoe or kayak? Whitewater or touring? Looking for a new boat? All the major boat manufacturers will be here with boats for you to try. Register to get a wristband for \$3 and try as many boats as you like all day. Kids under 18 can try boats for free!

**WHITEWATER RODEO FUN for SUNDAY!** Watch from shore or join in with lots of other paddlers and try doing some of those moves you see others doing on the river and in videos. Try out some of the hot new rodeo boats in some real whitewater at Longhorn Dam at the end of Town Lake here in Austin. Contact Ben Kvanli at [BK50475@swt.edu](mailto:BK50475@swt.edu)

**CANOE RACES -LONG and SHORT!** Think your club or place of work could paddle to victory or you want the glory for yourself? Recreational races for beginners, kids and experienced racers are scheduled. Contact Lee Deviney at [txpaddler.aol.com](mailto:txpaddler.aol.com)

**KAYAK/CANOE/SITONTOP POLO!** It is basketball on the water. It is easy to learn! Come watch a demo and find out what it is all about! Then get a group of 5 friends together or just come and hook up with other curious folks and play a game with them. Some boats will be provided! Contact Ezio Ambrosetti at [texio.ibm.net](mailto:texio.ibm.net)

**LEARN HOW TO PADDLE!!**

Want to get some instruction on how to paddle that canoe or kayak efficiently? Sign up for the freestyle (John Steib) and beginners classes on canoeing and kayaking. All classes are taught by American Canoe Association instructors and equipment is provided on a first come first serve basis! Contact Carla Jennings at [cjenn@io.com](mailto:cjenn@io.com)

**DUTCH OVEN COOKING TREATS!** Ask how while you nibble on some breakfast, dinner and dessert samples being offered throughout the day.

**SILENT AUCTION GOODIES!** Get some NEW paddling gear to start the year off right. Auction benefits Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve.

**MORE, MORE, LOTS MORE!!** Come and see all the different ways to paddle. Watch a kayak and canoe rolling demonstration. See, hear and participate in demonstrations and talks on many aspects of paddling: Kayaking, Sea Kayaking, Greenland Kayaking, Canoe & Kayak Camping, Canoeing, Freestyle Canoeing, Outfitting you Canoe, Sit on Tops, Rafting, River Rescue, Wilderness First Aid, Junior Olympics and Slalom Racing, Marathon Racing and Texas Water Safari, Where do you paddle in Texas-Check out Texas Whitewater! Conservation, Fly Fishing, Adaptive Paddling, Boat Building



### 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

### Operation A.C.T. (A Clean Trinity) Trinity River Cleanup Saturday May 15th

Canoes, paddles, P.F.D.s, shuttle and lunch will be provided (bring your own boat if you want). Volunteers will have a party in their honor Saturday May 22nd at Cowboy's Red River.

To volunteer call Charles Allen 214-941-1757.

Trinity River trips - Bring your boat for easy paddling and lots of wildlife:

April 10th - South Loop 12 to Dowdy Ferry, 8.5 miles.

May 8th - Sylvan to South Loop 12, 10 miles.

For more information call Charles Allen 214-941-1757.

*continued from page 1*

mile run for intermediate paddlers and advanced paddlers wanting continuous playspots, not to mention the scenery. At higher levels, Winding Stairs rapid is supposed to turn into a class IV and several of the class IIs turn into IIIs. It would have to be a level much higher than when we ran it. Next time Arkansas has a flood and you want to run the Little Mo, just call me and I'll go with ya.



### Kayak & Canoe Roll Clinic Fridays

It's in an indoor heated pool!

Dates: Jan 22 through April 9 (closed  
March 5, 12, 19 for repairs)

Where: The Colony Aquatic Center  
in The Colony, TX.

Take Plano Pkwy. to Hwy. 121, then  
north on Paige Rd. to North  
Colony Blvd. Go east (right) about 3  
blocks, look for Aquatic Center  
near fire station on north side of  
road. Mapsco 554-G

Cost: \$3 per person per evening  
Contact Arnie Blatt for more details:  
W) 972/250-7158;  
H) 972/416-9194

### Illinois River Trip!

Tahlequah Bar East of Muskogee

April 24-25

Very scenic river! We will drive out on  
Friday Night then canoe on Sat. and  
Sun. taking out that afternoon.

For more information call:

**Bonnie Haskins @ 972.254.9672**

or

**Jerry Johnson @ 817.267.5375**  
email: [jjohnsn@airmail.net](mailto:jjohnsn@airmail.net)

### Sabine River

Memorial Weekend

May 29 -31

More information to follow in next  
month's newsletter.

Or call:

**Sam Sloan @ 214.826.6159**

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## TRINITY RIVER CHALLENGE UPDADE

*by Debbie Meller*

The planning and organization for the DDRC's annual Trinity River Challenge is underway. The race is scheduled for September 11 and will be held on the Trinity river between the lake and McInnish park in Carrollton. This is a downriver race that is open to all boats and boaters.

This year we're also going to offer a 'group competition'. It's similar to the Houston Rendezvous or Austin Paddlefest 'club races'. Any business, club, or organization can compete for the most participants entered. We're hoping more of our DDRC members will get out there and race this year.

We do need help from the membership now to fill some vacant coordination roles. We need someone for the following:

**Award Ceremony** – someone to handle this special event and announce winners.

**Bake Sale** – coordinate the donations and then sales of baked sweets.

**Event Marketing** – a new and important role for someone to contact businesses, organizations, and the media to market this event.

**Race Sponsorship** – we need everyone's help to obtain sponsorship of money, raffle items, or other resource donations.

**Raffle Event** – coordinate selling of raffle tickets, display of items, describe items, and announce winners at the race event.

**Poster production** – someone to coordinate production of posters. Posters are typically created for placement on the roads and anywhere else to advertise the race and it's sponsors.

If you would like more information or would like to fill one of these roles, please see me.

The following people are already coordinating tasks for the race:

Debbie Meller – Race Coordinator

Chris Cockrell – Race Registration

David Lamb – River Cleanup

Jack Deatherage – Dinner

Mary beth Kvanli – Safety

Pat Tittle – Flier

Rich Manning – City and Corp contact.

Officiating

Richard Steppe – Insurance

Classifications and Rules

Putin Site Preparation

Any one of these people may be requesting volunteers for their individual tasks. If you would like to volunteer before hand, please see them.

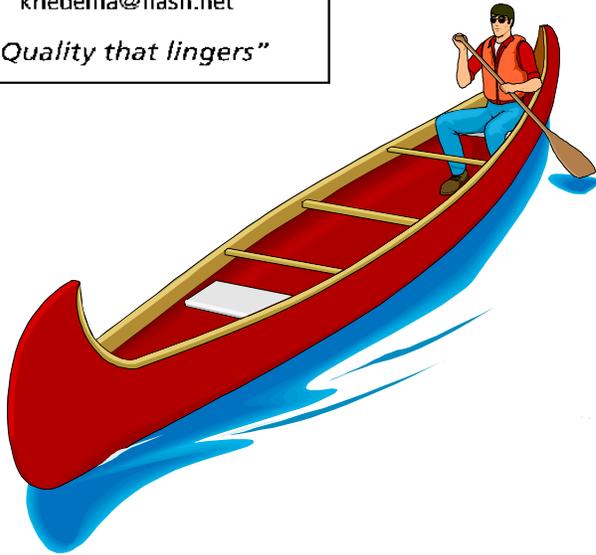


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