

1999

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President's Column

by Jack Deatherage

Looks like summer is upon us once again and with the heat it brings new problems to boaters. Staying cool and hydrated. Dehydration is an extreme problem to all boaters in the Southwest. It not only effects your health, thru headaches and nausea, it can affect your judgment on the river. The heat here can be brutal but does not have to stop us from enjoying the outdoors, we just have to take precautions against it.

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.

The number one way to stay cool is to drink plenty of water. Fluids keep our bodies temperature regulated thru sweating.

If you stop sweating in the heat you are in big trouble. Fluid intake should start early in the day, like when you wake. A cup of coffee or two is okay but caffeine is a diuretic, it actually rids your body of fluids, caffeine intake should be limited. Coffee, soft drinks, iced tea, etc., can all be culprits. There is nothing better than clear cold water in large amounts to keep you cool. A large brim hat is the next item you will need. Your head is your body's radiator, most of your heat leaves and is collected there. Keeping you head covered can help tremendously. Also if you are in direct sunlight most of the day a light colored loose fitting long sleeved shirt can keep you from absorbing too much heat. There are whole lines of sunblock clothing on the market designed to help keep you cool and protect your skin. Cotton can be your friend, wicking away heat, but can become uncomfortable after being wet all day. Diaper rash can affect adults too. Sunblock should be used on all exposed skin to prevent sunburn.

We should, as always, watch out for each other on the river. If someone is showing signs of heat stress, get them off of the river and into the shade. If someone's exposed skin is getting red, tell them to cover-up.

Only three months until the annual Trinity River Challenge. We will be asking for volunteers for many different positions before, during, and after the race. Any one wanting to help contact Debbie Meller, Race Boss, and she will put your name in the hat.

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 1st Thursday of each month. Information may be submitted via e-mail, at 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

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Dallas, Texas 75382**

The Legend of Aquarena Springs

by Tom Goynes

Early Americans called it the Sacred Springs or the Dancing Waters. It was a place at the headwaters of what we now call the San Marcos River where subterranean water gushed forth from a large cavern. The water danced in such a way that one of the small fish that lived there became known as the Fountain Darter.

But white settlers had their way of taming such things as dancing waters. Our mission, in those early days was to subdue the earth. Some settlers were even known to cut down an entire pecan tree to harvest its nuts. The preservation of wilderness or nature was foreign to our great grandfathers.

So a dam was built. The waters ceased their dance. The dam was used to power machinery, like so many of the dams built on our rivers a century ago. A gin, an ice house, perhaps other uses. Until it became cheaper to power that machinery by other means.

And then the turbines stopped turning, but the lake remained.

Years went by. More men came with visions for the lake. Glass bottomed boats were brought in. A submarine theater was built. Eventually swimming pigs entertained crowds of spectators in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. But like the era of hydropower, the era of small tourist traps was ending. Now we have Fiesta Texas and Sea World to entertain our kids. Swimming pigs cannot hold a candle. So eventually the lake and its surrounding buildings were sold to the local state supported university.

Immediately after taking possession of the property, Southwest Texas State University (SWT) raised the level of the lake. One administrator stated that the extra water just made the lake look better. But the raising of the lake had another, devastating consequence. The extra head pressure of that new water had a marked effect on the river flow downstream. In the same way as turning off a hydrant, with enough

pressure the springs could be fully suppressed. This organization (TRPA) notified the proper authorities, assuming the lake would be lowered in short order. Unfortunately, the proper authorities let us down and it wasn't until the TRPA hired lawyers, and technical experts and filed suit that the lake was returned to its original level.

SWT tried to maintain the property as a resort for a year or so, but attendance was not sufficient, the loss of money was too great and eventually the resort was closed.

So the University changed gears. Rather than owning a resort, they would consider the lake to be a laboratory and a showplace. Exhibits housing the endangered species that live in the river were built. Finally, a plan was conceived to enter into a kind of partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TP&W) to create a River Center on the property which would draw visitors from all over the state. Interpretive exhibits were planned to show the public how aquifers and springs and rivers work. The plan was to build the new River Center in the same spot as some of the existing resort buildings.

Then came the big flood of October, 1998. Many of the old resort buildings received as much as four feet of water. This prompted TP&W to rethink the placement of new facilities at the River Center. Under the new plan, all of the old buildings except the hotel (which is on higher ground) are to be torn down. Even the paved parking lots on the peninsula are scheduled to be removed to allow a more natural ground cover to be established. The grounds of the River Center are to be much improved over what is there now. But what of the sleeping, dancing waters? Is there any hope that they can be freed from the tons of water and silt that compress them?

Yes, there is hope for the sacred springs. That same flood that will remove buildings and parking lots, also greatly

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

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

damaged the White Mans dam.

How many obsolete dams strangle our rivers today? How many decaying concrete structures impound untold tons of rotting vegetation and sediment. How much silt lies at the bottom of long dead creeks and rivers? How many fish have we killed? How many kids? How many firemen?

Many of these old dams are not only harmful to the environment, but

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Announcement: Beginner kayak orientation tentatively scheduled Saturday June 12 and Sunday June 13, 1999 on the San Marcus River.

Equipment is not provided, but can be rented in San Marcos at the site of group camp or may be rented in the Dallas area and transported by the renter or his carpool arrangement. SPACE IS LIMITED AND ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION MAY BE ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS. Contact Alan Tittle: (h)972-727-3586 evenings or email at TAPNALA@AOL.COM

Basic kayak orientation is offered on a volunteer basis by members of the Dallas Down-River Club (\$20/year; \$2/mo to end of calendar year). This is elementary white water instruction intended to be performed in white water kayaks. Trip leaders are not certified trainers, but highly conscious of participant safety. The trip leaders maintain privilege to cancel or postpone class should conditions be unreasonable to continue.

Participants must be members of the Dallas Down-River Club, certifying their understanding that river sports and associated travel can present unknown hazards, even on rivers familiar to and in river conditions practiced by paddlers of any level of experience.

Cursory Details (second contact)

Participants must be members of the Dallas Down-River Club, certifying their understanding that river sports and associated travel can present unknown hazards, even on rivers familiar to and in river conditions practiced by paddlers of any level of experience.

Preparedness: Participants must be able to swim and capable of moderately strenuous exercise. Paddle sports also make the most of a paddler's joint and muscle flexibility. Participants should understand that the most prevalent risk of injury in kayaking is shoulder dislocation and assess their own risk.

Camp: Group camp will be made Friday evening June 11 at (Spencers/Shady Grove Campground) on xxx miles east of Interstate 35 and the Luling exit (more specifics). Campsites are unimproved, but shower and toilet facilities are available. Participants provide their own camping equipment and all meals. Bring water bottles for water on the river and a waterproof container for lunch.

Equipment: Individual participants are responsible for obtaining their own equipment. Several Dallas area suppliers and Spencers in San Marcos can provide you with reputable equipment. This will include; boat, personal flotation device (pfd), helmet, paddle, spray skirt (ask for float bags!!!!). Also, wear footwear that covers the toes. Wading in this river has split many a toe, including one of mine.

Class schedule: Attendants renting equipment in San Marcos should begin making their rental arrangements between 8:00 am to 8:15 Saturday morning. Departure from the campground is scheduled for 9:00 to 9:15. (Please rent early as Spencers can get busy).

Orientation: The class will shuttle to a city park for flat water instruction, practice at paddlers' discretion, then shuttle to another river location for moving water instruction and a down river paddle. Sunday's paddle will be short and the class will adjourn between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm. Many participants meet at a local restaurant prior to departing for home.

Kayak training interested/possible parties (Spring '99)

1. Virginia (call Jerry Kier)
2. John Pennington
3. Wayne Weimer
4. Erik Weimer
5. Ronald Timm
6. Ann Robison
7. Friends of Eric Kosar

Kayak potential instructors

1. Debbie Meller
2. Brian Coyle
3. Arnie Blatt
4. (paid) Bobby Naramore

Canoe potential instructors

1. Weldon Sanders
2. John Pohlman
3. (paid) Tom Jenkins
4. (paid)

As many of you know, we are working to build a sprint and kayak polo paddling club with emphasis on kids here in Dallas. This is taking a lot of effort and money, but with great rewards. As a special fund raising project this summer, we are going to paddle as far down the Trinity as we can. We are looking for sponsors who can provide a few pennies per mile for our eager paddlers. We will be trying to cover 40-50 river miles per day. We are starting from downtown Dallas on June 26. We hope to reach the end of the Trinity before July 11. Heck, we may even try to paddle to Galveston!

Please consider pledging a few pennies per mile for the folks that are going to try this. It helps them keep paddling knowing that they are working to raise money for a future club and to try to get the Olympics to Dallas. Call 972-931-3068 or email lambdapro@sprynet.com to make your pledge.

See you in Galveston Bay!

Thanks.

Brian Carroll - Olympic K-1
Alan Lamb - Olympic K-1
Rachel Lamb - Tandem Surf Ski
David Lamb - Tandem Surf Ski

Paddle Trip Planning

Core details

- Difficulty
- Distance
- Technical skill
- Safety skill
- Location
- Dates & Time
- Camp style – see also below
 - Car & daily shuttle
 - River & self supporting



Logistics

Individual

- Travel (carpool riders generally pay all gas for vehicle owners)
- Meeting time
- Departure time
- Personal food (on & off river unless noted)
- Personal water (on & off river unless noted)
- Prepare for all weather conditions

Group

- Shuttles – most occasions the group will shuttle vehicles to the takeout in advance of the put in.
- Group run – be prepared to shuttle muddy wet people and gear
- Outfitter – be prepared to cover costs of shuttling boats and people or cars
- Launch fees – be prepared with cash on hand for launch and take out fees depending on location

Camp

- Primitive
- Water
- Power
- Showers
 - Warm or cold ... none
- Gear - Self sufficient
- Food
 - Generally independent
 - Sometimes in groups, determined in advance by participants
 - Depending on group and location some local dining

Costs

- Support - Sufficient for Skill vs. Difficulty vs. Mileage
- Paddling Equipment rentals

River Teaming - Primary

Lead

Sub-teams –

- Mixed paddling skill,
- Increasing safety prep & equipment toward sweep

Sweep

- Safety equipped
- Strong paddler(s)
- Secondary close by to support sweep
- Rotate during day (depending on conditions, group, & playspots)

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very often they create deathtraps known by experts as hydraulics. A swimmer (or a rescuer) caught in the currents below these structures often drowns.

Like so many of these hundred year old structures, Spring Lake Dam is decayed. Built much like a fence, with cedar posts planted into the Blue Clay and with dirt and cement added, it was unprepared to withstand the force of such a flood. Now large caverns have formed under her spillway. Large chunks of concrete are missing. Rebar is occasionally exposed to the unwary swimmer. In short, the dam is in need of major repair.

SWT has estimated that complete repairs will cost in the area of ten million dollars. Just the stop gap, immediate repairs will cost half a million. They are in the process of asking the Texas Legislature for that money.

But imagine, for a minute, that SWT didnt own Aquarena. And imagine that the administration of the university decided that a dam across the river in the vicinity of its campus would be a pretty thing to build. Imagine them going to the Texas Legislature and asking for ten million dollars to build such a dam. What, do you suppose the Legislature would tell them?

Dams are like nuclear power plants, they have a finite life. Concrete gets old and cracks, reinforcing steel rusts, and the relentless force of the river takes its toll. Eventually, if the structure doesnt fail first, the lake fills in with silt and the useful life of the structure is over. If that structure serves a necessary purpose like providing a water source for a community or powering generators for electricity, then that community might choose to rebuild the dam. Even if the purpose of the lake was recreation, the community might choose to rebuild it.

The question for taxpayers to ask is, is it worth ten million dollars to rebuild Spring Lake Dam? Do we have to have a waterfall to look at while we eat stuffed crabs, or would a pretty rapid be sufficient? Is it essential that we have glass bottom boats to ride, or would it be

even better to have a freshwater geyser, the dancing waters, back at the headwaters of our beloved river. As one local anthropologist has said, people travel thousands of miles to see a stinking geyser shoot into the air, and it only does its thing once an hour. How many people would come to San Marcos to see a freshwater geyser that danced continually?

And what better a thing to have at a River Center than a river instead of a lake? What better way to study a spring than to look at one?

Our sacred springs have been shackled too long. What the October flood started, we should finish. The dam should be removed. Cost of removal or breaching of the dam will be a fraction of the cost of repair. If desired, some sort of rapid could be left, perhaps even designed with recreation in mind.

Some will try to argue that the dam must be maintained to save the endangered species that live in the lake. But those species were here long before the dam was built and will be here long after its gone. Studies will obviously have to be performed to decide how slowly the lake will have to be lowered to give endangered species a chance to migrate, but none of the species require a man-made structure in order to exist.

Your help is urgently needed. Contact your Governor, your State Senator and your State Representative and let them know that you do not want your tax money going toward the repair of the Spring Lake Dam. Their addresses and phone numbers are listed within this newsletter. And please do not assume



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that your letter will have no effect. Elected officials do make note of their constituents opinions. With just a very limited request for letters, some of you have already called and written officials on this issue, and they have heard your voice.

Its time to lower the lake, release the springs and let the river roll.

Tom Goyns

Brazos River Moonlight Floats June 26 and July 24

Brazos River below Whitney Dam. Contact Bonnie Haskins, 972/254-9672 or Jerry Johnson 817/267-5375 or email: jjohnsn@airmail.net

DDRC Roll, Paddle, and Rescue

sessions are every Wednesday from 5:00 pm to dark at Lake Grapevine, Rockledge Park. Everyone of all skill levels is welcome to come practice strokes and rolls or get in a boat for the first time.

The Park is located at the northwest side of the dam (off the other side of the road from the spillway). If there is a dam release, then go to the spillway. No park fees. If you'd like to come out and need a boat call Keith Smith ahead of time at (940) 566-4869 and he may be able to supply a kayak and gear.

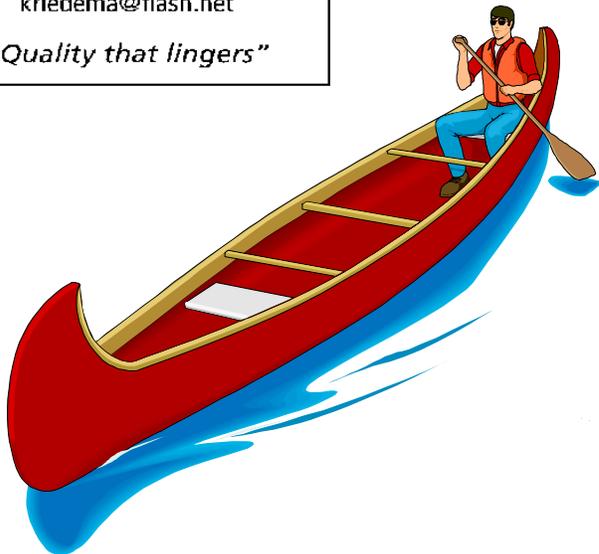


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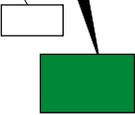
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