

# The DDRC Current News

Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club—Visit our website at [www.down-river.org](http://www.down-river.org)

December 2005

**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 Thursday** of the month - **7:00 PM** @ Enchilada's (directions on back of newsletter). All members are welcome to attend to learn more about club business.

## Events

**12/31 — Urban Paddle & Potluck** — Mark your calendars for New Year's Eve Day at 10 a.m. and come out to paddle before heading out to your New Year's celebrations! Location to be determined, so check back with the online events calendar for details. For more info contact Pat at (214) 478-6204.

*Merry  
Christmas*



## *Come Party with the DDRC!*

Join us at the DDRC Christmas party

Thursday, December 15, 6:30—9:30 p.m.  
The Dreyfus Club on White Rock Lake

All DDRC members are invited to join us at the The Dreyfus Club on White Rock Lake from 6:30 to 9:30 pm for our annual Christmas Meeting/Party. We will be having a potluck dinner, so bring you favorite holiday side dish or dessert. The party is free to all DDRC members, but we will be accepting donations to help defray costs.

Recommended donation is \$3 per person or \$5 per couple.

We will also be collecting canned goods for the Dallas Fire Deptment's Food Drive. We have super raffle planned featuring some really nice items, so don't forget to bring some extra cash. If you are unable to attend, the board and membership would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Directions** (Map on last page)

- From the intersection of Buckner and Garland Road, go North on Buckner to 2nd light (Lake Highlands) and turn left.
- From the intersection of Northwest Highway and Buckner, go South on Buckner, under Mockingbird, to 2nd light (Lake Highlands) and turn right.
- From the intersection of Buckner and Lake Highlands, go a few car lengths and turn left into White Rock park. Turn Right at the first Stop sign.
- The road will lead directly to the Dreyfus Club at the top of a hill.
- The road actually makes a loop around the clubhouse, so continue in the same direction when you leave.

## A message from the Prez

Here we are at the end of the year already, where has the time gone? Seems like just yesterday we were having that big meal down at Village Creek or taking our moonlight float on the Illinois. We have been more places as a club this year and had more people participate than we have in quite a long while. We had trips this year where we had over 20 boats on the water; we got to meet some new people, rediscovered some rivers and became reacquainted with some old friends who had not been around for a while. It has been a year where almost everything has gone right. How do we top off a year like this? With a party, that's how.

Our Christmas Meeting and Party will be held on Thursday December 15 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at the Dreyfus Club on White Rock Lake. The DDRC is providing turkey, ham and ribs as well as soft drinks and coffee. You bring your favorite veggie, side dish or dessert. The raffle is looking good and I'm cooking up a few other fun things to do as well. We are also collecting canned goods for the Dallas Fire Dept. I hope you can make it. More info and directions are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Marc McCord tells me that everyone had a great time down on the Boquillas Canyon trip over Thanksgiving weekend. The Kiamichi trip was equally excellent. What we lacked in paddling we more that made up for in the food department. The fishing was not bad either with then river as low as it is. I caught two nice bass in about 10 minutes.

Its time to get your paddling logs turned in so we can give out the 2005 Most Miles Paddled Awards. The lucky man and woman who paddled the most miles will receive their awards at the March meeting, so get you log in by the January meeting. Don't forget the new trophies are small, pretty and yours to keep. The old huge ones have been retired and will be kept to be put on display at the DDRC Museum of ancient history some time in the future.

I am beginning to set up the trip and event calendar for 2006. A few new leaders stepping forward to take some trips over would be nice. An Easter weekend trip to the Mulberry is being planned, as is a trip down to do a cleanup on Village Creek. I would like to see a wider variety of rivers this year and less repeat trips to the same places. I also want to try to get that swiftwater rescue class scheduled this year. If you have any ideas for new trips or places we have not been lately, I'm open to suggestions.

That about all I have this month, except to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and thank you all for your support and encouragement throughout the year. People tell me I'm doing a great job, but truth be told its all of you that make it happen, I am just along for the ride. Lets keep the momentum and make 2006 even better.

Bryan Jackson

### **Creamy Salsa Dip** ~ Recipe from George & Susan VanDyke

- \*Two - 16 ozs of Pace Salsa Thick & Chunky - Hot or Medium (or one of each) –
- \* Drain w/strainer the salsa - for several hours or overnight
- \* Two to three - 16 oz. containers of sour cream. Albertson's brand recommended (Daisy brand has a bit of a sweet taste to it).
- \* After you mix all that together - sprinkle generously with Lawry's Seasoned Salt
- \* Stir all together
- \* It is better if you make the dip the night before you are going to use it.

## Rio Grande Trip Report By Marc W. McCord

On November 23, a group of eleven departed from Dallas, San Antonio and Spring Branch for a rendezvous at Stillwell Store in Big Bend for a Thanksgiving canoe-camping trip of three days in Boquillas Canyon. The trip was led by Bonnie Haskins and coordinated by Marc McCord. Participants included Steve Crowe, Thomas Taylor, Alan Tittle and Sharon Belch from DDRRC, Dirk and Beverly Davidek from Adventure Club San Antonio, and Kathy Cusick, Kevin Longin and Ann Carr from the Alamo City Rivermen.

Weather forecasts called for daytime temperatures in the 70's to 90's, nighttime temperatures in the 35-45 degree range and the possibility of scattered thundershowers on Thursday and Friday. As usual, the forecasters were wrong. We had daytime temperatures around 75 degrees, mild nights in the 40's to low 50's and no rain. We had clear skies by day and starry skies at night that made us glad we were paddling the Rio Grande, which is always a special thrill for me.

We camped at Stillwell Store's campground on Wednesday night then departed for Rio Grande Village in Big Bend National Park on Thanksgiving Day. Launching at the crack of noon, we paddled about 13.8 miles to a Texas side campsite. Along the way we saw two other groups who were canoeing the river, though we all spread out rather quickly and only rarely saw each other after our launch.

On Thursday night we dined on grilled chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, carrots, wheat rolls, pecan pie, apple pie and pumpkin pie under a gorgeous, star-filled sky in Boquillas Canyon. We turned in before midnight, some earlier than others, and then got a good night's rest for the following day. Up early, we prepared and ate a breakfast of burritos made from egg, bacon, Bell pepper, onion, potato, cheddar cheese and salsa wrapped in flour tortillas to get us prepared for the second day on the river.

Friday took us in and out of giant canyons where unparalleled natural scenery was all around. Some of those canyon walls rose 1,200-1,500 feet over our heads, often lifting straight out of the river where we were paddling. A family of four, who launched at the same time we did on Thursday, passed us as we were finishing breakfast, then we never saw anybody else all day.

*(Continued on page 4)*



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(Continued from page 3)

We paddled about 11.6 miles and camped just below Rabbit Ears, a rock formation high on the Texas side near the end of the canyon.

On Friday night, we took a Mexican side campsite where we grilled up some cod fillets with an assortment of Bell peppers, onion, new potatoes, carrots, celery, yellow squash, zucchini and tomatoes, then dined under another awesome sky. The winds picked up a little overnight, but calmed before we hit the river for our final day on Saturday morning.

Arising earlier than the day before, we prepared a breakfast of scrambled eggs and sausage, broke camp and headed out for Heath Canyon Ranch across the river from La Linda, Mexico, where Boquillas Canyon trips used to end and where Lower Canyons trips began. It was a paddle of about 10.6 miles on Saturday that took us out of the canyons into the Chihuahuan desert. Near the end of the trip we all ran a technical class II rapid that can be a problem in loaded boats, but nobody capsized. Our only loss was a cowboy hat worn by one guy who always claims that if he loses the hat then the trip is over. In spite of Tom's frequent claims about that matter he finished the trip anyway.

The river was lower than we would have preferred, reading around 1.9 feet on the Rio Grande Village gauge when we started, but we only had to drag or pole our heavily loaded canoes through a few low-water spots during the entire course of our journey. All things considered, it was a super trip and I think that everybody will agree that we all had a really good time paddling with friends on a very special river.

For six members of our group this was their first Rio Grande trip. All of us will be paddling this river again at the first opportunity and those who have never been here do not know what a treat they are missing. The Rio Grande is not like other rivers where we paddle. The rugged remoteness, tall mountains, expansive desert flora and fauna, big sky and solitude all combine to make the Rio Grande THE paddling destination in the southwestern United States.

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## *What Paddling Means to Me* Posted on Paddling.net by Jill Britt

I recently took a trip to the Buffalo River in Arkansas. It was a personal quest to find inner peace and acceptance of my father's recent Alzheimer's diagnosis. He is 84, healthy and active, and has always been a rock in my life. He still has the wood/canvas canoe he built as a teenager in 1938. He courted my mother in that canoe, and paddled it down the Neches River (in southeast Texas) before it was dammed, with four friends on a 9-day adventure. It is the same canoe he took me fishing in when I was just a tad-pole. I understand that life isn't always fair, and change is inevitable, but he is my father and I love him. I grieve for the changes I am beginning to see in him.

Paddling has been good for me--an outlet for stress or just for the joy of being on the water. The friends I have made through paddling have become some of the most important people in the world to me. Paddling has provided an escape from some of life's harder moments and therapy for the soul when I experienced some life-changing events and the tragic death of a very close friend. Without paddling, I don't know where I would be in my life. With this new development, it was only natural for me to turn to paddling to sort things out.

Things don't always go as planned, however, and I was only a few miles from my destination of Buffalo Point Campground, on a narrow, twisty-turny Arkansas country road when I lost control of my car. By the time I came to a stop at the bottom of the embankment, I was kissing a tree smack-dab in the middle of my hood. My beloved mini-van, canoe-shuttle, tent on wheels, and former pirate-mobile (this van has a history) was badly damaged, but I wasn't hurt.

The people of rural Arkansas were incredibly friendly and helpful and provided moments of humor and generosity. My faith in humanity was reaffirmed through the kindness of strangers. My car was towed to Marshall, AR where I would be stranded until Monday, when the wrecker driver would transport me and my van to Harrison, AR for repair arrangements and a rental car for transportation back to Dallas. I had come all this way on a quest, and I wasn't going to let the opportunity slip away. I called Danny Dillard of Dillard's Outdoor Outfitters, who was one of the kind strangers who had stopped to help me, and arranged a shuttle with him. He also offered to store my boat until my car was repaired and I could return to Arkansas from Texas. Early the next morning, Leon, his driver, picked me up at my motel and retrieved my boat and gear from my wrecked van at the tow yard. Leon was a living history book and provided local lore, history, and generously shared his knowledge of the river with me during the long shuttle.

I had never been on the section of the Buffalo River between South Maumee and Dillard's Ferry. I paddled and dawdled and contemplated life as I made my way down this beautiful river. Paddling a river solo and silently is different than with a group. I saw the beauty and the majesty of a river in the full glory of fall foliage. I was entranced by the autumn colors, the fiery reds and yellows, the crisp smell of the fall leaves and the earthy smell of the nearby woods. Eagles soared above me, great blue herons croaked and flapped their wings, and a crow waded into the shallow water to catch a fish. I felt the blue skies and clean air permeate my body and spirit.

When I saw Sitton Eddy Bluff and found myself weeping with the joy of the beauty before me, I knew everything would be all right. Whatever events led me to this place, I was supposed to be here. Whatever happens with my father will be whatever it is. I love him, but I can't change it or fix it. I accept that.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Kiamichi Thanksgiving Trip Highlights from Lige & Marion

If you did not go on this outing, you have my sympathy as the canoeing, weather, and food was great.



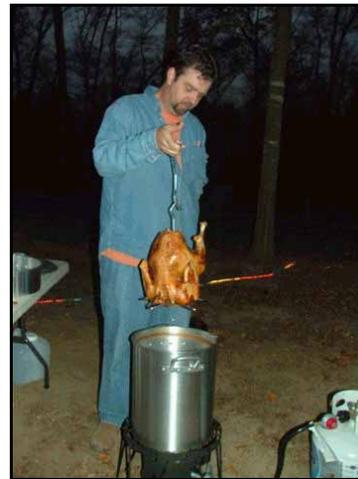
The Kiamichi was very dry, that is you could walk across barefooted without getting the bottoms of your feet wet. So we did our canoeing near Antlers in the headwaters of Lake Hugo.



At first I thought Bryan was setting up a still to make some Oklahoma Moonshine. I did not note what, but something that was in the pot of hot peanut oil made it boil for a while. Now it started to smell really good.



The good odor started to attract one of the camp's security dogs.



So that was what in the pot....A beautifully cooked turkey. No need to show pictures of us eating as you will just get hungry.

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a  
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Commercial backcountry guides are required to be certified in WAFA if they venture one hour or more from emergency medical aid. Many of us venture to locations which are days out. This federal law exists for good reason. Remember, the life you save may be a friend, *or your own*.

WMI WAFA is sponsored locally by Crew 890 and will be held at Camp James Ray at Texoma Lake two consecutive weekends, Friday 6:00 PM through Sunday, February 10-12, and 17-19, 2006. Cost is \$300 which includes course materials, hot meals, and free camping with hot showers.

Class size is limited to 30 people and is half full now. Your \$75 deposit will hold your place until January 4. To register or obtain additional information contact Robert Squyres, 972-699-0339, or David Harmon, 214-505-3290. You may e-mail [robert\\_squyres@troop890.org](mailto:robert_squyres@troop890.org) or you can access the WMI course web site at <http://wmi.nols.edu>

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(Continued from page 5)

I returned to Arkansas last weekend to retrieve my car and boat, and two weeks later, I finally arrived at Buffalo Point Campground. I sat by my campfire listening to the river splash and sing, and watched the moon rise and the stars twinkle out at me. The next morning I hiked to Indian Rockhouse, the Sinkhole Icebox, Pebble Spring, Panther Creek and the Natural Bathtub. If it had been a little warmer, I might have been tempted to skinny dip in the crystal clear water of the large, Jacuzzi-sized rock bathtub, listening to the stream cascading over the ledge into the pool, constantly replenishing it with fresh, clear water. Well, maybe I can't call it a "skinny" dip, but I had the place to myself and who would have known?

Now it's the Thanksgiving weekend and I'm in my childhood home in Beaumont with my family. The stress of Hurricane Rita and dealing with her aftermath seems to have accelerated the progression of his symptoms. Today wasn't one of Daddy's good days. He can still chop his own firewood, but he doesn't know which key opens the door to the house, and he can't remember what he's looking for in the tool shed. At dinner, I watched him stir sugar into a glass of water, instead of tea. Still, it will be okay. He's still my father--sweet and loving. I can deal with whatever happens. My spirit has been renewed, my resolve refreshed, and my heart is full of love. My Arkansas trip wasn't exactly what I envisioned, but I got the answers I sought, and I received insight into things I wasn't expecting. My quest was successful. I learned that I can worry about the future, and the uncertainty of what is to come, but I still have to take care of myself, and deal with the present, one day at a time.

This is for you, Daddy. Thank you for letting me be who I am. Thank you for taking me canoeing and camping and fishing. Thank you for showing me how to build a campfire. Thank you for being there for me, always and forever.

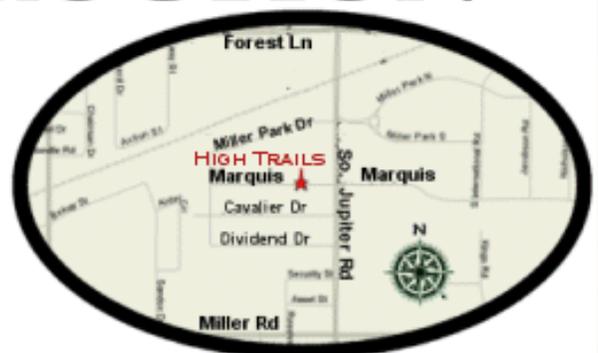
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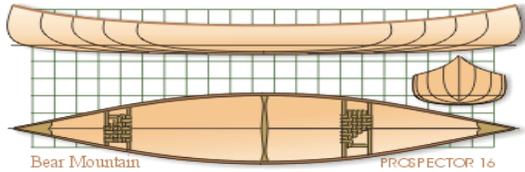
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*The Official Newsletter of the Dallas  
Downriver Club*

**DDRC Christmas Party**  
**Thursday Dec. 15, 2005**  
**6:30—9:30 PM**

**The Dreyfus Club on**  
**White Rock Lake**  
**(see directions on page 1)**

**Next meeting: Jan. 19**  
**Enchilada's Restaurant**  
**6526 E. Northwest Hwy.**

