

The DDRC Current News

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

April 2006

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.

Trips & Events

See Pages 2 & 3 for event details. For more information, check out the online events calendar: www.down-river.org

4/7 & 4/14 — Friday Flips

The Colony Aquatic Park Pool 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, \$5.00 Pool rental, Free Jackson Kayak use, \$5.00 PFD – skirt – paddle rental www.kayakinstruct.com

4/6-9 — Hidalgo Falls River Festival

4/14-16 — Mulberry/Big Piney Rivers

4/14-16—Easter Gulf Kayak Trip 2

4/15 — REI Paddle Demo Day II

4/20 — DDRC Meeting — 7 p.m.

4/22 — Garland Outdoor Adventure Festival

4/22 — Urban Paddle and Potluck Adventure

4/22-23 — Outdoor kids Adventure Day

4/29 — Kiamichi River Expedition

4/29 — Texas Kayak Builders Bash

5/6 — Medina River Cleanup

5/12-14 — Guadeloupe River Trip

5/17 — Oct. 10/25 — Lake Grapevine Paddle and Roll Sessions—Every Wed. after 5 p.m. through October at Rockledge Park (no charge).

For info. contact Keith Smith (940)566-4869 / keith_ccw@fastmail.fm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Officers elected — President - Bryan * VPresident - Sam * Treasurer-Thomas * Secretary - Kay * Newsletter Editor - Carolee

Most miles paddled — Awards went to Richard Steppe (1200+ miles!) and Jill Britt (300+ miles). Way to go!

Kiamichi River is up — Make plans to visit K River Campground to enjoy the real outdoors of Southeast Oklahoma and the Kiamichi River. Tom Garrett says that the river is up real nice for canoeing, kayaking and tubing. They now have horseback trail rides along with fishing, swimming, canoeing, tubing and lots of other activities. - www.kriver.com

New Webmaster — Marc McCord has graciously accepted the role of Webmaster for the DDRC website. Marc has many enhancements in the works. Check out the great job he's doing to make the website great and take a look at the photo updates too. Marc would love to include your trip photos and welcomes your feedback and suggestions.

Dear Friends - I have added 40 new photos to the gallery of Southwest Paddler depicting the trip of February 25 - March 4, in Colorado, Santa Elena and Mariscal Canyons. Words and photos cannot truly describe the awesome beauty of this magical place, but this is the best I can do to share with you some of what we experienced on this trip. I hope that you enjoy them. To view, go to <http://southwestpaddler.com/>, then click the button labeled "Photos." When the photo gallery homepage comes up, click the buttons labeled "Rio Grande - Colorado" and "Rio Grande - Santa Elena". - Marc
See page 6 for the trip report

STOCK UP AND SHIP OUT!

Get the paddling gear that'll make your trip complete.

We carry a wide assortment of kayaks and canoes from Ocean Kayak, Perception, Dagger, Old Town, Wilderness Systems and Mad River. When you are ready to get that first or next boat get 10% off all paddling accessories when you buy your boat from REI.



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Paddling Events — See the online events Calendar for more details

April 8-9 - Fifth Annual Hidalgo Falls River Festival —on the Brazos River Near Navasota, TX Events include a 28-mile downriver race and a "Boatercross" head-to-head elimination race and concert and auction on Saturday, and, on Sunday, a whitewater giant slalom race through the islands in the Falls, a whitewater rodeo, and a 3.5-mile float trip. More information can be found at the Hidalgo Falls website: <http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/hidalgo.html>

Saturday April 15 — Saturday, April 15 - REI is having their PADDLE DEMO DAY II at Towne Lake Recreation Area in McKinney. Come try out different boats. Take US Hwy. 75 north to El Dorado Pkwy (Exit 39). Follow the service road 1.3 miles, and then turn right on Parkview. Follow Parkview 0.2 miles, and then turn right on Wilson Creek Parkway. Stay on Wilson Creek Parkway past the lake. Park at the softball fields. Look for the REI tents, banners and signs. The event will be from 10:00 am til 2:00 pm.

April 14 -16 — Easter Gulf Coast Trip — Location will be the new Matagorda Bay Nature center on the mouth of the Colorado River where it enters the Gulf. We will be camping on the beach nearby. They have showers and restrooms in the park, but if you have a bag type shower I would bring it. Kayaks are highly recommended over canoes because of wind and waves. Bring bug spray, sun screen, shade and extra dry clothes as things don't dry fast down there. There are restaurants in the town of Matagorda, about ten miles away. There will be a river paddle Saturday from jetty park to the river bend cafe 5 miles on the old river channel which is basically part of the ocean now. Here's the agenda for the Easter Gulf Trip. Arrive by mid afternoon Friday. Enjoy the beach and possibly some surf kayaking. Sat. morning run the shuttle and do the old river channel. I think we can work it so the wind will be behind us. Hopefully, get a chance to see some marine and bird wildlife. Out by mid-day and relax, have lunch and check out the park. Late afternoon Sat. or early Sunday morning would be a good time to explore the wetlands which surround the area. This is also a great place to fish; the park has three piers, and fishing the bay wetlands for Reds is popular. Sat. nite we'll have our usual pot luck dinner. I'll be grilling pork chops for an entree. I'm planning on camping between the only beach access road and the park. If you need a map of the park go to the LCRA website at www.lcra.org/parks and link to Matagorda bay nature. Friday and Sunday for those that wish, we can paddle the nearby wetlands. Please contact Sam Sloan at 214-826-6158 or svsloan@sbcglobal.net for more details and so I can know who's interested in going.

April 14-16 Mulberry / Big Piney Rivers in NW Arkansas—Leaving Thursday evening and camping at Long Pool Campground near the Big Piney. Depending on flow, both rivers can offer up to Class III whitewater. Intermediate to advanced skill levels will be required for this trip. Paddling the Big Piney on Friday, the Mulberry on Saturday and maybe a short run on the Big Piney on Sunday before coming home. Saturday night's potluck will have an Easter theme hopefully featuring Bryan's famous KFB! RSVP to Bryan Jackson Hollowcreek@paddlinpals.com or 972-979-2519.

(Continued on page 3)



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Saturday April 22 - Sunday April 23, 2006 Outdoor Kids Adventure Days—This event allows kids to experience a number of outdoor sports, including kayaking and canoeing. We need volunteers from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday April 22 and Sunday April 23, 9 am to 4 pm. There will be a Saturday dinner provided for volunteers and possibly overnight camping at Meadowmere Park. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Dave Holl at 972 412 7691.

April 22 — Garland Outdoor Adventure Festival -Join us at Albon Park in Garland as we take part in Earth Day festivities. We will have a booth with pictures, demonstrations and possibly boats in the lake. To help out, contact Bryan 972-979-2519 or email hollowcreek@paddlinpals.com

April 22 Urban Paddle and Potluck Adventure —Meet at Rowlett Creek (see map below) just north of Lake Ray Hubbard) ready to paddle at

10 a.m. for a couple of hours. Bring a potluck lunch, tables and chairs, and your bike for even more fun afterwards. Go east on LBJ to Centerville, north to Miller, east to the creek.

Questions? call Pat at (214) 478-6204.

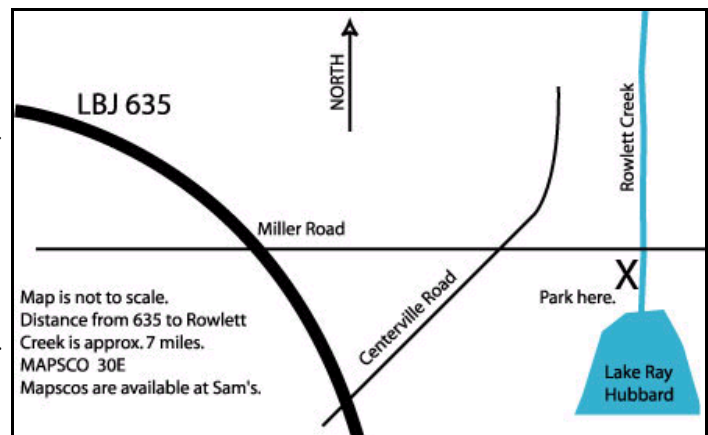
April 29-30 Kiamichi River Expedition—We will meet at K River Campground at 10am

Saturday and shuttle to the put-in for a 2 day/ 1 night paddle. Bring everything you will need to camp on the river: 1 breakfast, 2 lunches, 1 dinner, camping gear, water, sun block, etc. The

Kiamichi is very remote, largely undeveloped, peaceful and quiet! We'll paddle between 12 -25 miles. RSVP to Bryan Jackson hollowcreek@paddlinpals.com 972-979-2519

May 6 Sixth Annual Medina River Cleanup— Register: 9-12 a.m. at Bandera City Park, Maple St. at the Medina River Bridge, Bandera, Texas 78003. Free barbecue: 5-7 p.m. Awards for Trash: 6 p.m. Free t-shirts for all participants Free camping: May 5th and 6th at the Bandera City Park and at Pioneer River Resorts (across 173 from the park - <http://www.pioneerriverresort.com>). There are new restrooms at the park and Pioneer River Resorts (formerly Jelleystone Park) has free showers and RV sites are available to river cleanup participants (\$10 per vehicle, less than half their normal rate.) For reservations call 1-800-543-2185 or email Linda or Lloyd Rantall at info@pioneerriverresort.com. For questions about the cleanup, write to Bob Brischetto at brischetto@wireweb.net.

May 12-14 (Fri-Sun) Upper Guadalupe River—We will be paddling sections of the river between FM3351 and Rebecca Creek near Spring Branch, TX and camping at **Weidner's Ranch Campground** (east of US 281 on TX 311 about 3/10 mile past the TX 311 bridge over the Guadalupe.) Potluck dinner Sat. night. As this stretch of the Guad. contains rapids and rock gardens, fiberglass or any fragile boats would not be recommended. For more info, contact Bryan at 972-979-2519 or Hollowcreek@paddlinpals.com.



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New river trail comes to Luling

News 8 Austin recently reported a series of new river trails planned by Texas Parks and Wildlife to increase river access near urban areas. The newest, on the San Marcos River in Luling (35 miles from Austin) now has public access points to put in and take out kayaks and canoes. The city of Luling also has plans in the works for a new park, with renovations of the Old Zedler Mill building, a new pavilion, amphitheatre and boat dock.

The trip covers about six river miles and takes about two and a half hours between the Highway 90 bridge in Luling to the old Zedler Mill on Highway 87.

The news report quoted Randy Worden of the Guadalupe/Blanco River Authority as saying, "A family could come here for a day, put in at [Highway] 90, get out here at Zedler, have a nice lunch. If they wanted to continue down to Palmetto State Park and camp there at the evening, it's a great package,"

Texas Parks and Wildlife also has six coastal paddling trails ready for use and plans are to create more trails inland. Thank you Texas Parks and Wildlife for helping paddlers access even more of the over 15 major river systems and 11,000 streams in Texas!


<http://www.news8austin.com/content/headlines/Default.asp?ArID=157608&SecID=2>

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DDRC Singer Sally Soldo strikes again!

Catch the talented Sally Soldo performing in *My Own Private Diva* at Theatre Three in Dallas March 26 through Sunday April 9. <http://www.Theatre3dallas.com> 2800 Routh St # 168, Dallas, TX 75201 (214) 871-3300.

My Own Private Diva is an autobiographical musical cabaret written by Theatre Three's musical director, Terry Dobson. In a role described as a female *Greater Tuna*, Sally sings and plays all the women in Mr. Dobson's life as Mr. Dobson narrates and plays piano.

Boy, can Sally sing! She lights up the stage then blows you away. She is a talented entertainer with the most amazing voice. She can belt it out and melt your heart. It was such a joy to see her perform. What a beautiful, talented, fun, interesting, incredible lady! There is so much more to this paddling nurse than meets the eye. Maybe Sally will honor us with some cabaret campfire songs one of these days.

A letter from your new Environmental Chairman...

It is a privilege to serve as the Environmental Chairman of DDRC for the 2006 year, and I want to express my appreciation for the opportunity to lead the club in its quest to help protect our natural environment. There are many issues that need our attention, and the number of them is greater which than any of us, individually or collectively, can possibly be involved in anything more than a superficial way. But, we all have a responsibility to do what we can, and help make a difference.

One of our members makes a significant difference on almost every trip he takes. Thomas Taylor usually falls far behind the rest of the group when paddling a river, but when he arrives his canoe is loaded with two or three bags full of rubbish and debris that he has removed from the water and riverbanks. Nobody asks Tom to do that, and he gets no rewards or recognition beyond the few who witness his actions. I want to call attention to his efforts and encourage others to emulate him. Tom is making a difference, and we appreciate it!

One way we can all be involved without leaving our computers is to be active in the on-line campaigns to contact elected and appointed political leaders and agency heads so they will hear our voices and know of our concerns. We were recently successful in stopping the proposed industrial park development at Caddo Lake because we got involved, and this is just one great example of how each of us can make a difference.

We are still trying to prevent the unnecessary development of Marvin Nichols Reservoir on the Sulphur River and Fastrill Reservoir on the Neches River in East Texas. Fastrill, in particular, poses significant environmental threats to the largest remaining hardwood bottomland forest area in the entire contiguous United States. It's development MUST be prevented, but it is not going to happen without OUR involvement!

What can YOU do to help? The answer is easy - just visit the "Stop Marvin Nichols Reservoir" web site at <http://www.stopmarvinnichols.com/actionalert.htm>, then follow the links to contact the US Fish and Wildlife Service and voice your opposition. Please encourage USFWS to designate the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge, which will stop any further consideration for developing Fastrill Reservoir. If you are not familiar with this issue, then read the entire web page and its supporting pages to fully understand what is at stake.

That is just the beginning. You can also become a member (at no cost) of several environmental action groups who periodically send news alerts on matters being considered by our state and federal legislatures, as well as governmental agencies under whose auspices actions that can harm our environment are allowed or prevented. A list of some organizations and their web address follows:

Waterkeeper Alliance - <http://waterkeeper.org/>

American Rivers - <http://www.americanrivers.org/>

Environmental Defense Action Network - <http://www.environmentaldefense.org/>

Natural Resources Defense Council - <http://www.nrdc.org/>

Your involvement can make a world of difference. Please share these links with your family and friends. There is great power in numbers, or as the politicians like to say, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease."

Thank you for your support,

Marc W. McCord, Environmental Chairman

Dallas Downriver Club

Love many, trust few, and ALWAYS paddle your own canoe!

Canyons of the Rio Grande

By Marc Mc Cord (Installment 1 of 3)

For me, there is nothing more special than paddling the canyons of the Rio Grande with a group of close friends who enjoy exploring the wonders of nature on multiday canoe camping trips. On February 24, 2006, members of Dallas Downriver Club, Adventure Club San Antonio and Alamo City Rivermen departed Dallas and San Antonio for a rendezvous off FM 170 between Lajitas and Presidio to begin an 8-day journey along the Texas-Mexico border through Colorado, Santa Elena and Mariscal Canyons that was very special in every way. Our group included Thomas Taylor, Steve Crowe and myself from DDRC, Dirk Davidek and Scott Dillon from ACSA, and Gary Tupa and Zoltan Mraz from ACR.

After a long day of driving and a late start from Dallas, Tom, Steve and I arrived at the put-in above Colorado Canyon around 4 AM on Saturday morning, February 25. The rest of the group had arrived much earlier, and was sacked out in their tents, snoring to beat 60! Wild animals were driven away by the noise these guys were making! After sleeping for about 3 hours I awoke, then roused Tom and Steve from their deep slumbers.

Scott, Zoltan, Gary and Dirk were already awake and making coffee. We struck camp, then sent the drivers to Far Flung Outdoor Center with whom we had contracted for a shuttle. We left cars at Far Flung, and their driver returned our drivers to the put-in above Colorado Canyon where he was amazed at the amount of gear we had with us. What he did not realize was that we had about one third of our supplies still in our vehicles because we would not need it until after we exited Santa Elena Canyon the following Thursday afternoon.

Because you never know what the Rio Grande and Big Bend will throw at you we were prepared for hot, cold, wet and dry conditions. Packing for such possibilities requires carrying more gear than normal, but the alternative is unacceptable in a remote desert wilderness where outside assistance is a day or more away.



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Thanks to the complement of Kokatat paddling clothing I have, being prepared for the conditions we encountered was a piece of cake. As it turned out, all we really needed was clothing for hot and dry conditions, so I ended up paddling in short sleeve shirts and paddling shorts. Others wore long sleeves and long pants to protect against sunburn.

By the time we began our trip it was already late in the day. Our plan was to paddle a few miles, then find a Mexican side campsite inside Colorado Canyon where we would stay our first night on the river. We paddled about 4 miles, running the first set of rapids without much difficulty, though the water was low and we occasionally had to drag our loaded boats through spots where we could not paddle. We were hoping for a rise in the river from some of the heavy rains that fell on us all the way down to Big Bend, but it never happened. The area was bone-dry and showed no signs of recent rainfall anywhere near the river. Still, the flow was adequate for great paddling except in a few rapids. We made camp, then started cooking an improvised dinner of sausage, red beans and rice and pan-fried potatoes, then dined in style along this big, muddy ditch that separates the nations of Texas and Mexico. We had to rely on extra food we had with us since our initial plan called for starting the trip on Sunday, and we ate well!

We arose early on Sunday morning, prepared a breakfast of bacon, eggs and English muffins, then struck camp and headed out down the river. We were thrilled to see bighorn sheep on the mountaintops above the river high over our heads, watching us as we paddled down the river and probably wondering why a group of guys would be running the river in loaded boats in such low-water conditions. Or, they may have just been looking for food. Colorado Canyon features most the largest rapids (Class II to III) and steepest gradient of the river above the Lower Canyons, and the volcanic structure of the mountains surrounding the river contribute to both the scenery and the technical difficulty of paddling the Rio Grande.

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On Sunday night, we camped along the Mexican side of the river where we prepared a fine dinner of grilled chicken and vegetables (yellow squash, zucchini, onion, bell peppers, new potatoes, carrots and celery) with wheat rolls, then settled in to tell lies under a dark sky filled with billions of stars. We observed three satellites passing overhead and saw some brilliant and long-lasting shooting stars with enormous tails that wowed us all. While our daytime temperatures were soaring into the mid-to-upper 90's, nights were cooler with lows in the upper 40's to lower 50's - not half bad for the middle of the winter! We laughed about all those people "up north" who are suffering cabin fever due to snow, ice and frozen rivers that leave them no chance to go outside and play in their boats. We were suffering no such misfortunes.

Monday morning began with a delicious breakfast of burritos made from scrambled eggs, sausage, bell pepper, onion, potatoes, grated cheese and hot salsa rolled up in large, flour tortillas. We were, after all, in Mexico! After breaking camp and loading boats we began our journey toward Santa Elena Canyon, stopping at Lajitas to resupply with ice, Dr Pepper and some snacks to add to our already bulging food supplies. We paddled down to a desert campsite about 4 miles above the entrance to Santa Elena, then made camp for our third night on the river. The rapids we encountered were much like what we had run above, and we occasionally had to line or drag our boats through the low water to get downriver. We spent another night under a cloudless sky filled with stars set against a backdrop of open desert. We were right on schedule for our planned position relative to our intended take-out below Santa Elena Canyon on Thursday afternoon.

To be continued in May...



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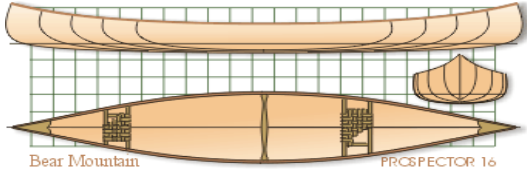
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DDRC Newsletter Ad Rates

Type of Ad	Per Insertion	Annually
Business Cards (member)	5.00	50.00
Business Cards (non-members)	7.50	75.00
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1/3 Page display	30.00	300.00
1/2 Page display	35.00	350.00
Full Page display	50.00	500.00

To advertise, contact Bryan Jackson at 972-564-2318
bryan.jackson@paddlinpals.com. We can take most any
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Attention all DDRC Members:

As we roll into spring various local groups, paddling clubs and the TRPA will be hosting cleanups on rivers around the state. In April its the Brazos' turn. Its not too much to ask for all the enjoyment that our rivers give us each year, to spend a day a couple of times a year giving back. Personally, I think that should be enough motivation for anyone to do their fair share, but this year I am going to sweeten the pot.

1) Any DDRC member that participates in any two TRPA river cleanups will receive a FREE DDRC TEE SHIRT. In addition. 25 miles credit towards the 2006 most miles paddled award for each cleanup. 2 cleanups = 50 miles, the more you clean the more you earn.

2) Any DDRC member that participates in any two TRPA river cleanups and one of either Watermelon Cleanups in preparation for TRC XI, races for free in TRC XI.

What a deal, what a concept ! Clean rivers, be a friend to the environment, get free stuff! Cleanups will be posted in the newsletter, on the website and email reminders. ~Bryan Jackson, DDRC President

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DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB

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*The Official Newsletter of the Dallas
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Next DDRC Meeting
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Enchilada's Restaurant
6526 E. Northwest Hwy.
DDRC Meetings are the
3rd Thursday of every
month.

