ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletter content needed— Hey gang...Please share your adventures, recipes, photos, classifieds with us for our reading enjoyment. Email content to newsletter editor Carolee Doty at la_sirena_84@yahoo.com.

Volunteers needed for the TRC and other upcoming events. Please see page 8 for more info.

Trips and Events

Sept. 20— Monthly meeting
Oct. 6-7—Swift Water Rescue Class
Oct. 13—Trinity Trash Bash/ Watermelon Cleanup
Oct. 20— TRC XII
Oct. 26-28—Caddoween
Nov. 23-25— Thanksgiving Trip

Details will be posted in the newsletter the month before the trip and on the website Events Calendar when planned.

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 Tuesday of the month - 7:00 PM @ Half Price Books at Northwest Hwy just east of US75 All members are welcome to attend to learn more about club activities.
Paddling Events — See the online events calendar for more details

September 20— Monthly Meeting at Circle Grill, 3701 Buckner Blvd.

October 6-7— Swift Water Rescue Class To be held on the San Marcos River at Rio Vista WW Park. Our group will be camping at Shady Grove (Spencer’s) and we will be planning a fried chicken pot luck dinner for Saturday night. You have a choice of a one day essentials class (Saturday) or a two day full class (Saturday and Sunday). Contact Bryan for more details (972)- 979-2519.

October 13— Trinity Trash Bash/Watermelon Cleanup We will focus on cleaning up the park area where we hold the race, getting the last of the river trash that was missed the previous week and removing any major obstructions that could pose a hazard on race date.

October 20— TRC XII at McKinnish Park in Carrollton.

October 27-28— Caddoween Our yearly trip to Goat Island, Spooky times indeed! Details soon.

November 10—11 Hill Country Paddle Trip Depending on river levels, we will paddle either the Medina or Upper Guadalupe, with the San Marcos as a last ditch backup. Camping details later.

November 23-25 DDRC Thanksgiving Trip Camping at KRiver Campground, and featuring our Cajun Fried Turkey Thanksgiving potluck/feast. Paddling the Kiamichi on Saturday with possible side trips to other local rivers and creeks on Friday and Sunday.

December 13 - DDRC Christmas Meeting/Party At White Rock Lake. Note that it will be held the second Thursday of December.
TRINITY RIVER CHALLENGE XII

TRC XII on track for October 20, 2007

So far, so good is the word on the rescheduled TRC XII. Lake levels at Ray Roberts, Lewisville and Grapevine are dropping, although the releases have been slowed due to erosion issues downriver in Dallas. The Corps of Engineers has seemed willing, at least at this point, to working with us so that we have a safe river level for race day. This may require the Corps to shut off releases in the wee hours of the morning before the race to allow the level to drop. If that is the case, we will have to make sure that all boats are on their way back from Hebron Parkway no later than 11:30 or so as the releases will probably be restored by Noon.

If high river flows are an issue, the Trinity Trash Bash may also be restricted to cleaning up the banks and McInnish Park. That decision will be made closer to the cleanup date. We still need tandem canoes for the Trash Bash Volunteers, contact Bryan if you have boats available.

Early registration closes on September, 25 and I would encourage everyone who intends on racing to register early since it allow us to purchase race items like food and tee shirts more efficiently.

Tickets for the canoe raffle are available for $5 each or 5 for $20. Pick them up at this month’s meeting, by mail (you do not have to be present to win), at the Trash Bash or on race day. This year we are featuring an Old Town Expedition 169 with two Carlisle Golden Light paddles and two PFD’s.

We still need volunteers for the Safety Team and general duties for race day. You can sign up to help out at the next meeting or contact Bryan Jackson.
Trinity River Challenge XII Official Entry Form

Racer #1 ______________ Age ______________ Shirt Size ______________
Street Add. __________________ City __________________
State _______ Zip _______ Email __________________

Racer #2 ______________ Age ______________ Shirt Size ______________
Street Add. __________________ City __________________
State _______ Zip _______ Email __________________

Racer #3 ______________ Age ______________ Shirt Size ______________
Street Add. __________________ City __________________
State _______ Zip _______ Email __________________

Racer #4 ______________ Age ______________ Shirt Size ______________
Street Add. __________________ City __________________
State _______ Zip _______ Email __________________

Type of Boat __________________ Boat Length ______________

If your boat exceeds the maximum length for the class you have registered in, it will be reclassed by the registrar.

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<thead>
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Total Due ______________

NOTE: Shirt Sizes Small and XXL will be ordered based on pre-registration quantities and will be in limited supply on race day. Pre Registering guarantees you the correct shirt size.

This year you have two options to pay:
1: Print this form and mail it along with your check to: TRC Registration
   P.O. Box 820246
   Dallas, TX, 75362

OR
2: Email the form and pay at check-in on race day. We will verify your form and email you the total due before race day.
**Labor Day Trip on the Lower Mountain Fork and Little River**

With all the rain that has been falling this summer, I was not sure if the Labor Day overnight paddle was going to be much better than the one over Memorial Day. We cut that one short for fear that our potential campgrounds below the Ashalintubi take out were submerged. Thankfully, the rains subsided and the Little dropped to normal levels and the releases from Broken Bow Dam had been put back on the regular "middle of the night" schedule. At the put in at Ambush Adventures, the Lower Fork was so clear that you could see right to the bottom, even out in the deep water. While we waited for the shuttle down to the takeout in Horatio, AR to be run, we got acquainted with our friends from the DFW Paddlers who were joining for our two night trip down the river. Some of us also got our fishing gear out while we were waiting and found that the local bass were more than willing to join us for dinner.

We finally got going by about 11am, but no one was really in a hurry. We made it about a mile and a half before someone blew the lunch whistle. We found a nice shady gravel bar, had a snack and cooled off in the shallow water. That's about how it went all day, paddle a while, take a swim break, paddle some more. Nobody was in much of a hurry.

The Lower Mountain Fork was unusually deserted on Saturday, so we almost had the place to ourselves. We always do once we pass WW Canoe’s 10 mile takeout anyway, but I doubt that there were more than 10 canoes out there other than us. The local wildlife was certainly on display. Rusty Branch, John K. and I watched a raccoon hunt along the bank for almost a half hour. We were probably less than 30 feet away and Rusty got some great close up pictures. The raccoon was more interested in his lunch and was totally unmoved by our presence. Since we were fishing and wildlife watching Rusty, John and I were dead last getting to our first night’s camp. By the time we arrived, tents were up and everyone was cooling off in the river. I noticed that our campground had a nice sloping sandy hill where a few months ago there was a fairly sharp drop to the river thanks to almost a month of flooding removing a few feet of the river bank. It was not the only changes we noticed as a result of the heavy rain. Once hazardous downed trees were gone and a few areas where the river used to be narrow were definitely wider.

As the sun went down we started preparing our pot lock dinner. We had plenty of fish thanks to an excellent day fishing along with frozen fish brought by Karen Lowe and a huge bag that was given to Lige while he was chatting to our friend “Coach” who lives up above WW’s 10 mile takeout. We fried fish non stop for about 45 minutes and just about all of it was gone by the time dinner was over. To compliment the fish, we had salad, coleslaw, couscous and assorted goodies. I’m not exactly sure if it was the weight of the meal or the exertions of our 9 plus miles of paddling and swimming, but just about everyone was sound asleep by around 10 pm.

Sunday morning came and another leisurely pace was set as we made our way down river. Dale Harris met us at Ashalintubi to join the group for the balance of the trip.
After paddling a grueling 4 or so miles we found grassy island in the middle of the river that had a narrow band of fast current almost a quarter mile long that wrapped around one side and around to the downriver side. You could jump in on the upriver side of the island and 10 or so minutes later float to the bottom of the island. It made a very fun way to beat the heat.

We also decided that it was a great place to have some throw bag practice. There was no shortage of “victims” as everyone seemed to be enjoying drifting in the swift current.

Dinner was another feast and afterwards some did make it to almost 11pm I am told, swapping stories and stargazing. The night was clear and almost a little chilly and sleeping with the tent fly off with just a screen between me and the stars was just too good to pass up. Monday morning we headed out on the last leg of our trip covering the last 7 or so miles of our journey, stopping to cool off or to let Lester the canoe dog have a swim. We saw more people and power boats as we paddled our way into Arkansas and the river widened. The power boats are generally courteous to paddlers, with the majority slowing when they passed us to reduce their wake. Most were fairly surprised that we had paddled all the way down from the US 70 bridge in Oklahoma.

It was great to have Tom Taylor back in action again, having recovered enough to get back to the business of single handedly cleaning up the world, one river at a time. He even stayed awake long enough to have dinner on Sunday night! This trip was the crown jewel to what has become a fantastic summer of paddling thanks to the wet summer weather, but fall is coming and we are just getting started again. Hope you can get out and join us.
Win This Canoe

Plus 2 paddles and 2PFD’s. Drawing will be held at the awards ceremony at TRC XII. Tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20 and will be available at the July and August meetings, on Race Day and by mail at "I Want That Boat" c/o DDRC P.O. Box 820246 Dallas, TX 75382
DDRC T-shirts available at our meetings for $10 each.
Mealtime on the Lower Mountain Fork
~ Labor Day Weekend ~

Photo by Rusty Branch

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info@cutteraquatics.com
TEXAS KAYAK and CANOE TOURS
Oklahoma River Gauges Saved!

Thanks to the fast reaction by American Whitewater, the Oklahoma chapters of the Arkansas Canoe Club, the DDRC, the Choctaw Nation, several businesses in the area and our good friends in the OK. Legislature, the 26 river gauges that were scheduled to be turned off in S.E. Oklahoma on August 15 have been funded until the end of the year. This will allow time for the State to secure permanent funding for next year without any interruption in operation.

The only notice of the shutdowns was posted on the individual gauge pages on the USGS website. After inquiring at the USGS, it was found that a lack of local matching funds was responsible for the pending shutdowns. A letter and email writing campaign was started, directed at the State Reps. in Pushmataha and McCurtain counties pointing out how valuable those gauges were to tourism and to the safety of the residents of the counties.

R.C. Pruett, the State Rep. from Antlers, OK., immediately jumped on this issue and not only did he work tirelessly to get the gauges funded, but also personally emailed or telephoned everyone who had written to him to give an update on his progress. When was the last time you heard from your TEXAS state rep.? Mr. Pruett owns the grocery store at the US 271 and OK 3 intersection in Antlers. Most of us have been in there, if you have ever been on a Kiamichi trip, it’s where we normally stop for ice and last minute dinner items when we take out at the US271 Bridge. I’m going to make it a point to stop by and thank him personally next time I’m up there. It would be nice if those of you who wrote or emailed him about the gauges dropped him a thank you as well.

This is an excellent example of people getting involved and making a difference. Had it not been and exceptionally wet summer, the note on the top of the Gauge Web Page may not have been noticed until it was too late. As it was, this all happened in less than three weeks, from the time the shutdown notices were posted. The people who depend on those rivers for a living and on the tourism that comes to their towns have gone out of their way to express their thanks for us getting involved. You should all be very proud of yourselves. It was a job VERY well done!
DDRC Officers & Committees

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Bryan Jackson
972-564-2318

VICE-PRESIDENT
Sam Sloan

SECRETARY
Kay Crowe

TREASURER/ROSTER
Thomas Taylor

Webmaster:
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Meet & Greet/Hospitality
Man:
Paul Boling
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Environmental:
Marc McCord
canoeman@canoeman.com

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Programs:
DDRC TP&W & TRPA
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To advertise, contact Bryan Jackson at 972-564-2318
bryan.jackson@paddlinpals.com. We can take most any format. All ads are payable by check to: DDRC, ATTN:
Newsletter Ad. P.O. Box 820246, Dallas, TX. 75382

Attention all DDRC Members:

During the year, various local groups, paddling clubs and the TRPA will be hosting cleanups on rivers around the state.

1) Any DDRC member that participates in any two TRPA river cleanups will receive a FREE DDRC T-SHIRT and 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 XII, races for free in TRC XII.
Next DDRC Meeting
Thursday 7:00 PM
September 20, 2007
CIRCLE GRILL
3701 Buckner Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75228
214-327-4140

DDRC Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of every month.