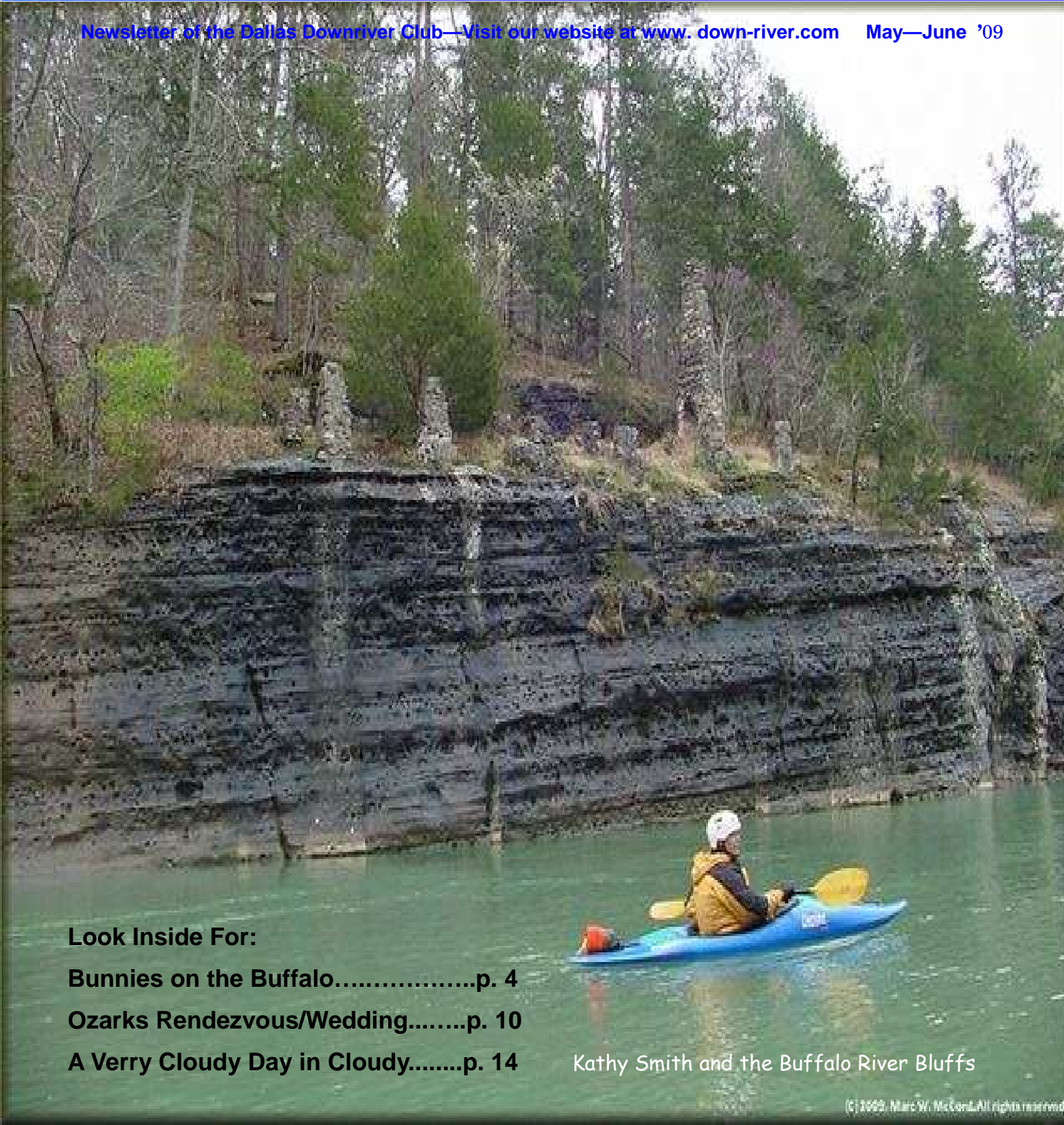


The DDRC Current News

Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club—Visit our website at [www. down-river.com](http://www.down-river.com) May—June '09



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Kathy Smith and the Buffalo River Bluffs

Trips and Events

May 17— DDRC Monthly Meeting at the Bath House, White Rock Lake. 7 pm Once again we take the May meeting out to the Bath House Cultural Center on White Rock. Bring your boat and a picnic dinner. We will be taking an evening cruise on the lake.

May 20— Rock Ledge Park Paddle 'n Roll Sessions at Grapevine Lake every Wednesday. Call Keith Smith (940-566-4869) for details.

May 23—25 Memorial Day We will meet at Ambush Adventures outside of Broken Bow, Ok at around 9am run our shuttle and head out for three days and two nights on the LMF and Little Rivers, taking out at Horatio, AR. As usual the pace will be mind numbingly slow, with plenty of time for fishing, swimming and snacks by the river. Bring everything you need (within reason) as we will be camping on the river. If river levels or closed areas prohibit this, alternate plans may be to the Kiamichi River (K River Campground) in OK. Contact Bryan at 972-979-2519.

May 30— Urban Paddle—DFW location TBA. Look for an email or call Carolee Doty at 214-649-6410. Don't give up—we love our urban paddlers, as that's how many of us started out with the DDRC!

June 6— Our first **Moonlight Float** of the year will take us to the Brazos River below the Lake Whitney Dam. This will be our only run down there this year as the other two Moonlight Floats will take place in DFW. Meet about 5:30 pm at Riverside park below the dam. If there is a release, we will be going the 8 miles down to Dick's (\$6 per boat take out fee); if not we will paddle down a mile or so, have a nice picnic on one of the gravel bars and then paddle back under the full moon.

June 18— Monthly Meeting at the Circle Grill at the corner of Buckner and I30.

June 19-20 — Texas Lakes Trail Trip—Lake Cleburne See article on page 13 for details.

June 27— Urban Paddle— Rowlett Creek— Bring your sunscreen, bug spray and lunch to this pretty area East of Dallas. Call Carolee Doty (214-649-6410) or Nancy Jenkins (214-282-5607).

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Brazos Cleanup.....another record breaker!

By Bryan Jackson

Folks must really be getting the message, because the Brazos Cleanup in April produced a record turnout. Enough volunteers showed up to allow Ed Lowe and company to add an additional section of the river to the cleanup. This brought the total river covered to over 20 miles!

The DDRC group, being punishment and hard labor junkies that we are, volunteered for the new stretch, which covered the eight or so miles from Sandlin's Camp to Brazos Point. This stretch has not been cleaned in a very long time and it showed. While there was not a lot of trash, there was a lot of junk - pieces of old boats (actually an entire fiberglass boat, retrieved in several pieces), hunks of steel and, of course, the mainstay of any Brazos cleanup, tires. Lots of tires.

This was Gloria's first time on a Brazos cleanup and even though she has seen photos of previous cleanups, I don't think she realized the volume of tires that we would encounter. There were over thirty canoes and kayaks in our group and we had to stop and unload our first crop of almost a hundred tires halfway down the eight-mile paddle. One of the participating landowners was waiting with a fork lift and a trailer, allowing us to go back for more.



Who says that wildlife is endangered on the Brazos? Why, I caught a fish inside a tire I was rinsing out and a very surprised field mouse in another. It almost made me feel like we were making them "homeless" by cleaning the place up. By the time we reached Brazos Point, we were again full of tires and passed up plenty more as we had no room to carry them. All told, 360 tires were removed. The majority of them were from our stretch of the river. When we were done, the great folks who live at Brazos fed us a fantastic barbecue lunch. All in all, it was a long day, but well worth the effort.

It seems now that I have created an advocate against illegal tire dumping. Gloria now is looking for and seeing tires everywhere - on the side of the road, in fields, you name it. Kudos to Friends of the Brazos, as well, who plan and execute this cleanup every year and have to pay to have these tires disposed of properly. If you are looking for a river-related cause to give a little of your spare cash to, I could not think of a more deserving group.

Bunnies on the Buffalo

On Easter weekend, a few members made the annual river run on the Buffalo National River. Bryan Jackson led the group consisting of Sam Sloan, Carolee Doty, Mark McCord, Kathy Smith, Tim Stanton, Jaws, Diane Echols and Uh-oh. Everyone converged at Tyler Bend State Park, one of the NPS park facilities complete with hot showers - what a treat! Half the group arrived Thursday to set up camp and make sure we had a couple of choice sites for the weekend.

Right in the middle of cooking dinner, a rogue storm rolled through camp. A short but powerful storm, it moved one canoe several yards and pulled up Bryan's big tent (with his gear inside!) by the stakes and blew it away! Kathy and Carolee hung onto the dining tarp, trying to protect dinner from the rain. Finally, soaked to the gills, they retreated to their dry tents. About an hour later, the dinner of Dutch Oven chicken pot pie was announced. Local food critics thought the pot pie was delicious - during the night, coons scooted the cast iron lid off and licked the pot clean!

The remaining crew, Jaws, Diane, Uh-Oh and Tim, arrived late at night to find the rain-soaked road blocked by a fallen tree in the park. Jaws moved the tree aside, allowing easy passage for those who followed.

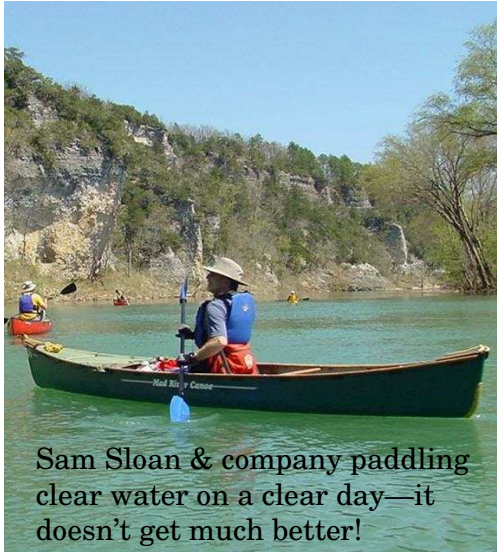


Ponca Put-in.....

Well, I do not know what the plans for the weekend boating were. But I can tell you what we did. Friday morning we set up shuttle to run the upper Buffalo from Ponca to Erbie. At Ponca we got to watch Jaws teach Uh-Oh to swim. As you may know, Jaws is a part time dog trainer. I always heard that Labradors were natural swimmers. Well, right there at the put in, with 50 degree air and 50s water, Jaws asked Uh-Oh to jump into the boat. As he did, the canoe tipped and dumped its contents - all had a good laugh. Did anyone catch that boat launch on film?

After such a fine start, the rest was down river. And perfect it was. The upper Buffalo is rarely runnable, but there was plenty of water and it was moving 3+ miles per hour - fantastic. There was just enough time to gawk at the beautiful scenery between really nice rapids, nothing too tough, just tough enough to keep the trip fun and interesting. The cliffs appeared painted and we tried to figure out what caused the unique black, tan and grey stains.

About midway, we stopped to eat lunch. A few more fun miles later, we were at Erbie, the take out. The next morning, we discussed the merits of Dry Pants versus Splash Pants. Well, Dry Pants have latex ankle gaskets that are supposed to keep the water out. Kathy speculated that you could fill up with water and have no way to drain the water. Well, I tested the NRS Blackrock Dry Pants. The waist has 8 inches of neoprene with the already mentioned ankle gaskets. About a half mile from the take out, I took the wrong track on a sweeper and



Sam Sloan & company paddling clear water on a clear day—it doesn't get much better!

went for a swim. The water was about 4 feet deep, so the Dry Pants and Dry Top were put to the test. The combination worked, as I just barely became damp at the wrists and waist band, with no water inside.

The shuttle from Erbie to camp was long, and some spent an hour waiting in a women's bathroom (one very clean room!) with the ranger's electric heater (and the dog!) having good comraderie. We arrived in camp fairly late and discussed snacking instead of cooking. But the hungry Down River crew decided to go ahead and cook a hot meal. After all, we must remember this is the Down River Eating Club. We have a reputation to uphold.

Saturday morning we set up a run from Hasty back to camp. Once again the river flow was 3+ so the run was easy. Rapids were fewer and the pools between longer making for a relaxed pace of paddling. We witnessed a few beginner paddlers get in over their heads. A couple of canoes were loaded with adults and two children each, one of which capsized more than once. They lost a paddle, got the small children wet and we could see the children shivering at the bank. Luckily their take out was a lot sooner than ours.

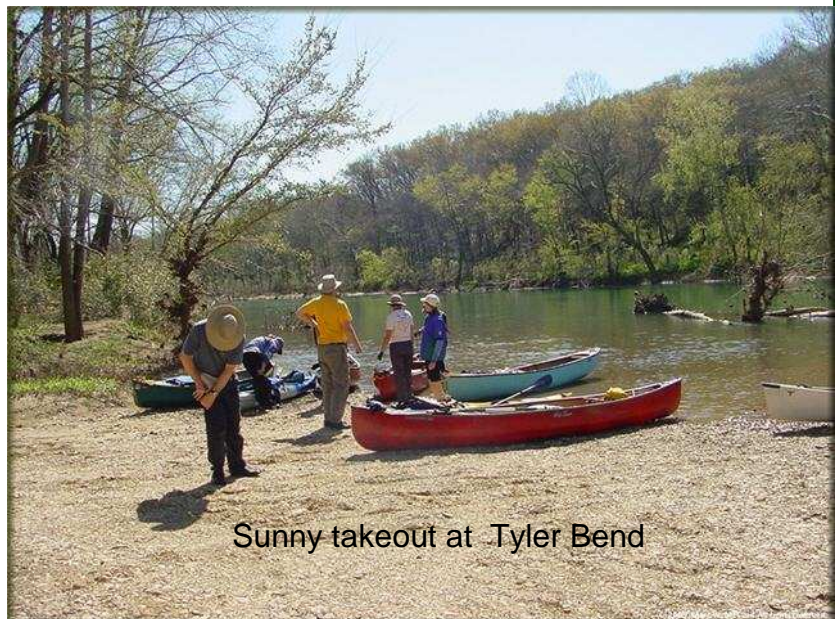
Other than an extra long canoe paddle recovered from the river, and the above capsizes, the rest of day two on the river was uneventful. With fewer rapids we were able to take in the beauty of the middle Buffalo. Words are simply inadequate to describe it. How lucky we are that a group of people had the foresight to save this river from dams and development.

Saturday evening the much anticipated Rabbit Cacciatore was prepared, along with lots of other goodies. All I can say is wow, that rabbit is good stuff. Mind you, it was prepared by our accomplished, award-winning Chef Bryan.

If you missed this treat, you must come next year. The entire spread of food rivaled any Easter dinner I have ever experienced. And the fellowship was the best. No family squabbles to be found. Easter dinner capped a very fine weekend. We had planned on a half day paddle Sunday, but the weather was not going to cooperate. Stormy weather was returned with big winds and thunderstorms. So we packed the paddling gear and departed in the morning.

What a memorable trip. Bryan's Rabbit Cacciatore- it's the best. But the only way to try it is to go on the trip next year. See you there.

Tim Stanton



Sunny takeout at Tyler Bend

KERA's MULTIMEDIA PROJECT*LIVING WITH THE TRINITY***LAUNCHES WITH WEB SITE, RADIO SERIES**

DALLAS/FORT WORTH: The Trinity River is a source of hope, conflict and a vital water resource for the people of North Texas . For more than 150 years, floods, drought and pollution have influenced local attitudes towards the river. Today, some civic leaders in Dallas and Fort Worth believe that redevelopment along the river will promote an economic renaissance. KERA's *Living with the Trinity* multimedia project explores the history of North Texans' relationship with the Trinity River with a new Web site at www.TrinityRiverTexas.org, a series of radio reports to air May 12 to 15 on KERA-FM, and a television documentary to air on KERA-TV in the fall of 2009.

At www.TrinityRiverTexas.org visitors can explore the geography, ecology and cultural history of the Trinity River through interactive maps, videos and photographs. They can also share personal memories and observations about the Trinity and current plans to redevelop it as part of a living archive on the Web site. The Web site is presented in sections. *Explore* offers a map-based history of Dallas ' attempts to manage the river's tendency to flood and looks at the challenges of managing pollution in the river. *Visualize* shows visitors the Trinity River system as a whole and offers an interactive way to experience the hidden beauty of the vast network of creeks and forks that feed the river in North Texas . *Voices* features a collection of short interviews with people who offer their memories and observations about the river. Visitors are invited to share their own memories and opinions and contribute photographs and videos in the *Share/Community* section of the Web site. Additional story-based content as well as classroom orientated educational materials will be added to the Web site throughout the year.

KERA's news team will present a series of radio reports May 12 to 15 during *Morning Edition* (5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.) and *All Things Considered* (4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.) on KERA-FM. Podcasts will be available online at www.kera.org and at www.TrinityRiverTexas.org. KERA's Shelley Kofler will report on the source of our water and investigate past and future efforts to meet the growing need in North Texas . B.J. Austin will examine water consumption for business, residential and agricultural use. Bill Zeeble will report on the long-term drought and its impact on the communities of North Texas. *Living with the Trinity* is made possible through a leadership grant from The Meadows Foundation with additional support provided by the Dixon Water Foundation.

The Production Team for *Living with the Trinity* includes Rob Tranchin, executive producer / project director, Chris Kelley, senior producer, April Kinser , lead Web site designer / developer and Alan Melson, Web site developer. Content producers include Gila Espinoza and Mark Birnbaum. Dane Walters is video content editor. Sylvia Komatsu is executive in charge.

KERA is a not-for-profit public broadcasting organization that serves the people of North Texas . The station broadcasts to the 5th largest market in the United States . KERA produces original multimedia content, carries the best in national and international public television and radio programs, and provides online resources at www.kera.org. The station's extensive coverage of the arts can be found at www.artandseek.org. KERA also promotes children's education through television programs and resources for families and teachers. KERA-TV broadcasts on channel 13. KERA-FM broadcasts on 90.1 in Dallas/Fort Worth/Denton, 88.3 in Wichita Falls , 100.1 in Tyler and 99.3 in Sherman .

~ REI Demo Day ~

It was a good turnout for the REI Demo Day. After help from Don Rogers and Harry Moore (who also brought a friend along) getting the pavilion set up (which was pretending to be a kite), we set up the banner, picture boards, picture book. We laid out the literature as best as we could with the wind. Soon after all was in place, the set up help headed out, and Bob Robinette arrived to help man the show. Although it was a slow start for us, REI was quite busy getting people on (and sometimes in) the water, but those that went in appeared to have smiles on their faces while being towed back.



Renee Shippey with REI was kind enough to direct people to stop by our pavilion after trying out the boats to see what type of paddling opportunities might be found with our club.

Folks arrived sporadically, sometimes a few more than we could get to immediately, but mostly there were just enough that we could spend a good amount of time with each of them. It even slowed down enough a few times so that Bob and John K, who arrived later in the day to help, had time to demo a couple of boats themselves. There was a lot of enthusiasm from people thinking about buying a boat, and others who already had boats, but "had no idea a club like ours existed." They were very glad to know where they could find other people to paddle with and trips that were scheduled. Many assured us that they would soon attend a meeting and and/or a trip to check us out. I hope to see new faces from this event.

A Big Thank You to REI for inviting us to be a part of this.

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A VERRY Cloudy Day in Cloudy, Oklahoma

by Doug Bryans and Carolee Doty

Heavy spring rains prompted an impromptu trip to the Kiamichi Mountains in Oklahoma. Our destination was the town of Cloudy, formerly the moonshine capital of Southeast Oklahoma, to paddle the Upper Section of the Little River. We all met at Doug Bryan's house in Paris, TX, then carpooled the 55 miles to the little town of Cloudy.



Buddy Dunlap, a local hunting guide, comedian and singer, shuttled us up to our put-in just above one of the largest rapids on the river, for a three and a half hour float. We started out with an optimum water level, which progressed to a semi-high level as more rain fell. At the put-in rapid, Kathy Smith remarked (before she ran it), "Is that really a rapid?". After the first mile or so, she concluded that they were pretty good rapids after all, most mild and forgiving, but fun. At the high water level, there were few rocks visible, although Marc and Walter were able to find ones with their names on them, causing easy swims.

The Upper Little is a pool and drop with some easy rapids and wave trains. With good flow, we were moving at four plus miles an hour. I'm not sure I've ever paddled through sheets of rain with thunder and lightening. It was great fun. (Some of us were out in the middle with our aluminum paddles, others were following the banks under the overhanging trees!) Finding a "lunch" spot where we could actually get out— not too high or too soggy -was a challenge, but we needed to wait out the storms and eat. (Or

warm up with hot instant soup— see wet river rat Carolee Doty above!)

As we got to the takeout, we had to hang on tightly to overhanging branches, working our way down to the washed out "low water" bridge (see pic at right!) until someone on the road pulled us up. It was close, and no telling where one would've ended up after going into that suction cup.

After getting off the river soaking wet but happy, we loaded our boats and headed back to Buddy's trailer to change. We then went back to Paris to eat at the Chinese Buffet. Though the DDRC has only run this section about three or four times,

more people are hearing about it and would really enjoy it if they experience it. Maybe next time we can try Cloudy Creek (which was looking very runnable), the Glover or Eagle Fork Creek.



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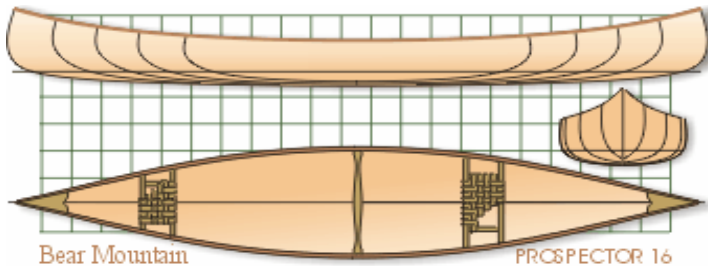
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FINE PRINT - The DDRC Current News is published monthly by the Dallas Downriver Club and is provided to its members either by First Class postage or by email. Opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and may or may not reflect 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** @ On the Border (directions on back of newsletter). All members are welcome to attend to learn more about clubiness.

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South Llano River Trip

Arriving at S. Llano state park Friday afternoon, we set up camp, and got acquainted with the park. Earl Atnip's boys, Alec and Jake went exploring, and caught sight of a coyote chasing a small deer.

That evening we had a pot luck dinner with beef stew, Harry Moore's flavorful southwestern soup, George Lackey's tasty purple cole slaw, Morrie Fenlason's potato dish, and many other contributions. We also had a deer visit close to the camp site during dinner. The weather was very pleasant, and later made for good sleeping weather.

Saturday morning we shuttled up to the second crossing. The South Llano was a little low, but the kids (big and small) had fun in the small rapids and drops. It is also a scenic river, and



Bryan and Morrie in fine form

Nancy Jenkins spotted a wild hog on the river bank during the trip. The spring fed water is of excellent quality and very clear. Rivers and rapids lists the length from second crossing to the park at 11.6 miles, but it may have been a little further. The river has a mostly a rock bed with steep hills at points along the river, with many pecan and mesquite trees. After the takeout and a nice shower, we went into Junction for Bar-b-que at Cooper's. The town is called Junction



Jake Atnip enjoying the trip

because it is located right on the confluence of the north and south Llano rivers. (Just a wild guess.) After returning to camp Marc McCord made a delicious dutch oven peach cobbler.

Sunday morning, as the weather looked foreboding, most opted to go ahead and start home, though a few went ahead and did a fast run down the river to town.

It's a scenic drive back thru the hill country, and Bryan Jackson said he made it back to Forney in five hours taking Hwy 377.

I enjoyed everyone's company, and met some new people too. We had about 19 people show up in all. Lance Ward from Lubbock, Boyd Miller, David and Trudy Busker, and Lance (George Lackey's grandson.) were new faces. This being a trip anybody can do, and a great place to camp, we probably will be returning next year.

Sam Sloan



Bryan, Morrie and company relaxin' and smilin'

Dear Dallas Downriver Club:

KERA, the public radio and television station for North Texas, has launched the new multimedia series *Living with the Trinity* which explores the geography, ecology and cultural history of the Trinity River .

Visitors to www.TrinityRiverTexas.org can explore interactive maps, video, photographs and share their memories and observations of the river. A series of radio reports will air on KERA-FM throughout the week. Listen during *Morning Edition* (5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.) and *All Things Considered* (4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.) or online at <http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/kera/news.newsmain>.

Additional content will be added to the site throughout the year with a television documentary and second series of radio reports to air in the fall.

We hope you will help us spread the word about this important project by including a mention in any upcoming newsletters to your membership or by linking from your Web site to ours. Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

With best regards,

Meg Fullwood, Public Relations Manager, KERA

214-740-9377

mfullwood@kera.org

Ozarks Rendezvous/Wedding!

If I had known I was going to get a proposal on the river, I might not have been wearing my rain suit (yes, it was raining) over my life jacket, making me look like a blue beach ball! What a whirlwind of events! David proposed on Thursday at Aker's Ferry and we got married in Eminence on Friday. We had our honeymoon at the Pulltite Campground on the Current River, one of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, and we bought the wedding ring on the way home. Gotta love the Ozarks!

This will go down as the most memorable Ozarks Rendezvous of my life! It started out as the much-looked-forward-to trip to the Ozarks to see friends and canoe the river. It turned into a surprise proposal on the river, engagement party, wedding, and honeymoon all-in-one! It was all so much fun, and very wonderful. Apparently, David had been planning the proposal for a long time, but the wedding was definitely unplanned. After all, how many brides have to drive 25-30 miles to go to Wal-Mart to buy a new pair of jeans to get married in because all they have with them are paddling clothes?

The "wedding planning" was really funny.

Thursday evening, we were discussing the fact that Missouri has no waiting period for marriage licenses. We drove to Salem to the Walmart Thursday night so I could get some new jeans. Friday morning, we drove to the Round Spring Campground for hot showers (and discovered my hair dryer didn't work, and the hand blower couldn't be tilted upwards), then on to Shannon County Courthouse in Eminence. We got the license, but the court clerk didn't know if the judge was coming in or not. Apparently she doesn't come to work if there aren't any cases to try. They tried to call her, but couldn't reach her. In the meantime, my friends, Margaret, Terry, and Pat, went to the florist across the street and ordered a bouquet of flowers. We then walked to Ruby's T&T diner for breakfast while we waited to see if the judge was going to come in or not. The cell service in Eminence is non-existent, so we could not leave the court



Jill Britt Thrash and her new husband David

house and let them call us. The court clerk gave us the home phone numbers of the local ministers (4 - it's a small town!). Since neither of us are religious, we preferred the judge or JP over a church. So we called surrounding counties to see if they had judges available, but everyone was either off fishing or something. We then tried calling the ministers, but because it's a small town, the ministers are all part-time so we were striking out!

We decided to drive around looking for church steeples - what better way to find a church in a small town! The Methodist Church was closed and locked up, but a lady at the church thrift store next door told us the minister was working out of town. She knew of another minister who worked at the local bank, so we drove to the bank with our little caravan of friends behind us. We had to wait in the teller line to ask the minister to marry us - at least it wasn't the drive-through! That minister wouldn't marry us because we had both been married before and were not of his faith (I never did find out what religion he was), but he was nice and gave us the home address of another minister. The directions went something like, "drive a few miles down the highway until you see the rock house and turn at the street before that, then you go over a low water bridge, and 3 or 4 houses past that you'll see a house with yellow shutters. Turn left at the house with yellow shutters and the minister's house is the one with the cedar trees that are pruned funny." I'm not kidding. There we were, a caravan of trucks and minivans with canoes on top, driving around looking for a house with deranged cedar trees. However, before arriving, I spotted a church that was the same affiliation of the minister we were looking for, so we pulled into the parking lot. The church was dark and locked, but a car was around back. We knocked at the back door, and the minister answered. David told him we had a license and were looking for a minister to marry us. The minister asked when we would like to arrange this, and I said "right now." Seriously. After he talked to us a bit and questioned our friends as to our seriousness and suitability, he married us!

We took the license back to the courthouse to be filed, and discovered all of the offices closed for lunch! Like I said...it's a small town! We walked across the street to Ruby's T&T for our bridal luncheon while we waited for the county offices to open back up! In the meantime, some of our other friends joined up with us. Afterwards, we filed the license with the county clerk so it is now official and legal, and all headed off to Rocky Falls for some more pictures. We had our wedding dinner in camp with carrot cake for our wedding cake. It could not have been more perfect for us. By then, we had the campground mostly to ourselves because of the weather. It was rainy most of the trip, but we were able to have a nice campfire Friday night. The dogwoods were in full bloom, as were the wild irises, columbine, and many other wildflowers.

During the night, heavy rain, thunder and lightning moved back in, but it was gone by morning. We broke camp on Saturday and headed back to Texas. I am very happy, and have a lot to smile about. I could not have had a more perfect proposal, engagement, wedding or honeymoon if I had thought it out and planned it ahead of time!

Jill Britt Thrash

In Honor of

ERIC ROUNSEFELL

With his passing on April 19th, we would like to reprint these memories by Marilyn Scholl of Eric, her companion since the summer of '82, and husband since '89, and friend to us.

Eric learned to canoe as a boy scout in the Cape Cod area of Massachusetts 55 years ago. His brother was usually at the front of the boat - brothers always have control issues. He discovered kayaks in the late '60's while in college at UNT. The love affair didn't last long. The position got to him quickly, and he went back to canoes.

The Brazos was his favorite place to paddle. Friends from UNT, HPI, Human Potential Institute, and the Ribber Rats were the companions of choice. Keeping the front canoe seat filled was more of a challenge. He had a reputation of getting to the take out after dark., not because he started late, but "Well it's only another 5 mile ..if we go to....", but then who fully remembers the 60's and early 70's.



In the early 80's he met Marilyn. She was a sucker for being outside, and paddling. She put up with the strange estimates on distance for a while. Each trip got them back home 11-12 pm on Sunday night. This she managed to stop, in a strange way. Eric had met Al Currie and John Pullman through the Ribber Rats, a group of East Dallas guys that included Eric's ex brother-in-law. John and Al attended a group at the Blue Ribbon BBQ called the Dallas Downriver Club. We attended one meeting and joined! Our trips became shorter...we got home earlier on Sunday nights.

The most exciting trip on the Brazos was in an aluminum canoe from Rochelle's near the PK dam. They swore there would be a water release that day. There wasn't, so we walked and paddled in puddles, the last few miles in the dark. Luckily, there was enough light to see the puddles..'cause why would we have flashlight- it was only 20 miles? Every so often a gar would hit the bottom of the canoe and scare the daylights out of us. Have you seen their teeth ?! On another occasion we did the 20 miles from the PK dam to Rochelle's in two hours at flood stage with John Pullman playing boy scout saving the women in overturned canoes who had never paddled before.

We rented canoes for years without any major problems, like having to replace them. The year we got married, Eric decided that he had a permanent paddling partner, so he could buy a boat. He spent months looking, and found the perfect boat, used. It was in our lives a short time, though - it was left beneath a log jam that Eric swam through on clear creek in Denton County! The second boat that was with us sank in the same place. The 5 of us walked out, missing sneakers, glasses and all the stuff in the drybags and buckets - this of course happened at dusk. The first car that

passed us drove us back to the car...he always believed that the car keys get pinned to the inside of the pocket. We must have looked pitiful, but we survived and got back some of the stuff the following day. We never saw either boat again.

In 1991 Hans Weichel announced a trip of 4 rivers in 4 days going up into Missouri. We signed up and began an adventure that has stayed with us - paddle 10-15 miles each day, drive to the next location, set up camp, take down camp, paddle all day, drive to the next location, set up camp. By the time we got home on Sunday night we had driven 1000 miles. Coming back home on 380 from Greenville, we changed drivers every 20 minutes to stay awake!

Rich Grayson announced a Thanksgiving trip on the Rio Grande leaving from Big Bend Park. It would have raft support - we didn't need raft support, just moral support as this was new territory. The Rio Grande at Thanksgiving became a yearly trip until 2005 when our lives changed drastically. The Big Bend area had the right connection of rocks, water and scenery that we never found anywhere else. It was a good thing we got there before Mexico and the US decided that rocks are part of the national treasure, especially the Mexican one resting in our yard.

Closer to home, Tahlequah, OK became what Broken Bow, and Smithville, OK had been 15 years earlier - an easy commute and easy camping. The Buffalo River became the Easter trip that we ran for years. You make friends over time that you can depend on, ones that help keep you alive - some with physical strength like Weldon Saunders, some strong characters that won't let you give up, some with strong river knowledge, some better cooks like Bryan Jackson, some just, well, people that you enjoy. The river creates your family, and, in some ways, becomes your church. Thank you for naming this race award for Eric. It will continue, we hope, a love of the river and paddling.

Texas Lakes Trail Trips

The trip to **Fort Parker State Park** went well; the usual suspects showed up. It rained hard on Friday into Saturday morning, but we headed out to the Navasota River at the Confederate Reunion Grounds. The grounds were serving as a bivouac for Civil War re-enactors and as the result of high water, we were told that the river was closed. Having never before seen a closed river, we proceeded down the next road that crossed the river and, low and behold, there it was. Since it had water in it, we decided that it really wasn't closed after all. So we paddled on down to the park, encountering no problems or park authorities, and enjoying a leisurely paddle.

Our next trip will be to **Lake Cleburne** on June 19-20th. Reserve a campsite soon, as the park is busy early in summer. We will paddle in the lake at the park or paddle the nearby Paluxy or Brazos River. There's lots of hiking and biking there, too. The area is very scenic and has lots to offer—Fossil Rim, Dinosaur Park, Hanson's award winning BBQ in Glen Rose. We need your continued interest to continue these worthwhile TX Lakes exploration trips! Plan on joining us soon. For more details, contact Tom Taylor at: 214-355-5058.

**The Official Newsletter of the
Dallas DownRiver Club**

P.O. Box 820246

Dallas, TX 75382

Postage

Next DDRC Meeting
Thursday 7:00 PM
May 21, 2009

BATH HOUSE
White Rock Lake

**DDRC Meetings are the
3rd Thursday of every
month.**

