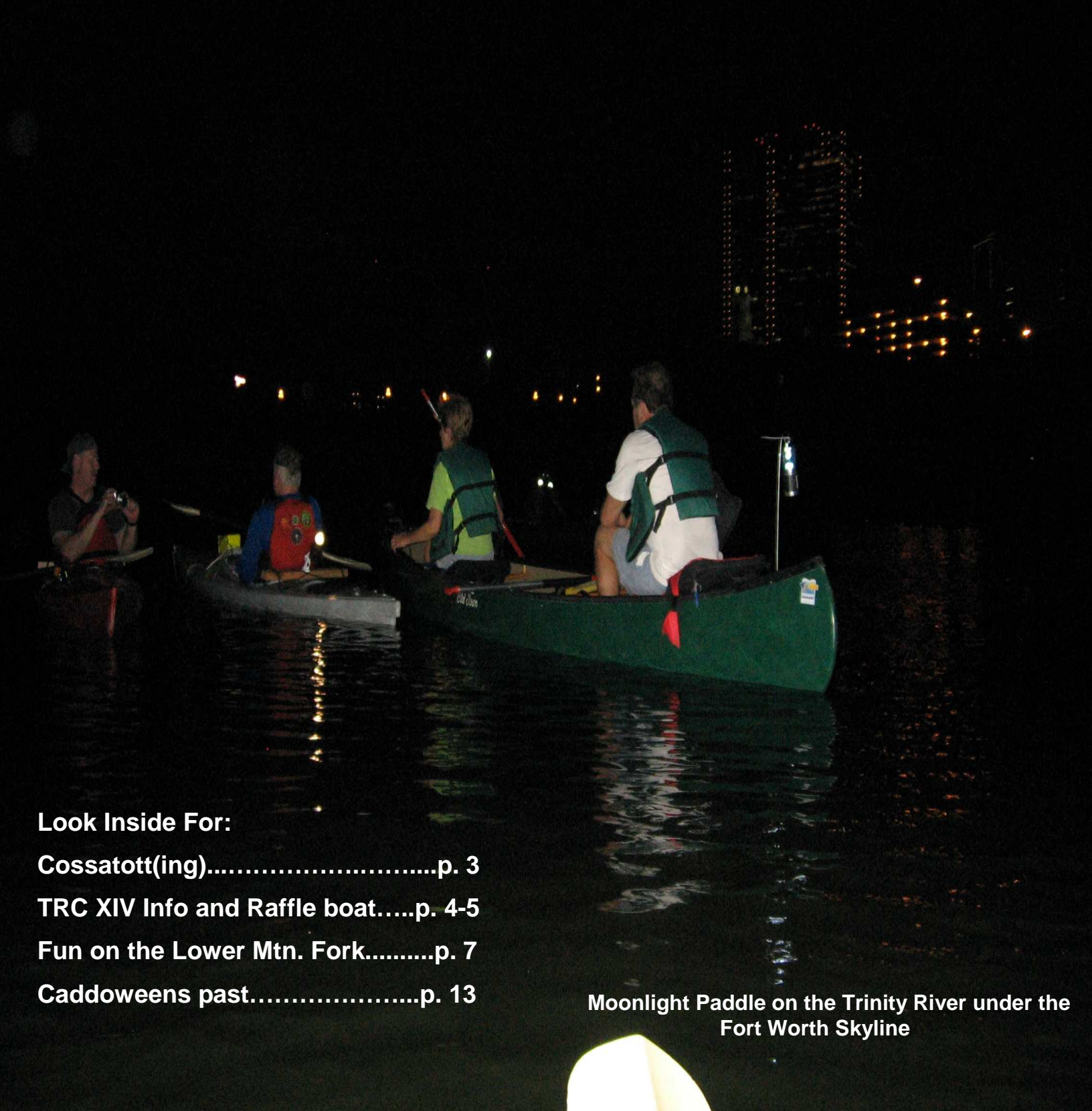


# The DDRC Current News

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



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Moonlight Paddle on the Trinity River under the  
Fort Worth Skyline

## Trips and Events

**September 17—Monthly Meeting** at the Circle Grill at the corner of Buckner and I-30.

**Friday evenings —Friday Night Flips** begin on October 23 at the Colony Aquatic Center (heated) pool, 5580 North Colony Blvd., and last 'til April 16th. Contact Dave Holl for more information (214-629-4794) or check: [www.kayakinstruct.com](http://www.kayakinstruct.com). Times are 7:30-9:30 and the pool fee is \$5.00.

**September 19—Watermelon Cleanup**— Be at the race site (McKinnish Park) at 9 am if you can to be a part of our fun, annual pre-race river cleanup. It's a great feeling to get the Trinity all spiffed up each year. Hot dogs will be ready shortly after you return from your "junk collection."

**September 26— Trinity River Challenge XIV**—McKinnish Park, Sandy Lake Road, Carrollton.

**October 3-4—Illinois River Trip**— Camping at **Sparrowhawk** on the river just off SH 10 in Oklahoma. Some will arrive on Friday, and we will paddle various parts of the river on Sat. and Sun. Camping is \$12 - car/night for up to 3 nights, so carpooling is encouraged. The potluck dinner entrée for Sat. night will be determined closer to the trip. Please contact Bryan Jackson (972-979-2519) if you plan on going—for any further details.

**October 15—Monthly Meeting** at the Circle Grill at the corner of Buckner and I-30.

**October 24-25— Caddoween Trip** to Goat Island on Caddo Lake. Just 2 hours west of Dallas, on Goat Island at Caddo Lake will be our annual Halloween Fest! Included are: tent decorating, costume, and pumpkin carving contests, a dutch-oven cookoff, trick-or-treating, a bonfire, and ghost stories. Please see our website for fees and other information. Hope to see you there.

**October 31— Halloween Urban Paddle**— Should be spooky and fun. Elm Fork of the Trinity River at the 380 Greenbelt, 10 am 'til lunch. Please look for an email or call Carolee Doty (214-649-410).

**November 19—Monthly Meeting** at the Circle Grill at the corner of Buckner and I-30.

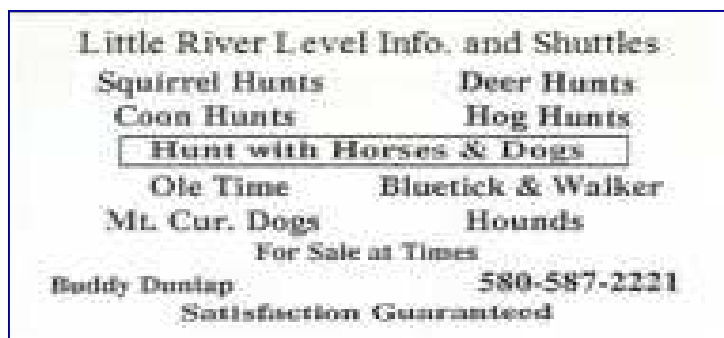
**November 21-29— Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande**—Please check the website or call Marc Mc Cord for more details.



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# Cossatot(ing)

by

Doug Bryans (Paris, TX)

Keith Smith and I drove to the Cossatot River near Wickes, AK in one of those rare August rainstorms. Keith's motor drowned out on I 30 due to water pooling on the highway, but we soon got it restarted and were on our way.

We found many Arkansas kayakers and even some rafts already on the river, which was running at 6 ft, with 4 ft being the optimum level.

We opted to run the upper "intermediate" section from Hwy 246 to Ed Banks Rd, which was pretty exciting at high water. Many big waves hit a kayaker right in the face. At the 246 put in, which is a very pretty little park built mainly for boaters by the State of Arkansas, we talked to some boaters who had just made the run down to 246. They said there was plenty of water as far up as Forest Rd. 71.

Many of the boaters were paddling those 6 to 7 ft play boats and were running Cossatot Falls, which was very pushy and powerful. One guy lost his boat and was stranded out on a rock in the river for a long time. He was reluctant to try to swim to the bank, which was about 25ft away, because of the swift currents. He was finally thrown a rope and was belayed while he made his way to the bank. Some boaters downriver managed to collect his kayak and paddle a ways down the river. It's not easy to get rescued once you have committed to running the falls. Many boaters have had to swim the entire falls before they could get out.

The "s's" were a 100 yd long wave train with all the rocks covered at high water. Keith scouted thoroughly and had no problem running it. Some boaters ran Baker Creek, a tributary of the Cossatot. This run contains several waterfalls, rock gardens and a fairly steep gradient. The factory rep. for New Wave kayaks from North Carolina was there showing off some new kayaks. He had been in Little Rock visiting one of his dealers and the store manager got him to come down to the river.

We saw many deer, several armadillos, some big water birds, a few dogs and, thankfully, no snakes – at least until I got home and saw one on my carport, maybe brought out by the heavy rain. For those who haven't been up there, Cossatot State Park and the new visitor center is a "must see".

**DDRC has purchased a Perception Blast recreational kayak for this year's raffle. Tickets are recession-busting prices of \$3.00 each, or 4 tickets for \$10.00 - what a deal! Tickets are available at all DDRC meetings or through the US Mail - send your check payable to:**  
**Dallas Downriver Club**

**I Want That Boat!  
PO Box 820246  
Dallas, TX 75382-0246.**

**Tickets will also be available on race day at the McInnish Park start/finish line. As always, proceeds from the raffle are donated to various charitable causes affiliated with river opportunities in Texas.**





## TRC XIV

Ok people, time to get to work! We have the Watermelon Cleanup and TRC XIV coming up quickly and there is plenty to be done. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered, and thanks in advance to those who will give their time. We have a few important milestones coming up.

**September 12** – We were supposed to have a tree trimming session on the Trinity to remove a few deadfalls that would have posed safety issues on race day. Due to rain, it didn't get done. Those who were to help can come at 8 am Sat., Watermelon cleanup day. Cleanup starts at 9 am.

**September 15** – Early Registration ended.

**September 19** - Watermelon Cleanup – This year we are teaming up with the Coastal Conservancy and Coca Cola's Dallas team to give the Trinity a good once over before the race. There is a LOT of trash out there, so let's be sure to have a good turnout. We will need about 6 tandem canoes for the Coke folks to use, so please let me know if you have an extra you can bring.

**September 25** – Set up day – Many of us will be arriving at McInnish Friday afternoon to begin setting up. Dave Harmon, Marc and I will be out there all night watching the smoker and keeping an eye on the gear. All are welcome to come hang out with us.

**September 26** – Race Day- Check in starts at 6:30 am, so we will need volunteers to start helping with parking and boat measuring early. We always seem to be a bit short handed by the time we start tearing down in the afternoon too, so if you can stay it would be appreciated.



**Daryl Tumbleson (972) 693-3239**

*Outdoor Adventure Begins Here!*



# Fort Worth Moonlight Float

By  
Carolee Doty

The last moonlight float of the season was held at the University Park area on the Trinity River in Fort Worth. It was the second moonlight skyline float there, and the crowd was good. Adding to our DDRC group was the Azle Way Children's Services. With them were some great kids who were good at learning to paddle. Others joined us who were new to the DDRC. We hope they come again soon.

The picnic was fun, and the temperature, warm, of course. We put in down the bank, and some of us tried the play chute built there by the city, which was fun. As the moon came up, we found ourselves in the lee of a beautiful skyline. One large, building has the entire top floor just for inside lighting—interesting and effective. Temperatures cooled off and there was a slight breeze which made paddling very pleasant. The arched bridges we paddled under on the way back framed several of the tall buildings. Hopefully, you can enjoy one of our moonlight paddles next summer. We have added local ones to our Whitney Dam tradition.



# FRIENDS OF THE BRAZOS RIVER

INVITE YOU TO A FUND-RAISING DINNER  
AT THE SCENIC M & W RANCH NEAR GLEN ROSE ON THE BRAZOS RIVER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2009

5:30 – 7:00 P.M. SILENT AUCTION, BEER, WINE AND APPETIZERS

7:00 P.M. SOUTHWESTERN STYLE DINNER

\$30 PER PERSON  
\$50 PER COUPLE



SOUTHWEST DINNER AND  
APPETIZERS DONATED BY  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Ed Lowe AT 214-802-6811, [EDLOWE@CELEBRATIONRESTAURANT.COM](mailto:EDLOWE@CELEBRATIONRESTAURANT.COM)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.FRIENDS OF THE BRAZOS.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDS OF THE BRAZOS.ORG)



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NEMO, TEXAS 76070  
254-897-4262



**SAVE THE DATE  
CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
GEORGE ERIC ROUNSEFELL**

WHEN: SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2009

WHERE; TEXAS VOICE PROJECT  
500 N. COIT RD. (SOUTH OF ARAPAHO)  
RICHARDSON, TX 75080

DEAR FRIENDS,

I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST YOUR ATTENDANCE AT A CELEBRATION OF LIFE, "BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR ERIC ON SATURDAY THE 7 OF NOVEMBER. ON MONDAY HE WOULD HAVE BEEN 67. YOU ARE ALL AWARE HOW MUCH HE ENJOYED THE PARTIES OVER THE YEARS, ESPECIALLY IF IT INCLUDED FOOD. THAT WAS SHARED.

I ASK THAT YOU BRING SOME FOOD THAT ERIC LIKED TO SHARE WITH THE OTHERS THAT ARE EXPECTED. ALONG WITH STORIES, PHOTOS, OR MUSIC. THESE WERE PART OF HIS LIFE AS YOU ALL WERE.

BY NOVEMBER 7 HIS ASHES WILL HAVE BEEN SPREAD PER HIS WISHES ON ALL THE RIVERS WE HAVE BEEN ON OVER THE LAST 27 YEARS

THERE HAVE BEEN TO MANY SAD OCCASIONS THIS YEAR THIS NEEDS TO BE A TRUE PARTY, WITH LAUGHTER, SMILES, MUSIC, MEMORIES, AND LOTS OF HUGS FOR EVERYONE THERE. FOR HE IS TRULY BEYOND SUFFERING.

MARILYN SCHOLL  
[MARILYN.SCHOLL@YAHOO.COM](mailto:MARILYN.SCHOLL@YAHOO.COM)  
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## LABOR DAY ON THE LOWER MTN. FORK



Over 30 boats were present for the annual over-night trip on this popular river. Among the paddlers were the young, the young-at-heart, the more and less experienced, the regulars, some new folks, and some from DFW paddlers. Word is that there were more people than any time since 1996. The first night, camping was like a big family reunion. There were several tents set up in the camping area and many more in the field next to it. The picnic tables were packed with food and kids were running around

with lizards and frogs. Thunder threatened but no one was worried and it didn't rain more than a few drops. Leisurely paddling each day left lots of time for swinging on rope swings (off of a wooden 'tower'), floating down rapids in PFDs, and catching fish. (Rob's boys caught at least 9) The second night, tents were able to spread out more. Small groups stayed together but with plenty of visiting and playing in the fast moving current that ran around the



back of one of the islands. Marc was the only one who set up on the other side of the current, so he didn't get many visitors. The weather was great for paddling during the entire trip (good thing it wasn't this past weekend!), adding to a very enjoyable experience. You may just want to plan vacation time next year for this relaxing time with family and friends.

# Summer Releases on the Lower Mountain Fork

by Bryan Jackson

This summer, we took two trips to the Lower Mountain Fork to catch the evening power generating release from Broken Bow Dam. Our hit/miss average is only about .500 this year, but we still had lots of fun. The first trip in late July found us arriving at Mountain Fork Park just as the horn sounded for the second time, signifying that additional water was being released from the dam.

By the time we returned from running our first shuttle, the rocks below the reregulation dam were just beginning to be covered by the rising flow. Since this is not quite enough to get down through the middle of the river to Presbyterian Falls, we opted to go down river left and run the chute that pops back into the main river right at the falls. It was fun, but we could see the center of the river starting to fill in, so we paddled out as fast as we could, moved our vehicles to a take out point right at the falls and hurried back to the top to do it all over.

We already had an additional two feet of water by the time we started the second run, so we made our way down river right and caught some of the twisty turnie riffles and drops that lead up to Bubba, the big pile of boulders that resides right in the middle of the run. The current was kind of pushy by the time we got to it and the normal drop right at Bubba was already covered, but there was a huge pillow of water on a boulder just to the left of Bubba that looked from the upriver side like a small tidal wave. Nancy, Tom and I approached it cautiously and found a line right along the right side of the pillow. Nancy went in first and just kind of disappeared for a few seconds as there was a fairly sizeable drop on the other side of the boulder and then a washing machine of waves as the water from each side and the top of the boulder merged back together. Beyond that was another small drop with a bunch of waves. It was a blast. Tom and I had to stop at the bottom and drain our boats and by then Marc and Doug had caught back up to us. They had been pushed way to the right up by Bubba before they realized that it was covered and then could not get back to the middle.

It was starting to get dark by then, so Doug, Nancy and I started dragging boats back up the trail so we could get another run down the chute in before we had to call it a night. If you have been in the chute when the water is low, you know that the water is very clear and there is very little drop off to the banks. Well, when the water is deep it is still very clear and the water rises to higher points on the bank that LOOK just like they do when the water is low; but, as I found out, the water is much deeper, like 6 or so feet in some places, particularly in the place where I tried to hop back into the river. Good thing I still had my helmet on as I bashed my head on the bow of my boat as I was falling in. Eventually, I did get my second crack at the chute, had a great time and we all packed up and headed home.

A few weeks later we made a second attempt. There had been releases every day for weeks and even though the Corps of Engineers had no release scheduled for this particular Sunday, we decided to try anyway since there had been no release scheduled the previous day and they had still generated. Temps were in the high 80's and low 90's as we made our way up there, not a good sign if you are hoping for a supplemental generation release, but we were not discouraged. We stopped at WW Canoe and Kayak on the way to the rereg dam and Neil told us



After we unloaded , we decided to put as many vehicles down on the “new road” as we could so that we could shuttle a couple of times quickly. Doug, Marc, Larry and I set off down the new road and quickly found it to be less than optimum for the passage of low ground clearance vehicles. In English, that means we got Larry’s car stuck in a mud puddle. After an attempt to extract it with Doug’s jeep, we came to realize that we would need a tad more pulling power and a stouter cable or rope. We hopped in Doug’s jeep and went back and found Neil just getting ready to call it a day at WW. He immediately offered to bring his tractor down and get Larry out. Thirty or so minutes later, with Larry’s car out of the mire, (did I mention that Ford Taurus’s are not 100% waterproof) we decided to move all the vehicles down to Ambush Adventures so that we did not have a late night repeat of a stuck vehicle.

All this towing and driving burned up valuable time. On top of that there was no release, so we decided we would only get in one run that evening. There was quite a bit of water for a day with no actual release, but it was still bony. Marc, Tim and Morrie decided to take a crack at the chute and had a pretty good run. Morrie’s boat must have been quite dirty that evening. I noticed that he was constantly turning it over to rinse it out. Seems like he finally got it clean just below Presbyterian Falls.

At the top of the chute just before I turned to the right to head down into the middle of the river, I distinctly told everyone not to follow me. I guess no one heard me. Doug, Jaws and Dianne followed me down a couple of bumpy drops into Bill’s Rapid and Bubba, both of which were runnable. Although not quite as much fun as the previous expedition, it was nice to be out enjoying the cool air with good friends. Quite a bit of snoozing was going on in my vehicle on the way back to Dallas. As Al Currie is quick to point out, “its hard work having fun”.

Hope you can join us the next time! Here are a few tips to make sure that your trip to catch an evening release will not be in vain :

1. High afternoon temperatures- That translates to high electric demand. Look for temps in the mid to high 90’s minimum.
2. Go on a weekday- The Corps generally tries to keep from having to run the generators at Broken Bow on the weekend due to the large amount of tourism on the LMF. That means Saturdays and Sundays are going to be a crap shoot.
3. Check the websites. The Corps publishes a schedule of planned releases and it is normally very accurate. There is also a recorded phone message that is updated daily where you can get the info if you do not happen to have mobile internet access. Also go to the USGS gauge on the web for the Mountain Fork at Eagletown, OK. You can easily see on the graph how the releases have been running.







## *Caddoween Fun*



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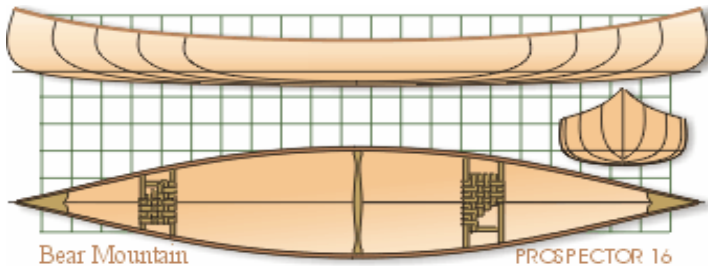
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**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION** of articles, announcements, events, trips, etc. is the 1st Thursday of the month. It is on a come first served basis therefore sooner is better.

**DDRC BOARD MEETINGS** are held every **second Tuesday** of the month - **7:00pm** @ Dale Harris' house in Richardson. All members are welcome to attend to learn more about club business.

## STOCK UP AND SHIP OUT!

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

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The Official Newsletter of the  
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Postage

**Next DDRC Meeting**  
**Thursday 7:00 PM**  
**September 17, 2009**

**CIRCLE GRILL**

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

