

The DDRC Current News

Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club—Visit our website at [www. down-river.com](http://www.down-river.com) March/April '10



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Trips and Events

Friday evenings —Friday Night Flips at the Colony Aquatic Center (heated) pool, 5580 North Colony Blvd., last 'til April 16th. Contact Dave Holl for more information (972-412-7691) or check: www.kayakinstruct.com. Times are 7:30-9:30 and the pool fee is \$5.00.

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

April 17-18— South Llano River Trip—Camping at South Llano River State Park and paddling the adjacent South Llano River 11.2 miles on Saturday and a shorter run on Sunday call Sam Sloan (214-957-9374) for details.

April 24— Urban Paddle and Potluck Adventure Location TBD Watch your email.

May 1, 2— Medina River Cleanup We will be camping at the Pioneer RV Resort in Banderita. We will do the Cleanup on Saturday and try to get a run in on Sunday before coming home, water and weather permitting. Contact Bryan Jackson president@down-river.com or (972) 979-2519 for More info.

May 15-23— Buffalo National River There is still time to make the April 15 deadline to confirm for Marc's Buffalo River Trip. For More info contact Marc at Canoe-man@canoeman.com or (214) 998-4922

May 20— Annual Meeting at White Rock Lake We will gather at the Bath House Cultural Center on the east side of the lake, have a very casual meeting, maybe a little something to eat, then take a paddle on the lake to watch the sun go down.

May 29-31— Memorial Day Trip The current plan is to put in at Ambush Adventures on the Lower Mountain Fork on Saturday and spend two nights on the river, taking out at Horatio, Ar on Monday around noon. Emails will follow closer to the date of the trip.

June, July and August— Moonlight Floats The June 26th Float will be in Fort Worth at Trinity Park. We will have our picnic before we paddle so plan on meeting at the park around 6 and putting in around 7:30 or so. The locations of the July 24th and August 21st Floats will be determined later.

Summer Nights— Lower Mountain Fork Releases Watch your email if its hot and they are going to generate power at Broken Bow Dam, we will head up for a little twilight playtime.

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Mission Accomplished! Canoe Rescue a success and nobody got hurt!

One of the casualties of the March cleanup on the San Marcos, was Robert Pitt's canoe, which we were forced to abandon retrieval efforts on the day of the cleanup due to darkness. It was pinned under a big tree under water and we just could not budge it with what we had with us. Unfortunately it was not the only boat pinned that day and we had a tough time trying to round up enough rescuers for an attempt Sunday, so we promised to come back the following weekend and get it out.

We managed to get a pretty good group up for the following Saturday and set off from Staples Dam, loaded with a chain saw, and all manner of tools, ropes and pulleys. Robert, unsure of the condition that we might find his boat in, brought almost enough parts to build a new one from scratch.

The boat was right where we left it under a tree in a very swift moving bend in the river. Ropes were attached and after a few attempts to move the canoe, it was clear that the tree had to be cut off of it. This meant that two people would have to ferry over in a canoe and one hang on to the tree while the other cut it at a point that would allow it to float off of the canoe. Very risky biz, but fortunately for us Chuck Babb, one of, if not the most experienced swift water rescue men in Texas was along for the trip. We loaded up his OT Tripper with all the needed gear and chain saw man Tim Stanton and off they went.

Chuck handled his boat like he was sitting on a flat pond and effortlessly got into position. After trimming a few limbs to get the boat in closer and a little education in "exactly how do you start a 16' chainsaw while sitting in the bow seat of a canoe in heavy current" the cutting began, the tree broke loose and I thought for sure that it would take out the canoe on the way past but Chuck again made a few strokes and the Tripper slid right out of the way.

Ok, no tree holding it, so the canoe should pop right up like a cork,,, wrong! It was somehow stuck to the bottom and took a bout three of us tugging on the ropes to break it loose. It did finally come up though. Damage was minimal and Robert was able to pound out the creases, replace a few parts and drive it home.



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Easter Week on the Buffalo

By Scott and Tina Weinert

Man, it was a great weekend! Tina and I put in on the Buffalo R. at Ponca last Tuesday. The weather and the water were perfect.

Friday was WINDY and by Friday night it started to rain. I can't tell you how long it lasted ... seemed like all night. I can say that when we got out of the tent the next morning, the river was UP! Like four feet. I put a stick in at the water's edge when I first came out of the tent. By the time we had breakfast and packed, the water had come up another six inches up that stick. After the trip I looked at the gauge for St. Joe. It crested Saturday at 10.5. CFS went from 1500 ish to 5000 ish. SW Paddler recommends getting off the river at 9 feet.

Not like we knew any of this, we were on river time, and flying without all that techno info stuff. Besides, our car was in Tyler Bend. Not much choice but get after it. What a rush. There isn't anything like rapids

involving rocks down past Pruitt. What there is at that water level are trees, trees, and more trees. At most bends the river was rushing over the inside of the curve, and through the new growth saplings. Sometimes it was easy to tell where the true channel went, some times it wasn't. All this at float speed of



around 6 mph. The other thing that made this tricky was just how much noise the water was making going through the woods. Usually if there is something exciting around a bend, I can hear it first, and then see it.



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CAMPING CABINS CANOE RENTALS SHUTTLES

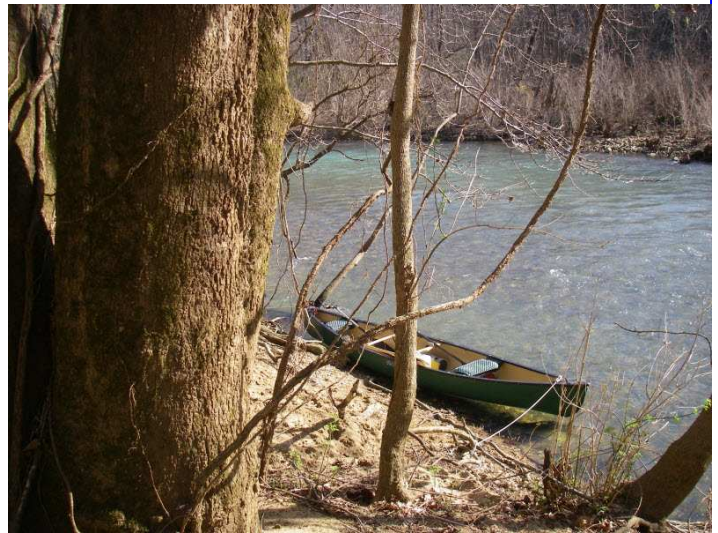


Not this time! The other challenge was when the river couldn't find a way to bleed off pressure through a bend or confluence with a big creek. Talk about waves. Just south off Mt Hershey we ran several hundred feet of just monster haystacks. Way bigger than the bow of the boat. If it wasn't for a narrow slice of water between the trees and the haystacks, we would have been swamped for sure. That was the sort

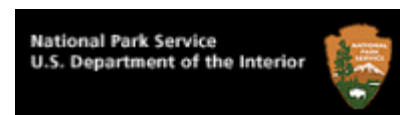
of hairy part. Really most of the trip delivered the spectacular and serene paddling the Buffalo is famous for.



Saturday morning after the rain



I love how clear the water is. It looks like the bow is suspended over the water, but it isn't. Its just tied up and waiting to go.



Big Time on the Mulberry and Big Piney

I guess sooner or later you're bound to catch a break on Easter Weekend. We have endured snow storms, tornadoes, tents blowing away, canoes blowing away and ravenous raccoons. We have had to change destinations at the last minute quite a few times due to water being too high or too low. I was beginning to think we should just give up and stay home, but I am very glad that we gave Easter one more try.

I had been watching the gauges and the weather for a month before the trip to the Mulberry and Big Piney. Both were running at great levels peaking the week before our trip at levels around 4 feet. Then they started falling like a rock and to make matters worse the forecasted rain was getting less by the day. I finally just stopped looking. "We've done it lower before", I said to myself and vowed to make the best of it.

Thursday was just about a perfect spring day as you could imagine, sunny and 70 degrees. It made the 6 hour drive up to Long Pool Campground fly right by. When we arrived we were surprised to find that we were the only group using the entire campground. We grabbed three campsites overlooking the Big Piney and got camp set up and dinner on the coals before dark. Then after consuming the largest Chicken Pot Pie I have ever made, we sat back and watched the moon rise and the creek fall.

Friday was our day on the Big Piney. Moore's Outdoor, right by the park said that the creek was still running at a little over 3ft. This was much better than the last time we were up there, but not the raging torrent that we were expecting. After our usual Chinese Fire Drill on the back roads of Arkansas, we finally got on the right road up to Helton's farm, got loaded up and set off down the river.

The trip down was fun, plenty of class I and I+ with a few II's scattered in. The day was gorgeous and warm, but the water was freezing. We all stopped and scouted Cascades of Extinction, then everyone ran it one at a time while we took pictures. It was a good run, but it seemed to me like we had caught at one of those "in between" levels where the stuff that's good when the water is low is kind of covered up and the stuff that's good when the water is high didn't quite have enough flow. Not that anyone was disappointed mind you, we had been expecting way less flow. We got back to Long Pool bay about 3:30 after setting a brisk pace of almost 4mph over the 11 miles.

And it was a darn good thing we got in early. By 5:30 all that rain we had been promised was finally delivered. It kept on pouring for hours, so we moved our cooking stuff over to the big picnic pavilion in the park and had a relatively dry dinner. Unfortunately, some folks tents did not fare as well in the rain, so the sleepin' was a mite soggy. Dave Harmon, never even got a chance to set up his tent up and ended up spending the night on a picnic table under the pavilion.

The rain stopped around midnight and all the clouds were gone by morning leaving us with another story book day and the Long Pool Gauge reading close to 6.5 ft. We packed up headed out for the Mulberry, which is about an hour away from Long Pool. We were hoping the Mulberry had gotten a taste of the previous nights rain as well.

We rolled into Turner Bend and found the gauge clocking at 5.5ft and Turner's only putting rafts on due to high water. We ran a shuttle up to High Bank Public Access and prepared to put in.

The first thing I noticed was that the river was moving and especially at the put in that the current was bank to bank. Once you put your bow in the water, you were gone. Nothing was less than a class II the rest of the day, with everything sporting huge standing wave trains, some going for the better part of a quarter mile and swirling currents and eddies that were just waiting for you to make a wrong move. One got Tim Stanton as he tried to get away from an eddy line that sent you right into a rocky cliff face. Pat Chamberlain waited until she had an audience, and flipped right in front of the scenic overlook on Hwy 215 amid several cars full of onlookers. That one is on video tape and will be coming to a meeting in the near future. We did about 11 miles all told and it really gave us quite a workout, but everyone was still wishing that we had started a couple of miles farther up river. It would have been worth the pain.

As usual our swift water rescue training was put to good use, helping a couple of kayakers out in the river without proper gear. Both had spent considerable time in the water before we arrived on the scene. We manage to corral their boats and get them over to shore safely.

We made our way back to Turner Bend by 4:30 and had our boats taken off the river by way of their "ski lift". It was the consensus of all who made the run that it was probably the most fun run we have made on any river in recent history.



Tim demonstrates his backwards paddling prowess at the Cascades of Extinction

When we arrived back at camp, we started preparing for our Easter Potluck. Rabbit Cacciatore, fresh asparagus, sautéed zucchini and Mexican squash, Au Gratin potatoes and to top it off a nice slice of red velvet cake. Quite the feast. Given the days activity and the load of food, not too many lasted past about 10 pm around the fire.

You just couldn't leave on Sunday after the ride we had the previous day without at least paddling a few more miles. The gage at Long Pool still read close to 5ft, so we decide to go from Long Pool to the 165 bridge. The five mile run was again quite a bit

Of fun. Big standing waves again along with seriously moving current. We made the run in about 45 minutes including a stop to pull David Harmon out of the drink. This particular section would probably have been even better had the level been just a bit lower. Moore Outdoor had a great takeout just below the bridge and we were loaded up and back at camp by 11am.

It took us quite a while to get packed up. Everything was soaked between the rain on Friday and three days of paddling. Tim commented that it looked like I was having a yard sale in front of my tent. We were on the road by about 1pm and like clockwork as soon as we drove down from the mountain into Russellville, in came the clouds and we drove home through showers on and off. I guess you do get the breaks every now and then.

We are definitely going back, hope you can make it next time.



Marc McCord at the Cascades of Extinction

2010 Clean Up Schedule

May 1	Medina River
July 24	Upper Guadalupe River
Sept. 18	Trinity River

Getting involved with river clean ups is an easy way to make a meaningful contribution to the environment. You can also make every river trip, walk or bike ride a clean up by just carrying a litter bag with you.

Mountain Sports

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Who's this handsome devil?



David approaching the left side of Little Mother



Karen Lowe showing Little Mother who's boss



David heading for Big Mother



Pat getting some "airtime"



Big Mother strikes again!

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Club Bulletin Board

Committee Chairs are needed for 2010. Currently open are Trip Coordinator and TRC Raffles and Donations. Please contact Bryan if you can fill one of these.

For Sale

Prijon Topalino WW Kayak—Rand Oliver 972-962-4847

Prijon Invader WW Kayak—Rand Oliver 972-962-4847

Kevlar Dagger Genesis WW Canoe— Bruce Walker 210-621-3039

Royalex Dagger Ovation WW Canoe— Bruce Walker 210-621-3039

Newsletter Content Needed

This is YOUR newsletter, and if you want to have something to read in the May June Edition, you have better get out there and do some paddling, take some photos, then go home and write about it. It would be nice to read something from somebody different for a change (not that I'm not my favorite author, but then its not fun for me either). Submission deadline for the May-June Edition will be May 15. That's plenty of time, so no excuses. Get out ther and get us some good reading material!

2010 membership dues are now due. Please verify that your mailing address, Phone and Email on our roster is correct when you pay your dues.



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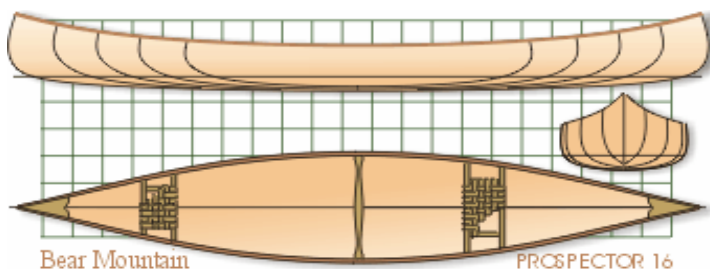
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Newsletter Ad Rates

Type of Ad	Per Insertion	Annually
Business Cards (member)	5.00	50.00
Business Cards (non-members)	12.50	125.00
1/4 Page display	20.00	200.00
1/3 Page display	30.00	300.00
1/2 Page display	35.00	350.00
Full Page display	50.00	500.00

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 the **second Tuesday** of the month - **7:00pm**. 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.

We carry a wide assortment of kayaks and canoes from Ocean Kayak, Perception, Dagger, Old Town, Wildnerness 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.



Not sure what type of boat you want? Come by our rental department and take one out for the weekend.

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The Official Newsletter of the
Dallas DownRiver Club

P.O. Box 820246

Dallas, TX 75382

Postage

Next DDRC Meeting:

**Thursday,
April 15, 2010
7 pm**

CIRCLE GRILL

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

