

# The DDRC Current News

Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club—Visit our website at [www.down-river.org](http://www.down-river.org)

February 2001



## Special points of interest:

- The Deadline for next month's newsletter is February 28. Contact Susan Harkins at 972-470-0195 or via email at: [shark@ethos.net](mailto:shark@ethos.net). Please send articles, upcoming trips, boating tips and information.
- DDRC board meetings are held every second Thursday. All members are welcome to attend to learn more about club business. Contact club President Alan Tittle at 972-727-3586 or [ATatDDRC@aol.com](mailto:ATatDDRC@aol.com) for time and location.



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## President's Column

*Alan Tittle—DDRC President*

How do you make paddling trips easy? We have had key trip leaders leave the area in recent years, and there is a need to re-build that leadership from within.

For all of the routine duties of the President, I will keep one key theme: activate leadership in trips. It seems to be tough to encourage people to take on leadership responsibilities. While it can be a significant effort, it does not need to be. We can break it down into the basics or follow a check list. Personally I am a newbie at it. Last year I made my first foray into leading trips and events, with an Easter trip to the Buffalo National River and with the Trinity River Challenge. Each

was surprisingly easy by initiating planning and recruiting early.

In the February meeting I hope we can announce at least one additional class I and one additional class II-III trip as well as initiate planning on at least 4 other trips. Each of you can come up with a location you would return or would like to go. Each table group in our meeting room could come up with two trips each. Picture your last great trip and what made it great; your skill development, scenery, friendship, serenity. Where did the sounds of the river begin to made an impression on you; was there another event on that trip that accompanied that feeling? When you paddle do you feel the water; when did you

*Continued on Page 4*

## Agenda for the Feb. Meeting



Come to the February 15th meeting to participate in some trip planning.

Bring trip suggestions you have enjoyed and those you would like to go on. Also bring suggestions for future pro-

grams you can give or would like to see.

**Feb 15 Meeting Agenda:**  
Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

Introductions

New members & visitors

Raffle teaser

Trip planning and social

Trip reports

Trip announcements

Environmental reports

Membership news

Old Business

New Business

Social, Raffle tickets go on sale  
Raffle Program

Meeting close

## Annual Dues are REALLY Due!!!

Annual dues are past due if not already paid. \$20 deliverable at meetings or to club PO Box. If you don't renew, your last *and we mean last* newsletter will be the March newsletter!!!



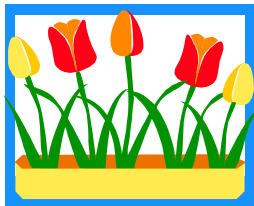
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Next Meeting:  
 Thursday, February 15, 2001.  
 Enchilada's Restaurant, 6526 E.  
 Northwest Hwy

See you there!



## Upcoming Spring Trips march 24th, 15th, April 13th

**Dates: March 24,25 Brazos River near Glen Rose.**

Camping at Dinosaur Valley State Park and spending the weekend paddling the Brazos is the perfect remedy for that bad case of cabin fever. For more info contact Jerry Johnson (817) 267 5375 email: [jjohnsn@airmail.net](mailto:jjohnsn@airmail.net), or Bryan Jackson (214) 704 6173 email: [Hollow-creek@sprintmail.com](mailto:Hollow-creek@sprintmail.com)

**Easter weekend, Fri. April 13—15 Big Piney and/or Mulberry River in Arkansas.**

For experienced class III paddlers. The Big Piney is a remote paddle, mostly class II with technical class III segments. 10-14 miles daily with several stops for playboating. Shuttle daily from base camp, shuttle service to be arranged on Big Piney.

More details later. Contact Alan Tittle 972-727-3586 or email at [ATatDDRC@aol.com](mailto:ATatDDRC@aol.com)



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We're shredding our way to the 21st century!

## Trophy for Most Miles Paddled in 2000

Its time once again for our annual Most Miles Trophy. This trophy, awarded every year for the male and female with the most miles paddled in the year, will be given at our March 15th meeting.

Please update your paddling records and either bring to the February 15th meeting or mail to our DDRC address: no later than March 6.



Qualifications must include:

- Date
- River/Lake Segments
- Paddle or Row
- Number of Miles
- Any witnesses paddling with you.

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## Help! Our Library Needs Materials

The Club Librarian, Eric Rounsefell, is asking for your help. If you have any videos, books, etc. that belong to our DDRC Library, please return them!. Also, we need donations of books and video tapes about water sports, gear and travel books to help with leading and participating in river trips. Also, if you have any books on tape, or other kinds of interesting audio tapes that you have finished listening to that might help ease the boredom on those long shuttles, or long drives to your favorite paddling spots, please donate them to the club also. If you have any questions, contact Eric.

### Editor's Note:

Please think about the March Newsletter. I need articles. Please write them if you can, or send as much information as possible. It helps if you send articles, though. I can edit them, but typing ALL of the information is very time consuming! Spring and Summer are coming, so if you know of any future trips, even in May or June, Please let me know.  
Thanks, Susan

*Continued from Page 1*

begin to really develop a feel for paddling?

To make trips easier still we can team up with others to assist in trip leadership responsibilities. For example, the two main tasks are coordinating a venue and filling a roster.

The venue is simplified by a leader experienced with the rivers of interest. If the class of river is well within your paddling skills and those to whom the roster is open, experience with a particular river is less important. Regardless of experience it is good to check with the local outfitters to assure that there are no surprise conditions.

The roster leader can focus on announcements and *most* other roster communications. The venue leader would relay specifics of the trip to be communicated by the roster leader.

The key venue items that need to be communicated are: dates, river selection, paddling class, paddle length (miles), duration (hours), pace, paddling intent (cruise or work the play spots), special gear (cold weather, cold water), camping arrangements, eating arrangements, and shuttle plans. These and other items

will not always be communicated as most of us are experienced which leads to spontaneity and expect to be independent in our provisions.

There are many good resources for trip planning. By linking to our web site and searching the organizations you can find some great advice. Everyone should become familiar with the Safety Code of American Whitewater, even if you never plan on being a whitewater enthusiast. That is the basis for virtually all other trip and event planning for other organizations. The American Canoe Association (ACA), with its focus on recreational paddling, has a good event planning checklist that can be tailored for simple paddles or race events.

One of our former trip leaders advised a group of us once that she lead trips because that is how she got to take trips. Let's take that into account and help each other out, sharing leadership with or at least some responsibilities with our trip leaders. We will all paddle more and have better trips for it.

Come out to the February 15th meeting. LETS PLAN TRIPS

## Drought Exposes Ancient Canoes

The Associated Press, Saturday June 3, 2000. (Reprinted from Big Thicket Voyageurs Newsletter)

**GAINESVILLE, FLA.** Researchers are working quickly to document the finding of more than 20 ancient Indian Canoes at the bottom of a lake. The canoes were discovered by high school students... at Newman's Lake, where the water level has dropped because of a recent dry spell.

A team from the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research is taking measurements and looking for clues to how the canoes were built. They will also take samples to determine the type of trees used and may do radiocarbon testing to determine their exact age.

When the documentation is complete, the canoes will be reburied in the lake bottom. Otherwise, they could crumble in a matter of days if left exposed to the air and sun, archaeologist Melissa Memory said. Data collected will be added to that of more than 300 canoes already documented, said James Levy, the bureau's historic conservator.

The canoes are up to 22 feet long, with pointed sterns and rounded bows. They are believed to be between 500 and 3,000 years old and were probably used a fishing boats.

## Condors Re-released, Grand Canyon

**Grand Canyon**—(Reprint from the Adobe Whitewater Club of New Mexico Newsletter)

Sixteen California condors will be re-released following treatment for lead poisoning. This past April and May, five condors died from ingesting lead shot and fragments of various sizes after feeding on carrion in the vicinity of the park. When the birds began showing signs of poisoning, capture efforts were undertaken by the park in order to conduct blood analyses and begin treatment. Each of the condors had nearly lethal doses of lead in its system and had suffered from extreme weight loss. An meeting was held with various agencies, including the Peregrine Fund and the State wildlife agency to come up with a strategy for re-release and investigation into the poisoning.

The condors have regained their former weight levels; blood analyses show that lead levels are now low. Park biologists will be working closely with FWS and the Peregrine Fund to monitor the birds' activities and feeding locations. Although this has been a slight setback for the recovery program., the re-release of 16 healthy birds provides hope and encouragement that California condors will remain a permanent fixture in the skies over the Colorado River. Editor's Note: For a wonderful book on the re-release of Peregrine Falcons, Read: *The Rites of Autumn*, by Dan O'Brien

**February Schedule of Events**

- **Every Friday Night**—Eskimo Roll Classes for Kayaks and Canoes, Beginning Jan 27 through April 13th @ 7 PM in The Colony. Contact Arnie Blatt:  
W) 972.250.7158  
H) 972.416.9194
- **Every Saturday Night**—**Kayak Polo** At 7:30 in The Colony, through April 28th. Contact David Lamb: thelambs@flash.net
- **Feb 10-11 Sat and Sun**—Kayak Polo Junior Camp, The Colony Aquatic Center. Participant must be USACK members.

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W) 972.250.7158 / H) 972.416.9194
- **Every Saturday Night**—Kayak Polo At 7:30 in The Colony, through April 28th. Contact David Lamb: thelambs@flash.net
- **Mar 24-25 Sat and Sun**—*Camping at Dinosaur Valley State Park.* For more info contact Jerry Johnson 817.267.5375 email jjohnsn@airmail.net or Bryan Jackson at 214.704.6173 email Hollowcreek@sprintmail.com



# March 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Roll Classes	3 Kayak Polo
4	5	6	7	8	9 Roll Classes	10 Kayak Polo
11	12	13	14	15	16 Roll Classes	17 Kayak Polo
18	19	20	21	22	23 Roll Classes	24 Kayak Polo Brazos Trip
25 Brazos Trip	26	27	28	29	30 Roll Classes	31 Kayak Polo

As a participant in any DDRC activity, an individual assumes the responsibility of evaluating all inherent risks before participating and assumes any risk of death or injury inherent in the sport. The participant waives claims that may arise against the club, its officers, members, servants, agents and/or trip coordinators, for death or injury to person or property, including claims of vicarious liability and claims arising from civil recklessness or any degree of negligence. Not waived are claims against an individual who causes injury intentionally or with criminal recklessness and claims among driver, owner and passengers of a motor vehicle for injuries.

## OPPORTUNITY TO OWN ACCESS TO HIDALGO FALLS

Reprinted from Steve Daniel 979-846-4649

As some of you know, for years Hidalgo Falls has been a favorite destination of paddlers in southeast Texas, especially the Houston, College Station, Waco, and Austin areas. Boaters from as far away as Dallas and Lafayette, Louisiana have made the trek to this 200-yard-long rapid west of Navasota to play in the numerous surf spots and holes, practice pirouettes and flat spins, learn how to surf the occasionally five-foot high waves, or just feel the thrill of going down the 30-foot Slide into the Brazos River.

When just about everything else is too low to run during the summer, Hidalgo Falls usually has had something worth checking out. That is why over the years paddlers (especially from Houston and College Station) have thought of Hidalgo Falls as their home white-water playspot.

Tanie Orlando owned the property (Brazos River Resort) from which we accessed Hidalgo Falls. He would sit at the entrance to the property to collect a dollar per car and would mow the grass periodically. As long as Tanie was there, so were the river and the rapid. Last summer's drought was the lowest the river had ever been since Tanie bought the property back in the 1950s, so very few boaters went out there. I took only two trips there all summer, mainly to see what it looked like, hardly to paddle... As it turned out, it was Tanie's last summer. In September Tanie died. His heirs (three sons and an ex-wife) locked the gate to the property and decided to end permanently the decades-old public access to the river at the spot where Stephen F. Austin was said to have frequently crossed the river. Over the years the resort had been a popular haunt for weekenders

who played in the river, fished in its murky waters, and soaked up the sun on the bleached rock-hard clay. Tanie had a bunch of small cabins he would rent out for \$10 a night (later, \$15 a night). But that was back in the 1960s and early 70s.

As time passed the cabins fell into disrepair. People started sneaking onto the property at night and dumping trash down the riverbanks. Drug dealers furiously peddled their wares on sleepy Saturday afternoons while barefoot and shirtless kids played in river below... Tanie did his best to keep things civil, but he was not the kind of guy to spoil the fun of others. He was happy simply to get his dollar.

In recent years, the sheriff's office had stopped the drug activity... and the trash dumping had lessened. Most boaters never were touched by any of this... But with Tanie no longer around to keep watch on the place, his ex-wife and sons decided that the era of the resort was over and with it, all access to the river for boaters. They would sell some of the property but keep all of the riverfront where we used to get to and from the river.

In November we started negotiations with Gerry (Tanie's ex) to see if we could buy some land in hopes of arranging a guaranteed easement to the river as well. It has taken three months to set up, but today Tom Goynes, president of the Texas Rivers Protection Association, signed an earnest contract to purchase seven acres near (but not on) the river at \$7,000 per

acre, with the understanding (in writing) that in virtue of our owning the property, we will have access to the river in perpetuity and will have first right of refusal to purchase the riverfront property if ever, in the future, Gerry or her sons and their heirs want to sell the property. In short, today we have begun a process that should guarantee boaters access to Hidalgo Falls for generations. If we had not acted, it is possible that this rare resource would have been taken from us permanently.

*It is not often that a paddler can be part of something that has this kind of historical significance*

It is not often that a paddler can be part of something that has this kind of historical significance. That is where you come in. TRPA will commit \$14,000 of \$50,000+ (the land cost plus costs for the survey, closing costs, etc.) and some individual

boaters have promised to contribute large donations (up to \$7,000) for the purchase. But we do not currently have what we need to buy the property. We need to have individuals, paddling clubs, and other groups help with raising the money to save Hidalgo Falls, and we need it soon. We close on the property on March 6. That gives us little more than a month to have the fund raisers, benefit concerts, paddle parties--whatever--to get what we need. We see this as the first of its kind in Texas--the first time that paddlers join together to buy property to guarantee access to a river. If we succeed here, it could be a model for future efforts. Contributions (non-tax-deductible) to the Texas Rivers Protection Association should be sent to:  
Tom Goynes, President  
Texas Rivers Protection Association  
P. O. Box. 219  
Martindale, TX 78655

## DDRC Newsletter Add Rates

Type of Ad	Per Insertion	Annually
Business Cards (member)	5.00	50.00
Business Cards (non-members)	7.50	75.00
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

To advertise, contact Susan Harkins at 972-470-0195 to discuss artwork format. All ads are payable by check to DDRC, ATTN: Newsletter Ad. P.O. Box 820246, Dallas, TX. 75382

Are you concerned about the boat registration issue, permanent fees on public lands for any and all types of recreation or other issues affecting the paddling community?

*Make our system work for you. Your legislators need your opinion. Learn more in coming meetings. Find your senators and representatives at [www.vote-smart.org/index.html](http://www.vote-smart.org/index.html)*

Please, Please, Please....

If you have a computer with an internet connection, and the Adobe Acrobat Reader (you can download it free) - Please consider getting the newsletter via email. This saves money from the treasury and trees from the environment. You can also get the newsletter in color, if you have a color printer.

## DDRC Officers & Committees

### President:

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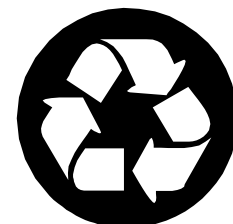
Jeff Peters  
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ofc: 817-624-5503  
texas.cl@itexas.net


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John Pullman  
214-824-0213  
padlstandg@aol.com

### Kayak Training:

Available



		635 (LBJ)	
	MEADOW ROAD	GREENVILLE	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB</b>  <b>February MEETING</b>  <hr/>           Thur. 15th, 7:00 PM            Enchilada's Restaurant            6526 E. Northwest Hwy.         </div>
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## DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB

P.O. Box 820246  
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*The Official Newsletter of the Dallas  
 Downriver Club*

*We're on the web*  
[www.down-river.org](http://www.down-river.org)

### Dues are Due!

Contact Marvin Dietel to change your personal information on the roster, or Susan Harkins receive this newsletter via email AND IN COLOR!

Save paper—  
 Let us email the  
 newsletter to you!

