

# The DDRC Current News

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

July 2003

**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 - **6:30 PM** @ Enchilada's (directions on back of newsletter). All members are welcome to attend to learn more about club business.

## DDRC Welcomes New Members

Gene Garrett  
Martin Anderson  
Stephen Mackintosh  
Bill Kreston

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DDRC Board Dusts off an old Christmas classic

The Board has elected to reinstate the Christmas Boat Fund drawing to be held at the Christmas Meeting/Party. This drawing will be held in addition to the regular **gear raffle**.

Tickets went on sale at the June meeting and will continue to be sold through the December meeting. Each ticket costs \$3 with half going to our designated charities for the year and half to the boat fund with the ultimate goal to sell 500 tickets. The Boat Fund will be converted to a gift certificate redeemable at **High Trails**, so the lucky winner can apply the funds to the boat of his or her choice. This is a great way to raise some extra cash for our charities, plus have a chance at a brand new boat! Many of our members got the boats they paddle today in past drawings, you could be next.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED starting August if possible!**  
**Due to time constraints I am not able to make board meeting or monthly meeting.**

## Upcoming & Ongoing Events & Trips

### Every Wednesday (TENTATIVE)

DDRC Roll, Paddle, and Rescue sessions from 5:00 pm to dark at Lake Grapevine, Rockledge Park. The Park is located at the northwest side of the dam (off the other side of the road from the spillway). For more information call Keith Smith (940) 566-4869 or email [keith\\_ccw@hotmail.com](mailto:keith_ccw@hotmail.com)

### Saturday, July 12: Brazos River Moonlight Paddle

Brazos River below Whitney Dam. Contact Bonnie Haskins, 972/254-9672 or Bryan Jackson 972-979-2519 or email: [Bryan.jackson@paddlinpals.com](mailto:Bryan.jackson@paddlinpals.com)

**Thursday July 18: DDRC Monthly Meeting at Enchilada's Restaurant, 6526 East Northwest Hwy, at 7:00 pm.** Click Here for a map.

### Saturday, July 26: Monthly Urban Paddle and Potluck Adventure

Looking for other people to paddle with? Looking for something to do on a Saturday morning? Then this event is for you. Come explore paddling venues around the D/FW area with us on the last Saturday of each month. We'll meet at the designated place at 9am, paddle for a couple of hours, then have a potluck lunch. What to bring: you and your friends, boats, paddles, pfd's, potluck offering to feed your group plus a few more. This month's Urban Paddle and Potluck Adventure takes us west to Marshall Creek Park where Denton Creek empties into the northwest end of Grapevine Lake. There's plenty of seclusion and wildlife, but don't worry, you will get a constant reminder you're still in "Big D" every time a 747 flies over approaching DFW Airport. Take I 14 northwest to Trophy Club Drive. Turn right (north) and follow Trophy Club Drive all the way through the residential area, past the golf course and eventually out into the country where it becomes Marshall Creek Road. This will take you straight into Marshall Creek Park (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). There is a \$3 per VEHICLE so carpooling is recommended. Once in the park bear left at all paved road forks until you reach the boat ramp. There are restrooms, picnic tables and big shade trees, but bring your lounge chairs and tables anyway. If interested contact Pat Chamberlain at [pchamberlain29@hotmail.com](mailto:pchamberlain29@hotmail.com), 972-727-3586, or Phil Lang at [phil\\_lang@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phil_lang@sbcglobal.net) 214-564-9672.

## Newsletter EMAIL Problems

If your email address comes back with a mail failure notice, you will be deleted from the recipient list for an electronic copy of the DDRC Current News until we get a request to be added back with a current email address. For reference we get back about 10-15 invalid email addresses each month, so it is a bit of a pain to keep everything up to date.

So if you'd like to get the newsletter electronically, or haven't been getting it and you're wondering why, it's most likely because we don't have your correct email. Send the editor your updated email address at:

Wanda.dietel@classicnet.net

## News: National Park Foundation

**If your summer adventures take you to the Southwest, our Hot Deal of the Month will be right up your alley:**

Book four or more days on a houseboat at Lake Powell (located in Arizona and Utah) and you'll get free gas worth \$200 for your houseboat, and 50 percent off a powerboat rental - an \$800 value. To take advantage of this great offer from our friends at Aramark, call 800-799-6951 and ask for code PS039, or visit [www.aramarkparks.com/npf](http://www.aramarkparks.com/npf) for more information.

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.

## First Things

### Naming of Parts—Canoes

By Tamia Nelson

Canoes come in many different shapes and sizes, and they've been made of all kinds of materials, from paper to concrete. No matter how much they differ, though, they all share certain bits and pieces. We're going to look at some of them here.

To begin with, what makes a canoe different from other boats? Good question. But it's not an easy one to answer. In fact, I won't even try. I don't have to. Farwell took a stab at it a while back. For the moment, however, let's just assume that we all know a canoe when we see one. And now let's name some of the parts.

Take a look at the illustration (page 5). It shows a *tandem* canoe. A tandem canoe is one designed for two paddlers. *Solo* boats are intended for...well...solo paddlers. Simple, eh?

Surprised? You didn't know that a canoe could have so many parts? Happily, many of them are self-explanatory. How hard is it to recognize a **seat** when you see one, after all? But look closer. The two seats aren't the same. One is wider than the other, and it's set further back from its end. What's going on?

Here's the skinny. Many—but not all!—canoes are symmetrical: the front end of the canoe is the same shape as the back end. But paddlers aren't symmetrical. Our front ends don't look much like our back ends, do they? And the two paddlers in a tandem canoe have to face the same way. (You can try paddling facing in opposite directions, but I don't recommend it.) When two paddlers are seated in a tandem canoe, therefore, they both face the front end of the boat, or the **bow**, and the bow paddler has to squeeze his legs into a narrow, tapered space. So his seat has to be pushed back. The paddler in the rear of the boat—that's the **stern**—has a much easier time of it. She's got all the room in the world for her legs. So her seat can be closer to her end of the boat.

If the seats are placed right, the result is a well-balanced boat. Canoes are usually happiest when they're *trimmed*, or balanced, more or less level. That makes sense, doesn't it? In a solo canoe, therefore, the single seat is usually placed just *aft* of **midships**. Translation: it's just behind the middle of the boat. That makes for good balance and easy paddling.

## White Rock Lake Cleanups

### Every Second Saturday

While the DDRC doesn't officially conduct White Rock Lake cleanups anymore, that's no reason to not help with ongoing cleanup events. Every second Saturday morning you can show up at Sunset Bay or under the Mockingbird bridge and help with either of the two cleanups that two great organizations are carrying on. Meet new and old friends. Get on the water! Help cleanup your own backyard! Mariner Sails manages the cleanup that begins under the Mockingbird bridge.

See [http://www.mariner-sails.com/kayaking\\_events.htm](http://www.mariner-sails.com/kayaking_events.htm) for more details.

"For the Love of the Lake" manages the cleanup usually at Sunset Bay/Dixon Branch. See <http://www.whiterocklake.org/flotilla/index.htm> for more details.

Both of the links above are on the home page of the Dallas DownRiver Club at <http://www.down-river.org/>

## Choosing the Right Canoe

### Getting started sorting through the details

By Doug Wipper

With only 900 or more canoe models to choose from — and with each manufacturer having its own classification system — what could be easier than picking out a canoe? And don't forget that canoes can be made from cedar strips, wood and canvas, aluminum, fiberglass, Kevlar carbon fiber, polyethylene and Royalex. It's no wonder so many people end up buying the wrong canoe — which means enjoyment and safety are compromised. Following is a way to choose the appropriate craft for your intended use.

Ask yourself how you will use your canoe. This will make your final decision easy because shape, size, and construction all suit different performance requirements. Answer the following: Do I want to lake paddle, river paddle, or both? Will I paddle solo, tandem or triple? Do I want to do extended journeys? Will I be portaging, and how heavy a boat can I carry? How much maintenance am I willing to perform? Is my primary interest whitewater playboating and rodeo paddling? Will I use my canoe mainly for fishing or hunting? Do I want a canoe for casual use around the cottage?

You should now be able to place yourself in one of the following categories: Lake Touring; flatwater port-wildlife viewing, fishing and hunting; expedition paddling; whitewater touring; whitewater playboating and rodeo. Once you know the category of the canoe you want, it is simply a matter of knowing how to recognize what length, width, shape, and construction your hull should be.

#### The Right Stuff

Expedition and whitewater canoes must be strong to withstand the rigors of river environments, whereas lake touring and sport canoes must be strong enough to carry the desired load but light enough to be portaged. A nice combination of materials for touring and sport canoes is a hull made from Kevlar with wood gunwales, thwarts, and seats to keep it light. Expedition and whitewater canoes are best made from Royalex, polyethylene, or Kevlar — with vinyl-clad aluminum gunwales to ensure they can take abuse.

#### The Final Tactic

Paddle as many canoes as possible before you purchase. Demo the boats in the same kind of water you intend to use them in. Try performing the same maneuvers in each hull to ascertain the responsiveness of each boat. Load the craft and see how it changes performance. Choose a dealer who is experienced in canoeing so that you get professional input and not guesswork. If you choose the right canoe it will spend more time on the water and less time under the front porch.



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## 8th Annual Trinity River Challenge, Saturday 9/13/2003

### *Its time to sprint for the Trinity River Challenge Starting Line!*

The web site is updated with all the race information, registration forms, flyers, trophy classes. If the web site doesn't answer your questions call or email Al, Pat, Bryan, Beth, Sam or Gail see page 7 numbers and emails.

New for 2003! Junior / Adult trophies for canoe & kayak classes! If you like to paddle with your child, or some one else's kid, there are additional trophies for your team this year. In previous years, a junior / adult team competed for adult trophies.

Mostly the race is the same as last year, same course, same age and boat categories. Bake sale There are 54 trophy paddles and 104 1st & 2nd place certificates this year.

Registration is explained in more detail this year, and common questions are answered. The early registration deadline is 8/15, to get the best price and a T shirt. Registration after that date, or at the race, costs \$5 more, and does not include the T shirt. All registrants get a hot meal. Of course shirts will be sold at the race, until they run out. The plan is to encourage early registration, to speed up registration and prevent running out of shirts.

**River clean up trips are scheduled for the two week ends before the race, with water melon at the take out.** So find your place in the race, register, volunteer for race day, come to the clean up trips, put the flyer at your favorite river / camping store, gives the flyers to friends. If you know a business that can sponsor contact Gail Shipley. If you have a contact for publicity, pass it to Frank Lacey.

**On the volunteer front, I'd like to get assistants for some task chair persons, and need chair persons for a couple race day tasks.**

Need assistants for;

Publicity Frank Lacey, chair

Sponsors Gail Shipley, chair

Need chairs & assistants for

Safety, Timing, Meal,

Trinity River Challenge info for July, August & September

\* Calendar

8/15 Trinity River Challenge pre-registration deadline

8/30 Trinity River Challenge clean up trip & urban paddle combined.

9/6 Trinity River Challenge clean up trip

9/13 Trinity River Challenge Race Day!

Contact Al Currie Hm 214-827-9319, Wk 972-918-6310, [BIG\\_AL@WORLDLOGON.COM](mailto:BIG_AL@WORLDLOGON.COM)

## **MOST MILES PADDLED IN 2003**

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Counting NOW!**

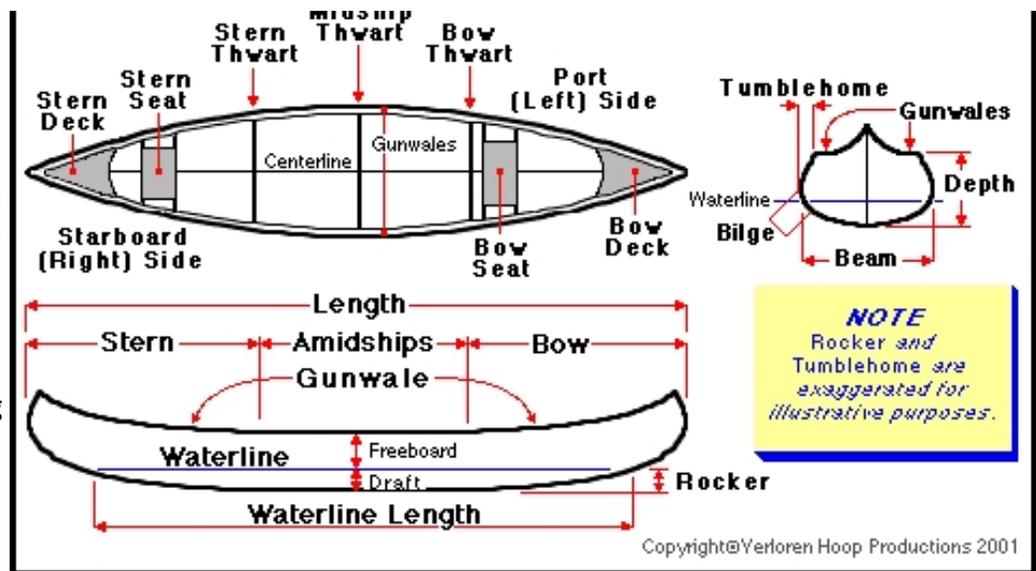
## **TRINITY RIVER CHALLENGE**

**Volunteers Needed Right Now for  
the September 2003 Race!**

Contact Al Currie Hm 214-827-9319, Wk 972-918-6310,  
[BIG\\_AL@WORLDLOGON.COM](mailto:BIG_AL@WORLDLOGON.COM)

CANOE continued from pg. 2

Take another look at the illustration. You'll notice that the canoe in the picture has three **thwarts**. Thwarts stiffen the canoe and prevent the sides from pulling apart under load. Not all canoes have three thwarts. Some canoes have two; others, only one. A few really large canoes have more than three. It doesn't matter how many thwarts your canoe has, though, just as long as it has enough.



Now look at the *cross-section*—the sketch that shows you what you'd see if you cut a canoe in half. (Don't try this with your boat!) You'll notice the term **tumblehome**. No, it's not what the jolly voyageurs did when they'd drunk too much double-distilled rum. Tumblehome refers to the inward slope of the sides of the canoe, up near the boat's **gunwale**, or top rail. The gunwale—it's pronounced "gunnel," by the way—also acts as a structural support, just like the thwarts. It defines the shape of the boat, in other words, and it helps hold that shape under stress.

Not all canoes have tumblehome. Some have sides that slope outward. This is called *flare*. And some are straight up and down. (A few sophisticated canoes have flare, tumblehome, and straight sides in different places along their hulls. Isn't fiberglass wonderful?)

Now let's get to the bottom of things. The fore-and-aft centerline of the bottom of a canoe is the *keel*. Some boats have completely flat, or *straight*, keels, but most lift a bit at the ends. This lift is called **rocker**, and it makes boats easier to turn. Canoes with straight keels want to go straight. Canoes with a lot of rocker want to turn. Flatwater paddlers like straight keels. Whitewater paddlers like rockered boats. Different strokes....

Take time to get to know your canoe, and to learn the names of its parts. But remember, the most critical part of a canoe is the big hole at the top that lets in all the water. You want to keep that part high and dry! 'Nuff said.

GET YOUR CHRISTMAS BOAT  
RAFFLE TICKETS!!  
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June through December Meetings

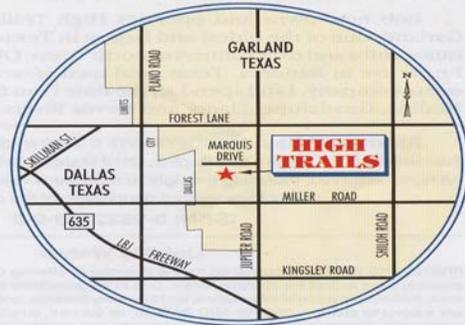
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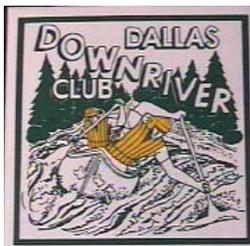
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## TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance 05/25/03	\$1,464.14	
Receipts		
New Memberships	\$58.00	
Renewals	\$20.00	
ACA Dues Collected	\$65.00	
DDRC Decals Sold	\$11.00	
Christmas Boat Fund Collected	\$21.00	
Raffle Income	\$85.00	
Total Collections	\$260.00	
Disbursements		
Bank Service Charge	\$12.00	
ACA Sanctioning Fee for TRC	\$20.00	
ACA Dues Disbursed	\$65.00	
Total Expenses	\$97.00	
Sub Total	\$1,724.14	\$97.00
Ending Balance 6/30/03	\$1,627.14	

## EXCLUSIVE!! DDRC Decals and Patches

Only \$1 each, 2 for \$2, 5 for \$5 What a deal!  
 (get them at the DDRC meetings)



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Pat Chamberlain  
927-727-3586  
Pchamberlain29@hotmail.com

### VICE-PRESIDENT

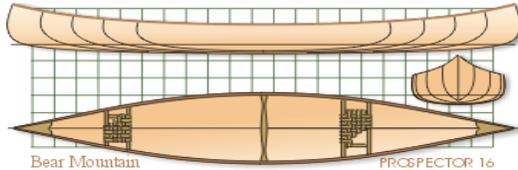
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Bear Mountain

PROSPECTOR 16

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Wanda Dietel  
972-564-1545  
wanda.dietel@classicnet.net

## DDRC Newsletter Ad 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 Wanda Dietel at 972-564-1545  
wanda.dietel@classicnet.net to discuss artwork format.  
All ads are payable by check to: DDRC, ATTN: Newsletter Ad. P.O. Box 820246, Dallas, TX. 75382

### Webmaster:

Jack Deatherage  
972-222-1407  
jfd2@prodigy.net

### Environmental:

Ken Lock  
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klockps@swbell.net

### Librarian:

Jeff Schmidt  
972-228-2908  
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### Programs/Events:

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# DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB

P.O. Box 820246  
Dallas, Texas 75382



*The Official Newsletter of the Dallas  
Downriver Club*

**DDRC**  
**July 2003 Meeting**  
**Thursday 7:00 PM**  
**July 17, 2003**  
**Enchilada's Restaurant**  
**6526 E. Northwest Hwy.**

