



## A Message from the Prez

Hello everyone, I just have a few notes this month. First, thanks to the beautiful weather, the turnout at Caddo Lake was huge and everyone had a great time. I would like to thank Charles Edwards, Jack Deatherage, David Nevers, Sam Sloan, Mark Collins, and all the judges, cooks, pumpkin carvers, tent decorators, ghosts and goblins that made this years Cadoween one of the best ever!

The paddle on the San Antonio River down at Goliad was cancelled due to high water on the river, so our group spent the weekend paddling the upper section of the Guadalupe River. See the trip report elsewhere in this newsletter for the details.

This year's Thanksgiving weekend trip will take us back to Kountze, TX for a stay at Indian Springs Campground, a paddle on Village Creek and our Thanksgiving potluck dinner. Last year we paddled 18 miles and were too tired to fully enjoy our dinner. We will paddle a shorter stretch this time around to remedy that.

We will begin accepting nominations for our 2005 officers at the November meeting. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Newsletter Editor are our elected offices, which will be voted on at the January meeting. I would really like to have a full slate this month so that we can just enjoy our December meeting and conduct little or no business.

It's almost time to renew membership dues for 2005 and paying early to avoid the rush is always appreciated. Please also remember that you must renew your dues before or at the January meeting if you wish to participate in the officer election process.

Our December meeting will again be held at the home of Don Hughes. Don will provide the brisket, everyone else should bring drinks, sides and desserts. Our Christmas raffle will be full of stuff for good little boys and girls, so come prepared to buy lots of tickets. Don's address and a map will be in the December newsletter and on the event calendar on our website (but only during the week of the meeting).

Hope to see you all at the meeting .

Bryan Jackson

## Guadalupe Trip Report by Bryan Jackson

Since Canoe Trail Goliad was cancelled due to high water, our group was forced to spend the weekend of Nov. 5-7 paddling the Upper Guadalupe River. It was a tough job, but it had to be done folks. First off, the weather was just awful. Warm at night, sunny skies during the day, sheer misery. Then the river was running at right around 1000cfs providing a steady current and challenging rapids. Oh, the horror! Everyone that didn't go should be thankful that we went down there and took one for the team. But seriously...

Folks started showing up at Weidner's Ranch around 3 on Friday. A few of us decided that we should try to get a short paddle in before dark, so we put in at Nichol's Landing for a 5 miler back to the camp. The river was running perfectly (I'm probably going to get tired of saying that) and the early evening wild-life show was spectacular, with deer running and playing along the banks paying almost no attention to us as we passed.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Newsletter EMAIL Issues**

Please keep us posted of any changes in your email address. If you'd like to get the newsletter electronically, or haven't been getting it and you're wondering why, we might not have your correct email. Send the editor your email address at [cathy\\_nelle@hotmail.com](mailto:cathy_nelle@hotmail.com)

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.

**Find a  
puddle &  
paddle!**

We got kind of a late start though and ended up paddling the last half-mile or so in the dark, which made finding the campsite and adventure. Fortunately, Sam had built a fire and everyone blinded us with his or her flashlights and everyone came in safely.

After a good night's sleep and a hot breakfast our little band of boats (12 in all) put in at Edge Falls Road for a 15 mile run. We had a mix of boats and skill levels with us, so we took our time and made sure everyone made it through each rapid safely. There were a few spills but all in all everyone looked like old pros working their way through the waves. After a stop for lunch at the State Park, we finished our run. Along the way we rescued two young men who had pinned their canoe in a rapid. One of them had climbed up the tree the boat was pinned against and had been hanging there for over an hour when we came along. Fortunately Thomas Taylor and Mark Collins were paddling their tandem canoes solo and had room to give these guys a ride back to the Ranch. Turns out this was the second time they had lost a boat rented from Bigfoot Canoes, which is located on the Ranch. Wendell, the owner was pretty good-natured about it and took them back out there on Sunday to retrieve it.

Saturday evening found us sitting around our fire having a Mexican potluck dinner of tamales, chips and queso, roasted chicken, taco salad, Santa Fe casserole, and assorted side dishes, dips and desserts. No one went to bed hungry that night.

Sunday it was back on the river to run the 5 miles from the Ranch to the Rebecca Creek Road crossing. This section features two good-sized waterfalls and proved a little more challenging than the previous day's run. After scouting Mueller Falls, the first of the two, everyone made it through without incident. The second, Rust Falls, caused a few kayaks to flip and separated Sam Sloan from his canoe. We found and retrieved it, but not before it had made it part of the way through the next rapid and pinned itself upside down on the bottom. From there it was an easy paddle to the take out. Everyone came home with smiles on their faces and maybe a few bruises, but ready to go back and try it again. Personally, I can't wait.

## **October Urban Paddle Trip Report** by Phil Lang

Well you know how bad the weather usually is in October. This year it was no exception. Our Urban Paddle Adventure found us fighting mid 70 degree weather, clear skies with calm breezes. We met at McKinnish Park and headed up Denton Creek to explore Lige's Secret Lake. After loitering in the calm secluded waters of this little secret hid-a-way we all headed upstream as far as we could. It seemed as if no one wanted to quit paddling. But soon our stomachs started growling and everyone turned around and headed for lunch. Our first course was deviled eggs, then fresh strawberries, followed by tender rotisserie chicken, polish sausage and a whole assortment of side dishes.

If this sounds like something you might be interested in join us on November 20th for our next Urban Adventure. We will be headed west to the Forth Worth Nature Center. Plan to start paddling at 10 am. We will paddle for a couple of hours and then meet for a pot luck lunch. Call Phil at 214-564-9628 or email [philip\\_lang@sbcglobal.net](mailto:philip_lang@sbcglobal.net) for more info. See the DDRC website for more details!

### Thanksgiving Turkey Casserole

Thanksgiving dinner in one pot—from Helen Livingston

#### Ingredients:

1-1/4 cup Rice  
 2-1/2 cups Stock (can be made with bouillon cubes)  
 4 tbsp. Butter  
 1 Large onion  
 1 cup Cranberries  
 1 cup Pecans, broken into small pieces  
 1 Orange, juice it and grate the rind  
 1 tbsp. Chopped parsley (or more to taste)  
 2 tbsp. Dried thyme  
 Grated nutmeg to taste  
 Salt and pepper to taste  
 2 cups White turkey meat, cut into bite-size chunks

Chop onion coarsely and brown lightly in butter. Add rice and cook until rice becomes translucent. Pour in stock and let simmer slowly for 20 minutes. Add remaining ingredients and cook 5-10 more minutes on very low heat or until turkey chunks are done.

This makes 5-6 cups.

#### Variations:

Over the years, there have been many varieties of this recipe. So get creative and “doctor” it up! Some suggestions:

- Add chopped celery
- Use a mixture of wild and white rice
- Add garlic powder
- Add Italian sweet sausage

#### Some notes from Helen:

- This can be frozen and reheated.
- Increase quantities per the size of your group. Helen estimated women would eat 1 cup and men would eat 2 cups, depending on what else was served, e.g., a salad and rolls
- She’s not convinced that the ten minute cooking time for the turkey is enough, so you could add them to the cooking process earlier than what is instructed above.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Myakka River Race by Pat Bayers

January 24 brought 53 competitors to the first annual Friends of Myakka River Race. Participants were attracted by the opportunity to support the state park and to paddle this Florida Wild and Scenic Waterway, located southeast of Sarasota.

The state park is one of Florida’s oldest; developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1934. Those competing in the ‘Distance’ race paddled a 4-mile round trip sprint from the park entrance to lower Myakka Lake. The course offered a challenging run, with a difficult mass start on this narrow river, plus numerous hair-pin turns and shallow sandbars. The turn-around point gave racers very shallow water at the Myakka River delta, topping layers of soft mud.

*(Continued on page 5)*

The shorter 2-mile course took paddlers deep into the park, to the favorite stomping grounds of the American Alligator. On the Monday preceding the race, Jean Shaffer and I paddled the river from the Upper Myakka Boat Basin to the area near the park entrance. We paddled through a birder's paradise. We observed large turtles and counted 114 alligators within a 2-mile stretch. They were enjoying the sunshine on the banks and swimming across the river. 'Gators share the biological subclass *Archosauria* with birds. Like birds, they lay eggs, build nests, and ingest stones to aid with digestion. We were relieved that the temperature was in the 50's . . . perfect for paddling but unfavorable for alligators to feed. They require a higher temperature (60 degrees or higher) to produce digestive enzymes. Throughout our canoe trip, we heard the bellowing of large males. Fortunately, there was no hissing: the sound of an impending defensive attack. These gators do not harm paddlers if they are given the respect they deserve. We reminded ourselves that we visiting their home.

(Continued on page 6)

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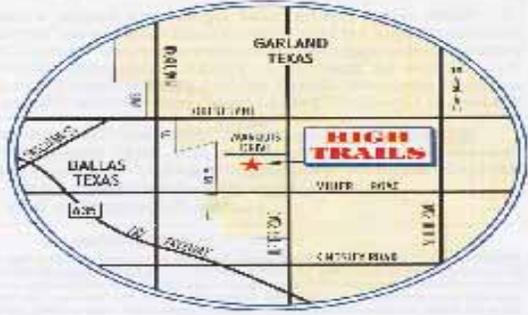
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Many spectators cheered the racers along both courses, and a large group took photos and encouraged the racers at the Route 72 bridge. Local newspapers sent reporters to cover the event and a host of volunteers assisted the racers. All participants were given a hearty yell by all as they crossed the finish line on their course. We were very impressed with the impeccable organization of the event, especially because it was the first paddling event that the Friends of Myakka hosted. Their sponsors set up nice booths containing paddling products, outdoor gear, and native Florida plant information. A kayak and gift certificates were raffled, plus all entrants received nicely-designed t-shirts.

FCCA class winners were Jean Shaffer, Women's Short Course Kayak, and Pat & Lewis Bayers, Distance Course Canoe. Class Champions received one-year passes to all Florida State Parks, an awesome prize.

Be sure to come to next year's race, but don't wait until then to paddle the fabulous Myakka River!

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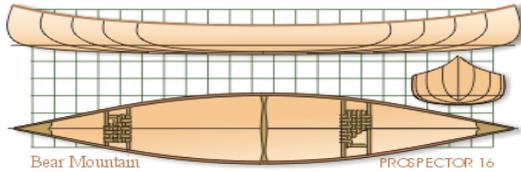
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Type of Ad	Per Insertion	Annually
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