

The DDRC Current News

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Volume 25, No. 2

The Official Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club

February 1998

Excerpts From... The Grand Canyon Yahoo II Expedition

by Joel Venable

For my impressions of the river trip, I would like to offer the following thoughts. There are so many things that I could say that were memorable about this trip, however I believe the thing that is most meaningful to me is the absolute knowledge that I and a small group of 15 other adventurers accomplished something noteworthy that less than 1/1,000,000,000 of all human beings that have lived on earth in the past and will live on earth in the future, have or will experience. This "total experience" by me instills in me a feeling of my own uniqueness in a world filled with so many extraordinary people accomplishing extraordinary feats. It gives me a great sense of pride knowing that I had the intelligence, courage, strength, will, opportunity, and help and cooperation from 15 other similarly endowed people to accomplish this wonderful human endeavor.



By Jamie Heller

"I swear this is true, it really happened, no shit.", (river runner's talk for "once upon a time"). I came to this venture a neophyte. I'd run a few rivers in my time - some even with whitewater, but being a river runner is something different. You have to have done one of the following to qualify:

- dumped your spouse(s) to run rivers
- left work at 6 p.m. on Friday, driven 800 miles round trip to run a river &

return for work on Monday morning

- converted your second bedroom to boat storage

I don't make it. I thought "lava" was what came out of volcanoes; ammo cans carried ammunition; groover was some hillbilly's dog; Winston was a cigarette. I'm much smarter now, though I haven't figured out what to do with all this new found knowledge.



The Grand Canyon!

(Click on the above image to take a Grand Canyon Trip in cyberspace!)

I've also improved as a parent as a result of this trip. I let my kid: jump off a 50-foot cliff into a pool of water I knew nothing about; sit on the front of a cataraft piloted by a 19 year old mostly sober thrill seeker; and drink B52 bombers and margaritas and then stay up all night to play poker (and win). I knew I'd reached

the pinnacle of responsibility when I bet that he wouldn't last more than 8 minutes in a canoe (he'd never tried one before) on a "named" rapid we'd never seen before, and then felt happy when he got dumped in the rapid and I won.

Since I got home, I find myself spending an inordinate amount of time watching the water flush down the toilet bowl, and sprinkling sand on my belongings. I've registered for kayak lessons, started looking for fake ID's so I can apply for a permit, and check under my enchiladas for foreign objects. Normalcy somehow eludes me - I hope you're all doing better.



by Tom McBride

The trip was great - the water was great. Lava Falls was so big I forgot to take a picture there. The three biggest surprises for me were (1) watching a 6-point buck swim the river, (2) running down the middle of Crystal (when I intended to sneak off the right side!), (3) almost winning the pool for when Adam was going to roll the canoe over.



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1997/98 DDRC OFFICERS**President:**

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Arnie Blatt 972-416-9194

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Kayaks

Bill Green 972-272-4748

Raffle:

Judy Purze 972-717-5053

Pat Tittle 972-727-3586

Safety:

Ken Lock 214-823-5263

Training:

Tom Jenkins 972-414-1706

President's Column*by Jack Deatherage*

I would like to start the year out by thanking all of the past club officers for a great year. This club has come a long way the last couple of years. I believe that my term will be made very easy by the hard work of our previous officers. Most all of the serious problems have been laid to rest. Now we can have plan trips and activities for the club.

Get Connected on the Internet

DDRC's website is provided by Inturnet, inc., a local ISP based in Richardson. In addition to providing our club with FREE web space, inturnet also offers access to DDRC members at a 10% discount off the regular monthly rate of \$19.95 per month for unlimited, 24 hours per day access.

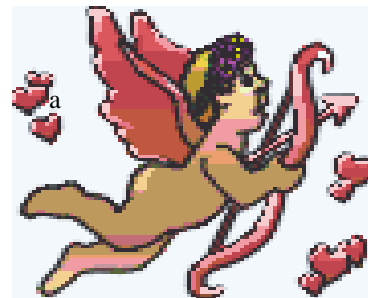
To top it off, DDRC receives a 10% bonus for each member signing up, so it's a double win-win for you and the club. If you want your own web pages, inturnet provides 10MB FREE space, enough space to create about 900 pages (more or less)! You will also receive an e-mail address so you can communicate easier.

Call Tod E. Weber at (972)783-0066 for an account and be sure to tell him you are a DDRC member so both you and the club get the bonuses, or contact Rich Grayson.

We have a lot of different resources in our club. Each one of our members has something to offer to someone else. I have had a couple of suggestions for short programs for the club meeting. Dutch oven show and tell, pfd clinics, the differences in paddles, first aid kit preparation, and several more. Hopefully we can have some of our experts in these fields pass on some of their hard earned knowledge. E-mail any further suggestions.

Also want to strongly encourage all members, myself included, to write and submit timely trip reports. The newsletter editor has pages to fill and for the most part, very little help from the membership. I would guess 75% of trips go unreported. Add to your gear a little notepad and pen, tell us the basics, where you went, who you went with, how far you swam, and who pulled you out. Also pictures can be sent to Rich Grayson to be scanned and added to the newsletter and website. This information also makes great reading for our shut-ins that can't make trips. Maybe a good Dutch oven recipe, Gorp, or a new trail mix. Write it up and e-mail fax or snail mail the editor.

Plus, any trips you are planning, add to the trip calendar. You don't have to take all of us along with you but let some of the new members see a little action now and then.

**Happy****Valentines Day!**

Newsletter: The DDRC newsletter, Current News, is a monthly publication distributed to club members and affiliated paddling organizations nationwide. The deadline for submissions is the 1st Thursday of each month. Information may be submitted via e-mail, at schleter@dallas.net, or fax/phone to Steve Schleter, at (972) 329-0729. Articles about and of direct interest to DDRC members will receive first priority, paid advertising will be given second priority, and other materials will be included on a space-available basis. Unless otherwise specified, all information about river trips will be added to the DDRC Internet website trip calendar.

Change of Address: Please contact Chris Cockrell, Treasurer, if you need to report a change of mailing address. If you fail to get a newsletter, it will be because we do not have a current address or your membership has expired. Betty will be happy to correct wrong addresses, and take your dues if you are in arrears.

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THE 13TH ANNUAL GREAT TEXAS RIVER CLEAN-UP MARCH 7, 1998 (And TRPA, TRRA and TCRA meetings on March 8)

On Saturday, March 7, 1998, folks from all over Texas will be participating in the world's longest river clean-up. We will be picking up trash along the entire length of the San Marcos River (approximately 90 miles).

STATEWIDE CANOE MEETINGS

We expect a large contingent of paddlers from all over Texas to participate in this clean-up. To take advantage of this opportunity, on Sunday, March 8, there will be several meetings of statewide canoeing organizations. At 10 a.m. there will be a meeting of the Texas Canoe Racing Association at Shady Grove Campground/Spencer Canoes. Anyone interested in participating in the sport of canoe racing is invited to attend. Also starting at 10 a.m. at Pecan Park, the Texas Rivers Protection Association will hold its annual general meeting and election. The TRPA is dedicated to protecting the rivers of our state and our right to use them. Then, beginning at 1 p.m. at Pecan Park, the Texas River Recreation Association will have its annual meeting and election. The TRRA is a federation of most of the canoe clubs of Texas. All club presidents or their representatives are urged to attend. Everyone is invited to attend any of these meetings.

BANK CREWS

Everyone is urged to help. If you

are unable to participate in the water, we need volunteers to work the banks of the river, especially at parks and highway crossings. Bring some trash bags (we will supply as many as possible) and perhaps a flounder gig to snag some goodies. Scuba divers and snorkelers are also urged to participate.

RECREATIONAL PADDLERS

We are asking recreational paddlers and canoe clubs to accept the challenge and volunteer for a section of river. If your group or club has not already been assigned a section, be sure to contact Tom Goynes and tell him what stretch you would like. The upper sections of the San Marcos River, particularly just downstream of the City of San Marcos, will require the most attention, and the short mileages set for these sections reflect this. Furthermore, the river becomes less accessible and more hazardous as one goes downstream. For that reason, novice boaters should volunteer for either sections 1 or 2 and more experienced boaters for the other sections.

SAFARI TEAMS AND CANOE RACING ENTHUSIASTS

The lower river, from Luling to Gonzales, has several long sections with few bridge crossings and for that reason, we are asking canoe racers and especially teams that have competed in the Texas Water Safari in the past to volunteer for sections 9 - 11.

CAMPOUT AND GET-TO-GETHER

Everyone participating in this event is invited to camp free at either Shady Grove Campground/Spencer Canoes or at Pecan Park Retreat for the weekend. Starting at 6 p.m. on Saturday evening there will be a free barbecue provided by the San Marcos River Foundation at Shady Grove/Spencer Canoes, and afterwards entertainment by the world famous Martindale Singers (volunteers needed - bring your own instrument or

washtub). It should be noted that the party will terminate by midnight to allow the rest of the workers some time to sleep.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

First of all, mark March 7th on your calendar. Secondly, look over the enclosed river section listing, and choose a stretch that you can help cover. Next, call me at 512-392-6171, and I will put you in contact with the group leader of the section you have chosen. Each leader will be able to help arrange shuttles and will be given logistical info regarding trash deposit locations as the clean-up nears.

MEETING TIMES AND SHUTTLES

A group meeting will be held for everyone working sections 3 through 7 at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning at Spencer Canoes. Groups working sections 8 - 11 will arrange their shuttles as early as possible Saturday morning and try to put in the river by 9:00 a.m. Persons working sections 1 and 2 will meet at City Park in San Marcos at 10:00 a.m.

LET'S DO IT

Communities along the river are being urged to help in any way they can. If you can offer any service, such as trash hauling, shuttle driving, trash bags or food donations- anything - please give us a call.

Together we can clean-up the whole river and make a strong statement to the public about our love for free flowing streams.

Please help us out,
Tom Goynes (coordinator) 512-392-6171
Statewide Sponsors: Texas Rivers Protection Association; Texas River Recreation Association; Texas Canoe Racing Association

Local Sponsors: San Marcos River Foundation; Green Guys Recycling; Pecan Park Retreat; Spencer Canoes; TG Canoe Livery

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DDRC Annual Membership

**\$20.00/year - Individual or
Family**

\$200.00 - Lifetime Membership

Due January, 1998

Send to:

**DDRC
P.O. Box 820246
Dallas, Texas 75382**



DDRC Calendar of Coming Events



WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	CONTACT
March 7	Swiftwater Rescue Part I	White Rock Lake Bathhouse	DDRC Safety Committee
March 7,8	Great River Cleanup	San Marcos River	Tom Goynes 512/392-6171
March 14	White Rock Lake Cleanup	Barbec's Restaurant at 7:30am	Steve Irvan 972/243-4770
March 19	DDRC meeting	Enchilada's Restaurant	214/691-1383

Swiftwater Rescue Classes

The DDRC is offering a free one-day, dry land Swiftwater Rescue class on March 7 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm that everyone is welcome to attend. This class will include stand-up instruction, throw bag practice and mechanical system setup. You will need to bring a throw bag, lawn chair and sack lunch.

The location will be outdoors at the White Rock Lake Bathhouse, which is at the west end of North Cliff road. North Cliff is off of Buckner Blvd and south of Northwest Hwy. Since March tends to be rainy, the alternate rain day is March 8 or if it rains the entire weekend the rain day will be March 14.

The complete ACA Swiftwater Rescue class scheduled for April 25-26 is full, so we have scheduled another class for May 16 and 17. Those who requested the April class and didn't make it are automatically signed up for the May class. The cost is \$50 for DDRC members and \$95 for non-members. This class is usually held on the Guadalupe or San Marcos rivers. To register or get more information on any of these classes, please contact Debbie Meller at 972-727-9290 or Ken Lock at 214-823-5263.

Easter Weekend April 9-12, Buffalo National River Difficulty - Class I, Scenery - ****, Drive - Class V. Approximately 32 river miles and three nights river camping on the Lower Buffalo. Easy paddling, suitable for beginners. Excellent camping on gravel bars. Depart DFW Thursday a.m., return by Sunday p.m.
 Contact Richard Grayson
 H)214/827-0144,
 Email) rgrayson@down-river.com.

Life Jackets



A Public Safety Message from the National Safe Boating Campaign

continued from page 3
 by Dave Holl

Four things I want to do before I expire:

1. Paddle Grand Canyon one more time (THANKS JIM & LISA)
2. Get even with that practical joker Mark Long (THANKS CHARLES SMITH)
3. Experience a moderate temperature summer Grand Canyon trip (THANKS GOD)

4. Be a member of a Canyon research trip (COMPLIMENTS OF UNCLE SAM AND MY FELLOW AMERICAN TAXPAYERS)

DDRC TRIP POLICY

Running rivers and all associated activities are inherently dangerous! The Dallas Downriver Club encourages everyone who chooses to participate in this sport to minimize the risks involved by:

- Receiving proper training
- Using proper equipment
- Following commonly accepted safety practices
- Exercising prudent judgement concerning river safety

The DDRC and its officers, trip coordinators, and members do not however, accept responsibility for any mishaps that may occur during trips, classes, races, or other activities listed in the club newsletter. We wish to remind you that your participation in any listed activity is strictly on a 'go-at-your-own-risk' basis.



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RIVER SECTION LISTINGS

- 1) City Park-San Marcos to Thompson's Island (2 miles) contact: TG Canoe Livery 512-353-3946
- 2) Thompson's Island to Pecan Park Retreat (3.5 miles) contact: Spencer Canoes 512-357-6113
- 3) Pecan Park Retreat to Spencer Canoes- Hwy 1979 (6 miles) Houston Canoe Club
- 4) Spencer Canoes to Staples - Hwy 1977 (5 miles) Houston Canoe Club
- 5) Staples to Fentress - Hwy 20 (9 miles) Austin Paddling Club
- 6) Fentress to Stairtown (7miles) Bayou City Whitewater Club
- 7) Stairtown to Luling - Hwy 90 (6.5miles) ADOPTION NEEDED! Tom Goynes 512-392-6171
- 8) Luling 90 to Luling City Park (6 miles) Alamo City Rivermen
- 9) Luling City Park to Palmetto State Park (14.4 miles) Texas Canoe Racing Association
- 10) Palmetto State Park to Gonzales Hwy 90A (14.8 miles) Texas Canoe Racing Association
- 11) Gonzales 90A to Gonzales 183 (10 miles) Texas Canoe Racing Association

CONTACTS:

Spencer Canoes
Rt. 1, Box 55R
Martindale, TX, 78655
512-357-6113

TG Canoe Livery
P.O. Box 177
Martindale, TX, 78655
512-353-3946

Tom Goynes
P.O. Box 219
Martindale, TX, 78655
512-392-6171
e-mail:
goynes@centuryinter.net

The Dallas Downriver Club wants to know if any of our members are ill or in a crisis and therefore need our moral support. If you are aware of another member who is experiencing a serious illness, surgery, death of a loved one, etc, please let us know by contacting the Membership chair Valerie Parrish at 972-480-0741.

Hans Weichsel Trophies

Awarded Annually
To
Male and Female Paddlers
Who Paddled Most Miles In 1997

Current Trophy Holders:

Richard Steppe
Jessica Suzanne Greer

Logs Of Actual Miles Paddled
Should Include:
Rivers Paddled, Dates, Miles,
Trip Leader

Send To:
DDRC – Weichsel Paddling
Trophies
P.O. Box 820246
Dallas, Texas 75382

Must be received by February 10th
For Consideration

Trophies Awarded At February
DDRC Meeting

REI's Third Annual... Paddlesports Day!

Northlake Park, Westside Pavillion

Saturday, April 4th from 11am to 4pm

For more information, call REI at (972) 490-5989.

Join us for a fun-filled day on the water! Representatives from Dagger, Perception, Necky, Old Town and Ocean Kayak will be on hand with their boats and will be available to answer questions. Try out a nimble whitewater kayak or canoe, a sleek touring boat, or anything in between! Knowledgeable REI staff members will be providing instruction and assistance and holding clinics throughout the day. This is the biggest, most exciting Paddling demo in north Texas- *don't miss it!*

THE SAFETY SECTION

by Debbie Meller

The intent of this monthly article will be to communicate basic information that can be used to help prevent accidents or at least minimize injury, involving paddling sports. The information will come from a number of sources such as the Whitewater Rescue Manual, the Outdoor Action Program of Princeton University, the ACA and the AWA.

Having the proper equipment and the condition it's in is a key piece to Accident Potential on your paddling trips. Choosing the right paddling gear isn't easy. Each item on the market was developed to meet the various demands of paddlers, and any design has advantages and disadvantages. The minimum pieces of gear that you should always have is a boat, a paddle, a life vest, appropriate clothing and a helmet for whitewater paddling. Each piece of gear should be checked regularly for wear and tear.

When selecting a boat, common sense dictates that you choose one suited to your ability and the types of rivers you usually run. Always test unfamiliar designs in moderate water before attempting more serious rapids. Beginners usually prefer more basic, user-friendly models with less extreme rocker and higher volume. High performance hulls often feature sharp edges at the sides, reduced volume, and extreme rocker.

Life vests (also called personal flotation devices or PFDs) enables paddlers to devote their energy to self-protection and rescue. Many rapids have powerful currents that can pull a person down underwater. What is merely exhausting to someone wearing a life jacket might be fatal to an unprotected swimmer. Whatever design you choose, a good fit is essential. A vest should fit snugly yet comfortably. If it's loose, it will slide up over your head.

The AWA Safety Code recommends the use of helmets at all times in kayaks and outfitted canoes, and in rafts and other craft when attempting rapids of Class IV or greater. One half to three-quarters inch of shock-absorbing foam or a solid, workable suspension system provides sufficient impact protection. The most important feature is the coverage it gives the head. The forehead, the temple, and the back of the head are the most common impact points. Ear coverage provides protection from impact with the water as well as with rocks. If the helmet does not fit snugly and securely, it's probably the wrong size.

All paddlers eventually encounter trouble. Everyone should carry sufficient rescue gear to deal with common predicaments. Seventy feet of 3/8-inch line, usually carried in a rescue bag, can be used as a throw line to toss across a wide expanse of rough water, reaching a victim quickly while standing safely on shore. A rope can also be used to support a trapped person, or retrieve a pinned craft. Buoyancy is the most important characteristic of any water rescue rope. A line that floats on the surface is easier to manage and is made of polypropylene. A stronger rope with low-stretch for retrieving boats is made of spectra. A combination of spectra covered by polypropylene can also be found.

Several other items can be included with rescue gear to maximize a rescue effort. Carabiners are useful instead of knots. Prussik loops are needed to set up a hauling system. Webbing is inexpensive and strong. The tubular material is preferred by paddlers. River knives are useful, but they become especially important when working with ropes. Whistles can be worn on your life jacket zipper and used for emergency communication.

There is much more detail on this and other river and rescue gear in many of the books available, such as "Whitewater Rescue Manual" and "Swiftwater Rescue". Please purchase one of these and educate yourself on necessary gear and its appropriate use. Better yet, take one of DDRC's Swiftwater Rescue classes and get hands on experience!

1234567

February Raffle

Some of the items for this month are as follows:

Small river bag
Mesh bag
Candle Lantern
Assorted straps
Head Lamp
Zrescue quick reference cards
and more...

only...

One Dollar Per Ticket

6 Tickets for \$5.00

13 Tickets for \$10.00

1234567



Treasurer's Report

Total = \$2570.50

as of 2-1-98



Online Current News Readers:
Click on image to see kayak
specs.

Win A Kayak! SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS RAFFLE!

The February Meeting of the DDRC kicks off raffle sales for a chance to win a kayak - complete with spray skirt, Mohawk break-down paddle, and "how to" tapes!

Tickets are \$5.00 each - only 200 tickets will be offered for sale! The drawing will be held May 26, 1998, and you need not be present to win.

Proceeds to Benefit Santa in Boquillas, Mexico (our own Wayne Robinson)

Look for more information on our website at www.down-river.com or contact
Suzanne Greer at 972-271-4972

NEW MEMBERS

The DDRC would like to welcome the following people who have joined our club last month. We hope they have had the opportunity to participate in some of our events and trips. We encourage them to attend the meetings and introduce themselves to others. If anyone is missing below, we apologize and please let someone know.

John and Bonnie Asbury	Temple
Sandra Chapman	Irving
Ray Gulick	Irving
Ken Hamilton	Dallas
Clint Murphy	Aubrey
Whitney Peters	Bedford
Steve and Debbie Ripper	Mesquite
Teresa 'Tre' Roberts	Dallas
Daryl Rupp	Mesquite
Dan and Patty Smith	South Lake
Frank and Sharon Tangeman	Arlington
William and Tammie Weidner	Flower Mound
Bill and Linda Zombeck	Roanoke

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Business Cards (Members)	Per insertion	5.00
Business Cards (Members)	Annually	50.00
Business Cards (Others)	Per insertion	7.50
Business Cards (Others)	Annually	75.00
1/4 Page Display	Per insertion	20.00
1/4 Page Display	Annually	200.00
1/3 Page Display	Per insertion	30.00
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Full Page Display	Per insertion	50.00

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**DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB
FEBRUARY MEETING**
 Thur. 19th, 7:00 PM
 Enchilada's Restaurant
 6526 E. Northwest Hwy.



**DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB
PO BOX 820246
DALLAS, TEXAS 75382**

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

“As of this mailing we have not received your DDRC dues. We would hate to lose your membership and beginning next month we will no longer be sending you a newsletter. Please rejoin us and keep receiving our news. Send \$20.00 to the above address”