

The DDRC Current News

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Volume 25, No. 3

The Official Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club

March 1998

Excerpts From... The Grand Canyon Yahoo II Expedition

by Justin Venable

The experience for me was spiritual because I tend to slip into a more mellow and relaxed mood the longer we are on the water. I have the chance to "come up for air" and break away from the mind-boggling stress of existence in our society and contemplate the decisions and events that have occurred over the past year and to have the omniscient and spectacular wisdom and scenery of the Canyon to provide unique perspective to my life. It allows me to re-evaluate my course and direction and make the necessary changes to my life in the coming year.

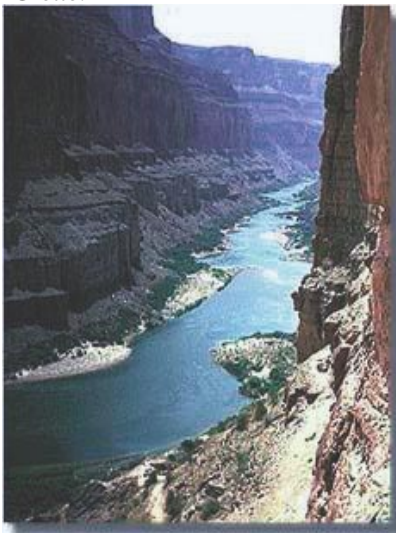
I can do this with the natural ease of the Indians who came to the Canyon to live and seek their own visions and life perspective as much as 3,000 years ago. The Grand Canyon is a magical place where lives are changed forever and I feel especially blessed to have been able to return and benefit from the positive interaction with such a great bunch of folks.

Of course, there is much more to the Canyon than a spiritual sanctuary; it is the place where whitewater and climbing adventure of the first class is abundant. The Colorado did not get its reputation as the standard by which other "big water" runs are judged for nothing! I enjoy so much watching new people come to the Canyon and seeing their reactions to everything, because everything in the Canyon is so overwhelmingly HUGE! I wish that just for one day on every subsequent trip I have taken on the Grand that I was a virgin of the "big ditch" and could experience everything that Adam and Jamie felt, as well as Chad.

The fond memories that I have collected and the wonderful friendships that

we forged on the river will be with me always. The things I distinctly remember about the trip:

- the nervous anticipation of meeting everyone in the group at the Ferry but feeling completely at home by Day 2.
- the great surf hole at 24 ½ Mile Rapid squeezed into Darell's kayak.
- hearing Jamie's breathing rate quadruple as he helped me hold Adam on the top end of the traverse at Silver Grotto.



The Grand Canyon!

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

- the hummingbird nest that Mark spotted on the Saddle Canyon trail.
- the surplus of vegetables at Camp Two that resulted in our food group getting the title "Team Veg-O-Matic".
- playing frisbee in Redwall Cavern with Darell, Jim, Chad, and Adam.

continued on page 4

Guadalupe Slalom Races

by Debbie Meller

A few weekends over the past two months, I spent down at the Guadalupe Slalom Races. Each weekend I had a great time. The last weekend I went, I brought my 13-year-old niece and a friend of her's and they both had a great time too. I made many new friends who I will miss and hope to see on a river somewhere soon.

I was pleasantly surprised to see all ages, skill levels, and a variety of boats playing in the gates. There were children, seniors, and every age in between. There were kayaks, C-1s, and Open Canoes. There were also plenty of people having a good time just watching.

Mark Poindexter runs these events and promotes them as a learning experience and not a competition. They are set up on a short stretch of rapids starting at Slumber Falls. The top to bottom portions are accessible by foot on both sides of the river, so people can play the whole stretch then get out and portage back to the top again. The campsite is also located at the top of Slumber Falls, so getting to the rapids is as easy as getting in your boat.

On Saturdays everyone practices and polishes their skills. The best paddlers were very helpful and open with

continued on page 3

WHAT'S INSIDE

Activity Calendar	4
Ads	7
Club Information	2
Environment	5
Safety	6

1998

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Kayaks

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President's Column

by Jack Deatherage

March has started off with a bang for some members of the DDRC and the North Texas River Runners. The grapevine has it that there are seven Salt River permits for the month of April. There was a sign up sheet at the last meeting for a couple of permits but they have since multiplied. The problem as I see it will be raft support. I don't think there are enough rafts in

this club to fill half of the permits. There will be plenty of passengers, kayaks, and solo canoes willing to go but no one to haul the gear. Maybe between both clubs two or three of the permits will be filled.

The last weekend of Feb. my wife and I went to the San Marcus river for the Swift Water Instructor clinic as warm bodies for the teachers to have their way with. Saturday was cool and cloudy. That afternoon while we were in the river a thunderstorm blew in and canceled our fun in the ice water. It rained really hard for an hour or so and ran us all to town for medicinal relief. On Sunday we headed to the Guadalupe for the virgin voyage of the new NRS 14 foot self bailer. We started upstream of section three a couple of miles in calm water. We actually tried and failed to find someone to pay for parking at the Riverbank section. A free put in on the Guad. is very rare, especially on a fine sunny afternoon. After inflating the boat and installing the frame I had a few minutes to play empty before my audience boarded. I think we had 6 passengers in the bus. After a nice float to the chutes at the bridge, things started to pick up, a cross tail wind interrupted my line under the bridge and we got a close look at the graffiti under there before we went over the chute. At least we hit the bottom straight and then our rapid alarm went off. Charles Edwards' dog Rusty woke up and did a couple of 360 barking like mad. Guess I had seven passengers. Hit Huerco at about 750 cfs.

Almost got a drop of water on me then but Rusty got a ear or foot wet because he woke up again. The springs above Slumber Falls were roaring from the rains the night before, guess we had 850 to 900 cfs at this point. We ran the race course at Slumber and almost got a head or two between each gate, but I could not catch the upstream gates for nothing. Rusty barked for a long time after Slumber and no we did not run over that kayak at the drop.



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.

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. Chris will be happy to correct wrong addresses, and take your dues if you are in arrears.

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River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash

Saturday, March 28, 1998

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission Lake & River Cleanup Program (TNRCC), in conjunction with the Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority (GCA), will host the fifth annual River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash on Saturday, March 28, 1998. This event will be a fun day of outdoor activities centered around a cleanup and including environmental activities, entertainment, free lunch and souvenirs as well as prizes for volunteers. An educational web page contest is also being conducted with the chance for area schools to win computers, digital cameras and computer software.

The cleanup event will be held at the following locations: San Jacinto River from the San Jacinto Battleground State Park; Lake Conroe from the Stow-Away Marina; Lake Houston from the Lake Houston Marina; Lake Houston from the Forest Cove Marina / Kingwood; Galveston Bay from the Texas City Dike; Galveston Bay from the Hwy 146 boat ramp in Seabrook; Dickinson Bayou from the Hwy 3 boat ramp; Armand Bayou from Bay Area Park; Offatt's Bayou from Moody Gardens; Highland's Bayou from the Hitchcock area; and Baytown area from Goose Creek Pavilion.

There are many opportunities for industries and businesses to join in educating people about the significance of these waterways through the process of this event including: Encouraging your

employees to participate in the cleanup at one of the eleven locations. Each location will need cleanup volunteers, people to work registration as well as volunteers to act as safety zone captains; Providing a children's environmental activity or an educational booth at one of the locations; or sponsoring the event by making a cash or in-kind contributions to the Texas Conservation Fund, a non-profit corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. Safety.

Current sponsors of the 1998 River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash include Phillips 66, DuPont-La Porte Plant, Waste Management, Inc., BFI, Compaq, Arco Pipe Line Company, Houston Lighting & Power, Shell Oil Company-Deer Park, Oxychem, Arco Chemical Company-Bayport & Channelview Plants, Hoechst Celanese Chemical Group-Clear Lake Plant, Texas Petrochemicals Corporation, San Jacinto River Authority, Rohm and Haas Texas Incorporated, Coastal Water Authority and Solvay Polymers/Solvay Interlox.

For more information about the Trash Bash, please call Lori Roussel, GCA, at (281)488-4115 or Dana Macomb, TNRCC, at (512)239-4745.

Eskimo Roll Classes for Kayaks & Canoes

**Fridays 7:00-9:00 pm:
Indoor Swimming Pool**

When: Friday nights @ 7:00 pm,
February 20 thru April 17.

Cost: \$3.00 per person

Where: The Colony Aquatic Center in The Colony, TX. Take Plano Pkwy. to Hwy. 121, then north on Paige Rd. to North Colony Blvd. Go east (right) about 3 blocks, look for Aquatic Center near fire station on north side of road. [Mapsco 554-G](#)

Contact Arnie Blatt for more details: W)972/250-7158;

continued from page 1

advice for those of us less practiced. Later in the afternoon, a kayak polo game was setup and everyone encouraged to play. In the evenings camaraderie was enhanced as boaters of all ages sat around campfires to tell stories and laugh.

Sundays would be the races. Again, everyone was encouraged to participate. Those who don't race can still learn a thing or two by helping to keep score. The races would typically end by 2:00 p.m. and then everyone would go home.

They are over for the winter, but will start up again in the fall. I would like to thank those who put so much effort



Slalom Gates at Slumber Falls

into these events for making them so much fun, encouraging, and open to everyone.

I encourage anyone interested in improving their whitewater paddling skills to make it to the next session of races this fall.

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 28	River, Lake, etc. Trash Bash	Near Houston	Lori Roussel 281/488-4115
April 11	White Rock Lake Cleanup	Barbec's Restaurant at 7:30am	Steve Irvan 972/243-4770
April 16	DDRC meeting	Enchilada's Restaurant	214/691-1383
April 18	APC Paddlefest 98	Festival Beach in Austin	Debi Paxton 512/832-9886

Swiftwater Rescue Classes *continued from page 1*

Dave Reichert and Bill Whitaker will offer an ACA Swiftwater Rescue Course on April 4-5. Nominal location will be the Slumber Falls area on the Guadalupe River near New Braunfels. Cost will be \$65 for ACA members. There is an additional charge of \$5 for an ACA event membership for non-ACA members. The course provides training and practical experience on what paddlers can do to help themselves and their party in the few minutes immediately following an incident. The course time is split between on shore instruction and in the water practice. Equipment needed includes clothing for the weather, helmet, PFD, paddle, throw bag, two carabiners (locking), two prussic loops, and a 12-15 foot piece of 1 inch tubular webbing. Boats are not used. The textbook for the course is Whitewater Rescue Manual by Walbridge & Sundmacher. The book and equipment should be available from local paddling shops and outfitters.

Contact Bill Whitaker at wlw@flash.net or phone (512) 280-3970. Austin Outdoor Gear and Guidance, (512) 473-2644 is an alternate contact.

- the always spectacular view from the top of Nankoweap Granaries.
- the two buck mules that didn't appreciate our lunch spot choice.
- losing the skin on my butt as we bounced over travertine in the "Yahoo Train" at Little Colorado.
- the "eddy from hell" at LCR.
- that first pull of ice cold lemonade and a Snickers bar at Phantom Ranch.
- everybody's big ride through Granite and Hermit.
- being amazed at the skill of all boaters present, especially Charles Smith.
- Adam sneaking bites of bacon at breakfast, "Don't tell my dad" and "I don't eat pork, only bacon".
- our good fortune of getting the huge, beautiful beach at Bass Camp.
- the shelf of rock that provided a perfect bed for me at Blacktail.
- thinking that Specter (wave) got big and Hermit (Rapid) got small.
- of course, the delectable M.R.E. meals provided by Mark that kept those of us who camped in Deer Creek Valley from attacking each other for stashed grub.
- the absolutely incredible hike that Chad and I took to get down to within 20 yards of Deer Creek Falls in the creek bed, complete with must-make moves and navigating

- the creek by swimming, wading, or jumping off falls into pools & climbing back up.
- the cool hike at Olo and cooler jump pool.
- the falls at Havasu that fascinated Jim so much that he spent a full hour getting intentionally recirculated, and made Darrel squeal with delight as he realized that he was still alive and breathing after getting the Maytag treatment with everybody else.
- everybody's great run through Lava and the delicious margaritas that made me a little too philosophical.....
- getting bounced by the maitre 'd for being improperly dressed at Camp 13.
- realizing that both Adam and Chad stayed in the open boat longer than I did.
- playing what I thought was a friendly game of cards with a bunch of vicious cut-throats who went for blood and took no prisoners.
- giving up my chewing tobacco habit on Day 14.
- listening to old country music on the Diamond Creek road and hearing Adam scoff at the "goofy" songs.
- the beautifully planned and executed "cockroach in the enchilada" trick that nearly resulted in Ms. Cathy totally wiggling out AND that little shit carded me!!!
- the good times, good food, good friends, good scenery, and good water that made the trip the huge success that it was.

Easter Weekend April 9-12, Buffalo National River

Difficulty - Class I, Scenery - ****.

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. If there is interest, a brief canoe camping orientation can be done for would-be beginning canoe campers.

Contact Richard Grayson H) 214/827-0144,
Email) rgrayson@down-river.com.

Easter In Arkansas

White Water Paddling (Class 2 – 3)
Big Piney River
Frog Bayou (?)
April 10 – 12
Camp at Long Pool Campground
near
Dover, Arkansas; off Rt. 164
Contact:
Jerry Kier jskierdal@aol.com; 972-869-2642
Alan Tittle a-tittle@ti.com; 972-927-4181

THE ENVIRONMENT SECTION

by Chris Cockrell

Love the Water Section: WHITE ROCK, LITTER BEARERS, HOUSTON

I am taking the title for the environmental report from the group which coordinates our White Rock Lake cleanup, "Love the Lake". Four of us showed up on the second Saturday of February for the cleanup of our area. We got several boatloads of trash picked up and had a good time. The next White Rock Lake cleanup will be on March 14. My family and I will be at the Safari orientation, so I will have to be absent. We will go out and get started on Friday the 13th.

This is to announce the Litter Bearers Program. I have three boats, one solo sit on top, one tandem sit on top and one tandem canoe, which are available on weekdays for one bag of trash picked up per day and weekends for two bags of trash picked up per weekend day. These boats will come with paddles, PFDs, First Aid Kit and throw bag. E-mail me at lambdapro@sprynet.com or call me at (972)931-3068 to reserve one of these boats. (The boats are a Scupper Pro, Zest Two and a Jensen 17.) Please feel free to let your friends and acquaintances know about the program and let's help the rivers and lakes stay pretty.

How about a giant Houston waterway "Love Fest"! River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash Saturday, March 28, 1998.



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"Quality that lingers"

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 Cyndy Meijer at 972-342-5821.

The Leonard Hulsebosch Memorial fund was established in 1992 by the Houston Canoe Club to grant funds to groups or organizations whose purpose is to support water-related conservation or education. The fund is named after the unforgettable, late member of the HCC who was very active in many issues important to paddlers. Some of the past recipients have included the Rice University Outdoors Club, The Galveston Bay Foundation, The Boy Scouts of America, The San Marcos River Foundation and many more worthy organizations. The tentative deadline for requests is April 30, 1998. A firm date and guidelines will be established once the 1998 committee is finalized. These details will be made public, but if you have any questions in the meantime you can contact:

Cindy Bartos (713)957-3809 or
cbartos@ix.netcom.com

SALT RIVER, ARIZONA

Attention Rafters in other paddling clubs:
We have permits for the Salt River on April 13, 22, and 29, and are looking for raft support. If interested call Randy Stovel at
(214) 948-3499
for more information.

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.

Leadership and River Rescue organization are often overlooked. Whenever you head to the river there are some fundamental skills that need to exist both with each paddler, and among the group. Individual paddlers obviously need appropriate paddling skills, equipment, and judgement to let them navigate the river safely. There also needs to be skills like first aid, CPR, river rescue and equipment like rescue gear and a good first aid kit. If these things aren't there and you need them, you may be in serious danger.

The notion of a "trip leader" may be antithetical to some paddlers, but having someone who is designated to make sure that all these things are taken care of is just good expedition-style planning. It doesn't mean that the "leader" makes all the trip decisions. Rather, this person serves as the "conscience" of the group, that little reminder to make sure that all the bases are covered. In an emergency situation, the people with the most river rescue or first aid experience need to take charge and this might not be the designated trip leader. This is something that also should be determined before a group goes out, who has the skills and judgment to take over in an emergency and who is the back-up person in case the primary is the victim.

Once on the river, know how to run a river:

- Scout, especially anything blind or new and scout from the top down and bottom up.
- Eddy scout
- Lead and Sweep boats for large groups and groups with inexperienced paddlers – keeps the group "contained" within a safety net.
- Buddy System – make sure someone else is always aware of where you are.
- Know when to carry:
 - Whenever you feel like it
 - When there are *any* serious concerns/reservations about running a drop
 - When you need to set an example for other members of the group
 - When you are tired, cold, etc. and are not in proper condition to run the drop safely and in control
 - **Tell** your paddling partners not to run the drop if they are in questionable shape to handle it (physically, mentally, or technically)
- Save Others – size up people on the river via technique, equipment attitude and give appropriate feedback, but be tactful.
- Hypothermia is always a threat

If after all your training, planning, analyzing, and safety measures you still end up swimming (and you will), you will need to know how to get to safety without assistance. I will cover some basic swimming techniques in next months article.

1234567

March Raffle

Some of the items for this month are as follows:

Collapsible softside pail
Rescue rope
Rivers & Rapids book
emergency blanket
bootie hanger
270 cartridge
NRS sport bottle
and more...

only...

One Dollar Per Ticket

6 Tickets for \$5.00

13 Tickets for \$10.00

1234567



Treasurer's Report

Total = \$3093.79
 as of 3-1-98



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

CLASSIFIEDS

selling 2 rectangular down sleeping bags rated as 0 degrees f. total weight 6 1/2 lbs. each. storage bag and stuff sack included. made by slumberjack for bass pro shop. size is 37 in. x 85 in. paid \$200 each, will sell \$175 each. used once, allergic to down.

Marilyn 214 637 0191 x27

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.

Cheryl Font
Greg Hoff
Dennis Kervella

Richardson
Carrollton
Austin

DDRC Newsletter Ad Rates

Text Ads (Non-Members)	Per column inch	3.75
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
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**DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB
MARCH MEETING**

Thur. 19th, 7:00 PM
Enchilada's Restaurant
6526 E. Northwest Hwy.

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

PLACE
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HERE