



# 1999

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### 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.

### CHATOOGA RIVER ACCESS

The U.S. Forest Service is proposing to stop private boater use on the Chatooga River at current levels. This will result in either a waiting list or a lottery for paid-in-advance permits. Meanwhile, the rafting industry, which accounts for two-thirds of the total use, will continue to grow. Furthermore, private boaters now pay \$3.00 to park, whereas rafting outfitters pay only \$2.00 per person for their Special Use Permits. It appears that rafting is the problem on the Chatooga, not private boaters. We are asked to encourage the Forest Service to put more limitations on rafting and allow private boaters more access. Contact: Sumter National Forest Jerome Thomas, Forest Supervisor 4931 Broad River Road Columbia, SC 29212-3530

phone: 1-888-324-7383

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms>

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. Information may be submitted via e-mail, at [schleter@dallas.net](mailto: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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### DDRC Annual Membership

\$20.00/year - Individual or Family  
\$200.00 – Lifetime Membership

Send to:

**DDRC**

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

## ACA Meeting

by David Jenkins

Below you will find a request I have prepared that will be sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for increased USGS streamgage funding. I am in frequent contact with USGS, and this request represents USGS's own funding goals for the Network. This funding plan will be submitted by a coalition of national groups that include not only ACA but the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America (Outdoor Industry), American Hiking Society, American Whitewater, Access Fund, Outward Bound, American Alpine Institute, National Outdoor Leadership School, and the Continental Divide Trail Alliance. Over the past few months the ACA has been working hard on this issue at the national level. I do not think we look bad considering that we are doing more to advocate for increased funding than USGS either expected or was aware of. The biggest problem we have had is with communication. When Bob started corresponding with some of you who had expressed interest in this issue, neither he nor you knew that a proposal was already being prepared for OMB. OMB has been the biggest problem for USGS on the streamgage issue. A big grassroots effort will be needed early next year when Congress starts its budget process.

You can help by getting your local club members to write to OMB between now and Thanksgiving, and next year by getting them to write Congress. I will be sure to keep all of you better informed of our efforts. The funding proposal follows:

### U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has the lead federal responsibility to operate, maintain, and expand the nation's network of river and stream gages. The information collected from these gages is vital to adequately respond and protect the public in the event of flood, to monitor and evaluate riparian habitat conditions, and to provide the boating public with adequate warning of dangerous flow conditions.

With the recent increase in the frequency and magnitude of major flooding events, and the human costs that result from such events, the importance of a well-maintained and

improved USGS Streamgaging Network should be well known. The hardening of watersheds through development and changing weather patterns clearly underscore the magnitude of challenge facing the nation from flooding as we enter the new millennium.

What is not as well known is the importance of the USGS Streamgaging Network to outdoor recreation in today's America. Canoeists, kayakers, fishermen, and even backpackers often rely on stream gage information when planning a trip. Streamflow data is used extensively in the whitewater paddling community to assess the skill level required to paddle a given river or stream. At higher flows a river segment that is typically easy to paddle on can become much more demanding and potentially dangerous for those without the proper skills.

By placing streamflow data on the Internet and creating partnerships with recreation groups, USGS has made this data widely available to the public. Today millions of people who paddle whitewater rivers, either on their own or through an outfitter, depend on the USGS Streamgaging Network to help ensure a safe and enjoyable outing. Thousands of recreation-related businesses and organizations also rely on streamflow data for the safety of their customers.

Still, despite the importance these stream gages play in the lives of so many Americans, the USGS's efforts to keep existing gages operational and to improve the overall Network are severely under funded. Any reduction in state and local funding supporting gages often results in gages being lost. USGS needs the financial ability to fill these gaps, when necessary, to maintain the Network's viability.

The Network's infrastructure is in decline at a time when it is needed most. There are increasing needs for information to help reduce the frequency and impacts of flooding, for assessing water quality and riparian needs, and for meeting today's recreation information needs. To meet these demands requires that the Network to be more than simply maintained; it greatly needs to be expanded and modernized.

The viability of the USGS Streamgaging

Network depends on a significant increase in the Federal commitment and a continued high level of participation from states and localities. For the federal government and the taxpayer, this is clearly a case of pay a little now to ensure a system that adequately meets the public's need for flow data, or pay much more in the future from the resulting consequences. The costs of failing to meet this need will not be measured only in government dollars, but in the lives and/or livelihood of real people.

### Hydrologic Networks and Analysis — Streamgaging USGS Federal Program: \$25 million.

We are urging a \$20 million dollar increase for the USGS Federal Program. By increasing the funding from \$5 million to \$25 million the administration can provide the funding to help the USGS Streamgaging Network meet its current needs. Previous funding levels have left the USGS with control over such a small share of the total stream gage contribution that the agency has been in a poor position to advocate for and protect Federal goals. Placing these dollars in the Federal Program will help USGS ensure that gages critical to the national interest are not lost when state or local funding ceases. These funds will also allow for some much-needed modernization, will improve USGS's bargaining position with states, and will ensure that the Network meets this nation's most pressing streamgaging needs.

### Federal-State Cooperative Water Program USGS Federal Match Cooperative Program — Streamgaging: \$30 million.

We also request a \$6 million dollar increase for the Federal-State Cooperative Water Program to support an allocation of \$30 million for streamgaging under this Program. At a time when so many communities have recently been ravaged by flood, increasing the Federal Match for streamgaging from \$24 million to \$30 million will help meet important state and local needs. This modest increase in Federal matching funds will also discourage states and localities from reducing support for gages within their own jurisdictions.

## The Safety Section

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 paddle sports. The information can come from a number of sources such as the Whitewater Rescue Manual, the Outdoor Action Program of Princeton University, the ACA and American Whitewater.

Tis the season for hypothermia. The combination of cool air and water make us especially susceptible. Hypothermia is when the body cools below acceptable levels. Like windchill, the effects of cold water increase when the current is fast, drawing heat from the body 25 times faster than air!

The best way to prevent hypothermia is to insulate your body with appropriate clothing. The first goal is to protect the torso or "core" of the body. Leave the cotton at home folks! Even the underwear. Cotton kills. There are all types of clothing, from underwear/socks to pants and sweaters that are made from quick drying and wicking materials. Polypropylene, Capilene, and Fleece products are exceptional in keeping you both warm and dry very quickly. I've been able to find pile fleece products in Walmart for reasonable cost. ALWAYS carry extra warm clothes when on the water.

Wetsuits and drysuits work effectively. Wetsuits are more comfortable over a wide range of temperatures. Wetsuits are neoprene, worn tight and any water that does enter is heated by the body. Thin layers of polypro/capilene or pile can be worn beneath a wetsuit for additional warmth. For additional protection a spray jacket, drytop or rainpants can then be worn over the wetsuit.

Drytops, drypants, and drysuits are loose fitting with tight rubber gaskets at the neck, wrists, and ankles to keep water from entering. Body temperature is regulated by adding or removing layers of polypro/capilene or pile insulation.

If a helmet alone is not warm enough, a pile or neoprene liner can be worn quite effectively underneath.

Neoprene booties are warmer than sandals or tennis, but an additional layer of capilene and/or wool socks is almost guaranteed to keep the cold out. Neoprene gloves, mittens or pogies should be worn to keep the hands from going numb.

Even with all this protection people can still get hypothermia. It starts with muscle tension, goose bumps and shivering. Action should be taken at this point to reheat the body. Start by eating some calories like a Powerbar, drinking water is also a good way to stave off mild hypothermia and then there's always strenuous activity. Avoid alcohol and caffeine. If shivering is uncontrollable, remove wet clothing immediately and replace with dry, warm garments. Heat packs should be applied under arms, around the head and neck, and in the crotch area if possible.

If left untreated the body temperature will fall below 95F. Shivering diminishes, confusion sets in, and reasoning becomes clouded. A person may deny there is a problem. External heat is always necessary for recovery, because they will not rewarm spontaneously. Energy should not be wasted trying physical activity to generate heat. A person can be placed in a sleeping bag then sandwiched between two people, but this method seldom works except in mild hypothermia cases. A person should be placed in a small space with as many people as possible to heat it up quickly. An overturned raft works great, but a small tent can work too. The person may require professional medical assistance.

Severe hypothermia occurs when the body's temperature is below 90F. Severely impaired mental abilities that appear like intoxication or even unconsciousness will occur. A person requires quick, professional

medical assistance.

If you have further questions about what's necessary to prevent or treat hypothermia, talk to people who are familiar with cold weather paddling or feel free to ask one of DDRC's SWR Instructors.

After you have had your hearty and filling Thanksgiving meal, cleaned-up the kitchen and ran all of your relatives off for another year, what are you going to do? Set back and watch football or go out and play? Grab your boat, we are going back to Caddo. A few of us make the yearly pilgrimage to Goat Island to work off our extra pounds staying warm. Last year we BBQed a whole pig, this year, who knows, maybe a hindquarter over the spit. Anyone is welcome to paddle to the designated campsite and join us. Anyone wanting to join in on whatever it is we burn over the spit will be e-mail or call so I can get an idea of how many to feed. Saturday night will be a pot luck dinner so bring something good for all.

A few sticks of oak would help us stay warm during the blizzard.

Questions?

**Call Jack @  
972-222-1407,  
jfd2@airmail.net  
Or Charles @  
972-867-6579**



Mark Poindexter has scheduled his whitewater clinics and races for 1999. Both are held on the Guadalupe river in New Braunfels, Tx. Races and clinics are open to everyone. This is an excellent opportunity for beginners thru advanced boaters alike. We are very fortunate to have the warm winter weather that we do in south Texas. The race weekend's primary purpose is to have fun, meet other boaters, and to practice river running skills with the use of gates. Every race weekend includes kayak polo games too. Call Carolyn Allbritton in Austin for more information at 512-335-7970 or thru email at [jakea@compuserve.com](mailto:jakea@compuserve.com). Contact Mark on email at [c1slalom@hotmail.com](mailto:c1slalom@hotmail.com) to register for a clinic.

November:

13-14 Precision River Running Clinic  
20-21 Race weekend

December:

4-5 Race weekend

The city of New Braunfels is in between Austin and San Antonio, right off Interstate 35. Taking the Hwy 46 exit and going west will bring you to River Road that runs alongside the Guadalupe river. The races are held on the class II Slumber Falls rapid located at the Hueco Springs campground.

Books such as 'Texas Rivers and Rapids' and 'Texas Whitewater' give directions to this location and a description of the Guadalupe river.


For Sale: Blue Prijon T-Canyon. Trained on big drops and wicked water. Gets helacious enders! Hard to flip, but easy to roll. Good beginner and expedition boat. Includes flotation. \$350. Contact Whitney Peters at 817-540-4636 or email [Steep89359@aol.com](mailto:Steep89359@aol.com).

### Trinity River Trips

Fall 1999

December 11 - Trinity Mainstem, Sylvan to South Loop 12, 10 miles, meet at 8:30 a.m.

Call Charles Allen at **214-941-1757** for more information.



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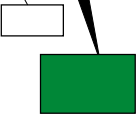
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