

The DDRC Current News

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Volume 24, No.9

The Official Newsletter of the Dallas Downriver Club

November 1997

Time To Elect Officers for 98 !

by Steve Irvin

As you all know, the elections for next year's officers are coming up. As Vice President and environmental chairman I have had a great time, but I am looking forward to concentrating on the Trinity River Challenge in 1998.

Both of the offices I hold in the club need to be passed on to someone else. If anyone is interested in either of these jobs, please let me know.

The Vice President's office helps you meet more club members, learn how the club operates, get involved in projects, and be invited on a lot of trips. The President needs help and backup from time to time and if the V. P. is able to pitch in and help, it makes the President's job a lot easier and more fun. I think most members believe the V. P. job is a figurehead, but there are always jobs to do to keep things running smoothly. Some of the things I have helped Jerry Kier with this year are running the meetings when he is away, coordinating the Trinity River Challenge, taking care of club asset, and making lots of phone calls. I would really like to see an energetic person take this office for 98, If any one would like to talk to me about this office, please call.

Environmental duties have been fun too. I have served as chairman for the last two years and it really helped me to get to know a lot of club members. The club bylaws list the environmental issues as an important part of our responsibilities to the community. I am leaving to my predecessor the job of representing the club before the City of Dallas for the White Rock Lake project. The cleanups need to be done on a monthly basis. There are other meetings and projects that the City of Dallas does

and we are usually invited to take part. As an ambassador of the DDRC It has given me the opportunity to introduce our club to the community and prospective new members. In addition to local projects we are invited on a regular basis to take part in river cleanup projects all over the State. For an enterprising person the possibilities are endless, to take part in environmental projects, find new places to paddle, meet new paddling friends, and most important of all; represent the DDRC to the paddling community as an aggressive and active club, that not only uses the State's waterways but helps take care of them too.



HALLOWEEN AT CADDO

The Halloween trip was a big success. Approximately 70 people paddled to Goat Island for the annual outing. Many thanks to all that worked behind the scenes to pull this event off successfully.

The weather was partly wet with the pot luck supper almost rained out, but it stopped at the right time and the local forecast of 95 mph winds never came to pass.

We do have a list of contest winners that should be announced at our November meeting.

Also thanks to the businesses that donated prizes for the many contests that were held. A complete list of the donations was not yet ready at this print date but our next issue will have a updated list.

Current News Online!

by Steve Schleter

How would you like to receive the newsletter in full color via email?

The DDRC Current News is now available in Adobe PDF format. You can get the monthly newsletter with color images, hypertext links, and even multimedia! And the best thing about the PDF format is that it can be read on any operating system, and if you still need a paper copy you can print it on your own printer.

So, if you are interested, all you have to do is email me at :

schleter@dallas.net

telling me you would rather receive the newsletter online, and I will in turn send you the information and links you will need to get set up.

Remember, the more digital newsletter sent, the more the club will save on printing and mailing cost! So here is how you can do your part!

The DDRC membership roster is also available to members upon request. We can attach it to an email as a Microsoft Excel or Access file, as a Adobe PDF file, or as ASCII text. You will receive updates upon request. Let us know your preferences.

Save A Tree - Read Digitally



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1997 DDRC OFFICERS

President:

Jerry Kier 972-869-2642

Vice President:

Steve Irvan 972-243-2770

Secretary:

Anna Miller 214-739-5401

Treasurer:

Betty Scott 214-363-2480

Newsletter Staff:

Debbie Meller 972-727-9290

Cyndy Meijer 972-342-5821

Steve Schleter 972-329-5502

Internet Webmaster:

Rich Grayson 214-827-0144

Environmental:

Steve Irvan 972-243-4770

Librarian:

Beverly Haddox 972-517-6750

Roster:

Marvin Dietel 972-564-1545

Advertising:

Rand Oliver 214-340-4078

Trip Coordinators:

Helen Livingston 214-821-6712

Charles Edwards 972-867-6579

New Members:

Valerie Parrish 972-480-0741

Arnie Blatt 972-416-9194

Racing:

Canoes

Richard Steppe 214-252-2493

Kayaks

Bill Green 972-272-4748

Raffle:

Suzanne Greer 972-271-4972

Safety:

Ken Lock 214-823-5263

Training:

Tom Jenkins 972-414-1706

President's Column

by Jerry Kier

I have become infected with emailitis. It is in my blood and will stay for eternity. It is an affliction from which I will not recover. How did I live without this for so many years and maintain a functional, fruitful (I hope), active, and happy life? I raised a son without it! I bought a house without it! I even bought a canoe without it! How-

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.

ever, I sold a canoe with it! I maintain two accounts, check them regularly (more than twice a day), and beam when AOL says "you have mail" and when Navigator shows an incoming missive. When I tire of being a Rock Doctor, I know that I can retreat anywhere (except Nigeria) and maintain friendships and stay abreast of the world that interests me. I can "talk" to Helen in Idaho, my sister in Canada, and my DDRC friends in Dallas. My friends, if this old hippie can be wired, so can you.

Election time will soon be upon us and I thought I would tell you what I do as President of the DDRC. In a word - as little as possible. My job is to find other people to do the Club business that we think needs attending. A good president needs to be able to delegate chores. If you are shy, don't even think about it. I conduct DDRC meetings and have fun! If I'm going to be there, I'm going to enjoy myself. If you are shy don't even think about it. I have goals, and with the consent of the membership, I make decisions to reach these goals. If you have thin skin, don't even think about it! I also think that the President has an obligation to write newsletter articles. If you are a poor writer, find a ghost writer! The President helps to make spending decisions. If you think \$100 is a lot of money, forget it! And finally, the President is the Club representative to the outside world. Elect someone you would want to represent you. Is it worth it? Absolutely!



 **Happy
Thanksgiving**



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 Betty Scott, 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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Excerpts From... The Grand Canyon Yahoo II Expedition

by Jim Burton

It was February, 1989 and I had no idea what I was getting into. I had just mailed my application for a permit to run the Colorado River Through the Grand Canyon. I figured I would get me permit, call 15 other people, and we would go spend 2-3 weeks in the Grand Canyon. Piece of cake. 8 1/2 years later, I was standing at Lee's Ferry looking at the total confusion of 16 people rigging six rafts and thinking how naive I was.

This would be my third trip down the Canyon, but there was one major difference in this trip. It was MY permit! I was in charge of this trip (that always worries Lisa). In December, 1995, I received a letter from the National Park Service notifying me that I had a permit for 1997. A year and a half to plan and organize the trip. Being anal retentive, planning and organizing is my specialty. Once again I thought, "piece of cake". I had no idea of the emotional highs and lows planning a trip like this could bring. A trip like this is not about planning and organizing. It is about change. Everything would be progressing nicely and then one week three people would call and drop out of the trip. Now I am scrambling for rafters and only one month until put-on. Am I going to have to bump raft passengers from the trip? How am I going to get five coolers on three rafts? How many meals will we have to skip so there will be room for my beer? At least Charles was committed to canoeing so the entertainment for the trip was still set. Even at Lee's Ferry things were changing. The mountain of equipment is finding places on the rafts and my beer is safely on board. Then the food shows up. Six coolers instead of



Downstream view of Nankoweap Canyon

five. Bread boxes bigger than anticipated. Somehow everything gets on the rafts (we did have to put the dutch ovens in Charles' canoe under the air bags, but I don't think he noticed) and we push off from Lee's Ferry for sixteen wonderful days in the Canyon. That feeling of elation of actually starting the trip that was eight years in the planning was as good as the feeling at the bottom of Lava Falls. (Okay, maybe not Lava, but how about the bottom of Crystal?)

The trip turned out great. It was all I had envisioned and more. But what made the trip so good? Of course, it was all of my meticulous planning and careful organization. WRONG! I would like to take credit but I don't deserve it. The real key to the trip's success was the people on the trip. Everyone was willing to help do whatever needed to be done. The extra

cooler and food got onto rafts. Everyone helped load and unload the rafts at each camp. It was a rare night when someone didn't help the kitchen crew with the dishes. There was always a helping hand on a side hike. Personal accomplishments were cheered by the group. (Well, maybe not Adam's adventure in canoeing, but there was money riding on that.) Caring, helpful, fun people are what made this trip a success. (Note to Dave and Cathy: When you are planning your trips, remember who selected the food

groups and how you didn't have to chop thousands of vegetables. The sucking up has begun.)

Would I do it all over again? My name goes back on the permit waiting list next year, and there isn't anyone from the Grand Canyon Yahoo II Expedition that I wouldn't invite again!



The Grand Canyon!

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

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: White water solo canoe: Mohawk XL-13, perception saddle, Yakima foot braces, air bags.
\$550 firm

Contact Jerry Kier - 972-869-2642

jskierdal@aol.com

Classified ads are free to members. Ads appear for two consecutive months. To place a Classified, call:

Debbie Meller
(972) 727-9290

Note: Charles Edwards will have permit applications for various rivers @ the Dec. and Jan. meetings



DDRC Calendar of Coming Events

Maintain by by Jack Deatherage



WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	CONTACT
Nov. 15	White Rock Lake Clean Up	White Rock Lake	Steve Irvan 972-243-4770
Nov. 20	DDRC meeting	Enchilada's Restaurant 6526 E. Northwest Hwy	
Nov. 27-30	Thanksgiving on the Rio Grande	Rio Grande River	Helen Livingston 214-821-6712
Dec. 18	DDRC meeting	Enchilada's Restaurant 6526 E. Northwest Hwy	

Life Jackets

THEY FLOAT.
YOU DON'T.



A Public Safety Message From the National Safe Boating Campaign

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.

NOMINATION FOR CLUB OFFICERS

Just when you thought that the elections were over and done with for a couple of years, they are back. It is time for the club's annual elections for officers. The November, December and January meeting will have nominations with the election being held at the Jan. 98 meeting. The one year term will start Feb.1st 1998. Bring your nominations to the next meetings.

LETTER ADDRESSED TO LENOX CARRUTH FROM THE OFFICE OF COMAL COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT

THIS IS A CONDENSED VERSION, FOR THE FULL LETTER PLEASE CONTACT DEBBIE MELLER.

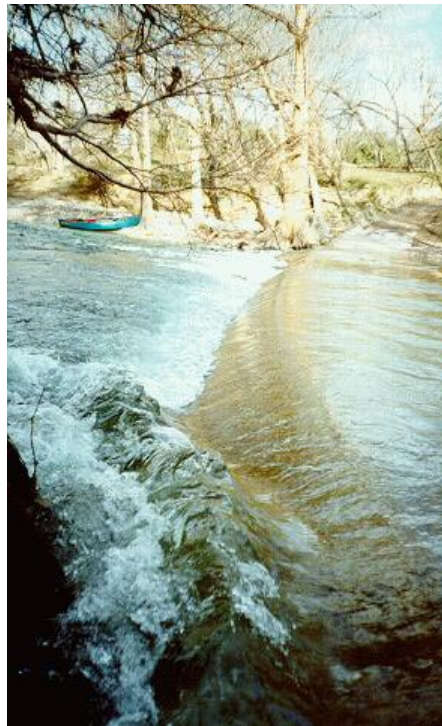
Re: Guadalupe River Access within Comal County, Texas

It appears that your information source has provided you with incorrect or inaccurate facts pertaining to Comal County's involvement in these matters. Please be advised of the following:

Spechts Crossing

Comal County maintains public access at this location on Old Spring Branch Road. Parking is available along the existing road and pedestrian access is a short distance from the road to the river's edge. This access has never been closed and there are no plans to close this access point.

In addition, Comal County has been negotiating a lease for an adjacent 7 acre tract. With this tract, the County intends to improve the access by constructing a cul-de-sac and parking to the river's edge. We are continuing our pursuit of this property.



*Guadalupe River dam/crossing,
December 14, 1996*

pertains to Mr. Mays' lack of obtaining a permit for the improvement of his crossing within the regulatory flood plain. The Comal County Criminal District Attorney's office has notified Mr. Mays of his violation of the Comal County Flood Damage Prevention Order. Appropriate action will be taken by Comal County if Mr. Mays refuses to comply with order.

Other issues pertaining to this matter are not within Comal County's authority.

Comal County has always encouraged public use of the waters within our boundary's and has worked tirelessly to improve the quality and safety of the Guadalupe River.

Sincerely,
Thomas H. Hornseth, P.E.
Comal County Engineer



Rebecca Creek Road

The County has recently acquired new right-of-way for Rebecca Creek Road beginning at the Guadalupe River and traveling north approximately 1.5 miles. This right-of-way is 80 feet wide at the river, with approximately 20 feet extending up from the upstream face of the existing bridge and extending about 45 feet from the downstream face. This additional right-of-way could serve as an area to improve parking and access.

The County has been pursuing State funds for the improvement of this bridge for many years. We are not anticipating new bridge construction any time within the foreseeable future.

Lowery Mays Crossing

The County's sole jurisdiction in this matter



Nancy Burns, Alamo City Rivermen Commodore,

Swift Water Rescue Class

by Jack Deatherage

October 18 and 19 a hardy band of inquisitive river rats converged on Pecan Park on the San Marcus River for two merry days of safety instruction. Instructors were "Hollywood" Ken Lock, William Baldwin and Debbie Meller. Participants included John Pullman, David Harmon, Mike Callahan, Lori Armstrong, Monica Woods, Mary Beth?, and myself. Also had one observer/grunt, Adrian Nye.

Instruction began early with classroom instruction around the picnic table with various terms and safety philosophy being pounded into our heads. When our heads were full we grabbed our throw bags and practiced overhand, underhand and sidearm shots. After we could throw a bag and remember to hold on to the rope at the same time we went back to the classroom for more theory. Get the ropes we are going to practice knot tying. After lunch it was time to suit up and hit the river for the hands on. Passive swimming, active swimming, throw bag darts we did it all. When the shadows got long and we got cold it was time to head to town for food, and more knot tying. Early to bed and early to rise, Sunday was a school day. Early morning class with hands on z-drag, school was never this fun. Hit the river after lunch and practiced river crossing, more bag throws etc. Even had a rescue scenario for the grand finale!

Really folks this is a great class, a must take for all! This little article does no justice to the knowledge you will gain from this class. The life you save might be your own!



Roll, Rescue, and Paddle Sessions

Keith Smith will be conducting weekly classes from 6:00 P.M. until dark at Northlake every Wednesday. Northlake is in Irving, north of I-635 and east of Beltline Rd. Call Keith at 817-566-4869 to sign up.

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 River Rescue Manual, the Outdoor Action Program of Princeton University, and the American Canoe Assoc.

The first thing taught in our Safety classes is rescue philosophy. The first part to rescue philosophy is staying out of trouble to begin with. The first part to staying out of trouble is knowing your own skills and limitations. When you are smart enough to know your own skills and limitations, you use good judgement to compare them to the type of paddling you're about to get into. Without knowing it, you're analyzing one piece of a tried and true formula called Accident Potential.

Accident Potential is a combination of Human Factor Hazards and Environmental Hazards. Human Factor Hazards can involve:

Individual Participants - * No awareness of hazards * Fear * No skills to avoid hazards * Resistance to instruction * Irresponsible/careless attitude towards self, others, and equipment * Other inexperienced paddlers on the river * Need to "prove" self - macho * Exhaustion - poor physical strength, stamina

Leaders - * Lack of knowledge of environmental hazards * Inadequate skills to extricate self and group from hazards * Poor safety judgment * Instructions unclear * Poor supervisor, does not correct problems * Ineffectual under stress

Group - * Group not yet formed, lacks cooperative structure * Interpersonal frictions unresolved * Poor communication patterns * Excessive competition * Scapegoating or lack of concern for slow or different * Individuals excessive pressure or stress to "perform" macho * No practice in working harmoniously under stress * Lack of leadership * Splintering into sub-groups

When you combine any of these with any of the Environmental Hazards of **terrain, weather, and equipment** it multiplies the Accident Potential.

If you would like to see specific information discussed in this article or have comments concerning what you read here, please feel free to contact Debbie.

The Trinity River Challenge 1997 was sponsored by:

North Texas Canoes
High Trails Canoe Rental
Irvan Mill Worth
REI
Whole Earth Provisions
Mountain Hideout
Rubber Rope
Nantahala Outdoor Center

We greatly appreciate their contributions and continued support for his event and for our Dallas DownRiver Club!

1234567

November Raffel

Big raffle in November
 Over 25 great items
 Don't miss this November meeting
 Have any extra Xmas wrap? Please bring it to Nov. Meeting
 Looking for voluntaries to wrap raffle items for Dec. Meeting
 I'll be there and be looking for you!
 Suzanne Greer

only...
 One Dollar Per Ticket
 6 Tickets for \$5.00
 13 Tickets for \$10.00

1234567

1234567

December Raffel

Just as a reminder, at the December Meeting we will have the all time raffle of the year with items totaling over \$500.00 in value. Each person attending receives a free raffle ticket. Additional tickets will be available at \$1.00 each. Great time to bring the children, as Santa may make an appearance this year. I need a few elves to help wrap these items. Give me a call at 972-271-4972, Suzanne Greer.

Maybe you would like to take over the raffle for '98. This job is appointed by the president, and begins after the January meeting. I have enjoyed the job, but am ready to do something else. Think it over.

1234567

Treasurer's Report

Treasury Total = \$1,595.96

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
1/4 Page Display	Per insertion	20.00
1/4 Page Display	Annually	200.00
1/3 Page Display	Per insertion	30.00
1/3 Page Display	Annually	300.00
1/2 Page Display	Per insertion	35.00
1/2 Page Display	Annually	350.00
Full Page Display	Per insertion	50.00

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	MEADOW ROAD		
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(CENTRAL)	NORTHWEST	HIGHWAY	ABRAMS ROAD
			

**DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB
NOVEMBER MEETING**
 Thur. 20th, 7:00 PM
 Enchilada's Restaurant
 6526 E. Northwest Hwy.

DALLAS DOWNRIVER CLUB
PO BOX 820246
DALLAS, TEXAS 75382

PLACE
STAMP
HERE