

February 2007

North Texas River Runners



Commodore's Corner

As of Valentine's Day it is quite apparent that we no longer have to be concerned with global warming ending the human race. I am freezing, but I am happy about that because now we can spend more time worrying about bird flu and nuclear terrorism. We should all throw on an extra blanket tonight and sleep very soundly knowing that we are safer this week than we were last week.

Carmen has lined up another good program for the February meeting. Joel Hill of New Wave Paddlesports will be there to present information about their proposed whitewater park that is set to open the middle of 2008. New Wave Paddlesports has a web page that you might want to visit prior to the meeting. They are conducting an online survey concerning interest in whitewater paddling in the North Texas area.

In addition, you will probably want to be at the February meeting so that you can be present for the annual awarding of the 2006 River Runner of the Year honor. This award is presented to the club member chosen by majority vote to have contributed the most to the advancement of the club in the past year. You never know who the winner might be. It could be you! Wouldn't it be embarrassing to not be there?

My thanks to the two people that responded about possibly changing the location of the monthly club meeting. It seems that there is no strong feeling either way in the club to continue with the current location and format. The verbal responses have generally been in favor of change. You still have an opportunity to make your opinion known. Contact me at arh@hasletwireless.net.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on February 20th. In the meantime, if you get the opportunity to get out on the water please be sure you paddle safely and, above all, paddle with a purpose.

The longest paddling day of my life by Lorraine McPhee

Last Thursday was the longest paddling day of my life. Clyde Mahler, Laurie Patterson and I, along with Patrick Brown, Holli and our leaders Ben and Michelle Kvanli, set off to paddle in Mexico. Sunday we paddled at Rio Vista, Monday the Pilon, Tuesday, El Salto (including going off a 27-foot waterfall), and Wednesday was the Micos. So by Thursday we were pretty darn tired! But that didn't stop us: at 11am we started paddling upstream for a mile or so on the Tampeon River. We paddled up to the most spectacular waterfall I have ever seen- the incomparably gorgeous Casacada De Tamul. Following a rigorous hike, we paddled back down stream to the put in: ready for the 3 mile Ocoee-type run on the Tampeon. By then it was 4 p.m. This class III+ run involved a series of five rapids, and the negotiation of constant transverse waves bouncing off the walls, as the river cut through a deep, majestic canyon. Many of the eddies seemed whirly, squirrely and down right unfriendly! It was tough to find a place to rest besides upside down. With scouting, and some swims, daylight seemed to quickly vanish, and the run became a race against the clock. We ran the final rapid in the dark. Amazingly enough, all seven of us made it out of the canyon with a full compliment of boats, paddles, and body parts, although at the time it sure didn't seem like we were going to. Poor Laurie had to listen to my tirade, as I angrily cursed the stupidity of running rapids in the dark and the huge risk we ran of losing people!

We continued to paddle into the moonless dark for a while, staying close to one another and keeping track of each other by our voices. Suddenly, there was a sizable splash near my boat. Being unable to see what caused the splash, I supposed that perhaps a large rock had fallen off the canyon wall? However, I soon was hearing from the others: "paddle quietly" and "move your hands up your paddle"—we were paddling with Cayman crocodiles! One bumped Ben's boat!

The excitement didn't end there. We reached a point where the entire river went underground for about one hundred meters. We had to portage this section. We pulled our selves from our boats and hauled ourselves and our boats up a steep embankment. In an unnerving moment, Clyde fell back into the Cayman infested waters, while Michelle frantically hissed "get him out! Get him out!" Having no flashlights, Ben's ingenuity kicked in: two cameras

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Buffalo River: (originally written in 1996)

By Diana McCown (then- now Boerner)

As a recent reminder of my age, I took a trip down the Buffalo River with Charles' class. The last time I ventured on the Buffalo was twelve years ago on my first class trip with TCJC. I was eighteen. After twelve years of paddling, some of the rivers have become homecomings for me: a benchmark of where I've been both personally and in terms of paddling. To some extent the old adage is true: The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Just like twelve years ago, the Boy Scouts were on the Buffalo River, facing each other in the tandem boat. (I think the Boy Scouts must teach canoeing through Eastern philosophy: Confucius say, to see where you are going, you must see where you've been). I, however, seem to have gained some cuteness with age. Well, I did have a man wading out in the rapids to meet me. Of course, I had been standing on the gunwales twirling my paddle above my head. He was certain something was wrong. (The astuteness of pilgrims seems to have remained intact over the years). It's a little easier to look cute nowadays. The clothes and even the paddling equipment lend themselves more to grace and fluidity. Remember the rock climbing helmets we used to wear? And how difficult it was to look cute with that inner tube between your legs? I'm certain it's a much more appealing sight to watch someone lean the boat with a thigh strap rather than with their heels hooked under the seat (no saddles) and their knees under the gunwales. Although, now that I think about it, I'm sure there are some who still prefer the latter sighting.

I remembered all the hiking trails from twelve years ago- alright, I remembered *most* of the trails. Oddly enough, the trails seemed to be a little longer and a little steeper, but the rapids that had once terrified me had shrunk in size. I recall a partially submerged log that tried to kill me twelve years ago. I stuck my tongue out at it this year: *after* I had passed by. I also remembered all of Charles' cheap

River Clean Up

North Texas River Runners will sponsor a River Clean up at the Fort Worth Nature Center on Sunday April 22. Keep Texas Beautiful is providing organizational help, promotional materials, trash bags and other supplies. The Nature Center will provide publicity, logistics support, and canoes for participants without their own boats. They are counting on us to provide volunteers. Our club members will unload boats from the trailers, help people launch, give clean-up directions, put returned trash bags into bins. Of course we can paddle, too!

At the next club meeting on February 20th please sign up to help

Top 10 Litter Items on Texas Coastlines

- 1) Cigarettes and Cigarette Filters
- 2) Caps and Lids
- 3) Plastic Beverage Bottles, 2 liters or less
- 4) Food Wrappers and Containers
- 5) Bags
- 6) Beverage Cans
- 7) Cups, Plates, Forks, Knives & Spoons
- 8) Glass Beverage Bottles
- 9) Straws and Stirrers
- 10) Rope

International Coastal Cleanup, 2005

Coming up next.....

Joel Hill will be with us to talk about a new water park being planned for our own backyard. I will leave the details for him but the park is planned to open in Bridgeport, TX which is exciting news for the Texas paddling community. This park will offer an opportunity to paddle even in a drought year without having to drive 6,10, 14 hours or more. So clear your calendar for Tuesday, February 20th, grab a friend and come on out to the Spring Creek BBQ for more information.

Carmen Smith



The North Texas River Runners

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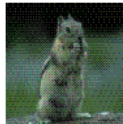
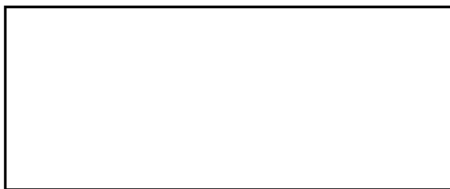
Future Meetings.

Our meetings are held from 7-9 Pm @ Spring Creek BBQ in Bedford. Hope to see you there.

March 20, 2007

February 20, 2007

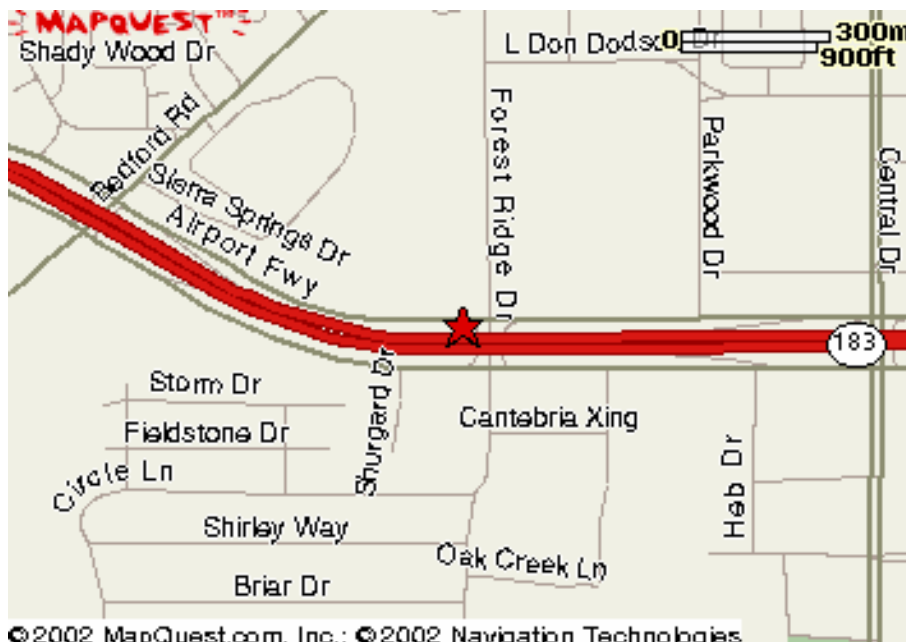
April 17, 2007



Home of the Prairie Dog Surfing Society

"If we're not in the hole, we're sitting right beside it."

If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email, please contact:
dpoling@gmail.com



Spring Creek Barbecue

1509 Airport Freeway
North-West Corner of Forest & 183

**Club meetings
are held on the
3rd Tuesday of
the month at
Spring Creek
Barbeque from
7:00—9:00 PM
Next Meeting:
February 20,
2007
Tuesday**