

January 2006

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North Texas River Runners



Commodore's Column
By Curtis Boerner

Happy New Year from the Helm,

I hope everyone had a great holiday and received the paddling gift of their dreams. If not, that is what dreams are made of, things of the future.

I hope that NTRR is still in your dreams and future. We have had several great activities these past few months. Thanks to Kenn and Sarah Wardel and their family for opening their home to the club for the Christmas party. All had a great time. Also a round of applause goes to Marianne Armstrong and Beth Barber for opening their abode for the annual Western Rivers Permit Party. Hopefully we will have good news in the future from this event. And thanks to Laurie, our activity chairs, for leading a trip down the Brazos.

Many new NTRR adventure can be in your future. Please join us at a meeting and find out what is really new. Bring a friend and receive a free raffle ticket. Remember, the more the merrier.

See you at the meeting,
Curtis

January Program Brazos Preservation

Ed Lowe, founder of Friend of the Brazos River, will be the guest speaker at the January meeting. He will tell us about his organization and what inspired him to take action to preserve the Brazos River. Come and hear what we can do to help him in this noble effort. Visit the Friends of the Brazos River web site <http://www.txrivers.org/brazos/> to learn more.

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colder. Charles soon noticed us shivering uncontrollably and declared a hypothermia drill. This involved the class surrounding Bob and me to rub our limbs, which helped circulation, and Charles helping us into dry paddling pants. At that point, I managed to paraphrase Scarlet O'Hara, "With God as my witness, I'll never turn over again!!!" At least not any more today!!!

Highlight Two

Several years later, it rained continuously for all three days we were on the Saline. As I recall, it began to downpour about one minute after setting up my tent and didn't stop until we were leaving.

Driving in at night with my daughter, Suzanne, and Ted Drake, we knew what was coming as lightning flashed and thunder thundered almost constantly our last few miles. As soon as the wheels stopped, we flew into action, racing to hastily erect tents and throw in sleeping bags and gear while the storm bore down on us. It was a relief to finish just in the nick of time.

During the next three days, we became quite accustomed to paddling in the rain since it never stopped day or night. Fortunately, my Eureka Timberline 4-man tent was up to the task and everything inside stayed dry.

Refreshing and a little curious to me was the manner in which the younger (college-age) students responded. Having been raised in the metroplex by responsible, caring parents, these students had never before in their entire lives been allowed to do anything as foolish as staying outside and playing in the rain. With smiles on their faces, they seemed to love the freedom of doing something new, exciting, fun and something of which they had been deprived. Had temperatures been colder, it might have been a different story.

It occurred to me that students seemed willing to push themselves harder and take more risks than a normal class. Possibly because they were already wet from the rain and if their canoe turned over it wasn't like they were gonna get a lot wetter.

Having taken Charles' class the maximum of four semesters, audited the class and participated in various non-TCC paddling adventures, Ted Drake and I were absolutely thrilled when Charles asked us to help. In my experience, being an assistant instructor has always been very rewarding. It is also quite an honor. To put the significance into perspective, when one individual later asked what it would take to become an assistant, Charles told the person they would have to wait until somebody dies. We kinda wished he might have put it in a different way, since for weeks afterwards all of us were looking over our shoulders and checking our brakes for sabotage.

Rather than the complex responsibilities Charles handles as instructor/trip leader of a whitewater class, we assistant instructors are mostly responsible for dealing with the needs of whichever individual student happens to be sharing our canoe at that particular moment. Mostly, but not always. Besides working on strokes and maneuvers, we often are involved in attempting to find what will motivate and inspire students.

My most fun times are paddling with students who eagerly want to learn. Probably the least fun are the very rare times a student has concluded paddling is not for them and they just want to get down the river to the takeout. Most rewarding has been seeing students I have paddled with as beginners go on to achieve a high level of skill.

Charles' teaching career has had an impact on many lives. Certainly many folks are much safer paddling rivers today because of his training. Enjoyment of the outdoors has definitely been enhanced. And somewhere during all the time spent working on skills and techniques, Charles has, through example, taught life lessons to many of us that are even more valuable.

So, before I forget, let me remind everyone that Spring 2006 semester is the last and final one for Charles Smith. Registration began November 7. See you on the river!



Cornbread Salad

Submitted by Lois Michie

- 1 8.5-ounce package cornbread mix
- 1 envelope ranch-style dressing mix
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup chopped sweet red pepper
- 1/2 cup green pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 3 large tomatoes
- 1 16-ounce pinto beans, drained
- 2 cups fresh or frozen corn
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded
- 10 slices cooked bacon, crumbled, optional

Bake cornbread mix according to package instructions and crumble. Combine ranch-style dressing mix, sour cream and mayonnaise in a small bowl, mix together peppers, onion, tomatoes, pinto beans and corn. In a 3-quart salad bowl layer 1/2 cornbread, 1/2 of the vegetables, 1/2 of the cheese, 1/2 of the bacon and 1/2 of the dressing. Repeat layers with the remaining ingredients. Cover and store in the refrigerator until ready to serve.

"The face of the river, in time, became a wonderful book...which told its mind to me without reserve, delivering its most cherished secrets as clearly as if it uttered them with a voice. And it was not a book to be read once and thrown aside, for it had a new story to tell every day."

Mark Twain, *Life on the Mississippi*



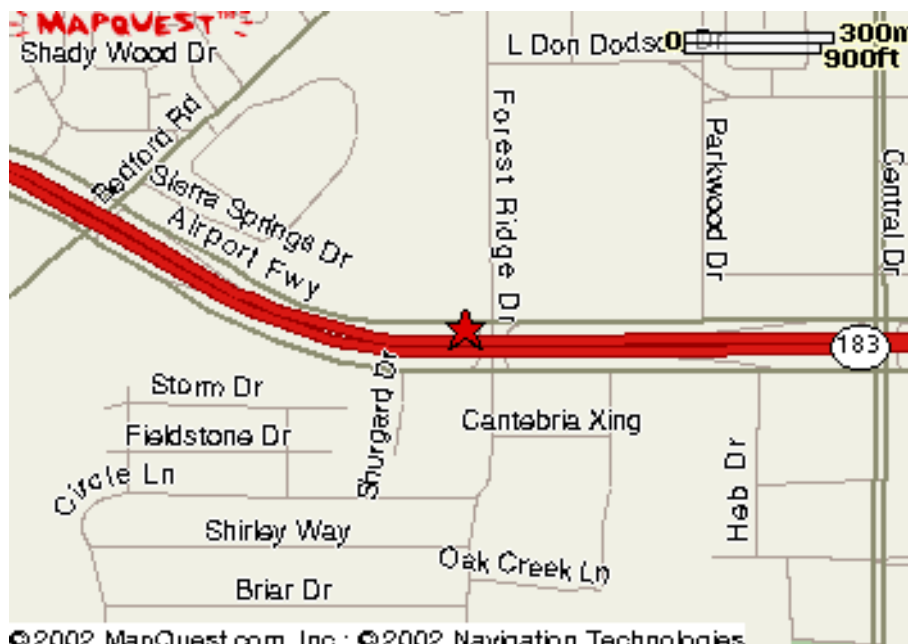
The North Texas River Runners
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Home of the Prairie Dog Surfing Society
“If we’re not in the hole, we’re sitting right beside it.”



**If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email, please
contact: cdboerner@sbcglobal.net**



Club meetings
are held on the
last Tuesday of
the month at
Spring Creek
Barbecue from
7:00—9:00 PM
Next Meeting:
January 31st

Spring Creek Barbecue
1509 Airport Freeway
North-West Corner of Forest & 183
817-545-0184