

August 2006

North Texas River Runners



Commodore's Column
By Curtis Boerner

Ahoy from the Helm,

The NTRR ship will be coming into port this month for a quick crew change. It is that time of year again: elections. Thanks to those individuals last month that volunteered to man an officer position and nominated themselves. There is still room for more on the crew. Be bold, become an officer!

I would like to thank those individuals who have manned a post this past year and gave to the club:

Chris Gross: The thought you put into the programs did not go unnoticed.

Laurie Patterson: There have never been so many wonderful activity opportunities in the 18 year history of the club.

Jean Muncrief & Ronnie Ash: You both gave us something to intrigue, educate, and entertain us at each meeting.

Cathy Cade: Excellence is hard to replace.

Kenn Wardle: A behind the scenes job that we all count on. Thanks for your time.

Diana Boerner: I'll talk to you later!

Ted Drake: The web site has brought many friends to the club, even if they do not live in the U.S.A.

A round of applause should sound for each and every one of them. Be sure to thank them in the future for all they have done.

See you at the meeting,
Curtis

Upcoming Activities

August 26th 4:00pm- ???. NTRR Barbeque at Barb Cutter's home.

September 28th– October 1st Enjoy the scenery on a canoe/kayak camping trip down the Buffalo River in Arkansas

October 14th Cardboard boat meeting

October 21-22 - Saline River Trip. Be sure to give right of way to Curtis' class since they have obtained the release for everyone to use.

October 27-29 Caddoween in conjunction with DDRC.
For more information on any activities, contact Laurie at queenbee@uwmail.com

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temp combined was roughly 100 give or take, and this man was out of breath, mumbling, shivering and unable to tell me what had happened to him. I had no extra clothing with me to fit him, and no emergency blanket to get him warmer. I flagged a raft down to the eddy below me and helped the man climb along the bank and down to the raft. They agreed to take him downstream as quickly as they could to get him warmed up. When I got back into my boat and paddled down to meet up with my group, I found that only Wax had waited for me. The rest had no idea that I had even stopped to help someone, yet they continued on down river without me. When we caught up to them and I had explained where I had been, one of them said “yeah I saw him, but that’s his problem, not mine”. At this point I was no longer having a good day.

We finished the paddle and got to the take out in one piece. As we were loading up our boats a man walked up to me to thank me for helping him. I didn’t even recognize him as the man on the bank. When he was on the bank he was very pale and sickly looking, but warmed and dressed he looked very healthy. I did not realize at the time how hypothermic he had actually become until I saw what his normal appearance and behavior really was. He was very grateful for my help as were his buddies who had left him behind without noticing that he was gone, until they got to the take out. Never in my life have I been so appreciative of the teamwork that we learned in training with Charles, nor have I ever wished so much to have my paddling buddies with me to enable us to enjoy the river as we are so accustomed. ■

Moonlight Paddle 2006 By Laurie Patterson

Breathe 2-3-4... Let your mind and body relax 2-3-4....

July 9, 2006 was a day to be remembered. As the sun set the temperature dropped to a comfortable level. Weldon, Allen, Jean, Curtis, Diana, John, Lois, Ray, and I set off on a relaxing float down the Brazos River. The Corp of Engineers was releasing water from the Lake Whitney Damn into the Brazos River providing a cool clear stream of flowing water. We arrived at the damn about 7:00 pm off loaded our boats and ferried the vehicles to the take out. By the time all this was complete we actually entered the launch point and started paddling around 8pm. The river had a nice gentle current along steep rock cliffs and the water was crystal clear. The river bottom had vegetation the current played with that resembled a field of grass blowing in a gentle breeze. Before the sun went down we saw many types of wild life along the banks and in the water. These included Egrets, Blue Herons, and yes Ronnie even a snake. Weldon had set up a camera on a tripod in the front of his canoe and as he paddled he filmed the beautiful cliffs, the Heron fishing in the shallows and caught the beautiful reflections played back by the water.

After we had paddled about forty five minutes we beached next to a sandy bluff teaming with deer tracks and ate dinner. After dinning Diana presented us all with glow bracelets, including their dog Alice. We laughed as we would look across the river and see a glowing ring in the middle of the air. We felt like invisible people! The moonlight was perfect! It provided just enough of a glow to light our way.

The float was a short 8.4 miles as we paddled and visited through the evening. We arrived at the take out at 10:30pm.

What a Perfect way to end a day – Paddling - Of Course.

Congratulations to Dave Holl!

Recently, Dave Holl was awarded a Brach award from the Urban Outdoor Programs in Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Excellence in Volunteering. Maria Sweet, from TPW, stated, "Dave contributions to the DFW have been tremendous in the sheer amount of hours, equipment and expertise in introducing, youth, women and minorities to the Kayaking Water Sport. Without his efforts many of our events may not have taken place. "

Dave would like to thank NTRR members who have volunteered to help with his programs:

Many of your club's members have helped me with these events. I thought you might want to include a brief mention in the newsletter. This is an example of the DFW paddling community rising to the top of the state in recognition.

As we prepare for next years kayak programs, I thought you would like to see what we accomplished this year, with our kids' programs. We taught over 1,000 kids and these were kids who paid something for our programs. We reached hundreds - thousands more who went through our free programs where we did not keep waivers or counts. I think we are making a difference and so does Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Next Year we are adding a kayak roll kids group program and several river and lake programs. We have scheduled an October 2006 kids and family kayak program with the Elm Fork Nature Center that will reach hundreds of kids with over 25 kayaks.

This year we became one of the leading whitewater kayak dealers in the United States. We accomplished this as a necessary sideline to support our mission of teaching kayak skills.

I want to thank everyone for all your help and support this year. I firmly believe we got this one right. We are teaching the right stuff. We are doing it the right way. We have the right people doing it.

Here are the meeting dates for the rest of the year! Be sure to mark your calendars as there are a couple of exceptions noted by an asterisk (*). Meetings will continue to be held at Spring Creek BBQ from 7pm - 9pm.

August 15, Tuesday
September 19, Tuesday
October 17, Tuesday
November 21, Tuesday

Tentative August Program

Tentatively, we will have Christy Payne from River Legacy Park present the program.

Nature Center Trip Report By Ronnie Ash

3 weeks ago I went paddling at the Fort Worth nature center as a volunteer canoe guide on a naturalist led tour of the nature center.

It was the first time I've gotten back in a canoe since breaking my ankle. The abused ankle was somewhat annoyed at being stuffed under a canoe seat, and occasionally I was forced to endure the embarrassment of paddling around with my knees in the air like some poor misguided pilgrim, but it was sure nice to have a paddle in my hands again.

Jean will be more familiar with the details than I am, but to the best of my knowledge the nature center offers these naturalist led tours about once a month. For a small fee, participants get canoes, lifejackets, paddles, an experienced paddler in the boat with them if desired, and a knowledgeable naturalist to guide them through the park. It's a heck of a deal!

I had 2 tourists in the boat with me, a 300 lb young man and his girlfriend. That poor canoe was down by the bow and plowing, but I didn't have to do much except steer and back paddle. My eager young male would not stop paddling forward, no matter what we were about to run over. Consequently I was often forced to paddle backward just as hard as he was paddling forward.

It was a very interesting and entertaining tour. The naturalist, a junior high school science teacher, was a wonderful resource. He pointed out and explained things that I would never have seen or understood. He dip-netted up some fresh-water shrimp, and, following his example of easing along close to the bank where one could see the river bottom, I saw a snapping turtle. That ended any desire I might have had to go wading in the West Fork of the Trinity!

Low water levels prevented us from paddling to Lost Lake, but we paddled up river a ways and he pointed out an area where hundreds of gar come to spawn from mid April to early may. That's where I'll be headed in late April, since I'm fascinated by garfish.

The nature center offers an intriguing environment and is a great local paddling destination. Just watch out for those snapping turtles!

NTRR Picnic & Pool Party August 26th

Please join your paddling buddies just for fun!

Picnic and Pool Party at

Barb and Mike Cutter's house

Saturday August 26th 4 -- 9 PM

We will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, beer and soft drinks

Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Pool games will include a rolling completion for canoes and kayaks -- tandem and solo -- tag, keep away, dead fish polo and just lazy floating.

Please RSVP so we have a count for meat and beer!

2915 Scarborough Ln. W.

Colleyville 76034

817-354-6853

bjscutter@sbcglobal.net

Directions: From SH 121 exit Cheek-Sparger Road. Drive west 1 mile. Turn right on Glen Dale and then left on Scarborough.

Mark Your Calendars! NTRR Holiday Party

The annual North Texas River Runner holiday party will be on December 2nd this year. Time and other specifics will be announced later; however, plan on an evening affair. Lorraine has agreed to host the party this year, and there may be an opportunity for paddling since she lives in Interlockin in Arlington. This should be fun, so mark your calendars!

Please Note: The newsletter editor has a new address! Please send your articles to cdboerner@sbcglobal.net

New deadline date for articles: 1st of the month

Harmony House Inn Granola

Submitted by Jean Muncrief

8 cups old fashioned oats (not quick oats)
1½ cups light brown sugar
1½ cups raw sunflower seeds
1½ cups wheat germ
1½ cups shredded coconut

½ cup vegetable oil
¾ cup honey
2 teaspoons vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 °. Mix the dry ingredients together in a large bowl. Heat oil, honey and vanilla in microwave on high for about 2 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Stir well and pour over dry ingredients. Stir vigorously until granola is well coated. Pour mixture on cookie sheets with high sides (use jelly roll pans). Mixture can be piled high on the pans. Cook for about 15 minutes until granola is browned stirring after each 5 minute period.

Granola can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks in air tight ziplock bags.

Environmental Note

Submitted by Jean Muncrief

Last week Governor Perry announced support for significantly increasing funding for our state parks by removing the cap on the "sporting goods tax".

TPWD funding increases could lead to increased state efforts to conserve and restore our native prairies and plants since the Blackland Prairie, Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes, and Cross Timbers and Prairies are listed as priority ecoregions for TPWD conservation efforts in the TPWD Land and Water Resources Conservation and Recreation Plan (pages 12-14) and additional state parks are called for in those areas.

Please contact the Governor's office and express support for our state parks and conservation of our native prairies and plants.

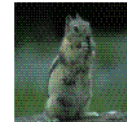
Email: Web email form at <http://www.governor.state.tx.us/contact>
Phone: Governor's office at 1-800-252-9600



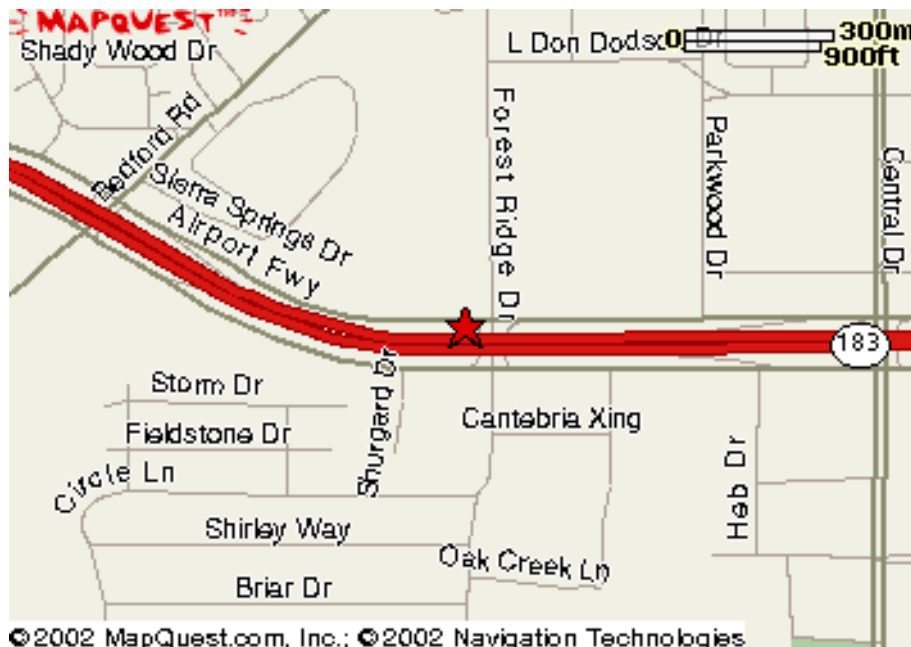
The North Texas River Runners
P.O. Box 1284
Bedford, TX 76095-1284



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
3rd Tuesday of
the month at
Spring Creek
Barbecue from
7:00–9:00 PM
Next Meeting:
August 15th,
Tuesday

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