



The Prairie Dog Companion: Newsletter of the North Texas River Runners

Commodore's Column by Lorraine McPhee

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December Meeting

- Christmas Party at Jean and Allen's
- Mexican food!
- Bring your beverage !
- RSVP!

Dear Fellow Paddlers,
Merry Christmas!
Just a reminder as you ponder the coming of a New Year: the challenge has been extended to each of you to plan a club trip. We each know of special areas that we have paddled and love. Why not take your NTRR friends there? It can be as close and easy as an afternoon trip down Village Creek, or as extensive as a permit trip to Desolation Canyon in Utah. How about a



women's trip to San Marcos, or a skills and drills day at Rockport Ledge?

Personally, a trip is the ultimate expression of why I paddle: all the cross-training, the flat water drills, the pool roll practice, watching Eric Jackson

videos, eyeballing gauges across the nation on American Whitewater, keeping my hammies limber, etc.

All of these I hope will eventually culminate in a paddle trip with friends. Want help planning your trip? Some of NTRR meeting time can be dedicated to trip planning, so please let me know if you would like some time. So let's go!
Be safe and see you on the river!

December Meeting —CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!

The next NTRR meeting will be **Saturday, December 13 at 6:30 pm at Jean and Allen's home.** Check the NTRR

website for details, address and a map. Be sure to RSVP if possible.

Since the meal will feature

Mexican food, Jean jokingly suggested bringing your favorite antacid!



Letters from San Marcos

This is your call to keep paddling!

Not only do we have some of the greatest people around to paddle with (like YOU), but we have the best climate, and water to paddle in the country this time of year!

Friends and fellow Adventurers:

What do you want for Christmas?

My Christmas present this year is to finally be able to return to Guatemala after 15 years of being away. Better yet, some of the most impactful people in my life are going to join me this year. When I left Guatemala the first time it was war time so I took

nothing, but my Mom and what I could carry on the bus. The last time I left kayaks were round, and I was a very young man. Now, with people like you supporting this non-profit that I love it is hard to get me to leave San Marcos, but I am sure that it will be good to be back in my birthplace. Certainly, a lot has changed, but one thing remains the same: I want to kayak for Christmas. .

Sladeo Crowns New Local Champions



The action was fast and furious the first weekend in November in San Marcos where whitewater and flatwater paddling came together.

The Canoe Polo National Championships were played on an open water section of the clear San Marcos River just beside the San Marcos River Pub and Grill. A big change from the swimming pool pitches that are often used.

Teams traveled from San Francisco, New York, LA, Boston, Dallas, and Canada to play in the tournament. The victors were the Men's Austin Aquabats and the Ladies' New York Women. The Austin Bat Babes placed second. The New York Women then took on the

best Canadian Women's team to finish out the tournament Championships. In a tight match, playing 2 sudden death overtime periods, the New York Ladies prevailed 1-0. In the under 21 league, the home team Austin Aquabrats took home the bragging rights.

The Whitewater Sladeo Events were super fun, with 15 competitors showing off their skills. In the Sladeo Competition, each competitor does 2 slalom runs, and 2 free-style rides and then their scores are added together. The new champion in the Men's class is David Mooring, followed by Olympic Outdoor Center Instructors Bruce Litton, and Jeff Leach. In the Women's class the winners were Olympic Outdoor Center instructor and Athlete, Michelle Kvanli, Junior Olympian, Chelsea Borneman, and long time Red River Racing Team athlete Tam Thompson. In the C-1 Class, Mark Poidexter, **Matt Fritz, and Jennifer Fritz** took top honors!

There is nothing like giving thanks to help us to realize how fortunate we are. When I start to think about all that we have accomplished together this year it makes my fear of the future disappear, and my natural curiosity return to life. I hope that you have enjoyed taking part in our non-profit mission, and will find time to come back again soon. Happy paddling Holidays!

Sincerely, Ben and Michelle Kvanli

Power Olympic Outdoor Center * 512.203.0093 * Give us a call!

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