

February 2006

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North Texas River Runners



Commodore's Column
By Curtis Boerner

Ahoy from the Helm,

Well, it is an interesting new year for our ship. We have to leave familiar ground and chart new waters. Yes, since the beginning of the NTRR, we have always met on the last Tuesday of the month. Well, due to new rules for our meeting location, it has become necessary to move the night of our meetings. We have chosen the third Tuesday of the month. This month is the exception though. **The meeting for February is on the Third Wednesday.** This was the only night available on the Spring Creek Calendar. Sorry for any inconveniences. Please show up and listen to a great program on Texas State Parks. Remember to tell all of your friends and NTRR acquaintances about the new nights.

Remember that NTRR is your club and what you make of it. Please try and introduce yourself to others and make new NTRR friends at the meetings. There are many interesting individuals in the club once you know them.

See you at the meeting,
Curtis

Meeting Dates Changing! However, same time, same location

In an effort to avoid the "coupon drop" traffic at Spring Creek, we are (in general) moving our meeting dates to the 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm. However, we did have to make a couple of exceptions. The first exception is this month. The February meeting will be on WEDNESDAY, 22nd from 7-9pm at Spring Creek Barbeque. See inside the newsletter for a full listing and mark your calendars! Hopefully, we won't have such a long dinner line and Spring Creek won't need to put overflow traffic in the back room as a result of these changes!

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February Program

Our guest speaker will be Randy Bell of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Mr. Bell has 25 years of service in the State Parks Division of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. This service includes duty stations at 5 different state parks around Texas. His current duty station is Waco, Texas where he is serving as Regional Director for state parks that are located in the greater DFW area.

As many of you may already know, the TWPD is facing a financial shortfall. They are looking to those of us who own human powered watercraft to fund this shortfall through boat registration. Mr. Bell will discuss the current budget challenges that affect the ability to keep all Texas State Parks open and available for the public.

I think it is important for all of us to hear the TWPD's position before we either oppose or support the pending legislation, and Mr. Bell is kind enough to drive here from Waco to provide us with the information we need to make an informed decision on this subject. Please plan to attend this month's meeting and hear the TWPD's position.

Pooh Processing

By Jean Muncrief

What do Jimmy's Thunder Box, Uncle Booger's Bumper Dumper, the Scat Packer, Luggable Loo, Kant Wate and the PETT all have in common? Right! They are all some form of toilet system designed for use on outdoor excursions.

I am going to review the Portable Environmental Toilet system better known as PETT which we used on our recent San Juan River Trip. It was graciously supplied by Ted. The PETT is permitted by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for use on rivers and recommended by the Leave No Trace program in conjunction with the National Forest Service. It has been used by back country travelers, river runners, utility and construction crews, military forces, in disaster relief areas and by rock climbers. We found the PETT to be a convenient, light weight yet durable, hygienic, truly portable and most of all a dignified answer to personal waste disposal.

The first camp on the San Juan, Ted organized us and we all trekked to the toilet area for, yes, "Potty Training". (One does feel young on the river!) We quickly learned how to set up and take down the PETT and we were delighted with how easy and sanitary the process was.

The toilet is light weight at about 7 pounds and exceptionally compact when the three legs are folded and stored. However, when set up, it is the same height and size as a standard toilet. Nice! The PETT is constructed of high impact, ultraviolet stable polymers that can be sanitized. Plus, it will support in excess of 800 pounds. That is in case someone falls on it or a bear sets on it which is a risk especially if you take Charmin Bath Tissue.

The PETT Toilet uses a biodegradable WAG bag system (the letters WAG stand for waste alleviation & gelling). The system consists of a bag that fits into the bowl netting of the toilet for

waste collection with the top tucking under the seat to allow for easier more sanitary bag changes. Each bag can contain 4 to 5 uses with one use being an estimated 12 ounces. In addition, there is a heavy zip locking bag for storage and transport of the pooh plus a VERY SMALL packet of toilet paper and ONE sanitary hand wipe are included (bring extra sanitizer and toilet paper for sure!).

The bag fitting into the toilet bowl net contains a preloaded substance called Pooh Powder. It is the bioactive powder (similar to what is in baby diapers) that gels waste, neutralizes odors (no bug attracting perfumes), initiates the decay process and accelerates decomposition. When liquid comes into contact with the powder, it gels the liquid waste, encapsulates the solid waste, removes odors and begins the decay process. One tablespoon of Pooh Powder can gel up to 60 oz of liquid waste.

When a WAG bag is full, it is then sealed in the heavy gauge zip lock bag to secure and transport it. We used water proof rocket boxes to transport our full WAG bags on the river. When returning to civilization, the bags with content are approved for disposal with conventional trash per EPA Group II Non Hazardous Waste Disposal Standards. Research indicates that the bags and contents break down in landfill conditions in 6 to 8 months.

Troubleshooting Toilet Issues

1. Handwashing: Linda and George helped solve this issue. They provided a bag with an empty wine bladder contained in it. We filled it with river water and hung it near the toilet.

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A bottle of biodegradable camp soap, a bottle of sanitizer and a nail brush were all attached by separate strings near the water bag. The used water was collected in a bucket directly underneath the water spigot for later dispersal. This made hand cleaning and sanitizing exceptionally easy.

2. Odor Issues:

a. When using the PETT system for solid waste only, an odor problem may be observed (I think Weldon could comment on that!). I found that WAG bags are designed for both liquid and solid waste. A certain amount of liquid is necessary to activate the odor neutralizer in the Pooh Powder. A minimum of 6 ounces of liquid per bag is needed to allow the powder to encapsulate the solids. This helps alleviate odor issues with the system.

b. When each WAG bag is used several times, it is recommended that toilet paper not be placed in the bag between each use. This is because it creates a barrier between the Pooh Powder and the waste. When the waste does not contact the powder, odors can develop. Used paper can be placed in a separate bag and then dropped on top of the full WAG bag before closure and storing.

3. Uneven or soft ground:

a. The lid can be placed on the ground and the toilet set on top of it for more stability.

In conclusion, litter and human waste left behind in the outdoors makes a significant impact on the environment. More government agencies are requiring that body waste be packed out from remote areas of the wilderness. This is not pleasant thing to deal with but the PETT Toilet system took a messy issue and gave us a simple, dignified and sanitary way to do it.

NTRR Meeting Calendar

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.

*February 22, Wednesday

March 21, Tuesday

April 18, Tuesday

May 16, Tuesday

*June 27, Tuesday

July 18, Tuesday

August 15, Tuesday

September 19, Tuesday

October 17, Tuesday

November 21, Tuesday

Upcoming NTRR Events

February 25th: **Roll Practice** for NTRR members from 1-4 pm at the downtown YMCA. It will cost \$5 per person. The kayaks won't have any trouble, but the canoes may have problems getting down the stairs and around the corners. Contact Laurie Patterson for more information: queenbee@uwmail.com

March 4th and March 18th: **Cardboard Boat Building** from 10 am - 3 pm. Initial plans have already begun to enter the contest on May 6th. Join the team! They've come up for some great ideas. This contest should be lots of fun and highly entertaining. The practice sessions on the 4th & 18th will be held at Laurie's house. Contact Laurie Patterson for more information: queenbee@uwmail.com

March 24-26th: **Paddle down Village Creek in the Big Thicket in Southeast Texas.** Contact Laurie Patterson for more information: queenbee@uwmail.com

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

Fabulous Friday Night Flips

Just like last year, indoor heated pool time to work on your roll and paddling strokes, and private lessons from US Team Members and other skilled instructors. New for this year, bring your paddle skirt and PFD and demo the entire line of Jackson Kayaks. This event is appropriate for all skill levels, beginners to experts.

**The Colony Aquatic Park Pool
5580 North Colony Blvd.**

Friday nights, beginning October 21, 2005
through April 14, 2006
7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Costs- \$5.00 pool rental, free Jackson Kayak use, \$5.00 PFD- skirt- paddle rental

Please visit our website for more information
www.kayakinstruct.com

Membership Renewal Time!

Time again to renew your membership! Our club is on a yearly cycle for renewals. Fees of guests who join mid-year are prorated. Keep the club going and rejoin! It's also an excellent opportunity to attend this month's meeting to hand in your renewal form! Kenn Wardle, our current secretary, is the man to contact with any questions. A mailing address is included at the bottom of the form on page 7.



Kudos Corner

By Diana Boerner

Has anyone noticed the sudden increase in activity opportunities for NTRR members? I have. It's because Laurie Patterson has been doing such a great job as activities chair. She has really made an effort to have more opportunities for group participation each month. For the month of March, we have 3 opportunities to mix and mingle and play on the water with fellow paddlers. That's a dramatic increase from our usual activity level of one event every 2-3 months! It takes a lot of effort, dedication, and determination to offer that many activities, and I think Laurie deserves a big round of applause and a pat on the back for a job well done.

You know what else I think Laurie deserves? Participation. In my opinion, having people participate in an activity you have planned is the greatest form of praise. Over the years, one of the biggest member complaints has been that we don't have enough activities. Now that we have enough activities, I hope our biggest complaint doesn't become that no one (or not enough people) is attending the events. I realize that everyone can't attend every event, but with 3 events being offered in March, surely most of the club could attend at least one.

Remember, it really is the effort of club members that will make or break NTRR. So, if you have been attending meetings and activities, keep up the good work. If you haven't been, mark some dates on your calendar and come join the fun!

NORTH TEXAS RIVER RUNNERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____
 ADDRESS (Street) _____
 (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____
 PHONE: (Home) _____ (Work) _____
 E-MAIL _____ ~ OK to publish in club roster? Yes()NO()

PLEASE FILL IN THE APPROPRIATE BLANKS:

NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL _____ ADDRESS CHANGE - Yes()NO()
 I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTER ON-LINE - Yes()NO()
 I'D LIKE TO BE NOTIFIED OF CLINICS & EVENTS BY E-MAIL - Yes()NO()
 RENEWAL DATE: _____ DATE PAID: _____ DUES ENCLOSED(\$15.00) _____

I, _____, desiring to join my fellow paddlers in the NORTH TEXAS RIVER RUNNERS, do hereby declare that I fully understand and accept the following facts of life on the river:

- ◆ Canoeing, kayaking and rafting, particularly on whitewater rivers, exposes participants to various safety hazards.
- ◆ No one but myself is responsible for my safety when I choose to challenge my capabilities by running a particular river or a particular rapid.
- ◆ I expect to assist my fellow paddlers to the best of my own personal skill and ability if they appear to need such assistance, but only so long as I can do so without significant danger to myself. I further understand that this does not imply any LEGAL duty for me to do so, nor for anyone else to render such assistance to me.

Now, therefore, intending to be legally bound, I HEREBY WAIVE, FOR MYSELF AND FOR ANYONE ELSE CLAIMING THROUGH ME, MY RIGHT TO SUE THE NORTH TEXAS RIVER RUNNERS, ITS OFFICERS, TRIP COORDINATORS OR LEADERS, OR ANY OF MY FELLOW PADDLERS, FOR ANY INJURIES TO MY PERSON OR MY EQUIPMENT WHICH MAY OCCUR DURING, IN PREPARATION FOR, OR IN TRANSIT TO A NORTH TEXAS RIVER RUNNERS OUTING. THIS WAIVER APPLIES TO ANY NEGLIGENT ACT OR OMISSION, AND TO ANY INTENTIONAL ACT INTENDED TO PROMOTE MY SAFETY OR WELL BEING.

This waiver is given in the interest of permitting the North Texas river Runners to exist and to serve the paddling community, and to enable myself and my fellow paddlers to feel free to donate their services to improve the sport and to help in training those less skilled than ourselves without fear of liability.

MY WAIVER IS GIVEN IN EXCHANGE FOR SIMILAR WAIVERS TO BE GRANTED ON MY BEHALF BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NORTH TEXAS RIVER RUNNERS.

Signed: _____ this _____ day of _____, 2005.

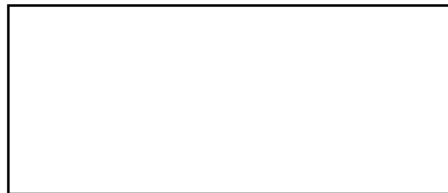
Please mail completed application by February 15, 2005 to:

NTRR PO Box 1284 Bedford, TX 76095-1284

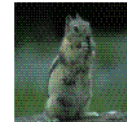
Meetings held 7 to 9 pm the last Tuesday of each month at Spring Creek BBQ ~ Bedford, TX



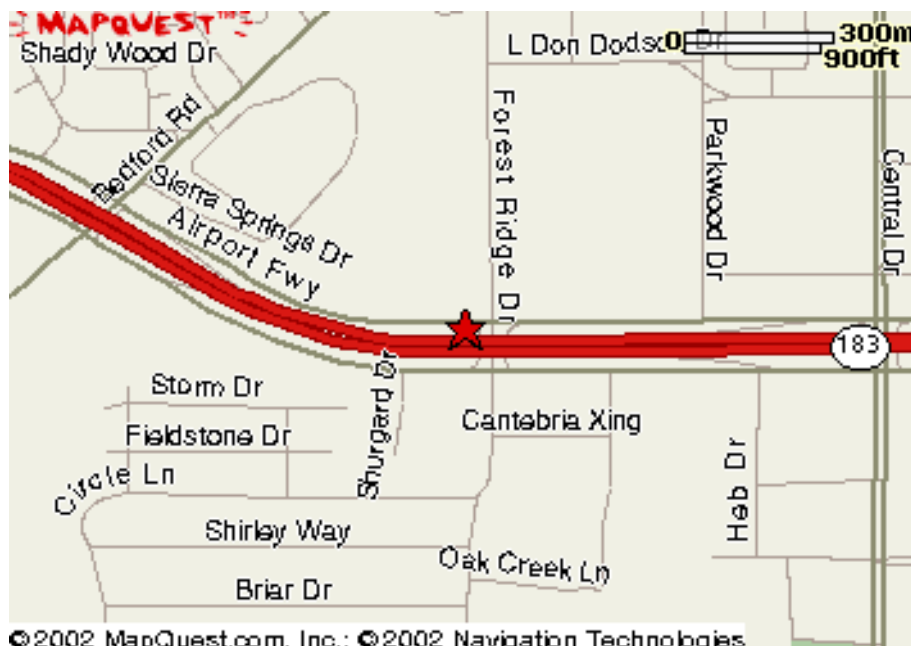
The North Texas River Runners
P.O. Box 1284
Bedford, TX 76095-1284



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**



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

Club meetings
are held on the
3rd Tuesday of
the month at
Spring Creek
Barbeque from
7:00—9:00 PM
Next Meeting:
February 22nd,
Wednesday
(an exception
to the new rule)