



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

## Commodore's Column by Lorraine McPhee

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### February Meeting Ben Kvanli

- Paddling trips to Guatemala!
- Handicapped veterans program !
- Junior Olympics

Bring a friend!

Dear paddling friends and enthusiasts,

> Now is the time!

> Now is the time to sit down with your calendar and make some fun spring plans. You can mark the dates for river clean ups.

Beginning now through early summer there will always be a river clean up on one of our favorite rivers somewhere in Texas. They usually occur the first weekend of the month.

> Want to be an ACA instructor? There are spring courses available. Classes don't begin until April, but sign ups start now! (See Cutter Aquatics or the Arkansas Canoe Club web pages).

Sign up for the TCC NE College canoe or kayak classes, they begin very



soon, and the canoe class culminates in a super fun trip. Want to be safer on the water? Whitewater rescue and similar classes are offered in the spring. SpringsFest in San Marcos is on the horizon, which will offer many classes and great events, such as a Dutch oven cook off, and a sladeo. Sign up through the Power Olympic Outdoor center.

Spring rains may bless us with some running water on the Trinity, or perhaps releases on the Guadalupe, and many other fun spots. Applying for and planning permit trips are also so fun and exciting.

> The list of possibilities can go on. Ultimately, if you wish to improve your skills, get some time on the water, contribute to benefit our rivers, and have a good time, then spring in Texas is a wonderful time of year! So mark your calendar now to get out there and paddle!

> SYOR,

>

> Lorraine McPhee,  
Commodore

*Lorraine McPhee*

## Hidalgo Falls River Festival—March 21 & 22

The seventh annual festival will be held at the Hidalgo Falls property on the Brazos River near Navasota. A major fund raiser, dealer reps and

outfitters will have boats and gear available for demos on moving water. Admission for the entire weekend is \$10/adults and \$5 for children.

For more information:  
<http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/hf-fest7.html>

## FEBRUARY MEETING -- BEN KVANLI!!!

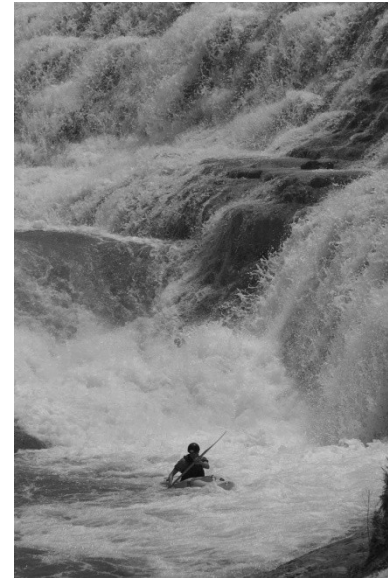


*My goal is to give you all that I have found and more...to give you what you need to improve your paddling experience.*

Another outstanding program will be presented at our next NTRR meeting on **Tuesday, February 17 at 7:00 pm, Lake Arlington.**



We are fortunate to have a feature presentation by Ben Kvanli, Olympian and world-class, expert whitewater kayaker, C1 and C2er. and ACA whitewater instructor. His program will include information on the new paddling trips to Guatemala, cover their trips to Mexico as well as developments with their handicapped veterans program and the Junior Olympic program.



*Ben Kvanli Mexican Creek Canyon on the Medina River, Texas*

Ben has competed internationally on the Whitewater Slalom World Cup circuit and at the 1995 through 2003 World Championships representing Guatemala. Ben started paddling in the USA as a junior and is currently immersed in paddlesports through his involvement with the Red River Racing Club and the Power Olympic Outdoor Center in San Marcos, Texas. .

Ben and his wife, Michelle, own and operate the Power Outdoor Olympic Center. Michelle is a three time U.S. Marathon Team member and whitewater instructor.

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