

January 2005

Visit us on the web at: www.river-runners.org

North Texas River Runners



Commodore's Column
By Curtis Boerner

Happy New Year from the Helm,

I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday season and received a great piece of outdoor equipment from Santa. As we chug into the New Year, I would like to thank a few individuals who took a shift at the tiller for a little while these last few months. First, thanks to all the NTRR officers who have been doing such a grand job. Second, thanks to Barb and Mike Cutter who opened their home and put on a grand NTRR Holiday Party. You both put a lot of time and effort into this event and it shows in the smiles of those who attended. Fun was had by all (if you missed it there is always this next December). Third, thanks to Marianne Armstrong and Beth Barber for allowing NTRR to invade your home for the annual permit party. Your hospitality and great food made the event a definite success. Finally, thank you to Patsy Gomez for being our November program.

There is always room on the NTRR crew for more members. Please start the process of becoming a crewmember by renewing (or beginning) your membership today. As stated before "the more, the merrier"!

See you on the river and at the next meeting,
Curtis

TIME TO RENEW!

It's that time of year to renew your NTRR membership. Don't miss out on all the fun— keep your membership active! See page 5 of the newsletter for the renewal form.

Did You Know?

You can join the North Texas River Runners Yahoo Group at the following address:
river-runners-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. This group is open to members only.
Contact Chris Gross for more information.

November Program

The program for the January meeting will be a presentation by Adele Leavens, from Streams and Valleys. Adele has been actively involved in bringing whitewater to the Trinity River. She will update club members on the activities to bring more whitewater to the Fort Worth area and talk about the Trinity Park Project as well as the plans for the Gateway Park. Come to the meeting to show your support and enthusiasm for these projects!

Inside this issue:

Up a Creek...	2
Safety Essay Contest	
River Runner of the Year	
Fabulous Friday Flips	3
Dallas Trinity River...	
Olympic Paddler in DFW	
Dancing Droplets	4
Renewal Form for Membership Application	5
Meeting Map	6



Fabulous Friday Night Flips

Just like last year, indoor heated pool time to work on your roll and paddling strokes. New for this year, kayak rentals for those without a boat and private lessons from US Team Members and other skilled instructors. This event is appropriate for all skill levels, beginners to experts.

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

**Friday nights, November 5, 2004
through April 9, 2005
7:30 pm to 9:30 pm**

**Please visit our website for additional information
www.kayakinstruct.com**

Dallas' Trinity River Project An Update by Dave Holl

Last month, I attended the stakeholders meeting for the Trinity River project. There are two pieces that benefit the paddling community. The first is a relatively inexpensive (\$200,000) project that could give us a play wave with fairly constant water. This could be available in as little as a year's time. The second is a much larger whitewater park with pumps. The whitewater park along with the connected lakes and river would support three separate Olympic paddling programs. The intent would be to have the US Team train at this facility during the winter months and be ready when the next Olympic city is selected.

I know how independent we paddlers are and how we view government regulations and funding; and there will be a lot of that with this project. However, these two projects will provide a lot of good for both the paddling community and the city. You can help support these projects by providing coordinated support through paddling clubs like the Dallas Downriver Club and North Texas River Runners.

OLYMPIC PADDLER TO TEACH CLINICS IN DFW! From Dave Holl

It's official! Olympic paddler, Davey Hearn will be in the DFW area beginning Friday evening, February 11th through Sunday, February 13th to teach some kayaking and possibly canoeing classes! The schedule of events is completely open at this time, and I need club members to contact me if they would be interested in attending any clinics or activities led by Davey Hearn.

Editor's note: This is a fantastic opportunity for club members to obtain training from a renown paddler. It's not often that a paddling event of this caliber occurs in DFW, and I encourage everyone to take advantage!



Dancing Droplets

By Jean Muncrief

While paddling the Saline River in Charles Smith's Canoe Class, we had the opportunity to observe a water phenomenon during a rain shower. We have all seen this phenomenon when sparkling rain drops dance in spherical shapes on the water before becoming part of the river. Or you may have seen it when water drips from a faucet into a bowl of water in your sink. Or perhaps you observed it when dripping water on to hot oil which gives a somewhat similar effect but definitely more dangerous.

If anyone is still struggling to visualize this, I liken it to dropping a handful of BBs (that's the ammo for BB guns) on a hard floor from about 12 inches. Initially, they bounce but eventually come to a stopping point. If the BBs were rain drops hitting a river, they would, when stopped become one with the surface they hit.

Being paddlers with inquiring minds, we started to discuss what causes this phenomenon. We threw a lot of different theories into the hat but no one was sure what actually did cause the dancing droplets.

So, I thought that as the new Environmental Officer, I would research this and report on it at the next canoe club meeting - an interesting and easy topic, right? Wrong! Well interesting but this sure wasn't easy!

First I called Chemistry professors at TCC. They didn't know and referred me to the physics guys who didn't know either. They suggested I contact Texas A&M Oceanography Department, who by the way never responded so obviously they did not know the answer and weren't willing to admit it!

Next step on the trail of dancing droplets: I looked up 4 physics professors, 4 chemistry professors and 2 wildlife and fisheries science professors at Texas A&M and wrote them all an e mail describing the phenomenon of dancing droplets and asking what forces in nature caused it.

May I say that all of these professor's were gracious enough to respond even if they did not know the answer! I actually got to be on the physics department email list for the discussion of my question. It was a truly interesting experience from one professor considering experiments in the laboratory to reproduce the effect I described to my personal favorite, one asking the question "why don't we have a white water canoe class at Texas A&M?"!

But anyway, back to the answer. I got a lot of theories and I waded through two scientific research papers to come up with an answer to our question. Just about all the literature I read and most of the responses I received at some point mentioned the following as a probable cause of dancing droplets.

These bouncing droplets of water are caused by the surface tension imbalance owing to the temperature difference between the rain drops and the water surface they strike. The colder the water, the more surface tension it has and the warmer, the less. These differences cause the droplets to bounce a few times before equalizing to the temperature of the water surface they strike and becoming part of that surface, the river in our case.

So, there you have it, the scientific basis for this beautiful water phenomenon – dancing droplets. We will still enjoy it whether we remember what causes it or not – it's just one of the many added benefits of a day paddling on the river.

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



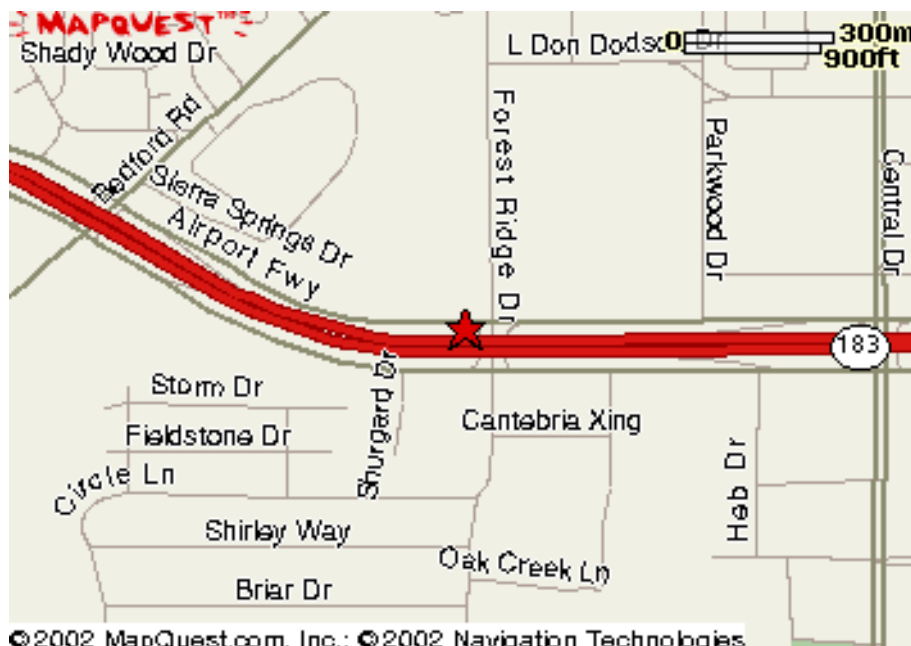
The North Texas River Runners
P.O. Box 1284
Bedford, TX 76095-1284



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: gigixL13@msn.com**



Club meetings
are held on the
last Tuesday of
the month at
Spring Creek
Barbeque from
7:00—9:00 PM
Next Meeting:
January 25th

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