

May 2006

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North Texas River Runners



Commodore's Column
By Curtis Boerner

Ahoy from the Helm,

It has been a little wet lately. Good! Hopefully some of you have been able to go catch a wave somewhere.

Congratulations to our cardboard boat-building engineers, headed up by Laurie Patterson, on their entries into the Arlington Regatta. It is rumored one of the boats won. We look forward to hearing all about your adventures at the next meeting. It is good to be getting the club name out in the community.

We have another chance to hold the NTRR flag high and explain what we do to the communities around us. We have been asked to have a booth at this year's Grapevine Main Street Days. The festival this year is going to have an outdoor section that promotes outdoor recreation. We have been asked by the city to participate as a club, have a booth, and tell others about our club. The dates for the event are May 19, 20, & 21. Anyone willing to help or has any suggestions please email me (address located inside of this newsletter). Lets have lots of volunteers so the public can experience the many different personalities of the club. This will also keep just a few people from having to spend the whole weekend at the festival. **Please** consider this offer and step up to the wheel for the club. It takes **all** of us to keep the NTRR ship afloat. Thanks.

See you at the meeting.

Curtis

Upcoming Activities

May 12-14 will be a white water trip for the club. We will decide where we are going closer to the date. I need to know who is interested so we can make travel and food plans.

May 20th will be the next roll practice at the downtown Ft. Worth YMCA, from 1-4. I will not be able to attend and need a volunteer to be in charge of this event.

June 17th 11:00- 5:00. Drill day, roll practice and picnic at Laurie's house on the lake. Bring the family for paddling fun, games and food.

For more information on any activities, contact Laurie at queenbee@uwmail.com

Inside this issue:

May Program	2
Evolution of Canoe Class	3
San Marcos trip report	5
San Marcos trip report #2	6
Cardboard boat pictures	7

Evolution of the Canoe Class at TCC-NE

By Charles Smith

In 1970 my love affair with canoes began with a trip down the Brazos River with the combined faculties of the South and Northeast campus. Boats were rented from a fledging canoe rental called High Trails owned by Bob Narramore. A week later I was the proud part-owner of three brand new aluminum canoes. Canoe fishing and camping occupied my paddling interests for several years.

In 1974 I assisted Eva Harrell with the canoe segment of a new class called Outdoor Education which also included backpacking, rock climbing, and rappelling. 1976 was the first year for a class called canoe camping. Gradually my interests evolved more toward whitewater. My first formal whitewater instruction was with Bob Benner, author of North Carolina Whitewater. Instructor certification through the American Canoe Association soon followed.

The canoe class gradually began to take on a whitewater emphasis in 1978. Skills, maneuvers and safety made it increasingly difficult to manage a large number of students on moving water. During the early days there were a number of promising students who stayed around for several semesters and gradually began to assist as safety boaters and paddle with beginners. Early helpers included Tripp McGuffin, Rusty Williams, Hollan Holmes, Wes Moffat, Lisa Whitney, William Barrett, Jon Blake, Scott Luttrell, Linda Berger, and Billie McCallum. All these early paddlers helped with safety and rescue and gradually began helping teach skills to entry level students.

A more permanent group of eight assistant instructors began to gradually take shape in 1986. This group has now dedicated from sixteen to twenty years of service to the NE canoe class. This group has helped develop one of the best instructional units I have ever observed. Thanks to each of them in order of years of service: Diana Boerner, Ronnie Ash, Curtis Boerner, Laura Thornton, Monty Montemayor, Ted Drake, John Simmons (or maybe it was John Simmons then Ted Drake, never could tell the difference) and Allan Husch. The efforts of this group have enabled hundreds of students the opportunity to learn to canoe safely

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

in a fun environment.

This was the last semester of teaching canoeing for thirty-two years at TCC-NE. Without the help of the early assistants and in particular the service of these loyal eight, the program would not have been nearly as effective. Thanks to all of you from the bottom of my heart. Thanks also to all the students who have passed through this program. You have enriched and given meaning and value to my life. I'll continue to paddle, lead some private clinics, and assist Curtis Boerner who will be taking over the canoe class as a part of the non-credit program at the college.

I'll see you on the river. Happy Paddling!

Charles Smith

A Brief Summary:

38 years at TCC

32 years teaching canoeing

166 canoe classes taught (Non – TCC included)

2,166 canoeing students

350 instructional canoe trips

1,284 river days (three and one – half years)

288,800 miles traveled teaching canoe classes (about \$86,640 dollars in gas money at today's prices)

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.

May 16, Tuesday

*June 27, Tuesday

July 18, Tuesday

August 15, Tuesday

September 19, Tuesday

October 17, Tuesday

November 21, Tuesday

San Marcos: TCC NE Trip Report April 27-30, 2006

By Derrell Little

This week, as compared to last week, we got a better on time start and arrived in time to setup camp in daylight. After a night's rest, we loaded up and went back to the Como River for more skills training. We spent more time using the chute to practice an exit from the fast current into the eddy. We did a lot of carrying the canoes from the down stream side of the chute to the top of the chute. Thanks to all that helped me carry the canoe up for another practice run. I also learned the techniques to ferry across the river using the current for the force to carry my canoe across the river. I still have to develop these skills with a lot more to be as successful as I would like to be. We spent a lot of time trying to learn how to get in and out of an eddy using the fast downstream current to do the work for us if we used the paddle correctly.

During the night we got a lot of rain which significantly improved the San Marcos for whitewater canoeing. I was in the Mohawk again because of my lack of skills to maintain stability in white water.

On the first major falls on our downstream run, I saw some women going down backwards. The past week I had gotten in the position because of lack of skills and went down backwards and didn't have a problem. Well, I thought, I may as well try this one backwards also. I was successful, i.e., didn't turn the canoe over.

Later on these same falls, Charles coached me into doing side surf.

Downstream, some of the group had lunch on a small island (a pile of accumulated dirt and rocks with a little bit of shade from a tree on the bank) in the river.

The last day we paddled near the campground, as we needed to leave about 1pm for Fort Worth. I got to try out a tippy canoe as it was considered very unstable for me. It certainly has some characteristics that I need to learn before I take it down a white water river. I look forward to next Fall's classes.; Be ready Curtis!

The last night was certainly different!! Charles, our instructor, was on his last canoe trip for the classes he has taught at Tarrant County College, Northeast Campus for his working career. I have attended many retirement parties over the 35 years I worked before my own retirement. Charles, yours was the best I have attended. The next best was mine and I planned everything I wanted to happen, including dancing with Judy to the tune "Waltzing across Texas With You". I had a recording playing in the background, and I sang the song to her as we danced. Charles, I hope your retirement is as rewarding as mine has been. It is a real ball!

I look forward to you attending the canoe trips that TCC puts together to fill the needs of students at TCC.

Canoeing in San Marcos

By Sarah Haggard

Canoeing...where to start? Upon registering for this class I had the option of choosing between camping and backpacking, as well as tandem canoeing. Slim pickins' I know; nevertheless it was hands down canoeing. I figured the class would be an easy credit with little effort on my part. Boy was I wrong! We began the class with a simple swim test and extensive outline of the course and objectives. At this point I was still naive to the concept of the sport. The image I had was floating down a beautiful river peacefully and at a slow and steady pace with a simple forward stroke and that was it. Although both the Comal and San Marcos rivers were beautiful, low but beautiful, looks were deceiving. Rapids, dams, eddy's, holes, pillows, and strainers made it nearly impossible to go slow and steady. Come to find out there is actually technique, speed, a handful of strokes to move down the river, equipment, signal communication, safety precautions, teamwork, and challenging skills to master. Whew, I'm tired just typing about it. After learning the proper strokes in the pool, I found I needed to put way more effort into them. My whole body was sore most of the trip. Both my instructors John and Laura were excellent paddlers as well as teachers. Initially, the boat never went the way I wanted it to and I was a little flustered but my instructors were very patient. I expected to participate in an enjoyable college course with little challenge, what I got was a fantastic experience, new friends, and a very skilled sport in my back pocket. Not quite in the pocket, I mean, there is still so much to learn. Hopefully I will be able to continue perfecting my strokes in both a canoe and a kayak. From this point forward I have gained an open mind to all aspects of outdoor activity, I thoroughly enjoyed the break from phones, work, and studies, I believe it would lead to a healthier lifestyle if I continued in this sport. Thank you so much for your time, patience, and wisdom during this course I will never forget it!

We have an opportunity to have an NTRR booth at the Main Street Days in Grapevine on May 19, 20, and 21st. We will need some volunteers to work the booth to help get the word out about our club. If you are interested and available, contact Curtis Boerner at 817-656-3475.

NTRR Cardboard Boat Entries



Clyde's cardboard boat takes first place in it's category!
Photos by Laurie Patterson and Weldon Sanders

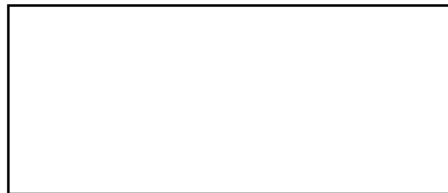


The NTRR cardboard boat team took 4th place in the Dolphin category!
Photo by Weldon Sanders

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



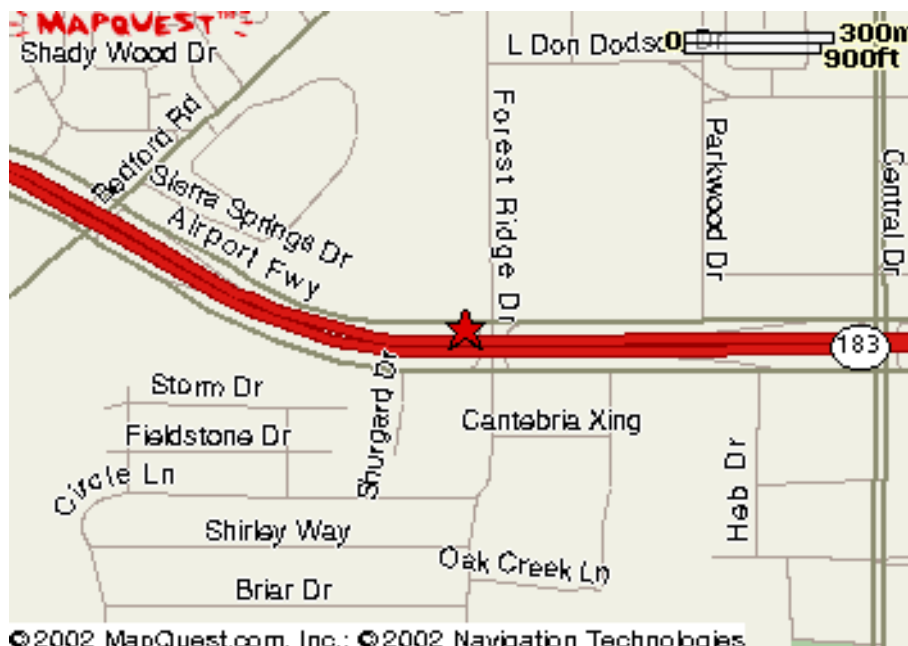
The North Texas River Runners
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Home of the Prairie Dog Surfing Society
“If we’re not in the hole, we’re sitting right beside it.”



**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:
May 16 th,
Tuesday

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