

North Texas River Runners



Commodore's Column

By Diana McCown

Falling Again

I can't believe we are already in the month of October! I always love the Fall because there are so many fun activities to attend. The TCC canoe class just got back from a venture on the Saline River in Arkansas. Lots of NTRR folks also showed up to paddle the river and have some fun. It was great getting to visit with so many people. The Corp of Engineers and some independent paddlers have really cleaned up the river. One major strainer is now gone! Having a busy work schedule, I was only able to join the class on Saturday. It was worth a one-day trip though, because I got to paddle with the women solo boaters in the class.

Later this month, the TCC class has obtained another release on the Lower Cossatot. If you didn't make this last release, it's a great opportunity to connect with some fellow club members and run a river. Looking ahead to later in the year, John is leading a trip to Caddo Lake November 21-23. December 13th, Barb will be hosting our annual NTRR Holiday Party. Put some dates on your calendar now so you won't miss out on the fun!

See you on the river,
Diana



October Program

John O'Neal is coming from Galyans sporting goods and will be talking about new camping and paddling equipment.

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REI Members. Just a quick reminder to let you know that we have two great community service projects planned for the coming weekends. The Projects are LUNAFEST scheduled Friday, Oct 17 and Saturday Oct 18 and our Service Project scheduled for Sunday, October 26. These are two projects support outdoors-recreational activities and community service. They represent the essences of who we are and what we do. Now we need your help to make these projects successful. We need you to attend the LUNAFEST FILM Festival and we need 150 volunteers to complete the planned Service Project.

Please read the following for specific details about the two events.

1. LUNAFEST (<http://www.lunabar.com/>)

REI Members please consider attending this Very Important Event that is coming to our store in October. The dates for the event are 6:30 pm on Friday, Oct. 17 and 1:00 pm on Saturday, Oct. 18

LUNAFEST, a national festival of films by, for or about women, will return to screens nationwide for the third year beginning in October 2003. In addition to providing national exposure for emerging women filmmakers, LUNAFEST also supports one of the most important causes for women today by donating proceeds from the festival to The Breast Cancer Fund. (TBCF)

LUNAFEST will travel to more than 25 locations in 2003, growing from an eight-city tour when it launched in 2001. As part of its goal to generate awareness of women's issues,

LUNAFEST has raised more than \$25,500 for TBCF, helping to aid its mission: identifying and advocating for the elimination of environmental and other preventable causes of breast cancer. In 2003, LUNAFEST hopes to raise even greater awareness and funding to support the cause.

TICKETS: Tickets are \$7.00 and are currently available for purchase at REI Dallas located at 4515 LBJ Freeway in Farmers Branch Texas 75244. Tickets will be available at the event as well.

Hope you to "see you at the movies"

2. REI Service Project

Fall is here, and it's time to enjoy the weather and participate in a great service project. Come and join Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) volunteers and staff from Carrollton's Parks and Recreation Department construct a Canoe Launch, and walkway on the Elm Fork of Trinity River.

The project activities will begin at 8:00 AM on Sunday, October 26. The project site is on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River at the Dimension Track. Dimension Track is located about a mile and half West of I35 North and just South of Beltline at the end of Westward and Elm Park Drive. REI will provide free T-shirts and lunch. Pre-register for work crew @ REI (4515 LBJ Freeway) or call 972-490-5989 for more details.

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 _____, 2002/03.

*Please mail completed application by January 15, 2004 to:
NTRR PO Box 1284 Bedford, TX 76095-1284*

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

NTRR Environmental Awareness – October 2003

Offered by Barbara Cutter

American Whitewater is our premiere not-for-profit, non-government agency working to conserve and restore American's white water resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. We can be proud of this mission statement, but in that past AW has found itself running in circles to address our nation's overwhelming environmental concerns. This year has brought an attempt to focus the work, and hopefully achieve broader results. Twelve priority issues have recently been identified in an attempt to address and treat *causes* of threats to the organizational mission and our national whitewater environment before treating annoying *symptoms*.

Stream Gauge Funding

How many of you have bookmarked on your internet explorer the US Geological Survey site that gives you current stream flow? I know I am not the only club member that watches storm systems then eagerly searches internet resources for reports on the basins that will be awash and awaiting our paddles. Funding for stream gauges is currently at risk. Approximately 1/3 of all gauges may cease to function shortly. Very little money is being allocated by states, the congress and the Army Corps of Engineers to continue this service we depend on. AW is working strongly on educating congress on the value of the our gauges, strategizing with the Corps of Engineers to fund the subcontracting of gauge maintenance and communicating with departments of tourism in all states about the benefits of continuing this effort.

Boat Registration

Texas is not the only state instituting a variety of new fees to make up for budget shortfalls. More and more states are turning to boat registration requirements. Yikes. I currently have six boats in my garage! The sad news is that when states require canoes and kayaks to pay a registration fee, the generated funds have never been assigned to benefit white water boaters or protect the natural resources. Here in Texas we have spoken out against small craft registration but that doesn't mean the issue is dead. The recent new laws enacted by our legislature prove to us that user fees are becoming more and more, not less, prominent. AW is taking a stand to help when and where boat licensing occurs. Let's make sure it is fair to all and benefits the boaters who are being taxed.

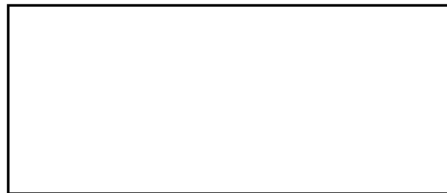
Speaking out on River Issues

Whose job is it to talk about the creeks, rivers and watershed we value? Who should take charge of teaching our neighbors and our lawmakers the importance of preservation, cleaning up after ourselves and appropriate river use? If not us, the paddlers, then who? We are out there on the water every chance we get; we are teaching our kids to paddle; and we are organizing river clean ups. In addition to what we *do* naturally we must (even though it sounds a little backwards) we must TALK the WALK. Now, more than ever AW is spearheading a movement to motivate the paddler, the river user, to play a very active roll in conserving our water resources. We must all learn to become ambassadors for our sport both on and off the river. We cannot continue to watch silently as Wild and Scenic River corridors are opened to more bridges and roads. If we believe a dam is a detriment to a river we must speak. If funding is disappearing for the protection of a river—our public trust—we must mobilize. If we do not listen, watch, speak and act our sport will dry up with our spirits.

American Whitewater is only one group doing the work of raising national awareness and working on issues to protect our rivers, our environment. I will try to bring to your awareness different avenues for learning about protecting our natural resources. I urge you to join conservations efforts where you feel the fit is good.



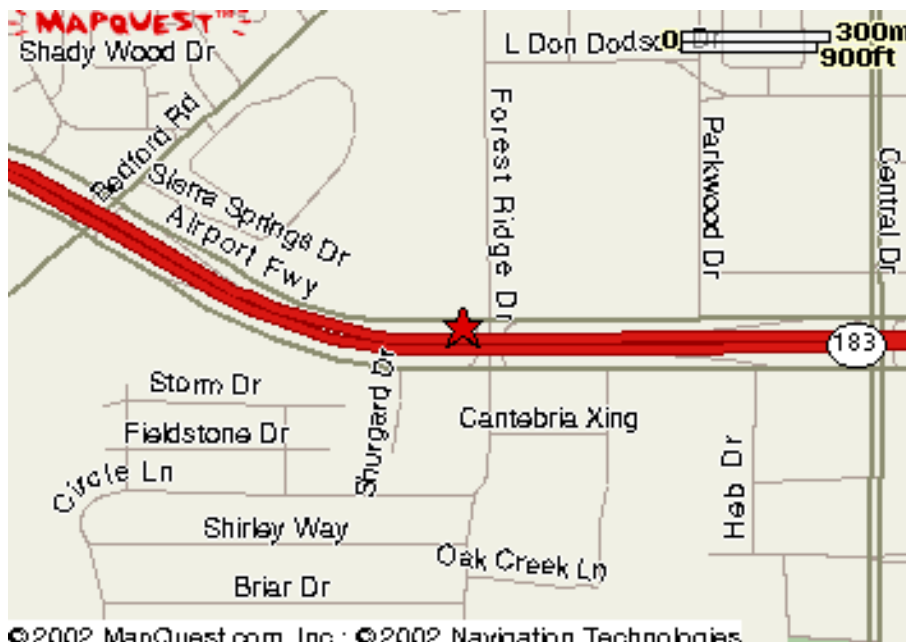
The North Texas River Runners
P.O. Box 1284
Bedford, TX 76095-1284



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: Tyler Bennett @ GMChighrider01@aol.com**



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

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