



Commodore's Column by Larry

Editor's Note:

Per Larry, the initiative to associate with the ACC was voted down at the October meeting. He added, "We will do what ever we can to build up membership and get the club on its feet."

Inside this issue:

Commodore's Column	1
Michelle Kvanli wins!!!	2
Texas Paddlers recognized	3
San Marcos River letter	4

Hi from Commodore Larry Lewis: Most of you are aware that we of the North Texas River Runners have been looking at options available to the club to increase membership and provide additional benefits to members of the club. It appears that most paddling clubs and even other organizations have experienced losses in membership and difficulties in attracting members. In the month of October two major paddling Symposiums are being in the East. One by ACA and the other hosted by Kent Ford. Both of these symposiums are scheduled to address the membership problems faced by the local paddling clubs. While paddlesports is growing, the club participation is falling. I hope to get some of the information back from these national meetings that we can apply to the NTRR.

The NTRR has seen their membership rolls lessen for the past few years in the same manner that many other paddling clubs have experienced. In 1998 there were 103 members on the roles of the NTRR, by 2001 the number reduced to 72, then 69 in 2004 and 49 members in 2005.

In 2008, fifteen members from 2007 did not renew their membership. This left thirty-one single members or families. Again in 2009, ten members did not renew and we presently have thirty-six members. Since some of these members are not able to participate in functions, we are left with a small group of members trying to keep the club productive.

In our September meeting, we discussed this issue and five possible changes in the club that we hoped would enhance the Club. Of these, it was determined that we had the best chance of success by either keeping the club as it is or associating with the Arkansas Canoe Club as one of their chapters. Since that time, six of us attended the Arkansas Rendezvous and meet with the directors of that organization. This option will be discussed at length in our meeting on October 20. Please try to attend.

MICHELLE KVANLI WINS US NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR WOMEN'S KAYAKING!!!



Michelle Kvanli became the 2009 US National Champion October 4 at Charlotte, NC, in a field that included Olympic gold medalists from the 2008 Olympic Games.

After struggling through her first run, which rewarded perfection, but punished anything less, Michelle said, "When I saw Elena Kalishka, the 2-time Olympic Gold medalist, hitting gates in frustration it helped me to refocus on my final run." The results could not have been better as Michelle had the fastest American time in the Finals.

Michelle had shoulder surgery in 2007 that kept her from being able to move her arm, and required 6 months of rehab. In the last 1 1/2 years she has been training non-stop to get back into the sport she loves. Just 6 months after she could paddle again, she placed 3rd in the 2008 National Championships, won the US Open in March and placed 3rd at the US National Team Trials. On the way to this year's Pan American Championships, she was in an accident where she and her fellow friend and competitor were in a truck rollover that destroyed their boats, but thankfully both girls walked away fine.

TEXAS PADDLERS RECOGNIZED !!!

As a side note, there are a good number of our Texas friends that are highly rated in US Whitewater Slalom racing. They are:

Michelle Kvanli : 2nd Womens K-1

Carolyn Peterson: 1st Womens C-1

Mark Poindexter : 3rd Mens C-2 & 8th Mens C-1

Jennifer Fritz : 7th Womens C-1

Matt Fritz : 15th Mens C-1

Erin Cambridge : 41st Womens K-1 (Ben Kvanli's Junior Olympian)

Henry Hyde : 42nd Mens K-1 (Ben Kvanli's Junior Olympian)

Rebecca Moore : 12th Womens C-1 (Ben Kvanli's Junior Olympian)

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Wearing a lifejacket can make the difference between being rescued or being recovered.

WASHINGTON - It is not unusual for the Coast Guard and other rescuers to search for a person who ended up in the water unexpectedly. All too often the search and rescue evolves into a search and recovery because the person was not wearing a lifejacket.

It is not uncommon for boaters and/or their passengers to unexpectedly find themselves in the water without a lifejacket. Some survive and unfortunately some do not. Not wearing a lifejacket while boating, including, canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddle-boarding is like playing "Russian Roulette."

The chances of a non-swimmer surviving a fall overboard if not wearing a lifejacket are remote if not rescued quickly. "Not to wear a lifejacket whether you are a swimmer or not is to take an unnecessary risk, you never know when you might end up in the water", said Anthony Turner, a spokesperson for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

There many excuses for not wearing a lifejacket, such as "they are uncomfortable" or "too expensive." U.S. Coast Guard approved lifejackets range in price from as low as \$15.00 to about \$400.00 for the top of the line inflatable, although, even the most expensive lifejacket is of no value if it is not worn.

It is undisputable a lifejacket can and will save a life if properly worn; but what about preventing boating mishaps in the first place. Since most boating mishaps are caused by operator inattention, inexperience, and speeding resulting in collisions, remembering and following a few simple boating rules of the road, such as keeping a sharp lookout for other boat traffic, can help prevent collisions

WASTE OF SAN MARCOS RIVER WATER !!!

Tom Goynes, President of the Texas Rivers Protection Association (TRPA) has issued a letter calling attention to the latest attempt to divert water from the San Marcos river. Portions of his letter are published below:

A wealthy developer from the Houston area has been busy creating a water-ski mecca and subdivision on the San Marcos River. It is located just downstream of Sculls Crossing, which is about ten miles downstream of the city of San Marcos. It extends all the way to the Martindale Low Water Bridge. It involves three large lakes, all of which are to be kept full with water pumped from the San Marcos River. The land came with an irrigation water right - one hundred fifty acre-feet of water (visualize a lake one hundred fifty acres in area, one foot deep). You can read all about the development (and maybe even buy a little piece of heaven) at their website:

<http://www.sanmarcosriverranch.com/index.php>

The Guadalupe River system (which includes the San Marcos River) has a watermaster. He's a guy (with a staff) who works for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) who determines when there is enough water in a river for a permit holder to pump his or her water right. The water right permit for the "Ranch" states that, during the Summer months - from May through August - there has to be a flow of at least 130 cfs at the Luling USGS gage in order for the Ranch to pump river water. And, to the credit of the watermaster, this limit has been enforced.

If the pumping limit was 130 cfs year round (or perhaps even as low as 100 cfs during the rest of the year) then we might be willing to let this thing alone. But the watermaster has determined that the limit from September through April is only 34 cfs. In other words, this guy can pump water as long as there is at least 34 cfs showing on the Luling gage. Even during the 50's drought the river never got below 34 cfs! We feel that this is an outrage!!!!

By phone, Tom stated that the real problem is current law which allows irrigation water rights to be transferred for recreational purposes when the land is no longer used for agriculture. He requests that concerned NTRR members write their state senators and legislators now while the Legislature is no longer in session and they have time to read their mail.

He added that TRPA will also be organizing to contact legislators before the next session. For more information you may contact Tom at 512-392-6171 (home) or 512-787-5574 (cell).