



Dog River Clearwater Revival

Spring 2009 Newsletter

<http://dogriver.southalabama.edu>



7th Annual Dog Paddle Canoe/Kayak/Rowboat Races Saturday, May 16, 2009 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



The Dog River Clearwater Revival (DRCR) will host its **7th Annual Dog Paddle** on **Saturday, May 16, 2009** at Dog River Park (formerly Luscher/Navco Park) – Mobile’s only public park with access to Dog River. Canoe, kayak, and rowboat races will be held and in each race the winner will be recognized. Spectators are welcome, too! All proceeds will be used to support improvements to Dog River Park. This year’s Dog Paddle will be bigger and better with more activities for the entire family to enjoy.

Enjoy live music by Southern Current, food, drinks, taekwondo demonstrations, children’s activities, and a Dog River Trash or Treasures sale for which donations will be accepted. Contact Ann or Claire, below.

There will also be pet adoption by Friends of the Mobile Animal Shelter (FOMAS), boat vessel checks by Mobile Sail and Power Squadron, and a Pet Parade. Bring your family and friends for a fun time! Bring your dogs, too! (Please keep dogs on a leash and be prepared to pick up after them).

See below for registration and race information, or contact Ann Gathings, 454-2322, or Claire Wilson, 479-5599.

Dog Paddle Registration Information:

Register by mail: DRCR Dog Paddle
c/o 3555 Wooley Road
Mobile, AL 36693

Register online: www.dogriver.org

Note: Registration must include signed release on reverse of registration form (left and back).

Check or cash only. Makes checks payable to: Dog River Clearwater Revival. We cannot accept credit cards.

Novice race is for true beginners, people who have rarely, if ever paddled.

Beverages and snacks are available. Lunch will be available after races.

If you bring a dog with you to the “Dog Paddle,” it is your responsibility to clean up after your pet.

In the event of severe weather, the "Dog Paddle" may be cancelled.

A limited number of canoes and kayaks will be available at the "Dog Paddle" for you to use if you want to enter a race and do not have a boat. Sign up early to reserve a boat for a race.

Race schedule: TBA

½, 1 mile races and a 7 mile downriver race to Dog River Bridge. More details on website, www.dogriver.org.

How to get to Dog River Park

From I-65: Take Highway 90 east exit. Turn right at McVay, turn right on Navco Road., cross railroad tracks, turn left onto Dog River Road., turn right into Dog River Park (formerly Luscher/Navco Park).

From I-10: Take Dauphin Island Parkway north exit, left on McVay, left on Navco Road., cross railroad tracks, turn left onto Dog River Road., turn right into Dog River Park (formerly Luscher/Navco Park).

Dog Paddle Registration Form

Fee includes one t-shirt and all races.

\$20.00 per adult
\$10.00 per student
\$12.00 T-shirt only

Last name _____

First name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Email _____

- Circle one: Male Female
- T-shirt size (adult): S M L XL
- Circle race(s) you plan to enter:
Men’s Women’s Parent & Child
Open Novice Dog & Owner
Juniors (under 14)
- T-shirt only (enclose \$10) check here _____
- Circle boat type: Rowboat
Canoe Borrow a canoe
Kayak Borrow a kayak
- Anyone in a boat must sign the liability release on the back of this section and wear a PFD (personal flotation device).**

Total enclosed \$ _____

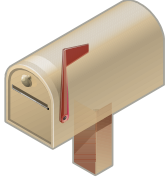
All levels of ability are welcome.

Don't forget to sign release on reverse of this form!

DRCR Litter Barrier Makes a Difference

April 4, 2009. Hi. I am a resident who lives along Dog River. I routinely pick up trash that floats up onto our property. Recently, I have noticed less trash along our banks. I would like to think people are more conscientious of where they toss their trash, but that is probably not the case. I am wondering if possibly the litter barrier that was installed is having its desired effect? Whatever the reason, I am grateful for not having to haul as much of other's people trash to my garbage can.

Judy Chappelle



Help Us Conserve Paper and Cut Costs!

Please, if you are receiving more than one copy of the DRCR Newsletter in the mail, contact Monica Kieffer at mbkieffer@gmail.com, or leave a message at 661-9086. *Thank you.*



Dog Paddle Liability Release

Every participant must sign this release.
Guardian must sign if participant is under 18.

In consideration of Dog River Clearwater Revival, their sponsors, agents, representatives, contractors, successors, event organizers, conductors and the City of Mobile allowing me to participate in the 2008 "Dog Paddle" and its related activities, I hereby waive, release and discharge forever said Dog River Clearwater Revival, their sponsors, agents, representatives, contractors, successors, event organizers and conductors and the City of Mobile from any and all claims, demands, rights and causes of action of whatsoever kind and nature arising directly or indirectly from any and all known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, bodily and personal injury, damage to property, and the consequences thereof resulting from my participating in said "Dog Paddle" and related activities and covenant not to sue for any said injuries and/or damage. I attest and verify that I am physically fit for this event and that I will wear a personal flotation device at all times in the boat. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use any photographs, videotapes, or any other record of this event for any purpose whatever. I have read the above release and understand that I am participating in the "Dog Paddle" and its related activities at my own risk.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Use this form to join now or your renew membership or make a tax-deductible donation. Your membership renews each January, so if you have not renewed this year, now's the time!

DOG RIVER CLEARWATER REVIVAL MEMBERSHIP is available at the following levels:

- _____ Chihuahua, \$25
- _____ Beagle, \$50
- _____ Spaniel, \$75
- _____ Hound Dog, \$100
- _____ Labrador, \$250
- _____ Standard Poodle, \$500
- _____ Great Dane, \$1,000

Standard membership is available at
____ \$12.00 per person
____ \$20.00 per family
or _____ Donation.

Please circle:

- New Member
- Membership Renewal
- Donation

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Deliver newsletter by:

_____mail _____email, the sustainable choice

Interested in volunteering?

Please circle:

Telephone Tree, Water Monitoring, Board Member,
Other.

*Make checks payable to
Dog River Clearwater Revival.*

Mail check and this form to:

DRCR
c/o 3555 Wooley Road
Mobile, AL 36693.

*For more information or to become involved,
call 471-5647.*



A Message from DRCR President...

There's a great Spring coming your way with a number of great activities.

First up is the organization's signature event, the Dog Paddle. On May 16 we will meet at Dog River Park to have fun in our canoes, kayaks, and other boats. As usual we will have boats available for those of you who do not have boats. We encourage everyone to come out and have a good time. This year, for the first time, we will also have some pet events, including a pet parade and a dog adoption. So come ready for fun and bring a friend, even a furry friend.

The second event on our calendar is the Dog River Run. This is a new event designed to bring attention to the watershed and the running and bike paths along the watershed. The race will be held starting on the road to Matthew's Park off of Michael Boulevard, at 6 PM on Saturday, June 6. The race will be 2 miles with the last mile on the path running from Michael Boulevard to the access road and Airport Blvd. next to Bob Baumauer's Wings Restaurant. Wings Restaurant will host an after-race party. There will be a 400-meter Children's Doggie Dash, and food and refreshments will follow the race. So, come ready for a good time.

In addition to these fun activities, the everyday work of keeping our watershed clean, green, and accessible goes on. Specifically, Ann Stein and Claire Wilson have been doing great work having coordinated a Dog River Park cleanup in April and developing the Dog Paddle. In addition, Claire has been working to improve the litter barrier and to scout new places for the next barrier.

Work is going forward on our new web site (www.dogriver.org) thanks to the efforts of Valerie Blankenship, Raj Johnson and his daughter Pavi. Also, Valerie has filed several complaints for poor management practices of construction sites along the Dog River. And, the effort to save Milkhouse Creek in West Mobile continues with some interesting twists.

For those of you who have not renewed your membership this year, remember that all our memberships run from January to December. If you have not renewed your membership yet, please take this opportunity to do so -- your membership and donation helped with all the programs run through Dog River Clearwater Revival including our storm drain medallion program, water testing, litter barriers, and the public outreach program, among others.

Come join our meetings held at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the Dauphin Island Parkway public library. Also feel free to get involved in any of the above mentioned activities.

Bruce C. Coldsmith, President



DRCR VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME and NEEDED!

Put your commitment to improving Dog River's water quality into action! There are many opportunities to become involved:

- Grant Writing and Research—We are always looking for grants to help fund our efforts and need assistance writing them.
- Special Events—Help us promote and organize: River Cleanups, the 2009 Dog Paddle festivities or the River Run Race in the late spring 2009, or member recruitment get-togethers, as well as other fundraisers
- Dog River Park Improvements
- Water Quality Testing
- Education and Outreach—Is your club or civic organization looking for a speaker? Are you a teacher looking for an environmental education opportunity? DRCR offers a graphically colorful and interesting Dog River Watershed educational seminar for groups such as schools, churches, civic organizations, and clubs. We can tailor it to fit your needs. Or, you may want DRCR representation at your local event. Give us a call – we have great presenters!
- Litter Barrier—We need people to help us monitor effectiveness of litter barriers established across waterways in the watershed.
- Storm Drain Markers—DRCR offers decals that affix to the top of storm drains along our streets in the Dog River Watershed to remind people not to dump fluids, leaves, or trash in them because they drain straight into the Dog River and will pollute the water. Contact us for more information about how you can install them in your neighborhood.
- Become a Dog River Guardian—Help us monitor construction sites that are not using proper best management practices to keep run-off out of our River.

DRCR Receives New Water Test Meter

A new electronic water meter was purchased recently by DRCR thanks to a grant through the **Mobile Bay National Estuary Program** from the Environmental Protection Agency. The new YSI 556 test meter could cut test time to a few minutes down from a half-hour or more under the present water testing method. In addition, the probe from the meter can be dropped as far down into the water as needed, allowing the volunteer taking the test to observe changes in temperature, salinity, and oxygen levels at different depths. Fish and other creatures can be affected by changes in the salinity or oxygen content below the water, as we observe in during a Jubilee. DRCR volunteers monitor 10 sites monthly under the Alabama Water Watch Program. The information is put into a database to record how Dog River is doing--which areas are becoming more polluted, which are improving, and which have not changed. Keeping abreast of changes in Dog River is vitally important for all the citizens of the Dog River Watershed, which is most of the City of Mobile, for "a healthy river is a clean river." We must all do our part to keep Dog River and the Dog River Watershed clean and green.



Spring Cleaning Dog River Park

Under the DRCR leadership of Ann Stein and Claire Wilson, twenty-five volunteers gathered on Saturday, April 4, 2009 to clean Dog River Park and Dog River as part of the national American Rivers Cleanup. They picked up about 100 bags of trash. Children who participated learned about the huge amount of trash carried through the Dog River Watershed to its lowest point in Dog River from where high tides carry it far offshore. Mobile Sail and Power Squadron also sponsored the event.

Other recent improvements to Dog River Park include:

- Name change
- New park sign and street signs
- New public canoe/kayak launch
- New doubled-sided bulletin board
- New trees planted
- 30 "Mobile Green" trash cans installed

Coming soon:

- New trees/plants in and around the old boat slip
- Shoreline protection project

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