

The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCCXXXIII

January 2003

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Padding the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Next Meeting Delayed

January 15, 2003, Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near the intersection with Harry Wurzbach. See the [linked map](#). The meeting will be a business and planning meeting. 6:30 to 8:30.

The meeting is delayed so we can attend the San Antonio River Authority meeting regarding river improvements, which is at our regular meeting date and time. See page 7 for details.

-o0o-

Club Officers

President kmcusick@juno.com	Kathy Cusick
Vice President wavegrazer@lycos.net	David Plylar
Sec./Treas. marie@wireweb.net 830-625-0604	Marie Searight
Editor bennight@alumni.utexas.net 210-826-7071	Kenneth Bennight
Mailings pvandermev@yahoo.com	Pam Vandermy

Presidency

In the last newsletter, we announced the presidency was vacant. Chris Vogeler had asked that he be relieved, but we need to clarify that he did not abandon his post. Chris did not leave the club without a president.

Kathy Cusick stepped forward to volunteer for the job. We list her in this newsletter as president even though there has been no formal vote. By doing so, we are not attempting to effect a palace coup;[†] just expecting that no one else would take the job. If you want the job, come to the January meeting, and we will have a vote.

[†] The reference to a "palace coup" does not imply that a presidential palace comes with the job. Saddam Hussein took over ours and is storing unusual things in it.

Freeze Trip

Colorado River-Island Camping
January 25-26, 2003

By Gib Hafernack

This will be the 17th year that the Alamo City Rivermen has done this event and has it has always been one of our most popular trips. This was the very first trip for the club when it was formed in 1987 and it just keeps on going and going.

Once again the Alamo City Rivermen will push the limits of Dutch Oven Technology. However you must commit, no half-hearted "well maybe" or "I'm thinking about it", this trip involves quite a bit of logistics in terms of obtaining enough dutch ovens to feed 50 to 60 people. This boat ride is a **Go or No Go** kind of trip, sort of like **Yes/No, One/Zero, and On/Off**.

The menu is as follows:

- Roast Beef Shoulder Clog
- Baked Potatoes with Onions
- Green Beans
- French & Sour Dough Bread
- Peach Cobbler
- Cowboy Coffee

(Freeze Trip Cont.)

Cost for the above is \$ 6.00 per person.

The following is optional: **Hot Wine Grog**

A delicious mixture of red wine, brandy, sugar, cloves, cinnamon stick kept simmering over a camp stove. Cost for this item is to bring a bottle of dry red wine or any flavor of brandy. We will provide the other ingredients.

Embarkation Plan: A Few Individuals Can Help

I need a few key people to help me on purchasing the following items or detail's on this trip. For the food items listed below I need you to volunteer to purchase one of the groups and bag it in white trash bags labeling each bag with a permanent marker. The bags need to be partially bagged so that they can easily be packed or placed in a canoe or kayak plus not tied too tight so we can use them for carrying out trash. I will give you the quantities needed based on RSVPs. The trick is we are waiting till the last minute in the event we have a postponement of the trip. If you would like to help or team up with another person let me know. Hang on to your receipts and or have a rough estimate and you will be reimbursed on the island.

Baked Potatoes with Onions	- Label PO
Green Beans	- Label GB
Sour Dough Bread	- Label SB
Peach Cobbler	- Label PC
Collecting Money	- Don't Lose it
Collecting Signature Release Forms & Distribution of maps	

To help facilitate cooking & serving consider bringing the following:

Dutch Ovens	If You Have One Bring it & Let Me Know
Fire Starter Stacks	If You Have One Bring it & Let Me Know
Cutting boards & knives	
Large pans or plastic bowls	
Portable tables	
Serving Spoons	

Bring your own eating utensils.

Raincheck & Postponement of Trip

If weather conditions are too hazardous for driving on Friday and Saturday, meaning snow and ice on roads and overpasses then the trip will be postponed two weeks to February 8 and 9. This decision to postpone will be made Wednesday on January 22 at 7:00 PM. You need to be watching the weather for the Austin/Bastrop area and stay in touch with me if weather conditions are deteriorating or unpredictable.

Some Details on Plan B

In the event of inclement weather, such as the possibility of rain on the island but clear launch conditions we will still go. We have one large tarp approximately 30 by 20 feet, to help with a group shelter for our cooking & social area consider bring the following:

Rope, stakes, twine
Tent Poles or Double Bladed Paddles
Duct tape
Extra Tarps
Note: This would be a group survival thing. It is what we train for.

Some Details on Plan C

In the event of absolutely miserable conditions, such as continuous rain or extremely strong winds we are planning on doing the cook out and campout at Pecan Park (512-392-6171) in San Marcos. Tom Goynes has granted the Rivermen a Temporary Special Dispensation on the Wine Grog since it involves Acts of God in conjunction with water and wine. The decision to move the location to Pecan Park will be made at FM 969 about 10:30 AM by all paddlers present on January 25.

Optional Sunday Brunch the next day. Bring your own breakfast and contribute to the community breakfast.

Where to Meet and When

Meet at Hwy 969 and the Colorado River at 9:00 am, Saturday, January 25. We will unload canoes and then coordinate to run small group vehicular shuttles of 2 to 3 vehicles. Some one will be passing out maps showing where the takeout point in Bastrop.

Note: Be Extra Careful on Running the Shuttle on Hwy 71. The Traffic Has Become Extremely Heavy and Congested in the Last Couple of Years. Take Your Time but Try Not to Waste Time. Unload Your Boat as Quickly as Possible and Then Move out of the Launch Area. Hint Some People Actually Get There Around 8:00 Am.

Someone will be collecting the money at the put in while we are running the shuttles, otherwise you can pay your money on the island.

When all dutch ovens & cooking ingredients are evenly loaded among the canoes we will depart. I would like to launch around 11:00 AM. Plan on stopping and having a short lunch break at 12:00 PM. We should arrive at the island between 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Once we arrive at the Island I need people to help me with the following critical items.

1. Immediately Bring Your Dutch Ovens, Dutch Oven Stacks and Food Items to the Cooking Area So We Can Start to Get Dinner Ready, Then Set up Your Tent.

2. We need to get a fire going so as to have a heat source for browning the meat. **This Is Why We Need the Stacks.**

3. We need cutters to help with cutting up vegetables and making up dishes for each dutch oven. **The Sooner it Gets Cut and Cooking the Sooner We Eat.**

4. We need to get the wine grog heated up and on line as it is very critical for morale purposes. **The Sooner it Is Sooner, Then it Will Seem Sooner.**

And Now for the No-shows

Every year I have a few no shows, when this happens with just one or two people it is not too much of an issue, but when its starts getting to be parties of 4 or more it can be a real head ache. For those individuals who have come year after year then your verbal RSVP is ok, but if you are in the latter group of people that I know nothing about or in that exclusive circle of no shows that I may require a full non-refundable deposit on your total party.

Your active and positive participation is what always makes this a very different and fun trip.

-oOo-

Upcoming Events

January 1, 2002	New Years Day Paddle	David Plylar, wavegrazer@lycos.net
January 8, 2003	San Antonio River Improvement Project Public Input Meeting, Historic Mission Reach, S. Alamo to Mission Espada	Texas Department of Transportation, Bexar Metro Office, 9320 SE Loop 410, 6:00 to 8:00 PM
January 15, 2003	Monthly meeting, planning (Note: This meeting is postponed because of the meeting on the 8 th shown above.)	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
January 25-26, 2003	Freeze Trip, Colorado River, Bastrop	GibGuy@compuserve.com
March 15-22, 2003	Pecos Expedition (Pandale to Highway 90)	GibGuy@compuserve.com
???????	Brazos River	AlamoChris@aol.com



-o0o-

Pecos River Trip March 15 - 22, 2003

By Gib Hafernick



The following people that have indicated a serious commitment for going on the Pecos Expedition, their names are as follows: Gib Hafernick, Randy Hohlaus, Kathy Cusick & Kevin Login, Chris Vogeler, Vern Huser, Ken Bennight, Charlie Riou.

Here are the people up in the air: Robert Detjen, Zoltan Mraz, Kevin McNeil, Mike Porter, Debbie Prather & ???, Jerry O'Conner

Note: I need to get a pretty serious commitment from you guys, your partners names and the type of boat you will be in as I have a feeling this trip will fill up some time in February. At some point we will start asking for deposits.

Food & Logistics

I estimate for dinner preparations, we will need (3) tables, (2) of the large rectangular dutch ovens, (1) deep 12 inch or (1) 14 inch dutch oven, (2) two-burner stoves with sufficient propane to cook most of the breakfast meals plus about half the dinner meals. Note: About half the meals in the evening will be cooked with propane the other half with charcoal.

Beverage Program

The following are into the beverage program of this trip: Gib Hafernick, Randy Hohlaus, Kathy Cusick & Kevin Login, Chris Vogeler.

Kathy Cusick wants to get in on the beverage plan. It is my understanding that she is not big on hard liquor and **Definitely Wants to Avoid Taking Cheap Beer**. I am not too big on hard liquor but would like Martini's on the river at least one night. My preference is red or white wines, based on the meal being served that evening plus beers with limes during the day as we do not want to have any cases of scurvy on this trip. Note the beverage plan is a separate cost but you may be carrying beverages in your boat since this is community gear.

Plan B1, B2 & the Shuttle

There are two plan B's on the drawing board now. Plan B1 is to do the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande, putting in at Blackgap and taking out at Dryden. Plan B2 is to do Boquillas Canyon of the Rio Grande. There is a slight complication on either one as there is an issue of if we can even get a shuttle for those section as we are waiting till the last minute for a change over in the event the Pecos River is not floatable.

After the shuttle debacle of the Turkey Trot, I am not in too motivated to check out the shuttle on the Rio Grande and will only focus my attention to doing the Pecos Shuttle. Someone else will need to work on researching the Rio Grande as to if we can do it.

The Commitment

For logistic reasons **If You Commit to the Pecos You Commit to the Rio Grande**, as an option to consider we could just not have the Rio Grande Options and focus our attention strictly to the Pecos.

Boat Requirements:

The requirement for this trip is that you have an open canoe capable of safely carrying your gear plus community gear for this expedition. ABS is the preferred boat but Aluminum will work as well although I would not recommend it for low water conditions if carrying (2) people.

Change of Trip Date

Kathy Cusick and Kevin Login would like to change the date of the trip. Traditionally we have done this at Spring Break to accommodate the school teacher crowd in our club. We could adjust the date, but I would not recommend changing the date plus or minus one week. Some feedback on this would be appreciated, if someone has a conflict with changing the date from the list of names above then we will stick with the date as originally planned. Dirk Davidek has indicated he might seriously be interested if the date was changed.

Members of the Press

Vern Huser, noted author of several river books is planning on doing this trip with us so we conceivably might get some good publicity out of the trip.

The Lurkers among us

Cory Horan has asked that he get e-mails on this trip but is not going. I have added him to the e-mail group but since he is not a member of the Alamo City Rivermen he will not be getting the Yahoo messages plus the ACR Newsletter. There are several more on the e-mail list as well, some have indicated they are not going on the trip and I may trim you from my group e-mail list just to make it readable.

That's it for now. Gib Hafernick, 210-822-8901 or Gibguy@Compuserve.com

-o0o-



Once I paddled on a Rivermen trip,
When the temperature took quite a dip.
But they dished out some grog
That'll clear up your fog.
It warmed me up when I took just a nip.

-o0o-

**Another Proposed Bill (SB 155)
Relating to 4 X 4's and Rivers**

A Bill to Be Entitled an Act relating to the protection of public freshwater areas; providing a penalty.

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Title 5, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Subtitle I to read as follows:

SUBTITLE I. PROTECTED FRESHWATER AREAS

CHAPTER 90. ACCESS TO PROTECTED FRESHWATER AREAS

Sec. 90.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

- (1) "Emergency" means a condition or circumstance in which a person reasonably believes that an individual has sustained serious bodily injury or is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or that property has sustained significant damage or destruction or is in imminent danger of significant damage or destruction.
- (2) "Motor vehicle" means any wheeled or tracked vehicle, machine, tractor, trailer, or semitrailer propelled or drawn by mechanical power and used to transport persons or things.
- (3) "Protected freshwater area" means that portion of the bottom, bed, or bank of any navigable river or stream. The term does not include that portion of a bed, bottom, or bank that lies below tidewater limits or is privately owned.

Sec. 90.002. OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE IN PROTECTED FRESHWATER AREA PROHIBITED. No person may operate a motor vehicle in or on a protected freshwater area.

Sec. 90.003. EXEMPTIONS. (a) Section 90.002 does not apply to:

- (1) a state, county, or municipal road right-of-way;
 - (2) a private road crossing established before January 1, 2003; or
 - (3) operation of a motor vehicle by:
 - (A) a federal, state, or local government employee if operation of a motor vehicle is necessary for conducting official business;
 - (B) an owner of the adjacent uplands and the owner's agents, employees, representatives, and lessees for reasonable purposes related to usual and customary agricultural purposes;
 - (C) a person if operation of a motor vehicle is necessary to and is authorized by a mineral lease or crossing easement granted by the General Land Office under the Natural Resources Code;
 - (D) a person if operation of a motor vehicle is necessary to an activity authorized by Chapter 86; or
 - (E) a person in response to an emergency.
- (b) A person exempt under this section who operates a motor vehicle in or on a protected freshwater area shall do so in a manner that avoids, to the extent reasonably possible, harming or disturbing vegetation, wildlife, or wildlife habitat within the protected freshwater area. A person exempt under this section who is crossing a protected freshwater area shall cross by the most direct feasible route.

Sec. 90.004. LANDOWNER RIGHTS.

- (a) A prescriptive easement over private property cannot be created by recreational use of a protected freshwater area, including by portage over or around barriers, scouting of obstructions, or crossing of private property to or from a protected freshwater area.
- (b) Nothing in this section shall limit the right of a person to navigate in, on, or around a protected freshwater area.

Sec. 90.005. PUBLIC ACCESS.

- (a) Except as otherwise allowed by law, no person may restrict, obstruct, interfere with, or limit public recreational use of a protected freshwater area.
- (b) This section does not allow the public to use private property to gain access to a protected freshwater area without permission of the landowner.

Sec. 90.006. ENFORCEMENT. All peace officers of this state shall enforce the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 90.007. PENALTY.

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person violates Section 90.002 or 90.005.
- (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), an offense under Subsection (a) is a Class C misdemeanor.
- (c) If it is shown on the trial of an offense under this section that the defendant was previously convicted two or more times under Section 90.002 or 90.005, or Sections 90.002 and 90.005, on conviction the defendant shall be punished for a Class B misdemeanor.
- (d) Each day of a violation under this section is a separate offense.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

Editorial Note: As with so many things, Mark Twain made a cogent observation” “No man or his life, liberty, and property are safe when the legislature is in session.

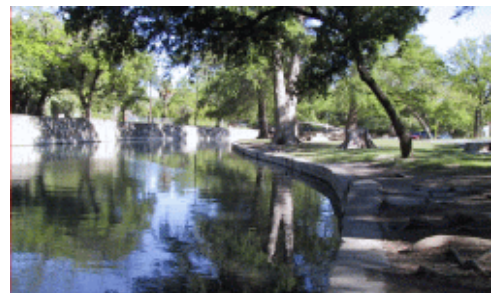
-o0o-

San Antonio River Improvement Project Public Input Meeting

(By Randy Hohlaus)

Join community leaders and your neighbors for River Improvement Project Public Input Meeting, on Wednesday, January 8, 6-8p.m. The meeting will discuss improvements for the Historic Mission Reach, S. Alamo to Mission Espada. It will be held at the Texas Department of Transportation, Bexar Metro Office, 9320 SE Loop 410. Meeting is billed to ask questions, discuss alternatives and provide input on the San Antonio River and for the design team working on the heart of our community. For more information on these events, to be added to the project mailing list, or to update contact information, please call KGBTexas Marketing/Public Relations at 210/826-8899 or visit www.sanantonioriver.org. This is a joint project of the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, San Antonio River Authority (SARA) and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

This is the project that may bring together the elements a lot of us in the club have been espousing for so long (years) - the creation of a River Trail providing a canoeable and kayakable link between Blue Star and Espada Mission. This project is not just for planting bluebonnets along the river banks, it is a bona-fide river channel improvements project. We really need support and turnout for this event, to show that there is a depth of support for river recreation and bringing this river back to life. If you have ever wanted to paddle your boat from mission to mission, now is your chance to speak up for recreational river use. We have heard preliminary word that making the river floatable may be in the plan, however, although if this is true and the money is there, if we don't speak up, it may go to someone else's pet interest.



Did you know that this club several years ago submitted the San Antonio River for the US American Heritage Rivers Program? That despite studied lack of interest by the river authority and opposition from representatives such as Lamar Smith and Ron Paul that it

made the final cut, although in the end not finally selected? Well, there is now new leadership at SARA and a fresh wind may be blowing. Someone actually may have gotten that vision thing. Come out and see the new day, we hope.

If you can come and help the club out, provide input to your public officials and the project design team, just show up and we'll see you there. If you need more info, you can email back for more information. Or just show up!

-o0o-

Doozurdo

It's that time of year again. Dues are due from everyone. It's \$15 a year IF you get the newsletter by email and \$20 a year if you get it by snail mail. Please bring your dues to the January meeting or mail them to Marie Searight, Treasurer, ACR, P.O. Box 171194, San Antonio, Texas 78217.

-o0o-

Paddle America Membership

As an ACA (American Canoeing Association) Paddle America affiliated club, Alamo City Rivermen members are entitled to an optional Paddle America membership in the ACA. This includes a subscription to the magazine Paddler which is really a fine publication. This Paddle America membership benefit will save you \$10.00 over the regular dues. To join you must send the ACA a copy of the official ACR Paddle America membership form letter which you can receive by calling our Officers. The form letter is also in our newsletter every fall when our dues renewal notification occurs. We will not process this for you, you must do it yourself and you must use the form letter the Rivermen provide you to receive the \$10 discount.



[ACANet](#)

Another great benefit is a 10% discount at Nantahala Outdoor Center at 800-232-7238 or www.noc.com. Make sure you mention that you're a member of Alamo City Rivermen and ask for our discount. Our membership form is in this newsletter!

-o0o-

Formatting Note

We used newspaper-like columns in the December newsletter and have not done so in this one. Someone commented regarding the December newsletter that columns make it difficult to read from a computer screen. So they do, but they facilitate reading on paper, which is why newspapers use columns.

Because I always print out the newsletter to read it, I instinctively used columns. The comment made me rethink that. I do not know whether most people read this on a computer screen or print it out.

I would appreciate more feedback. At this point, my thought is that omitting columns does not make the newsletter as hard to read when printed out as using them does when it is read on the screen. The hyperlinks will be useful to those who read from the screen and will be no bother to those who print out. We can't please everybody. Let me hear what others believe the proper balance is.

Alamo City Rivermen

P.O. Box 171194 • San Antonio • Texas • 78217

ACA Paddle America
7432 Alban Station Blvd.
Suite B 232
Springfield, Virginia 22150

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a member of the Alamo City Rivermen Canoe and Kayak Club and would like to take advantage of the club discount to become a member of ACA Paddle America. I enclose a check for an individual/family membership in the amount of \$15.00 (single) or \$20.00 (family).

Please use this name for your membership
role: _____

Please send mail to the following address: _____

Happy Paddling. Thank you.

Member, Alamo City Rivermen Canoe and Kayak Club

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Rivermen Mileage Log Sheet

Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

Estimated Miles: _____ Comments: _____

Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

Estimated Miles: _____ Comments: _____

Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

Estimated Miles: _____ Comments: _____

Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

Estimated Miles: _____ Comments: _____

Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

Estimated Miles: _____ Comments: _____

Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

Estimated Miles: _____ Comments: _____

Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

Estimated Miles: _____ Comments: _____

Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

Estimated Miles: _____ Comments: _____

Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

Estimated Miles: _____ Comments: _____

Alamo City Rivermen Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Business Telephone: _____

The Alamo City Rivermen try to keep their activities safe, but risk is inherent in water sports. We cannot and do not guarantee safety. The Alamo City Rivermen disclaim liability for accidental injury or death in any sponsored event. As a condition of membership and participation in club sponsored events, I release, acquit, and forever discharge the Alamo City Rivermen and its officers, agents, and members from all liability arising out of or relating to a sponsored event, even if negligence of the club or its officers, agents, or members is a cause, and even if I die or am injured. This release includes not only actual paddle trips but also all other club events and driving or riding to and from club events.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Membership dues are the same for an individual or a family. As a member of the Alamo City Rivermen, you are automatically entitled to our monthly newsletter, NOC Outfitter store discounts, a \$10 discounted membership in the American Canoe Association through the Paddle America Program, and subscription to our email list. Details on these benefits are available in our newsletter.

I prefer to receive the newsletter: (Please circle the one you choose)

Dues if newsletter sent by email \$15.00

Dues if newsletter sent USPS \$20.00

(Note: Newsletter copying and mailing has been our biggest expense; using email frees up money for other activities, including our website.)

Mail this completed form, together with a check, to:

Alamo City Rivermen Canoe Club
P.O. Box 171194
San Antonio, Texas 78217