



The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCCXXXIX

February 2003

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Paddling the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Next Meeting

February 12, 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.

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Club Officers

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Doozurdo

Dues are due from EVERYONE as of January 1. Dues are \$15 a year if you get the newsletter by email, and \$20 a year if you get it by snail mail. Please mail your check Marie Searight, Treasurer, ACR, P.O. Box 171194, San Antonio, Texas 78217.

We have collected dues from only about a quarter of the membership. Dues are what makes this newsletter, the club website, and other activities possible. Please pay up so this organization can keep going and we all have good people to go paddling with.

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Freeze Trip 2003 a Success

Sixty or more paddlers participated in Freeze Trip 2003 on the weekend of January 25-26. The overnight trip was on the Colorado River just above Bastrop. Temperatures were in the 40's, and we had intermittent drizzle. Dickey as the weather was, it never really rained, except ant night when we were in our tents, and the weather did not dampen spirits, or much else for that matter.



Photo courtesy of Fraser Baker

As in the past, the island on which we camped offered a large area to congregate at the upstream end as well as numerous campsites. As always there was ample driftwood for a raging bonfire.

As you can see in the accompanying photograph, Gib reprised his famous Tower of Dutch Ovens. The food and camaraderie were excellent. Claire

Lindblom was selected honorary president for the next year through the mysterious Ritual of the Burning Paddle.

Gib Hafernicks Awarded the Hans Weichsel Civic Service Trophy

Gib Hafernicks, since first forming the Rivermen with Randy Hohlaus about 14 years ago, has done many many things promoting our sport. Gib has dedicated much time and effort to build interest in paddling in the area and to promote paddling. Gib has coordinated, participated in, planned, and lead events to numerous to list completely. They include, river clean ups, races, paddling trips, phone call work, water planning committee work, Texas Rivers Protection Association, Boy Scouts, Texas Outrigger Groups, Earth Day, and Texas Water Safari. Gib's efforts helped in almost getting the Pam American Games here in 2007 (we lost out to Rio de Janeiro).

Gib and Randy Hohlaus are responsible for getting the San Antonio River mentioned on a national level and working on the Goliad River Trail project, etc. etc. It just goes on and on and is too numerous to list. It was with great pleasure that the club could award the Hans Weichsel Civic Service Trophy to Gib. Please congratulate Gib. When we volunteer our time and efforts we really make a difference.

Sincerely, Chris Vogeler - 2002 President, Alamo City Rivermen Canoe Club

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Upcoming Events

February 12, 2003	Monthly meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
March 1, 2003	San Marcos River Clean-up	reichert@world.std.com
March 7, 2003	Texas River Protection Association Annual Meeting	reichert@world.std.com
March 12, 2003	Monthly meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
March 15-22, 2003	Pecos Expedition (Pandale to Highway 90) (because of low flow, the trip may be redirected)	GibGuy@compuserve.com
March 29, 2003	San Antonio River Canoe Trail Demonstration Paddle, near Goliad	kevin_longin@baxter.com
???????	Brazos River	AlamoChris@aol.com
April 9, 2003	Monthly meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
Late April or Early May	Llano near Mason	hohlaus@prodigy.net
Around Maifest	Guadalupe River, near Anhalt, enjoy paddling and Maifest	hohlaus@prodigy.net
May 14, 2003	Monthly meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
June 11, 2003	Monthly meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.



Saturday Paddlers

Joline Moore (riverjomo@aol.com) has an organization called the Saturday Paddlers. They do a paddle trip almost every Saturday, usually on the Upper Guadalupe. Their pattern is to meet at Rudy's Barbeque in Leon Springs (IH10 south of Boerne) at 10:30 AM and to shove off by 11:00. You can just show up ready to paddle, but in case your weekend is one of the rare exceptions to the normal pattern, it would be prudent to check with Joline first. Among others, David Plylar, our vice president, regularly paddles with the Saturday Paddlers.

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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.

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!



[ACANet](http://www.acanet.com)

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Interesting Perspectives on the 4X4 Controversy

In the January 10 *Express News*, Outdoors columnist Ron Henry Strait had a note on the President and First Lady. Apparently Laura Bush told *Good Housekeeping* magazine that one of the best times alone with her husband she has is when they drive "down into the bottoms of the creekbeds and riverbeds" on their ranch. She said they do that nearly everyday when they are in Crawford. Strait notes the irony of this article's coincidence with the legislature's consideration of bills to keep vehicles out of riverbeds.

The very next day, January 11, the *Express News* carried a guest Comment in its editorial pages by Joe Alejandro, a native of Uvalde County and a member of the Parks and Wildlife Department's Task Force on Motorized Vehicles in State-Owned Riverbeds. According to Mr. Alejandro, long before 4X4s became an issue, the local population would take their families in pickups up and down the river on weekends to favorite fishing, swimming, and picnicking sites. It has long been a way for those too poor to own land to enjoy the beauty and serenity of the river. The presently proposed bills would of course bar this activity as well as the organized 4X4 treks. Mr. Alejandro casts the issue as a contest between haves and have-nots.

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If to love the sterile canoe you choose,
Then what you have loose, you soon will lose.

by SummerDale Beckstrand (<http://www.geocities.com/Shizaad/SilentLettersPoem.html>)

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ACA Instructor Classes

SouthWest PaddleSports will be offering the following ACA instructor classes:

Feb. 14-16 Waco Intro to Canoeing, tandem & solo (one space left)

April 5-6	Coppell (Dallas)	Intro to Kayaking
April 26-27	The Woodlands	Intro to Kayaking
May 3-4	TBA	Basic River Kayaking
May 5	TBA	Basic River Safety one day, primarily for instructor-candidates (not an instructor course)

Please contact us soon, as these classes will fill up.

The following instructor updates are scheduled:

Date	Class	Place	Instructor Trainer
Monday, Feb. 17	whitewater/basic river canoe & kayak	Guadalupe River	Gordon Black/Patti Carothers
Tuesday, Feb. 18	flatwater canoe & kayak	San Marcos River	Gordon Black/Patti Carothers
Friday, April 3	Intro to Kayak	Coppell/Dallas	Patti Carothers

These are all day classes. The price will vary depending on how many sign up. All instructors must take an update once every four years to keep their certifications current. If you were a moving water canoe instructor (now a Basic River Canoe instructor) or higher, you must take both the flatwater and the Basic River to keep current.

Patti Carothers, SouthWest PaddleSports, 26322 IH 45 North (exit 76A), The Woodlands, TX 77386. 281-292-5600 or 281-36PADDLE(7-2335), <http://www.paddlesports.com>

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Joline Moore's Black Bean Salsa

Reiko recently made a hit with Black Bean Salsa made according to a recipe originally furnished by Joline Moore. Several people asked for the recipe, and Reiko asked me to publish it again.

- 1 15 oz. can black beans, drained and lightly rinsed
- 1 can of kernel corn
- 2 medium tomatoes. Cut into ¼ inches pieces
- 1 red bell pepper. Cut into ¼ inches pieces
- 1 green bell pepper. Cut into ¼ inches pieces
- ½ cup finely diced red onion.
- 1 tsp. garlic puree.
- 1 or 2 fresh green serrano or jalapeno peppers, thinly sliced, *seeds and all*.
- ⅓ cup fresh lime juice
- ⅓ cup extra virgin olive oil
- ⅓ cup chopped fresh cilantro (coriander). 1 tbl. dry leaves will work.
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. ground cumin
- ½ tsp. pure ground red chili or pinch (⅓ tsp.) cayenne pepper.

Combine everything in a large bowl. Mix well. Let sit so flavors can blend. Bring to room temperature before serving if refrigerated. Serve with white corn chips. Enjoy.

June 2004 Corps of Discovery Commemorative Paddle

Kathy Cusick

Last week I heard from a man who wanted information in order to plan a paddle commemorating the 200 anniversary of the Lewis & Clark expedition next summer. He is a student of history and a living-historian and is planning this commemorative river trip on the Colorado River of about a week's duration. He would start around the first of June. He would like to extend an invitation to our club, as well as other paddling clubs, to join him. Most of his group will be doing this trip with period gear and period clothing but they won't limit participants to this. They will have nightly fiddle music, readings from the Lewis and Clark journals, discussions on history, and a "hell of a lot of fun" if things go according to his plan. He already has 10 people interested from his camp, and is open to as many paddlers as are interested.

His contact information is: Rodney W. Nance, mnance@awesomenet.net

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Canoe Trail on the San Antonio River at Goliad – From Meeting 1/16/03 in Goliad

Kevin Longin (attended meeting on behalf of the Rivermen)

The concept for the Canoe Trail at Goliad has been in the works for over a year, but the physical work has yet to begin. Before the process to attain funds and begin building the access points starts, the project organizers wished to present the concept to the town of Goliad for input and approval. This began with a preliminary meeting on the 16th of January with a group of about 25 local landowners with property along the San Antonio River. The idea behind the meeting was to introduce the concept behind the river trail to the local people that would be most affected. A larger town meeting will be held in the near future.

The major concerns that I heard from the citizens involved trespass issues, litter, poachers etc. It was our hope to alleviate apprehensions about the quality of people the trail would attract by having a canoe club member present. The 3 issues that the organizers asked us to address were:

- 1) The San Antonio River is public owned and the public has rights to access the river. The public is currently using the river and will continue to use it in the future.
- 2) There is definitely an interest in canoeing in the state of Texas; this includes canoeing in the Goliad area and particularly the stretch of the river that is proposed for "development". The landings around Goliad are not hospitable for putting a canoe into the river. The landings are either not marked, or not well marked, making it difficult to know what is public land vs. what isn't. Having well-developed landings would give a clearly marked entry and exit so that people would know they're on public land and help prevent confusion that might lead to a trespassing problem.
- 3) San Antonio River will not attract "spring breakers - tubers" but families, naturalist - bird watchers etc.

This message was well taken by the landowners, but there were still major concerns over the fact there is already a problem with trespassing and poaching by people accessing property from the river. Their fear is that by creating easier access points to the river we would only be adding to the problem. In response to this concern, one of the local citizens bought up an article in Texas Monthly about a similar situation where the increased use of the river by "quality" citizens who reported problems they saw, ended up causing the poachers / trespassers to leave the area. This point went a long way toward bringing the landowners on board with the project.

The canoe trail organizers are very interested in coordinating with the Alamo City Rivermen on a date in March to canoe the river at Goliad with people from SARA, as well as key people from the town. We are presently looking at either Sat, March 8th, or Sat, March 29th. One of the local organizers for the trail feels that having some of the town's people on the trip in Rivermen boats would help create good will toward the project. We are looking for volunteers with tandem boats / single paddlers (read competent sternsmen) to take the towns people on the river. We also have tentative interest from several Houston Canoe Club members to participate in this good will Goliad paddle along with us. If you are interested in this paddle contact Kevin at klongin@gvtc.com. We will keep you updated as the dates firm up.

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SMRF Water Right to be Considered by TCEQ

On March 19, the Texas Committee on Environmental Quality (TCEQ, formerly the TNRCC) will consider sending the application for water right filed by the San Marcos River Foundation (SMRF) to a hearing. SMRF has applied for a water right for water in the San Marcos and Guadalupe Rivers solely for the purpose of leaving that water in those rivers for instream uses and for the health of our bays and estuaries. So far the Texas River Protection Association (TRPA) has contributed \$8,000 to SMRF for this application and for other battles to protect the flow of the San Marcos River.

Many of the canoe clubs and other groups that tread lightly in their use of our Texas rivers were asked to provide a letter in support of this process. This is not political activity, but is an administrative action by TCEQ on a permit, which does not involve changing any rules or laws. The Alamo City Rivermen were happy to provide this letter of support.

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San Marcos River Clean-Up

Campout and Get-Together

Everyone participating in this event is invited to camp free at either Shady Grove Campground/ Spencer Canoes or at Pecan Park Retreat for the weekend. Starting at 6 p.m. on Saturday evening there will be a free barbecue provided by the San Marcos River Foundation at Shady Grove/Spencer Canoes. It should be noted that the party will terminate by midnight to allow the rest of the workers some time to sleep.

Sunday Worship Service

On Sunday morning at 8 a.m., there will be a non-denominational Christian worship service at Pecan Park. Duane TeGrotenhuis will lead the group in song and Tom Goynes will lead a short Bible study. Everyone is welcome.

Sponsors: Texas Rivers Protection Association; Texas River Recreation Association; Texas Canoe Racing Association; San Marcos River Foundation; Green Guys Recycling; Pecan Park Retreat; Spencer Canoes; TG Canoe Livery

Alamo City Rivermen David Reichert: 210-545-0548; <mailto:reichert@world.std.com>

TRPA Annual Meeting

On Sunday, March 2 at 10 a.m. the Texas Rivers Protection Association will hold it's annual general meeting. We will meet in Pecan Park Retreat if the weather permits; if it doesn't, we'll meet in the home of Tom and Paula Goynes (which also happens to be the campground office).

We will discuss ongoing river issues, especially the off road vehicle legislation, the upcoming SMRF water rights hearings and the new Hidalgo Falls purchase. Everyone is welcome to attend. We hope to adjourn by 1 p.m., at which time there will be a short meeting of the Texas River Recreation Association.

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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 _____ Take _____

Estimated _____ Comment _____

Date: _____ River _____ Put _____ Take _____

Estimated _____ Comment _____

Date: _____ River _____ Put _____ Take _____

Estimated _____ Comment _____

Date: _____ River _____ Put _____ Take _____

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Date: _____ River _____ Put _____ Take _____

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Date: _____ River _____ Put _____ Take _____

Estimated _____ Comment _____

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