

The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCCXL

March 2003

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Paddling the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Next Meeting

March 12, 2003, Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near the intersection with Harry Wurzbach. See the [linked map](#). 6:30 to 8:30.

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Doozurdo, STILL

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.

Dues are what makes this newsletter, the club website, and other activities possible. If you have not already done so, please pay up so this organization can keep going and we all have good people to go paddling with.

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Mike Fox Wins High Mileage Trophy

Mike Fox is the 2002 High Mileage Trophy recipient and the first to receive the new trophy. Mike paddled 308.4 miles and documented all his trips with log and GPS coordinates. Please congratulate Mike as you see him on the water! Hans Weichsel donated the trophy, it will revolve each year to the new high mileage paddler and will have the paddlers name, miles and year engraved on the Trophy.

Only non racing miles may be calculated for this award. GPS records of your river miles paddled are not required, but in a close case a GPS log might be a deciding factor. It's not to late to start documenting your paddling miles for 2003. You can back date what you remember of you've paddled so far in 2003. If you need help getting a mileage log started, a mileage log form is printed in the newsletter occasionally. The sample should get you going. The mileage log form can also be found and printed from our web site in some of the back issues of the Newsletter. (Chris Vogeler)

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Earth Day

The Earth Day celebration at Woodlawn Lake is set for April 12. It is not during Fiesta this year and is not being held by the Bexar County Master Gardeners. We will still participate with canoe races, canoe rides, food, or some combination of those and more. Do not miss the chance to participate in this fun event.

Upcoming Events

March 1, 2003	San Marcos River Clean-up, barbeque to follow	reichert@world.std.com
March 2, 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 15-19, 2003	Neches River (heart of the Big Thicket)	kmcusick@juno.com , 830-885-5324
March 20-23, 2003	Goose Island State Park	GibGuy@compuserve.com , 822-8901
March 29, 2003	San Antonio River Canoe Trail Demonstration Paddle, near Goliad	kevin_longin@baxter.com , 830-885-5324
???????	Brazos River	AlamoChris@aol.com , 863-8622
April 9, 2003	Monthly meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
April 12, 2003	Earth Day, Woodlawn Lake	GibGuy@compuserve.com , 822-8901
April 25-27, 2003 (Battle of the Flowers Weekend)	Caddo Lake. Easy paddle of 4 miles amid carpets of water lilies and moss-draped cypress trees to remote pine-covered island in the most beautiful swamp in the U.S. Camp on island Friday and Saturday nights. Miles of canoe trails to explore. Join the leader for a night canoe paddle! Barred Owls guaranteed. No children under 14 yrs.	Tom Rust, 830-537-5886 or e-mail: tgr@gvtc.com
Late April or Early May	Llano near Mason	hohlaus@prodigy.net , 493-7058
Around Maifest	Guadalupe River, near Anhalt, enjoy paddling and Maifest	hohlaus@prodigy.net , 493-7058
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.
July 9, 2003	Monthly meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
August 13, 2003	Monthly meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
Fall	Pecos or San Juan Rivers	GibGuy@compuserve.com , 822-8901

I have received a complaint about listing only email addresses for trip contacts, because not everyone has a computer. If you are listed here as a contact and your phone number is not listed, please email it to me if you want it listed. Thank you.



4 X 4's in the Canadian River

From time to time the CanoeTX listserv becomes overwhelmed with messages pertaining to 4 X 4's in rivers. One off-roader in particular repeatedly baits paddlers, and some paddler always rises to it. I am not as virulently opposed to off-roaders as some. I see two sides to the issue, and I am particularly concerned that restrictions on river use will affect paddlers. Even so, I ran across evidence that some of the off-roaders contentions are disingenuous. As I understand it, they say that, because they do not got where there is water, they cannot be harming aquatic life. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words. These are photos from the web of off-roaders in the Canadian River.



You can check out the website for yourself: <http://www.angelfire.com/yt/steward/riverpics1.html>

Speaking of the Canadian River

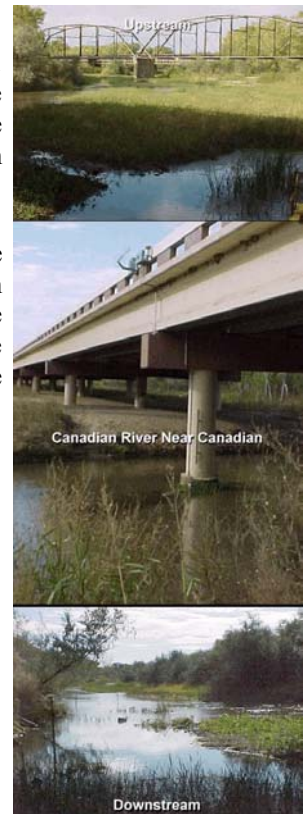
Some of us look for unusual places to paddle. I have recently begun to wonder about the Canadian River. Although I am a native born Texan and have lived in Texas most of my life, I have never been to the Panhandle. I understand that it is hot and dry in the summer, but the Canadian looks like a big river on the map, and it makes a large reservoir, Lake Meredith. Does anyone know if any part of the Canadian, apart from Lake Meredith, would be suitable for paddling during any part of the year?

It's a long way to drive just to find a muddy bog. I enclose some pictures from the web. Coupled with those above relating to the 4 X 4's, they discourage, but they leave hope. The nearest photos are taken near the town of Canadian, northeast of Amarillo. The Canadian River runs through the Texas portion of the Black Kettle National Grassland. It might be an interesting experience. Look here for information on the Black Kettle National Grasslands: http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/district_files/d6.htm. Black Kettle was the Cheyenne chief whose band was massacred at Sand Creek.

<http://www.angelfire.com/ks2/19thkansascavalry/BlackKettle.html>



Whenever we paddle, we like to stay
Right side up all the way,
But, if the truth, we don't betray
We cannot let it pass our lips,
That we're right side up on all our trips.



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ACA Instructor Classes

SouthWest PaddleSports will be offering the following ACA instructor classes:

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
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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Coastal Paddling Trip Report-part 2

Gay Culbertson, gculbertson@lycos.com

This is the second part of the report on my recent trip to the Rockport area of the coast. It was too long to include as one e-mail, so I split it up. Sorry it's so long, but I did a lot of interesting paddling and thought others might want to check out these places.

Lighthouse Trails, Put-In: parking lot off Hiway 361, about a mile past The Crabman Bait Shop Take-Out: same place. Duration: 3 hours

The area is very tide dependant. Several boaters at the campgrounds said I wouldn't be able to make it this time of year, I couldn't. But, I came all that way, so I launched at 1:30 from a parking lot with a new kiosk (one of those with plexiglass for maps, messages, etc.-it was empty) and finally made it across the channel. The wind was strong coming straight down the channel with the white-water topped waves breaking over my boat. Down the middle was a long wave train-I didn't know if I was paddling the ocean or the Guad at 3000'! I finally made my way across (luckily I didn't have to contend with boat traffic) and paddled into the Lydia Ann Channel looking for access to the Trails. I tried several different places but got stuck in each and had to get out and pull. Not finding a way in, I took out and put in at the Crabman bait shop a little further up the channel--there I tried the north side of the Trails area, again to no avail. The Trails are a giant island of grasses and would be interesting to explore if one could get in there. There's also the nearby lighthouse and several islands that would be fun to explore. The wind was too strong for me to attempt them this trip. For anyone wanting to go there, wait until high tide is in the middle of the day; otherwise you'll be pulling your boat a lot.

Copano Bay, Put-In: east end of Tx. 35 bridge over Copano Bay, Take-Out: same place, Duration: 1 1/2 hours

On my way back from a frustrating attempt to paddle the Lighthouse Trails, I stopped at the Copano Bay bridge and paddled along the shore. The winds were still strong, but the waves weren't too bad along the shore. Exploring the shoreline, I talked to several fishermen who were having a lot of luck fishing making me wish I was a fisherman. The shore is like that of most lakes and there weren't any birds, so it wasn't really anything to write home about. But, paddling is paddling! Having more time would allow for a better exploration of the coves and bays. I did paddle a little ways out under the bridge, but the wind was so strong I decided to head back to camp. The setting sun was beautiful against the backdrop of the bridge and I sat for a long time in my boat not wanting to get out.

Matagorda Island Area, Put-In: Clark's Marina/Restaurant/Seafood Shop at the end of 7th St., Take-Out: same place, Duration: 2 hours

I arrived at the ferry to Matagorda Island about 8:30 Monday morning only to find that the ferry only runs Thurs-Sun. The weather was gorgeous and the area looked promising, so I set out to explore the islands of the channel. There isn't a place to launch at the ferry, but found one down the road at Clark's -it's a muddy slope between the old pier and junk, but it's the only access I could get permission to use. I paddled down the coast for a couple of miles enjoying the weather and the many shrimp boats docked along the shore. I paddled around several of the islands, and as I lunched on one of them, I wished I had an extra day to paddle out to Matagorda Island State Park. The paddle was so peaceful-not another soul in sight. I found out later that day that the coast was shut down to shipping because the army was shipping out equipment from Port Lavaca. This would be an excellent place to spend several days exploring as the many islands are protected from the ocean waves and one could island hop for days. The park ranger said many people have the ferry haul their boats out to Matagorda Island and they paddle back-about an 8 mile trip. But the trip would be a lot easier if you paddled from island to island-the ferry makes a big swing that is out of the way. This is definitely a place worth further exploration!

Lavaca Bay, Put-In: city park south of the Tx 35 bridge across Lavaca Bay, Take-Out: same, Duration: about 2 hours

On the way home as I was going across the Lavaca Bay Bridge, I noticed how peaceful the water was and how pretty the old hiway's piling were stretched out into the bay. I decided one last paddle would be nice, so I turned around, launched from a park just south of the old highway bridge and paddled out the length of the bridge pilings-about 1/2 mile. At the end there was a small island where I sat for a long time debating again if I should call in sick and paddle some more in the beautiful weather. I thought about following the new hiway bridge to the other side, but it was too far and I had a long way to go to get home. So, I headed back to shore and loaded Ole Yeller (my Carolina) up once more.

Lake Texana, Put-In: boat ramp at the park, Take-Out: same, Duration: 2 hours

I thought I'd finished paddling for the weekend, however, around 4pm I saw a sign that said Lake Texana State Park. This would make the 5th state park visited this trip (two were fishing piers and one was a house)-the most I've ever knocked out at one time. I decided that an evening paddle would be the perfect end to a perfect weekend, so I unloaded Ole Yeller once more and headed out to find some of the alligators living there. I didn't find any, but saw lots of birds and a couple of snakes (there are 4 types of poisonous snakes at the park!). The park itself is really pretty with lots of trees, a nice hiking trail and lots of open areas. The water itself is downright ugly-it's brown, like the Brazos after a flood. The sunset was another beautiful one, but I knew that meant it was time to go home. There are a lot of dead trees in the upper section of the lake that would make an interesting paddle.

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March Trips

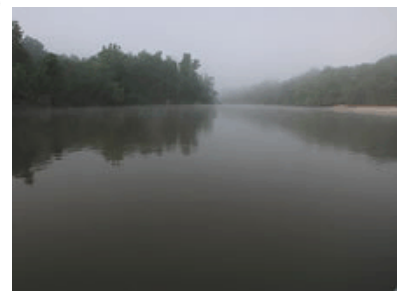
When the Pecos trip was canceled for lack of water, the group split into two parts. One group is going to **Goose Island State Park**. Camping on the bay side of the island. Lots of beach combing, birding, marine tours, canoe or sea kayaking, fishing or just nothing at all.



If fishing you will need a fishing license with a **salt water stamp**. Mosquitoes can be a slight problem but consider bringing a citronella candle and we will set them up around the campsite perimeter. Raccoons have been sometimes quite challenging out there so have a way to really secure your ice chest.

The other group is heading to the **Neches River**. They will do the stretch from Dam B down to Evadale. This is in the heart of the Big Thicket National Preserve. The water should be all Class I, but the scenery should be stunning. Paddling down the Neches will be like paddling down a jungle river. White sand bars offer ample camping spots. A report of a trip down the Neches, complete with photos, can be found at this site:

<http://pangea.stanford.edu/~lans/neches.html>



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: _____

Alamo City 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: _____

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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