



The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCCXLI

April 2003

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Paddling the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Next Meeting

April 9, 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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Club Officers

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830-885-5324

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Doozurdo, STILL 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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Earth Day, April 19

The Alamo City Rivermen are officially participating at the Earth Day Festival on Woodlawn Lake which will be April 19, Saturday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The event should be pretty exciting which will feature a number of events and booths.

This is what we planning on doing:

Goal Number One: Set up the Tripper XL in Tandem with an Aluminum Canoe and offer canoe rides. We are going to offer canoes rides for area kids on a (2) Canoes rigged in tandem. Since this is a citywide event we are insured through the insurance policy being carried at the Earth Day Festival. I am planning on bringing the Tripper XL canoe and could use another Aluminum canoe to rig in tandem. We need at least two people to be on board and two other people on the land to issue boat ride tickets and assist in helping with issuing of life preservers and signing of liability waivers. For this event we are planning on not charging anything.

Goal Number Two: Set up an Alamo City Rivermen Display Booth We are planning on setting up a display booth on (2) Saw Horses with an A-Frame Style Display mounted on the Saw Horses. On one side of the A-Frame we would have Photos and Alamo City Rivermen Literature on the other side would be Environmental action pertaining to rivers that is on going, such as the current 4x4 controversy. I am hoping that David Reichert can assist by providing literature on the present River Protection Action for the display. If you have anything else to show, like Reiko's Rivermen Flag or other items we will put them up as well.

Goal Number Three: Sell homemade peach cobbler in Dutch Ovens This is something we did a number of years ago at Earth Day and it has always been a hit. You have to think in terms of the fundamental marketing question, "IF I HAD A CHOICE OF A BEAN BURRITO OR PEACH COBBLER, WHICH WOULD I CHOOSE "? In order to do this we need however a number of 12

inch or 16 inch dutch ovens or the large rectangular ones which are equal to a 16 inch dutch oven. A 12 inch will serve about 18 servings and a 16 inch is twice as big. We would sell each serving at Two Dollars and as an option we could have ice cream as well for One Dollar more. The Woodlawn Lake Sailing Club has given us permission to use their concrete patio to serve from and all we need is a overhead canopy to meet City Food Code Requirements. Randy Hohlaus is working on securing a ready supply of dutch ovens.

Goal Number Four: A canoe presence on the lake. This is the easiest one to do. All you need to do is come out with your canoe and paddle around for a day that is going to be a lot of fun. Plan on bringing the following if you want to help:

Canoe
Table (Roll up)
Photos
Lawn Chair
Dutch oven

The following people have told me they are interested in helping:

Ken Bennight
Sakia Bartlet
Randy Hohlaus - Looking for Dutch Ovens
Bruce Parkes
David Plylar - Wants to show off that New Hot Shot Boat of His
David Reichert - (Hoping he can round up some good River Protection Stuff)

If interested in helping or have any questions for this event give me a call.

Gib Hafernick, 210-822-8901, or Gibguy@Compuserve.com

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Llano River Trip

Come float the crystal clear waters of the Llano River near Mason amid the granite outcroppings of the Llano uplift Saturday, May 3. I hope to lead us on a new stretch of the Llano. This river grades fairly easy for river running, and the granite shoals in this area make it unique. It is only a two hour drive, so we will meet at the Highway 87 river crossing south of Mason at 9:30am.

Right now it looks like that we will camp Saturday night at a ranch on the river, which will be our takeout. The property has a cabin that we will rent. The cabin has a river view and a deck facing the river, but it will only sleep 4 to 6. Your trip leader is taking two of the spots as his perk for all the phone calls needed to hunt down this rare spot. You can set your tents around the cabin. With the cabin, it means that we have a bona-fide riparian bathroom and shower available. The cost will be split equally depending on how many we have, whether you sleep in the cabin or not, as everyone will have use of its facilities (including A/C!). If we have 10 on the trip, it will work out to \$18 per person plus food cost. If we have 16 , it will be \$15 per person plus food cost, etc. So pass the word and bring your friends, and we will all stay cheaper!

We will cook a community dutch oven dinner that evening, menu selected by yours truly. A campfire and starwatching is anticipated. Activities the next day are optional; bring your lounge chair for a little lounge chair surfing. Hope you can make it. For information and to make reservations so we can get a food count, contact Randy Hohlaus at 210/493-7058 or at hohlaus@prodigy.net.

Upcoming Events

April 9, 2003	Monthly meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
April 19, 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. Camp on island. 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@gvvc.com
April 26, 2003	King William Parade, 9:00 AM, San Antonio	Saturday Paddlers, Joline Moore, Riverjomo@aol.com
May 3-4, 2003	Llano River, car camp at Mason	hohlaus@prodigy.net , 493-7058
May 18, 2003	Mayfest Guadalupe Oompah Paddle	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.
May 24-26, 2003	Brazos River near Possum Kingdom	AlamoChris@aol.com , 863-8622
June 11, 2003	Monthly meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
July 4-6, 2003	Llano River, either at Junction or at Llano	???????
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.
September 20-28, 2003	Pecos or San Juan Rivers	GibGuy@compuserve.com , 822-8901



Message Exchange re Paddling the Lower Brazos

----- Original Message -----

Fellow Paddlers: I am looking to get my feet wet with canoe/camping trips. I am looking for a trip that would involve probably 2 to 4 nights on the river. I am focusing on the Brazos for several reasons. 1) close to Houston. 2) lots of sandbars 3) Since I have family in Richmond, it eases shuttling. Does anyone have any experience on the Brazos between I-10 and Richmond OR between Richmond and Brazos Bend State Park?

Reply:

--- Mark Andrus <mandrus@brazoria.net> wrote: I have paddled the Brazos between Richmond and Rosharon (FM 1462) near Brazos Bend) a few times as two separate trips. The part from Richmond to a house south of Missouri City is a day trip. The part from there to Rosharon takes two days. If it is done as one whole trip, I would allow three days and two nights for it-keeping down to two days would mean having two hard paddling days. There are two huge sand bars near the Fort Bend-Brazoria County line that we usually camp on for the Missouri City to Rosharon trip.

Query to Mark: Mark: What is the wind like that far down the Brazos? Thanks.

Mark's Reply to Query: It depends upon how windy the day is. There is more wind downriver because the river is wider, but it is fine for canoes above Rosharon. I usually use a kayak south of Columbia State hwy 35 because the river is over a football field wide there.

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For Sale

Hula, by Islander

Length 8'7"
Width 26'
Weight 32 lb
Sugg. Wt. Limit 225 lb
Color Island Rainbow
Polyethylene Hull
Self Bailing
Accessory eyelets for thigh straps
Accessory eyelets for seat



Used one summer, asking \$250.00, I have the thigh straps for sale too for \$25.00.

Billie Bates:
QuietSong@aol.com

-o0o-
Armand Bayou

By Ken Bennight

While I was to paddle the Neches, my wife was going to visit our daughter in Houston. When the Neches trip fell through and I did not go to Village Creek, I went to Houston with my wife on July 15-17. Nearing Houston on the Katy Freeway, we leapfrogged Nancy Griffin, Claire, and Reiko in traffic a few times. They were no doubt headed to Village Creek. We turned off toward our daughter's apartment.

My wife and daughter spent most of Sunday shopping, and I went paddling. Not having a shuttle, I needed a place where I could paddle back and forth from the same spot. Armand Bayou was a perfect choice. Armand Bayou is a nature preserve in Pasadena, near NASA. The put in is at Bay Area Park off Bay Area Boulevard. Many picnicking families were in the park, and children were playing in a playground and fishing from a floating pier next to the launch point. The weather was overcast, however, and only one other boat was on the water.



Bay Area Park is on the downstream side of Bay Area Boulevard, so to paddle upstream one first paddles under the Bay Area Boulevard bridges. Just upstream from there, the bayou is quite wide, but I found the water so shallow that my canoe dragged bottom in the mud. That did not last long, however. In several places along the trip my paddle hit bottom, but the going was not difficult. The water is probably tidal; at least I perceived no current as I paddled up the Bayou. I did not think to check any tide gauge data, so I do not know if I hit it at high or low tide. From what online tide data I could find, which concerned Clear Lake, there is only modest tidal fluctuation.

The shoreline is lush. Parts are heavily wooded and parts are marshy. According to maps, the bayou can be paddled all the way up to Red Bluff Boulevard. I did not paddle that far, but I did spend about three hours on the water going and coming back. If you paddle past marker 23, you will come to a fork. The main channel is to river left, but if you take the river right channel (the left channel as you face it looking upstream), you will quickly be in a channel little more than five feet wide. I continued up that channel until it was blocked with brush. I then backtracked and went up the main channel to marker 24, where I turned around.

Birds were the most spectacular part of the trip. I saw many more than I can identify. I could identify herons, egrets, hawks, cormorants, and of course ducks and geese. Many of the ducks were hybrids of wild and domestic. I saw what I believe was an anhinga. An osprey carrying a fish flew low across the water.

If you are in the Houston area and have a morning or afternoon to slip away to paddle, I highly recommend Armand Bayou. It is beautiful and serene. Along a good portion of the bayou, there were survey stakes along the bank. I hope that does not portend future ill.

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Mayfest Paddle & Oompah!

Join us for a Sunday morning paddle and the hundred year old traditional Mayfest celebration at Anhalt Dancehall. Mayfest is traditionally held on the third Sunday of May by the Germania Farmer's Verein, founded in 1870 to fend off Indians and discourage rustlers. Having pacified the frontier, they decided to have some fun and built Anhalt Dancehall in 1908. That is where we will end up after our paddle.

We will meet at the headquarters building of Guadalupe State Park at 9:00am Sunday morning, for our float down to Spring Branch Road takeout, about six miles. After our float, we will go over to Anhalt Dancehall to enjoy the afternoon German polka and waltz band music and dancing, if you dare. There is a traditional german pot roast lunch at noon if we make it in time. I will know about the lunch situation before the trip, so check with me on that. Country and western bands will take over later and carry on all night.

You will have to pay your own fees to get in the park and Mayfest. I've been wanting to check this out for quite some time and combine some oompah with a float trip, so should be a fun time. Contact Randy Hohlaus at 210-493-7058 or hohlaus@prodigy.net so we can get you on the list and know that you are coming.

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Paddling Instruction

The Spring Woods Canoe Group is offering the following canoe and kayak instruction classes. SWCG can provide specialized whitewater canoes and kayaks, or you may use your own equipment.

April 12-13 Red Cross Fundamentals of Canoeing Class/ ACA Flatwater Class

This is a full 2 day class that teaches both solo and tandem paddling techniques as well as safety and rescue and trip planning and organization. This course is strenuous, but you will learn a lot about canoeing and improve or develop your paddling skills in a short time.

May 3-4 Red Cross Basic River Canoeing Class/ ACA Basic River Canoeing Class

This is a full 2 day class that teaches whitewater canoeing skills, strokes, and maneuvers for moving water. Safety and Rescue skills and trip organization and planning are also covered. This course can be taken solo or tandem for the ACA, but the Red Cross class focuses solely on tandem paddling.

May 17-18 Red Cross Basic River Canoeing Class/ ACA Basic River Canoeing Class/Basic River Kayaking Class

This is a full 2 day class that teaches whitewater canoeing skills, strokes, and maneuvers for moving water. Safety and Rescue skills and trip organization and planning are also covered. This course can be taken solo or tandem for the ACA, but the Red Cross class focuses solely on tandem paddling.

May 31-June 1 Red Cross Basic River Canoeing Class/ ACA Basic River Canoeing/Basic River Kayaking Class

This is a full 2 day class that teaches whitewater canoeing skills, strokes, and maneuvers for moving water. Safety and Rescue skills and trip organization and planning are also covered. This course can be taken solo or tandem for the ACA, but the Red Cross class focuses solely on tandem paddling.

Contact me by phone or email for more information: Susan Eda, Educational Diagnostician, Spring Oaks Middle School, (713) 365 - 4515 , ext. 123, work (713)465-8711 home

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