



# The Alamo City Rivermen

# Babbler

Issue MMCCXLVI

September 2003

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

## Paddling the fine line between geek and Bubba.

### Next Meeting

September 10, 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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[kmcusick@juno.com](mailto:kmcusick@juno.com)  
830-885-5324

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830-885-5324, ext. 5189

### Volunteers Needed

I am looking for (a few good) kayak or canoe volunteers to help out on the swim portion of the "Heart of Texas Championship Triathlon" on September 6, Saturday at Canyon Lake Park (north side of lake).

The swim leg is 1,500 meters and starts at 7:05 AM , so you need to be at Canyon Lake Park and on the water by 6:30 AM. This is an Olympic Distance Triathlon and held by the Marine Corps to benefit "Toys for Tots". After helping out, I plan on watching the event, hanging out, and mountain biking on the 10 mile park trail.

Directions:

1. From San Antonio take 281 North approximately 25 miles, crossing Hwy 46 & the Guadalupe River.
2. Turn right on Hwy 306 and travel another 12 miles to Canyon Lake Park.
3. Turn right to enter Canyon Lake Park.
4. The swim portion will be on your immediate right hand side as you drive into the park.

Hope to see you there.  
Gib Hafernick , 210-492-7517, home 210-355-1726, cell or  
[Gibguy@Compuserve.com](mailto:Gibguy@Compuserve.com)

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### Speaker Needed

I am looking for someone to give a short speech to a group of girl scouts on Saturday, September 13th at Rio Raft Company. The girls will be doing a River clean-up that day. It would need to be in the evening most likely around 6 or 7 PM after the Clean-up activities. They need someone who recreates in either a kayak or canoe to give a short talk about the sport for credit on a merit badge. Please let me know if you are someone you know would be able to help.

David Davenport, Friends For Rivers  
New Braunfels, Texas

## Upcoming Events

September 10, 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 Buffalo (Ark.) Rivers	<a href="mailto:GibGuy@compuserve.com">GibGuy@compuserve.com</a> , 822-8901
October 8, 2003	Monthly meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
October 10-13, 2003	Dam to Grist Mill or Canyon Lake	<a href="mailto:GibGuy@compuserve.com">GibGuy@compuserve.com</a> , 822-8901
Undetermined	San Antonio River at Goliad, day trip with overnight camping option	Randy Hohlaus, <a href="mailto:hohlaus@prodigy.net">hohlaus@prodigy.net</a> , 493-7058
November 12, 2003	Monthly meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
November 28-30, 2003	Turkey Trot, Colorado River	Randy Hohlaus, <a href="mailto:hohlaus@prodigy.net">hohlaus@prodigy.net</a> , 493-7058
December 2003	Christmas Party	



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### Llano River Labor Day Weekend August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>

Although my wife and I left Junction Sunday afternoon, to that point the Labor Day weekend trip was a resounding success. It threatened to rain both Friday and Saturday night, with thunder and lightning in the distance but we had no precipitation at night other than the lightest of sprinkles. As for during the day, there was one brief downpour Sunday morning.

Saturday we took a leisurely trip from the state park back down to Morgan Shady Park. It was hot, but the water was nice. The river was low enough that everyone had to drag a few times, some of us more than others, but it was not often enough to detract from the trip. Lots of tubers crowded the put-in, but we soon left them behind and had the river to ourselves except for one or two other groups of paddlers we passed occasionally. I did not make the trip Sunday, but a group paddled upstream from the second crossing to see a waterfall. I am told I missed quite a sight.

Breakfasts were communal and plentiful. Saturday evening most people cooked on the patio, although Susan and I slipped into town to a restaurant and thus has no dishes to clean. That possibility is one of the nice features of staying in a place such as Morgan, which is in a town. The menu for Sunday night was to be calabacita, a squash and meat casserole.

We had the patio at the downstream end of the park and were largely isolated from other campers. The upstream end of the park was heavily crowded, but we did not notice it from where we stayed. It was a pleasurable way to spend the Labor Day holiday, and those of you who missed it should try to make the trip in the future.

Ken Bennight

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## Sprint Races

Below is the race schedule for the TCRA Sprint Regatta races to be held on September 6, 2003 at Festival Beach Park on Town Lake in Austin, Texas. More detailed information on the race and entry forms can be found here:

<http://www.txcanoeracing.org/Raceinfo/StateSprints.html>

While this is a classed race, the goal is inclusiveness and these short 2 to 8 minute races are ideal for beginning as well as experienced racers...so if someone shows up with an outrigger, surf ski or other non-ICF or non-USCA boat we'll find a way to allow that person to participate.

2003 Texas State Sprint Regatta Schedule, September 6, 2003, Austin, Texas, Town Lake Festival Beach Park

9:00	Race 1 C1 1000	11:45	tandem recreational 500
9:20	Race 2 K1 1000	12:00	Race 10 K4 500
9:25	solo recreational 1000	12:20	Race 11 K4 200
9:40	Race 3 C2 1000		Lunch Break
10:00	Race 4 K2 1000	1:00	Race 12 C1 200
10:05	tandem recreational 1000	1:20	Race 13 K1 200
10:20	Race 5 K4 1000	1:25	solo recreational 200
10:40	Race 6 C1 500	2:00	Race 14 Three Legged Willie
11:00	Race 7 K1 500	2:30	Awards
11:05	solo recreational 500		
11:20	Race 8 C2 500		
11:40	Race 9 K2 500		

Lee Deviney Race Director

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## Trip Cancellation

Gib will not be leading a Canyon Dam to Grist Mill Guadalupe trip October 4. It is too soon after the Pecos trip. He may now lead a trip the week of October 10 through 13, either (1) "Dam Grist Mill Run " on the Guadalupe or (2) Canyon Lake Park Camping with canoeing & mountain biking

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## Free-Style Canoe Clinic

On Columbus Day weekend, October 11 & 12, the Houston Canoe Club and the ACA will be sponsoring a Texas Freestyle Canoe Roundup. John Steib will chair the event. The best freestyle canoe teachers in the country will share their knowledge. It will be a two day event with clinics for novice, intermediate, and advanced freestyle paddlers. We will have a special clinic for white water paddlers who want to learn freestyle. We will also do short 4 hour clinics for Tandem recreational canoe on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday night we will host the National Freestyle Canoe Competition under the lights. The event will be at Brooks Lake in Sugar Land.

Contact Lillian Tigard, [tigards2@hal-pc.org](mailto:tigards2@hal-pc.org) for more information.

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## Pecos Expedition with Buffalo River Option: Sept 19 - 28

*The Commitment & the Option*

If the Pecos River is too low, we will do the lower section of the Buffalo River in Arkansas. For logistical reasons **if you commit to the Pecos you commit to the Buffalo.**

### *The Schedule*

The Pecos Schedule: The plan would be to leave on a Saturday and get to Seminole Canyon State Park some time on Saturday.

September 20, Saturday - Travel to assembly point  
September 21, Sunday - Run shuttles and launch on river at Pandale  
September 22, Monday - on river  
September 23, Tuesday - on river  
September 24, Wednesday- on river  
September 25, Thursday - on river  
September 26, Friday - on river  
September 27, Saturday - Exit from river at Pecos High Bridge & travel time back  
September 28, Sunday - Travel time back

The Buffalo Schedule: The plan would be to leave on a September 19, Friday.

September 19, Friday - Depart from San Antonio  
September 20, Saturday - Travel  
September 21, Sunday - Travel or Put In on Buffalo River???...to be resolved at planning meeting  
September 22, Monday - Put In on Buffalo River  
September 23, Tuesday - on river  
September 24, Wednesday- on river  
September 25, Thursday - on river  
September 26, Friday - Exit from Buffalo River  
September 27, Saturday - Travel back  
September 28, Sunday - Travel back

That's it for now. Onward to the Pecos. Gib Hafernick, 210-492-7517 or [Gibguy@Compuserve.com](mailto:Gibguy@Compuserve.com)

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### **Commercial Events**

SouthWest PaddleSports is sponsoring the following events:

Sat. Oct. 11 **Houston Paddlefest** at Lake Woodlands from 12-4 Manufacturers reps from Watermark (Dagger & Perception), Liquidlogic, Ocean Kayak, Old Town & others will be there. We will also have Hobie kayaks present.

Sun. Oct. 12 **Free Demo Day at Hidalgo Falls** on the Brazos River, Navasota. Lunch Video Magazine vol. I & II will be shown (or some other latest release) at dusk Mon. Oct. 13, Hot Dog Lunch for those staying for Columbus Day.

**Texas Kayak Fishing Expo** in Aransas Pass Oct. 18-19, 2003. Tours of Lighthouse Lakes Trails only \$20 each

Sat. Oct. 18, **Wayne Horodovich** from the Univ. of Sea Kayaking in Santa Barbara, CA will teach sea kayaking at the Texas Kayak Fishing Expo in Aransas Pass from 9-5. Cost \$125. Sun. Oct. 19 Rolling lessons with Wayne Horodovich from 9-1. \$60, Aransas Pass. Advanced strokes and maneuvers with Wayne H. 2-5 PM \$50, Aransas Pass.

Nov. 26-30 **Family Thanksgiving sea kayaking trip to the Bahamas**, Exuma Island. Camp for 2 nights on a private beach, snorkeling, kayaking, sailing, biking. 2 nights at a beach hotel included.

Patti Carothers, SouthWest PaddleSports, 26322 I H 45 North, The Woodlands, TX 77386, 281-292-5600 or 281-36PADDL (7-2335), <http://www.paddlesports.com>

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### **Maine Indian Tribe Dips Back In To Craft of Birch-Bark Canoes**

By ROBERT TOMSHO, Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

INDIAN ISLAND, Maine -- Watched by a dozen members of the Penobscot Indian tribe, Steve Cayard plunged a pair of tongs into a steaming vat of boiling water and extracted a 4-foot-long cedar slat. "You need to cook them for about 10 minutes," he said. Mr. Cayard knelt on the steaming board and slowly pulled its ends up to form a wide, U-shape -- perfect for a canoe rib.

Mr. Cayard, a white man with long interest in Indian culture, was hired last year to help the Penobscot tribe revive a lost art form: making birch-bark canoes. The Penobscots once were among the most-famed builders of canoes on the East Coast, using the graceful craft to ply

the local rivers and bays. After a trip here in 1857, Henry David Thoreau praised their boats as "neat and strong," adding that they were the envy of white men who saw them.

But the Penobscots are believed to have last made bark canoes in 1920, when several tribal craftsmen were invited to paddle to Plymouth, Mass., to take part in the 300th anniversary of the Pilgrims' landing. These days, about 500 of the tribe's 2,100 members live here in the small homes and house trailers of Indian Island, a wooded 360-acre reservation in the middle of the Penobscot River, just across from Old Town, Maine.

In a community where the median household income is only about \$20,000 a year, the canoe-making venture has elicited mixed emotions. Some dismiss it as frivolous, while others grumble about relying on Mr. Cayard. "Just the fact that he is a non-Indian is why," says Richard Hamilton, a former Penobscot chief. But Barry Dana, the tribe's current leader, maintains that, with no skilled Indian available, Mr. Cayard's presence is crucial to a cultural revival he promised when he was elected chief three years ago. "If there are still some tribal members uncomfortable with it, then so be it," the 44-year-old chief says. A few tribal leaders also hope some much-needed jobs might come from the effort by turning canoe-making into a commercial venture.

With money from a \$5,000 state grant, Mr. Cayard was hired last summer to conduct his first three-week workshop on Indian Island. The tribe has since landed another \$100,000 in federal grants to film the canoe-making process and look into whether there is a viable market for high-end canoes handcrafted by the tribe. "It's just a privilege to know these people," says Mr. Cayard, who wears his brown hair in a long ponytail. "It's their culture, really, that my skills come from."

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In a way, the fame of the Penobscot canoes may have contributed to their demise. Old Town Canoe Co., located just across the river from Indian Island, started making wood and canvas canoes modeled after those of the tribe in 1898. By 1910, when Old Town Canoe and rivals churned out 3,500 craft, the town of Old Town boasted it was "the canoe center of the world." Over the years, hundreds of Penobscot men worked at the factories, putting them in daily contact with modern watercraft far simpler to acquire and maintain. "It was just easier to buy them than to make them," says Mr. Hamilton, the former chief. Eventually, canoe-building just withered away, along with other traditional crafts such as basket-making.

Even for a skilled craftsman, building a bark canoe can involve more than 400 hours of meticulous labor. Harvesting the canoe's outer skin means searching the backwoods for a birch roughly 18 inches in diameter and with a long expanse of clear bark. After soaking, the bark is sewn into the rough shape of a canoe and its interior is lined with thin planks made from cedar logs that are hand-split and planed to the proper thickness. The rounded inner ribs that press the planking tight against the bark must be carved and bent into shape.

Then there is the job of searching for the roots of black spruce trees, which are split into thin strips and used to lash the bark to the canoe's frame. It's sweaty, miserable work. The black spruce is often found in moist, peaty bogs full of mosquitoes and stinging black flies. Last year, some younger Penobscots journeyed with Mr. Cayard to dig for spruce roots -- and promptly quit the canoe seminar.

On a recent steaming August morning, Mr. Cayard led a group of 12 Penobscots into a woodland bog. They soon fell to their knees and began to scrape at the black mud below them with knives, sticks and bare hands. "I don't know if I can tell a black spruce from a red spruce from a white spruce," said Nicholas Dow, the tribe's economic-development director, as he swatted at bugs. Looking up from his own spot in the mud, Mr. Cayard advised that the interior of the black spruce root is pinkish, with a thin red coating. "Scratch the bark," he said, while slowly pulling up a root of his own.

By the end of the morning, they gathered 1,000 feet, enough for one canoe. The tribe expects to complete that canoe any day now. While last summer's session also produced a canoe, its skin cracked from stern to bow after one enthusiastic builder took the craft from its warm storage room into subzero weather last winter, aiming to show it off at a local school. Although Penobscots traditionally kept their canoes outside in the winter, they didn't typically expose them to such rapid changes in temperature.

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(From *Wall Street Journal*)

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## Canoeing in Germany

Check out this link for a report of canoeing in Germany:  
[http://geocities.com/anjas\\_mom/Trips/mecklenburg.htm](http://geocities.com/anjas_mom/Trips/mecklenburg.htm)

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## Canoeing Instructor Classes

The Spring Woods Canoe Group will be offering the following Canoe Instructor Classes for the American Red Cross and the American Canoe Association. Flatwater Instructor/Fundamentals of Canoeing Moving Water Instructor, Whitewater Instructor/Basic River Instructor Small Craft Safety Instructor.



ARC = American Red Cross. ACA = American Canoe Association.  
IDW = Instructor Development Workshop. ICE = Instructor Certification Exam.

All participants should have good paddling skills. The ACA Instructor class requires that you be a member of the ACA before the class starts. The ARC course requires a FIT card (Fundamentals of Instructor Training) within the previous year or current instructorship in some other area. We can teach a FIT class before the canoe instructor class if it is needed.

Cost is \$80 per canoe instructor class. The FIT class costs \$25. The Small Craft Safety Instructor Class costs \$50. All ARC class costs include the instructor manuals. All canoe instructor classes require a commitment of 2 full weekends, while the Small Craft Safety Instructor only requires one weekend. Contact Susan Eda for more information. Home phone: (713)465-8711, Home email [sseda@mail.esc4.com](mailto:sseda@mail.esc4.com), work phone (713)365-4515, ext. 123, Work email [edas@springbranchisd.com](mailto:edas@springbranchisd.com)

### *Flatwater Canoe Instructor Class*

Sept. 6 - 7 or Sept. 13 - 14  
ACA ICE for Flatwater Canoeing  
ARC Fundamentals of Canoeing Instructor class

### *Moving Water/whitewater Canoeing Instructor Classes*

Sept. 27 - 28  
ARC Basic River Canoeing Instructor Development class  
ACA Basic River Canoeing Instructor/ Whitewater IDW

Oct. 4 - 5  
ARC Basic River Canoeing Instructor Class  
ACA Basic River Canoeing Instructor/ Whitewater ICE



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# Alamo City Rivermen

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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