

The Alamo City Rivermen

Babbler

Issue MMCL

January 2004

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Paddling the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Next Meeting

January 14, 2004, 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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Christmas Party

The Christmas Party was December 6 at the Holman residence. It was very enjoyable, and we had a good turnout and an abundance of good food. We all owe a big "thank you" to Henry and Janelle Holman for having us in their lovely home yet again.

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18th Annual Alamo City Rivermen Freeze Trip Colorado River-island Camping January 24-25, 2004

This will be the 18th year of this event, and it has always been one of our most popular trips. This was the first trip for the club when it was formed in 1987, and it just keeps on going and going.

Once again we will push the limits of Dutch Oven Technology. But **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 is a GO or NO GO kind of trip, YES/NO, ONE/ZERO, AND ON/OFF.

Cost is \$ 6.00 per person, which gets you the following menu:

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

In addition, we will have optional Hot Wine Grog. It is 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.

(Freeze Trip, continued next page)

Upcoming Events

January 14, 2004	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
January 24-25, 2004, Note the changed date.	Freeze Trip, Colorado River (For our new members, this is the biggest event of the year. You don't want to miss it.)	GibGuy@compuserve.com , 822-8901
February 11, 2003	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
March 10, 2004	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
April 14, 2004	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
April 17, 2004	Fiesta Earth Day Sprint Canoe Race, Woodlawn Lake	GibGuy@compuserve.com , 822-8901
May 12, 2004	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
May 29-31, 2004	Labor Day Trip	???????
June 9, 2004	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.



(Freeze Trip, continued)

A Few Individuals Can Help

I need a few key people to help with details and with purchasing. Specifically for the food items, I need volunteers to purchase one of the below groups and bag it in white trash bags, labeling each bag with a permanent marker. The bags must be only partially full so they can be easily packed in a canoe or kayak. The ties must be easily undone, so we can use the bags for carrying out trash. I will give you the quantities needed based on RSVPs. We must wait until the last minute in case we have to postpone 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 so you can be reimbursed on the island.

- Person No. 1 - Baked Potatoes with Onions - Label PO
- Person No. 2 - Green Beans - Label GB
- Person No. 3 - Sour Dough Bread - Label SB
- Person No. 4 - Peach Cobbler - Label PC
- Person No. 5 - Collecting Money - DON'T LOSE IT
- Person No. 6 - Collecting Signature Release Forms & Distribution of maps (At put-in)

To facilitate cooking & serving consider bringing the following:

- Dutch Ovens IF YOU GOT ONE BRING IT & LET ME KNOW
- Fire Starter Stacks IF YOU GOT ONE BRING IT & LET ME KNOW
- Cutting boards & knives
- Large pans or plastic bowls (for holding cut up vegetables)
- Portable tables
- Serving Spoons

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 7 and 8. This decision to postpone will be made Wednesday on January 21 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

If the weather is inclement, such as 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 bringing the following:

- Rope, stakes, twine
- Tent Poles or Double Bladed Paddles
- Duct tape
- Extra Tarps

Note: This would be a group survival thing; its what we train for.

Bring your own eating utensils.

Some Details on Plan C

If conditions are absolutely miserable, 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 Alamo City 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 24.



From Freeze Trip 2001

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 24. We will unload canoes and then coordinate to run small group vehicular shuttles of 2 to 3 vehicles. Someone will be distributing maps showing the takeout point in Bastrop.

Be Careful While Shuttling on Hwy 71. The Traffic May Be Heavy and Congested. Take Your Time but Try Not to Waste Time.

At the Put-in, Unload and Then Move out of the Launch Area ASAP. 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.** (Ed.: Who knew Gib was from Oklahoma?)

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 headache. 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, 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.

For further info contact Gib Hafernack @ 210-492-7517 or Gibguy@Compuserve.com

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April 17 – Earth Day Fiesta Sprints at Woodlawn Lake

The Alamo City Rivermen are officially participating at the Earth Day Festival on Woodlawn Lake.

Date: April 17, Saturday
Time: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

There is tentatively scheduled to be an Earth Day Meeting the first week of January at the Boathouse on Woodlawn Lake. I am not sure of the exact day, but if you would like to attend give me a call.



I am looking for people to help achieve the following goals especially for this event.

Goal Number One: Set up a (5) Lane 250 Meter Sprint Course on Woodlawn Lake

This will be the Only Olympic Sprint Race with Lanes in Texas. The Girl Scouts of San Antonio along with Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital have both said they would actively participate for this event. David Reichert is communicating with Warm Springs Hospital.

Goal Number Two: Set up the Tripper XL in Tandem with an Aluminum Canoe and offer canoe rides.

This was the most popular event that we had last year and the Earth Day Fiesta Committee has specifically asked that we have it again this year. I am hoping Chris Vogeler will be working on this project with me.

Goal Number Three: Set up an Alamo City Rivermen Display Booth

We are in need of display material and literature to set up about Texas Rivers.

Goal Number Four: A canoe presence on the lake.

Just show up and paddle on the lake and have fun

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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Website Update

As of year end, the website has well over 4,100 hits since September 13, 2002. If you type in "Alamo City Rivermen" into Google's search field and hit "I'm feeling lucky," our site comes up. That was not always the case. The size of the pictures on the home page has been reduced, so the page should load at least slightly faster.

The "Paddling Links" page has been reorganized to make it easier to find what you are looking for. Among the changes is that river level and flow links have been segregated so they are easier to find. If you have not checked the page out lately, do so.

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Texas River Guide

Texas Parks and Wildlife's "An Analysis of Texas Waterways" was highlighted in December's issue. TPWD also has a Texas River Guide online (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/texaswater/rivers/>). If you lose the URL, the Texas River Guide is linked on the Rivermen site.

The site offers useful information such as river flow gauges, Texas public boater access, river authority website links, river safety, other river associated links, river publications, river glossary, significant stream segments, and more. It also offers information on river access law and four wheeling in stream beds.

Here is what the site has to say about the Guadalupe:

Guadalupe River - From the confluence of the Comal River in Comal County upstream to the Kendall/Kerr County line, with the exception of Canyon Reservoir (TNRCC classified stream segment 1812 and part of 1806).

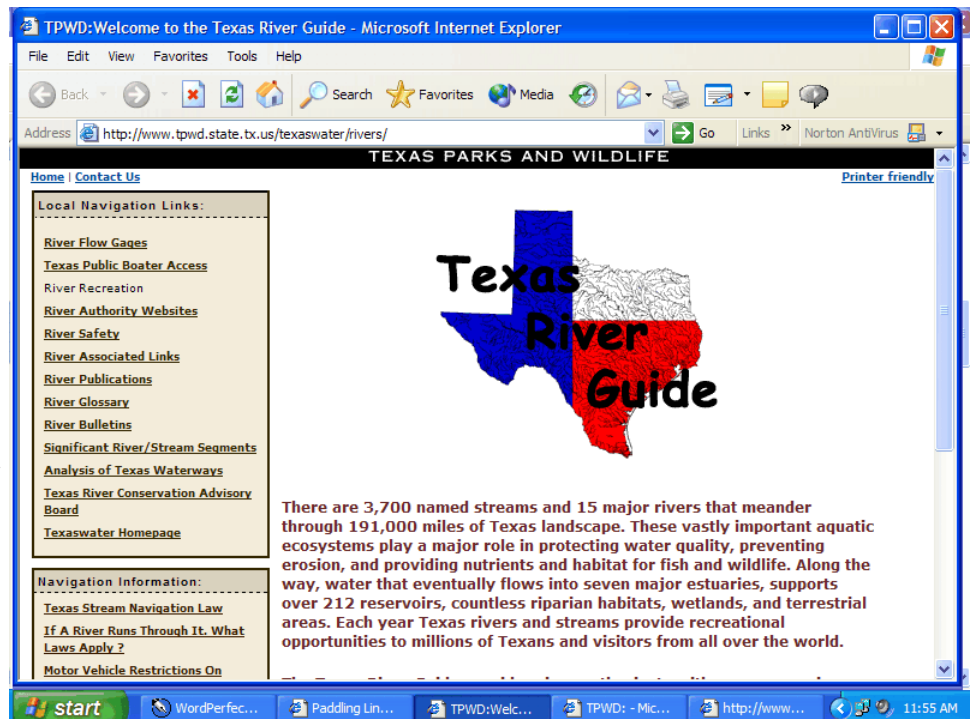
Hydrologic function - Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone

Riparian conservation area - [Guadalupe River State Park](#)

High water quality/exceptional aquatic life/high aesthetic value - Overall use (Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission 1995); #2 Scenic river in Texas (National Park Service 1995)

Guadalupe River - From US 183 in Gonzales County upstream to Lake Gonzales Dam in Gonzales County (within TNRCC classified stream segments 1803 and 1804).

Threatened or endangered species/unique communities - Two of only four known remaining populations of endemic golden orb (Howells 1997)



Guadalupe River Tidal - From the confluence with Guadalupe Bay in Calhoun/Refugio County upstream to FM 447 in northwest Victoria County (TNRCC classified stream segment 1801 and part of 1803).

Biological function - Extensive freshwater and estuarine wetland habitat (Bauer et al. 1991)

Hydrologic function - Victoria Memorial Municipal Park; [Guadalupe Delta Wildlife](#)

[Management Area](#); One of the largest wetland reserve projects in the United States (Ortego 1999)

Riparian conservation area - Overall use (Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission 1995)

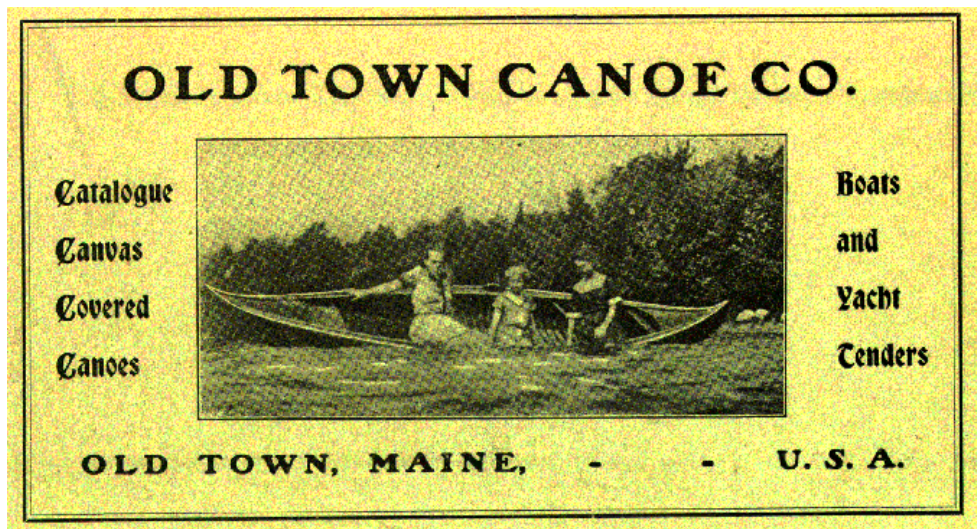
Threatened or endangered species/unique communities - Whooping crane; Unique and extensive marshes (Bauer et al. 1991)

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Rest all ye weary paddlers,
Despite the chill wind's nip,
For soon we'll have the wine grog
While on the Freeze Trip.
Looking forward to paddling and grog,
Paddling and grog,
Looking forward to paddling and grog.

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1903 Catalog Cover

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: _____

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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