

# The Alamo City Rivermen

# Babbler

Issue MMCCLI

February 2004

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

## Paddling the fine line between geek and Bubba.

### Next Meeting

February 11, 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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### Club Officers

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### Dues

Dues are due for everyone except those who joined during or after the last quarter of 2003. They are \$15 per year if you receive this newsletter by email and \$20 if you receive it through the postal service. Before we started emailing the newsletter, newsletter reproduction and postage costs consumed nearly our entire budget. Please remit your dues to Alamo City Rivermen Canoe Club, P.O. Box 171194, San Antonio, Texas 78217.

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### Membership Roster

I will shortly email out a membership roster. If your name is omitted or any of your information is incorrect, please notify Marie Searight, [marie@wireweb.net](mailto:marie@wireweb.net). If you don't have email, call me (Ken Bennight) at 210-826-7071, and I will email Marie.

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### Freeze Trip 2004

Freeze Trip 2004 was January 24-25 on the usual segment of the Colorado River, FM 969 to Bastrop. A portion of the Houston contingent had put in the afternoon of January 23, spent the night along the river, and met us at the put-in.

The weather forecast called for rain, which probably depressed turnout; we had approximately 50 participants. Rain it did, but we were lucky in its timing; our enthusiasm was not dampened, although the same could not be said for our gear. We made it to the island and set up before any significant rain fell. By the time it started raining in earnest, tarps were strung up and numerous other rain shelters appeared. No one had to stand out in the weather.

The rain threatened the coals cooking the dutch oven dinner, but hardy paddlers sitting by the dutch ovens held umbrellas. Later, we moved a cover to relieve those holding the umbrellas. The rain thoughtfully broke in time for dinner.

(Freeze Trip, continued next page)

The temperature was generally mild, with the night time low in the mid-40's and the day time temperature in the 60's. No one suffered ill effects from the weather. The dutch oven meal was delicious as always, and the peach cobbler was about as sweet as anything I ever remember eating.

Sunday morning was bright, clear, and warm and offered ample coffee and breakfast. It was a delightful paddle back, except for those of us who had a little trouble with the sweeper at the downstream end of the island. For those of you who have not been on the trip, the current comes off of a shoal on river right and pushes you directly into the overhanging limbs of a tree at river left. My paddling partner and I, trying to avoid running aground on the shoal, which it turns out would not have been a problem, came in too close to the tree. Our "draw-right" strokes were not powerful enough to overcome the current and in retrospect were inappropriate, because the current did not graze the tree but pushed us into it. The rest of the scenario is predictable. Downstream paddlers recovered the few things that floated off, even my straw hat, so we lost only our dignity. And thus we joined that singular, if not elite, group of paddlers who have managed to swamp on the Freeze Trip.

The only other "hazard" on the trip comes at the rapid about a third of the way along on the second day's segment. There is a well-defined downstream "V," but hidden among the standing waves at the bottom of the "V" is a large rock. The technical term for such a phenomenon is "damned rock." We hit that too but did not swamp. The boat ramp at the take out was, in comparison to prior years, remarkably free of goose droppings. That was a plus, among other reasons, in that it reduced the slip-sliding away. A good time was had by all.

Ken Bennight

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## Upcoming Events

February 11, 2003	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
March 6, 2004	San Marcos River Clean-up, Highway 90 west of Luling to Luling City Park	Volunteer needed
March 10, 2004	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
April 3, 2003	Brazos River Clean-up	Ed Lowe, W-214-358-0612, H-217-824-9470, twt-edlowe@email.msn.com
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.



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## Middle Bosque Run

The Middle Bosque is a South Bosque/Brazos tributary in the hills west of Waco. The put-in is near Crawford. It's a Class II/III run. The water level was good (January 17, 2004) -- I'd say it was at the between "minimum" and "optimum". Plenty of water, high and brown, but well within the banks. The level was 4.2 feet when we put on at about 11:30, and it was at 3.8 when we finished at about 3:45. We paddled from FM 185 to Speegleville Road, a distance of about 10 miles. Joey was in a Big EZ, and Dirk and I were in Dagger Rivals.



The MB is a really good run. There were lots of good rapids, wave trains, and some good surfing. Two rapids stand out, both in the first four mile section. Maybe two miles into the trip, there is a river-wide ledge drop that has a cool little slot up against the left bank. The best way to run it is to go around the right side of a big overhanging limb, ferry upstream toward river left, miss another overhanging limb, and straighten up over the drop so you don't get propelled into the left bank. Another interesting rapid is a sloping slide a quarter mile above the FM 3047 bridge. The water here seemed to be going in every different direction (well, three at least).

At this level, I would compare this run with the North Fork of the San Gabriel above Lake Georgetown, although the MB would get much bigger than the NFSG at higher water.

I would not have wanted to miss the section from FM 3047 to Speegleville Road, because it was just about as good as the upper section. More good rapids and waves, more surf spots. We had lunch

after portaging the eight foot dam. When I got out in about two feet of water below a surf hole to dump the water from my canoe, I stepped into a hole between rocks and banged my shin pretty bad. In less than a minute, it swelled up about two and a half inches in two places. It was pretty ugly, but it turned out to be just a bruise.

We had a great day on the river. The weather was perfect, clear and in the seventies. When there's water, winter paddling can be really good in Texas! (Glenn Hart, Austin)

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He paddled, paddled, paddled his boat,  
Merrily down the stream,  
And was swept into the hanging limbs;  
Listen to him scream!

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## The 19th Annual Great Texas River Clean-up San Marcos River

On Saturday, March 6, 2004, folks from all over Texas will be participating in the world's longest river clean-up. We will be picking up trash along the entire length of the San Marcos River (approximately 90 miles).

**BANK CREWS.** Everyone is urged to help. If you are unable to participate in the water, we need volunteers to work the banks of the river, especially at parks and highway crossings. Bring some trash bags (we will supply as many as possible) and perhaps a flounder gig to snag some goodies. Scuba divers and snorkelers are also urged to participate.

**RECREATIONAL PADDLERS.** We are asking recreational paddlers and canoe clubs to accept the challenge and volunteer for a section of river. If your group or club has not already been assigned a section, be sure to contact Tom Goynes and tell him what stretch you would like. The upper sections of the San Marcos River, particularly just downstream of the City of San Marcos, will require the most attention, and the short mileages set for these sections reflect this. Furthermore, the river becomes less accessible and more hazardous as one goes downstream. For that reason, novice boaters should volunteer for either section 1 or 2 and more experienced boaters for the other sections.

**SAFARI TEAMS AND CANOE RACING ENTHUSIASTS.** The lower river, from Luling to Gonzales, has several long sections with few bridge crossings and for that reason, we are asking canoe racers and especially teams that have competed in the Texas Water Safari in the past to volunteer for sections 9 - 11.

**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 for participants 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 Retreat. Everyone is welcome.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO.** First of all, mark March 6th on your calendar. Secondly, look over the enclosed river section listing, and choose a stretch that you can help cover. Next, call me at 512-392-6171 (or e-mail me at <mailto:goynes@centurytel.net>), and I will put you in contact with the group leader of the section you have chosen. Each leader will be able to help arrange shuttles and will be given logistical info regarding trash deposit locations as the clean-up nears.

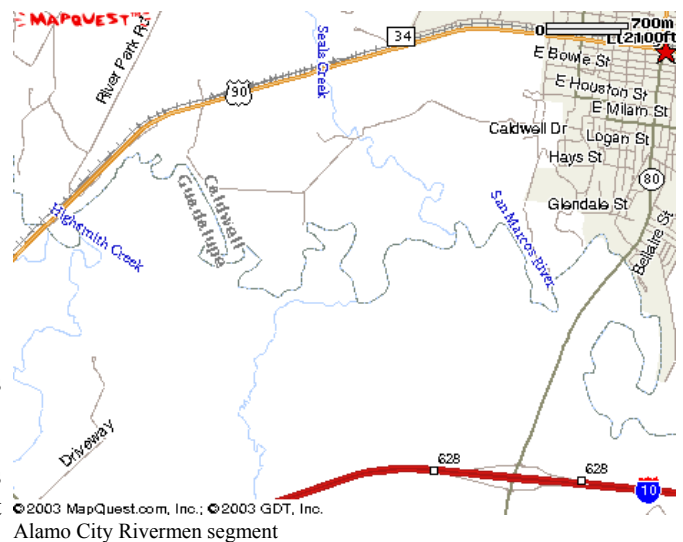
**MEETING TIMES AND SHUTTLES.** A group meeting will be held for everyone working sections 3 through 7 at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning at Spencer Canoes. Groups working sections 8 - 11 will arrange their shuttles as early as possible Saturday morning and try to put in the river by 9:00 a.m. Persons working sections 1 and 2 will meet at City Park in San Marcos at 10:00 a.m.

**LET'S DO IT.** Communities along the river are being urged to help in any way they can. If you can offer any service, such as trash hauling, shuttle driving, trash bags or food donations - anything - please give us a call. Together we can clean-up the whole river and make a strong statement to the public about our love for free flowing streams. Please help us out, Tom Goynes (coordinator) 512-392-6171 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

#### RIVER SECTION LISTINGS

1. San Marcos City Park to Thompson's Island (2 miles)
2. Thompson's Island to Pecan Park Retreat (3.5 miles)
3. Pecan Park Retreat to Spencer Canoes (6 mi.) Houston Canoe Club
4. Spencer Canoes to Staples - Hwy 1977 (5 miles) Jeff Pines
5. Staples to Fentress - Hwy 20 (9 miles)
6. Fentress to Stairtown (7miles)
7. Stairtown to Luling - Hwy 90 (6.5miles)
- 8. Luling 90 to Luling City Park (6 mi.) Alamo City Rivermen**
9. Luling City Park to Palmetto State Park (14.4 mi.) TCRA
10. Palmetto State Park to Gonzales Hwy 90A (14.8 miles) Canoe Racers
11. Gonzales 90A to Gonzales 183 (10 mi.) Canoe Racers.

**TRPA MEETING.** On Sunday, March 7 at 10 a.m. the Texas Rivers Protection Association will hold it's annual general meeting. We will meet at the Pecan Park Retreat office (which is also the home of Tom and Paula Goynes). There will be an election of officers and board members and we will discuss ongoing river issues. 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.



DRIVING DIRECTIONS. To get to Pecan Park Campground: coming from Interstate 35 in San Marcos, get on Highway 80 and head toward Luling for 1.8 miles. Take a right on county road 101. Take an immediate left onto county road 102. Go 1/2 mile on 102 and take a right on Pecan Park road. Keep going straight (past TG Canoe Livery) and the road will end at the Pecan Park Retreat Office.

For more info call Tom Goynes at 512-392-6171 or visit our website at <http://www.pecanparkretreat.com>

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### **Brazos River Clean-up**

A Brazos River clean-up, patterned after the San Marcos River clean-up headed by Tom Goynes, will be on 4/3/2004 and will focus on the stretch from Hwy 67 to Brazos Point (roughly 15 river miles) near Glen Rose. Mitchell George, owner of Tres Rios Retreat, is graciously providing free camping and a pavilion for the volunteer dinner on Saturday night. Mitchell is on the Glen Rose City Council and will try to arrange the use of City dump trucks to haul the trash. Jack and Cathy Cathy, owners of Low Water Canoes will provide free canoes for volunteers. I will get food donated and coordinate the volunteer dinner.

One of the big challenges is to remove the hundreds of tires that have washed into the river. They are very heavy and require lifting them to dump the river silt before you load them in your canoe. We will also need to separate them from other trash. Any ideas on recycling tires or any other comments and suggestions are welcome.

I am working on getting some school and scout groups from Dallas involved. Any representatives of local paddling clubs or other interested organizations should contact me. This is a really nice stretch of river close to the Dallas-Ft. Worth area worth cleaning and preserving. It is threatened by the indiscriminate sale of water by the Brazos River Authority to power plants and the like. If we can demonstrate a care and concern of this stretch of river, we hope to approach the BRA collectively and ask that they be better stewards of this great river.

Ed Lowe, Texas Water Trails, W-214-358-0612, H-217-824-9470, [twl-edlowe@email.msn.com](mailto:twl-edlowe@email.msn.com)

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### **Homemade Rack for Pickups**

I have made some temporary racks for the 1999 Ford F-150 regular cab long bed I just got. I bought 4 2x2s in 8 foot lengths. I cut four 32 inch lengths to put in the stake pockets. Thirty-two inches gives some clearance over the truck cab, and three 32 inch lengths can be cut out of each 8 foot length. Then, the remaining two 8 foot 2x2's were put on top of the 2x2s sticking out of the stake pockets. A nail can be driven through the top section to hold it (or maybe it can be screwed on).

For further support, I screwed a metal T-brace on each junction. I used treated lumber for weather resistance. One caution about treated wood is that standard screws and nails should not be used since galvanic action can eat standard steel and galvanized nails.

The racks need to be braced to reduce fore and aft movement. One way to do it is nail or screw other wood pieces to the front and back of the rack where it meets the top of the stake pocket. Also, lines or quick release straps can be run to hold the system in place. Ford has tie downs in the bed.

Mark Andrus, [mandrus@brazoria.net](mailto:mandrus@brazoria.net)



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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