



The Alamo City Rivermen

Babbler

Issue MMCLLII

March 2004

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Paddling the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Next Meeting

March 10, 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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April 17 – Earth Day at Woodlawn Lake – Where We Stand

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

The Situation as of Today:

I have had doubts about having sufficient manpower to Install, Manage & Retrieve the race portion of the (5) lane (250 meter) Earth Day Sprint Races on April 17, 2004. So in early February I told Erika Resendez with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) that we would not do the races but would concentrate on doing the popular canoe outrigger rides with the option of making peach cobbler.

I have received a call from SARA asking me to meet with Erika Resendez and Karen Bishop to discuss what options were available to conduct some kind of race. I met with both individuals to discuss several options of doing some kind of race.

SARA wants to do a race because they have approximately 250 "Fiesta Earth Day Canoe Sprints" caps left over from 2 years ago plus an equal number of impressive Earth Day Canoe Sprint Certificates, all paid for by SARA. SARA also wants to provide a positive canoe racing exposure to people who do not have canoes. Basically we need to do some kind of race that is just fun.

(Earth Day, continued next page)

Upcoming Events

March 6, 2004	San Marcos River Clean-up, Highway 90 west of Luling to Luling City Park	Volunteer needed
March 7, 2004	Texas River Protection Association annual meeting	Pecan Park Retreat, San Marcos
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, 210-492-7517
May 8, 2004	Medina River Clean-up	
May 12, 2004	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
May 15, 2004	Maifest, Anhalt	Randy Hohlaus
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.
July 3, 4, 5, 2004	Junction on the Llano	Gib Hafernack, 210-492-7517



(Earth Day, continued)

This is what I am hoping we can accomplish:

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

I am bringing the Tripper XL and Chris Vogeler is planning on bringing his Aluminum. We have all the material to rig it in tandem along with the seats. We have about 10 life preservers but could use more paddles. 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

Goal Number Two: Have fun Sprint Races

Take (4) Aluminum Canoes & rig in tandem with poles to provide (2) stable tandem assemblies. Each tandem would hold (3) youths & (1) ACR Rivermen acting as a Stern Man. Each youth participant would receive a cap (200 would be dedicated) plus a certificate. 50 of the caps would be set aside for Alamo City Rivermen Volunteers. We would set a Start & Finish Sighting device and race these (2) tandem assemblies against each other. Hopefully I could convince a Hungarian I know to be the Race Starting Judge and give him a megaphone & starting horn. Note: We would want this to look like a race but this is not a race.

Goal Number Three: 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. The A-frame has literature pockets to accept club literature or environmental literature.

NOTE: SOMEONE NEEDS TO WORK ON COLLECTING OR BRINGING LITERATURE

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.

I COULD USE THE FOLLOWING HELP:

To make this work we need (1) Tripper XL Canoe & (5) Aluminum 17 foot canoes to commit for the day of the event. Here are the boats that I have available:

- 1. Tripper XL – Gib Hafernack
- 2. Aluminum Canoe No. 1 – Chris Vogeler
- 3. Aluminum Canoe No. 2 – ??????????????
- 4. Aluminum Canoe No. 3 – ??????????????
- 5. Aluminum Canoe No. 4 – ??????????????
- 6. Aluminum Canoe No. 5 – ??????????????

That’s it for now, if interested in helping or have any questions give me a call.

Gib Hafernack, 210-492-7517, or Gibguy@Compuserve.com

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Chris Vogeler’s Oven Smoked Canned Ham

- 1 (3 pound) canned
- 1 (4 ounce) liquid smoke

Remove key from bottom side of can. With a beverage can opener, punch 4 to 6 openings in bottom side of ham can. Place can bottom-side up in 350 degree F oven for 15 minutes or until jelly-like substance is melted.

Remove can from oven and pour off juices. Pour liquid smoke through holes into can. Place can bottom-side up in oven. Bake 35 to 45 minutes.

Remove from oven; cool and pour off liquid smoke. Open can with key. The ham is ready to slice, and the cooking pan is ready to throw away. No clean-up!

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President’s Report

(Kathy Cusick)

I would encourage members to **join the American Canoe Association**. The membership gives includes a great monthly magazine, insurance for our trips and supports an organization that supports your pastime. You only have to join ACA once, no matter how many clubs you belong to. Please note that the dues for the American Canoe Association have gone up this year. It is now \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family. This is not changed on the form in our February Newsletter as we just received notification, so make the change by hand if you use that form. You also have the option of subscribing to a new kayaking magazine as a member.

San Marcos River Cleanup is this Saturday, March 6. ACR has the traditional Section 8 from Luling 90 to Luling City Park, and David Reichert is the trip leader for this event. It is possible to meet at 9:00am at Spencers Canoe in Martindale with the other clean-up crews,

and then drive to our put-in, or meet at Luling 90, our put in. There is a free BBQ Dinner afterwards for participants as well as free camping for both Fri & Sat nights at Spencers or Pecan Park if desired.

Announcement from Tom Goynes:

THE 19TH ANNUAL GREAT TEXAS RIVER CLEAN-UP March 6, 2004

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-TO-GETHER

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 Annual 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>

Medina River Cleanup, is Saturday, May 8, at the Bandera City River Park. Last year the Alamo City Rivermen had a very easy section that ended at the park, and we will be requesting the same section this year. It was a wonderful float on a beautiful river and there will be free BBQ Dinner afterwards for participants as well as free camping Sat night At Bandera City River Park, which is normally day use only. Save this date. More information will follow.

THIS IS AN UPDATE FROM THE HIDALGO FALLS LISTSERVE:

Steve Daniel is really working hard to make this unique Paddler Owned property a success. There is a nice flatwater float downstream of the Hidalgo Falls property, and a weekend at the property is planned for this year, although a date is not yet set. Please note that our club has donated a tree to the property. I have included a note from Steve Daniel regarding progress at the property, and a request for help. The website is <http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/hf-fest3.html>

There is a tree planting project going on at Hidalgo Falls. Steve has arranged with a Boy Scout Troop to have a whole lot of landscaping done as a volunteer Scout project. For a \$25 donation you can have a tree planted in your name. We have made a donation from the club in the name of the Alamo City Rivermen, but individuals may also donate to this unique paddler supported property. The donation can be tax deductible if the check is made out to the Texas Rivers Recreation Association (TRRA), and contributions that do not need to be tax deductible can be made to Texas Rivers Protection Association (TRPA). Either check would be mailed to: Texas Rivers Protection Association, c/o Tom Goynes, PO Box 219, Martindale, TX 78655

Hidalgo Falls Tree Planting Project Update (sent 2/2/04)
(From Steve Daniel)

James Graham and I met yesterday at Hidalgo with the Tye Rougas, the scout troupe leader and his son Kevin (the prospective Eagle scout), along with John Giedraitis, the Texas Urban Forestry Coordinator for the Texas Forest Service. Kevin is working on the organizational details of asking for donations from local suppliers (e.g., Lowe's, Home Depot) of materials needed for tree support (lightweight t-posts and wiring) and the irrigation system (e.g., about 3000 ft of 1/2" polyvinyl tubing, 250 ft of 1/4" feeder tubing, a watering timer, and 60 drip nozzles with attachments), use of a bobcat to dig/loosen the soil for the trees, and arranging to have members of the scout troupe come down to actually put the trees in. John, who is also a troupe leader, will be providing professional advice about the planting of the trees (which will be a mixture of live oak, sawtooth oak, burr oak, water oak, and cedar elm).

We have flagged planting spots in an area that can accommodate about 60 5-gallon trees (which will cost TRPA about \$400 wholesale). We will also have to install about 500' of PVC pipe to get water to field where the irrigation system is located. All of pipe and tubing will be buried so that we can mow easily, but that means that we have to rent a trencher. The scouts are excited about this project and see it as the first of a number of possible projects that they would work on at Hidalgo.

As of now, it appears that this project will have two stages: this coming weekend, the spots where the trees will be put will be turned with the bobcat so as to loosen the soil; and two weeks later, the scouts will actually plant the trees and set the irrigation system. This weekend we need people to help assemble and run the PVC pipe and trench the network of underground pipes and tubing. If you cannot help with the labor, then please contribute to the costs of the trees and materials. Thanks to Kathy Cusick, Kevin Longin, and the Alamo City Rivermen, we have already received donations of \$125, but that still is short of what we need to show the scouts that we are really serious about our commitment to enhance the environment at Hidalgo. If they see that we really support their efforts to help us, they will no doubt plan for more projects there.

Steve Daniel

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The water narrowed along its course,
Thereby acquiring greater force.
Standing waves slapped the bow,
As sweat formed upon my brow.
We dashed down the rushing stream
Like a charging a Greek trireme,
But a trireme hitting an enemy ship
Did not turn and start to tip.
When we hit the hidden rock,
The canoe tipped over to my shock,
And that is why, I'm sure you'll see,
My boat now looks just like a "V."

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Alamo City Rivermen Meeting Synopsis -- February 2004

(Kathy Cusick)

Mileage Logs – Call for Mileage Logs --Awards will be posted next month

First Aid Kits – Some kits were purchased cheaply on-line and are available to individuals for \$4 (normally sell for \$16) Please contact Kathy Cusick if interested.

TRIP PLANNING

Memorial Day Weekend – 3 days on the Colorado River planned with the San Antonio Adventure Club. Details to follow.

There was a trip I was informed of in the planning stages last year on the Colorado River by a reenactment group in commemoration of the Lewis & Clark expedition. We have not heard back, but the initial plans were for June, with a trip that paddlers could join in on along their way. More information will follow when available.

Hidalgo Falls – An ACR Weekend trip? Please let Kathy Cusick know if anyone is interested in camping at this unique property and paddling the river down to Washington on the Brazos. This is a flatwater trip. Non-paddlers may want to stay at the camp and watch the park-n-players in the whitewater.

Devils River – any interest in a weekend trip that would involve a bunkhouse and a paid shuttle with a minimum cost of \$65 per person? – Please let Kathy Cusick know via will look into dates.

Frio River – any interest? Any volunteers to lead a trip?

TRIPS SCHEDULED

1. San Marcos River Cleanup, Sat, March 6, 2004
2. Earth Day Some Kinda Races & Canoe Rides, April 17, 2004 – Gib Hafernick
3. Hidalgo Falls River Festival – Sunday, April 18, 2004. This is just upstream on the Brazos of Washington on the Brazos State Park. See <http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/hf-fest3.html> for more details.
4. Llano River weekend in May, date and place to be announced, Randy Hohous is the Trip Leader.

5. Medina River Cleanup, Sat May 8, 2004, with the option of overnight camping in Bandera.

6. Maifest Paddle Sun May 16th – paddle a section of the Upper Guad and then show up at Maifest in Anhalt for a great German Family Style dinner and other activities. Trip Leader Kathy Cusick.

7. July 4th Weekend (July 3, 4, 5) – Junction on the Llano. The patio is reserved at Morgan’s Shady Grove, Gib Hafernick is the trip leader.

8. Week of Rivers – July 3-11, 2004 – Carolina Canoe Club, Bryson City, North Carolina – Information from Kathy Cusick/Kevin Longin (not leading trip, but advising participation). This is a great way to paddle great rivers on the cheap with another great host of a canoe club. There are beginner river trips to paddle every day, as well as the more exciting excursions.

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Boats for Sale

Red Dagger RPM Max for sale for \$450.00. The kayak is in good condition and is located in Wimberley. The RPM MAX is a good river running boat. meverett@texas.net or 512-695-6963.

Need to sell my Mohawk Shaman 12 whitewater canoe. Practically brand new. \$500 obo. If interested call Malynda Richardson at 713-407-3815 (office) or email me at rio_rat@hotmail.com

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Kayak Instructor Workshop

We are trying to have a 2 ½ day kayak instructor workshop in Galveston Tues – Thur, March 16-18. The terminal certification is a new course called “Essentials of Kayak Touring” just approved by the ACA Board of Directors. No Eskimo rolling required. This is a step up from Intro to Kayak instructor. The cost is \$225. If anyone is interested, please email me. We need a couple more people to make it a go.

Patti Carothers, RNACA Kayak Instructor Trainer, SouthWest PaddleSports, 800-937-2335



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 \$20.00 (single) or \$25.00 (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: _____

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: _____

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