



# The Alamo City Rivermen

# Babbler

Issue MMCLIII

April 2004

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

## Paddling the fine line between geek and Bubba.

### Next Meeting

April 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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### Club Officers

President Kathy Cusick  
[kmcusick@juno.com](mailto:kmcusick@juno.com)  
830-885-5324

Vice President David Plylar  
[wavegrazer@lycos.com](mailto:wavegrazer@lycos.com)

Sec./Treas. Marie Searight  
[marie@wireweb.net](mailto:marie@wireweb.net)  
830-625-0604

Editor Kenneth Bennight  
[bennight@alumni.utexas.net](mailto:bennight@alumni.utexas.net)  
210-826-7071

Mailings Kevin Longin  
[kevin\\_longin@baxter.com](mailto:kevin_longin@baxter.com)  
830-885-5324, ext. 5189

### Llano Trip

The May Llano trip south of Mason is on a stretch above where we paddled in mid-May before. The river is lined with 100 foot plus scenic cliffs (at least by topo), and I have always wanted to check them out. A ranch will let us drive-in camp on the river, as their turkey hunters will be gone after May 1. They lease out to hunters, fishers, and campers and also have a hunter's lodge a half mile from the river, but the lodge is too expensive. I should be able to negotiate a reasonable fee for primitive camping. We should pretty much have the place to ourselves. There are no facilities except picnic table, but they will let us erect a privy shelter as bathroom space. We can float down directly from the camp, either 4.5 or 10 mile floats.

I see that the Texas River Marathon is May 1. I have suggested May 9 or May 15 as a date, and both are open. Let me know which dates work best for you and the club to avoid conflicts, if you would like to go, so I can set a date.

Randy Hohlaus

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### Brazos Clean-Up

Please try to come to the 1st Annual Brazos River Clean-up on 4/3/2004. I ain't no Tom Goynes so this is as much of a plan as we currently have:

4/2: Complimentary camping at Tres Rios near Glen Rose ([www.tresrioscamping.com](http://www.tresrioscamping.com)). Several good restaurants in Glen Rose. Tres Rios also has cabins and a restaurant. 254-897-4253

4/3: 9:00 a.m. Volunteers meet at Tres Rios office. Make final plan based on number of volunteers.

4/3: 6:00 p.m. Complimentary volunteer appreciation dinner at Tres Rios

4/3: Complimentary camping at Tres Rios.

We will have free canoes provided by Low Water Canoes and Rhodes Canoes. Hope to see you on the Brazos,  
Ed Lowe , 214-824-9470, [tw-edlowe@msn.com](mailto:tw-edlowe@msn.com)

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## Upcoming Events

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



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## Not to Put Too Fine a Point on it, But

Last year at this time, dues stragglers were deleted from the rolls and the email group. Of course, most people then paid up. I hated to delete people, and I wasn't overly fond of the clerical work of deleting them and then shortly adding them back. So here's Plan B. If your name on the list below, por favor pay up. Coordinate with Marie Searight, [marie@wireweb.net](mailto:marie@wireweb.net), 830-625-0604. You can send checks to Alamo City Rivermen Canoe Club, P.O. Box 171194, San Antonio, Texas 78217. Thank you.

Lisa Argo	Donna Frazier	Randy Hohlaus
Barbara Backus	Ken Fries	Henry Holman
Saskia Bartlett	Bill Frost	Annette Mascia
Billie Bates	Pari Gilliam	Don McCann
Ed Bellens	Alton Graham	David Reichert
Joan Bishop	Scott Reagan	Charles Riou
Rachel Boisselle	John McMenamin	Dr. Beck Steiner
Joe Brewer	Kevin McNeil	Kali Tighe
Nancy Burns	Jack Melton	Chris Vogeler
Larry Burns	Zoltan Mraz	Jessica Waig
Ted Crane	Glenn Nelson	Cleo Walton
Stan Drezek	Rick O'Brien	Hans Weichsel
Robert Edwards	Frank Onion	Fred Wills
Larry Elder	David Ott	
Bill Esparza	David Plylar	
Robert Flinn	David Halbert	



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## **Last Minute Caddo Lake Opportunity (Professionally Guided)**

Due to some cancellations we have plenty of space on our Caddo Lake canoeing trip April 2/3/4. We stay two nights at the Bennick's Pine Needle Lodge and paddle the lake on Saturday, including an (almost) full moon paddle Saturday night, and Sunday morning. This is an especially good time of year since the water is generally high and we can go to some places you can't get to during normal water levels. Price includes lodging, camp food and snacks. Travel expenses and canoe rental not included. Price \$229. This is not an official canoe club trip. If you are interested, or have questions, please let me know ASAP. Sandy T., Explorer Pack & Paddle, [www.explorerpack-paddle.com](http://www.explorerpack-paddle.com), Phone 713-464-9488 Fax 713-464-5499.

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## **Spring Break on the Colorado River**

by Bob Heinsohn

On Monday, March 15, 2004, Bob Heinsohn and his fiancée, Carolyn Meiners, took a three-day canoe trip on the Colorado River from Bastrop to Smithville, Texas. Since this was Carolyn's first overnight trip of more than a few miles, they made it a leisurely excursion. Bob's 85-year old mother was the "shuttle bunny", who left her car at the park in Smithville at Highway 71 and drove Bob's van to the drop-off point at Fisherman's Park in Bastrop. She then drove Bob's van back to do the vehicle switch.

After a foggy beginning, the day warmed up the 70's. Along the way, they stopped at many islands and gravel bars looking for unusual rocks and artifacts. Early in the trip, Bob found an obsidian spear point, and they both picked up "designer" rocks, fossilized shells, and petrified wood.

At lunchtime, they sat on an old tire, eating dried venison sausage, crackers, tomatoes, apples, and peanut butter. By 3 p.m., after canoeing about ten miles, they decided to quit for the day. They found a beautiful, elevated wooded campsite across the river from a high cliff with a huge home overlooking the river. The ambience included budding trees overhead, perfect river reflections of cottonwoods on the opposite shore and birds singing above, including an owl that was already hooting by 4 p.m. The view was super, especially while relaxing in lawn chairs sipping white wine. A campfire and stars overhead ended a perfect day.

That night an unexpected thunderstorm hit. Lightening illuminated the tent and rain soaked things left outside, as well as some items not protected by the improperly secured rainfly. The next morning, Bob and Carolyn were awakened at 6 a.m. by two owls hooting back and forth to one another. After a breakfast of bagels and hardboiled eggs, they set out for another day of paddling. The weather was pleasant while they traveled approximately eight miles to the next campsite. Along the way, they found more fossils, rocks, and meteorite fragments. A strong current in mid-stream that flowed head-on into the bank, a wide area of river that had a shallow ridge across it, plus boulders below were the only major obstacles on the trip. There were several rapids along the river, but Carolyn followed Bob like a baby duck after its "Mama" and had no problems. They passed by some picturesque reddish-colored cliffs, herds of cattle, and many water birds.

That afternoon, they found another nice campsite, where they cleaned up with water stored in a 5-liter wine bag tied to a tree. After a dinner of chicken and apples in wine sauce, asparagus, and mashed potatoes, they again relaxed to the sounds and beauty of nature all around them. Carolyn really enjoyed the peace and quiet, since she usually has very hectic days as a school nurse for 1,300 students.

On the third day, the wind picked up, making paddling difficult in some places when they were going directly against it. Nevertheless, they did the last eight miles in three hours even with bags of rocks and all of their gear filling their canoes. At the very end of the trip, they stopped at an island near the Highway 71 bridge at Smithville, where they picked up numerous rocks with embedded fossilized shells, more meteorite fragments, and petrified wood. Carolyn found a large ancient stone hammer head with a grooved area for attaching a handle, as well as a four-inch fossilized animal tooth. They had over 50 pounds of rocks in each canoe, although Carolyn, who picked up three times as much stuff as Bob, swears it felt like 100 pounds. She was very thankful that the take-out was only one-fourth of a mile downstream. Of course, the biggest task was getting the gear, "treasures" and canoes up a steep, slippery bank without having a "meeting" with the ground. They were both exhausted, but enjoyed their first extended canoe trip together. Carolyn is "hooked", and Bob is already planning the next trip.

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## **Spring Swamp and Bayou Trips**

We have scheduled three canoe trips to lead this spring. Two are sponsored by the Houston Sierra Club, and one is with a new group, the Artist Boat. The schedule with trip descriptions is below.

Sunday, April 18 – Canoe the Cypress Wonderland

Saturday, May 22 – Canoe the Cypress Wonderland

Spend the day paddling through the network of lakes and bayous that wind through the heart of the largest cypress forest on the Texas coast, only thirty miles east of Houston. This is one of the most scenic paddling destinations in Southeast Texas. Our itinerary is flexible, depending upon local conditions and the interests of the group. Recommended donation to the Houston Sierra Club: \$10. For information, call Tom Douglas at (713) 869-6026 or contact him by e-mail at [baymail@ev1.net](mailto:baymail@ev1.net).

These trips will be on a "BYO boat" basis. If you need information about outfitters who rent boats, we recommend visiting the web site of the Houston Canoe Club at [houstoncanoeclub.org](http://houstoncanoeclub.org) and following the link for Outfitters. We will also be working again with Trinity Canoe Rentals, a new local outfitter (in Anahuac) which will rent canoes and deliver them to the site. The rental cost for these is \$30 for the day, provided more than one canoe is rented by our group (otherwise it is \$35 for the day). Of course, if you own your own boat or you can borrow one for the day, you won't need this.

Each of these trips, sponsored by the Houston Sierra Club, will be an all-day affair, running from around 9:00 a.m. until around 4:00 p.m. Once you let us know that you can for sure make the trip, we will send more concrete details as the trip times draw nearer.

Saturday, May 1 – Discover Clear Creek: an Eco-Art Adventure

Discover one of the last remaining sections of unchannelized bayou close to Houston. This Eco-Art trip allows you to see the abundant wooded shorelines, learn about drainage plans for the Clear Creek watershed, and create your own watercolor. Trip time is 5 – 6.5 hours, and includes frequent breaks for observation. Trip fee is \$40 per person, and kayaks are available for rental, delivered to the site, for an additional \$20 per person. For reservations, trip information, and kayak rental information, contact Artist Boat by telephone at (409) 770-0722 or by e-mail at [Kklay@houston.rr.com](mailto:Kklay@houston.rr.com).

This trip is organized by the new nonprofit group, Artist Boat, which was founded by two former employees of the Galveston Bay Foundation. Hoping to have you join us on one or more of these trips.

Tom Douglas and Linda Shead

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### **April 17 – Earth Day at Woodlawn Lake – Let's Do It**

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

#### **This is what we are planning:**

##### **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 Cathy Kusick is planning on bringing her Tripper. 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 plus preservers as well. 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. We will do the canoe rides from the main boat dock.

##### **Goal Number Two: Have fun Sprint Races**

We will 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. The San Antonio River Authority has told me they can provide one person to assist with sign in at the assembly area. Sunbelt Electric on Roosevelt Street has volunteered to bend 1 inch Electrical Conduit to fit to the twarts of the canoes.

The following have indicated they can provide 17 foot Aluminum Canoes:

- Aluminum Canoe Number 1 - Chris Vogeler
- Aluminum Canoe Number 2 - Pinto Bean (with San Antonio River Authority)
- Aluminum Canoe Number 3 - ?????????? – who can bring one
- Aluminum Canoe Number 4 - ?????????? – who can bring one

Hopefully I could convince a Hungarian I know to be the Race Starting Judge and give him a megaphone & starting horn. We will do the canoe races from the smaller boat dock that has the boat ramp. 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. 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: Sell homemade peach cobbler in Dutch Ovens. 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 peach cobbler from.

Gary Tupa has indicated he can get an overhead canopy to use for preparing the cobbler which is needed to meet City Food Code Requirements. Gary has also indicated he may be able to round up some volunteers from Hyatt Hill Country Resort to assist in manning the booth plus the races and canoes rides.

Recipe for Peach Cobbler for a 16 inch dutch oven

- 1 Gallon Sliced Peaches in thick heavy syrup
- 1/3 cup of brown sugar
- 4 packages of yellow cake mix
- 1/3 Squeeze margarine
- 4 tablespoons of ground cinnamon
- 10 pounds of charcoal

Plus something yummy to add:

- 2 Gallons Ice Cream

Plus things to serve:

- Paper plates
- Spoons
- Paper towels

Here is what we have for dutch ovens:

- 16 inch oven - Gib Hafernack
- 12x18 Rectangular (equals a 16 inch oven) - Gib Hafernack
- 12 Inch oven - Gib Hafernack
- Firepan for cooking cobbler - Gib Hafernack
- (3) Fire Stack for starting charcoal - Gib Hafernack

12x18 Rectangular (equals a 16 inch oven) - Chris Vogler  
12 Inch oven - Chris Vogler

Note: We could use some more 16 inch or 12 inch dutch ovens

Note: A 16 Inch oven equal two 12 inch dutch ovens in volume

**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

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

Gib Hafernick, 210-492-7517, or [Gibguy@Compuserve.com](mailto:Gibguy@Compuserve.com)

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### **Saturday Paddlers Big Bend Trip**

Big Bend Trip - (If you are interested in this trip, respond by return e-mail ASAP)

This is not a white water trip and the stretch of river we paddle MAY change depending on water level.

April 10 Drive to Terlingua, Tx. Stay in Big Bend Motor Inn. (7 Hrs.) Having stopped in Castroville, Tx. at the bakery and the meat market. Drive via Marathon, Tx. and the Gage hotel for a short break, arriving in Terlingua in time to eat in the Starlight Café.

April 11 Meet our guide/outfitter and proceed to put on the Rio Grande for 1 overnight at entrance of Santa Elena Canyon, if campsite is available.

April 12 Paddle through Santa Elena Canyon (7 ½ miles), stopping at Fern Canyon, if possible. Take off Rio Grande in late afternoon and return to Big Bend Motor Inn for the night.

April 13 Drive to the Park Basin and hike a marked trail OR any other trail we elect to hike. We can each hike the trail of our choice. At sunset, there will be a Memorial Service for Winston Padgett at the Santa Elena Overlook. Everyone is welcome to attend.

April 14 Some will return to San Antonio, others will return later in the week.

We have 4 rooms reserved. with 2 double beds in each.. We plan 2 rooms for the ladies and 2 for the guys. Cost: Rooms are \$100 per night for 4 people - Cost reduces with less people. the river guide/outfitter costs \$275 for 3-6 people, \$265 for 7-12 people, \$255 for 13-18 people. The cost can be reduced if we have our own boats. **This is a canoe and kayak trip...NOT a raft trip.** You need to be able to pack light and be an experienced paddler.

Are you interested in carpooling? From where? When leaving? When returning?

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### **Boat for Sale**

Two-seater aluminum canoe, 15'6"; minor "dings"; \$200. Call Bob Heinsohn at 979/968-3806.



# 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 \$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 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