



# The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCCCLV

June 2004

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

## Padding the fine line between geek and Bubba.

### Next Meeting

June 9, 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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### Boerne Triathlon

The Boerne Triathlon is scheduled for Sunday June 27. They need paddlers to act as safety during the swim part of the event. The swim begins at 7:30 AM. Paddlers need to be there by 6:15 AM at the latest. If you are interested, please contact: David Plylar, [wavegrazer@lycos.com](mailto:wavegrazer@lycos.com)

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### Mission River

The Mission River trip is June 19-20. Saturday, June 19, we meet at 10:00 at Taquerias Guadalajara, 513 N. Alamo, Refugio, Texas. It is on the main highway through town (U.S. 77) on the north end of town, the west side of the street. We will travel less than five miles to the put-in, which is on a private ranch. After the shuttle, we will paddle from the put-in to the Highway 77 crossing on the south side of Refugio. There is a church parking lot in which we can leave our vehicles. The take-out isn't wonderful, but we all have dealt with far worse.

The put-in is the very beginning of the Mission River, which is formed by the confluence of Blanco and Medio Creeks. To get there you will have to travel over unpaved ranch roads. You will get to see some nice horses and longhorn cattle.

The Saturday trip is comparatively short, so we will also paddle the bottom section of the Mission River on Sunday morning. That segment runs from FM 2678 to Mission Bay. The online Handbook of Texas makes Mission Bay sound interesting. We will find out. I will paddle my aluminum canoe on the Saturday segment, but I am renting a sit-on-top kayak for the Sunday one. I expect to encounter wind Sunday.

We will camp Saturday night at Goose Island State Park, which is comparatively close. I need a headcount in advance so I know what to reserve in the way of campsites. Please RSVP if you plan to come.

This trip is comparatively close to home and should be a little out of the ordinary. I hope and expect it to be enjoyable. I paddled the Saturday segment several years ago with some friends from high school. There were no significant obstructions, and we had a good time.

Ken Bennight, 826-7071, [klbennight@yahoo.com](mailto:klbennight@yahoo.com)

## Upcoming Events

June 9, 2004	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
June 19-20, 2004	Mission River, Refugio County	Ken Bennight, 826-7071
June 26, 2004	Medina River Clean-up	Kathy Cusick, <a href="mailto:kmcusick@juno.com">kmcusick@juno.com</a>
June 27, 2004	Boerne Triathlon, Boerne Lake	David Plylar, <a href="mailto:wavegrazer@lycos.com">wavegrazer@lycos.com</a>
July 3, 4, 5, 2004	Junction on the Llano	Gib Hafernicks, 210-492-7517
July 14, 2004	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
August 11, 2004	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
September 4-6, 2004	Labor Day Trip	????
September 8, 2004	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.



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### Llano River - July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 5<sup>st</sup>

The Alamo City Rivermen have reserved the large patio pavilion area at Morgan Shady Park in Junction. There is plenty of room for tent camping for a group of 25 to 30 people. The phone number for the campground is:

Day: 325.446.2580 (Hardin Plumbing) / Park: 325.446.2071 / Fax: 325.446.2575  
600 South 6th Street / Junction, Texas 76849 or web site <http://www.MorganShadyPark.Com>

The patio cost us 45 dollars per day to use and is situated on river left about 1 mile upstream of the bridge leading into Junction. There are showers and restroom accommodations and we have a nice grassy area for tent camping plus there are several other sites immediately available around the patio area. Some people will take the high ground above the patio for camping and some will take the low ground for camping.

The patio lends itself extremely well to dutch oven or bar-b-que cooking as it is approximately 30 by 30 feet. Inside the patio is a raised up area 10 by 10 feet about waist level filled with dirt that allows placement of dutch ovens and small bar-b-que pits. In the center of this area is an oak tree which provides lots of nice shelter.

There are various options for canoeing. The segments vary from 14 miles to 3 miles. You can even just hang out at the campsite and do nothing at all. My plan is to arrive at the campsite, Friday night sometime after 9:00 pm.

My schedule will be as follow:

July 2, Friday

I expect to arrive Friday night around 8 to 9 PM to set up camp. You can get there earlier if you want. I will most likely eat on the road.

July, Saturday

In the morning there is more or less a community breakfast going on which is pretty informal and optional. Generally it is breakfast tacos cooked in a dutch oven with assortments of fruit or juices. There will be several two burner stoves available for cooking on or making coffee, to get in on this deal you can bring eggs, sausage, bacon, onions, peppers, fruits, juices of coffee. I will try to set up the big blue tarp for shade in the morning.

I will canoe on Saturday from South Llano State Park to Morgan Campground a distance of 6 miles. We will normally launch from the park sometime around 11 AM. Canoe rentals are available through Sonnies Canoe at 915-446-2112. If renting I strongly suggest you call and make a reservation now. You should bring an ice chest to carry your own lunches, drinks and lawn chair for some very serious competitive lawn chair surfing. Expect to just go swimming several times. This is a very leisurely float.

In the evening I will most likely do some grilling on the Bar-b-que pit that is provided at the patio.

August 31, Sunday

The morning breakfast repeats itself. I will most likely do some running in the morning or bike riding. There is generally a group that goes canoeing and I will assist in running the shuttle if help is needed.

There should be a group going out on the river I just have no idea where. If it is a long trip they may be on the road by 10 AM. I will basically just take it easy at the camp site and do some fishing.

Lunch is the same. You are on your own.

On Sunday evening we will have an optional dutch oven meal of Calibacita, rice and bread. Calibacita is a dish of pork or chicken mixed with fresh corn, onions, peppers and tomatoes. I will take a head count and go into town and buy the groceries. The cost per person is total cost divided by total mouths eating it.

There may even be a group that will want to head over to historic London Dance Hall in the evening for a little bit of two stepping.

September 1, Monday

Breakfast repeats itself. I will start to pack up and am generally the last to leave around 4 or 5 PM.

And now here is what you pay for hanging out at the patio:

The cost of camping at Morgan Campground is based on the following carefully constructed algorithm:

$(\text{Total cost of patio for days rented}) / \text{total number of people plus 3 dollars per day per person}$

Note: The patio cost us 45 dollars per day.

When arriving at the campground check in with the office and let them know you are with the Alamo City Rivermen. Lavern Harden is the owner and she is expecting us. We will collect all money at the campsite on and then turn it over to her. She actually likes our group as we are pretty well behaved plus we pay her for our group. So be nice and polite when visiting with her.

The Address for the Camp is 600 South 6th Street, Junction, Texas 76849.

Directions:

1. From San Antonio take I-10 west to Junction, approximately 110 mile.
2. Exit IH-10 at the 456 marker.
3. Turn on to Hwy 377 / 83 to come to Junction. This becomes Main Street in Junction.
4. Follow Main Street to the Kimble County Courthouse.

5. Turn right on Sixth Street. (There is no marker to tell you that this is Sixth Street until you go one block. And as Laverne points out, "Well, you wanted to come to a small town!")
5. Stay on Sixth Street until you enter the park on the banks of the South Llano River.

Hope to see you there

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

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### **Nueces River Trip Report from the Weekend of May 21-23 Fri night thru Sunday Nueces River – Camp Wood, TX -- Big Oak River Camp**

We had a large campsite right on the riverbank at this with power & water. The campground had very nice bathrooms and showers. The womens bath house has private 3 piece bathrooms. The men's bath house was more communal as one would usually find. Very nice one room cabins had a full efficiency kitchen and a full private bath. These slept 4 people on a queen bed and double futon couch.

There were only 4 people in 2 tandem canoes on the run Sat, putting in at the park and taking out at CR413, which was about 11-12 river miles. The river was flowing at about 140cfs/2.9' at the Laguna gauge. There were 2 low water crossings with culvert pipes for waterflow on the left each time, with several sections of 4' pipe that were unobstructed and we floated through in our canoes. This section of the trip was very suitable for novice paddlers at this level, although there were a couple sweepers that novices might have chosen to portage. Our Dutch oven meal for 5 on Sat evening after another person showed up, included enchiladas and peach cobbler.

We had 4 more people join us on Sat evening, after dinner. The run on Sun went from CR409 to the highway 55 crossing. Both the put-in and take-out had low water crossings that were very convenient. We had 9 people in 6 boats, with 2 solo sit-on-top kayaks, one tandem sit-on-top kayak, one WW kayak (suitable for both man and his best friend) and 2 tandem river canoes. There were 2 low water crossings, the first we had to go over, and the second had large square pass-throughs that were unobstructed. All the boats went through with experienced paddlers, although the novice paddlers walked around while someone else took their boats through. This section was more of a challenge due to some trees in the water on the outside bank, where the main flow went, creating bankside strainers. This was not difficult for more experienced paddlers with good boat control skills, but the novice paddlers easily portaged a few of these short sections on the inside gravel banks. This is a gravel bottom river, and was shallow in some areas. Most of these areas had channels through them, but a few required short walks in the river to deeper water.

This was an unscouted trip, and everyone we dealt with was a delightful experience. There is an outfitter in Camp Wood where members of the group rented 3 sit-on-top kayaks. They were wonderful to work with, working around our loose schedule and giving the entire group great information about the river. The Nueces was flowing at 2.8' on the Laguna Gauge on Sunday afternoon, and although another 6" would have been nice, it was certainly flowing well enough for a float trip.

#### Area Contact Information:

Big Oak River Camp 830-597-  
Website: [www.bigoakrivercamp.com](http://www.bigoakrivercamp.com)

Contact: Terri Maner

Clear Creek Outfitters 830-597-6400  
Open Wed - Sat 10:00 - 5:00

Contact: Marilyn Stoner

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### **Swift Water Rescue Courses: Jul 31-Aug 1 and Aug 14-15, 2004**

Want to learn the latest techniques in SwiftWater Rescue for paddlers? Come and join Jim Simmons and Tom Jenkins, both ACA SwiftWater Rescue Instructors, as they are offering two ACA 2-Day SwiftWater Rescue courses --

The first is for "experienced Women paddlers" on July 31 - August 1, and the second, open to all, is on August 14-15. Both courses will be on the Lower Mountain Fork River, near Broken Bow, Ok. Each class will be limited to about 10 participants, so the student/teacher ratio will be great!

DESCRIPTION--The 2-day workshop is intended for intermediate and up whitewater paddlers in kayak, canoe, raft, or other inflatable, who are capable of performing river maneuvers in class II whitewater and beyond. The course consists of classroom sessions, land-based drills and hands-on practice in various river skills. Participants should be in good health and physical condition, with good swimming ability because extended periods of practice time are spent in the water. Each paddler should be comfortable being in and swimming in the river current. Each workshop emphasizes strategies and proven rescue techniques for minimizing risks encountered in whitewater boating.

Some of the main topics include: 1: Practice swimming drills and self-rescue, wading, throw rope management, boat based and other assists, 2: Rescue scene organization, 3: Techniques for entrapment and pins, 4: Drills with the specialized rescue PFD, and 5: Introduction to the basics of knots, anchors, haul systems and other techniques. Highlight of the workshop will be the rescue simulations and "putting it all together" in team scenarios. A participant's signed agreement to the ACA Waiver/Release of Liability will be a condition of enrollment in the workshop.

Cost: \$125.00 per applicant (plus \$6.00 if not an ACA member) Camping, lodging and meals are not included. For further details or to apply for either workshop, contact Tom Jenkins "asap": e-mail: [paddling@att.net](mailto:paddling@att.net) phone: 903-639-1409.

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### **Last Notice on Delinquent Dues**

Because I am late getting the newsletter out this month and the monthly meeting is next Wednesday, I will wait to see who pays dues by the meeting. I will then be forced to delete those who have not paid by then. We are half way through the year, and I'll get to do this again in only six months. Oh joy! Here are the slaggards:

Barbara Backus	Ken Fries	Randy Hohlaus
Saskia Bartlett	Pari Gilliam	Annette Mascia
Billie Bates	Alton Graham	Don McCann
Ed Bellens	Frاند Hawley	Scott Reagan
Joan Bishop	John Hester	David Reichert
Rachel Boisselle	John McMenamin	Charles Riou
Joe Brewer	Kevin McNeil	Dr. Beck Steiner
Nancy Burns	Zoltan Mraz	Kali Tighe
Larry Burns	Glenn Nelson	Jessica Waig
Ted Crane	Frank Onion	Hans Weichsel
Robert Edwards	David Ott	Fred Wills
Larry Elder	David Plylar	
Bill Esparza	David Halbert	



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

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Happy Paddling. Thank you.

Member, Alamo City Rivermen Canoe and Kayak Club

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Rivermen Mileage Log Sheet

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ River \_\_\_\_\_ Put \_\_\_\_\_ Take \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ River \_\_\_\_\_ Put \_\_\_\_\_ Take \_\_\_\_\_

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Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Comment \_\_\_\_\_

## 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