



# The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCCLVIII

September 2004

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

## Padding the fine line between geek and Bubba.

### Next Meeting

September 8, 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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### Llano River, Junction - September 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>

We 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 ( <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:

#### September 3, 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.

#### September 4, 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.

(Continued Page 2)

## Upcoming Events

September 4-6, 2004	Labor Day Trip, Junction, Morgan's Shady Park	Gib Hafernicks, 210-492-7517 or <a href="mailto:Gibguy@Compuserve.com">Gibguy@Compuserve.com</a>
September 8, 2004	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
September 11, 2004	Bird Island Basin, Padre Island	Gary Tupa, <a href="mailto:gltupa@swbell.net">gltupa@swbell.net</a>
October 2-3, 2004	Canoe & Kayak class, San Marcos	
October 9-10, 2004	Corpus Christi Surf Fest, camping at Bob Hall Pier	
October 13, 2004	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
October 16-18, 2004	Muleshoe Bend, upper end of Lake Travis	Gib Hafernicks, 210-492-7517 or <a href="mailto:Gibguy@Compuserve.com">Gibguy@Compuserve.com</a>
October 17, 2004	Anhalt	Randy Hohlaus, <a href="mailto:hohlaus@prodigy.net">hohlaus@prodigy.net</a> 493-7058
November 10, 2004	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
November 26-28, 2004	Turkey Trot, Colorado River	Randy Hohlaus, <a href="mailto:hohlaus@prodigy.net">hohlaus@prodigy.net</a> 493-7058
December 2004	Christmas Party	?????
January 12, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
January 2005	Freeze Trip	
February 9, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
March 9, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
March 2005	Pecos Trip	Randy Hohlaus, <a href="mailto:hohlaus@prodigy.net">hohlaus@prodigy.net</a> 493-7058



(Continued from page 1)

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.

## September 5, 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.

Lunch is the same. You are on your own.

I will take it easy at the camp site and do some fishing.

Traditionally on Sunday evening we 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.

Due to uncertainties of my attending this trip due to the Colorado 100, Ann Carr popularly known as the Freeze Trip Green Bean Queen, has volunteered to step in and do the logistics of the meal. I am not exactly sure what her plans are with respect to the community meal or the dish to be served, so be prepared for some flexibility. We may have a different dish.

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.



View of Morgan Shady Park Campground

## September 6, Monday

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

The cost of camping at Morgan Campground is based on the following carefully constructed algorithm: (Total cost of patio for days rented)/total number of people plus \$3 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 Hafernack, 210-492-7517 or [Gibguy@Compuserve.com](mailto:Gibguy@Compuserve.com)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bird Island Migration And Shrimp Boil (We might even boil some shrimp)

Gary Tupa is trip contact  
Evening phone is 684-7382  
E-mail is [gtupa@swbell.net](mailto:gtupa@swbell.net)

**RSVP by phone or e-mail by September 1. Please advise if you have to cancel. Two persons per RSVP. This might be increased if turnout appears to be low.**

**Weather cancellation will be at 6PM on Thursday, September 9.**

### The Facts and Lies

Saturday and Sunday, September 11&12, Bird Island Basin on the North end of the Padre Island National Seashore.

Bird Island Basin is on the Laguna Madre side of North Padre Island. It gets its name from the offshore islands that compose a bird sanctuary. Although the ideal time for birding is April-May, a vast array of sea birds can be viewed just about anytime of the year. The water area is comprised of mostly 1 to 3 ft. depths, although there are some deeper channels. It is ranked as one of the best wind surfing areas in the world.



Yes, it's *Bird* Island.

Arrival time will depend on the weather. Check the forecasted high temperatures. If it is going to be in the upper 80's to mid 90's, consider a 3PM to 5PM arrival time. (By 5PM the temp has cooled down to a comfortable point). Hopefully, it will have cooled off some by September 11, and you can consider arriving earlier.

Travel time from San Antonio is approximately 3 hours. Take IH37 south to Corpus Christi. In Corpus, take the Hwy. 358E, Naval Air Station, Padre Island exit. Go through the city and after you go over the JFK Causeway the highway becomes Park Road 22. Follow this to the main gate of the Seashore. A few hundred yards down the road you will make a right at the Bird Island Basin Road. The camping area is a couple hundred yards right of the board and kayak rental shop.

Entrance and camping fee is \$15 per vehicle. If you plan on visiting again you might consider the \$30 annual fee. If you don't want to camp, all the major motel chains have locations on the freeway to the island. There's a Best Western on the park road.

There is no fresh water. Bring your own water for drinking and/or washing. They have installed a very nice vault toilet at the camping area. There is a store and showers at the Malaquite Beach visitor center, about 3 miles down the road.

If you plan on camping, you can pitch your tent and park your vehicle directly on the water's edge. **DON'T FORGET YOUR CHAIRS.** The beach is hard pack sand, shell and gravel. There is no wave action and high tide is minimal. On the Laguna side of the Island you normally have only a gentle breeze and since it faces West, a spectacular sunset is in the offering. Bring your normal camping gear, perhaps a sun shelter, and comfortable clothes and footwear. Insect repellent might be necessary if the wind dies down. Sunscreen might be needed.



Gary personally guarantees everyone will catch a fish at least this size. Just ask him.

The itinerary is as follows:

- 3PM-5PM        camp setup
- 6PM            perhaps a group paddle out to and around the largest of the bird islands. Bring your PFD's, as some of the water does get deeper. Bring binoculars to view the birds.
- 8PM            meal preparation, camaraderie, beach music, campfire, relaxation, etc.

I'll ask for a \$5 donation per person to go towards the food cost. The menu is still being worked on. We'll provide utensils. **BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE.**

On Sunday morning we'll have coffee and Danish. We can also consider another group paddle up the coast to the white sand dunes and boat wreck. Departure will be any time you'd like.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!!

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### **Blue Moon Paddle July 31-August 1, 2004**

By Kevin Longin and Kathy Cusick

A Blue Moon is the 2<sup>nd</sup> full moon in the same month. The last Blue Moon was November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2001 and the next won't be until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (GMT), so these events really do only occur "once in a Blue Moon". I have to thank Jerry O'Connor for planning this moonlit paddle, since it seems like it may have been an opportunity of a lifetime, especially given that we had a perfect water level (~900 cfs) in the Guad at the end of July, and on a Saturday night.

Our group of five paddlers; Jerry O'Connor & Jari (16 ft Canoe), Ann Carr (whitewater SOT), Kevin Longin, and Kathy Cusick (15' whitewater canoe), met at about 9pm at Bergheim Campground and ran shuttle to Edge Falls Rd. Jerry, Jari, and Anne had been paddling all day from Edge Falls road to Nichol's Landing, but they were still ready for more. We waited until about 11pm to launch in order for the moon to be high enough to provide "sufficient" light for paddling. The only one in the group that had ever done a moonlit paddle previously, was Jerry O. The rest of us had a bit of trepidation at the prospect of running Rock Pile and Dog Leg rapids in the dark, but away we went.

It took a little while to adjust to paddling without being able to read the water very well, but with the moonlight we could pick out where the major obstructions were, at least in the middle of the river where the moonlight shone brightest. Knowing this stretch of river fairly well, we kept our path fairly close to the center of the river. This worked well, except that it tended to prevent us from picking dry lines through the rapids. We all ended up getting pretty wet with the pleasantly warm water on an even more pleasantly cool evening. We had quite a bit of water in the canoes from the large waves at this level going through Rock Pile and Dog Leg, but nobody ended up swimming, which in retrospect was quite a feat. It was a fast run since we had a relatively high water level, and we joked about doing it again since it was only 1:30am, but the idea of sleeping was also compelling. Everyone came away wanting to do another moonlight paddle, but it won't be as special as this one until the next Blue Moon. (Moonlight surfing opportunity available at the end of August – see trip schedule)

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### **Basic River Kayaking Course**

The Spring Woods Canoe Group Basic River Kayaking course basic information for the weekend of October 2-3, 2004. This is a 2 day class that gives a great basis for kayaking, including river reading, safety and self rescue. The class begins with a video night that we will schedule in San Antonio once we have interested folks registered. Saturday we will paddle the Upper Guadalupe River, and Sunday we will paddle the San Marcos River. You will get wet during the safety and rescue portion of this class. Susan will need to know what your boat needs are and size of PFD, as well as having the required forms completed. Cost is \$100 and includes boat/paddle/pfd for 2 days of instruction.

**Pre-Class Video Night 6:30-9:00 pm (meeting place TBD)**

**Please bring a copy of your Class I medical form to the meeting.** We will need it for the duration of the class; then you may have it back. We may be taking out at Guadalupe State Park, so bring your park pass if you have one.

**Friday Evening or Saturday Morning**

We will be meeting at Pecan Park Retreat in Martindale to camp. If you will be setting up camp in the dark, be sure and bring a flashlight. See the attachment giving the directions to and the map of Pecan Park. You may also drive to class each morning if you wish, but please let us know what you plan to do.

**Saturday - leave for breakfast at 7:15 am**

From breakfast we will drive to the Upper Guadalupe River.

Wear your paddling clothes and bring your lunch, snacks, water, rain gear, dry clothes, shower items, a towel, dry shoes, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. We will clean up at the park before we return to the campground. We will have dry bags for your lunches and wallets. It will be after 8 pm before we return to camp.

**Sunday - Leave for breakfast at 7:15 am**

Wear your paddling clothes to breakfast. We will eat and return to camp where we will launch our canoes for today's trip down the San Marcos River. Pack your rain gear and lunch and water for the river trip. We will get off the river around 3:30 pm, and drive back to Martindale to break camp.

Any questions, call or email Susan Eda. My cell phone number is 713-203-2452.

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When we paddle, if we spill,  
We don't mind, say what you will,  
Unless, of course, others see.  
Then we'll hide behind a tree.



# 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