



# The Alamo City Rivermen

# Babbler

Issue MMCCLXII

January 2005

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

## Padding the fine line between geek and Bubba.

### Meeting

January 12, 2005, 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

It's a new year, dues are due again.  
Please pay in January but no later than  
February. You can pay at the meeting or  
by mail to Alamo City Rivermen Canoe  
Club, P.O. Box 171194, San Antonio,  
Texas 78217

### Next

### Alamo City Rivermen Freeze Trip Colorado River-island Camping

January 15-16, 2005

(Gib Hafernick)

This will be the 18th year that the Alamo City Rivermen has done this event and has it has always been one of our most popular trips. This was the very first trip for the club when it was formed in 1987 and it just keeps on going and going.

Once again the Alamo City Rivermen will push the limits of Dutch Oven Technology. However you must commit, no half-hearted "well maybe" or "I'm thinking about it". This trip involves quite a bit of logistics in terms of obtaining enough dutch ovens to feed 50 to 60 people. The rule for this boat ride is a Go or No Go kind of trip, sort of like **Yes/No, One/zero and On/Off**.

The menu is as follows:

Roast Beef Shoulder Clog  
Baked Potatoes with Onions  
Green Beans  
French & Sour Dough Bread  
Peach Cobbler  
Cowboy Coffee

Cost for the above is \$ 6.00 per person.

The following is optional:

Hot Wine Grog

A delicious mixture of red wine, brandy, sugar, cloves, cinnamon stick kept simmering over a camp stove. Cost for this item is to bring a bottle of dry red wine or any flavor of brandy. We will provide the other ingredients.

### *A Few Individuals Can Help*

I need a few key people to help me on purchasing the following items or detail's on this trip. For the food items listed below I need you to volunteer to purchase one of the groups and bag it in white trash bags labeling each bag with a permanent marker. The bags need to be partially bagged so that they can easily be packed or placed in a canoe or kayak plus not tied too tight so we can use them for carrying out trash.

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## Upcoming Events

January 12, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
January 15-17, 2005	Freeze Trip	Gib Hafernicks, 210-492-7517 or Gibguy at Compuserve.com
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 13-19, 2005	Pecos Trip (Pandale to Highway 90 high bridge)	Randy Hohlaus, hohlaus at prodigy.net 493-7058
April 13, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
May 11, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
June 8, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.



(Freeze Trip continued)

I will give you the quantities needed based on RSVPs. The trick is we are waiting till the last minute in the event we have a postponement of the trip. If you would like to help or team up with another person let me know. Hang on to your receipts and or have a rough estimate and you will be reimbursed on the island.

- Person No. 1 - Baked Potatoes with Onions - Label PO
- Person No. 2 - Green Beans - Label GB
- Person No. 3 - Sour Dough Bread - Label SB
- Person No. 4 - Peach Cobbler - Label PC
- Person No. 5 - Collecting Money - DON'T LOSE IT
- Person No. 6 - Collecting Signature Release Forms & Distribution of maps (At launch Point)

To help facilitate cooking & serving consider bringing the following:

- Dutch Ovens **If You Have One Bring it & Let Me Know**
- Fire Starter Stacks **If You Have One Bring it & Let Me Know**
- Cutting boards & knives
- Large pans or plastic bowls (for holding cut up vegetables)
- Portable tables
- Serving Spoons

### *Rain Check & Postponement of Trip*

If weather conditions are too hazardous for driving on Friday and Saturday, meaning snow and ice on roads and overpasses, then the trip will be postponed two weeks to January 29 & 30. This decision to postpone will be made Wednesday on January 12 at 7:00 PM. You need to be watching the weather for the Austin/Bastrop area and stay in touch with me if weather conditions are deteriorating or unpredictable. An announcement will be made to "alamo@yahogroups.com."

### *Some Details on Plan B*

If the weather is inclement such as the possibility of rain on the island but clear launch conditions, we will still go. We have one large tarp approximately 30 by 20 feet, to help with a group shelter for our cooking & social area. Please consider bringing the following:

Rope, stakes, twine  
Tent Poles or Double Bladed Paddles  
Duct tape  
Extra Tarps

Note: This would be a group survival thing; its what we train for.

Bring your own eating utensils.

### *Some Details on Plan C*

If conditions are absolutely miserable, such as continuous rain or extremely strong winds, we will cook and camp out at Pecan Park (512-392-6171) in San Marcos. Tom Goynes has granted the Alamo City Rivermen a Temporary Special Dispensation on the Wine Grog since it involves Acts of God in conjunction with water and wine. The decision to move the location to Pecan Park will be made at FM 969 about 10:30 AM by all paddlers present on January 15, Saturday morning.

Optional Sunday Brunch the next day. Bring your own breakfast and contribute to the community breakfast.

### *Where to Meet and When*

Meet at Hwy 969 and the Colorado River at 9:00 am, Saturday, January 15. We will unload canoes and then coordinate to run small group vehicular shuttles of 2 to 3 vehicles. Some one will be passing out maps showing where the takeout point in Bastrop.

**Note: Be extra careful on running the shuttle on Hwy 71. The traffic has become extremely heavy and congested in the last couple of years. Take your time, but try not to waste time. Unload your boat as quickly as possible and then move out of the launch area. Hint: Some people actually get there around 8:00 am.**

Someone will be collecting the money at the put-in while we are running the shuttles. Otherwise you can pay your money on the island.

When all dutch ovens & cooking ingredients are evenly loaded among the canoes, we will depart. I would like to launch around 11:00 AM. Plan on stopping and having a short lunch break at 12:00 PM. We should arrive at the island between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM.

Once we arrive at the island, I need people to help me with the following critical items.

1. Immediately bring your dutch ovens, dutch oven stacks, and food items to the cooking area so we can start to get dinner ready. Then set up your tent. **This will help us eat quicker.**
2. We need to get a fire going so as to have a heat source for browning the meat. *This is why we need the stacks.*
3. We need cutters to help with cutting up vegetables and making up dishes for each dutch oven. **The sooner it gets cut and cooking the sooner we eat.**
4. We need to get the wine grog heated up and on line, as it is critical for morale purposes. **The sooner it is sooner, then it will seem sooner sooner.**

### *And Now for the No-Shows*

Every year I have a few no shows. When this happens with just one or two people it is not too much of an issue, but when its starts getting to be parties of 4 or more it can be a real head ache. For those individuals who have come year after year, your verbal RSVP is OK, but if you are among those I know nothing about or are in that exclusive circle of no shows, I may require a full non-refundable deposit on your total party.

*Plan Z from Houston – January 14 – 16*

As an option to consider, members of the Alamo city Rivermen can join the Houston Canoe Club for a trip one day ahead of schedule on January 14 Friday. The Houston plan is to put-in at New Webberville at Travis County Park and shuttle vehicles to Fisherman's Park in Bastrop. It's a 15 mile paddle to a gravel bar above the FM 969 Uteley Bridge. T-bone Steaks, potatoes, salad, and liquid grapes will be served. Next morning a will be a quick breakfast and then the party will meet with the Alamo City Rivermen at the 969 bridge.

To RSVP for the Houston segment, contact Mary Z at 713-884-1925.

Your active and positive participation is what always makes this a very different and fun trip. For further info contact Gib Hafernick @ 210-492-7517 or Gibguy at Compuserve dot com

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## **Tenth Anniversary Return to the Pecos**

Hard to believe, but the last Rivermen Pecos River trip was Spring 1995. That was the last year that Lake Amistad was visible from the Pecos high bridge on Highway 90, and the last year you could actually float to the takeout below the bridge. Well, due to the bountiful rains this year, the lake is back up and the river has been flowing good most of the year. The Pecos beckons again. Of course, we had no trip planned in 2004 with the good water, after scrubbing the one in 2003 due to the drought. This time, because of the possibility of a shorter trip, we will have no minimum flow. So now we are planning an ACR Pecos Trip expedition the week of March 12 to 19<sup>th</sup>.

The trip is 58 miles of wilderness adventure through some of the most scenic and continuously challenging whitewater in Texas. The river is canyoned, with numerous side canyons and evidence of ancient native occupation in the canyon shelters. At good water levels the river is punctuated by many boulder gardens and numerous rapids. There are several major rapids that demand lining of loaded boats that are runnable in emptied boats if you have the skill. The river bottom is rocky, and all boats must be ABS or equivalent. Aluminum is acceptable. Fiberglass is not. Our second trip, we had a pinned boat and had to stamp it out to continue the trip. We will go regardless of water level. If the water is low, this will be a strenuous trip.

The trip will be from Pandale to the Pecos High Bridge. Likely we will gather that Saturday at Seminole Canyon, and then meet for shuttle and put-in Sunday morning, with likely takeout the following Friday or Saturday. Along the way we will camp in the canyon bottom. We will have either one or two layover days, depending on water level, so bring your fishing rod, hiking shoes, or a good book, if the fish aren't biting. A catfish fry the second or third night would not be a bad thing. We will be limiting the trip to 20 people.

Right now, we are in the planning stages of the trip. We hope to pin down the particulars, shuttles and ground rules this January, in time for the February newsletter. We will have a couple of group meetings in February, to get everyone into the planning mode. We plan some community cooking, but the number of communal meals is not yet decided. Because of the amount of food and community gear required, everyone must share in carrying community dry and/or cold goods, and maybe even purchasing food.

Canoes are required, so everyone can help carry vittles and community gear. If you go on the trip, you will likely be expected to pitch in on the either meal cooking or cleaning up, or privy duty, and we will likely divy out camp chores to everyone. Do not expect a catered trip, but one where everyone will have the opportunity to help out. You may learn a thing or two about dutch oven cooking along the way. And of course, we will eat very well. Our major challenge will be keeping the beer cold! We may require some money as a deposit, to help us buy food, but details will be coming. Also plan on cost of shuttles, etc.

This is billed as an expedition, for good reason. We will have to be self contained. The river is mostly remote, there are no road or bridge crossings on the way, and medical assistance will not be readily available. Extraction for emergency conditions could be measured in days, not minutes, and extremely expensive if required. You must be in condition to deal with long stretches of walking boats and hauling over ledges, if needed. We will likely be out of any cell phone range. River conditions are variable, and water levels can be subject to flooding due to events far upriver. There may be conditions that are unforeseen for any number of reasons. But I have survived this river three times already, and if you are prepared and aware of the challenges, this is one of the most rewarding trips you can do.

Sign up by calling me at 349-1163 work or 493-7058 home, or email to hohlaus@prodigy.net. If the trip fills, we'll put you on the alternate list. Adelante!

Randy Hohlaus



**We appreciate your support. Make checks payable to:**

**“BRCF” (Bandera Regional Community Foundation, Inc., a  
Texas Nonprofit Corporation) P.O. Box 1656, Bandera, TX 78003**

**For questions about the fund, contact: Bob Brischetto, Chairman, at 830-  
612-3643 [Brischetto@wireweb.net](mailto:Brischetto@wireweb.net)**



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## Boats for Sale

Dagger Medieval whitewater playboat plus original Dagger sprayskirt (\$375) and Dagger Animas general river-running whitewater kayak (\$350) -- both for \$650! I'm located in SW Austin. Email lc25 at txstate dot edu.

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## Boquillas Canyon Trip Report Thanksgiving 2004

### Basic statistics:

Put-in: Rio Grande Village, Wednesday, November 24, 2004

Take-out: Heath Canyon (Gerstacker bridge, La Linda) Friday, November 26, 2004

Weather: 70's in the day, 40's at night, mostly sunny

Water: between 4ft. and 5 ft. on the Rio Grande Village gauge, slowly dropping throughout

Trip Participants: Six people (4 adults and 2 children)

Boats: Three tandem canoes (Mohawk Whitewater, Old Town Tripper, Mohawk Intrepid) Special paper: One roll of T.P. (it's important to know this kind of stuff!)

Water: only about 10 gallons for 48 hours on the river (4 meals, 6 people)

Worst thing that happened: forgot dish soap

Best thing that happened: too many things to mention

Shuttle service: Stillwell Store

Photos: <http://homepage.mac.com/edtravis/BoquillasCanyon2004/index.htm>

This is a trip report on our Thanksgiving Boquillas Canyon river trip. I went with my beautiful and talented wife Ann, and my wonderful daughters Kate (11) and Mary (9). We were accompanied by our good friends Fred and Kay Zagst. I want to thank everyone who replied to my requests for information before the trip. The information on hikes, campsites and river levels was very helpful.

On the way out to Big Bend, we stopped off at Cooper's Old Time Pit BBQ in Junction, right across the street from McDonalds. If you don't already know about Cooper's, this is run by the same family that owns Cooper's BBQ in Llano, and the BBQ is rated among the best in the state. Drop the family at McDonalds if you must, but get your vittles at Cooper's.

We learned paddlers should bring our own wood or charcoal, because wood is scarce. A few short sticks of nice oak would burn way hotter and longer than what you can find out there. Next trip will be BYOW.

We put in at a very muddy spot by the group campground on Wednesday. We shoved off, and soon saw a couple of Mexican guys paddling an old Coleman plastic canoe across the river near the mouth of Boquillas Canyon. They wanted to sell us souvenirs. When we declined their offer they asked if we had seen any rangers lately.

We made our first stop at the Boquillas sand pile. You are not allowed to pass a hundred foot tall sandpile when you are traveling with a 9 yr. old and an 11 yr. old. We did some quick tromping through the sand pile, and headed on to our first camp, on the inside of the first major bend in Boquillas Canyon. It was a very nice camp with firm sand. We set up camp, which included a couple of Roll-a-Tables (a great product), chairs for everyone, a fire, and coolers, etc. After dinner we discovered we had forgotten the dish soap, so Fred offered up his bottle of shampoo from Paris Hilton's Dad's hotel. I mixed in a little conditioning shampoo and the combination seemed to work pretty well. We washed dishes with water we had brought along, but we were pretty efficient in how we did that, using hot water and shampoo. The next day we explored a canyon on river right where we found a neat bug and a burro skull. We walked only about a quarter or a half mile and made it to the slick-rock part of the canyon. Then it was back to the boats and on down river. We sorta got confused about exactly where we were and things weren't adding up on the map the way they should, but we finally got to the Arroyo Venado Rapid, which was a pretty unambiguous landmark, even if it wasn't much of a rapid. It was about then we decided we'd better boogie if we were going to get out by the end of the day Friday. We pushed on to our second camp just before Rabbit Ears (mile 791) on river left. We pitched camp near Rabbit Ears on a patch of ground that was mostly soft, but there were enough firm spots for the kitchen and both tents.

We woke up as early as we could on the last day (Friday) and loaded up for the trip to the take-out. We made it through Arroyo del Veinte Rapid with very little fanfare. At 4-5 feet, these are pretty straightforward "keep to the inside" type of rapids. Not even a serious wall shot as long as you don't let the current carry you away. We got to the take-out and found that we could drive most of the way down to the take-out. Based on conversations with the folks at the Stillwell store, it is not necessary to pay a take-out fee, at least if you are willing to carry your gear (which we weren't). In any event, I paid a \$24 take-out fee to Andy Kurie, who lives at Heath Canyon Ranch near the take-out. I did notice that Rio Grande Adventures appears to offer some very basic camping spots for free right by the road, so if you're looking to save a few bucks you might call them and ask about leaving a car there on their property. Andy Kurie has a spot that is further away from the road/bridge to leave a car, near his house, and I presume it is a little safer. But this might not be a big issue if the shuttle driver drops your car off the same day you take off the river.

I gotta brag about my home-made groover. You aren't allowed to dig a hole any more- you have to pack it out. My new groover worked great, which was good because I made it and I would have taken a real beating if it had failed. Total cost was around \$75 for materials and several hours of work. Write me if you want plans. Of course, you can rent one if you're willing to drive clean across the park to pick it up and return it, but that will add about 5 hours to your trip, mostly at the end when you'd rather head home but you have to return the rent-a-groover with it's precious cargo. Many thanks to Tom Goynes, who can always be depended on to answer those very burning questions concerning excrement disposal technology, and to American Dream RV <http://www.adrv.com> where I bought a few critical sewer adapters.

FYI, the trip from Ft. Stockton to Stillwell, Rio Grande Village, Heath Canyon and back to Ft. Stockton is around 400 miles. You can get gas at Ft. Stockton, Marathon, Stillwell, Panther Junction, and Rio Grande Village and that's it. Plan accordingly. More logistics- Park web site claims to allow only 3 parties to launch per day, at 2 hour intervals. I would hate to be the 4th party, or even the 3rd one, and have to wait for the other groups to shove off first. Arrange your shuttle way in advance, especially if you are shuttling on Thursday or Saturday on Thanksgiving week. Make sure you know what the deal is at the take-out as far as parking is concerned. You need to either contact Andy Kurie or Rio Grande Adventures for details. Make sure you visit the Big Bend web site and read all the regulations- extra live preservers and paddles are required, for instance. Distances are huge out there- allow plenty of time so you don't get stressed.

Word on the river has it that if you get caught by INS on the Mexican side, they make you re-enter the U.S. at Presidio. I have no idea how exactly that works, and don't know anyone who has had that happen. The rangers do their duty to inform you of this but don't seem to have any interest in making it happen the way INS wants it to happen. So if you decide to step foot on river right, keep a low profile if anyone in a uniform appears. You will be glad to know that your government attorneys have made special provisions between the U.S. and Mexico to allow you to paddle on the right half of the river, which is Mexican territory, without having to re-enter the states at Presidio. So appreciate the effort they have taken to let you stay in the main current when it's on the Mexican side. Regrets- would be nice to take an extra day, especially with kids and the short winter days. If you are doing this at lower water keep an eye on your pace. We took 4 hours to pack at the put-in! Some time could have definitely been saved by more preparation at home. Bring dish soap! But all in all, we had a terrific time and hope to do it (or Santa Elena) again soon.

Ed Travis Austin, Texas



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



## 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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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