



The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCCLXIII

February 2005

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Padding the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Meeting

February 9, 2005, Barbeque Station,
1612 N.E. Loop 410, near the
intersection with Harry Wurzbach. See
the [linked map](#). 6:30 to 8:30.
-o0o-

Club Officers

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| President | Kathy Cusick |
| kmcusick at juno.com | |
| 830-885-5324 | |
| Vice President | David Plylar |
| wavegrazer at lycos.com | |
| Sec./Treas. | Marie Searight |
| marie at wireweb.net | |
| 830-625-0604 | |
| Editor | Kenneth Bennight |
| bennight at alumni.utexas.net | |
| 210-826-7071 | |
| Mailings | Kevin Longin |
| klongin at miltenyibiotec.com | |

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

Update: Pecos River Trip

Hard to believe, but the last Rivermen trip down the Pecos River was in in Spring 1995. That year was the last year 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. 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. So now we are planning an ACR Pecos Trip expedition the week of Saturday, March 12 to Saturday, March 19th. We will be out 6 nights and 7 days of wilderness camping.

I have been able to arrange a driver's shuttle. We will meet Saturday at Seminole Canyon by 6:00pm. If you can make it earlier, great. We will eat out, hopefully at the Owl's Nest in Comstock, as Emilio's is closed for remodeling. In the morning, we will drive to Pandale for the put-in. Shuttle drivers will take our cars back to safety on private property in Comstock. On the day we take out, they will drive our cars to the parking lot at the High Bridge and leave them with keys in a discreet place. Shuttle cost is \$60 per vehicle, up to 6 people per vehicle. Our shuttle driver says the river should be good and juicy for this trip.

The trip will be divided in the following mileages: Sunday 18 miles, camp at Goat Canyon; Monday, 10 miles to Harkell Canyon; Tuesday, 6 miles to Indian Cave; Wednesday; 10 miles to Painted Canyon; Thursday, Layover day; Friday, 10 miles to Dead Man's Canyon, Saturday, 7 miles of Lake water to the High Bridge. There are alternate campsites in case we have to deal with anything.

The trip will be an extended 60 mile wilderness adventure, through some of the most scenic and continuously fun whitewater in Texas. The river is canyoned, with numerous side canyons and evidence of archaic period 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, but are runnable in emptied boats if you have the skill level. Due to the rocky nature of the river bottom, all boats must be ABS or equivalent. Aluminum is acceptable. Fiberglass will not be allowed. All boats must carry lining ropes. We will go irregardless of water level. If the water level is low, this will be a strenuous trip.

We will be limiting the trip to 20 people. IT IS GETTING TIME TO COMMIT. We need to know definitely if you are going. Right now, I have the following: Gib Hafernack, Saskia Bartlett, Randy Hohlaus, Larry Elder, Reiko Seiler, Zoltan Mraz, Marc McCord, Al Florida, Chris Sherrod, Chris Vogeler, David Conger, Kirk Cammarata, Rodney Swann, Russ Cason, Tom and Nancy Carnes, David Brinkmann.

(Continued Next Page)

(Pecos, continued)

I need to know if you are confirmed for this trip, so please call or email me with your confirmation, even if you have told me you are going before. If I have left you off the list accidentally, my pardon, please let me know to add you on, or if you want to add on. Over 20 we will go to alternates.

We will have group planning meetings in February, to coordinate trip gear, divy up food buying and camp chores. The first meeting will be Tuesday, February 15, at EZ's at Bitters and 281. The second meeting will be on Monday, February 28th, at EZ's at Bitters and 281. Attendance should be planned on by everyone for at least one meeting, unless you are out of town. Information on gear, food etc., will be passed around. We also have secret Rivermen freeze technology that will only be revealed to the anointed few who go on the trip, but everyone must use.

There will be community cooking, Because of the amount of food and community gear required, everyone will be asked to share in taking a load of dry and/or cold goods, and maybe even purchasing food. Canoes will be required, so everyone can help carry vittles and community gear. You must take an ice chest, at least a 48 gallon, but preferably 54 gallon. 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. 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.

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 in case of emergency 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. However, I have survived this river 3 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 at prodigy dot net. If the trip fills, we'll put you on the alternate list. Adelante!

Randy Hohlaus

-o0o-

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| February 9, 2005 | Monthly Meeting | Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. |
| March 5, 2005 | San Marcos Clean-up | Kathy Cusick, kmcusick at junodot com |
| March 6, 2005 | Texas River Protection Association, 10:00 AM, Pecan Park Retreat office | David Reichert, reichert at uthscsa dot edu |
| 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 9-10, 2005 | Hidalgo Falls Festival, Brazos River near Navasota | gibguy at compuserve dot com |
| April 13, 2005 | Monthly Meeting | Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. |
| April 16, 2005 | Earth Day, Woodlawn Lake | gibguy at compuserve dot com |
| 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.



February 11 – 13 : I'm Going to Seadrift

Gib Hafernick

This is a different kind of Alamo City Rivermen trip in that I am staying at the Seadrifter Inn (361-785-2031) in Seadrift plus my main purpose will be to do a Safari Training Run from Hwy 59 to Tivoli, a distance of 37 miles. The Seadrifter Inn is situated almost directly on the bay. Next door to the Seadrifter is a neat café that serves an excellent breakfast and draws a good number of the locals. I plan to arrive in Seadrift Friday evening for dinner at Barketts Restaurant at 9:00 PM, which is one of the best Gulf Coast Restaurants in Texas. I'll do my training run on Saturday.

You are welcomed to come along and do your own trip and hang out with me in the evening. There are opportunities for you to kayak or canoe in immediate area to include the following:

- The immediate area of Seadrift
- The Guadalupe River Bayou Delta
- Nearby Matagorda Island State Park
- Visiting Aransas National Refuge (but you cannot launch canoes or kayaks there)
- The San Antonio Bay
- Matagorda Bay
- St. Charles Bay

You can also just do some fishing at the seawall in Seadrift.

My schedule will more or less be like this for the weekend:

February 11, Friday - Leave San Antonio by 6:00 PM with the intentions of eating at Barkett's Seafood Restaurant by 9:00 pm.

February 12, Saturday - Do a Safari Training Run from Hwy 59 to Tivoli, a distance of 37 miles and then eat at Barkett's Seafood Restaurant by 8:00 pm.

February 13, Sunday - Hang out in Seadrift and fish by the seawall till about mid afternoon, then returning to San Antonio.

You are on your own for making reservations, and the Seadrifter fills up fast. I am including a list of all hotels in that area.

Seadrifter Inn, 361-785-2031
Bay Motel, 361-785-2226
Captain's Quarters, 361-785-4982

Gib Hafernick, 210-492-7517, home. 210-355-1726, cell. Gibguy at Compuserve dot com

-o0o-

Beaver Aluminum Canoe for Sale. Barb Cutter, bjscutter at sbcglobal dot net, Colleyville, TX 76034, Phone 817-354-6853. Asking \$600.

17' aluminum canoe with paddles and trolling motor. Motor may not work. Canoe is in very good shape. Price is \$150.00. Donna Endsley soadje at co.comal.tx.us



National River Rally 2005

May 20-24
Keystone, Colorado

Dear friends,

River Network is pleased to announce that Registration Is Now Open for the National River Rally 2005, May 20 - 24 Keystone Resort, Keystone CO

River and watershed protection activists from around the country will gather for the sixth annual National River Rally May 20 through May 24 at the Keystone Resort in the Colorado Rockies. The River Rally is a comprehensive national conference for everyone working to understand, restore and protect rivers and watersheds. Staff, volunteers and board members of all experience levels are encouraged to participate in four days of learning, sharing and celebration. Nearly 100 workshops will cover emerging policy issues, fundraising, technical issues, watershed science, hands-on watershed protection skills, and much more. The event includes field trips and expanded networking opportunities. Early registration is highly encouraged due to the fantastic location for this year's River Rally. Please visit <http://www.rivernetwork.org/rally> to register or learn more.

Why Attend River Rally?

- 1) The widely respected Institute for Conservation Leadership will offer special training for board and staff of local watershed organizations.
- 2) Build your professional network in workshops on emerging fresh-water protection issues and by meeting people from throughout the country.
- 3) The Center for Watershed Protection's condensed course on planning and implementing successful hands-on watershed protection projects can help you through a technically challenging watershed protection plan.
- 4) Develop your multi-cultural strategy with tribal and non-tribal leaders. Great speakers and programs will give you results-oriented skills to build broader public support. A special pre-Rally event, the Tribal Day, will be held on Friday, May 20th at Keystone for indigenous participants to share and work together.
- 5) Build your fundraising skills at the "Funders' Forum" and with new advanced-level workshops such as "Creating Internet Strategies and Campaigns" with Groundspring.org trainer John Kenyon.
- 6) Enjoy inspiring events like the River Heroes Banquet, start your holiday shopping at the silent auction, join in the River Jam, enter the "Dutch oven cook off" featuring competitors from around the country and enjoy the "Water Music" Concert, featuring pianist Michael Arnowitz and poet Marjorie Ryerson.

About Rally Registration

Go to <http://www.rivernetwork.org/rally> to register or get additional information. General registration for staff and board members of River Network Partner organizations is \$625, and includes four nights of lodgings, peak hour shuttles from the Denver airport, and most meals (Tribal Day registration is an additional \$125). Limited scholarships will be available. Scholarship requests should be made when registering. The deadline is March 18th. Discounts are available for non-profit groups registering three or more people. Late fees will apply after April 8. Please contact riverrally@rivernetwork.org or call 208 853-1920 with registration questions.

“River Hero” nomination procedures are on the River Rally website. Nominations are due by February 11. A full brochure is available on our website or by contacting the River Network office at (503) 241-3506.

-o0o-

Hidalgo Falls April Festival

The Hidalgo Falls River Festival is scheduled this year for April 9-10 (Saturday-Sunday). This will be the first year the festival will cover two days. On Saturday we will have a 26.5-mile TCRA-sanctioned downriver race from Batts Ferry south of College Station that ends at the festival site at the TRPA property. A number of folks from the Texas Canoe Racing Association who have never been to Hidalgo are planning to come, and we expect that this new population will provide further support for our efforts there. We therefore expect that there will be a bunch of folks camping there beginning on Friday night. On Saturday night we expect to have a live band (the Snake Charmers, from Houston) for a concert. On Sunday morning we will also have a short (3.5-mile) "race"/float trip from the falls down to Hwy 105, and in the afternoon we have our slalom race (of sorts)--one in which paddlers will not run gates but will negotiate a course around and through the islands that make up the rapids--and our whitewater rodeo competition. On both Saturday and Sunday boats and equipment will be available for demos, paddling videos will be shown, and on Sunday we will have an auction of paddling paraphernalia.

This year each person attending the festival will receive a festival t-shirt as part of his or her \$12 admission fee (children 12 and under free, but no t-shirt). The admission is good for the entire weekend and includes camping (with access to non-potable water and electricity), rudimentary showers, the concert, etc. The TCRA race has a \$20 registration fee: that fee includes admission to the festival and a special racer's version of the festival t-shirt.

At this point, we need to find out who on the steering committee plans to come to the festival and is willing to volunteer to coordinate behind-the-scenes work (e.g., manning the entrance gate, coordinating race entrants, etc.). Let me know if we can expect your help (which, as you might suspect, we will need a lot of).

Steve Daniel

-o0o-

Photographs taken January 22, 2005



San Antonio River at U.S. 181, Falls City, looking upstream



San Antonio River at U.S. 181, Falls City, looking downstream



San Antonio River at FM 239, Charco



San Antonio River at FM 239, Charco, looking upstream



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 roll: _____

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