

The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCCLX

April 2005

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Padding the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Next

Dues

Meeting

April 13, 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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830-885-5324

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You know who you are. Please pay at the meeting or by mail to Alamo City Rivermen Canoe Club, P.O. Box 171194, San Antonio, Texas 78217
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Hidalgo Falls River Festival

April 9-10, 2005

Hidalgo Falls on the Brazos River, Near Navasota, Texas

The fourth annual Hidalgo Falls Whitewater River Festival will be held at the TRPA Hidalgo Falls property on the Brazos River. Dealer reps and outfitters will have boats and gear available for demos on moving water in the downstream and upstream areas.

Some of the Events:

1. 26.5-mile Downriver Race
2. Blues Concert on Saturday night featuring the "The Snake Charmers"
3. Slalom Race & Whitewater rodeo
4. Leisurely 3.5-mile float trip

Event Details: <http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/hf-fest4.html>

My Plan:

1. Go up Friday night & camp through Sunday
2. Do the 26.5 mile Downriver Race
3. Hang out Saturday, cook out & hear some Blues that night
4. Return to San Antonio on Sunday

Note: Call me if you want to coordinate on cooking Saturday Night.

More Detailed Plans:

I want to set up a group area for us to hang out in. I plan to position my trailer on one side and another trailer on the other side, using column supports and ropes to hang tarps as we have done at the coast trips. This would give us a nice area to hang out and socialize. I plan to try to leave San Antonio early Friday.

(Continued Next Page)

(Hidalgo Falls, continued)

Directions:

1. From San Antonio take I-10 East to Weimer, about 105 miles.
2. Take Hwy 77 North to Lagrange, about 15 miles.
3. Take Hwy 237 North to Burton, about 20 miles.
4. Take Hwy 290 East to Brenham, about 9 miles.
5. Take SH 105 East to Navasota, about 25 miles.
6. Immediately after crossing the Brazos River, take FM 159 North
7. Go 3.2 miles (past the cotton gin on the right).
8. The road bends to the left you will see a gravel road coming in from the right and crossing the railroad tracks (White Switch Rd.).
9. Turn LEFT into the dirt road (Camp Road, small road sign) in the middle of the cornfield.
10. Go 1/2 mile to the tall chain link gated fence that marks the property

Hope to see you there.

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

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Upcoming Events

April 9-10, 2005	Hidalgo Falls Festival, Brazos River near Navasota	??????????
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
April 22-24, 2005	Caddo Lake	Tom Rust, tgr at gvtc 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.
November 5, 2005	Goliad Canoe Trail, San Antonio River, Goliad	Randy Hohlaus, hohlaus at prodigy.net 493-7058



San Marcos Teaching Paddle

April 9-10, 2005. Get some moving water tips from Lilian, one of HCC's champion paddlers. Contact Chet and Lilian Tigard by phone 281-494-7977, or by email tigards2 at hal-pc dot org.

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Boats, Wanted and Offered

Well-used composite boat--this boat is as light as a feather. Small leak at cockpit rim. Quality kevlar patches at both bow and stern points. This boat has passed through more than one local paddler's hands. It is Pierre's old boat. I want it out of my storage room. First \$100 takes it.

Anthony Edwards, Austin, lakota509 at yahoo dot com

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Wanted: used sit-on-top kayak. dmilliga at swbell dot net

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Dagger Ovation for sale. Yellow with solo seat & foot pegs. Has flotation bags and knee straps. After 6:00PM, 281-489-0359, rlindsay at louisianatransport dot com

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Champion Lake Trip Report

Seven intrepid HCC paddlers met at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 20, to check out Champion Lake and the boating trails of Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge. Rea Inglis had been scoping it out in the morning; Ken Anderson, Forrest Dunn, Tracy Caldwell, Greg Ward, Pete Cragg and I rounded out the bunch. The weather was right up there next to perfection; the cypress swamp here and there sporting its spring green look, but most trees still bare. Reflectors marking the boat trails were easy to spot. The good news is the area is bounded on all sides by dry land, so it is hard to get totally lost; the bad news, not all trails correspond to those indicated on the map.

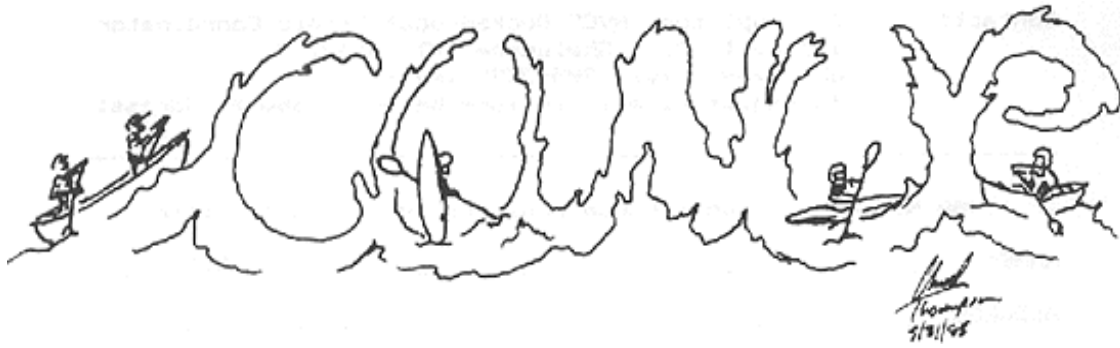
Six paved parking spots (including handicapped) are at the boat ramp, allowing access to the levee and fishing pier. For such a new park, it was amazing how many people were there, mostly family groups and fishermen. The levee has a nice walking trail for about a quarter mile. One side is Champion Lake; the other appears to be part of the elusive Pickett's Bayou. From the boat dock, we started south and west along the well-marked trail to where three orange reflectors marked the second trail to the north and marker 9 (see the map on the Park's Web page: <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/trinityriver/index.html>).



The bird rookery north and west of trail marker 9 is closed to travel as of March 1 and won't reopen until summer. Luckily for us, the unmapped but white-reflector-marked trail that goes from #9 to #16 still afforded a circular trip path. By yet another unmapped trail, we found marker 8; then on around the channel to 4 and 3. By this time, the channel opens up. Marker 3 sits off on the side on its own private lake; somewhere around #2 an obliging alligator stayed perched on a log so we all could admire it.

We easily did our tour in 3 hours, a pleasant afternoon's paddle. We could see high water marks on the trees about 3 feet higher than the level we paddled; some places the water was only 2' deep. Some of these trails must be difficult for a modest-sized john boat, but all was easy for kayak and canoe. Dry lunch or leg-stretching stops were unavailable until we got to the northern parts of the swamp. We also paddled the length of the levee, so estimated paddle distance is 5 miles including that leg. The entire length of the trails are in the cypress swamp.

Natalie Wiest
HCC Paddler & League City resident



The above graphic is from the Vermont Paddlers Club (<http://www.vtpaddlers.net/>), which has posted online the results of a limerick contest. Having been derelict myself in the doggerel department, I thought I would show the entries in their contest.

Limerick #1: Mar 4, 2001

There once was a paddler from Kent
Who capsized wherever he went
From bottom to top
He just couldn't stop
Til all of his energy was spent

Limerick #2: Mar 19, 2001

There once was a paddler from Calais
Who filled his boat up with hay.
When asked why this stuff
He'd reply, rather gruff,
"It keeps the horse who's steering my boat at bay."

Limerick #3: Mar 22, 2001

I'll give ye a fine bit o' prattle
Wright Hartman, he uses one paddle
C-1 is his boat
Down rivers he'll float
I've said it, now I'll just ski-daddle

Limerick #4: Mar 23, 2001

There is a sweet river you should see.
It's pool/drop, class III/IV, the Mettawee.
But take cortisone,
when on shore alone,
those green plants are all poison ivy!

Limerick #5: Apr 7, 2001

Ray Ingram, he's real great
For his Fiddlehead slalom, I can't wait
He always needs volunteers
However not in arears
So call him now, don't hesitate!

Limerick #6: Apr 7, 2001

After the long winter we've had
For some rain, I'd be glad
The ice would break up
I could fill up my cup
On the Lamoille, the West, and the Mad.

Limerick #7: Apr 19, 2001

When whitewater season abounds
We paddle through low-lying towns
Raining or sunny
Bank-full or bony
Primordial yearning resounds

Then Eric and I run the Browns

State troopers advise: "Don't be clowns
"With water aplenty
"It won't be too funny
"If one of you idiots drowns."

Downriver boats haplessly bounce

Through deep snow we sheepishly trounce
Once home we say: "Honey,
"No insurance money."
And to our surprise get -- no frowns!

Limerick #8: Apr 22, 2001

There's no camping this year at the West.
But the paddling will still be the best.
So just sleep in your van,
Or where ever you can,
Just don't miss out on this annual fest.

Limerick #9: Apr 27, 2001

On a warm sunny day in May
I'll grab all my gear and go play
There will be friends, both new and old
The water will not be too cold
And I will play and I'll play and play!

Limerick #10: May 12, 2001

Happy I am that it is raining at last
Hopefully the rivers will fill up fast
I have been singing the same old song
"It has been so dry for so long"
Now I can put that in the past, paddle real fast, and hope you
don't find me crashed!

Limerick #11: May 14, 2001
Through ice water our kayaks deliver
A spectacle that makes the crowd shiver
They think we are crazy
But certainly not lazy
"Look, the dummies are paddling up river!"

Limerick #12: May 19, 2001
As I sit here thinking and writing
The state bird, the black fly is biting
It attacks me and sucks out my blood
All I can think of is the next flood
So I can get in my boat and go capsizing and righting

Limerick #13: Nov 5, 2001
There once was a lass from Shelburne
All those around her she spurned
Her wealth she did wield like a warrior's shield
Alas it was for friends that she yearned.

Limerick #14: Nov 16, 2001
A paddler who was from Nantucket
Had to bail his boat out with a bucket,
He said, "What a no-brainer!"
"I stared at the strainer,"
"But stupidly, I tried to duck it!"

Limerick #15: Nov 16, 2001
Once I went to a picnic
And I took my friend Nick with
But some very large ants
Being finished with the tents
And all the food; they picked Nick.

Limerick #16: Jun 19, 2002
There was a new 'yaker from Warren
She smiled when she saw it was pourin'
The rain it a-fell
The 'yaker could tell
The run would be far, far from borin'

Limerick #17: Jul 8, 2002
Bluewater Network are commies
whining for their mummies
to take away our toys
from the girls and the boys

Limerick #18: Oct 2, 2002
There once was a paddler from Milton,
Who gave up due to all of the tiltin'.
Cause if he wants to tip,
He'll go on a trip,
And stay dry at somebody's Hilton.

Limerick #19: Nov 9, 2002
There once was a man who drank beer
When some class five rapids were near
He got out of his boat
And decided to float
And thought, "I'll use this here bottle to steer!"

He wasn't just swimming for fun
But for the college girls lying in the sun
He thought he'd impress
And then they'd undress
So much slower do drunk minds run!

When he waved, he thought, "Woe is me!"
As they laughed at what they did see,
"That guy is a jerk!"
"His roll needs some work."
"He's sure not with VPC!"

Limerick #20: Oct 14, 2003
A paddler and geek from Vermont
Selected each color and font
'Til his website was done
And much praise he had won
(or at least that's what he would want)

Limerick #21: Jun 9, 2004
The rivers are all high and rising
In June this is very surprising
Guess Pat Cleary's rain dance
Will give paddlers a chance
To find what they find tantalizing!

Limerick #22: Aug 30, 2004
I sit here at my job just writin'
While all the paddlers are delightin'
As rain in excess of our dreams
Fills all the rivers and streams
Stay here I must, but not without fightin'

Perhaps later on I'll get my chance
To put on my top and wet suit pants
I'd paddle 'til all muscles were tired
If I leave now, maybe I'd get fired
Then decide if I should cry or dance

Limerick #23: Mar 13, 2005
I'll give ye some more recent prattle
Wright Hartman can no longer paddle
And since Alden has left
Vermont is bereft
Of loonies who creek with one paddle

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

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 \$15.00 (single) or \$20.00 (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 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: _____

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