

The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCLXII

June 2005

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Padding the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Meeting

June 8, 2005, Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near the intersection with Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.

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Club Officers

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830-885-5324

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wavegrazer at lycos.com

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Next

June Meeting Change of Location!

Our June meeting will be at the **Hungry Horse Restaurant, 12333 West Avenue**, on Wednesday, June 8, at 6:30pm. Randy Hohlaus will present a program on our 60 mile, seven day Pecos River Expedition from Pandale to the Highway 90 High Bridge, including looks at some of the incredible rock art seen along the way. This is not to be missed.

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Llano River - Junction, Lets Hear it for the Red, White, & Blue July 1 thru 4, 2005

We have reserved the camping area called "My Spot" area at Morgan's Shady Park. The phone number for the campground is 915-446-2580, day or 915-446-2071, night. The patio cost us 40 dollars per day to use and is situated on river left about 1 mile upstream of the bridge leading into Junction. The website for the campground with directions is <http://www.MorganShadyPark.Com>

There are showers and restrooms, and we have a nice grassy area for tent camping plus several other sites in our immediate vicinity. We have reserved the patio for Friday, Saturday and Sunday night, July 1 thru July 4. I am planning on arriving Friday on the 1st around 9 or 10 pm. The cost of this trip is based on the following carefully constructed algorithm: (Total cost of patio for days rented)/total number of people plus 3 dollars per day per person



There are various options for canoeing. The segments vary from 14 miles to 3 miles. Last year we had several different groups going on different sections of rivers. You can even just hang out at the campsite and do nothing at all.

(Continued, next page)

(Junction, continued)

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 Hafernicks, 210-492-7517, or Gibguy at Compuserve dot com

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Upcoming Events

June 8, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
July 2-4, 2005	Independence Day Trip, Junction	Gib Hafernicks, 210-492-7517, gibguy at compuserve dot com
July 3, 2005	Boerne Triathlon	David Plylar, wavegrazer at lycos.com
July 13, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
July 30-August 6, 2005	Annual Mississippi River Rumble	Chris Vogeler, alamoChris at birch dot net
August 10, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
September 2-5, 2005	Labor Day Trip	??????
September 14, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
September 18, 2005	Splash Triathlon, Seaworld	David Plylar, wavegrazer at lycos.com
October 8-10, 2005	Angelina-Neches Forks	Ken Bennight, 826-7071, bennight at stic dot net
October 12, 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
November 9, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Barbeque Station, 1612 N.E. Loop 410, near Harry Wurzbach, 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.
November 25-27, 2005	Turkey Trot	Randy Hohlaus, hohlaus at prodigy.net 493-7058

Medina River Cleanup

By Gary Tupa

Special thanks go to Julie Luck, Kathy Cusick, Tom Shea, Gary Tupa, and Frank Toms, who participated in the Medina River Cleanup on May 7. The event began on Friday evening with a wild hog barbeque and fund raiser at the Estrallita Stone Ranch, a beautiful setting on the banks of the Medina River. The meal was catered by "Eye-Reckon Catering/Trail Rides & Wild West Shows", quite a group. Funds raised went to the Medina River Protection Association. The dinner also honored Tom & Paula Goynes. Tom has been the president of the Texas River Protection Association for many years and has performed thousands of hours of service to better the rivers of Texas.

The City of Bandera allowed us to camp free in the city park on the banks of the river. Many people from across the state took advantage of this wonderful setting to pitch their tents.

On Saturday morning we signed up for our sections. Kathy went with a group from Houston that worked a section downriver from Bandera. Julie, Tom, Gary, and Frank, joined Tom & Paula and a couple from Austin and did a section upriver of the park. Quite a hall of trash and recyclables was made from the 10 different areas that groups volunteered for.

After the cleanup, we all enjoyed a barbeque supper. Several people camped again on Saturday night, and spent the evening enjoying the nightlife of downtown Bandera.

Once again, thanks to all, and hope to see more participants next year.

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Annual Mississippi River Rumble

By Chris Vogeler

The Annual River Rumble is on the Mississippi River again this year. The Rumble starts in St. Cloud, MN on Saturday July 30th and fins Saturday August 6th. It's a long but easy drive mostly on I-35 the whole way. The starting point of St. Cloud is near the headwaters of the Mississippi River and this stretch of the Mississippi will be spectacularly beautiful.

The River Rumble is sanctioned by United States Canoe Association, The American Canoe Association and has the approval of the United States Coast Guard.

I'm planning on going solo, or with a partner if someone wants to join me. This will be my 3rd Rumble on the Big Muddy. This years it's a shorter 135 mile run and you do need a fast canoe or kayak. It is not a trip for beginners in canoeing or kayaking. The River Rumble is a very well organized event with camping each night in small river towns along the way with hot showers every night at local swimming pools or schools. Breakfast and dinner is provided each morning and night for a small fee by local people and groups (Churches, Lions Clubs etc) who use the money from the meals sold to the Rumlbers for worthy causes. All your gear is transported by truck each day so you only paddle with lunch and beverages in your boat. At the take out each night your gear is unloaded and on the ground for you to pick up and pitch tent.

Check out their web site www.riverrumble.org and let me know if you're interested. The cost is about \$175 including the shuttles for the participants, all boats and includes a T-shirt if registered before July 15th. Let me know if you're interested. It's going to be great!!!!!!!!!!!!

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The Travails of Ordering a Boat II

After almost two months from the date I ordered it, my Wilderness Systems Pungo arrived. I've had it out a couple of times, albeit not on moving water. So far I am quite happy with it. (Ken Bennight)

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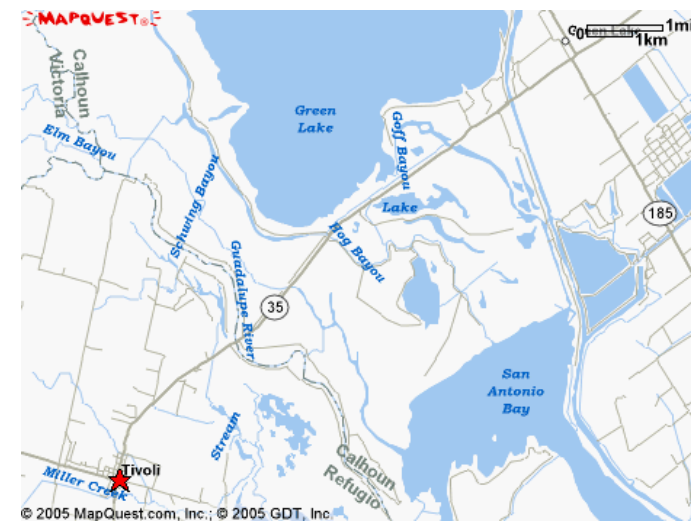


Hog Bayou/St. Mary's Bayou



Apart from a quick trip to Woodlawn Lake right after I got it, one of the two places I have taken the Pungo is Hog Bayou in the Guadalupe Delta area, just north of Tivoli. I was there Sunday of the Memorial Day weekend. I had planned to camp on the bank, but the radio kept repeating flash flood warnings. Opting for discretion over valor, I spent the night in the Tivoli Motel. It met my needs, but I don't think it has any asteroids, much less stars. I was bemused when the proprietor informed me that all the rooms with king-size beds were taken because of high school graduations. Hmm.

Hog Bayou is one of three major bayous that crosses Highway 35 between Tivoli and Port Lavaca, the other two being Goff and Schwings. Hog is the one with a boat ramp. I had initially planned to paddle up the Guadalupe itself to its junction with the San Antonio River and then a little farther to check out Elm Bayou, which flows out of the San Antonio River and joins the Guadalupe just north of the San Antonio's confluence. But my skills getting in and, especially, out of the new kayak are limited and, in all but one of the four corners of Highway 35 and the Guadalupe, the bank dropped off vertically to the water. Had I successfully launched, I could have gotten back out only by turning over and trying to scramble up the bank. At the fourth point, I would have had to traverse thigh-high poison ivy. The situation with Schwing's Bayou was similar, although getting to the put-in there is an adventure, and the map makes Goff look less interesting, so I opted to Hog's boat ramp.



I paddled down Hog toward the bay, but only a side channel goes that far. The main channel flows into Alligator Slide Lake. In any event, the side channel is choked with water hyacinth almost immediately, and the main one is the same slightly farther on. The landscape is lush, and birds and other wildlife are plentiful. I even glimpsed a small alligator that unfortunately dropped beneath the surface before I could get a photo. I often saw gar hanging just beneath the surface, and several times one would splash at my elbow when my attention was elsewhere. Being much closer to the water than I am used to in my canoe, the splashes always got my attention.



Monday morning I drove to the Matagorda marsh near the mouth of the Colorado River, putting in at St. Mary's Bayou. The marsh is beautiful and full of fish and birds. My paddle there was uneventful except for the take-out. Near the put-in and take-out, mud banks make part of the bayou too shallow even for my kayak. As I approached the take-out, I was mostly drifting, trying to prolong the trip. I wound end securely beached on one of the mud banks. The mud seemed fairly firm, and I was only 50 yards or less from the shore, so I decided to get out and walk the boat to shore. Bad decision.



The mud started out firm. Then I started sinking to my ankles, then to my shins, then above the knees. At that point, I needed a new plan. I could not get back in the boat without tipping it over. Eventually I hit upon drawing the boat around broadside in front of me and leaning over it to

take some of my weight. Then I “walked” out of the marsh on my knees, the remainder of my weight being distributed over my shins instead of just my feet. I don’t recommend planning on this technique, although it did work in a pinch.

Despite that episode, the paddle was enjoyable, and the marsh seemed lousy with fish. I am not much of a fisherman, but I found myself wishing I had brought tackle.



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: _____

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