

The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCLXIII

July 2005

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Padding the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Next

Llano River - Junction
July 1 thru 4, 2005

Meeting

June 13, 2005, Hungry Horse Rest.,
12333 West Avenue, near the
intersection with Rhapsody. 6:30 to
9:00.

-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 gvtc.com



We will camp at Morgan's Shady Park. The phone number for the campground is 915-446-2580, day or 915-446-2071, night. The park is at the loop to river left on the above map 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>. See you there.



A man once canoed on the Llano,
Who constantly strummed his banjo.
You could hear when he sang
A decided twang.
He was welcome at any fandango.

Upcoming Events

July 2-4, 2005	Independence Day Trip, Junction	Gib Hafernick, 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



Paddling Near the Coast

In a recent email, Mark Andrus (mandrus at brazoria dot net) of the Houston Canoe Club listed the following information that I thought deserved to be memorialized for later use.

1. The San Bernard is navigable at least from FM1301 down, but there is a saltwater barrier below State 35 that is a trouble to get around.
2. The Brazos can be canoed from West Texas to the mouth.
3. Oyster Creek can be canoed from Lake Jackson on to where it ends at the Intercoastal Canal. It could probably be canoed from SugarLand down to Lake Jackson, other than getting around a salt water barrier before Lake Jackson.
4. Buffalo Camp Bayou-can be paddled from State 332 to Brazoria Reservoir.

5. Bastrop Bayou can be paddled from around State 288 all the way down to Bastrop Bay. The tributaries-Austin and Flores Bayous can also be paddled. Bastrop will also have motorboats from FM 2004 on down-a popular fishing bayou.
6. Chocolate Bayou can be paddled from just beyond State 35 to the Coast. There will be motorboats around from Liverpool on down.
7. TRPA had to fight for access to Persimmon and New Bayou. I have never paddled them because it would require leaving the vehicle parked on the side of the highway to use them.
8. Halls Bayou is probably also paddlable.
9. Sea kayak spots would include Christmas Bay, Bastrop Bay, Coal (usually labeled Cold) Pass and Titlum-Tatum Bayou.

-o0o-

Possible Trip Destination? Maybe Not.

At some time in the past, I don't know when, the City found that Mitchell Lake had a problem with too much aquatic vegetation. The solution hit upon was nutria. Nutria were acquired and released in the lake. Sometime thereafter it was found that Mitchell Lake had a problem with too many nutria. The solution hit upon was alligators.



Alligators were acquired and released in the lake. Sometime thereafter it was found that Mitchell Lake had a problem with too many alligators. Let us be grateful the City did not import something that preys on them. Nile crocodiles, perhaps?

Instead an alligator "wrangler" was hired to remove the gators. An "alligator wrangling contract" was drafted and signed. As you might imagine, when charged with drafting an "alligator wrangling contract," you best not waste your time looking for a form. The wrangler went to work but worked only one day. He then quit, explaining that, while he could handle the gators, he could not handle the snakes that kept trying to get in his boat.

I don't know if the alligators—or the snakes—were ever dealt with. Mitchell Lake is now a protected wetlands: <http://www.mlws.org/>. I guess that lets out getting Riki Tiki Tavi.

So anybody for trying to arrange a paddle on Mitchell Lake?

(Ken Bennight)

-o0o-

USCG Auxiliary: Recreational Boating Safety

By Wayne Spivak, National Press Corps, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Paddlesporters are the fastest and largest group of boaters today. For those who are hard core participants, you know what the term means. For those who are not, they are kayakers, canoers, and rafters, plus those using all other type of self-propelled watercraft. The rest of us boaters, well quite frankly we pale in numbers. But for years, we have (that's the Power Boaters and Sailors) been the focus of Recreational Boating Safety drives, and the people who contributed to our own education. That's why many of us have joined recreational boating safety organizations such as the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary; to assist the Coast Guard in their Recreational Boating Safety mission. And, we've been successful. But that success must be tempered, since its only been focused at and on us, the traditional boater.

This year, the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary's focus is getting the message out to paddlers. We have joined forces with the American Canoe Association and others to develop specific courses just for paddlers.

Safety and Education

Our Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program (www.safetyseal.net) is now targeting the paddle boater. We want you to ask for a VSC, and we want you to pass the VSC. We want you to know what equipment you are required to carry, and what equipment you should seriously consider taking. We want you to be safe.

If I were a true-blue paddler, I'd be saying "What do a group of gas guzzling, blue-water sailors know about us? They don't even talk our language." Well, you may be partially right, so how do we go about fixing that discrepancy? Who is best to perform and educate a Paddle boater? Who speaks your language? One of your own. That's right, you the member of the paddlesport community! That's why we're seeking Kayakers, Canoeists, Rafters and other non-traditional boaters to help us. We want you to join the Coast Guard Auxiliary and be part of the proud tradition of service to our Country, the Coast Guard, and all our recreational boaters.

Boating education doesn't start or stop with VSC's, they are just one of many tools in our bag of tricks to make all boaters safer boaters. In 2003 (which are the latest USCG statistics available), 703 people died. 86% of them were not wearing Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's). 77% of all fatalities had no boating education.¹ The statistics go on to tell us that 13 million boats were registered, but as you see, paddleboaters are not actually counted. The statistics further tell us there were 343 casualties (165 deaths) from paddleboaters in 2003.

From latest estimates (2003), 48 million people went kayaking, canoeing and rafted. There are no statistics on how many of them had safety courses. By the way, have you? Regardless (and we would hope you would take a safety course in any event) you can help educate some of these 48 million people, by volunteering your time.

How Can You Help?

We in the Coast Guard Auxiliary need educators, trainers, instructors, and participants in a myriad of programs. We need you to help us reach out to each and every Paddleboater, from Maine to California, Alaska to Guam, and all points in between. In fact, you find Auxiliarists wherever the Coast Guard serves and sometimes where they don't!

And don't think if you join, that's all you'll do--teach. The Auxiliary performs or assists the Coast Guard in almost every mission area, with the exception of Direct Law Enforcement and Military activities. We need Paddle boaters to become involved in America's Waterway Watch. This national program is all about Homeland Security of our Maritime Domain. The Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary needs people who transverse and know our shorelines, be they coastal, intra-coastal, on rivers or around lakes. We need people who know what's normal, and what's not, who should be where they are, and who should not.

Paddleboaters have fast become a key component to many areas of our maritime environment, because they utilize areas not visited by your traditional boater. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is always seeking new ways and programs that reach out to the Paddlesport community.

In conjunction with the American Canoe Association, the Smart Start for Paddlers program was developed, just for the Paddlesport community. This short course covers the major safety points each and every Paddler needs to know before they push off from shore. This is a must-have course for every new, old, novice and seasoned Paddler.

Get Involved!

How do you start? Visit us at www.cgaux.org and use our Flotilla Finder

(www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/getzip.html).

Call us at 1-877-875-6296. Contact your local Coast Guard unit (www.uscg.mil), or look in your local telephone directory.

¹**Editor:** Yes, but before that statistic is meaningful, we have to know what percentage of boaters overall had boating education. For example, were we to assume only 10% of all boaters had safety education, more than 90% of fatalities should be without education--if education reduces fatalities. The 77% uneducated rate would suggest you were more likely to be a fatality if you had safety education. That's not what they want you to think. I don't know what the actual safety education percentage is, but the article should have told us. Failing to do so is playing games with statistics. Mark Twain observed, "There's lies, there's damned lies, and there's statistics."

Editors's Note: I'm all for safety. I think we ought to have some safety oriented programs. But the last thing I want is any aspect of the feds expressing too much interest in paddling. As I see it, that can only result in more restrictions. All government can do is regulate, and I have never seen regulations characterized by finesse.

-o0o-

Proposed Neches River Reservoirs

The Region I Water Planning Group has added Fastrill and Rockland Reservoirs to their alternate water management strategy list. This is a step above what the two projects previously were termed – they were only possibilities – now they are alternate strategies! A feasibility study is currently being conducted for the Fastrill Reservoir project on the upper Neches River.

There are 3 meetings, one each in: Tyler, Nacogdoches, and Beaumont. Region I Water Planning Group needs to hear from the people they serve, and the message should be loud and clear.

Public hearing dates:

July 12 at 6:00 pm at Lake Palestine Water Treatment Plant, 14792 CR 192 in Tyler,

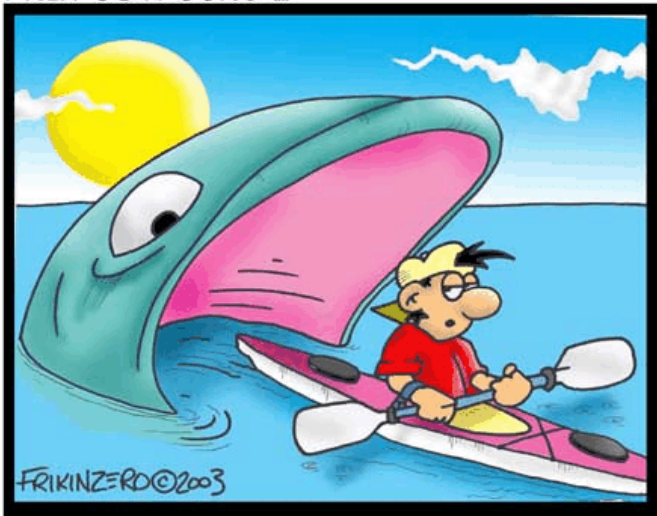
July 13 at 6:00 pm at Nacogdoches Recreation Center, 1112 North Street in Nacogdoches, and

July 14 at 6:00 pm at Jefferson County Courthouse, Jury Impaneling Room, 1125 Pearl Street in Beaumont.

If you have any questions or comments, please call Bob Arthur 512-288-0167 (Austin #) or 936-465-0594 (Lufkin #).

-o0o-

FRIK OUTDOORS™



ANYONE SMELL FISH ?



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: _____

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: _____