

The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCCCLIX

September 2005

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Padding the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Next

Labor Day at Junction, September 2nd through 5th, 2005

Meeting

September 14, 2005, Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near the intersection with Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.

Program on the Mississippi River Rumble

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THE FACILITIES:

We have a nice patio that we can hang out and cook on. The patio is approximately 30 by 30 feet with shade plus has several picnic tables & a drum style barbeque pit for community use. The patio has lights, but I would like to minimize using them as the glare & brightness just makes things less camp like. Consider bringing candles or small lanterns to give a more comfortable setting in the evening. Also consider bringing community charcoal or firewood.

The Patio is a walled area that is about 3 feet high and it lends itself extremely well for setting up small two burner stoves or hibachi pits. I am planning on bring a two burner stove and you are welcomed to use that as well. The patio is on the river and we have a limited amount of grassy area to camp in between the patio & the river. There is also a high ground area that is above the patio that people generally camp as well on.

The most important thing to be aware of is we need to make sure we do not park our cars on sites that are not assigned to either the Alamo City Rivermen or the Austin Canoe Club. The Patio is actually situated on a small lake that makes for some nice swimming or relaxing so consider bringing lawn chairs, floatation mattresses, tubes or floaties. As a rule there are generally some canoes or kayaks always sitting around at the patio. If you want to use one to just paddle around on the lake you can just be sure to check with the owner.

You can try your luck at fishing on the lake by using either lures or bait. I will take along a couple of rods and worms but my success has not been that great on the lake. I have caught some small Guadalupe bass using small silver spoon on the river.

I will have basically a Three Sign-up Sheets. They are as follows:

1. Patio & Camp-out fee
2. Day use fee
3. Calabacita Meal (Optional)

I need to get you to sign up on the respective sheets and give me the number of people in your party so I can determine how much to collect from you.

(Continued, next page)

Upcoming Events

September 2-5, 2005	Labor Day Trip, Morgan Shady Park, Junction, Texas (S. Llano River)	Gib Hafernick, gibguy at compuserve dot com
September 14, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
September 18, 2005	Splash Triathlon, Seaworld	David Plylar, wavegrazer at lycos.com
September 23-25, 2005	Bird Island/Coastal Trip	Gary Tupa, gtupa at yahoo dot com
October 8-10, 2005	Angelina-Neches Forks	Ken Bennight, 826-7071, bennight at stic dot net
October 12, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
November 5, 2005	Goliad Canoe Trail, San Antonio River, Goliad	Randy Hohlaus, hohlaus at prodigy.net 493-7058
November 9, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
November 25-27, 2005	Turkey Trot	Randy Hohlaus, hohlaus at prodigy.net 493-7058
December 2005	Christmas Party in lieu of meeting	???????
January 11, 2006	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
January 2006	Freeze Trip	



(Labor Day at Junction, continued)

Breakfast generally turns into a community meal of sorts. If you want to get in on this deal bring some eggs, bacon, sausage, tortillas, juices or coffee. If you have a spare camp coffee pot bring that as well as there never seems to be enough coffee. You are basically on your own for your breakfast, lunches, snacks and beverages. The campground is a very short distance from Junction and you can easily go into town to get additional groceries or ice to keep foodstuffs cool. I do like making a nice lemonade beverage drink that is made from 4 parts lemonade and one part gin. I will have a pitcher going and if you would like to get in on this deal consider bringing gin and lemonade accordingly.

THE PLAN:

September 2 - Friday

I am planning on going up Friday evening with the intention of setting up camp at the location called "The Patio". I expect to arrive sometime between 8 to 10 o'clock PM. There will be several people getting up there in the mid afternoon and if you want to get a jump on things you can do that as well

September 3 - Saturday

I will do some running in the morning and then have breakfast. After I get done running I am going to try to put up the 30' X 20' "Big Blue Tarp" on the Patio. This normally takes about an hour to do as no one can ever remember how we rigged and ran the lines from the year

previously. There will be people generally showing up in the morning but I would like to be on the road moving to go canoeing at about 11:00 AM.

I am planing on doing the canoeing from South Llano State Park to Morgan's Shady Park a distance of about 6 miles. If you are renting canoes you can check and see if it is feasible to meet the canoe livery at the Park Put-in and ask if they can pick your canoe for you at the Campground. If you are not that proficient in a canoe I would suggest renting a sit on top kayak. You must get a park permit for parking your car on the Park Grounds. The float is an easy 6 mile float to our campground. You should take a lunch, beverages and even a lawn chair. We will stop to go swimming at least once. We normally will end up at the camp around 6 PM.

In the evening I am planning on doing some grilling on "The Patio". I will probably cook some Lamb chops & sausage for myself. However I will be cooking some sliced onions and potatoes in a dutch oven. If you would like to have potatoes cooked in that manner bring a potato & onion and we will throw that in my dutch oven as well. We have the option of going to Historic London Dance Hall to do some dancing for those interested. Sometimes there is a group that wants to go there but the drive is about 25 miles and a lot of times people just want to hang out on the patio.

September 4 - Sunday

I am planning on doing a bike ride on my road bike in the morning. This will be a moderately paced ride of about 20 to 25 miles on slightly hilly roads. After that I am going to just taking it easy at the Patio. Generally there is a group doing a longer canoe run someplace I just don't know where. I may assist in running the shuttle as well. I will go into town to buy the groceries for the Community Meal (optional) that we will have. That meal will be Calabacita with rice and bread. Calibacita is a dish made with Zuchini, Squash, Onions, Green peppers, Red Peppers, Tomatoes and with either chicken or pork. If we have a large group we will probably make one chicken and one pork dish out there. If the group is smaller I expect it will be pork. The cost of this meal is based on the following carefully constructed algorithm:

$$\text{(Total Grocery Cost for Community Meal)/}(\text{Total number of people eating it})$$

September 5 - Monday

I will do some trail running at South Llano State Park in the morning and then have breakfast. With the intention gradually packing up returning to San Antonio in the afternoon. There are various options for canoeing. The segments vary from 14 miles to 3 miles. Reservations are recommended if you plan on renting canoes. The cost of this trip is based on the following carefully constructed algorithm:

$$\text{(Total cost of "The Patio" for days rented)/}(\text{Total Number of People Camping}) \text{ plus 3 dollars per day per person}$$

Note 1: The cost of "The Patio" is 60 dollars per day and we rent it for 3 days.

Note 2: You can come for 1, 2 or 3 days. For camping purposes on the Patio & for the Calabacita, I count children as half a person as the intent is to encourage this as a family event. If you camp 1, 2 or 3 nights your camping fee is the same person based on whatever it comes out to be average wise. The day use fee is based on the number of days you are there at three dollars per person. The fee is the same for day use if you are an adult or child.

I will not have a number for you paying me till Sunday morning as it does take time to run down names and camp cost.

Hope to see you there.

Gib Hafernack, 210-492-7517, home; 210-355-1726, cell (cell phone is kept only in my car) or Gibguy at Compuserve dot com

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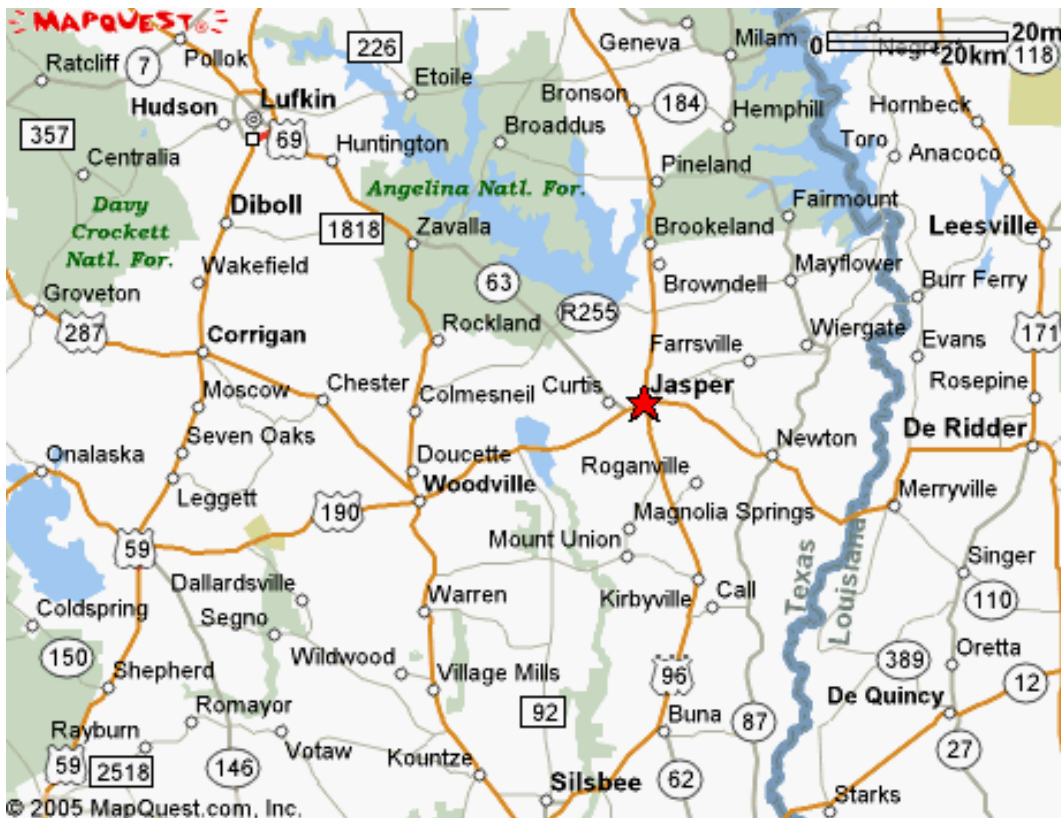
Angelina-Neches Forks October 8-10, 2005

Ken Bennight

Regrettably I will not make the Labor Day trip to Junction, because I am going on a scouting run for the Angelina-Neches Forks trip over the Columbus Day holiday. The term "Forks" refers to the confluence of the Angelina and Neches Rivers, which occurs at or just above the upper reaches of B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir.

If you have never paddled the Big Thicket, this is the trip for you. If you have paddled the thicket, you know how beautiful it can be. Expect lush marshes and swamps. The higher banks are heavily forested. We will camp on a Corps of Engineers campsite to which there

is no vehicle access. Although the campsite will not technically be on an island, it might as well be for the purposes of the planning you will need to do. Your car won't be nearby.



The map to the left shows the general area. Find Woodville and Jasper near the center of the map. Note that the road between them bisects a small lake. That is B.A. Steinhagen, and the swamp is just above it.

If you are looking for a city of some size for a reference point, note Lufkin in the upper left. Beaumont is off the map to the south. The squiggly blue line (the Sabine River) on the right side of the map is the Texas-Louisiana border.

Mapquest estimates the distance from San Antonio to Jasper at just under 330 miles and estimates 5 hours and 43 minutes driving time. Of course, Mapquest routes you through Houston on the San Houston Tollway. I am likely to chose some other route myself.

On October 8, we will meet sometime midday in either Jasper or Woodville. On my scouting trip, I will select a rendezvous point and put it in the next newsletter. From there we will drive to the put-in and paddle to the campsite. Any exploring that day, by me at least, will be limited.

Sunday, October 9 will be the big day for pushing up into the swamp. Monday will be for paddling out and driving home. If we put-in at Martin Dies, Jr. State Park, there will be a daily charge for leaving our vehicles. On the other hand, they might be safer from vandalism there than at Bevilport, and the distance from the park to the campsites is probably a little less.

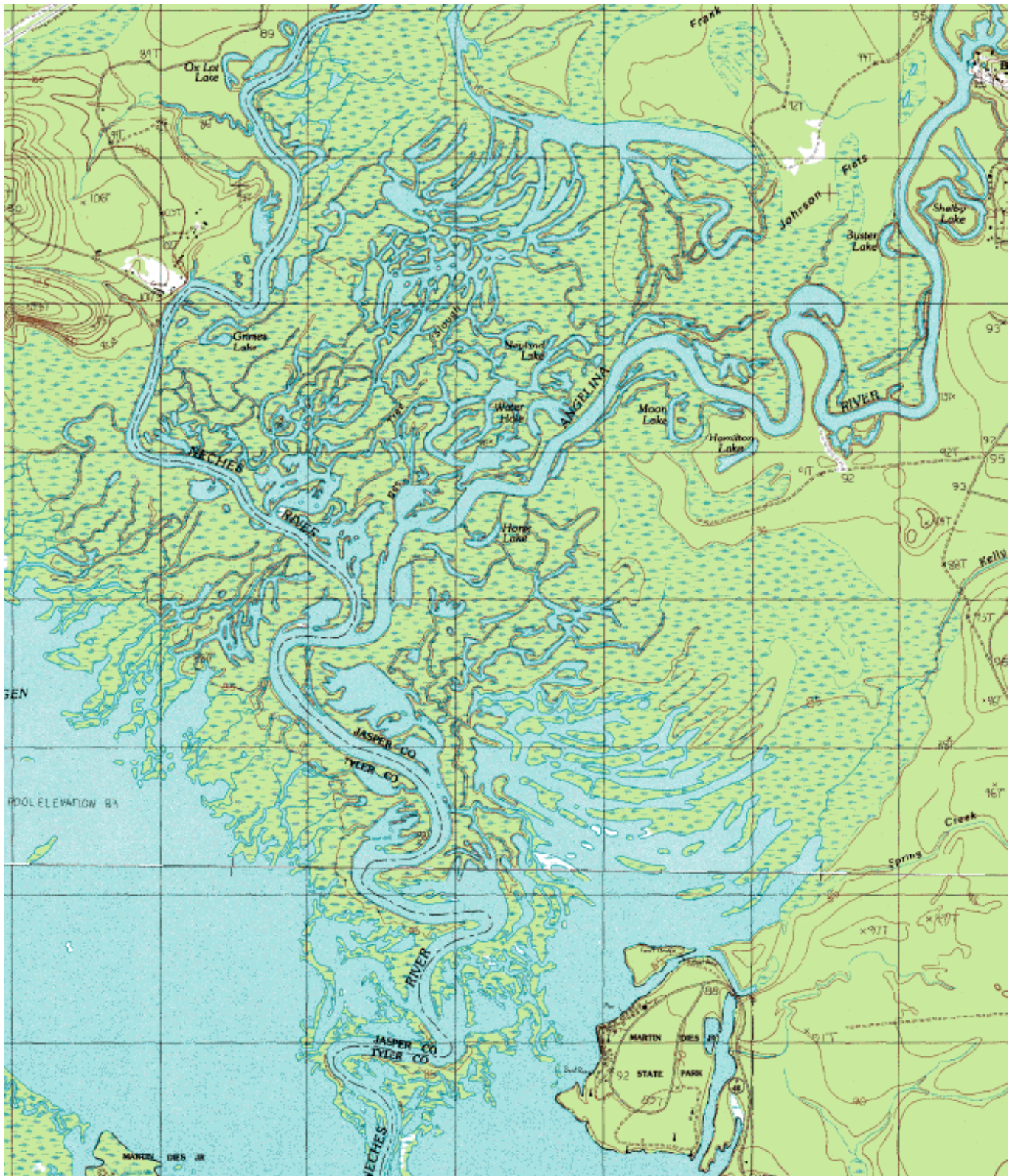
As noted in the last newsletter, please bring your own food and beverages. There should be ample time to cook and rest in camp, depending on how adventurous you get on Sunday. The one time I was at one of the campsites, it was well-wooded.

On my two previous trips, I have not seen a single snake, but I'm not so naive as to believe they are not there. I recommend common sense precautions and have snake gaiters to lend out if you want them. First come, first served. If somebody else gets mine first and it is a deal point for you, Academy sells them economically.

Of course there are alligators as well; I did see some of those. The presented no problem whatsoever, but on the other hand I don't plan to go swimming. I did see people swimming to no ill effect at Martin Dies, Jr. State Park. They were doing so in the same channel I had seen alligators in the trip before. I do not see this as a dangerous trip, and I don't want to scare anyone off. On the other hand, the Forks are not Disneyworld. When there, common sense calls for discretion.

So far, I have not had many takers, so I'm pulling out the big guns. One of the advantages of being editor is that you can put what you want in the newsletter. What drew me to this place was the topographic map showing what it looks like. The entire next page is devoted to that. You won't regret it if you come.

I will need an advance headcount to get adequate Corps of Engineers camping permits. Please email me at klbennight at yahoo dot com.



Angelina-Neches Forks, courtesy of Topozone.com. Note Martin Dies, Jr. State Park at the bottom just to the right of center. To get to the Forks from there, you have to get into the main Neches channel and paddle upstream. Surely this place is calling your name. It calls mine. The Corps campsites are on the Angelina River, just above the confluence.

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Swim/Kayak Support for Heart of Texas Triathlon Championship at Canyon Lake Park September 11

I am looking for people with canoes or kayaks to assist in the swim support leg for the Hill Country Heart of Texas Triathlon Championship at Canyon Lake Park on September 11. This event is an Olympic Distance with 1500 meter swim (out & back), 40 km bike ride (one loop), 10km run (out & back).

Being a volunteer in a kayak is actually the one of the coolest jobs to have as you are in essence a guardian angel and sheep dog for the swimmers in the water and they really appreciate you being out there. For your efforts you get a T-shirt and plus get to hang out afterwards at the pavillion with music, food and beer. Afterwards I intend to do some Trail Running or Mountain Bike Riding on the Madrone Trail.

I have an extra Touring Canoe with rudder that you can use along with a small kayak.

THE PLAN:

7:00 AM – Assemble Kayaks & Canoes on the Water at the Pavillion.

8:00 AM – 1500 meter Swim Leg Starts and should last about an hour

9:00 AM Hang out for a little while then try to Link up with the ACSA Madrone Multisport Group

Note: As you drive into the Canyon Lake Park there is a cove to the right. This is where the swim event will be. If you have a kayak you will make a sharp right hand turn to get to the Event Pavillion and launch point for kayaks. You need to tell the parking staff that you are with Kayak Swim support otherwise they will direct you to a different parking area.

Some Useful Links:

Heart of Texas Triathlon Championship

URL: http://www.runawayclub.com/Calendar_of_Events/050911.htm

Map of Canyon Lake Park

URL: <http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?city=Canyon%20Lake&state=TX&address=1735%20Canyon%20Park%20Rd.&zip=78133&country=US>

DIRECTIONS:

From US 281 N: Turn RIGHT(EAST) on FM 306. Go about 20 miles to Hancock, and turn right into Canyon Park. The Hancock Mini-Mart will be on your left at the turn. Go about one mile, and the Madrone Trail trailhead will be at the first parking area you come to on your right.

From IH 35 N: Take the FM 306/Canyon Lake exit on the north side of New Braunfels and go LEFT(WEST). Follow FM 306 about 17 miles to Hancock, and turn left into Canyon Park. The Hancock Mini-Mart will be on your right at the turn. Go about one mile, and the Madrone Trail trailhead will be at the first parking area you come to on your right.

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

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Texans Win Nationals

Ben Kvanli and Mark Poindexter won the Nationals at Kernville in C-2 whitewater slalom.

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Seaworld Triathlon–September 18, 2005

If you would like a front row seat to the beginning of the Sea World "Splash" Triathlon September 18th, then please consider volunteering as a Safety Boater for the event. We need eyes, ears, and flotation devices out in the water to assist in case someone gets tired or gets a cramp. You should be a strong enough paddler to not swim for it if someone holds onto your boat to rest. Come and make a difference by helping the event, and possibly helping someone in need.

Please contact David Plylar. Bring water, sunscreen, and an extra flotation device if possible. The swim course is 800 meters in Texas' largest pool, the Ski Show Laguna.

For more info on the event you can go here: http://www.rogersoler.com/Race_Entry_2005/SplashFAQs_0713.doc

RSVP to David Plylar, 210-823-1739 or wavegrazer at lycos dot com

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Nomination for Most Endangered River

You can nominate a river for the 2006 America's Most Endangered Rivers report, to be released in April 2006.

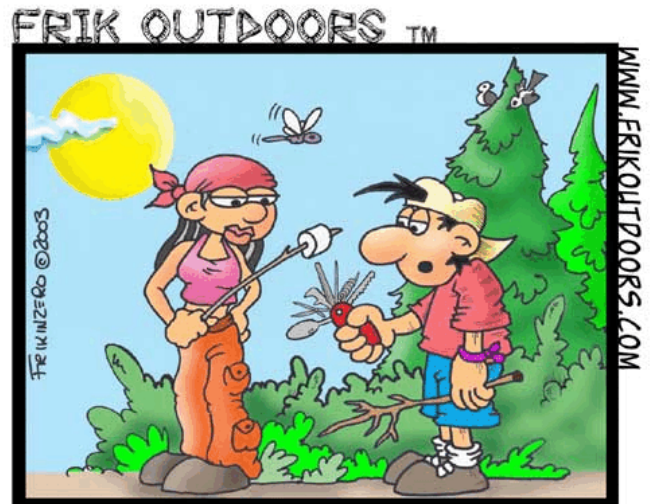
Each year, the America's Most Endangered Rivers report shines a national spotlight on local rivers facing the most uncertain futures. The deadline for nominations is October 1, 2005. Nominations are judged by the following primary criteria: (1) the magnitude and imminence of the threat, (2) a major action or decision being made in the coming year that affects that threat, and (3) the regional and national significance of the river. To be a strong candidate for the 2006 report, it is critical that a major action or decision affecting the threat will take place between April 2006 and April 2007.

Questions? Contact Jamie Mierau at 202-347-7550 or jmierau@americanrivers.org. For more details or to read the 2005 report, visit our website at www.AmericanRivers.org.

Tell a friend! Please send this email to anyone that might be interest in nominating a river for the 2006 report.

Mark Boyden

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I CANT FIND THE BLADE ON MY
CAMP KNIFE

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 \$20.00 (individual) 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: _____