



The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

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November 2005 (Supplement)

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Paddling the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Alamo City Rivermen November 2005 Newsletter Supplement

Randy Hohlaus is leading the Turkey Trot this month. He was so diligent in sending his newsletter article early, that the email containing it scrolled well up in the editor's mailbox, and the worthless editor overlooked the article until after the regular newsletter was sent out. As a cure for his own dereliction, the editor is burdening you with this newsletter supplement. By the next regular newsletter, the trip will have already occurred:

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Turkey Trots On!

After last year's washout due to the flood of '04 (this is getting monotonous, Flood of '98, flood of '02, etc.), the ACR Turkey Trot returns to the Colorado River, Friday, Nov. 26 thru Sunday Nov. 27, 2005. This year we will be floating a slightly different stretch. As always, enjoy Thanksgiving with family and friends and then put in with us the next day for a relaxing three day float down this central Texas river.

We will paddle from Big Webberville Park between Austin and Bastrop down to our takeout at Fisherman's Park in Bastrop. The distance is approximately 28 miles. This trip is really nice this time of year. The weather has usually blessed us with pleasant days and cool nights, and the tree line d bluffs are usually at their height of autumn color change. And we'll always be hoping for that bald eagle sighting as in past years, but I would be surprised if we get one on this stretch. This trip is primarily flatwater, with riffle rapids only, suitable for beginners. Everyone will have to be self contained, as we will overnight camp on inaccessible islands.

We will meet at 9:00am Friday on the 26th at Big Webberville Park, off Park Lane off Webberville Drive west of FM 969 on the east bank of the Colorado. There we will drop canoes and shuttle vehicles down to Fisherman's Park in Bastrop, where we will leave them at the park. Neil Cook of Cook's canoes will provide a driver's shuttle. There will be a fee. Depending on turnout, this may take two trips. Cook's canoes will be able to provide canoes, paddles, and PFD's to anyone needing a canoe, at the cost of \$30.00 total for the three days. This trip will be suitable to those with primarily flatwater skills, but at places there may be sweepers to avoid and tight bends to negotiate.

You must provide all other gear necessary for two nights of camping. Fishing will also be a possibility.

We will be spending two nights on the river, with takeout planned Sunday afternoon at Fisherman's Park in Bastrop. The day we will do approximately six miles to our first island. The second day will be a long one, approximately 16 miles, and we will camp on Freeze Trip island. The last day should be only about six miles again.

As always, we will Dutch oven cook the two night meals. The first will be shrimp etouffee with garlic bread, including the catch of the day, and the other to be decided. All other meals are on your own. Camping will be on islands. You will need to have all your own camping gear. Everyone should come ready to help with wood gathering, food prep, cooking and cleanup for the night meals. In addition, we will ask that you help carry some of the groceries and charcoal. There will be a trip fee to cover shuttle fees, the two dinners, taxes, titles, and license.. To simplify meal planning, everyone must pay for both meals whether or not they eat.

I will need to get your name, email, and phone number if you are intending to go, so the food and meals can be planned. If you do not have a boat, but have the gear and would like to do this trip, Cook's Canoes in Webberville can provide one for you (512-276-7767 or 461-7139, <http://www.cookscanoes.com/>). You will have to rent your own boat and make your own arrangements and payments. Tell them that you are with our group if you rent. We have a group discount.

If you are renting a canoe, please let me know, as he may throw in a driver's shuttle for the rest of us. I also need to know if you have a dutch oven, charcoal chimney or two burner stove that you can bring. This is usually a great trip, and hope you can make it.

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