



# The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCCLXII

December 2005

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

**Padding the fine line between geek and Bubba.**

## Next Meeting

January 11, 2006, 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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## Winter in Texas



Reiko Seilor running a dam on the Guadalupe.



Mike Fox at Honey Creek, just off the Guadalupe.

## Upcoming Events

January 11, 2006	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
January ??, 2006	Freeze Trip ?????	
February 8, 2006	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
March 8, 2006	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
April 12, 2006	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
April 21??, 2006	Caddo Lake Trip ?????	
May 10, 2006	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
May 27-29, 2006	Memorial Day Trip ????	
June 14, 2006	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.



### For Sale

Prawn S6 190 \$400.  
Dagger Outlaw \$300.



Phone 512-328-0120,  
Bill Leon, Austin

Prijon Invader Light \$85.



Rough Stuff Bent Shaft Kayak Paddle 192 \$150.  
Phone 512-328-0120,  
Bill Leon, Austin

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### 17'-6" Pygmy Artic Tern



I designed and built outriggers out of the same materials. The outriggers are removable and, when attached, allow one to stand very comfortably. The boat probably weighs 30-40 pounds.

It's a must see to appreciate. I would like to get \$2,000 for the unit but will consider other offers including a donation for a special cause.

3d at lonestardrafting dot com, 281-531-1735, John Blankenship

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## Rio Vista Dam

Rio Vista Dam is a dam on the San Marcos River below City Park in San Marcos. Olympic kayaker Ben Kvanli lives in San Marcos and likes to kayak at the dam. News 8 Austin reports that, in November, Kvanli noticed serious cracking in the 101 year-old dam. Based on Kvanli's report, the San Marcos City Engineer inspected the dam and found significant cracks and erosion undercutting the support for the concrete apron. The City of San Marcos has posted signs warning the public to stay off the structure.

The deterioration has renewed the debate what to do with the dam. Our own Gib Hafernick has weighed in with his idea:

### What We Ought to Do:

Cut Rio Vista dam to a height of 2 to 3 feet with a runnable rapid-like chute and then install at least two similar low head rapid-like dams upstream, preferably in between Rio Vista and the upstream island. Then design the entire venue to make this a

Junior Level Olympic Slalom Course. There should be pole assemblies on both sides of the river supporting a wire across the river, thus permitting temporary slalom gates for Special Events.



A scene from the Texas Water Safari at Rio Vista Dam (from <http://users.frii.com/uliasz/wayfarer/tws2001a.htm>)

## **What We Would Have:**

We would have is a year round canoe/kayak training venue with the potential to hold at least two white-water rodeos a year. There would be all manner of groups (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, colleges & universities, canoe & kayak clubs) training using the river, the water flow and water temperature of 72 degrees is guaranteed year-round.

## **The Economic Benefits:**

We would be taking a venue that is realistically useable only for three months out the year (for tubers) and making it a year round venue that accommodates more groups. There is ample parking and public space in the immediate area for groups to assemble, together with restaurants and other supporting businesses to cater to users.



Another Water Safari picture at Rio Vista from the same source.

Tom Goynes, who has long been an advocate of removing this and other dams, feels otherwise:

I think the concept of pond-fall is good on a river that otherwise doesn't have enough flow to support recreation. The San Antonio probably fits this category. But the San Marcos usually has plenty of water, and the idea of building more dams rather than removing the existing ones is anathema to me.

I would be in favor of removing Rio Vista Dam and replacing it with a "natural" looking rapid. Cottonseed Rapid is the remnants of an old dam. So is Old Mill and, I suspect so is Tekins Rapid between Martindale and Staples.

I think a well designed, safe rapid could also hold back some water to protect the stands of wild rice upstream. Kind of a dam-rapid. The process could consist mainly of carefully placing the remains of the old dam in the channel. It seems like we could end up with a longer rapid with several play spots.

An interesting debate, but I am skeptical whether the authorities will take notice of it.

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## **Apology for Late Newsletter**

I apologize for the late newsletter. I spent a lot of time last weekend straightening out a problem with the website. That's resolved at least for the moment.

Ken Bennight

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ River: \_\_\_\_\_ Put in: \_\_\_\_\_ Take Out: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Miles: \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ River: \_\_\_\_\_ Put in: \_\_\_\_\_ Take Out: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Miles: \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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