

# The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCCLXI

April 2006

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

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

## *Dues*

### Next Meeting

March 8, 2006, Hungry Horse Rest.,  
12333 West Avenue, near the  
intersection with Rhapsody. 6:30 to  
9:00.

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Dues are due for 2006: \$15 to receive the newsletter by email or \$20 to receive it via the Postal Service. Please send them to Alamo City Rivermen Canoe Club, P.O. Box 171194, San Antonio, Texas 78217.

If you joined in the last four months of 2005, you are golden. Otherwise, cough up. Please. Thank you.

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## **April 22 – Earth Day at Woodlawn Lake - Saturday**

Once again by popular demand the Alamo City Rivermen offer free canoe rides on Woodlawn Lake for Earth Day. We will rig two Tripper XL Canoes in tandem so as to have a stable platform. The canoe rides will be free, as there are a lot of people on this side of town who cannot afford this sport or who will never really have the opportunity to partake of an activity like this.

We will be setting up at the Woodlawn Lake Sailing Club and boat docks. We need at least the following people: (a) two to three people to be on board the canoes and (b) two to three people on the land to issue boat ride tickets and assist in helping with issuing of life preservers and signing of liability waivers. But the more the merrier.

In addition, if we have time I am going to try to rig two aluminum canoes in tandem with some kind of Polynesian Proa Sail rig, which would be available only for volunteers and members of the Alamo City Rivermen to play around in.

Consider bringing the following if you want to help: canoe, table (roll up)(if we decide to set up a display stand), photos, lawn chair, shade shelter.

(Continued, next page)

## Upcoming Events

March 4-5, 2006	San Marcos Cleanup	Gary Tupa, gltupa at yahoo dot com
April 8-9, 2006	Hidalgo Falls Festival	Gary Tupa, gltupa at yahoo dot com
April 12, 2006	Monthly Meeting.	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
April 22, 2006 ???	Earth Day Canoe Rides at Woodlawn Lake	?????
May 6, 2006	Medina River Cleanup	?????
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.
July 1-4, 2006	Independence Day Trip	?????
July 12, 2006	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
August 9, 2006	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
September 2-4, 2006	Labor Day Trip	?????
September 13, 2006	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.



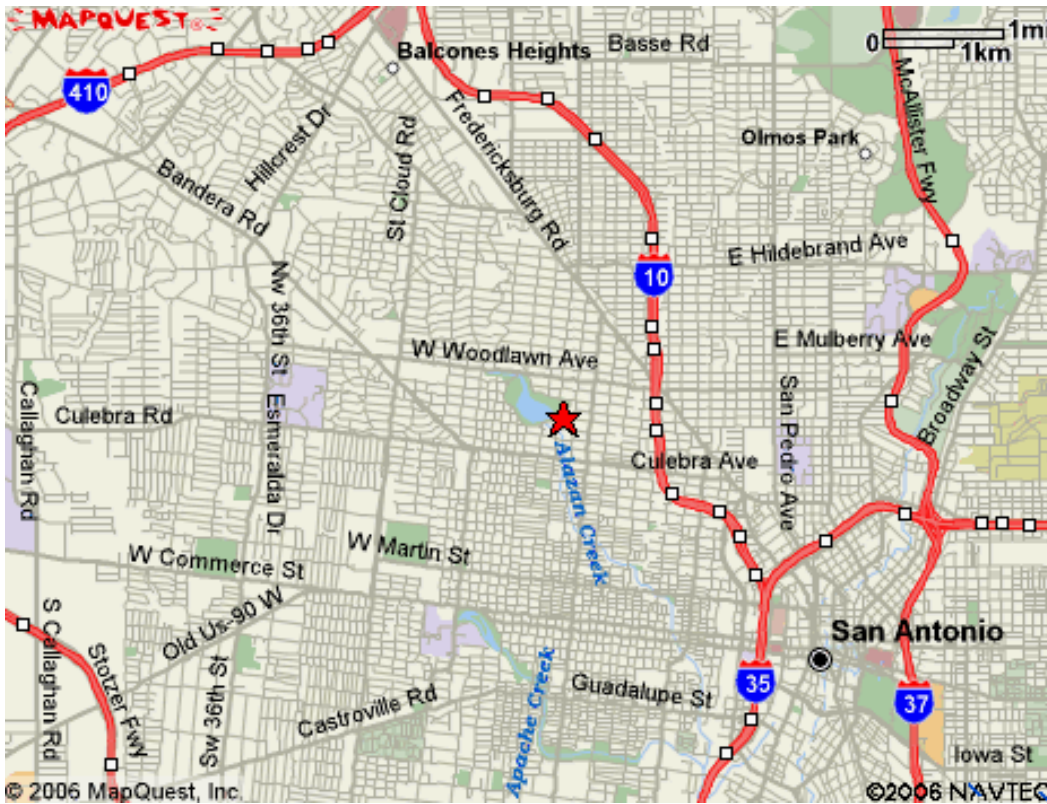
(Earth Day, continued)

The schedule:

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM – Rig canoes and get set up for rides  
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM – Canoe Rides on the Lake  
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM – Hang out at the Earth Day Event.

Direction & Location:

City of San Antonio - Woodlawn Lake, 1103 Cincinnati Street. The lake is just to the west of Zarzamora between Woodlawn and Culebra.



Take I-10 East from Loop 410.

Exit at Fredricksburg/ Woodlawn. Ave.

Stay on the eastbound frontage road and cross Fredericksburg and Woodlawn Ave.

Turn right on Cincinnati Street. Travel about 1 or 2 miles and you will come to Woodlawn Lake.

Come one, come all. The kids have a great time and, as a consequence, we have a great time.

That's it for now, if you are interested in helping or have any questions, give me a call.

Gib Hafernick, 210-492-7517 or Gibguy at Compuserve dot com

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## Hidalgo Falls River Festival April 8-9, 2006

All AlamoCity Rivermen and their guests are invited to participate in the 2006 Hidalgo Falls River Festival. This is a very unique and enjoyable event that can be attended by the entire family. Please refer to the official event website, <http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/hidalgo.html> (festival 2006) for all the details.

No official reservations are required. You can just show up. Festival admission prices are indicated in the website, as well as all other pertinent information.

The official Rivermen gathering site will be the same as last year. Look for us between the Southwest Paddle Sports Outpost and the lower campground, which is close to the rapids section of the River. Please refer to the map on the Hidalgo Falls website. Camping spots are on a first come basis, but the park has ample spots for everyone. No shower facilities are available, but porta-potties are. I plan on bringing my PET toilet, but if you want to use it you have to let me know in advance and contribute to the cost of the bags.

I will plan on preparing a group meal Saturday evening if enough people commit to eating what I prepare. If not, then you are on your own. Sunday morning breakfast will be a “pot luck” or “on your own” affair. Or, meals can be purchased from the snack area at the festival.

Directions to the facility are included in the above website. From San Antonio, head out IH10 East and then make your way to Brenham. From Brenham, follow the directions that are given on the website, as if you were coming from Austin.

Pets are permitted, but they must be maintained and picked up after. It would not be a good idea to tie them up at your campsite if you plan on doing any paddling.

If you plan on arriving Friday evening, an official entrance tent will probably not be set up yet, but the lock on the gate should be open. However, when you do arrive, you are responsible for paying your festival fee.

Also, consider helping Charles Lewis with the downriver race Saturday morning. Participants sometimes need help getting their boats from the registration table to the river and then shuttling participant vehicles back to the campground. Contact him at his email address indicated on the Hidalgo Festival 2006 website.

Please consider making a donation to the Texas River Protection Association. Tom Goynes should have his TRPA tent set up at the festival and will have all the information.

Finally, if you plan on attending, RSVP to me with the following information BY APRIL 1ST:

- Arrival date
- If you want to participate in a group meal and contribute a small fee
- If you want to use the PET toilet

Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Hope to see you there!

Gary Tupa, gltupa at yahoo dot com

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## **Memorial Day Weekend – Going to Seadrift - May 26<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>**

By Gib Hafernack

I am planing on going to Seadrift the Memorial Day weekend of May 26<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup> to do some fishing and just hang out down there. My plan is as follows:

*May 26, Friday*

Leave San Antonio by 6:00 PM with the intentions of eating at Barkets Seafood Restaurant by 9:00 PM and staying at the Seadrifter Inn (361-785-2031) for Friday, Saturday and Sunday night.

*May 27, Saturday*

I intend to launch from Fulghum Camp, paddle out to Shoal Water Bay, and do some fishing on the South side of Shell Bar and just north of Steamboat Island in a cut that the locals refer to as Steamboat Cut. The water depth on my charts shows this at about 5 feet deep. The distance is about 5 to 6 miles of paddling from Fulghum Camp. Eat out once again at Barkets Seafood Restaurant that evening.

*May 28, Sunday*

With any luck we will rig two aluminum canoes together in Catamaran Style with a Polynesian Proa Sail and rudder for some fun during the day. Cook out Friday night with some of it being the fish we have caught from the previous two days. Plus consume some kind citrus based drinks so as not have any incidents of scurvy plus have several glasses of wine for medical purposes to control any possibilities of high blood pressure.

In the evening I will sit by the seawall and imagine which canoes are out in the bay having GPS problems.

*March 18, Saturday*

Do some more fishing and repeat Dinner at Barkets Seafood Restaurant. Hang out on the Seawall and have a couple of glasses of wine afterwards and maybe do some fishing.

In the evening I will sit by the seawall repeat imagining which canoes are out in the bay having GPS problems.

*May 29, Monday*

Do some running in the morning and then hang out on the Seawall departing for San Antonio by 3:00 PM.

Here are some hotels in the area:

- Seadrifter Inn, 361-785-2031
- Bay Motel, 361-785-2226
- Captain's Quarters, 361-785-4982

Hope to see you there.

Gib Hafernack, 210-492-7517, home or Gibguy at Compuserve dot com





## First Inland Paddling Trail Opens in Luling



Luling, Texas - A long-forgotten landmark, a peaceful stretch of river and a 25-acre parcel of highway right-of-way were celebrated today as city and state officials officially opened the Luling Zedler Mill Paddling Trail.

The six-mile route on the San Marcos River between U.S. Hwy 90 and the historic Zedler Mill in Luling is the state's first inland paddling trail and offers canoeists and kayakers a safe, well-mapped route with convenient access and parking.

It may also bring an economic boost to this small town just off IH-10 east of San Antonio and south of Austin. To increase local tourism appeal, Luling residents, the city government and the local economic development corporation have come together to restore and redevelop the historic Zedler Mill (built in 1874) near the city's existing nine-hole golf course.

"We organized a town meeting inviting anybody who wanted to know what was happening at the mill or wanted to be part of it to come out," said Randy Engelke, City of Luling parks and recreation . About 100 people showed for that first meeting and soon there was consensus on what Luling's waterfront would one day look like.

"What came to the top was a museum - whether a working museum or a static display. A restaurant was high on the list," Engelke said. "An amphitheater and open-air pavilion were two of the next top ideas. We're planning on building a stage and a boat dock right on the river. The boat dock can be used for portage around the mill, or to stop and eat."

"This paddling trail is a model public-private partnership we're looking to replicate around the state," said Philip Montgomery, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioner from Dallas, who has taken a personal interest in the concept of paddling trails in Texas. "Having a unique piece of Texas history in the Zedler Mill matched with the natural resources of the San Marcos River gives this first river paddling trail an outstanding mix of tourism features."

Randy Worden, executive manager of business development and resource management for the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, said promoting economic development in the communities within its boundaries is part of the GBRA mission. The river authority put up some of the money for the purchase of the mill property and has assisted the city in obtaining grants. "It's been one of our dreams to establish a series of paddling trails along both the Guadalupe and San Marcos rivers for some time. This project opened the door, and with Parks and Wildlife's desire to have some inland trails, it's just the most opportune time," Worden said.

Local companies will provide canoe and kayak rentals and shuttle services between the paddling trail take-out at the Zedler Mill and the put-in at a new city park on U.S. Hwy. 90 six miles upstream. The city will maintain the put-in and take-out locations (parking is free), and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is providing interpretive materials, signs and promotion of the paddling trail.

"The impetus behind this was just a growing interest in canoeing and kayaking," said Melissa Parker, a TPWD river conservation coordinator. "People wanted to know, 'where can we go? Where can we take the family?'"

Parker admitted that - with more than 3,700 named streams and 15 major rivers - it's not hard to find a place to paddle in Texas. "The thing about this is the community is behind it and there will be some amenities to come at the site," she said. "You'll know what to expect. The traps have been run and you're welcome here."

Bob Spain, a TPWD coastal conservation coordinator and veteran of the Texas Water Safari (the annual endurance paddling race uses this stretch of the San Marcos for part of its route), said one of the greatest benefits of having a designated paddling trail is that it introduces people to Texas' rivers and riparian habitats. "From our perspective, one of the things we think paddling trails do is encourage people to get out there and taste the resource," Spain said. "Most people don't realize how pretty these streams are. It's just one more way to get people out here to enjoy the resource."

TPWD is seeking community partners who are interested in establishing new paddling trails. Additional information and an application is available at [Additional information and an application is available on the department Web site.](#)

On the Net: [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/paddlingtrails](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/paddlingtrails).

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### **REI Free Demo Day in Austin**

On Saturday, April 22, REI will be hosting a free demo day at Quarry Lake at Pure Austin Gym on Braker Lane from 10-3. There'll be two short kayaking classes at the demo. REI plans to charge \$10 per person for a class, and donate ALL of the money to the Austin Paddling Club.

For more information about the event, visit:

[http://www.rei.com/stores/store\\_event\\_detail.jsp?pid=CD47960742F0753D48A9748F491FFB21&template\\_id=14&template\\_family=webDetail&ignore\\_cache=1](http://www.rei.com/stores/store_event_detail.jsp?pid=CD47960742F0753D48A9748F491FFB21&template_id=14&template_family=webDetail&ignore_cache=1)

To sign up for a class, contact REI Customer Service.

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### **Bass Pro Shops Annual Camping & Boating Classic**

On April 22 – 30, Bass Pro Shops in Katy is hosting the Annual Camping & Boating Classic. Reps from Dunken-Lewis will be on hand with their kayaks and accessories. Save on everything from kayaks to life vests. The sale lasts all week, but the fun is on the weekend of April 29 & 30. The kayak pool will be set up for anyone who wants to take a ride and Dunken Lewis will have booths set up with lots of product. Also, you can find out the best places in Texas to camp, learn water safety from TWPD and U.S. Corps of Engineers. For more info call 281-644-2203.

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## Sixth Annual

### Medina River Cleanup May 6, 2006



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Inviting group participation\*

Seeking section sponsors\*

Register: 9-12 a.m. - Bandera City Park

Barbecue: 5-7 p.m.

Trash awards: 6 p.m.

Free t-shirts for all participants

Free camping – May 5 and 6\*

\*For details, visit our web site:

[www.medinariver.net](http://www.medinariver.net)

For questions about the cleanup,  
write: [Brischetto@wireweb.net](mailto:Brischetto@wireweb.net) or  
call Bob Brischetto at 830-612-

3643



## Alamo City Rivermen Mileage Log Sheet

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

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

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

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

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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 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