



# The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCLXII

May 2006

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

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

## Next Meeting

May 10, 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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830-885-5324

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gibguy at compuserve dot com

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Patty Gullick  
Glenn Harvey  
Sherry Hess  
Randy Hohlaus  
Janie Holcombe  
Mariquita Holliday  
Henry Holman  
Nick Lee  
Gary Martin  
Don McCann  
Kevin McNeil  
Jorge Medina

Tom Melee  
John Murray  
Rick O'Brien  
Jerry O'Connor  
Maj. Bruce Parkes  
Denny Peel  
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Tom Rust  
Joe Salvador  
Robert Scharnhorst  
Chris Sherrod  
Steven Shimotsu  
Terrill Smith  
John Speegle  
Lee Tartak  
Kathy Ward  
Bill Webb  
Melissa Whan  
David Ziff

## ***Delinquent Dues*** **(A gentle reminder)**

<sup>†</sup> He promises he'll pay soon. But really, this is at least the second year in a row for this guy.

Call me James Brown, but please, please, please, please pay up. Given the presence of my own name on the list, I understand that sending in the check is easy to overlook. If not James Brown, then call me a preacher for repeatedly asking for money, but we've got to have it, folks.

## Upcoming Events

May 6, 2006	Medina River Cleanup	gltupa at yahoo dot com brischetto at wireweb dot net
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, Seadrift	gibguy at compuserve dot com
June 14, 2006	Monthly Meeting, Steve Daniel, Texas Whitewater DVD	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
July 12, 2006	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
June 17, 2006	Alamo Area Aquatics Association open water swim. Boerne Lake during Berges Fest. 9:00 am. Support paddlecraft needed	Chris Vogeler, alamoChris at stxglobal dot com
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.
October 7-9, 2006	Angelina-Neches Forks (deep East Texas swamp paddling, near Jasper & Woodville)	Ken Bennight, bennight at stic dot net
October 11, 2006	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
November 8, 2006	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
December 2006	Christmas Party in lieu of meeting	??????



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

This is the last newsletter before Gib's Seadrift trip. If you need the details again and no longer have last month's newsletter, it is online. Just go to the home page of our site and click on the "Newsletter" link.

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

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## Earth Day Canoe Rides

The Earth Day canoe rides were a lot of fund, both for paddlers and for the kids who rode. From a quick count of the release forms, we gave about 214 rides.



## **Medina River Clean-Up**

### **May 6, 2006**

The Medina River has been running at about 20 cfs for about the past week. That's lower than average. We had a slight infusion of less than an inch five days ago, but the river is back to its slow-moving pace. We are anticipating a 20-30% chance of rain on Thursday or Friday. I paddled Sections 9 & 10 yesterday in about 3.5 hours. The water is clear and there are numerous fish, fowl and wild-life. I even saw a raccoon fishing.

I wore tennis shoes without socks since there are spots that require dragging the canoe. I think I might have been more comfortable with hiking boots. I never had to carry boat. You will need to make a decision about whether your section is floatable. I think Sections 4-9 are OK, but be prepared to get out and drag your boat through some shallow spots.

Please inform your paddlers who are camping that there are free hot showers at Pioneer River Resorts (formerly Jelleystone). The managers (Linda and Lloyd Randall) want to make hamburgers for all campers on Friday. If you're interested, give them a call at (830) 796-3751 or email them at [pioneerrr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pioneerrr@sbcglobal.net).

There's free camping at their place and in the park both Friday and Saturday. Saturday, we'll have a barbecue meal at 5-7 p.m. with awards for "most outrageous" trash at 6 p.m. and pickin' and singin' at 6:30.

For a detailed schedule and map on your section of the river, visit our web site: [www.medinariver.net](http://www.medinariver.net)

Please arrange for shuttles for those working your section. Everyone should show up at about 9 a.m. on Saturday at the Bandera City Park at the dam.

See you Saturday on the river at the Bandera City Park,

Robert Brischetto  
Medina River Cleanup Coordinator  
180 Jones Beach  
Lakehills, TX 78063  
210-413-7264  
brischetto@wireweb.dor.net

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## **Learning Something New Every Trip**

Ken Bennight

On the afternoon of April 29 and the early morning of April 30, I paddled the old river channel at the back end of Choke Canyon Reservoir. For those not familiar with it, Choke Canyon is south from San Antonio, just to the west of IH 37 near Three Rivers. I put in and took out at the Bracken boat ramp maintained by Parks and Wildlife. It is located off Highway 72, west of that highway's intersection with FM 99.

What did he learn, you ask? Well, when paddling in a swamp-like environment, stick to the outside of bends, the better to see what is ahead and to be as far as possible from what may be resting on the inside bank. When



gliding around a bend, in retrospect far too close to the inside bank, I saw an alligator at the same moment he saw me. He was closer to me than the length of my 14 foot kayak, and he was roughly the same length as the kayak. That is, from my perspective at the time, he was immense.

In a flash, he headed for the water while I mainly shook. Lucky for me I was not between him and the water, because he moved so fast, I had no time to react. I had hoped to take pictures of alligators, but I had envisioned them smaller and farther away. As it was, he was long gone before I gave any thought to the camera.

That encounter aside, the area is a birding and wildlife paradise. I saw far more birds than I could identify, though those I could identify included owls, hawks, herons, egrets, and redwing blackbirds. I saw turtles, water snakes, several deer coming to drink, and even a few turkeys. I adopted the technique of observing what I could after coming around a bend, then building up a head of steam, and gliding silently around the next bend.



Early morning mist.

The lake was at about 216 feet. The maximum capacity is about 220 feet. A few more feet would have opened up even more channels for paddling, but as it was I found many sloughs and twisting channels to explore. The wind was high enough in the afternoon, even back where I was, that a kayak would be preferable to a canoe.

Don't let my surprise encounter discourage you. The area is beautiful and will have water when the Medina and the Guadalupe are hopeless. And the fishing is pretty good. Regrettably for me, there was a bass tournament the weekend I was there. Otherwise I might have seen more gators.



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

## 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