



The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCCLIX

July 2006

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Paddling the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Matagorda Island Planning Meeting – July 27

Next Meeting

July 12, 2006, Hungry Horse
Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near
the intersection with Rhapsody.
6:30 to 9:00.

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830-885-5324

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This is a Planning Meeting to discuss the date & logistics of a Trip to Matagorda Island Wildlife Management Area. (Formerly Matagorda Island State Park)

THE BASIC PLAN:

We would hire several guide boats to carry people, equipment, provisions and kayaks to camp on the Bay Side of the Island. The tentative number round trip is about 50 to 60 dollars per person to shuttle to the island, with an expected date sometime in mid October. It is possible that this trip could be moved to late September if there is public hunt on the island.

To avoid equipment duplication the intent of this meeting would be to determine what should be taken in terms of individual versus community equipment. The planned departure day to the Island would be on a Friday Morning with a return date being on Sunday afternoon.

MEETING LOCATION:

Flying Saucer
11255 Huebner Road
San Antonio, TX 78230

(210) 696-5080

MEETING TIME & DATE

JULY 27, 2006, 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM - Thursday

(Continued, next page)

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|---------------------|--|---|
| 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 | ?????? |



(Matagorda, continued)

DETAILS ABOUT MATAGORDA ISLAND WMA

The Matagorda Island WMA consists of 56,688 acres of offshore barrier island and bayside marshes which is operated as a wildlife management area, jointly owned by the Texas General Land Office and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is cooperatively managed as the Matagorda Island National Wildlife Refuge and State Natural Area.

Texas Parks and Wildlife manages the Area for public use and the Fish and Wildlife Service has the main responsibility for managing the wildlife and habitat on the island.

The island is 38 miles long and varies in width from less than a mile to about four and a half miles. The island supports a wide variety of migratory birds, some 19 state or federally listed threatened or endangered species, a large herd of white-tailed deer, alligators and other wildlife. Activities include salt-water fishing, hunting (in season), birding, picnicking and historical interpretation. A lighthouse dating from 1852 still stands at the north end of the island. Matagorda Island is known for its seclusion and untouched natural beauty.

Web site: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/wma/find_a_wma/list/?id=48

Link to Map: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/wma/images/MIrevised.gif>

A WELL MANAGED BEVERAGE PROGRAM

Note: Due to prevent incidents of scurvy we would need to consume some kind of lime based drink on the island.

Hope to see you there

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

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(National Wildlife Federation Press Release)

Fish and Wildlife Approves New Refuge in Texas

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved the establishment of Neches River National Wildlife Refuge in Anderson and Cherokee counties in Texas. The new refuge will conserve up to 25,281 acres along 38 miles of the Neches River pending the availability of land acquisition funds. All acquisitions or easements will come from willing sellers and neighboring landowners will retain full rights and access to their properties.

The refuge will protect native wildlife species that rely on the high quality, ecologically rich bottomland hardwood forests, wetlands and riparian areas. Future visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy fishing, hunting, wildlife watching, photography, environmental education and interpretation.

In 1985, the Service identified this reach of the Neches River as ecologically important in its Texas Bottomland Hardwood Concept Plan and embarked on an extensive public involvement effort. The proposal for establishing the refuge was introduced in June 2004 with a number of public meetings with local residents. The Service completed an environmental assessment in March 2005 and this was followed by additional information meetings in the local area. The plan received more than 1,600 comments, the majority of which supported the refuge.

"Acquiring the full 25,281 acres may take a long time, but we are excited to begin the process of permanently protecting this ecologically significant habitat," said Service Director Dale Hall. "Most refuges start with a small parcel and are expanded as funding becomes available. We have tremendous support for the refuge from the community. I look forward to working with landowners to begin acquiring parcels as funding and availability dictate."

The Director's approval of refuge boundaries allows the Service to contact landowners to discuss the possible sale of their property for fair market value. The Migratory Bird Conservation Funds (obtained from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps) are a primary source for refuge land acquisitions that benefit migratory birds. Land and Water Conservation Funds, annually appropriated by Congress, also may be used.

Bottomland hardwoods and associated wetlands, such as those found along the North Neches River, are one of the most biologically productive habitats and vital for a wide variety of waterfowl species such as mallards, dabbling and wood ducks. Eastern Texas and Oklahoma bottomland hardwoods represent the only significant breeding habitat of the wood duck and are one of the most important wintering areas for the mallard in the central flyway, or migratory route. Additional species that will be protected within the approved project area are bobcat, river otter, and multiple species of fish, reptiles and amphibians; including the threatened American alligator. (Editor's Note: In my experience, there's darn little that's still threatened about alligators. They have come back big time.)

"The Neches River is very beautiful and necessary to the health of the ecosystem," said Hall. "If you wonder what the refuge will look like in 50 years, simply look at the land as it is right now. You won't see much change -- and in this fast-paced world, that can be a relief."

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Labor Day Trip on Sabine River

Note: This is not an Alamo City Rivermen Trip

The Big Thicket Voyageurs host the Labor Day Weekend Paddle on the Sabine River. This year it will be Sept 2-3-4. Three days and two nights. The trip starts at HWY. 63 bridge (Burkeville, TX) and ends below the confluence of Bayou Anacoco in Louisiana.

The distance of paddling is 28 river miles. 1st day 11 miles, 2nd day 12 miles, and the last day is 5 miles to vehicles. BTV will sell t-shirts, supply a **margarita bar** (donation towards this if you participate) and shuttle. They ask a \$5.00 donation to the Bus Driver. If you need to rent a canoe, Danny Rowzee of Tack-a-Paw Expeditions in Leesville, LA can help. Please contact him soon to reserve one before the paddle date. His numbers are 1-800-256-9337 or 1-337-286-9337. If you have questions, please contact Mary Zaborowski at 713-884-1925 or cell 832-215-4551. Only if the weather is real bad...."Hurricane" will this be cancelled. A few rain showers are welcome to cool off this paddle.

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Edisto River, South Carolina

Ken Bennight

My wife Susan and I just returned from a vacation to South Carolina. We visited several places, including Beaufort and Charleston. Wednesday, June 28, I rented a kayak, paddle, and PFD and paddled the Edisto River near the town of Canadys. The Edisto is a black-water river. Although not murky, the water is the color of tea because of tannins from decaying vegetation.

It was a beautiful trip, which I greatly enjoyed.





The day I paddled, the river was flowing at a good clip, but it presented no hazards, except perhaps for overhanging vegetation. Mercifully I did not experience a problem, but I am told a species of paper wasps builds nests in the overhanging vegetation. Apparently the wasps take offense if you brush against or near a nest.

I rented my equipment from Carolina Heritage Outfitters. They also assisted with the shuttle. The price was fair and the equipment was fine. I recommend using them if you are in the area. And if you are in the area and have the time, you could do a lot worse than a relaxing paddle down the Edisto.



Highway 15, Canadys, South Carolina 29433

843-563-5051

<http://www.canoesc.com/>



And if you have time for an overnight trip, you can stay in one of their treehouses:

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Other Paddling Opportunities From Trip

Susan and I drove to South Carolina, so we are burned out on long car trips for a while, but that allowed me to check out other paddling possibilities.

Traveling IH 10 as we did the length of the Florida panhandle, we came near the Okeefenokee. We turned off the interstate to see the Fish and Wildlife Service visitors' center and pick up literature. One can paddle there for one or several days. If for more than one day, you sleep on wooden platforms, since dry land is scarce. I bought a book describing the trails and what you need for a trip. We also drove across the Suwanee River, which itself is worth a trip to Florida.

Traveling IH 10 across Louisiana takes you across the Atchafalaya Basin, which is huge. I did not measure it, but I would estimate the elevated section of IH 10 is not too short of 20 miles. Paddling opportunities are many, and the Atchafalaya is much closer to Texas than the Okeefenokee. It can be reached in one day on the road.

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: _____

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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