

# The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCLX

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

January 2007

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

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

## Alamo City Rivermen - Twentieth Anniversary Freeze Trip

**Colorado River-island Camping—January 20-21, 2007**

### Next Meeting

January 10, 2007, 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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### **IN THE BEGINNING**

This will be the 20th year that the Alamo City Rivermen has done this event and has it has always been one of our most popular trips. A Freeze Trip was the first trip for the club when it was formed in 1987, and it just keeps on going and going.

### **THE THEME According to Emily Post**

In keeping with Proper Rivermen Etiquette by Emily Post for a *Twentieth* anniversary one should bring china (porcelain). Therefore we are requesting all those attending to bring something that has to do with China or Porcelain or any combination there of.

Note 1: You will need to show it after the dinner around the fire.

Note 2: You are free to liberally use your imaginative efforts to bring something suitable for the occasion. (Editor's Note: Gib did not leap from "China" to "porcelain" inadvertently.)

### **THE TECHNOLOGY**

Once again the Alamo City Rivermen will push the limits of Dutch Oven Technology. However you must commit, no half-hearted "well maybe" or "I'm thinking about it". This trip involves quite a bit of logistics in terms of obtaining enough dutch ovens to feed 50 to 60 people. The rule for this boat ride is a GO or NO GO kind of trip, sort of like YES/NO, ONE/ZERO AND ON/OFF.

(Continued on next page)

## Upcoming Events

December 31, 2006 or January 1, 2007	New Years' Eve/Day Paddle (details will go out on the Yahoo group)	Kathy Cusick, kmcusick at junodot com, 830-885-5324
	New Year's Day Paddle, Comal River	Gary Tupa, gltupa at yahoodot com
January 10, 2007	Monthly Meeting: Program–Forgotten Wilderness Skills Part I (DVD)	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
January 20-21, 2007	Freeze Trip– <b>This is the biggest event of the year, folks. Don't miss it.</b>	Gib Hafernicks, gibguy at compuserve dot com
February 14, 2007	Monthly Meeting (make sure you have roses delivered during the day, so you'll be permitted to come to the meeting)	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00
March 14, 2007	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00
April 11, 2007	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00
May 9, 2007	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00



(Freeze Trip, continued)

The menu is as follows:

Roast Beef Shoulder Clog  
Baked Potatoes with Onions

Green Beans  
French & Sour Dough Bread  
Peach Cobbler  
Cowboy Coffee

Cost for the above is \$ 6.00 per person.

The following is optional:

Hot Wine Grog

A delicious mixture of red wine, brandy, sugar, cloves, cinnamon stick kept simmering over a camp stove. Cost for this item is to bring a bottle of dry red wine or any flavor of brandy. We will provide the other ingredients.

Note: I have been advised by some Rivermen that there was one person from the Dallas Contingent who exhibited *extraordinarily skills beyond that called for in making wine grog and we are requesting his attendance.*

## **A FEW INDIVIDUALS CAN HELP**

I need a few key people to help me on purchasing the following items or details on this trip. For the food items listed below I need you to volunteer to purchase one of the groups and bag it in white trash bags labeling each bag with a permanent marker. The bags need to be partially bagged so that they can easily be packed or placed in a canoe or kayak plus not tied too tight so we can use them for carrying out trash. I will give you the quantities needed based on RSVPs.

The trick is we are waiting till the last minute in the event we have a postponement of the trip. If you would like to help or team up with another person let me know. Hang on to your receipts and or have a rough estimate and you will be reimbursed on the island.

Person No. 1	- Baked Potatoes with Onions	- Label PO
Person No. 2	- Green Beans	- Label GB
Person No. 3	- Sour Dough Bread	- Label SB
Person No. 4	- Peach Cobbler	- Label PC
Person No. 5A & 5B	- Collecting Money	- DON'T LOSE IT
Person No. 6	- Collecting Signature Release Forms & Distribution of maps (At launch Point)	

To help facilitate cooking & serving consider bringing the following:

- Dutch Ovens IF YOU GOT ONE BRING IT & LET ME KNOW
- Fire Starter Stacks IF YOU GOT ONE BRING IT & LET ME KNOW
- Cutting boards & knives
- Large pans or plastic bowls (for holding cut up vegetables)
- Portable tables
- Serving Spoons

## **THE CEREMONIAL PADDLE**

We need someone to bring the Ceremonial Paddle to burn at the first to determine the True Alamo City Rivermen President.

## **CANCELLATION OF TRIP**

If weather conditions are too hazardous for driving on Friday and Saturday, meaning snow and ice on roads and overpasses then **THE TRIP WILL BE CANCELLED. THERE WILL BE NO RAINCHECK DATE.** This decision to postpone will be made Wednesday on January 17 at 7:00 PM. You need to be watching the weather for the Dallas/Austin/Bastrop area and stay in touch with me if weather conditions are deteriorating or unpredictable.

## **SOME DETAILS ON PLAN B**

In the event of inclement weather, such as the possibility of rain on the island but clear launch conditions we will still go. We have one large tarp approximately 30 by 20 feet, to help with a group shelter for our cooking & social area consider bring the following:

Rope, stakes, twine  
Tent Poles or Double Bladed Paddles  
Duct tape  
Extra Tarps

Note: This would be a group survival thing—its what we train for.

Bring your own eating utensils.

## **SOME DETAILS ON PLAN C**

In the event of absolutely miserable conditions, such as continuous rain, extremely strong winds or low water conditions we are planning on doing the cook out and camp out at Pecan Park (512-392-6171) in San Marcos. Tom Goynes has granted the Alamo City Rivermen a Temporary Special Dispensation on the Wine Grog since it involves Acts of God in conjunction with water and wine. The decision to move the location to Pecan Park will be made at FM 969 about 10:30 AM by all paddlers present on January 28 Saturday morning.

Optional Sunday Brunch the next day. Bring your own breakfast and contribute to the community breakfast.

## **THERE IS ALWAYS THE UNEXPECTED: BURN BAN**

If there is a burn ban in the Bastrop Area then the trip will be on the San Marcos River with camping at **Pecan Park Retreat** (512-392-6171) in San Marcos. As of December 23 there have been no burn bans declared for Bastrop County. If a burn ban is implemented it is good for 30 days.

## **WHERE TO MEET AND WHEN**

Meet at Hwy 969 and the Colorado River at 9:00 am, Saturday, January 20. We will unload canoes and then coordinate to run small group vehicular shuttles of 2 to 3 vehicles. Some one will be passing out maps showing where the takeout point in Bastrop. You can run your own shuttle or coordinate with anyone you can find to make the return shuttle back to the put in.

Note: Neal Cook of Cooks Canoe will also be running a shuttle at 10 dollars per person.

**NOTE BE EXTRA CAREFUL ON RUNNING THE SHUTTLE ON HWY 71. THE TRAFFIC HAS BECOME EXTREMELY HEAVY AND CONGESTED IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. TAKE YOUR TIME BUT TRY NOT TO WASTE TIME. UNLOAD YOUR BOAT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND THEN MOVE OUT OF THE LAUNCH AREA. HINT SOME PEOPLE ACTUALLY GET THERE AROUND 8:00 AM.**

Someone will be collecting the money at the put in while we are running the shuttles, otherwise you can pay your money on the island.

When all dutch ovens & cooking ingredients are evenly loaded among the canoes we will depart. I would like to launch around 11:00 AM. Plan on stopping and having a short lunch break at 12:00 PM. We should arrive at the island between 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Once we arrive at the Island I need people to help me with the following critical items.

1. IMMEDIATELY BRING YOUR DUTCH OVENS, DUTCH OVEN STACKS AND FOOD ITEMS TO THE COOKING AREA SO WE CAN START TO GET DINNER READY, THEN SET UP YOUR TENT.

2. We need to get a fire going so as to have a heat source for browning the meat. THIS IS WHY WE NEED THE STACKS.

3. We need cutters to help with cutting up vegetables and making up dishes for each dutch oven. THE SOONER IT GETS CUT AND COOKING, THE SOONER WE EAT.

4. We need to get the wine grog heated up and on line as it is very critical for morale purposes. THE SOONER IT IS SOONER, THEN IT WILL SEEM SOONER.

### **AND NOW FOR THE NO-SHOWS**

Every year I have a few no shows, when this happens with just one or two people it is not too much of an issue, but when its starts getting to be parties of 4 or more it can be a real head ache. For those individuals who have come year after year then your verbal RSVP is ok, but if you are in the latter group of people that I know nothing about or in that exclusive circle of no shows that I may require a full non-refundable deposit on your total party.

Your active and positive participation is what always makes this a very different and fun trip.

For further info contact Gib Hafernick @ 210-492-7517 or Gibguy at Compuserve dot com

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### **Annual Mileage Estimates (Reprise)**

If you kept a mileage log for the year, please turn it in at the January meeting or, if you can't attend, email to me (klbennight at yahoo dot com). If you didn't keep a log, we'll accept good faith estimates. Please hand in your estimates at the January meeting or email them to me. If no one hands in a log or an estimate, the trophy will go to me, because I'll hand one in for, say, 25 or 30 miles. You can't let me get the trophy with that, so do something about it!

Ken Bennight

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## **35th Annual Buffalo Bayou Regatta Saturday, March 24, 2007**

Rescheduled Spring 2007 Date

Test your endurance in Texas' largest kayak and canoe race! Whether you paddle competitively or just for fun, the Buffalo Bayou Regatta is a great way to see Houston from a whole new angle. Join in the fun at the 35th annual 15-mile canoe and kayak race through the heart of our city.

Prizes for kayakers, canoers, Corporate Cup, Scout Challenge Cup and Styrofoam Cup winners!

Not a paddler? Catch the fun and cheer on the racers at the at the Finish Line! Activities will include music, an icehouse with food and drinks and local Outdoor Organization booths.

### Regatta Time-Line

Registration and Check-in 7:30-8:45am  
9am Race Starts 7700 San Felipe near Voss

Regatta Finish Line Festivities 10am-2pm  
Sabine-to-Bagby Park, adjacent to Sabine Street Bridge (note: new finish line location)

Awards Ceremony 12:30pm Sesquicentennial Park

For more information, please contact Trudi Smith at 713.752.0314 or tsmith at buffalobayou dot org.

For volunteer information, contact Bethany Foshee at 713-752-0314 or bfoshee at buffalobayou dot org.

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### **New Houston Canoe Park**

(From Houston Chronicle, via Louis Aulbach)

By BETH KUHLES Chronicle Correspondent

A new piece recently was added to the Spring Creek Greenway project that will provide the first public canoe and kayak access point from Montgomery County beginning in March.

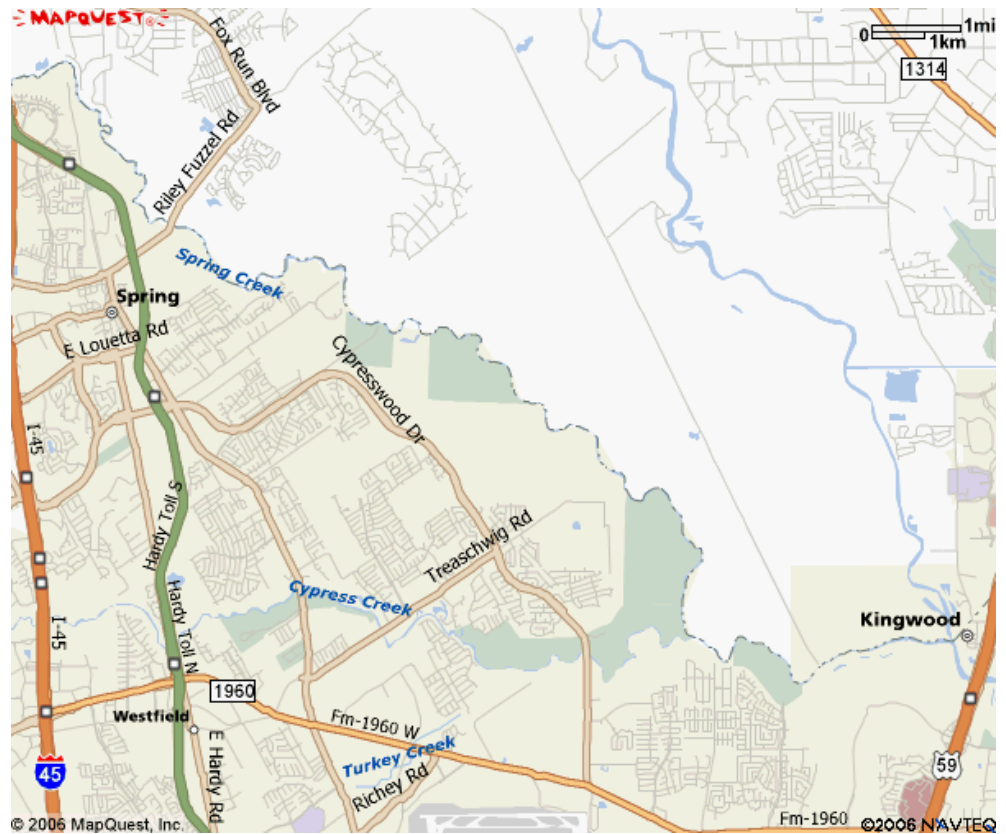
In April 2005, Montgomery County purchased a 6,869-acre tract at the site of the old Riley Fuzzel bridge in Spring and will open it as a public preserve March 17. It is the latest addition to the Spring Creek Greenway project, a cooperative effort between Harris and Montgomery counties to build the largest park system in the area. The 8,000- to 12,000-acre park would stretch from FM 2978 in Spring to U.S. 59 in Humble.

The tract will provide a new launch site to Spring Creek and offer three canoe and kayaking routes, ranging from three hours to all day. Boats can leisurely float down calm waters to Pundt Park, the Jesse H. Jones Nature Center or the U.S. 59 bridge. "This is the best creek in the area," said Jennifer Lorenz, executive

director of Legacy Land Trust, an agency dedicated to preserving natural areas. "It is gorgeous with a lot of pretty areas to look at. It also offers white sand beaches along the creek that nobody knows about."

### *Property Purchase*

The property recently was purchased by Montgomery County and includes a conservation easement, an agreement with Legacy Land Trust to keep the site in its natural state indefinitely. This area will be particularly valuable as a flood buffer zone as it includes evidence of the recent flooding, which spilled the creek 21 feet over its banks. "That portion will be in South County," said Precinct 3 Commissioner Ed Chance, who is spearheading the Spring Creek project for Montgomery County. "It is another method to properly preserve the site for the long haul."



The site will be open to the public, but only can be accessed by foot or bicycle. It had been a popular location for all-terrain vehicles, but they will no longer be allowed on the site. Dogs also are not permitted on the preserve, because they would disturb the wildlife that lives there. The tract also has been used for illegal dumping, and the Montgomery County Beautification Association plans a major cleanup this winter before the preserve officially opens.

### *Haven for Wildlife*

During a recent survey of the property, Legacy Land Trust found large deer and bobcat tracks at the site. They also inventoried more than 30 species of native trees and bushes, including a large, brilliant red maple tree on the banks of the creek and hundreds of little brown mushrooms growing on fallen logs. "The beautiful park tract, with its large river birches, will be a nice addition to the Spring Creek Greenway," said Robert Collins, special counsel in Precinct 3, who has been negotiating the Spring Creek tracts. One of the most unique finds was the Carolina snailseed vine, Lorenz said. When squeezed between the fingers, the translucent berries reveal a perfect, hard, shell-like seed that looks like a snail. The site also is an important stop-over and wintering ground for migrating birds, such as waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds.

### *Opening Set*

The new park is expected to open March 17, and canoeists are encouraged to participate in the event, which will give inner city Houston students their first boat ride on the creek. The site will feature rails to guide canoes to

the river along with a large, colorful map of the water trails, complements of a grant from outdoor equipment outfitter REI.

The tract also is expected to expand when the county purchases 45 adjacent acres in two weeks. The Old Riley Fuzzel Preserve sits across the creek from the Peckinpaugh Preserve, which is undergoing a \$10,000 renovation to repair damage by ATVs. That facility is expected to open later in the spring. The new tract provides easy access to Spring Creek and nearby off-site parking is available.





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

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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