



The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCCCLXXII

January 2008

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Padding the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Drat! Burn Ban

Next Meeting

January 9, 2008, Hungry Horse
Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near
the intersection with Rhapsody.
6:30 to 9:00.

-o0o-

Club Officers

Temporary President
Gig Hafernick
gibguy76 at yahoo dot com

Vice President Kathy Cusick
kmcusick at junos dot com

Sec./Treas. Marie Searight
mariejs at satx dot rr dot com
830-625-0604

Newsletter Mailings
Marie Searight
mariejs at satx dot rr dot com
830-625-0604

Editor Kenneth Bennight
klbennight at yahoo dot com
210-826-7071
(looking for a replacement editor)

Bastrop County has instituted a burn ban, necessitating a change of location for the Freeze Trip.

-o0o-

Alamo City Rivermen - Twentieth Anniversary Freeze Trip Camping at Pecan Park Retreat, January 19-20, 2008

In the Beginning

This will be the 21th year that the Alamo City Rivermen have done this event, and it has always been one of our most popular trips. The Freeze Trip was the first club trip when the club formed in 1987 and it just keeps on going and going.

How about a Little Virtual Fire Scarecrow?

Bastrop County has implemented a burn ban so we will move the event to Pecan Park Retreat Campground (512-392-6171) in San Marcos. Here is a link to the Campground:
<http://www.pecanparkretreat.com/sanmarcos.html>

We are going to attempt repeat what we did 2 years ago when we had a similar Burn Ban in Bastrop. We are going to create a **virtual bonfire of searing heat** at Pecan Park Retreat. We are hoping once again to get Tom Goynes to set up his Multi-Media Projector that is capable of accepting either DVD or VHS.

We are seeking all manner of video footage that shows SEARING FIRES. We want a minimum amount of dialog other than perhaps something along the lines "LOOK OUT IT IS GOING TO BLOW". Acceptable footage would be Forrest & grass fires, Building fires, Fire
(Continued next page)

Upcoming Events

January 9, 2008	Monthly Meet & Greet	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00
January 19-20, 2008	Freeze Trip, Pecan Park, San Marcos	Gib Hafernack, gibguy76 at yahoo dot com
February 13, 2008	Monthly Meet & Greet	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00
March 12, 2008	Monthly Meet & Greet	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00
April 2008	Hidalgo Falls	Gib Hafernack, gibguy76 at yahoo dot com
April 9, 2008	Monthly Meet & Greet	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00
April 2008	Earth Day, Woodlawn Lake??	
May 11-16, 2008	Buffalo River, Arkansas	George Lackey, 15maggie15 at suddenlink dot net, 325-944-0175.
May 14, 2008	Monthly Meet & Greet	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00
June 2-7, 2008	Green River, Desolation and Gray Canyons, Utah	George Lackey, 15maggie15 at suddenlink dot net, 325-944-0175.
July 28-August 9, 2008	Big Salmon and Yukon Rivers in the Yukon	George Lackey, 15maggie15 at suddenlink dot net, 325-944-0175.



(Freeze Trip, continued)

Training videos, Volcano & Lava Eruptions, Un-manned Rocket launches (either successful or catastrophic), Red Adair Oil Well fires, etc, etc, etc. .I think you should get the picture by now. We are presently looking for the Video "Fires of Kuwait" which was a popular hit.

The Technology (with some care)

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.

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.

Hot Wine Grog

Hot wine grog is optional. It is 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 brand. We will provide the other ingredients.

Note 1: 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.

Note 2: Tom Goynes has granted the Rivermen a Special Dispensation on the Grog as this involves Water and Wine in Conjunction with the Burning Bush.

A Few Individuals Can Help

I need a few key people to help me on purchasing the following items or detail's 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'VE GOT ONE, BRING IT & LET ME KNOW
Fire Starter Stacks IF YOU'VE 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 Riveren President.

The Camping Situation

Tom Goynes as told me he will charge Rivermen Participants and there guest youth group rates. Which will be about 10 dollars per person for those individuals camping on Saturday and Sunday. You need to call Pecan Park Retreat (512-392-6171) and reserve a site or camp in the overflow area. I will probably set up my tent and trailer by the pavillion

Float - Where to Meet and When

Meet at the Pecan Park Retreat Pavillion on Saturday March 19 at 10:00 am to informally decide what section of the San Marcos to do and to work out arrangements for shuttles. I will most likely do the section from Rio Vista Dam to **Pecan Park Retreat**, a distance of about 6 miles. You even have the option of doing nothing and just hanging out on the campground.

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 16 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.

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 then 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.

Gib Hafernack, 210-492-7517 or Gibguy76 at Yahoo dot com

-o0o-

Passport Required for Paddling the Rio Grande?

Louis posted this email sequence to CanoeTX:

Here is the latest news regarding the proposed requirement that persons who canoe the Rio Grande and coastal waterways be required to carry their passports with them. As the note says, there is a reprieve for such a requirement at this time, although we are watching the situation closely. I thought you might like to see the report from Mike Long at Desert Sports in Terlingua and Greg Hennington of Far Flung Outdoor Center in Terlingua. Louis

Below is brand new information. I got this from Greg Hennington, FFOC. We have been unsure for some time as to what the status of the Rio would be with the new passport regulations. Initially the passport requirements were to go into effect on Jan. 1, 2008, they extended it until July 1, 2008. Now it looks like they are extending the general requirement for passports until 2009. The 2nd part of Greg's message is saying that there is a way for DHS to allow for an "administrative relief" to grant an exception to the passport requirement for US citizens. We (through America Outdoors and others) are trying to get a written exemption for river trips on the Rio Grande. Might not hurt to get the word out to the private boating crowd. This law wouldn't just affect the Mexican boarder, it could potentially affect some coastal waters as well as our northern boarder. You currently have to fill in a Customs form when you get your permit from the park. Any in your group that are not US citizens DO need to have their passports. Mike

"This is an update to the passport issue. Congress passed and the President signed into law the Ominbus bill before they went on Christmas break. In the Homeland Security section of that bill, provisions were made to extend the Western Initiative passport issue until 2009. This gives us a second piece of relief (albeit a temporary one) on the passport problem. For those you who are not aware, the Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 made provisions for the Department of Homeland Security to provide for administrative relief to border states in dealing with issues related to cross border travel. Congressman Rodriguez's office has confirmed our reading of the law and is working with DHS to get a written plan or interpretation of how they will deal with river trips on the Rio Grande. We expect this to be forthcoming soon.

-o0o-

Desolation and Gray Canyons Trip On Utah's Green River June 2-7, 2008

Join us for a six-day, 84-mile trip through Utah's spectacularly beautiful Desolation and Gray Canyons on the Green River. We have been able to obtain one of the rare and highly coveted BLM private-party permits for this river and have some space available for experienced boaters. Rafters will be given preference, but canoeists and kayakers who are comfortable paddling loaded boats in Class III water will be given consideration.

For more information contact George Lackey by email at 15maggie15 at suddenlink dot net or by phone at 325-944-0175.

-o0o-

Yukon Territory Wilderness Canoeing Adventure
July 28 – August 9, 2008

Experience the magic and mystery of Canada's Yukon Territory canoeing the entire 158-mile length of the Big Salmon River and an additional 70 miles of the mighty Yukon River this summer! Our trip will originate in a series of three lakes located in the heart of the Big Salmon Mountains northeast of Whitehorse. We will paddle through the lakes and their small interconnecting streams on down the Big Salmon River all the way to its confluence with the Yukon River. From there we will proceed on the Yukon River to the small town of Carmacks which is situated at 62 degrees north latitude. The rivers are easy to run, the scenery is spectacular, and there is an abundance of wildlife to see.

For this unguided adventure we will need at least six paddlers who have experience on multi-day river trips. We will fly by jet to Whitehorse and spend one day there renting our canoes and shopping for food and last minute provisions. The following day we will be transported via the South Canol Road to Quiet Lake where we will begin our adventure. We plan to be on the river for twelve or thirteen days and we will be transported back to Whitehorse by vehicle on the Klondike Highway.

This will be an unforgettable trip that will fill you with memories that you'll carry with you for the rest of your life. Contact George Lackey by phone in San Angelo at 325-944-0175 or by email at 15maggie15 at suddenlink dot net for additional information.

-o0o-

Olympic Whitewater Slalom - United States Team Trials
Southwest Regional Qualifier
February 17th, 2008 (Sunday)

Rio Vista Whitewater Park - San Marcos, Texas

On Sunday February 17th, 2008 top ranked expert whitewater racers will converge on Central Texas... to the newly constructed Rio Vista Whitewater Slalom Park in San Marcos, TX to begin their run for a spot on the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics USA Canoe and Kayak Whitewater Slalom Team.

The Southwest Regional Qualifier is a United States Canoe/Kayak Team sanctioned event. This race is the first of several qualifying races being held around the country in this Olympic year.

The TOP THREE finishers in each of the four Championship categories (K1, K1W, C-1, and C-2) will go on to compete in the Olympic Whitewater Slalom Team Trials Finals April 26-28th in Charlotte, North Carolina.

More information at:

<http://web.mac.com/jamesgstuart/iWeb/Site%209/Olympic%20WW%20Slalom%20Team%20Trials.html>

-o0o-

Winter on the Upper Guad, Sunday, December 30th, 2007

By Kathy Cusick

With absolutely clear, beautiful weather, and a temperature of 68°, we decided to take a quick paddle on the Upper Guad from Hwy 311 to Rebecca Crossing on Sunday afternoon. The water level was 201 cfs on the Spring Branch gauge. Kevin and I had a neighbor who had been asking to go out with us, and we had a couple friends join us as well for this last minute paddle. We ran 2OC-2s and an OC-1.

The Upper Guad is absolutely crystal clear during winter months, which makes it a very different river than you see in the summer. You can actually see the schools of bass, gar, carp and catfish. Some of these were quite LARGE. The bottom of the river of this section is also clean, lacking the beer cans and other tubing debris one might expect. Add to that the fact that you have the entire river to yourself, and it is a great day. We did not see anyone along the river, except for some folks enjoying their riverside cabin just above Rust Falls.

The entire section was runnable. We took the left channel at Mueller Falls after scouting all options from the gravel bar. We probably could have run the right pour over if we had chosen to. The shoals that follow that are runnable on the right, although you might have to scoot a bigger boat over the algae coated bottom for a foot or so. The “jug-handle” rapid just before the long pool was runnable either just left of center, or through the left jug-handle. We ran Rust falls through the left channel, entering between the 2 big trees at the start of the rapid rather than on the far left at the top. We did have to scoot at the very bottom of that left channel, but not really portage. The very last rapid on the bend before Rebecca Crossing was also completely runnable on the right channel. It was sad to see the take-out.

I just wanted to print this so that folks do not forget that winter in south central Texas is a great time to paddle. Although we have not had rain, we still have water levels that provide a great day on the river. Kevin and I ran this same section on Thanksgiving 2006, when the Spring Branch gauge was 35 cfs. Although we took kayaks that do not draw as much water as a tandem canoe, the only time we had to get out of the boats was at Rust Falls, where we only walked about 10 steps to get our boats down the ledge and back into them. We were out walking and exploring the entire ledge anyway, so it was kind of nice. The limestone is like Swiss cheese in places along that ledge.

-o0o-

Buffalo River Trip May 11-16, 2008

Plan ahead and mark your calendar so you can paddle the Buffalo River, America’s first National River, located in the scenic Ozark Mountains of northwestern Arkansas. This will be a 5-day paddling and river camping trip.

The Buffalo is one of the most beautiful rivers in the United States and is suitable for canoeists and kayakers who have some experience on flowing water and have done some camping. A deposit and liability waiver are required.

For details call George Lackey at 325-944-0175 or email him at 15maggie15 at suddenlink dot net.



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