



The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCLXXX

September 2008

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Padding the fine line between geek and Bubba.

TPW "Wilbarger" Paddling Trail Launch & 40th Annual USCA Aluminum Nationals

September 26, 27 & 28, with Camping at LCRA Lake Bastrop

Next Meeting

September 10, 2008, Hungry
Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue,
near the intersection with
Rhapsody. **7:00 to 9:00.**

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(looking for new editor)

The Alamo City Rivermen will participate at the Nature Fest in Bastrop on September 26, 27 & 28, which will include the launch of the second TPW trail - the "Wilbarger Paddling Trail" from Hwy. 969 to Fisherman's Park on the Colorado River (the Freeze Trip route).

In addition the US Canoe Association and the Texas Canoe Race Association will be hosting the 40th Annual Aluminum National canoe race in Texas. That race will be the Wilbarger Paddling Trail on Saturday and Sunday.

CAMPING

I have reserved two Campsites on LCRA Lake Bastrop South shore. Each site holds eight people, with an unlimited number of tents to be placed. If you bring a dog, it must be on a leash, and you must have its vaccination papers.

FRIDAY: Friday September 26, 2008

I'll go up Friday evening to try to get two sites together on the Lake. If someone could get there earlier that would help immensely.

SATURDAY: September 27, 2008

I plan to do the 14 mile canoe race, which starts at 10:00 am. Then I'll hang out at the Nature Fest. Depending upon what is going on and how expensive the shuttle is, I may do a float from Bastrop Fisherman's Park to Tahitian Village, a distance of about 6 miles after the race.

(continued on next page)

Upcoming Events

September 10, 2008	Monthly Meet & Greet	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 7:00 to 9:00
September 23, 2008	Tuesday Bridge Club, SARA boat ramp on Guenther Street	Randy Hohlaus, hohlaus at prodigy dot net
September 26-28, 2008	Bastrop Nature Fest on the Colorado Park information for camping Aluminum Canoe Races	gibguy76 at yahoo dot com
November 1, 2008	Goliad Canoe Trail Flotilla, San Antonio River. Trail Development Plan	jsalv_65 at yahoo dot com
October 3-5, 2008	“Come and Take It” Festival, Lake Wood, near Gonzales	gibguy76 at yahoo dot com
October 8, 2008	Monthly Meet & Greet	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 7:00 to 9:00
November 12, 2008	Monthly Meet & Greet	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 7:00 to 9:00
November 28 to November 30, 2008	Turkey Trot, Bastrop to Smithville, island camping	Randy Hohlaus, hohlaus at prodigy dot net
December Holiday Party????		



(Bastrop, continued)

Nature Fest Events:

There are all a number of special events going on and I have attempted to include some of them:

9:00 am – 3:00 pm - \$20 per person - El Camino Real Float Trips(for those without a canoe)

9:00 am – 3:30 pm - Newbie’s Float Trips

9:00 am – 4:00 pm Free - Nonprofit Environmental Booths

9:00 am – 4:00 pm - Retail Booths

9:00 am – 4:00 pm - KIDS GAMES & CONTESTS

10:00 am – 3:00 pm - Free - Fishing Clinic

10:00 am – 4:00 pm – Free - Archery

Other events - Walks in the Woods (Take a nature walk with Texas Master Naturalists, and Audubon bird watchers), **Live Animals** (Snakes, lizards, alligators, bugs and wiggly things)

4:00 until 8:00 p.m. or later - **AFTER NATUREFEST “Meet Me on Main Street”** Restaurant/Live Music/Shopping Crawl Along Main Street & Chestnut

USCA 40th Aluminum National Canoe Races

8:00 am - Registration

10:00 am - Race Starts @ Hwy 969 Bridge Racing the "Wilbarger" Trail Finish Line - Fisherman's Park

11:00 am – Noon: "Wilbarger" Paddling Trail Launch & Ribbon Cutting

1:30 PM - Awards - Main Stage

3:00 pm - Racing Clinic

7:30 pm – Banquet - An evening banquet featuring guest speaker, athlete & author Peter Heed. “The Magic of Canoe Racing”

4:00 until 8:00 p.m. or later - AFTER NATUREFEST “Meet Me on Main Street”

SUNDAY: September 28, 2008

Hang out on the Lake and then pack up and return to San Antonio.

Here are the respective Links:

Bastrop Nature Fest on the Colorado

<http://environmental-stewardship.org/NatureFestEvents.aspx>

LCRA - South Shore Park on Lake Bastrop:

http://www.lcra.org/parks/developed_parks/southshore.html

Aluminum Canoe Marathon Championships

<http://2008uscaaluminumcanoechampionship.com/>

That's it for now.

Gib Hafernack,

210-492-7517 or Gibguy76 at Yahoo dot com

Bridge Club Better than Washing Your Car

When it comes to summoning rain, that is. After three reschedules due to rain, the ACR Happy Hour Bridge Club finally took off in fine fashion August 26. We had over a dozen boats on the water. Canoes, kayaks, solos, tandems, sit-ons and a really nice home built wooden Chesapeake. The thunderheads looming on the horizon squelched the heat, the water quality was as good as it gets in the San Antonio (a nice green), and the landscaped banks as lush as ever, ducks, green herons, great egrets hanging out with us enjoying the evening. It made for a great decompression after a long day. The flow rate at Mitchell Street was at 49 cfs, and there was water flowing over two of the gates at Blue Star, so though it looked flat, I guess we really were on a flowing river!





This time I tried to take in the actual waterway a little more. Dale Bransford pointed out the hitching rings on the walls, which once held ropes to give people something to hold onto if they fell in. No ropes now, no people in the water, either. I also counted bridges, which I never really noticed before. There are five that you can actually float under, six if you count Durango street bridge as two because each way is a separate bridge structure, and seven if you count Nueva Street bridge, which you can't really go under, but at least it's there. So I guess the name is pretty accurate. The other unique thing is that the north end points to a great view of the Tower Life Building. The south end, to the Pioneer Flour Mill Tower. And about two thirds of the way down, you can see the Tower of the Americas to the side. So this could be called the Tower Club, but the Bridges win, seven

to two. Afterwards, we retreated to Blue Star for a little carbo reloading to contemplate this great mystery.

We'll plan the next one in September, and I have been promised another club permit for it so put it on your calendar, right now planned for Tuesday, September 27. It should be particularly pleasant that time of year. It will likely be the last one for season, so don't miss it.

Randy Hohlaus

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**National Public Lands Day
September 27th
Braunig Lake Park**

The San Antonio River Authority is hosting a National Public Lands Day event on September 27th at Braunig Lake Park , from 8:00 AM to 12 Noon. Your help in spreading the word to the members of the Alamo City Rivermen would be greatly appreciated. Although this event occurs the same weekend as one of your club trips, perhaps there are paddlers who can't make that trip but are interested in this opportunity.

The event focus is for paddlers to collect litter from their kayaks and canoes along the park's shoreline. All paddlers will receive free 24-hour admission to the park, and a mesh bag will be provided in which to collect the litter. This NPL Day is a nationwide activity geared toward stewardship of public lands and waterways across the country. More about National Public Lands Day can be found at www.publiclandsday.org. Our staff contact is Glenda Gaona , Visitor Use Supervisor, 302 4273.

We hope your organization can help make Braunig Lake Park and better place to have a safe, clean, and enjoyable experience.

Dale Bransford, Park Services Manager
San Antonio River Authority
dbransford at sara-tx dot org 210 302 3661 or 866 345 7272

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Tuesday Bridge Club Happy Hour Float for September - Downtown San Antonio

We'll do one more Bridge Club this year, so everyone come out and enjoy. Put the boat on top of the car, and join us after work for a happy hour urban river run on the San Antonio River, on Tuesday, September 23. I will have a club permit again from the City to float the river in canoes and kayaks on the stretch from Nueva to Alamo Street. This is not the river channel where the barges are, but is a quiet and prettily landscaped flat water stretch that runs through King William and the HEB headquarters area. Some say it's almost a mile in length. It makes for a pleasant evening paddle, or you can turn it into a workout if you want. We might even do a little fun club race to cap it off, so bring your graphites!

After the float, we will head over to Blue Star Brewery to carbo up with some fine riparian refreshments on the deck, catch some food, and maybe a little of the big band sound they have every Tuesday night. But you know, it's pretty tough to leave the deck once you're on it.

The put-in is at the Guenther Street bridge at the San Antonio River Authority headquarters building. There is parking nearby, and a ramp where you can carry your boat to the water. Our permit is from 5:30pm to 7:30, mas o menos. I will have the permit, if you are challenged by the Park Police. But the rule is that I notify them ahead of time.

The permit allows a limited number of boats to float this stretch, so let me know if you are coming so I can keep a boat count. And so in the event of flood warning conditions, this float will be canceled, also send me a phone number.

The name comes from the fact the trip goes from bridge to bridge, I guess that's good enough for me. But I'm adding Happy Hour to it, because that is what it will be, anytime we get on the water.

Randy Hohlaus, 210/845-2033
hohlaus at kellmunoz dot com

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ELF (Extremely Low Flow) Run August 23, 2008 Upper Guadalupe from Hwy 311 to Rebecca Creek Road Crossing By Kathy Cusick and Kevin Longin

It has been a very long time since we have had enough water to paddle the Upper Guad. Over the past few weeks we have had just a little over 4" of rain at our place in Spring Branch, which is about 4 miles north of the Guad at Hwy 281. Since this started out with no more than 1/4" - 1/2" at a time, the ground was able to soften up, and even when we got 2-1/4" at once, everything soaked in and there was basically no run-off. Also, just above the Spring Branch gauge, there are recharge holes in the river into the Trinity Aquifer, so not everything that comes down from above makes it that far. The section between 281 and 311 has gone absolutely dry in 1999 and 2000.

All that said, the Spring Branch gauge was running 88cfs on Saturday, the 23rd of August, 2008, and we decided to make a short run near home. This is typically my favorite local section of the river. We have run it at 35cfs, and to be honest, the 88cfs was not a whole lot different. We ran this in our lowest draw boats, Dagger Blackwater

kayaks. I would not recommend this for a royalex canoe, as it would take a lot of hide off of the boat. “Tupperware” is definitely the way to make an ELF run, since “scooting” is necessary in more than a handful of spots.

Each of the rapids had a place to run them, as this river section channels nicely. You may have to boat scout for that channel, though. The channels are not necessarily in the same place you would normally run that section. The first shoal just below the 311 bridge is run on the far left, rather than the far right, and is completely floatable. After the long pool at the Weidner Ranch, there is another shoal, which is nice on the right. Mueller Falls is runnable in both the far left channel, as well as at the pour over on the right. The next few shoals are runnable just left of center. Rust Falls is runnable on the far right, just dropping over the 2 little lips on the ridge. One could also have taken the left channel, but that would most likely have involved getting out of the boats in a few spots to walk a short distance. We took up the challenge to try to paddle the whole run without having to get out and pull our boats downstream, even at this low level, so we went where the water was.

We did make the whole run without having to get out, but we did choose to run the two routes at Mueller Falls. We ran the right pour over first, and then dragged the boats back up the ledge to run the left channel as well. With the low water, there is a ledge in the middle of the river that makes it easy to get out of your boats. The ledge area above the drop almost always makes a nice lunch spot but we did not stop, as we were just making a quick afternoon run. We also chose to get out at Rust Falls to walk around to examine the interesting limestone formations that had been exposed due to the low water level. It took about 2-1/2 hours to leisurely run this section, not counting the shuttle.

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Google Earth as a Tool for Paddlers

Many of you are aware of Google Earth and have used it. For those who don't know about it, it is a free download from Google that lets you see satellite imagery of the entire world. Some places have higher resolution than others, of course. The resolution in the U.S. is usually good enough to follow along a river, looking for islands and access points. I have used it for that.

After a while, I noticed that other users had uploaded personal photographs. When searching for a place, Timbuktu, for example, you can see street scenes and other features of interest. Being over 17 years old, it took me a while to figure out how to upload my own photos, but I eventually did so. That led me to realize how paddlers could use Google Earth to their great advantage.

Paddlers can take pictures of river crossings, letting other Google Earth users know how good or poor the access is at any given point. Over time, as the pictures accumulate, it should be possible to see at your computer what we now may have to drive half way across the state to learn about.

I intend to take such pictures as the occasion arises, and I encourage others to do so as well. You may post them yourself (Google does review and reject some pictures). If you prefer, you can send pictures to me, telling me where they were taken, and I will post them for you.

Give it some thought.
Ken Bennight

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The Come & Take It Festival, October 3, 4 & 5 With Camping at Lake Wood Recreational Area

The Come & Take It Festival is held each year on the first full weekend in October - Oct. 3, 4 and 5, 2008 in Gonzales Texas on the Guadalupe River. Join us as we commemorate the firing of the first shot for Texas independence. There is a cannon-firing ceremony held each Oct. 2, to mark the date of the actual battle, which was Oct. 2, 1835. A battle re-enactment is held each year at Gonzales Pioneer Village Living History Center. Click on 'Come & Take It' to see a schedule of events.

THE PLAN:

October 3 – Friday

I am planning on going Friday evening with the intention of setting up camp at Lake Wood Recreational Area. I expect to arrive sometime between 6 to 7 o'clock PM and will eat dinner there. It is my intention to try to get two concrete tables that are together close to the RV's and in the middle of the park grounds. These tables are in the shade and near the playground.

October 4 – Saturday

I intend on doing the canoe race from Lake Wood to Gonzales, a distance of about 12 miles. Then hang out at the Come and Take it Festival. Lake Wood is actually a small lake that pretty nice to paddle around on with several large islands. While there is some motor boat traffic it is minimal. The birding around those islands may be pretty good at this time of year.

7:45 a.m. - 5K Walk - Independence Park

8:00 a.m. - 5K Run - Independence Park

8:30 a.m. - Old Jail Museum opens

9 a.m. - Ceremony at Texas Heroes Square by Masonic Lodge, with Masonic Grand Master Tom Griffin as special guest

10 a.m. - The Come & Take It Canoe Race - Lake Wood to U.S. 183 Bridge south of town

10 a.m. - Noon,

1 to 5 p.m. - Memorial Museum & Eggleston House open

10:30 a.m. - Come & Take It Parade begins

Noon - Pride of Texas Carnival opens. Booths open, celebration continues on historic downtown squares - no grounds fees

12:30 p.m. - Gonzales: The Beginning - Historical Program at the Gonzales County Courthouse

1 p.m. - Pioneer Village opens U.S .183 N. (admission)

1 - 6 p.m. - Gonzales Co. Camera Club photo contest and slide show 3rd floor- Randle-Rather Building on Confederate Square

1 - 5 p.m. - Music. at the Biergarten

1 - 7 p.m. - Gonzales Art Group Show at 515 St. Joseph St.

2 p.m. - Gonzales: The Beginning Historical Program in the Courthouse

2 - 6 p.m. - J. B. Wells House will be open for tours, with entertainment and refreshments. (Admission)

3 p.m. - Battle Re-Enactment - Pioneer Village - Hwy 183 North

6-7 p.m. - Come & Take It Square Dancers

7 p.m. - Bingo - Confederate Square

7-9 p.m. - Music at the Biergarten

9 p.m. - 1 a.m. - Music at the Biergarten

In the evening I am planning on doing some grilling on Fire.

ON COOKING IN THE EVENING:

There should be a Bar-B-Q Pit on the site but I am planning on bringing my fire pan as well with grill. Bring whatever meat you wish to cook and as a consideration some charcoal as well to contribute to the fire.

Saturday & Sunday Night - Here are a few other dishes I plan on cooking.

Dutch Oven Potatoes – Slice potatoes and onions baked in a dutch oven. For anyone interested in getting in on this deal bring a Potatoe or onion (what ever you think you will eat) and it will be thrown into the Dutch Oven.

Sauteed Vegetable Medley – I will slice up some vegetables and cook those on my two burner stove. For anyone interested in getting in on this deal bring anyone of the following to be sliced and thrown into the dutch oven:

Zuchini, Yellow squash, Red Pepper, Onion, Green Pepper, Anaheim, Green Onion or Mushrooms onion (what ever you think you will eat).

October 5 – Sunday

Pack Up and head back to San Antonio.

WHERE THE HECK IS LAKE WOOD?

Lake Wood Recreation Area is located on the shores of Lake Wood, a hydroelectric lake owned and operated by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority to impound water needed to generate electricity. The pond area is 488 acres with a storage capacity of 4,000 acre-feet. Two large islands in the upper lake are owned by GBRA, with lots leased to private individuals.

This quiet, scenic campground is approximately 5 miles west of Gonzales off Highway 90-A, on FM 2091 South. GBRA Park Rangers and resident park hosts provide professional management and 24 hour on-site supervision.

Visitors to the 35-acre park enjoy a wide variety of well-maintained facilities, including picnic sites on the lakefront or in the shady pecan grove, a children's playground, tent camping areas and full hook-up RV sites. The park store stocks food, fishing and camping necessities for the convenience of our guests.

Fishing, boating and canoeing are popular attractions at Lake Wood. Camping fees are paid instead of boat launching or docking charges. Enjoy convenient access to the 488-acre freshwater lake from our central dock facility or take advantage of direct entry to the Guadalupe

Directions

Lake Wood Recreation Area is located approximately 5 miles west of Gonzales on U.S. Highway 90-A. Turn on FM 2091 South at the Lake Wood sign and head south for about 3 miles to the Park Headquarters Building.

Helpful Links:

<http://www.gbra.org/Recreation/LakeWood/Default.aspx>

http://www.gonzalestexas.com/comeandtakeit_2.asp

That's it for now.

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



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