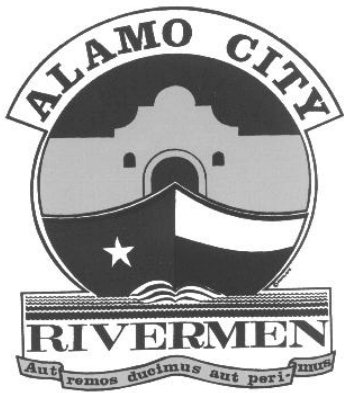


# RIVERMEN

## CANOE CLUB

**"PADDLING THE FINE LINE BETWEEN GEEK & BUBBA"**

[www.AlamoCityRivermen.com](http://www.AlamoCityRivermen.com)

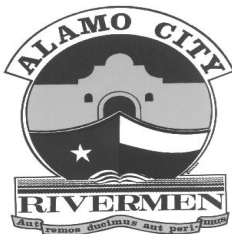


### Rivermen Meeting

**\*\*\*Wed 9-11-02\*\*\***

The Barbecue Station  
Loop 410 & Harry Wurzbach  
6:30 - 7:30  
210-824-9191

**Trip & Planning Meeting - These are fun & hope to see you there!**



### ★ The Stars of our Organization! ★

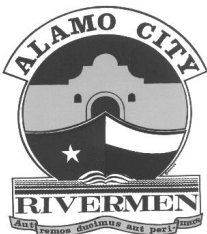
President: Chris Vogeler  
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### Llano River Labor Day Weekend

**Friday August 30th to Monday September 2nd**

This is a show up and do anything you want trip (camp, paddle, swim, bike, read, relax, socialize etc). We have reserved the large patio pavilion area at Morgans Shady Park. The phone number for the campground is 915-446-2580 weekdays only, or 915-446-2071 campground/night. The patio cost us 40 dollars per day to use. The campground is situated on river left about 1 mile upstream of the bridge leading into Junction. There are showers and restroom accommodations. We have a nice grassy area for tent camping plus there are several other sites immediately available around the patio area. We will be camping on the river. There are canoe rentals available in the area. Reservations are recommended for this weekend.

The patio lends itself extremely well to Dutch oven or bar-b-que cooking. The patio is approximately 30 by 30 feet. Inside that is a raised up area 10 by 10 feet about waist level filled with dirt that allows placement of Dutch ovens and small bar-b-que pits. In the center of this area is an oak tree which provides lots of nice shelter. We have reserved the patio for Saturday, Sunday and Monday, August 30th through September 2nd. You can actually start arriving there on Friday night at the campsite to get a jump on things and to get into the right frame of mind. There are various options for canoeing. The segments vary from 14 miles to 3 miles. Last year we had several different groups going on different sections of rivers. You can even just hang out at the campsite and do nothing at all. My plan is to arrive at the campsite, Friday night sometime after 9:00 PM. The cost of this trip is based on the following carefully constructed algorithm: (Total cost of patio for days rented)/total number of people plus 2 dollars per day per person. When arriving at the campground check in with the office and let them know you are with the Alamo City Rivermen. Lavern Harden is the owner and she is expecting us. We will collect all money at the campsite and then turn it over to her. She actually likes our group as we are pretty well behaved plus we pay her for our group so be nice and polite when visiting with her.

To get to the campground take I-10 West to Junction. Take exit 456 (this exit may be marked as Hwy 377 or Hwy 481) and turn left into Junction. You will cross the bridge over the Llano River and go towards downtown Junction, you'll see the Courthouse on your left, turn left just past the Courthouse on 6th Street (this is the street that goes along the west side of the Courthouse). You will go several blocks and then there will be a large oak tree in the road which has a sign on it that says "Dead End". Keep driving on this road and you will come to Morgans Shady Park campground on the river. On Sunday night we'll have Calabocita with rice and vegetables as an optional group dinner for anyone that wants to participate. The Austin Canoe Club will be camping adjacent to our campground. In addition to all this there is a street parade, Saturday night dance, rodeo plus a whole lot more. For further information contact Gib Hafernick 210-822-8901

[GibGuy@compuserve.com](mailto:GibGuy@compuserve.com)

## \*\*\*MEMBER BENEFITS\*\*\*

As an ACA (American Canoeing Association) Paddle America affiliated club, Alamo City Rivermen Members are entitled to an optional Paddle America membership in the ACA. This includes a subscription to the magazine Paddler which is really a fine publication. This Paddle America membership benefit will save you \$10.00 over the regular dues. To join you must send the ACA a copy of the official ACR Paddle America membership form letter which you can receive by calling our Officers. The form letter is also in our newsletter every fall when our dues renewal notification occurs. We will not process this for you, you must do it yourself and you must use the form letter the Rivermen provide you to receive the \$10 discount.

Another great benefit is a 10% discount at Nantahala Outdoor Center at 800-232-7238 or [www.noc.com](http://www.noc.com). Make sure you mention that you're a member of Alamo City Rivermen and ask for our discount. Our membership form is in this newsletter!

## ARTICLES WANTED

If anyone has information on water related topics that would be of interest to our members we want it. If anyone would like to write articles on water related topics and or trip reports we can always use help! E-mail all articles to Chris Vogeler:

[AlamoChris@aol.com](mailto:AlamoChris@aol.com)

or mail to: Chris Vogeler  
c/o Landstar  
10615 Perrin Beitel, Ste. 304  
San Antonio, TX 78217

## Newsletter by E-mail

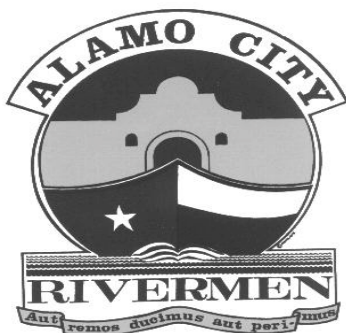
It's coming by years end. Anyone wanting the newsletter by e-mail will need Adobe reader. If you want to get your computer ready for the newsletter by e-mail the reader is free from the Adobe web site at

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>

## GET YOUR RIVERMEN

### \*\*\*CLUB DECALS BY MAIL\*\*\*

ACR club decal stickers are now available by mail order. The possibilities for these four inch by four inch four-color gems are endless. Buy one for each side of your boat, buy one for your car, buy one for each of your paddle blades, stick 'em on your dry bags, put them on your rain suit, sew it to your pfd, trade 'em, heck, take a couple of extra ones to patch your tent with. If you would like to get one or a baker's dozen of these little gems, send your order with \$3.00 for each decal you want to ACR, c/o Randy Hohlaus, 13747 Cedar Canyon, San Antonio, Texas 78231. All orders are confidential.



## MARKET PLACE

Lost on Llano River Trip on Weekend of May 10th at Lefeste's Campground near Castel. Aladin plastic insulated coffee cup - It's green outside white inside. I have 2 (matching set) and would like to find the other one. Please contact Chris Vogeler [AlamoChris@aol.com](mailto:AlamoChris@aol.com) or 210-863-8622

Wood strip J-202. One of the last hand built by Gene Jensen, himself, in his own garage. Comes with a custom made cover. Canoe has always been kept in the Austin warehouse. Never subjected to the sun or the San Marcos river. \$2500.00 non-negotiable

South African Stiletto Ultra K-1. Fiberglass. Made for full figured guys. Pedals and overstern rudder. Great for the rivers and rocks. Never broken or patched. Basically, it's an Orion hull with a fuller volumed deck. \$400.00 non-negotiable

Breakdown wing paddle: Quickblade Proton 218 cm \$275.00

2001 Trek STP ("soft tail pro") carbon fiber framed mountain bike. Full suspension (sort of - rear shock with flexible swingarm), all top notch components, seat a bit torn from use. Recent tune up. Three sets of tires for different terrain. "Medium" sized, so can fit average height men and women. Extremely lightweight and agile. Retail for 1799.00. Asking 1500.00 (yes, I know it's not a boat, but at least I'm not whining about truckers who can't be happy driving on the roads) Call West during the day at 512-217-7320

JC Foster ([fjcarlene@aol.com](mailto:fjcarlene@aol.com)) has a river ready raft for sale. Contact him for details and pictures. Hyside Mfg., 16' long tubes, dia. 24". Frames are 1 1/4" welded e.m.t. Gear includes 3 10' oars and 2 1' extensions, repair kit, straps (frame to tubes and more for storage tie-down), bow and stern lines, 12 volt inflator, 3 rocket boxes (20mm). PRICE \$1495 Also a number of brand new Zero Haliburton boxes (20" X 17" X 7") air and water tight at \$65 each. [BOBA100@aol.com](mailto:BOBA100@aol.com)

## Median River Day Trip Sat. Sept 14th

Don't know where yet? Will announce through Rivermen e-mail list. Contact Chris Vogeler [alamochris@aol.com](mailto:alamochris@aol.com)

## Trip Report on Guad

Did the 11.5 miles from Sisterdale to Ammans at a little over 800 cfs in 2 hours and 20 minutes on Friday. Very nice run at that level. About 200 yards below the put in is the borken bridge, and it's very dangerous at this level completely plugged with debris and lots of water running thru the debris. The river has cut a channel to the left and around the bridge, and if you're good, you can catch the channel before getting swept into the debris. Otherwise, catch an eddy river-left 25 yards upstream and drag your boat down to the side channel. The river has a clearly defined channel most of the way. Toward the bottom of the run, there's one tree all the way across the river. At this level, the tree trunk is about 3 inches below water level on river-left and it's easy to bump over. At lower water levels this tree may be a problem. Otherwise, it's an easy, fast and delightful. Mike Fox San Antonio, Texas Off CanoeTX

## River Thought Corner

### Trips - Events Being Talked About!

Send your ideas to the editor at [AlamoChris@aol.com](mailto:AlamoChris@aol.com)

September (late) - Pecos River Trip - 7day - Pandale to High Bridge with the option of doing the Rio Grande from Langtry to Seminole Canyon State Park if Pecos River is too low.

Contact: Gib Hafernick, 210-822-8901 or [Gibguy@Compuserve.com](mailto:Gibguy@Compuserve.com)

Mulshoe Bend Spicewood, TX <http://www.lcra.org/lands/mulshoe.html> Chris Vogeler [AlamoChris@aol.com](mailto:AlamoChris@aol.com)

Brazos River - Chris Vogeler, late fall [AlamoChris@aol.com](mailto:AlamoChris@aol.com)

## Rivermen Mileage Program

To help enhance our members favorite activity we've come up with a rivermen mileage program. It can be fun to keep a log book of when we're on the water and a log book / diary is a great help to stir up memories. I bet we all surprise ourselves when we see just how much we're really on the water. At the end of each year we'll request entries for the mileage program and recognize members who surpass the 100 river mile mark. Entries are to be best estimate and there will be a certificate or pin for each individual surpassing the 100 river miles with possible advanced recognition for high milers above the 100 river mile status. These miles must be accumulated during the calendar year from Jan 1st to December 31st. As this program is being implemented mid year one may estimate past paddling excursions for the first half of 2002. Racing mileage will not be counted. This will be a fun program for our club and anything may change as it's new and not fully developed. Mileage log sheet is in the newsletter and may be reproduced.

### News Flash!

Rivermen member Hans Weichsel has offered to donate a Silver Bowl Award for the mileage program. This will have each years recipients name engraved on it and will travel from year to year to each member achieving the high mileage for the year. Many thanks again to Hans and please thank Hans when you see him!

## Trips Coordinators Needed

We always need people to volunteer, help coordinate - plan and create trips. It's really very simple. If you have an idea for something you'd like to do in the way of paddling or camping just call or e-mail the editor or one of officers on the cover page. All that needs to be done is have an idea, see if it can be done, make a reservation and put a simple write up for our newsletter or e-mail to the Rivermen Yahoo e-mail list or both. These could be day trips or overnights and can be anywhere you'd like to go. Some of our members have gone as far as Utah and Minnesota so don't let your vision prevent you from putting your idea out to the members. There is probably someone from our group that would like to participate in your paddling idea where ever it may be. We look forward to hearing from you and thanks much!

Remember, any trips, last minute trips - last minute day paddles can be sent to [alamo@yahoogroups.com](mailto:alamo@yahoogroups.com) If you're not already on this list contact Ken Bennight at [Bennight@stic.net](mailto:Bennight@stic.net) to join. To be on this list is the only way to really stay completely informed about what's going on as so many things happen on short notice rather than the 6 week time frame for planning involved with the newsletter which is sometimes lengthy.

## Tuesday Bridge Club and Big Band September 16th!

How about a little canoeing in the city with some Big Band Jazz. We will hold a Tuesday Bridge Club May 21st. on the San Antonio River. Basically, Tuesday Bridge Club is canoeing on a section of the San Antonio River between Alamo and Nueva Street, a distance of about one mile. The put in point is at Guenther Street & the San Antonio River, next to the San Antonio River Authority. Start at 5:30 PM & go to 7:00 PM.

Afterwards we will head over to the Blue Star Brewery and Restaurant to listen to a full piece brass orchestra play some Big Band Jazz and have dinner. There is no cover charge and the atmosphere is pretty nice. The Blue Star Brewery is located at 1414 S Alamo. The phone number is 212-5506.

Give me a call if interested in attending as it is necessary to obtain a canoeing permit from the Parks Department as I need an approximate boat count. Contact Gib Hafernick - 210-822-8901 or [Gibguy@Compuserve.com](mailto:Gibguy@Compuserve.com)

**P.S. The Jazz Band last month was outstanding. They just keep getting better. If you can't paddle just come on down for the Jazz at 7 at the Blue Star! It's really Cool and it free!**

## SAFETY TIP FOR

### September

By Bill Esparza

Paramedic-EMS-Firefighter

[g-esparza@webtv.net](mailto:g-esparza@webtv.net)

## Lightning- The Underrated Killer

According to the National Weather Service approximately 400 people each year are struck by lightning in the U.S. during outdoor activities. About 80 of those are killed, and several hundred more are left to cope with various permanent disabilities. The odds that you will be struck by lightning in your lifetime are close to 1 in 3000. Yet it seems that many people have little respect for the dangers posed by this dangerous phenomenon.

Direct lightning strikes to the body are very likely to be fatal. Cardiac arrest and burns are usually the causes of death. When a person survives a direct hit, he or she may suffer nervous tissue damage, burns, broken bones, blindness, and loss of hearing. More commonly, people are injured by being in the proximity of the lightning hit. The powerful electric current moves past them through ground or water and knocks them down violently. Concussions, unconsciousness, disorientation and broken bones often result. Drownings can occur if the victim is in, on or near the water when struck.

The key to safety in a thunderstorm is prevention. Avoid getting hit by lightning! Here are some tips to help keep you from getting zapped:

Don't take the danger lightly. If you so much as hear thunder, postpone your activities, get out of the water and away from the bank. This is particularly important if your craft is made of aluminum.

If possible, go inside an enclosed building or a hard-top vehicle.

If outdoors, be one of the lowest points in the area. Lightning hits the tallest objects. Stay away from tall trees and other people. Don't huddle in groups.

Sit on your PFD, or in a canoe/kayak made of plastic, Royalex, or Kevlar to insulate yourself from the ground.

And finally, if your hair suddenly stands on end, quickly cover your ears and eyes and anticipate a serious jolt.

# 2002 ACR CALENDAR

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

**WHEN                      WHAT                      WHERE                      CONTACT**

**Contact Phone Numbers at bottom of page!**

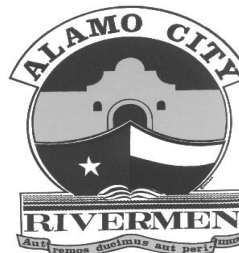
- \*August 30th to September 2nd 2002      Labor Day Campout      Llano River Junction, TX      **GibGuy@compuserve.com**
- \*\*Wed 09-11-2002      Planning Meeting      - These are fun and sometimes heated. Come on out & hope to see all of you there!  
Barbecue Station 1610 NE Loop 410 @ Harry Wurback      210-824-9191 6:30 to 7:30 or so
- \* Sat 09-14-02      Medina River      near Bandera? will put out on Rivermen Yahoo e-mail list      Chris Vogeler **AlamoChris@aol.com**
- \* Sun 09-15-02      Tall Texan Tri      Boerne Lake Camp Sat Night Need boats on water Sun morn to watch swimmers **GibGuy@compuserve.com**
- \*09-17-2002      Tuesday Night Bridge Club      San Antonio River Downtown See Article in Newsletter Gib Hafernick **GibGuy@compuserve.com**
- \*Sept 21?      Audubon Trip      xxxxxxxx      Ken Bennight **Bennight@stic.net**
- 10-2002      Martindale Tri-Work the Canoe-Bike Course      Spencer's Campground@Martindale      Your Name Here!
- \*10-2002      Basura Bash River Cleanup      San Antonio River      Help-Your Name Here!
- \*11-2002      Annual Turkey Trot      Colorado River      Randy Holhaus **Holhaus@Prodigy.net**
- \* 12-2002      Christmas Party      Your Place      **Please call an office on the cover page!**

Randy Hohlaus 210-493-7058 / Gib Hafernick 210-822-8901 / Ken Bennight 210-826-7071 / Chris Vogeler 210-863-8622

## **\*\*Monthly Meeting and Program Times**

### **\* Rivermen Event**

All information is subject to revision at any time!



## **Rivermen E-mail list critical part of membership!**

If you're not on the Rivermen group e-mail list you are really missing out on a big part of your membership. All of our spur of the moment events go out on the e-mail list and it's the only way to know about them. We've had several last minute trips already including a day trip to Krause Springs and a San Antonio River Paddle with 14 boats all through e-mail. This is our way of reaching the members without a 6 week lag time to have an announcement in the newsletter and for any last minute trip changes.

It's hot out summer time and alot of things happen that just can't get in the newsletter quick enough. These paddling events could be day trips or overnights and can be anywhere you'd like to go. Some of our members have gone as far as Utah and Minnesota so don't let your vision prevent you from putting your idea out to the members. There is probably someone from our group that would like to participate in your paddling idea where ever it may be. It was decided at the last planning meeting that this communication list is so important that it will be an automatic part of membership for all new and renewing members just like receiving the newsletter. It was also decided that current members need to e-mail Ken and request to get on the list.

Ken Bennight volunteered to set up the service and has it operating through Yahoo as a digest. However many messages are sent to the Rivermen e-mail group list Ken has it set as a digest where we only get a maximum of one e-mail per day that includes all messages in one e-mail. We have about 1/3 of the members on the list and about 3 e-mails per week have been going out. We've had no reports of an increase in spam from anyone on the list. Some people who've had yahoo e-mail for several years report they feel they are not receiving spam from and association from yahoo. It works great and we thank Ken for his time and efforts. If you're not on it you're missing out already on some great trips that have already occurred! If you're not already on the e-mail list please contact Ken Bennight at

# Lower Nueces Exploratory Expedition Trip Report

From Ken Bennight

As to Texas paddling, most people's thoughts range from East to Central to West Texas. Few consider deep South Texas. Even so, a wonderful paddling opportunity awaits you on the northern limit of what early settlers called the Wild Horse Desert. Otherwise known as the Nueces Strip, the term referred to the area between the Nueces and the Rio Grande.

On August 3, 2002, six of us in three canoes paddled the Nueces River from the Highway 359 crossing near Sandia to the Highway 666 crossing near San Patricio. The stretch is about 20 river miles, and there are no intermediate public access points. In the lower portion, however, numerous fish camps dot the bank. As you approach the end, the development becomes nicer. Because of recent flooding, the river was quite high. As of 4:45 A.M. the morning of our paddle, the gauge height was about 12 feet and the river was flowing at about 2,000 CFS. Conveniently, the gauge is on the put-in bridge. We started paddling a little after 10:00 A.M. and broke for lunch between 12:30 and 1:00. After a leisurely lunch and rest, we started paddling again at 2:00 and were at the take-out bridge about 4:30.

The river channel is set between steep, heavily vegetated, mud banks. If there is a downside to the trip, it is the mud shore. At least at the river level at which we were paddling, to get to the water, you had to venture out into mud that was often ankle deep. But once in the boat, we washed the mud off by putting our feet over the side. Probably because of the recent flooding and high water, the water was colored a milky chocolate. The current was comparatively fast, and if obstacles normally exist, they were drowned out. Occasionally we had to skirt a tree or other obstruction, but there was always plenty of time. No difficult maneuvering was required, except when I spent too long looking at the bank and nearly ran into the upper branches of a flooded mesquite tree.

The bird life is amazing, and a birder was along on the trip. She named more birds than I can remember. The countless egrets and herons made the biggest impression except the storks. I do not recall ever seeing an actual stork before, but a flock of three wood storks escorted us for a short distance. The wingspan of one of the Great Blue Herons must have been at least six feet. We saw night hawks and some type of larger hawk. After the paddle, while recuperating with liquid refreshment, we watched roseate spoonbills sift through the mud of a stock tank on the Knolle Ranch. A portion of the trip passes the Knolle Ranch. In addition to dairy cattle, the ranch offers hunting, birding, and a bed and breakfast. The ranch river front would, at normal water levels, be a convenient takeout point for a day paddle. Keep that in mind if you want to combine paddling and perhaps birding with the luxury of the bed and breakfast. Paddling doesn't all have to be camping on a muddy riverbank. If you are interested, Knolle Ranch has a website, and the distinctive name makes it easy to find with a search engine. If you can't find it, contact me.

Living in San Antonio, as we do, we are in easy driving distance of three of the best paddling rivers in the State of Texas, the Medina, the Guadalupe, and the San Marcos. We rightfully concentrate our paddling on those rivers. But when you are in the mood for something different, don't forget the lower Nueces. It's a different slice of nature from that seen in other parts of the state. Submitted by Ken Bennight

## TRIP REPORT

by David Plylar

Friday, July 16 Sisterdale to Ammans Crossing on Upper Guadalupe from David Plylar. Mike Fox, his grandson Jacob and I did this 12-mile stretch in under 2.5 hours paddling time with a flow rate of about 750 CFS. There was little debris from the flood and the channel was clear for the most part. We had no mishaps; we had a very enjoyable time.

At the Sisterdale put-in we were not able to take our vehicles all the way to the water's edge because the flood has torn up part of the road and the high water is above the usual gravel bar. However, with care we were able to drive our trucks under the bridge at the usual parking spot; from there we carried our boats to the river bank. The take-out was easy at Ammans but there is one cautionary note: take out on river right well above the fast water and line the boats to the point where the bank comes near the dirt road. We were able (carefully) to drive our truck to within a few yards of the river bank. There is a good gravel bar for lunch on river right at about mile 6.

There are many sweepers and strainers on this stretch, most of which can be easily avoided with good paddling skills. In the first three miles we encountered some narrow, partially obstructed spots with water moving fast. Good paddling skills are a must; the faint-hearted can easily portage these spots. Between mile 9 and 10 there was a downed tree stretching all the way across the river with water flowing over it. We were able to paddle over this spot by holding close to the bank on river left.

**BIG HAZZARD:** 1. The low-water bridge just downstream from the put-in is dangerous. This bridge, which has a lot of debris under it, extends across the river from river right, but there is an open area on far river left. A person with excellent paddling skills can get by the bridge by staying close to the bank on river left being prepared to counteract the current moving through the debris under the bridge.

2. Once past the bridge you will be faced with a hard right turn into one of several narrow, fast moving channels that pass through a stand of trees. Those who prefer not to risk the turn can paddle straight down river close to river left and make a short easy portage at the spot which will be obvious.

3. Newer paddlers should grab an eddy on river left well above the fast-moving water (about 20 yards). They can drag their boats past the fast water, get back in and paddle past the bridge following the instructions in paragraph 2 above.

## Trip Coordinators to be Recognized

Anyone leading a trip will be recognized with a Trip Coordinator Pin. Trips Coordinators are needed to keep things happening for our members at large. We always need people to volunteer, help coordinate, plan and create trips. It's really very simple. If you have an idea for something you'd like to do in the way of paddling or camping call or e-mail the editor or one of officers on the cover page and submit it to the River Thoughts Corner column. All that needs to be done is have an idea, see if it can be done, make a reservation and submit a simple write up for our newsletter. If it's last minute you can use the Rivemen e-mail list [alamo@yahoo.com](mailto:alamo@yahoo.com) If you're not already on the e-mail list contact Ken Bennight [Bennight@stic.net](mailto:Bennight@stic.net).



## Trip Report - Guadalupe - Comfort to Waring

The Alamo City Rivermen and friends canoed sections of the upper Guadalupe River this past weekend for August 2nd and 3rd. The trip reports are as follows: River: Guadalupe Put-In: Comfort Take out: Waring Distance: 12.5 miles. Date: August 2, 2002, Saturday

The estimated flowrate was 550 CFS at the USGS Comfort Station, with the water being clear, swift and green in color. Within one half mile of the trip and upstream of I-10 there are two potentially hazardous turns which had piles of accumulated brush and trees. Caution should be exercised at this section as an ABS canoe turned over twice and a kayak turned over once. Shortly after crossing I-10 there is a VERY HAZARDOUS DAM with a 6 foot verticle drop into a rectangular shaped basin. One of the more experienced Whitewater Kayakers was quoted as saying "That one is a keeper for sure". The Portage is on river left and is not overly difficult.

At mile 5.2 there is a low water crossing and RR Trestle which was floated on river left. At mile 7.3 there is another low water crossing which required a portage on river right. Within this section there were at least 15 to 20 rapids that would be ranked as class 1 or class 2, of which 3 to 4 would be ranked as class 2. Several of the class 1 rapids had runouts estimated at 100 to 150 yards. A total of 4 boats were on this section. There makeup was as follows: (1) ABS Whitewater C2 (1) ABS Whitewater C1 (1) White water kayaks (1) Recreation kayak The skill levels of the paddlers ranged from highly skilled to recreational paddlers that were comfortable in the water.

## Trip Report - Guadalupe - Waring to Sisterdale

River: Guadalupe Put-In: Waring Take out: Sisterdale (FM 1376) Distance: 7.6 miles. Date: August 3, 2002, Sunday

The estimated flowrate was 525 CFS at the USGS Comfort Station, with the water being clear, swift and green in color. Along river right the first 1.5 miles was a limestone verticle cliff which had water dripping off the edges half a dozen places. At Zoeler Crossing mile 2.3 it was necessary to portage on river left. Joshua Creek on river right at mile 3.2 was our second spot to go swimming. The water was exiting out of a clear gravel streambed at an estimated 100 CFS with the water being 8 to 10 inches deep in the channel. In this vicinity were numerous springs which had water gushing out of the ground. Several of the less experienced members of our party chose to relax at this spot with 12 oz. beverage containers while the more seasoned veterans utilized 16 oz. beverage containers. Within this section there were at least 10 to 12 rapids that I would rank as class 1 to class 2 of which there were about 2 to 3 were class 2 rapids.

A total of 6 boats were on this section. There makeup was as follows: (2) ABS Whitewater C1 (2) White water kayak (1) Recreation kayak (1) Aluminum Canoe 17 foot (solo) The skill levels of the paddlers ranged from highly skilled to recreational paddlers that were comfortable in the water. On both sections numerous cypress trees lined the river the entire distance. Gib Hafernick 210-822-8901 or [Gibguy@Compuserve.com](mailto:Gibguy@Compuserve.com)

## Trip Report Devils River July 26th – 27th - Off internet from Houston Canoe Club

Two green\yellow Scupper Pros (Tankwell and Plain) at 14' 9" and blue-purple Dagger Cortez at 16' 6", fifty year old male and two 16 year boys. Traveled to Del Rio and went north on Hwy 277, Past Loma Alta (HighEarth) and entered the Dolan Falls dirt road to the Devils River State Natural Area (the Park), some 22 plus miles down the road. Texas Parks and Wildlife river access permit (\$10.00) and park access permit (three at \$ 3.00 each).

Went down the Park dirt road some four miles to the entrance to the river. Unloaded boats and equipment and brought the truck on out through a gate to the parking area. Received a ride by the ranger, back down to the river, who then returned and locked the gate. Gnats, small flies all over the place. Getting in ears, eyes, nose. Even in the ear canal buzzing around. Packed up personal camping gear. 10 gallons of water in 4 jugs and 5 gallons in small bottles. Enough food for a 2 day trip. Fishing stuff, snorkel stuff, water filter, and cooking gear. Brought just the clothes we wore plus a therm-a-rest pad, tarp (ground cloth), sheet, mosquito net, and pillow. Entered the Park at 8 pm. On the water by 9:00. On river, ½ mile to shallow part, had to get out and walk the kayaks 100 yards to Dolan Falls, 10:00 am.

Played all day. Fished, swam above and below falls, sat in rocky pockets in the river. Ryan caught a small large mouth bass and a bass of an unknown type (Vertical patterns on side). I caught several of the unknown bass. At 6 pm we started down river. The "Pool" is 100 feet to 100 yards wide and miles long. It is usually deeper than a paddle and at times very shallow. At 7:00 pm, we camped (no impact, no trace), dark at 8 pm. Beautiful windy night, with some mosquitoes. Stars were spectacular till the moon came up at midnight. We arose at 6:30, packed kayaks, and was on the river by 7:00 am. Trouble with gnats till the sun went down and again at dawn when the sun came up. On the river there were no gnats.

Quiet flat water paddle, till we ran out of river (Pool). Backed up and looked for outflow. Found it in the reed beds along river left. Had to get out and walk between the reeds in ankle to knee deep shallow rapids for a hundred feet before we came to next pool. Reeds and shallow rapids on river right to next pool. More reeds and shallow rapids to next pool. This is easy, but a pain to do. Get out of the kayaks and walk them to the next Pool. Went on like this for a while then. The river narrowed to a channel, flowed down 15 feet then hard left, 10 feet then hard right, then forty feet drop to next river level. I crashed and burned on a rock ¾ the way down. That dagger was not designed for white water! Struggled out, released the Cortez to float the rest of the way down. Gave up and I floated down the rest of the way on my back, feet first in the rapids. Swam to the boat and could not find the paddle. Fished out the canoe paddle and moved down stream till I could mount back in the kayak. I returned to the rapids in time to see T travis make the run in the scupper. His friend Ryan was next. While I was up in the rapids looking for the pinned paddle, the boys found it down below, hung in some reeds. Resumed journey. Long area of shallow moving water pool, followed by another drop of 40 feet. Water was deeper and straight, easy drop to the next level. The kids went first in their scuppers and I followed in the Cortez after seeing if they could make it safely. Several more reeds and rapids and were at the take out point 10:30 am. Failed to use the 10 gallons of water and 2/3 the food – heat suppresses appetite. Ride back to truck cost \$ 150.

The way out was very interesting. Trip starts out at the base of the river canyon. Requires a four wheel drive suburban going at a crawl up and down the hills. You go through two locked gates and drive on dirt roads for fourteen miles – takes about an hour. Paved Road for 20 miles, then back down the dirt road to the Dolan State Falls State Natural Area for 26 miles - took all of two and half hours. Sorry if this seems disjointed, I have had stroke and now ramble a bit. Safe Paddling. Peter Cragg Scoutmaster Troop 889

## Keeper - from Canoe Texas

We have these conversations  
Pondering the choices given to us  
through our own free will.

But what if, we are a small young dog  
Loosed from our bounds  
And go running, in our little red sweater  
"His hair was so thin" down to the river.

We are all drawn to the river,  
it calls us, with wet motion, smells, and sounds.

The path (like so many seen and unseen)  
ends seductively at the road-wide dam  
where the water flows and spills in soft pillows.  
No obvious hazards.

The man on the shore  
A golden retriever on leash out walking.  
A fine day, he thinks, not seeing the one small dog.  
He knew the owner.

But then Rain swollen waters catch  
happy paws and send the whole of being  
over into smothering, consuming  
recirculating waves.

"He came up once" said the man  
on the front step crying,  
because there was nothing, no throw bags for little  
dogs beyond retrieving.

Her child, 13, dreamt the dog came back.  
What water claims, and eventually  
releases is beyond our ken.  
Rounded stone and softened wood,  
polished into beauty.  
Dreams and companions, built and broken.

Why cannot life be found in that the water swallows?

At the pace of the river a flash of color is all  
you see, barely enough to say "dog" instead of mere  
flood debris. There was no sweater.

Our boats swept far downstream before it registered,  
But moments on the river magnify and slow down,  
and play on in the mind's eye.

We went back upstream, to get the collar.

## Trip Report - Blanco River / Pedernales River

The Alamo City Rivermen canoed the Blanco and Pedernales Rivers this past weekend for July 26 & 27 utilizing Pedernales State Park as a base camp for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

**Blanco River:** Put-In: Fisher Store Rd. Take out: 7-A Ranch - Pioneer Town near Wimberly. Distance: 10.5 miles. Date: July 27, 2002, Saturday

The estimated flowrate was 525 CFS at the USGS Wimberly Station, with the water being clear, swift and green in color. Within this section there were at least 25 to 30 rapids that I would rank as class 1 or class 2, of which 8 to 10 would be ranked as class 2. Several of the class 1 rapids had runouts estimated at 100 to 200 yards. A total of 9 boats were on this section. There makeup was as follows: (1) ABS Whitewater C2 (2) ABS Whitewater C1 (1) Aluminum 17 foot(solo) (3) White water kayaks (1) Recreation kayaks (1) Fiberglass touring canoe with rudder

The skill levels of the paddlers ranged from highly skilled to recreational paddlers that were comfortable in the water. We had no major problems other than yours truly who recognized that a Wenonah Advantage even fitted with a rudder may not have been the right boat to have been on for this water level. I had to jump ship once when I took on some water in a class 2 rapid with a drop off. In retrospect if I had a spray cover I may have been ok.

In terms of manmade hazards there were several low water crossings which were not overly difficult to portage but caution had to be exercised as the water was rushing under them. There was also one dam with a drop off of about 5 feet which was portaged on river left. The first one third of this river was much less developed than the later two thirds. Numerous Cypress trees lined the river the entire distance. We observed about a dozen other canoes and numerous tubers toward the end of our trip.

### Pedernales River:

Put-In: Pedernales Falls State Park swim beach. Take out: Private Neighborhood Park past Dead Man's crossing. Distance: 10 miles. Lunch was at Flat Creek. Date: July 28, 2002, Sunday  
.The put in at the park was difficult and required carrying the boats down a trail and stone stairway of about 50- 75 yards. The verticle drop to the river was about 25 to 30 feet.

The estimated flowrate was 300 CFS at the USGS Johnson City Gauge Station, with the water being clear, swift and green in color. Within this section there were at least 15 to 20 rapids that I would rank as class 1 to class 2 of which there were about 2 to 3 class 2 rapids. On this section there were several islands or splits in the river that required us to go left of right.

A total of 8 boats were on this section. There makeup was as follows: (2) ABS Whitewater C2 (2) ABS Whitewater C1 (2) White water kayaks (1) Recreation kayaks (1) Fiberglass touring canoe with rudder. The skill levels of the paddlers ranged from highly skilled to recreational paddlers that were comfortable in the water. We had no major problems on this section. Lunch at Flat Creek (river right), was extremely comfortable with some people opting to sit in the water and others in the shade.

The river is virtually undeveloped and we saw only one other canoe toward the end of our trip. The takeout was a bit difficult as the bank is steep about 15 feet, but we utilized a throw rope to assist in pulling the boats out of the riverbed. Numerous Cypress trees lined the river the entire distance with abundant gravel bars all along the way. Gib Hafernick 210-822-8901 [Gibguy@Compuserve.com](mailto:Gibguy@Compuserve.com)

## Trip Report - Guad

River: Upper Guadalupe Put-In: Bergheim (FM 3160) Take out: Edge Falls Road Distance: 3.8 miles Date: August 17, 2002, Saturday Estimated Flowrate: 300 CFS (USGS Comfort Station) Water: Clear, swift, and green in color Equipment: 16 ft. Mad River Eclipse (Royalex) Used the Bergheim Campground as the launching point and got a reverse shuttle (\$15) leaving the truck at the take out (plenty of parking - just make sure you park above the signs).

Approximately 5-7 class I rapids and 2 class II (Rock Pile and Dog Leg). Rock Pile comes up less than a mile in. Most rocks were washed out. Started river left and finished river center. No problems but did take on some water which was a harbinger of things to come! Beautiful travertine waterfall about a mile in was flowing well - kids had a great time swimming in the cold water. Had a picnic lunch on sandbar before attempting Dog Leg, which comes up about 3 miles in. I guess the ledge at the Dog Leg was washed out and I could not really discern the preferred river right line at the top. We just shot down the center ultimately resulted in a swamped canoe by the time we made it through all of the waves. No big problems - had everything tied in and it ended up being a good experience for the kids on how to stay calm and stay with the boat until we got to some slow water. Great sandbar about .5 miles from the take-out with a small rapid that the kids tubed through repeatedly. This ended up being a great trip with the kids - not too long (at 300 cfs you could make it in 1.5 to 2 hours). Lots of folks were going on down to the State Park which had just been reopened on Thur. River had been scoured pretty good by flood - lots of big trees lost, however. Great folks to deal with at Bergheim Campground. Off CanoeTX

# Rivermen Mileage Log Sheet

Date \_\_\_\_\_ River \_\_\_\_\_ Put In \_\_\_\_\_ Take Out \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Miles \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ River \_\_\_\_\_ Put In \_\_\_\_\_ Take Out \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Miles \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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Date \_\_\_\_\_ River \_\_\_\_\_ Put In \_\_\_\_\_ Take Out \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Miles \_\_\_\_\_ Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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## Alamo City Rivermen Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (Res.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Bus) \_\_\_\_\_

The ALAMO CITY RIVERMEN ALWAYS strive to make trips as safe as possible. However, some elements of risk are always present in water sports. Therefore, the **ALAMO CITY RIVERMEN** disclaim any liability for accidental injury to any participant in a sponsored event. I do hereby recognize this risk and agree that my participation is at my sole risk and responsibility. I further agree to hold harmless and without fault the **ALAMO CITY RIVERMEN**, its trip organizers, coordinators and officer for liability for any personal loss or injury which I may incur, and do hereby WAIVE and remedy I may have in law or equity. This liability waiver is in effect while in transit to and from any **ALAMO CITY RIVERMEN** event and while participating in any **ALAMO CITY RIVERMEN** outing. AGREED AND ACCEPTED. Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues are \$15 Annually - Single or Family.

Automatic member benefits include NOC outfitter Store discounts, American Canoe Association \$10 membership discount available through the Paddle American Program and subscription to our e-mail list. Details on these benefits are published in our newsletter. Check here to receive our newsletter by e-mail\_\_\_\_ or regular mail\_\_\_\_ E-mail saves us \$

Mail this completed form to:

**ALAMO CITY RIVERMEN CANOE CLUB**

P.O. Box 171194







# Trip Report Sabinal River

The Sabinal River just doesn't come up very often, so we were lucky to catch it on the way down from a rise on July 7th. Like many area rivers, the Sabinal had flooded during the rains around July 4th. On July 5th, it had reached 38,000 cfs and had caused much damage in Utopia. When we paddled this beautiful steam on the afternoon of July 7th, the flow on the Sabinal gauge near the town of Sabinal ranged from 1400 cfs to 1300 cfs.

Michael Van Winkle and I had paddled the Frio the day before that, and we stayed with our friends Sky and Tim Lewey on their ranch on the Nueces (near Uvalde) that night. We got a chance to see the stars under a clear southwest Texas sky, and I must say that's impressive!

After some great breakfast tacos in Uvalde, we drove to the Sabinal. Sky and her 14-year old son Jeff were with us, but Sky wasn't going to paddle if the river was really high because she prefers not to paddle in brown water. In other words, she's not quite as crazy as Michael and I, who have the color-blindness typical of Texas white (brown) water paddlers. When we first saw the river, we were surprised to see that after only two days, it was almost clear again. So Sky was in.

When we arrived at Utopia, it looked like a war zone! The river had cut a swath through the south part of town where Highway 187 runs near the river. A roof from one structure was out by itself in a field, and one house had floated several feet until it had jammed against two trees. Debris was scattered everywhere.

We put in about 11:30 at the Highway 1050 low water bridge in Utopia. The river was near bank full, but not flooding. We continued to see major flood damage in houses next to the river in the first half mile or so. Sky and Jeff were in recreational kayaks, and Michael and I were in solo whitewater canoes. We knew we needed to be very careful because the flow was strong and there was a good chance of new strainers and debris resulting from the flood. We reached the first rapid about a half-mile from the put-in and saw that the channel was filled with small trees and some minor debris. All of us but Michael elected to portage. Then for the next two miles, the river continued to have a fairly narrow channel, with many cypress and sycamore trees growing in the channel. We stopped numerous times to scout, making sure we could see the outflow from the rapid before proceeding.

We continued to find numerous interesting rapids, most of them formed by narrow bends in the river with many cypress trees that required good route planning and boat control to negotiate. One thing that was unusual was that there were almost no areas of slow water. Of course this was partly due to the fact that the flow was uncharacteristically high. There were also some exhilarating wave trains, some of which were at least 200 feet long. There were even a few holes formed at ledge drops.

In the last portion of the trip, we came upon a beautiful spot where a large spring was gushing from the base of a sheer cliff, forming a thirty-foot high cascading waterfall. Above the place where the spring emerged from a crack in the limestone, there was a fairly large cave/room that looked like it could have been used as an Indian dwelling. We were unable to safely climb up to the room, however. At the base of the waterfall near the river's edge, there was a strange sight -- the force of the water had made a hole the size of a quarter in the dirt bank, and the pressure from the spring caused it to shoot a fountain of water up about ten inches into the air!

Soon we came to a tricky rapid that had a fast side current that sloped toward a large cypress in mid-stream. Jeff, who paddled very well on his first real white-water trip, bumped the tree and turned over. He had a controlled swim, and was able to stop the kayak on a tree branch, and then held on to the branch in fast water. It wasn't a bad situation, but of course I wanted to make sure everything was all right. I eddied out, grabbed my throw rope, and ran back upstream. At that point, I heard a loud shotgun blast from across the river, and I thought "man, they shouldn't be hunting that close by". But then I heard a man yelling in an angry voice "that's my property -- get off my land right now!" Michael and I yelled that we were going to leave as soon as we helped Jeff. I yelled back (with maybe a little too much bravado to a man with a gun) "we've got a 14-year old here that we've got to help!" He and his wife yelled some more about how they would prosecute, etc., but we got Jeff back into his boat and moved on.

A little bit downstream, Sky saw the landowners near the water and stopped to talk while we paddled on. At the takeout (just downstream), she told us about the conversation. The outcome was that they weren't going to call the sheriff. Instead, they ended up telling her that if she ever comes there to paddle again, to give them a call! Now how she got this guy to go from firing a shot over our heads to inviting us to call him up is beyond me. I'm here to say that Sky Lewey must be one heck of a mediator. She said that when the landowner started up again, she told him that she didn't want to argue -- she wanted to apologize for getting on their land. I'd bet it helped that Sky is a riverfront property owner in an adjacent county. But I'm sure her cool demeanor also had something to do with it. The landowners said that they had had trouble with people littering and cutting fences on their property. They had no quarrel with anyone paddling the river if they didn't get on their property. But they said to give them a call next time and it would be okay for us to be there. Sky ended up getting their phone number later, and we had a happy ending to what seemed to be a bad situation.

Another time, we were helping Jeff again, and since his boat didn't have air bags, we had to work with it some. She said that as we paddled alongside the boat and corralled it, we looked like rodeo clowns running safety. Michael Van Winkle and Glenn Hart -- whitewater clowns!!! We took out at the second crossing on Highway 187. The total trip was eight miles.

I think any Texas river paddler would love taking this trip. It's a beautiful river, with some surprisingly fun rapids at high water. Its character is like a cross between the Medina and the Frio, with the quick turns of the Medina and the good drops of the Frio. Interestingly, it sits geographically between the two. But you have to catch it when it's up, which is not very often. I think Steve Daniel's book says that a minimum level is 400 cfs on the Sabinal gauge near Sabinal (check that, I'm not sure). If you can get really lucky and catch it at any level between 1,000 and 1,600 cfs you'll love it. Of course since it's a narrow steam, you could probably paddle it fine (with some scraping and bumps) at any level over 250.

I'll be posting some photos taken by Sky soon, after I figure out how to do it (with an assist from Neil). Glenn Hart, Austin - From CanoeTX