



RIVERMEN

CANOE CLUB

"PADDLING THE FINE LINE BETWEEN GEEK & BUBBA"

www.AlamoCityRivermen.com

Rivermen Meeting

Wed 10-09-02

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

Program

Han's Trophys!

Work details of who should receive Community Service Trophy!

Hans may be here in person!

Please come out and help decide!

It's a big deal and an honor!

★ The Stars of our Organization! ★

President: Chris Vogeler
AlamoChris@aol.com
210-863-8622

Vice Pres: Randy Hohlaus
Hohlaus@prodigy.net
210-493-7058

Treasurer & Secretary
Marie Searight
marie@wireweb.net
830-625-0604

Editor: Chris Vogeler
AlamoChris@aol.com
210-863-8622

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pvandermey@yahoo.com



Muleshoe Bend October 11th, 12th & 13th

Muleshoe Bend is an LCRA facility about 20 miles due west of Austin - east of 281 and it is very very nice. Muleshoe is the part of the Colorado River and part of the headwaters for Lake Travis. The plan is to show up any time one likes over the weekend and this will be one of those do anything you like kind of trips. The facility has 8 miles of dirt bicycling-hiking trails. Road bicycling from the park is not good but may be nearby? I have not investigated road bicycling in the area. There are several paddling options including but not limited to, paddling a couple of several sections of Lake Travis, paddling upsteam from the lake and then back to camp, possibly? paddling a section up stream down to camp and paddling by shuttle? a section of the Colorado somewhere in the vicinity. I'm still working on the upstream canoe possibilities if anyone has suggestions. I have been to Muleshoe twice in exploratory trips and it appears to be a really a cool place. There is a \$5 per day car fee. There are pit toilets near the camp sites with flush toilets and potable water available at the entrance to the facility. The camp areas are extremely large (with fire rings so please bring firewood if you have some) and spacious with open fields of about 50 yards between treed camp areas and the waters edge. If you have these dates open this will be a trip not to miss I assure you. We will be grilling Saturday night on my large Webber so bring you favorite meat and a dish to pass. We'll also be dutch oven cooking potatos and home made sour dough bread (this is an experiment for our spring Pecos River trip) to compliment the meat with dinner. **Please bring a potato for the pot!** I will also have my 2 burner stove set up with a griddle for all to us to use so bring your favorite breakfast foods if you want to cook yourself breakfast. This is going to be a great weekend camp out and I look forward to seeing you all there. Let me know via e-mail at AlamoChris@aol.com or call me at 210-863-8622 if you know you're coming. Last minute just show up is fine also but a close head count would be nice. I'll be going up Friday night and the camps sites are first come first serve. **If someone can go up early to claim a camp that would help. Let me know.** Check out the web site <http://www.lcra.org/lands/muleshoe.html> for more info and look forward to seeing you all the weekend of October 12th at Muleshoe Bend Spicewood, TX Directions to Muleshoe below. This is going to be great!!!!!!!!!! Chris Vogeler

Directions to Muleshoe

From Austin Take State Highway 71 West. Turn right on Paleface Ranch Road and proceed about 4.5 miles to Burnet County Road 414. Turn right and travel about 1.5 miles then take another right just before the entrance to Ridge Harbor. Continue until you reach the park entrance at the end of CR414. Approximately 45 minute drive from downtown Austin.

From San Antonio take State Highway 281 North to Highway 71 East. Turn Left on Paleface Ranch Road and proceed about 4.5 miles to Burnet County Road 414. Turn right and travel about 1.5 miles then take another right just before the entrance to Ridge Harbor. Continue until you reach the park entrance at the end of CR414. Approximately 45 minute drive from downtown Austin.

Llano River Labor Day Weekend Great Fun for Everyone!

22 showed and some of the experieces we had we're, Scarlet Tanenger sighting (we watched this bird for about 10 minutes), a flock of 12 turkeys, goat rescue (this was really something - ask someone who was on the trip for the full story as it's a duzy!), one really big snake, a 40 pound cattfish, Tommy Prochaska's home made peach ice that we hand cranked in an antique wood bucket (best ice cream I've ever eaten!) Thank you all. It was really Great! See trip report inside!

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 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

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

Newsletter by E-mail

Anyone wanting the newsletter by e-mail will need Adobe reader which is free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html> This is very exciting for our club and please give it a try. It works very well and the more receiving the newsletter by mail is very important to the club for many reasons!

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

17' red Coleman canoe with 2 paddles & 4 life jackets and outrigger stabilizers \$350 OBO Call Asterio Miyares 210-645-7063

Hello Everyone, I have a Scupper Pro for sale. Teal colored, triple hatched, thigh straps, back rest. In very good condition. Works well on sea, river, and lake. Lots of room for gear. A dog or small child can easily ride in an open hatch. \$625. Will consider trade for 2 single-person, Walden Paddler or Keowee type recreational kayaks, or one kayak and the balance cash. Please forward to anyone you think might have an interest. Regards, Tony Oakdene Vacation Home

<http://HeadForTheHillCountry.com>

Austin: 512.441.1836 Mason 915-347-0268

Stolen Boat From: "dean lewis" ondebike@quickca.net

BASTARDS!!!!!!!

There are dirty bastards and anyone who steals a canoe is certainly one. There are REALLY DUMB DIRTY BASTARDS and anyone who would steal my poor beat-up Old Town certainly qualifies for that title. Sometime during the last week my canoe was stolen from my back yard. Most of you know the boat but here is a full description so you can pass it along to any other paddlers. Brand = Old Town Model = H2Pro Material = Kevlar Color = blue Gunwhales and decks = black vinyl Length = 13Ft. 10In. Weight = 56 Lb. Serial Numbers = Under the right deck = XTC17930I293 Under the left deck = XTC 52203C090 Seat = blue foam pedestal Air bags = 2 blue, one is Perception and the other is Old Town Thigh straps = 2 In. black nylon If any of you see the boat please call the police. The case number is 02/652180. Meanwhile I'll be on my bicycle or inline skates. Thanks, Dean.

For Sale: Looking to sell my C1 J191 wood strip boat built by Cal StenoVelo. It is 3 years old. It was had some tree limb damage and was repaired with structural expertise but is less than cosmetically perfect. Has been stored inside during the winter. Asking \$800. Location, South Bend Indiana area. e-mail EJMPaddler@aol.com or phone evenings 574-679-4429. It is a terrific boat, but find I only use it about 4 times a year as I am primarily a kayaker. Earl Metzler EJMPaddler@aol.com

River Thought Corner Trips - Events Being Talked About!

Send your ideas to the editor at AlamoChris@aol.com

March 2003 (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

Brazos River - Chris Vogeler, Don't know when - waiting for someone to call and help me plan. Give me a call and lets go on the Brazos!!!! Help! AlamoChris@aol.com

Camp at Spencer's Canoes in Martindale on a Friday & Saturday night, Paddle the San Marcos Saturday & maybe Sunday. This is where the Martindale Tri is and would be great for training and is also very nice bicycling. E-mail or call me 210-863-8622 if interested.

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.

Trophy's are Ready!

Hans Weichsels community service & high mileage trophies are ready for our club. Each trophy 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! We hope to have them present by Han's in person at the October or November meeting!

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@yahogroups.com If you're not already on this list contact Ken Bennight at 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 to lengthy.

Harvest Moon Paddle Monday October 21th - Woodlawn Lake

Inspired by Davids Plylar's endeavor to have a Moonlight Paddle in September I will have a Harvest Moon Paddle on Woodlawn Lake, October 21 Monday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Paddle under the light of a Full Harvest Moon with the fantastic city background of the Tower of Americas and historic Little Flower Cathedral.

Afterwards we will order some pizza and dine out at the lake on the patio of the Woodlawn Lake Sailing Club. Bring a comfortable chair and drinks or you can purchase drinks from the raspa vendors at the park. Hope to see you there. Gib Hafernick - 210-822-8901 or Gibguy@Compuserve.com

SAFETY TIP FOR

October

By Bill Esparza

Paramedic-EMS-Firefighter

g-esparza@webtv.net

By the Light of the Silvery Moon

There's an old Native American adage that says a river sleeps during the day and wakes up at night. Those of you who have paddled by moonlight know exactly what that means. After sunset, rivers gradually come alive with sound. Crickets sing their songs, owls hoot, and frogs croak. In the absence of strong visual stimulation, a person's senses heighten. Perception becomes more honed and focused, and an unfamiliar world can open up around you. Bats flutter in the air, racoons rustle in the brush, and fish splash in the water. Eddies and ripples shimmer in the moonlight, and shadows paint an eerie yet fascinating sight. The sense of solitude and peace can make a night float memorable.

Of course, paddling at night presents some safety concerns. Rescue, extrication, and evacuation tend to be more difficult, but good planning and taking a few extra precautions can offset the added risks. Here are some tips:

1. Plan your trips for mostly clear nights that have bright moons.
2. For your first night trip, choose flat water and test your night vision. One's ability to see in low light diminishes with age.
3. Check the weather page of the newspaper for phases of the moon, and for moonrise and moonset times.
4. Keep an eye on the weather.
5. Take good waterproof flashlights that have fresh batteries. Red lenses are a good idea because red light has little effect on night vision.
6. Consider attaching reflective tape to some of your gear and clothing.
7. Take a signaling device (strobe or flare).
8. Don't forget that extra paddle.
9. Avoid dangerous or unfamiliar rapids.
10. Finally, wear your PFD (an absolute).

Turkey Trot Set for Nov 29th / 31st

Smithville to LaGrange on the Colorado river. 36 miles 2 nights on the water. Details next months newsletter. GibGuy@compuserve.com

2002 ACR CALENDAR

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

WHEN WHAT WHERE CONTACT

Contact Phone Numbers at bottom of page!

- *10-09-2002 Monthly Meeting - Program Han's Trophy's to our Club BBQ Station 410 @ Harry Wurzbach 6:30 PM
- *10-11th,12th & 13th Muleshoe Bend, see cover of newsletter for details. This is going to be one you won't want to miss!
Chris Vogeler AlamoChris@aol.com
- *10-21-2002 Havest Moon Paddle Woodlawn Lake See Article in Newsletter Gib Hafernack GibGuy@compuserve.com
- 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!
- *11-18th or 19th-2002 Hunters Moon Paddle Woodlawn Lake See Article in Newsletter Gib Hafernack GibGuy@compuserve.com
- *11-29th & 30th 2002 Annual Turkey Trot Colorado River Smithville to LaGrange 36 miles 2 nights on the water GibGuy@compuserve.com
- * 12-2002 Christmas Party Your Place **Please call an officer on the cover page!**
- Randy Hohlaus 210-493-7058 / Gib Hafernack 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

Angelina-Neches Forks Trip Report

From Ken Bennight

The name “Angelina-Neches Forks” refers to the confluence of the Angelina and Neches Rivers in deep East Texas. The confluence is in the backwaters of B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir, which is created by Dam B. That dam is but a short distance below Sam Rayburn Reservoir on the Angelina River, the largest reservoir exclusively in the State of Texas.

Although the Big Thicket National Preserve starts immediately below Dam B, the Forks is well within the historical Big Thicket, a vast area of forest and swamp in East Texas. Inaccessible, the Big Thicket is said to have been a hideout for outlaws and escaped slaves. Although reservoirs are often criticized for drowning out rivers, Dam B has enlarged a beautiful swamp in and around the “Y” created by the rivers’ confluence. That swamp offers wonderful paddling opportunities. You can reach the Forks either from Bevilport, which is upstream on the Angelina River, or from Martin Dies, Jr., State Park, which is on the northeastern shore of B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir.

On the afternoon of August 15, 2002, I arrived at Martin Dies, Jr. State Park intending to paddle up to the forks, camp, and explore the swamp the following morning. The weather, however, was drizzle punctuated by downpours. Instead of paddling and camping in the rain, I rented a screened shelter at the Walnut Ridge Section of the park, leaving the paddling for the next day. The screened shelters are tidy and include a concrete floor, a picnic table, and electricity. Grills and faucets with potable water sit outside the shelters. Clean restroom and shower facilities are convenient to the shelters. Because it was a workday and the weather was lousy, I had the entire campground to myself.

Not far behind my shelter was a grassy area looking out over the water from a revetment. It offered a beautiful view of a marsh and a multitude of water birds. As dusk approached, alligators swam back and forth along the channel that was immediately below the revetment and parallel to the shore. An armadillo snuffled among the camp sites, no doubt looking for dropped food. In the night something larger than the armadillo snorted around my shelter. Early the next morning I saw deer near the restroom. Under normal circumstances, B.A. Steinhagen is a shallow lake. According to my map, its normal conservation pool level is 83 feet. Because of repair work to the dam, the level was around 78 or 79 feet when I was there. Consequently much of the upstream swamp was drained, and mud flats in the lake proper were evident from the U.S. 190 bridge crossing the lake.

On August 16, I launched from the park boat ramp approximately 8:15 A.M. alone in my 17-foot Grumman. The boat ramp lets out into a channel parallel to the shore—the same channel that had the alligators. The other side of the channel is bounded by a marsh. To get to the forks, you must go left from the boat ramp for a short distance to the first bend, which is easily visible from the ramp. Turn right at the bend and follow the winding channel for a considerable distance until you eventually come out into the Neches River proper. The Neches is easily recognizable, because it is dramatically wider than the channel from the boat ramp. A red band on the leaning trunk of a dead tree marks where the channel meets the river. I was grateful for that when returning. In the morning light, the Forks appeared majestic. My photograph does not do justice to what I saw. I arrived around 10:00 A.M., although most paddlers would have covered the distance faster. The Corps of Engineers estimates the distance from the park boat ramp to the Forks at three miles. Though I was paddling up the Neches and the lake was low, I noticed no current. Of course, Sam Rayburn Reservoir was not releasing water down the Angelina at the time. Bee Tree Slough is the most popular entrance to the swamp above the Forks. To get to the slough, paddle up the Angelina for a short distance until a cove opens to river left. The cove is full of dead tree trunks and stumps. The slough leads out from the back of the cove.

The slough rapidly narrows, particularly at the lake level at which I paddled. It is filled with cypress trees and fallen logs. Quickly you move from paddling a wide river suitable for power boats to slipping through a narrow and heavily vegetated backwater. Unfortunately, after about 20 minutes I reached a stopping point. Although I had managed to get past numerous fallen logs and other obstructions, I finally would have had to wrestle my canoe over a major log jam with entangling branches. Although I have plenty of experience doing so, wrestling canoes over log jams is never fun and doing so this time would have required me to wade in murky, knee-deep water with a mucky bottom. I passed on the log jam given the potential for snakes, of which I had seen none, and for alligators, of which I had seen many. I pulled over to shore, had a bite to eat, smoked a cigar, snapped a few photos, and retraced my steps back out of the slough. Even at normal water levels, there would be unsubmerged land in the swamp suitable for stopping and resting. Much of the land is covered in trees and other non-aquatic vegetation. At higher water levels, the area is networked by interconnecting channels. I was concerned about getting lost, but there was no danger of that with the water as low as it was. Bee Tree Slough was the only channel with significant water, so I was able to paddle out without wondering on which channel I had paddled in.

Once back on the Angelina River, I pulled over to a Corps of Engineers campsite. To camp in the area, you must get a free Corps of Engineers permit and camp in the specified site. The only improvements to the site I visited were a well-maintained sign announcing the need for a Corps permit and two fish cleaning tables that were about to collapse. There was litter from previous users, including two lawn chairs. One of those held my weight long enough for me to snooze in the shade of the forest. Despite an upstream wind that had picked up as the day progressed, the paddle back went quickly. I encountered a fisherman at the park boat ramp who was surprised I had paddled as far as Bee Tree Slough. When I mentioned not seeing any snakes in the entire trip, he observed “the gators ate ‘em out.” Whether or not that is so, their absence was a significant contrast to a trip I took 28 years ago lower on the Neches in Hardin County. Eight of us paddled for three days, over a day of which was in sloughs off the main river channel. Although no one was bitten, without exaggeration, I saw more snakes on that trip than I have seen in all the rest of my 50+ years put together. That is why I had expected snakes on this trip.

Whether or not they ate out the snakes, alligators are plentiful. It was common to see a slight protrusion above the water surface that slipped underneath when approached. On several occasions my paddle bumped something where the surface offered no clue of logs or other obstructions. That sometimes occurred just after one of the protrusions had sunk below the surface. Surely hidden logs were responsible for some of those occasions. I’m not sure they were responsible for all of them. On at least one occasion I had the definite sensation that what I bumped with the paddle was moving. I was back at the boat ramp about 2:30 P.M. It was a delightful trip for anyone with the will and the ability for a seven or eight miles round trip in flat water. You will be rewarded with a visit to what has been called one of the last truly wild places in the state. You can get to the Forks only by boat, and you can get into the back reaches of the swamp only by paddle craft.

I have heard that the Corps of Engineers is planning to raise the level of Dam B to increase storage capacity. Doing so will drown out the swamp. Not only is this a trip worth taking, but it is one that must be taken soon if at all. If I am able to go back when the water level is normal, I would paddle up to a campsite near the Forks the first afternoon and have all the next day to explore the swamp more thoroughly before paddling out. If there is enough water to really get back into the swamp, a good map, a compass, and a GPS are essential.

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@yahoogroups.com If you're not already on the e-mail list contact Ken Bennight Bennight@stic.net.

Outrigger Canoe Team

A group of us in the San Antonio Area are looking at the possibility of forming an Outrigger Canoe Coop in the San Antonio area. Our basic plan is to find 15 to 20 people that would coop together financially with the intent of purchasing a 6 man Hawaiian Outrigger Canoe. If you think of the opening scene from Hawaii 5-O that is what we are talking about. Preliminary estimates are of purchasing a trailer for around 1000 dollars and a used OC- 6 (six person canoe for around 2000 to 3000 dollars). We would like to go into this deal with a pool of 5000 dollars to start with.

The intent would be to train the following weekends: 4 Lake Training Runs, 4 Coast Training Runs, 4 Competitive or Open Weekend Runs. The remaining weekends individuals would train at their own schedule with a routine that could be composed of canoeing, rowing, running, biking, swimming, etc. Note we are not looking exclusively for just paddlers to coop into this, but you need to be in reasonably good physical condition.

Some how we need to form a Queing routine that would set slots for the boat and a form of dues plus some type of fair charge for non-members if they wish to get in the boat. Members would hold individual shares of the boat and could sell their shares of the boat to a non-member pending approval by the members or a board of some kind. The membership eligibility area being considered is a 45 mile radius of San Antonio extending south toward the greater metropolitan areas of Floresville and Poth with the homeport being Seadrift Texas. Ideally this boat would be kept at one of the area lakes.

The long range goal is to use this vessel as a training platform with the intent of becoming proficient enough to enter Outrigger races in Hawaii, the West Coast and East Coast by borrowing or renting a boat in the area if we chose to send a team.

If you are interested in getting in on this deal give me a call. Gib Hafernick 210-822-8901 or Gibguy@Compuserve.com

Audubon Canoe/Bird Outing Very Fun - Unique Event

By Sheridan Coffey - S.A. Audubon

The first joint canoe trip with San Antonio Audubon and The Alamo City Rivemen (and women) Canoe club was held September 21st on the Guadalupe near Gonzales. Five members of SAAS joined 10 members of the canoe club for a great afternoon of paddling and a few nice birds. Bird numbers were not high, but quality made up for quantity! We launched off of a private boat ramp on the river and paddled a short way down river to a small lake that joins the channel. The river level was still high, and good bit of debris was still passing down stream. The water was quite muddy.

Large kettles of Turkey and Black Vultures were seen overhead. Carolina Chickadees were very active and White-eyed Vireos could be heard along the shoreline. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen perching on a dead tree. Carolina Wrens were also heard. A couple of Red-tailed Hawks soared at the end of the lake. I had just commented that there should be Red-shouldered Hawks in the area when one could be heard screaming. A bit later the bird gave us good views, flying over the tree line.

The highlight of the day came as we were paddling back. We were resting a bit in the middle of the lake when I glanced up. Almost directly overhead I spotted a mature Bald Eagle soaring. Everyone got very good looks, as the bird hung above us for several minutes. Part of the group took off for the shoreline to eat lunch, but we hung back a bit and I spotted a second Eagle flying over the tree line to our right.

One very interesting non-birding sighting were large numbers of spiders "ballooning". Strands of webs could be seen at different levels sailing through the air. Then we saw something I had never seen before. A large spider, probably a Garden Spider, though I am not certain, went "water skiing" over the water past us, following a blowing strand of silk. I don't know if she made it across the lake without becoming fish food. I wish we had had a video camera!

When we returned to the boat ramp about half of the group decided we needed to investigate the local culture a bit, so we headed for the Riverview Bar and Fish Camp. We sat on the deck outside of the establishment attempting to add species to our bird list for the day. Of course we had to sample the local refreshments. I actually did have an interesting observation here. We had seen and heard several Red-bellied Woodpeckers along the river and lake. A Golden-fronted Woodpecker flew into the trees by the deck, or at least that was my initial impression. I suspect this bird was actually an intergrade. The nape was reddish-orange, but the rump was white. The call was more like a Red-bellied.

We ended the day with 40 species seen either driving or along the river. Most importantly we had a great time. Below is my species list for the day.
G- GuadalupeR-along the road. Great Blue Heron-G Great Egret - G Cattle Egret - R Black Vulture - Both Turkey Vulture - Both Blue-winged Teal - G Wood-duck - G Cooper's Hawk - R Red-shouldered Hawk - R Swainson's Hawk - R Red-tailed Hawk - G Bald Eagle- G Killdeer - R Rock Dove - R White-winged Dove - Both Mourning Dove - Both Inca Dove - R Yellow-billed Cuckoo - G Chimney Swift - G Rubythroated Hummingbird - G Belted Kingfisher - G Red-headed Woodpecker - G Downy Woodpecker - G Olive-sided Flycatcher - G Empidonax Flycatcher species - G Scissortailed Flycatcher - R White-eyed Vireo - R (heard only) American Crow - G Cave Swallow - R Cliff Swallow - R Titmouse species - G (heard only) Carolina Wren - R (heard only) Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - G Eastern Bluebird - R Northern Mockingbird - G Yellow Warbler - G Warbler species - G Northern Cardinal - G (heard only) Great-tailed Grackle - R House Sparrow

P.S. This was one of those trips that if you didn't show up you just don't know what you missed. It was really great! Chris Vogeler

8-28-02 Trip report Yellowknife River in August 2002 from canoetx

In the canoeing scheme of things it was high time to start checking out the waters of the Northwest Territories. Some of the best paddling in the world is there--the Coppermine, the Nahanni, the Back, the Hood and dozens more. The one thing they have in common is that the trip will most likely start in Yellowknife by float plane. After doing the Kazan River in Nunuvut last year this is was the logical. Further north was the goal.

Since the regular partner, Howard Caplan, couldn't go this year (something about husbandly and fatherly duties, which I can't understand how they could get in the way of a canoe adventure) I was left to solo trip the scouting mission to Yellowknife. I picked the Yellowknife River, mainly cuz you end up paddling back to the city after being flown about 180 miles north, so it saves on float plane fare.

The Yellowknife is really about 15 lakes connected by a rapids-filled river. Some of the lakes were big--15 miles, 10-miles long. It's also the river Sir John Franklin went up in 1820 to become the first white guy to travel these parts. His three-week trek is document in "Journey to the Polar Sea," which I brought with me for reference. And it helped some. The guide book account in Mary McCreadie's "Canoeing Canada's Northwest Territories," had numerous errors in it and shouldn't be trusted at all. I doubted she had even been on the river.

I was on the water from July 27 to Aug. 7. The first week, which features the biggest lakes, also featured strong north winds, which, while helping me cruise down the lakes fairly quickly, also put the fear of god in the boat at times because swells of three feet were not that unusual. It was a real nerve tester and I often asked myself what I was doing out there. I think I could have used a voice of reason at times because I know I would've stayed on shore then.

As it was, after one particularly rough jaunt through seriously high seas, I packed it in for the afternoon and cooled my heels, waiting for the wind to come down. Getting up at 4 the next morning didn't help too much in terms of the wind, but I was determined to move and move I did. I was mainly anxious to move as I didn't want to be "overdue" with the RCMP and have them come looking for me, even though I gave myself 17 days to do what was billed as a 14-day trip, which I ended up doing in 12 days--with two days being windbound. The river would gradually get wide enough to either line the rapids and ledges, or there was enough room to find a sneaker route. All the rapids that could be run I did. Most were class twos, with high waves and rocks.

On the upper part of the river, though it is a tad narrow, and me, not fond of portaging over slippery sharp boulders took a chance once to reach a tight eddy, instead hitting a rock, spinning around, and facing the terrifying prospect of going swimming with the boat over a three-foot ledge with a nice, deep hole at the bottom. I hopped out and let the boat go. After a couple of roll overs in the hole the boat came out and bounced down some rocks in the middle of the stream. The two bags were still tied to the boat--a 16-foot Nova Craft Prospector, an excellent craft I will probably buy in the near future--and it was filled with water, pinned to the rock.

"At least it wasn't wrapped," was my first thought, after swearing up and down and realizing the only way to get it back was to swim out there and get it. A few days earlier I had come across a wrapped Mad River boat from years past next to the water and noted that their trip had ended pretty early. It was a true feeling of desolation. I wasn't due for 13 days. The emergency beacon and flares were in the boat. In fact, everything was in the boat except what I had on me--some parachute chord, two knives, matches in two places, some lucky rocks, a carabiner, and a clock. Even the tobacco was in the boat so I couldn't have a cigarette and think about the predicament a little more.

Of course, the boat was hung up closer to the other shore, which to get to required swimming through one large chute of fast water instead of two chutes where I was from. So I went up to the top of the rapids to cross over. There's nothing like getting swept off your feet in fast current above a rapid that looks like it could do some damage to your body to make you feel a tad mortal. Some unsightly flailing towards rocks and I made it to the other side, breathing heavily from the cold water and the adrenaline surge. It was about 40 feet through the chute to the boat. I eased into the current and jumped as far as I could, hitting the water swimming to get across the fast water to the refuge of the eddy behind the rock the boat was stuck on. Swimming with hiking boots on is more difficult than imagined, so I ended up doing a side stroke, since I couldn't touch bottom. The life jacket worked great, too. What a plus, eh?

So I got to the boat and bailed it out with this nifty plastic pitcher I had just picked up a few hours ago at a temporarily-vacant mining exploration site, since I had no bailer before. I then got to shore, set up the tent, doffed the wet clothes and let what little sun there was warm the tent and me. It was in the 50s out and the water may have been close to 50. And I took a nap. The losses? A roll of toilet paper and some matches. Both painter ropes (floating) had to be cut, too, as they were caught in the rocks. One paddle was missing but I found it later. Needless to say, after that, the emergency beacon and flares were carried on my person the rest of the trip. The weather also turned much nicer after that and I had plenty of chances then to work on my tan.

There were some fun days, too. The better part of one afternoon was spent lining over ledges and falls and running the rapids that could be run. It is a beautiful site to be lining some 10-feet up off the river while the boat is running rapids. I had with me two extra 60-foot sections of rope that I used for lining after cutting the other ropes. I didn't see anybody for the full 12 days of the trip, except on the last day when I was carrying a mile and a quarter around a dam and ran into the caretaker. I had done one and a half carries out of three when I met him while he was tooling around in his pickup. He gave me a lift. There were three portages at about a mile a piece--around waterfalls. The rest were all real short carries where lining was just too difficult.

The closer you get to the City of Yellowknife the more human signs start to be seen. Some hunting shacks, fishing line occasionally on the shore, more used campsites, etc. Camp sites are not as abundant as I thought since the terrain drops off steeply as it hits the shore, or is rather low and swampy. The trip starts in the tundra above the treeline and heads back into the trees--stump birch, and spruce. I like tundra myself, for its understated beauty and easy places to camp and portage. It's kind of like the Boundary Waters in places, but the rocks slope much more steeply into the water, and of course, it's not nearly as used. The river valley, if you could call it that, has high hills surrounding it most of the time as well, like a continuous Kashapiwi Lake sort of setting.

Wildlife? the arctic bird crews, terns, gulls, loons, but also the common loon and the common merganser as well. Caribou racks and moose racks were laying everywhere--saw four moose--but the caribou heard was about 60 miles away when I ended the trip--an early southern movement by the heard, locals said. Also saw one bear and some otters. The beginning of the trip was in the far eastern range of the barrenland grizzly in that area, and I saw old signs of them. Flight rules prevent flying with flares [or so I was told. It could be part of the saga lately of getting information from one airlines or airport only to have it change at the next] or bear scare or poppers, but there's this new device made by a company in Germany. where the trigger device looks like a pen and has a strong spring in it to set off a screw-on flare or bear scare shell. Very portable. I could easily carry them in my pocket.

[Continued Last Page](#)

Rivermen Mileage Log Sheet

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

Continued Yellow Knife Trip Report -Gear report: --bought a new Mountain Hardwear Skyview 3-person tent with me. Could take the strongest of winds without make nary a flapping noise. The only flaw I see is the vestibule needs to be guided out to make it tight. I got the feeling they put about four inches too much material in mine. Otherwise it would be good. The other problem-which I think is endemic with all tent manufacturers is the tent bag. Always too small. It was impossible to stuff in the sack with the groundcloth included. I think the companies should spend the extra \$2 in material for the bag to make our packing easier in the morning, I'd pay it. I ended up just stuffing the tent on the top of an expedition-size Seal Bag, which holds about as much as a Duluth No. 4.-bought a new Coleman "expedite" two-fuel stove in Yellowknife. It had a wind guard around the burner and worked like a champ. The aluminum parts, however, were pretty thin and I bent the base a tad. I think it would be better with a case, or some other protection. I had it in my cook kit, but the base still got bent. The jury's out on whether I'd buy that one again.-the boat was a Nova Craft 16-foot Prospector model. It doesn't slice through waves like boats with narrower bow and stern designs like the Old Town Penobscot, but rather seems to ride on top. It took some seriously big waves without water coming over the sides, and/or bow. I hear you can order them factory direct, which I believe I might.

The town: Yellowknife is the capital of the Northwest Territories and HQ for various gold and diamond mines that dot the wilderness hundreds of miles away. The workers works shifts like two weeks on and two weeks off and they hang in town during the off time. Float plains seem to be the preferred travel method for them and the float place base is busy from dawn to dusk-almost continuously. It has somewhat a frontier feel but has high-rise office buildings and the services you'd expect from a capital city. And there are a lot of bars, restaurants and lodging to choose from, with prices cheaper than I expected, being just 100 miles south of the Arctic Circle and 3,500 miles from Milwaukee. Sorry for the length, but thought the detail would be enjoyable to some of youse.- Doug - A friend of John LeBlanc

Stolen Boats

Reward for Recovery, BIGGER Reward for Arrest & Conviction!

PLEASE POST!!! KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!!! TELL YOUR FRIENDS!! FORWARD A.S.A.P.!!!

ATTENTION:

KAYAK TRAILER & 10 BOATS STOLEN FROM CANOESPORT, HOUSTON, TX

September 27, 2002

Trailer:

Tournament Three Tier Kayak Trailer

VIN: CA571684003

Royal Blue (new paint)

Boats Stolen:

Manufacture: Necky Kayaks (5)

17' Looksha IV, poly, rudder Yellow

QNK41013

17' Looksha IV, poly, rudder Yellow

QNK41748

16' Narpa, poly, rudder Yellow QNK35248

16' Narpa, poly rudder Yellow N.A.

14' Dolphin, poly, sit on top, Yellow

QNK41633

Manufacture: Perception / Aquaterra (5)

14' Prism, sit on top, 2 hatch, Yellow

WEM39708I292

14' Prism, sit on top, 2 hatch, Yellow

WEM39206L595

14' Prism, sit on top, 2 hatch, Yellow

WEM39650B999

16' Chinook Exp, poly rudder Yellow

WEM91297J293

16' Chinook Exp, poly rudder Yellow

WEM91302J293

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

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CANOESPORT

5808 South Rice Ave. Houston, TX 77081

Pecos Expedition Forming

Pecos River March 15th to March 24th, 2003

This will be an Alamo City Rivermen Trip but we want to keep the numbers of canoes to a small group. I am envisioning a maximum this number of 6 to 8 canoes or about 12 to 16 people. There are two reasons for doing this: 1. We will need to coordinate on logistics for travel, community meals and equipment 2. If we switch to the Rio Grande it will be necessary to carry a toilet system The Trip date will be March 15 thru March 24.

The schedule is as follows:

March 15, Friday - Travel to assembly point

March 16, Saturday - Run shuttles and launch on river

March 17th, Sunday - on river

March 18, Monday - on river

March 19, Tuesday - on river

March 20, Wednesday - on river

March 21, Thursday - on river

March 22, Friday - on river

March 23, Saturday - Exit from river

March 24, Sunday - Travel time back

The minimum flow rate for a no go on the Pecos will be 175 CFS at Pandale.

It is conceivable that we will wait to the last minute to make a decision as to if we go on the Pecos River, a decision to go or not go and switch to the Rio Grande would be made March 10.

A significant level of planning for this trip will be based on two previous Alamo City Rivermen trips one on the Lower Canyons in March of 2001 and the San Juan River in September of 2002 .

This will be a well provision expedition and as such a trip requirement will be that you have a canoe for carrying community equipment and food. Community gear can be specific to include stoves,dutch ovens, ice chest, charcoal, tables, toilet system etc.

One of the objectives of this expedition is to have a healthy and diverse food menu with a well managed beverage program.

I am going to start sending future messages with an attachment in Word that will have details specific to the Pecos Expedition. This attachment will be sent only to those individuals that have indicated they wish to go. That's it for now.

Gib Hafernick 210-822-8901 or Gibguy@Compuserve.com