

The Alamo City Rivermen Babbler

Issue MMCLX

October 2005

The monthly newsletter of the Alamo City Rivermen

Padding the fine line between geek and Bubba.

Meeting

October 12, 2005, Hungry Horse Rest.,
12333 West Avenue, near the
intersection with Rhapsody. 6:30 to
9:00.

-o0o-

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Next

Angelina-Neches Forks Trip Canceled

Ken Bennight

There will be no Angelina-Neches Forks trip October 8-10. When the government administers an area, you have to expect decisions will be made because somebody sitting at a desk somewhere thinks it will look more like he's doing his job if he issues edicts. Hurricane Rita took out the electricity and other utilities from the area around the Angelina-Neches Forks, so the Army Corps of Engineers has closed the entire area to the public--even though where we were going never had any electricity or other utilities.



What we're missing.

Maybe the campsite ID signs blew down. Lord knows the campsites had no amenities other than signs saying you needed a permit, so what else could be wrong? The guy I talked to on the phone told me there were "leaning trees." It's a swamp. There are always leaning trees, and the Corps of Engineers certainly won't ever be going back into the swamp to cut any of them. But the edict doesn't have to make sense. It's from the feds.

Alas. We'll have to put this off to another day.

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Goliad Third Annual Fall River Flotilla Saturday, November 5

As some of you might remember, the Goliad canoe trip last November had to be cancelled due to the high water conditions. This year should be back to normal, so come and join us for this really nice trip, taking advantage of all that historic Goliad and its state parks have to offer. This is not just a club trip, but an event on the San Antonio River sponsored by the Canoe Trail Goliad Committee, which is making great strides in grassroots support of a canoe trail.

(Continued next page--Goliad)

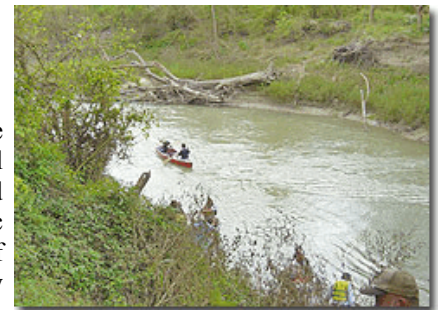
Upcoming Events

October 8-10, 2005	Angelina-Neches Forks canceled courtesy of the Army Corps of Engineers	Ken Bennight, 826-7071, bennight at stic dot net
October 12, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
November 5, 2005	Goliad Canoe Trail, San Antonio River, Goliad	Randy Hohlaus, hohlaus at prodigy dot net 493-7058
November 9, 2005	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
November 19, 2005	Cypress Wonderland, the Trinity River basin offers one of the most scenic paddling destinations in Southeast Texas. Conditions permitting, today's outing will explore several contrasting habitats: lake, bayou, artificial canal, and river. With expert coaching from artist/marine biologist Karla Klay, you'll also have an opportunity to create an original watercolor.	Artist Boat at (409) 770-0722 or info at artistboat dot org (not an ACR event)
November 25-27, 2005	Turkey Trot	Randy Hohlaus, hohlaus at prodigy dot net 493-7058
December 3, 2005	Cypress Wonderland, the Trinity River basin offers one of the most scenic paddling destinations in Southeast Texas. Conditions permitting, today's outing will explore the southern end of the largest cypress forest on the Texas coast: a maze of lakes and shaded, winding bayous.	Tom Douglas at (713) 8 69-6026 or baymail at sbcglobal dot net (not an ACR event)
December 3, 2005	Christmas Paddle/Party/Camp in lieu of meeting	Kevin McNeil has offered to host the Alamo City Rivermen Christmas party at his house in Kyle. We can paddle in the daytime, party in the evening, and campout with breakfast on Sun. People can paddle again Sun if they want or shop or not. He has plenty of room for tents and we can build a bonfire, maybe even some dutch oven cooking.
January 11, 2006	Monthly Meeting	Hungry Horse Rest., 12333 West Avenue, near Rhapsody. 6:30 to 9:00.
January 2006	Freeze Trip	



(Goliad, continued)

This project has the support of the San Antonio River Authority and TPWD, which should have representatives joining the trip. They have been active for a couple of years promoting the Trail as a nature tourism generator and for love of their own river. Two years ago we took them and local dignitaries on a float to view their river, which can link the town square, the State Historic Area and the put-ins, and makes a loop with an existing hike bike trail. Pretty sophisticated stuff for a little town in South Texas. If you have some time, this effort is worthy of support by showing a good out of town presence on this trip.





TPWD will run driver shuttles all morning 9:00am until noon to the Hwy 59 crossing above Goliad. This makes for about a nice 6 ½ mile float down to the State Park. It's basically flat water, clear channel, with lush vegetation and some surprising rock cliffs and outcroppings. We will likely stop at the town square near the river at the Ferry street landing to show how paddlers can support the local economy.

The Alamo City Rivermen will be meeting at the Hwy 59 put-in up river from Goliad at 10:00am. Right now, plan on packing a lunch for the float. We will be taking out at the state park. I will be reserving some campsites on the river for those who would like to stay overnight Saturday (recommended). We will not be cooking as we usually do, but will drive in to the local Mexican restaurant to show support for the local economy. We will then return to the park and stoke up the campfire for a night of tall tales and exaggerations. We will try to see if we can get some of the local folks or park rangers to come and tell us the tales of the ghosts that supposedly haunt the nearby mission and presidio, ephemera of its sometimes violent past. Ooooooohh.



The next morning we will get up and walk along the really cool riverside boardwalk trail into town and grab breakfast at the cafe on the town square. This boardwalk literally overhangs the river, quite a thing for a little town. This is a really easy trip suitable for beginners. Or you can do this as a day paddle, as SA is only 2 hours away. For info on the state park call 361-645-3405. For info on the Canoe Trail Goliad project, log onto <http://www.canoetrailgoliad.com/>. I will need to get your reservations for this trip, call me at 210-349-1163w, 210-493-7058h or email me at hohlaus at prodigy dot net. I will need to know if you will need a campsite or are doing this as a day trip.

Randy Hohlaus

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Turkey Trot Returns 2005

The Turkey Trot's On! After last year's washout due to the flood of '04 (this is getting monotonous, Flood of '98, flood of '02, etc.), the ACR Turkey Trot returns to the Colorado River, Friday, Nov. 26 through Sunday Nov. 27, 2005. This year we will be floating a slightly different stretch. As always, enjoy Thanksgiving with family and friends and then put in with us the next day for a relaxing three day float down this central Texas river.



We will paddle from Big Webberville Park between Austin and Bastrop down to our takeout at Fisherman's Park in Bastrop. The distance is approximately 28 miles. This trip is really nice this time of year. The weather has usually blessed us with pleasant days and cool nights, and the tree lined bluffs are usually at their height of autumn color change. And we'll always be hoping for that bald eagle sighting as in past years, but I would be surprised if we get one on this stretch. This trip is primarily flatwater, with riffle rapids only, suitable for beginners. Everyone will have to be self contained, as we will overnight camp on inaccessible islands. We will meet at 9:00am Friday on the 26th at Big Webberville Park, off Park Lane off Webberville Drive west of FM 969 on the east bank of the Colorado. There we will drop canoes and shuttle vehicles down to Fisherman's Park in Bastrop, where we will leave them at the park.

Neil Cook of Cook's canoes will provide a driver's shuttle. There will be a fee. Depending on turnout, this may take two trips. Cook's canoes will be able to provide canoes, paddles and pfd's to anyone needing a canoe, at the cost of \$30.00 total for the three days. This trip will be suitable to those with primarily flatwater skills, but at places there may be sweepers to avoid and tight bends to negotiate. You must provide all other gear necessary for two nights of camping. Fishing will also be a possibility.

We will be spending two nights on the river, with takeout planned Sunday afternoon at Fisherman's Park in Bastrop. The day we will do approximately 6 miles to our first island. The second day will be a long one, approximately 16 miles, and we will camp on Freeze Trip island. The last day should be only about 6 miles again. As always, we will Dutch oven cook the 2 night meals. The first will be shrimp etouffee with garlic bread, including the catch of the day, and the other to be decided. All other meals are on your own.

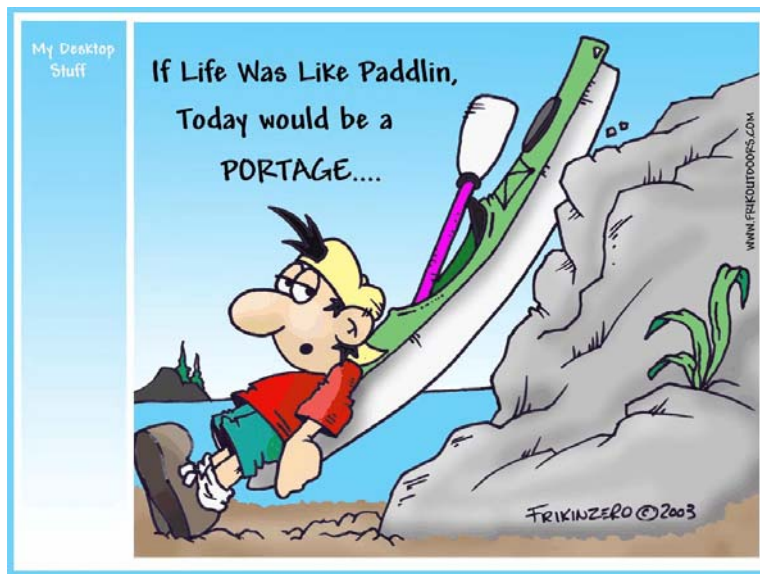
You will need to have all your own camping gear. Everyone should come ready to help with wood gathering, food prep, cooking, and cleanup for the night meals. In addition, we will ask that you help carry some of the groceries and charcoal. There will be a trip fee to cover shuttle fees, the two dinners, taxes, titles, and license. I will have this pinned down in the next newsletter, but probably not more than \$30. Everyone will have to pay for both meals whether you eat or not, so meal planning can be simplified. In the meantime, I will need to get your name, email, and phone number if you are intending to go to help with meal planning.

If you do not have a boat but have the gear and would like to do this trip, Cook's Canoes in Webberville can provide one for you. You will have to rent your own boat and make your own arrangements and payments. Tell them that you are with our group if you rent. We have a group discount. I will have their number in the next newsletter. If you are renting a canoe, please let me know, as he may throw in a driver's shuttle for the rest of us. I also need to know if you have a dutch oven, charcoal chimney or two burner stove that you can bring. This is usually a great trip, and hope you can make it. Sign up for the trip with Randy Hohlaus, ph. 210/349-1163w / 493-7058h, or email at hohlaus at prodigy dot net.



Fisherman's Park Take-out

Randy Hohlaus



Alamo City Rivermen Mileage Log Sheet

Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

Estimated Miles: _____ Comments: _____

Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

Estimated Miles: _____ Comments: _____

Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

Estimated Miles: _____ Comments: _____

Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

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Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

Estimated Miles: _____ Comments: _____

Date: _____ River: _____ Put in: _____ Take Out: _____

Estimated Miles: _____ Comments: _____

Alamo City Rivermen Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Business Telephone: _____

The Alamo City Rivermen try to keep their activities safe, but risk is inherent in water sports. We cannot and do not guarantee safety. The Alamo City Rivermen disclaim liability for accidental injury or death in any sponsored event. As a condition of membership and participation in club sponsored events, I release, acquit, and forever discharge the Alamo City Rivermen and its officers, agents, and members from all liability arising out of or relating to a sponsored event, even if negligence of the club or its officers, agents, or members is a cause, and even if I die or am injured This release includes not only actual paddle trips but also all other club events and driving or riding to and from club events.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Membership dues are the same for an individual or a family. As a member of the Alamo City Rivermen, you are automatically entitled to our monthly newsletter, NOC Outfitter store discounts, a \$10 discounted membership in the American Canoe Association through the Paddle America Program, and subscription to our email list. Details on these benefits are available in our newsletter.

I prefer to receive the newsletter: (Please circle the one you choose)

Dues if newsletter sent by email \$15.00

Dues if newsletter sent USPS \$20.00

(Note: Newsletter copying and mailing has been our biggest expense; using email frees up money for other activities, including our website.)

Mail this completed form, together with a check, to:

Alamo City Rivermen Canoe Club
P.O. Box 171194
San Antonio, Texas 78217

Alamo City Rivermen

P.O. Box 171194 • San Antonio • Texas • 78217

ACA Paddle America
7432 Alban Station Blvd.
Suite B 232
Springfield, Virginia 22150

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a member of the Alamo City Rivermen Canoe and Kayak Club and would like to take advantage of the club discount to become a member of ACA Paddle America. I enclose a check for an individual/family membership in the amount of \$20.00 (individual) or \$25.00 (family).

Please use this name for your membership roll: _____

Please send mail to the following address: _____

Happy Paddling. Thank you.

Member, Alamo City Rivermen Canoe and Kayak Club

Signature: _____

Date: _____