

www.houstoncanoecub.org Hotline (713) 467-8857
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San Marcos River Clean Up on Saturday, March 3

The Rest of the Story

By Donna Grimes

On the first of March Texas was receiving rain – lots of it. We paddlers watched the various rivers rising and anticipated exciting river trips ahead. However, rain is NOT what you want for a river clean up. I closely watched the weather reports the week prior to the San Marcos River cleanup, and my commitment waned as the week drew to a close. The web showed rain in San Marcos on Thursday, heavy showers on Friday, and intermittent showers on Saturday. Plus, the temperature was dropping very cool. Being a basic fair weather paddler, I called both my car partner, Marilyn Peery, and tandem paddling partner, Martha Williams, to see if there was some way I could not go and “save face” so to speak:

Donna: “Hi, Martha. What do you think of this weather? Are you sure you want to go to San Marcos?”



The brave souls from Houston Canoe Club who arrived to clean up the San Marcos River (front) Lewis Aulbach, Steven Aulbach, Linda Gorski, Marilyn Peery, Ann Derby, (back) Donna Grimes, Sue Null, Sue Eda, Jim Null, Joanna Wolf, Pat Isley
 Not pictured: David Conner and friend and Martha Willaim

Martha: “Well, I have just bought a rain proof jacket and I’ve already made arrangements to see relatives in San Antonio, so I’d like to go.”
 (I had hoped she would pull out).
 “But, I’ll not go if you don’t want to “
 (now, I have the opening, but if I pull out, I’ll look like a wimp)

Donna: “Well, let me call Marilyn and see what she think.

Donna: “Marilyn, this weather looks terrible, maybe we shouldn’t go to San Marcos. What do you think?”

Marilyn: “Oh, I didn’t think it was going to be that bad. But if your report is right, I agree. Let’s not go”

(So, now it’s Marilyn who is the wimp and I can call Martha with the “pull out” and blame it on Marilyn.)

I cancel and let Ann Derby know we three aren’t coming. However, a few hours after the canceling, Marilyn called me:

Marilyn: “Donna, I looked up the report on my internet site, and it really doesn’t sound like Saturday will be that bad – only partly cloudy and a lot warmer than what you said. I think we should go.”

(Darn! Now, I’ll be the wuss if I insist on not going.)

Donna: “Well, maybe you are right, Marilyn. I’m game if you are!”

So, the trip is “back on”. I call Martha, call Ann and we indecisive ladies are committed.

Saturday morning, I rise early, load my gear and head for Marilyn’s house...in the rain. We

take off...in the rain. We travel the 2 ½ hours to San Marcos...in the rain. Not merely mild sprinkles, mind you. Rain – a down pour! The sky has opened up and is drenching everything!

We arrive at Spencer’s at 8:45 to only a handful of people, all bundled up in their rain gear, hunched over in the cold and enjoying the pavillion’s protection from the deluge.

We greet other HCC paddlers who have braved the storm and enjoy each other’s camaraderie. At 9:30, Tommy Goynes calls us to “order” with the river assignments. I count heads – only 19 people (shock!!! Usually there are 50 to 70 people here). Where is the Alamo Rivermen? David Reichert is here, but that’s all! Where are the Dallas folks? The new Austin club paddlers? NONE! But I am so proud to see that 15 of the 19 present are from HCC. Yes, in spite of the rain HCC made a good showing. We had the farthest to travel and we brave souls are here! HCC reins supreme! Neither rain nor sleet nor snow can keep this faithful club from its appointed errand!

NOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORY:

Tommy finishes his little speech and urges us to divide up the area – some of us doing other sections. He also says he is a little worried about the height of the water, whether there would be trash in easy access or whether it would be below the water level. As he talks, the crowd begins dwindling, First, my tandem partner comes up to me and says, “Donna, I’m not getting on the river in this downpour! It’s cold and I’m miserable and I’m leaving” “Martha! You can’t do this to me!”

“Oh yes I can and am. This is awful and I’ve done one trip with you in the rain (The Buffalo River last summer) and I’m not doing it again.”

Personally, I’ve driven this far and I’m determined to finish the task, so I find a paddler who didn’t have a boat and she will be my tandem partner. We bid adios to Martha and she heads out. But as others look at the sky – no break in the clouds and rain is falling heavily, others begin thinking Martha might be right.

With the exception of six people (four from HCC) the rest of us follow Martha’s lead, get inside of our DRY cars and head back to Houston, to our nice warm homes and dry clothes.

HCC members who REALLY cleaned the San Marcos River. Sue N. Sue E. Jim N., Joanne W. and Pat I



Houston Canoe Club Officers for 2001

Commodore Fraser Baker 713-796-0946
fraser@pobox.com

Vice Commodore Lillian Tigard 281-494-7977
cbtigard@msn.com

Recorder Marilyn Peery 713-669-9193
kit.santome@pdq.net

Purser Candy Donahue 713-666-6542
paddler@pdq.net

Fleet Captain Cheryl Cleary 713-521-1642
Ccleary@excite.com

Newsletter Ed. Donna Grimes 713-728-1645
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Governors:

Mary Carter 713-461-5466
marcar1@pdq.net

Mark Andrus 979-849-3732
Gandrus@dellepro.com

Robert Scheffler
Rscheff@swbell.net

Rendezvous Chair: Jim Null 713--664-1083
medislide@earthlink.net

Newsletter Deadlines

Submissions to the Newsletter are encouraged. The preferred method is a Word document. Pictures in jpeg or gif. Submit articles, sales items, pictures by general meeting OR by the 18th of the month. Electronic submissions:
Donna.grimes@mindspring.com

Snail Mail:
Donna Grimes
4838 Kingfisher
Houston, TX 77035

Change of Address

Contact HCC Recorder, Marilyn Peery

Hulsebosch Committee members For 2000:

Paula Dittrick - chair
Mary Carter, John Olden, Martha Williams
Lewis Aulbach, Wes Simmons and Marilyn
Peery

(composed of 2 governors, 4 elected members,
and permanent member,
Martha Hulsebosch Williams)

The meeting was called to order by Commodore, Fraser Baker. Officers present included Lillian Tigard, Vice Commodore, Marilyn Peery, Recorder, Candy Donahue, Purser, Donna Grimes, Newsletter Editor, Cheryl Cleary, Fleet Captain and Governor Mary Carter. Lillian and Cheryl were officially elected to their respective offices. Bob Foote and Karen Knight presented an interesting and informative program on hypo and hyperthermia.

Visitors were introduced and welcomed. The minutes were read and approved. The fleet captain's report was presented.

Candy presented the treasurer's report. A motion carried to fund Rendezvous 2001 with \$8000 seed money for initial expenses. Dues are due and members who do not renew now will be removed from the newsletter mailing list.

Members were reminded of the change of dates for the Rendezvous this year. It will be the second weekend in October, not Columbus Day weekend. A motion carried to establish a permanent new members committee. Donna Grimes will serve as chairman this year.

Fraser informed the club of various conservation and environmental issues and events in the area. He suggested forming a committee to keep members informed on these issues. A conservation committee consisting of Tom Douglas, Mary Carter, John Bartos, Cheryl Cleary, Ann Derby and Mark Andrus was appointed. They will decide how the committee will be organized.

Linda Gorski announced that Carolyn Boyd, a former HCC speaker, will be sponsoring three programs on Pecos Rock Art this year.

Fraser announced the following:

Letter from the Galveston Bay Foundation signed by Linda Shead expressing appreciation for renewing the HCC's nonprofit organization membership for \$100.

Letter from the Armand Bayou Nature Center signed by Lynn Shigekawa expressing appreciation to the Hulsebosch committee expressing appreciation for \$1,440 support of their education canoeing classes at the Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Presentation by Robert Kennedy Jr, 8:00 PM Wednesday March 21 at Rice Memorial Center, Rice University. Topic is "A Contract with Our Future".

Clear Creek Project: The Corps of Engineers is re-evaluating flood control measures for Clear Creek. Meeting is March 15th, Friendswood High School. HCC members are encouraged to visit the corps' website, www.clearcreekproject.com and express their opinions. The meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Peery, Recorder

Who be These People?

Marilyn Peery - HCC Recorder

1. Where were you born and raised? Clinton, Illinois
2. Are you married, have children Yes, 26 yrs. to Cliff, 3 grown children and 7 grandchildren.
3. Where educated and degree? B.S. Home Ec. Ed., Univ. of Ill. Masters in Ed.. Univ. of Houston.
4. Previous occupations? how long? Teaching 25 years
5. Present occupation - how long? Retired, substitute teacher 5 years.
6. Other places lived, how long in Houston. Houston - 44 years
7. How did you become involved with HCC? Saw HCC people paddling slalom gates at Shady Grove and thought, "We can't do that!" Found out about the club and joined.
8. What is your favorite type and place to paddle? Prefer class II-III whitewater. Like to try new places--with someone who's been there before

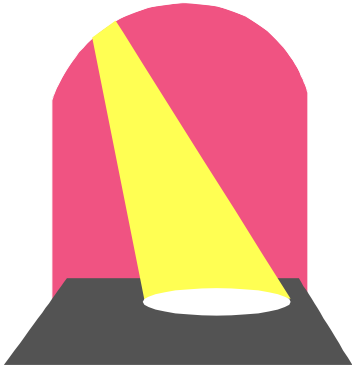


9. Do you have any other hobbies or outside activities? Outdoor activities--camping, hiking, skiing, gardening. Sewing, knitting, woodworking.
10. Any other comments? ACA Instructor--Solo and Tandem Canoe, flat and moving. HCC Recorder 1995 -1997. Rendezvous Clinics Chairman 1998 -2000, Publicity Chair - 1997, Food Chair -1996. HCC Paddler of the Year - 1993.

BOB ARTHUR – PADDLER. EX-COMMODORE. RDZV ORIGINATOR



1. Where were you born and raised? Lindale, Smith Cty, TX
2. Are you married, have children Single dude with two sons and daughter-in laws, Jeff 31 and Paula, and Matt 28 and Cher, relative newly weds.
3. Where educated and degree? BS in Animal Husbandry
4. Previous occupations? how long? Sales of one type or another since 1975. In business as Arthur and Associates since 1985.
5. Started network marketing business with Mannatech.
6. How long in Houston.?
7. Since 1970.
8. How did you become involved with HCC?
9. Joined in 1982, I think just because I was looking for a canoeing group. Had shopped all over Houston at the time and there were maybe two retailers of canoeing related equipment at the time.
10. What is your favorite type and place to paddle? Most nearly anything, but lately in and around Houston area
11. Do you have any other hobbies or outside activities? Genealogy
12. Any other comments?
13. Came to Harris County (not Houston) in 1970 as a ranch manager with the Josey Ranch at Cypress, TX. Its now being turned into another damned golf course community.



Spotlight Cruise for April

Armand Bayou and Birding

April 22 – Sunday –

Mary Carter Trip Coordinator

Armand Bayou is:

- **A coastal preserve:** 290 acres of state-owned submerged land in Armand Bayou, a tidal tributary on the western shore of Galveston Bay – one of the last bayous in Texas not channeled. The preserve allows the public to see how this part of the state looked before it was developed, a region of large prairies with narrow wooded streams and scattered lakes, ponds and marshes
- **A park:** a 2,500 acre wilderness area and wildlife refuge bordering the bayou – surrounded by NASA, the Bayport petrochemical complex, the Clear Lake Oil Field and the cities of Houston and Pasadena.
- **An environmentally significant area** recognized in 1975 with the establishment of the Armand Bayou Nature Center and Park
- **A visual feast** of tawny prairie grasses, silver-gray Spanish moss and lush greens of oaks, pines, and water hyacinth
- **A quiet spring morning** with mist rising off the dark brown water.



If the descriptions above don't "grab" you, then maybe the images of **birds** will. Overhead a circling Osprey may fold its wings and dive feet first, emerging from the water with a small fish in its talons. A sunny afternoon with only the sound of dripping paddles and bird calls. Quiet paddlers might see belted kingfishers, cormorants, egrets, and redwing blackbirds along the bayou – hear cardinals, Carolina wrens, chickadees and woodpeckers in the trees along its banks. Plan to see egrets (cattle and Snowy), Herons (the great and the little blue herons, black and yellow night herons) and the beautiful Rosette Spoonbill with its vibrant pink and white coloring.

Pelicans, ducks and geese, also, await you. Mary Carter will lead this trip for new members as well as established member on Sunday, April 22, 2001. Call her at (713) 461-5466 or marcar1@pdq.net



Yellow-Crested Night Heron



Marilyn Kircus enjoys A day on Armand Bayou

HCC Trips

4/6-8 Caddo Lake flatwater trip for sea-kayaks or canoes. Contact Marilyn Kirkus, (713) 782-0178 or mkirkus@academicplanet.com. It is suggested that participants reserve themselves a campsite at Caddo Lake State Park or at Pine Needle Lodge, (903) 665-8824 or even at one of many B&B's in the Jefferson area for fri and sat eve. You will be informed in enough time to cancel if the group camps on Goat Island Saturday night. This is a joint trip between Houston and paddlers from north TX.

EASTER WEEKEND -April 13 - 15 on Frio River –camp in the hill country and paddle the Medina, Frio, and Guadalupe. Bill & Donna Grimes 713-728-1645 donna.grimes@mindspring.com

EASTER WEEKEND – April 13 – 15 Locust Fork of the Warrior River in Alabama – Class II/III Contact John Olden at (713) 864-0205 or johnold@ix.netcom.com

NEW MEMBERS PADDLING CLINIC
April 21st – on Oyster Creek at the Tigard's place – for open canoes and sea kayaks – learn better paddling techniques – free! lead by Ljllian &Chet Tigard 281-494-7977 cbtigard@msn.com

*****APRIL SPOTLIGHT CRUISE *****
4/22 – Armand Bayou – a day to explore this wildlife, natural environment as well as observe the birds of the area. Contact Mary Carter at (713) 461-5466 or marcar1@pdq.net

4/28-29 Annual HCC Womens Trip. Paddle Village Creek near Beaumont, Camp in large cottage, eat and enjoy the ladies of HCC. Anne Stafford Olden (713) 864-0205 anestaff@swbell.net

4/28 -29 Macho Dude's Wilderness Experience on the San Marcos

While the women enjoy Village Creek, the males of HCC will gather on the San Marcos River. For details, contact Skip Donovan at (713) 937-1184 or dono-vans2@aol.com

4/28 –29 Guadalupe River in the hill country Contact Lewis Aulbach at (713) 683-8379 or lfa@hal-pc.org

4/28 - Austin Paddlefest
<http://www.austinpaddling.org/>

******SPOTLIGHT FOR MAY**

5/5 Sheldon Reservoir – Mary Zabrowski (713) 957-0614, (713) 480-3600 or maryz-abo@flashnet.net

5/5 Marsh Mania, sponsored by the Galveston Bay Foundation, help restore lots of marsh at various locales throughout the Galveston Bay system, 281-332-3381.

6/1- 8/1 Pigeon and Grass Rivers, Manitoba Canada. Wilderness trip approx. 25 days per river. Trip will include white and flatwater, portages, camping, flies and mosquitos. Contact: Mary Zabrowski (713) 957-0614, (713) 480-3600 or maryz-abo@flashnet.net

Item: The local kayak fishing club's **kayak fishing tournament** on Sat. April 7 at San Luis Pass on the Freeport side. Go to this site and copy off anything you want to use. Richard Zewe is the webmaster for the [texaskayakfisherman.com](http://www.texaskayakfisherman.com) and he hosts our fishing club P.A.C.K.- Paddling Anglers in Canoes & Kayaks. The saltwater message board is "THE" bulletin board for kayak fishing. (Real KOOL bunch of fisherman!) All the info for the tournament is on the site.
<http://www.texaskayakfisherman.com/>

Carolyn Boyd's upcoming programs on the Pecos.

By Linda Gorski

I'm sure most of you remember the wonderful program about The Rock Art of the Lower Pecos presented to the HCC by Dr. Carolyn Boyd a couple of years ago. She also put on one of the best non-paddling workshops we've ever had at Rendezvous 1999.

For those of you who are interested in rock art and want to study it up close and personal, Carolyn is offering three programs this year at the Harrington Research Field School which occupies approximately 1600 acres along the Pecos River near Comstock. These five day, four night adventures will include morning hikes through river canyons and archeological sites along the Pecos, including several rock art sites. The afternoons will include programs on making paint and creating rock art much the same way as prehistoric people did thousands of years ago.

Participants will also learn how to make twine, stone tools, musical instruments, and baskets with natural resources. Participants will also



build an earth oven using prehistoric techniques to cook desert succulents and will learn about the medicinal and nutritional values of local flora. Bird watching will also be part of the program.

The programs will be held **May 27 - 31, June 17 - 21** and **October 7 - 11**. The cost of the program is \$400 per participant and includes three daily meals and water. Tents, cots and restroom/shower facilities will be provided. For more information about these programs contact Carolyn Boyd or Robyn Lyle at 979-458-2775 or info@expressiveculture.com

Wearing PFD's

3/14/01:HB 3107 by Clyde Alexander of Athens, would require everyone in a boat or vessel less than 26 feet long, or a class A or class 1 motorboat, to wear a lifesaving device while the vessel is underway (includes "floating with the current"). This bill (effective 9/1/01) includes canoes, kayaks, punts, rowboats, sailboats, and rubber rafts. A violator would face a Class C TPW misdemeanor (fine of \$25 to \$500). Rep. Alexander has let it be known that he would like to hear from the public on this issue-- in fact, one of the reasons he introduced the bill was to become more familiar with the public's wishes on this matter. Contact him at 512/463-0730, fax 512/463-8447; e-mail: clyde.alexander@house.state.tx.us

(3/21 – Responses to PFD mandate have been negative. Bill being revised to "only in powered boats and while engine is running)

Working on and updating HCC Constitution:

Jim Null is looking over the constitution for modifications – any ideas or suggestions of needed changes are welcome – call him at (713) 664-1083 medislide@earthlink.com

HCC Rivers Conservation Committee Established

A committee to represent and report on Texas Rivers' issues and to foster relations with like-minded conservation groups has been established. The committee consists of John Bartos, Cheryl Cleary, Tom Douglas, Mary Carter, Ann Derby and Mark Andrus. Anyone else interested in joining this committee should contact the Commodore, Fraser Baker.

Before there was Houston, there was Frostown.

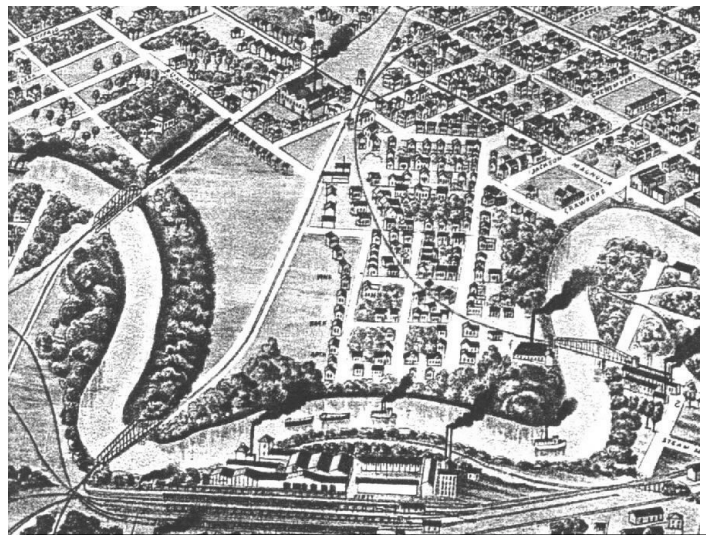
By Lewis Aulbach

The enterprising Allen brother, John K. and Augustus, realized that Texas was primed for development in 1836 (it was called land speculation back then). With the defeat of the Mexican Army and the rise of the Republic of Texas in April, 1836, the Allen's sought to develop a town on Buffalo Bayou which was the gateway to the heart of the Anglo settlements of Texas.

Having abandoned their attempts to purchase the burned town site of Harrisburg, the Allen's moved to a small community that had developed on high ground in a horseshoe curve of Buffalo Bayou about 1 mile below the junction of Buffalo Bayou and White Oak Bayou. From this community that was called Germantown because of the many Germans living there, the Allen brothers conceived the plan for a town named in honor the great Texan general Sam Houston and they negotiated the purchase of the land south of Buffalo Bayou around the junction of White Oak Bayou from Mrs. Elizabeth Parrott for \$5,000.

As the town of Houston began to take shape in the late 1830's and early 1840's, the community of Germantown continued to grow. Jonathan Frost purchased a large amount of the land in the area and brought his extended family to the area. The Frost family platted the area, established businesses and sold lots for home sites, and the community became known, then, as Frostown.

Frostown ultimately became a victim of the success of the City of Houston. The Houston & Texas Central Railroad built tracks through the center of Frostown in the 1870's, dividing the neighborhood. Industrial development moved to the east from downtown while the residential areas grew to the south and north of downtown. In the 1950's, the area of Frostown was bisected by the construction of Highway 59.



Copy of Frostown site in 1840's



James Bute Park

Today, no residences exist in Frostown. A couple of the old streets still remain, but most of the area is part of the complex of freeways and overpasses comprising Highway 59 and the Elysian Viaduct. Harris County has preserved the memory of Frostown in the creation of James Bute Park. Frostown and James Bute Park lie on the south side of Buffalo Bayou at the McKee Street bridge. This bridge is about one mile downstream of Allen's Landing. Access to Buffalo Bayou will be possible from Allen's Landing Park at the foot of Main Street, although the park is currently being redeveloped and is under construction.

The bulletin board – Things for sale!

Grumman G-17 Aluminum Excellent condition Older boat looks like it has never seen the water. \$550.00
Michi-craft 17' Aluminum Good Condition Has seen some rocky streams - lots of life remaining \$485.00
Ocean Kayak Dawn Trakker Red Cockpit/sit on top convertible - New \$525.00
Ocean Kayak Dawn Trakker Blue Cockpit/sit on top convertible - Used once with two hatches \$550.00
Perception Sea Lion Poly - Yellow Good Condition - Great touring boat for coast \$600.00
Alden Rowing OceanShell double - needs small amt. fibreglass work 2 sliding seats- Older boat \$600.00
all located in Kerrville at Pico Outdoor Company 800 256 5873 or pico@ktc.com

a brand new **Lotus Rio size XL** that I wish to trade for a new, or like new, Lotus Lola , size M.....Contact Stephen Rodgers phone number day (best time to reach me) 281 588 8941
e-mail is psrodgers1@msn.com or d.stephen.rodgers@us.akermar.com

fiberglass **Betsie Bay Manitou**. This is a hard chined, Greenland style boat with an ocean cockpit. The boat is 18' long with a 22" beam. I am selling the boat for \$1450 US, including a compass that mounts on the front hatch. The boat is in very good condition. The boat is in Austin, TX. More pictures and info at <http://www.io.com/~jjoy/> Mark White gajaq@swbell.net

THULE - Factory VW **THULE roof rack**. This rack came off a 1996 VW Jetta Trek. Two bars, locks, instructions, big mouth bike mount. Only used several times. Fits any 1995 - 1998 VW Golf or Jetta. \$175
Call Tracy at 832-741-9047.

17' Mad River Sundance, fiberglass, light colored wood trim, dark green, sliding bow seat, sailing thwart + mast step, garage kept, clean/good condition, D rings, cane seats, stern foot rests, great paddling tandem, \$650.00 contact Rudy Rivers at (281)495-9742 or rudyrivers@aol.com (price reduced since March)

17 foot Mad River Sun Dance, good shape and auto racks (clips for gutter or non gutter) \$400. Call Wanda at 830 238 4564, Hunt Texas 78024
1 yr. old **Neky Looksha IV** including the Werner composite paddle, spray skirt and rescue gear. Whole package is \$1200. The boat is "granite" color. Mike McDonell's work phone number is 713.960.8989 and Home is 713.629.7921

Like new. Tuf-weave **Wenonah Sundowner**, ivory in color, tractor seats with adjustable seat in bow, with slip covers and 2 paddles for sale. \$ 900.00 Call Gib Nunez in Silsbee, Tx at 409 385-6468

NECHES RIVER FESTIVAL AND USCA
CANOE SHOOT OUT
Beaumont Texas April 28, 2001

On April 28, 2001 the fourth annual USCA C-1 Canoe Shootout will again be held in conjunction with the **Neches River Festival**. Come out and see canoe racers from Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri match their skills against the best C-1 paddler in North America, Calvin Hassel. "Over the past 10 years Calvin Hassel has established himself as the most dominating C-1 paddler in North America" states Bob Spain past President of the United States Canoe

Association. " I have seen him race in all types of water, deep or shallow, quiet or swift water, and it really doesn't matter, he is in a class of his own" Spain says. During the last seven or eight years he has won more that 20 USCA National Championships and has also won the Canadian Nationals. Come out and see the best Texas racers match their skills for money and glory at the fastest canoe race in Texas, the C-1 Canoe Shootout. Races start at 10:00 Am at Colliers Ferry Park on the Neches River in Beaumont, Texas. For more information on the race or canoe racing Contact Bob Spain at 512- 302-1005.

Welcome to New Members

Rober L Mosty Jr. and Darlene

10515 Sagewillow
Houston, TX 77087
H- 281481-2357
W- 713-677-7305

Bruce Eames

1302 Waugh Dr. # 391
Houston, TX 77019
beames@quantlab.com
281-830-2879
Heard about us from other kayakers.

James Wood

715 Holiday Drive North
Galveston Yacht Basin
Galveston, TX 77550
ceph@is.dal.ca
409-256-5259
Found us on the internet.

Joe and Jeanette Schwarz

14406 Oak Chase
Houston, TX 77062
j.schwarz@worldnet.att.net
281-486-5648
Found us through our web site.

***** **IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT** *****

Due to a conflict with another statewide event, the dates for Rendezvous 2001 have been **changed to October 12 - 14** at Lake Raven, Huntsville State Park.

Please mark your calendars to participate in this world class event. For those of you who have "Rendezvous-ed" in the past, you know how fantastic it is to be part of the "gathering of the paddling clan" from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and the rest of the country. This is the largest on-the-water paddling show in the nation and the Houston Canoe Club is proud to sponsor this great event.

NEW CHAIRMAN - The chairman for Rendezvous 2001 is **Jim Null**. Many of you know Jim as the "man with the camera". He has conducted several workshops on photography at previous Rendezvous and is responsible for most of the wonderful photographs that have been taken at Rendezvous and re-produced in national magazines over the years. Jim's e-mail address is medislide@earthlink.net.

CLINICS - Once again Rendezvous will offer paddling clinics and workshops by world renowned instructors including Bob Foote, Mark and Becky Molina, Gordon Black, Karen Knight, Ken Fink, Andy Corra, Wayne Horodowich and Wayne Dickert. Last year our clinics chairman Marilyn Peery put together over 100 clinics and she's hoping to add more this year including (by popular demand) a recreational kayaking class on Friday morning. Marilyn's e-mail address is kit.santome@pdq.net.

TEST PADDLE - the newest canoes and kayaks

on the market today from the country's largest paddlesports manufacturers and local retailers. We look forward to seeing last year's exhibitors again at Rendezvous 2001.

CAMPING - Last year the Rendezvous Committee reserved approximately 40 campsites especially for event participants. This year we have reserved the entire park - over 175 campsites. There should be plenty of room to accommodate everyone!

REGISTRATION BROCHURE - Watch for it to hit your mailbox sometime in August. Information will also be posted on the Houston Canoe Club's website at www.houstoncanoecub.org as it becomes available.

Linda Gorski
Publicity chairman, Rendezvous 2001
lindagorski@compuserve.com

Hidalgo Falls Frequently Asked Question – submitted: **Scott Coultas**

What is Hidalgo Falls? It is a rapid on the Brazos River 3 miles south west of Navasota Texas.

Where is the property? 3 miles north of state highway 105 just off FM 159.

Why is this site important to open canoes or recreational/sea kayaks? Paddlers have an opportunity to directly change how we protect a resource specific to paddling. We are establishing a precedent and a model for how these efforts can work to the benefit of all paddlers. In the future, it may be a place along a bayou or near a lake. This is a put in for a 7-8 mile trip down to Washington on the Brazos State Park. It will serve as a take out for 12-15 mile trips on Yequa

Creek below Lake Somerville Dam. This area is rich in historical significance. For this reason it could serve as the foundation for a Texas History Water Trail from Waco to San Felipe.

How much land is involved? 7.1 acres (pending completion of the survey) on the north side of Gery Orlando Nobles' property at the site sometimes referred to as Brazos River Resort.

Why not river front property? The river front parcel was only on the table early on in the negotiations and was withdrawn.

How will you get to the river? Gery will grant an easement "running with the land" that will be enforceable on all future owners. It will run from the west side of the property to the river. Canoes can get in the water by walking down the easy slope through the bamboo forest or down the step slope by way of the boat dock.

How much will it cost? Gery has offered about 7 acres of land for \$7,000.00 per acre.

What is the appraised value of the land and why is the price so high?

The appraisal value (dated 3/18/97) for all 50.73 acres is \$18,550, but since we are interested in the market value, that is what I will focus on. The market value in 1997 was \$120,230--broken down this way: 30 acres of mostly native grassland @ \$2,100/acre (\$71,100), 15 acres of grass and trees @ 1,050/acre (\$35,550), and 5.73 "improved" acres @ \$2369./acre (\$13,580). There were also four bathrooms (\$100 each), a frame building--Tany's house-- (\$2,000), and another frame building (\$500). Originally the negotiations started out at 12.5K per acre in one-acre parcels. A prospective buyer who wanted it for a nudist camp offered \$20k/acre for the whole property. That offer was declined. Gery and one of her 3 sons plan to live on the property that they retain. Gery is interested in keeping this as simple as possible. When approached by a buyer interested in the other 20 acres for sale and offered 7.5/acre that had the overall effect of working our price down.

Are there any other expenses involved? The agreement states that the cost of maintaining the road from FM 159 into the property will be shared proportionally by Gery, her sons, and the other land-owners including TRPA. There is not an exact estimate of that as an ongoing cost at this time. A parking area will need to be cleared and it is probably a good idea to cover it in gravel or crushed limestone. There is no water or restroom on the property.

Why not buy fewer acres? As negotiations continued, Steve Daniel was able to get our price to 7K/acre for the whole 7-acre parcel as a package deal. Gery is not interested in multiple transactions and is not willing to sell smaller parcels.

What about liability insurance?

Tom Goynes concluded: "In my research regarding property tax exemption, I have concluded that, while it may be possible to get a tax exemption, it may not be advisable. Present laws exempt a landowner from liability as long as he does not collect more than twice the ad valorem taxes assessed to his property in the form of entry or use fees. In other words, we could collect a small use fee for access to pay for road upkeep and taxes - as long as we didn't collect more than twice the taxes - and still be protected from liability claims. In other words, insurance is unnecessary. I am also confident that the property taxes on these seven undeveloped acres will be very affordable."

How much are the property taxes and who will pay them?

Tom Goynes "I don't know if anyone but the tax appraiser can tell us for sure, but I'm pretty confident that seven acres of raw, unimproved land with no structure on it cannot be very highly taxed. I'm guessing somewhere in the hundred dollar range. The entity that holds the deed will be responsible for paying the taxes." Last year \$83 in tax was paid for the entire 50 acres with an agricultural exemption.

Who will hold the title? Texas Rivers Protection Association will be the title-holder.

Who will manage the property and make decisions regarding its use? TRPA and a committee of those contributors who have donated \$7k to support this effort will make decisions related to property management

Who will be able to use the property?

The agreement with Gery is that only paddlers will have access to the property. This assured limitation of access was necessary because of negative experiences the Orlando Family has had in the past.

How will access be controlled? There is a gate on the access road to the property and TRPA will have a combination lock on it. In order for us to maintain the sales agreement with Gery, the combo will not be published. Instead it will be passed by word of mouth from one paddler to another paddler. It is very important that we do not diminish the good will of Gery and her sons by dishonoring the agreement to limit access to paddlers only.

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What's in the newsletter?

- Pg.1-2 – San Marcos River Cleanup
- Pg. 3 – Officers and meeting Minutes
- Pg. 4 - Biographies of Marilyn Peery
And Bob Arthur
- Pg. 5 –Spotlight Cruise – Armand
Bayou
- Pg. 6 - HCC Trips and fishing
Tournament
- Pg. 7- Rock Art, Wearing PFD's
HCC Constitution
HCC Rivers Conservation
Committee
- Pg. 8 – Houston History: Frostown
- Pg. 9 – For Sale ,Neches River Festival
- Pg.10 -Welcome new members, Ren-
dezvous Update
- Pg. 11 Hidalgo Falls Questions



Speaker for April 11th Meeting:
Karl Elers on
"Bird Migration Across South-
east Texas."
Karl Elers is a mining engineer
and geologist, and recently retired
as CEO of a mining company with
operations in North and South
America, Australia and Asia. He is
a life-long birder, and serves on
the board of Houston Audubon
Society.