

## The Number 13.....But I'm NOT Superstitious!!!!

By Donna Grimes

The Southwestern Canoe Rendezvous has been an integral part of the Houston Canoe Club since 1989 and it has exposed non-paddlers to this sport, brought in needed revenue to our club, and allowed us to make substantial donations to various water related interests. And this year was **Year Number - Thirteen** .....hmmm.....maybe that accounts for the high level of problems: a conflicting date with Texas Expo in Austin ( easy solution – we changed the date), hydrilla at Huntsville State Park - a real blockage that almost caused cancellation until mid-August, when Lillian Tigard announced, "I have a place!"



*Lonnie Cooper and Randall Nord deliver hay to combat the mud*

But that ominous number 13 wasn't finished yet. It knew the one element we could not control ..... WEATHER. On Thursday, as the Rendezvous volunteers set up tents, signs, etc. the rains came down. The forecast was for rain and winds through Friday night and sure enough rain fell and fell and fell .....past the time forecast on Saturday. And guess what Saturday was.....**the Thirteenth!!**



*Rain drips from rendezvous volunteers, Donna Grimes and Bob Naeqer as they work the HCC booth*

We now have the **Thirteenth** Rendezvous taking place on the **Thirteenth**. A new place, rain, less participants, cancellations of instructors, missed planes, a thousand questions, and MUD.... Chaos reigned supreme at the registration booth with a cacophony of questions, "Ask Marilyn," "Where is the Walkie Talkie," "I can't Find Site P (or Q or M)" "What can be done about the mud...my exhibit is sinking in mud." and "MARILYN!!!". HCC volunteers had a choice – either cry or laugh. We laughed – with rain dripping off the tables and umbrellas over our shoulders...we laughed!

However, in spite of the ominous NUMBER THIRTEEN – people came, boats were paddled, a sense of excited prevailed, my volunteers showed up and helped, and that number of doom didn't win.



*Shepherd tags before and after the rain on Saturday*

By the end of the day, the rain clouds had been pushed away by the year's first cool front, leaving blue skies and sunshine. Following the Saturday night banquet, the ACA National Freestyle Championships sparkled in a beautiful, hydrilla-free setting. On Sunday, the fourteenth, the ground dried out, spirits rose and even more people came. The registration booth boomed with positive activity. Even as late as 5 PM on Sunday visitors wanted to register in order to try out the boats.

For the most part, I spent my rendezvous time in the registration tent working with the volunteers and the Houston Canoe Club booth. We had 14 (not 13) new members join, and at least that same number took applications and intend to join. Even the police officer was excited about our event. He told me he almost bought a boat and he wanted an HCC application. Even the one potential disaster ended on a positive note: a lady slid on the wetness, twisted her leg and had to be taken to the emergency room. (Was that connected to 13?) Afterwards, she sat on a chair in the registration booth – LOVING the event – she was impressed by the care and concern of our first aid person, Patti Carothers, and with our chair Jim Null who took her to the emergency room. In the registration tent, she laughed with us, enjoyed the enthusiasm of the group....and joined our club!

### Comments from participants:

Candy Donahue:

I think it's beautiful and I liked the ability to come home during the weekend. It is better for the vendors.

Wendy Duric:

We loved the site, can a regular Joe Public use the water on the weekends?

Randall Nord:

I liked the Fluor Complex and would use it again. It is nice to make money on this event but when it comes to evaluating the success of the event I hope that we go beyond the financial aspect. I think that we introduced a lot of people to the sport.

Karen Arcy: I thought the Fluor complex was perfect for the Rendezvous

David & Connie McMahon: it was great, thank you hcc! bought 2 kayaks and took 4 classes



*Those same shepherd tags – dry and worn by happy volunteers: Bill Grimes, Louis Aulbach, Linda Gorski, Roy Simmons, Cheryl Cleary, Donna Grimes.*

Karen Barton

Do the stay away rain dance!!! I enjoyed Flour's complex because it was close to home and the water was great. Now when is the next paddle?

Ray Fowles:

The site is perfect, however, I miss the camping

Peter Cragg:

What an event. This is my first time to attend. Great classes, incredible instructors, interesting weather.



## *Ghosts of Houston's Past Haunt the Cemeteries on Buffalo Bayou*

*by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda Gorski*



Buffalo Bayou is, and has been, the life-blood of the city from the very beginning. Yet, the bayou environs have also been the final resting place for many Houston residents. Fifteen historic cemeteries, several of which have been woefully neglected, lie adjacent to Buffalo Bayou along the stretch from downtown upstream to the Shepherd Drive bridge.

Although the idea of a cemetery for the city was more of an afterthought to the Allen brothers, the founders of Houston, the need for burial places became increasingly important in the late 1830's and early 1840's due to the wave of yellow fever epidemics that were the scourge of the Gulf Coast from New Orleans to Texas at that time. Thousands of persons in the successive annual epidemics after the founding of the city required burials. The city established the city cemetery on what is now West Dallas Avenue, across from Allen Parkway Village. It is now called Founders Memorial Park. It sits next to the Beth Israel Cemetery established by the Jewish community at about the same time.

Smaller cemeteries were provided for the members of the Episcopal Church and the Masonic Lodge. These two burial grounds were located in the area of what is now Sam Houston Park and the City Hall Annex. The two cemeteries were joined together on a 2 acre plot of land that had become weed-choked and unkempt. Headstones were broken and scattered. In 1938, the graves were moved to Brookside Cemetery.

Frostown, Houston's original suburb of the 1850's, had a cemetery located on blocks A and H of the subdivision that fronted on Buffalo Bayou. The cemetery was used until the 1880's, but, according to the Harris County tax assessor's block books, the cemetery has disappeared into the bayou.



*The original Jefferson Davis Hospital, built in 1926 on the site of the second City Cemetery.*

After the War Between the States, the city cemetery became full and a new City Cemetery was established on the north side of Buffalo Bayou. This cemetery was located beyond the railroad yards behind the current main Post Office in the 1100 block of Elder Street. By the 1920's, the cemetery had become grossly neglected. After a contentious civic debate, the city-owned Jefferson Davis Hospital was built on the site of the cemetery in 1926. The hospital was named for Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, in honor of the large number of Civil War veterans who were buried in the old, and

mostly abandoned, cemetery. Jeff Davis Hospital was subsequently moved to a site on Allen Parkway in 1941.

One of the more exotic burial sites along Buffalo Bayou is the Donnellan Grave Crypt, a large brick vault with a small door that is boarded up with timbers. It is located in the south bank of the bayou under the modern Franklin Avenue bridge at Louisiana Street. The crypt contained the remains of members of the family of Thuse Donnellan, a local artist who is known for his portrait of Sam Houston. The last burial was of Emily De Ende Donnellan, the wife of Timothy Donnellan, Thuse's brother, in 1867. All of the remains in the crypt were moved to Glenwood Cemetery in 1901.

Glenwood Cemetery is located in the district on the north side of Buffalo Bayou known as the Sixth Ward. A 114 acre site of a former brick yard was opened as a cemetery park in May, 1871. Many famous Houstonians are buried in Glenwood Cemetery, including billionaire Howard Hughes and Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas. It is the site of the Houston fire fighters memorial.

Adjoining Glenwood Cemetery is a 40 acre cemetery opened by the Deutsche Gesellschaft in 1887. Originally known as the German Society Cemetery, the name was changed to Washington Cemetery in 1918 in deference to the anti-German sentiment arising from World War I. Emma Seelye, the only woman to serve in the Grand Army of the Republic during the Civil War is buried in Washington Cemetery.

On a bare plot of land on the south east corner of Allen Parkway and Heiner Street, the remains of 430 burials of a 19th century 'pest' cemetery, located in the northwest corner of Allen Parkway Village, were re-interred in the Heiner Street Memorial. Two pestilence hospitals provided care to freed slaves and indigent whites from 1879 to 1908 and many of those who died were buried in unmarked graves. The bones were unearthed in 1941 when construction of Allen Parkway Village was begun. The remains of 928 individuals were moved to Brookside Memorial Cemetery at that time.



*Jack Yates tombstone in College Memorial Park Cemetery*

Houston was a primary destination for freed slaves in Texas after the Civil War. Jack Yates became the pastor of Antioch Baptist Church and was instrumental in the organization and development of the black community of Houston's Fourth Ward. In 1896, Yates was influential in the opening of College Memorial Park Cemetery, in the 3500 block of West Dallas Avenue, which received its name because it was affiliated with Houston Central College for Negroes, across the street. The 5.9 acre cemetery contains the graves of over 6000 persons, mostly former slaves, including the Rev. Jack Yates and his family.

Across the bayou and north along the rail line to Chaney Junction is the Olivewood Cemetery, a 4 acre tract that had been used for slave burials. In 1875, the land was purchased by Richard Brock,

Houston's first black alderman, and opened as a cemetery for black Methodists.

The rail line from the Chaney Yard turned south and crossed Buffalo Bayou near the present-day Montrose Boulevard. On the southeast corner of the intersection of Montrose and Allen Parkway is Magnolia Cemetery which was established in 1884 by and for members of the First German Methodist Church of Houston. The original ten acres of land extended from West Dallas Avenue to Buffalo Bayou, however, the northern acreage of the cemetery was deeded to the City of Houston in order to pay the cemetery's share of the cost of paving Buffalo Drive (now Allen Parkway) in 1929. Among the 4,000 graves in Magnolia Cemetery is that of Gus Wortham, the founder of American General Insurance Company and benefactor of the city.



In 1887, many of the Russian and Polish members seceded from the Beth Israel Congregation to form a second Jewish community in Houston, the Orthodox Congregation of Adath Yeshurun. Their cemetery is located along the banks of Buffalo Bayou at 3500 Allen Parkway.

If you happen to paddle Buffalo Bayou on Halloween, be alert. **The ghosts of Houston's past may welcome you.**

Welcome to all the NEW Members  
to HCC

**Edward Arlt** 12617 Briar Patch  
Houston, TX 77077 (281)-558-2801  
[earlt@oilstates.com](mailto:earlt@oilstates.com) Heard about us on the net

**Ellen and Bill Carter** 6231 Treaschwig Rd  
Spring, TX 77373 (281) 443-2734

**Lori Carter** 5419 Hialeah  
Houston, TX 77092 (713) 682-7384  
[LCARTER745@aol.com](mailto:LCARTER745@aol.com) Heard about the club at RDVZ

**Jenna Jones** 3909 Norhill  
Houston, TX 77009 (713) 682-7384  
Heard about the club at RDVZ

**Kathy & Andy Dang** 14802 La Rana  
Houston, TX 77083 (281) 495-7343  
[kdang@swbell.net](mailto:kdang@swbell.net) or [kathy.dang@compaq.com](mailto:kathy.dang@compaq.com)  
Heard about the club at RDVZ

**Kevin & Sarah Hawley** 3519 Underwood  
Houston, TX 77025 (713) 668-8791  
[KDHAWELEY@SWBELL.NET](mailto:KDHAWELEY@SWBELL.NET)  
Heard about us at the Shallow Water Fishing Expo

**Frederick & Sharon Booton** 3827 Ave L  
Galveston, TX 77550 (409) 763-5598  
Heard about us from Patti Carothers

**Loes Wright** 209 East 25th

Houston, TX 77008 (713) 426-6732  
[ROWWRIGHT@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:ROWWRIGHT@HOTMAIL.COM)  
Heard about us long time ago by word of mouth

**Ken & Susan Anderson**  
17403 Meadow Heights  
Houston, TX (281) 856-9388  
[KLANDRSN@HAL-PC.ORG](mailto:KLANDRSN@HAL-PC.ORG)  
Heard about us from friends

**Ron and Sheree Horton**  
11918 S Fair Hollow Ln.  
Houston, TX 77043 (713) 462-6543  
[ron.horton@pdq.net](mailto:ron.horton@pdq.net)

**Lilia Descamps and Dean Sullivan**  
PO Box 801931 Houston, TX 77280  
[GDS@pdq.net](mailto:GDS@pdq.net) 713-984-8451  
Heard about the club at RDVZ

**Dave Gross** 10015 Mullins Dr.  
Houston, TX 77096 (713) 723-8449  
[DGROSS9903@AOL.COM](mailto:DGROSS9903@AOL.COM)  
Heard about us from the Sierra Club

**Homero & Sylvia Gonzalez**  
10923 Albury Dr. Houston, TX 77096  
[hsrunner@aol.com](mailto:hsrunner@aol.com) (713) 776-9355  
Heard about us at Sea & Ski

**Gordon & Sandra Start**  
5202 Caversham Dr. Houston, TX 77096  
[gordon.g.start@email.msn.com](mailto:gordon.g.start@email.msn.com)  
(713) 349-0542 Heard about us from Byan Richter

and MORE new MEMBERS!

**William & Dorothy Leska**

7523 timber Ridge Trail  
Sugar Land, TX 77479  
[wgl7523@hotmail.com](mailto:wgl7523@hotmail.com)  
281-343-8266

**Douglas & Margo Lipka**

12518 Ella Lee Dr.  
Houston, TX 77077  
[DALIPKA@AOL.COM](mailto:DALIPKA@AOL.COM)  
281-531-9862

**Bob & Billie Johnson**

11910 Laneview Dr.  
Houston, TX 77070  
[Johnson48@Houston.RR.com](mailto:Johnson48@Houston.RR.com)  
281-370-7481



**DONOVAN TO CANOE 400 MILES OF  
NECHES, INVITES EAST TEXANS TO  
JOIN HIM**

Contact: Richard Donovan, 936-637-1228

On October 22, Richard Donovan of Lufkin will launch a canoe into the waters of the Neches River and begin a paddling journey that will take him more than 400 miles downriver to Beaumont and Sabine Lake. His objective is to rekindle public interest in the historic river that played an important role in early Texas history.

**The press and the public are invited to see him off at his launch point, the U. S. Highway 175 bridge west of Jacksonville at 9:00 a.m., Monday, October 22.**

Current plans laid out by Texas Water Development Board calls for a series of dams that would submerge much of the river and the Neches Valley under huge reservoirs.

"If these dams are built, thousands of acres of the scant wildlife habitat remaining in Texas will be flooded", said Donovan, in announcing his trip. "Additional thousands of acres will be deprived of life-sustaining water and will wither and die. The sensitive bays and estuaries along the Texas Coast will become flooded with salt water, and some of the most productive coastal habitat in the nation will be lost. This simply cannot be allowed."

Donovan is no stranger to the Neches. In October of 1999, he canoed the difficult 225 miles between Lake Palestine and Martin Dies Jr. State Park on B. A. Steinhagen Lake. This journey took 27 days to complete, and Donovan lost 17 pounds from the strenuous activity.

**Lillian Tigard** at the Freestyle Competition: "I want to dedicate this routine to my children and all other young adults in the Audience. I want you to know that you are never too old to learn to master a new skill. The twilight time of your life is the time for you to sparkle, just like your rhinestone MOM. The Twinkle Angel."

**Those who  
dance appear  
insane to those  
who do not hear  
the music**



**For Sale:**

have a used red Dagger Callisto for sale. It was at the TRPA sale yard and did not sell.

<http://www.dagger.com/dagger2000/products/categories/TK/pages/callisto.html>

for description and specs

It is 13' 8" long touring kayak and ideal for a small person - woman. It is way too small for my 6 ft 230 lbs. Fits me like a glove but crushes my big feet. At my weight it plows through the water. With my daughter, it glides. What a difference 100+ lbs makes on how the boat handles. The Callisto is an ideal boat to start with then move up to the more expensive high performance plastic yaks. The kayak is in excellent shape. **Pete Cragg**,  
[critters@houston.rr.com](mailto:critters@houston.rr.com)

# Who Be These People?

## Mark Andrus: HCC governor, Vice Commodore in '99

1. Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Washington D.C. I grew up in the Westbury area of Houston.

2. Are you married, have children

I am not married and I do not have children.

3. Where educated and degree?

Rice University -B.A.-Economics and History  
Texas A & M University M.S. Economics and MBA  
Accounting University of Houston-Law

4. Previous occupations?

I have worked as a CPA and as a lawyer. I was licensed as a CPA In 1981 and licensed as a lawyer since 1987.

5. Present occupation –

I have my solo law practice in Angleton.

6. Other places lived, how long in Houston.

I have lived in the Houston area 46 years

7. How did you become involved with HCC?

I think I found out about HCC about 1986 at the boat show.



Yes, this is the police officer giving Fraser Baker a ticket for parking in Fraser's OWN "No Parking" zone.....

8. What is your favorite type and place to paddle?



My favorite type of paddling is expedition with some whitewater involved, such as the Lower Pecos. I have also camped out of my sea kayak along the coast.

9. Do you have any other hobbies or outside activities?

Other organizations I

belong to are: Houston Civil War Roundtable  
Sea Shell Searchers of Brazoria County  
Surfside St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee  
Bayou City Whitewater Club  
Texas River Protection Association -Director

10. Any other comments

My boats are:

1989 Seda Glider sea kayak

Dagger Animas whitewater kayak

Dagger Reflection 15 canoe

Plywood rowboat built in the 1930s by my step grandfather It is 8' by 4' .

I believe in the complete paddler concept which involves paddling all the different types of boats. Maybe I should not just say paddle because I have sailed and rowed boats before. I have also operated power boats before. I have learned to do many of my own boat repairs, such as patching fiberglass.



We do not quit playing because we grow old; we grow old because we quit playing

*Oliver Wendell Holmes*

**Keep playing on the Rivers!**

**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](mailto:cbtigard@msn.com)

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

Purser **Candy Donahue** 713-666-6542  
[Peterpan101@ev1.net](mailto:Peterpan101@ev1.net)

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

Newsletter Ed. **Donna Grimes** 713-728-1645  
donna.grimes@mindspring.com

**Governors:**

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

Mark Andrus 979-849-3732  
[Gandrus@delpro.com](mailto:Gandrus@delpro.com)

Bill Grimes (713) 728-1645  
[William-Grimes@hlp.com](mailto:William-Grimes@hlp.com)

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

**Newsletter Deadlines**

Have to the editor by the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month.  
Electronic submissions:

[Donna.grimes@mindspring.com](mailto:Donna.grimes@mindspring.com)

Snail Mail:

Donna Grimes  
4838 Kingfisher  
Houston, TX 77035

**Change of Address**

Contact HCC Recorder, Marilyn Peery

**Monthly Meetings:** Second  
Wednesday of every month at the  
American Red Cross Building  
at 7 PM

**Address:** 2700 Southwest  
Freeway – Hwy 59 S @ Kirby

Houston Canoe Club General Meeting  
October 10, 2001

Commodore Fraser Baker called the meeting to order. New members were introduced. There were 41 members present. Minutes were approved.

Cheryl Cleary gave the Fleet Captain's report.

Tom Douglas reminded the members that Bay Day is October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Purser, Candy Donahue reported that we have \$22, 146 including Rendezvous funds. There is \$5400 in available cash. Our dues increase should allow the club to break even on our club operating expenses.

The nominating committee reported that the slate of officers proposed for 2002 includes:

Commodore – Fraser Baker  
Fleet Captain – Randall Nord  
Vice Commodore – Jim Null  
Newsletter Editor – Donna Grimes  
Recorder – Marilyn Peery  
Governor – Candy Donahue  
Purser, Kevin Casement  
Governor – Bill Grimes  
Governor– Mark Andrus

A grant application is being sent to REI for \$1000-\$2000 for the purpose of involving HCC in education and building canoe trails at Sheldon Reservoir State Park.

An ad for Rendezvous appeared in the Houston Press on page 2. In the Thursday Houston Chronicle, Rendezvous will be featured on the front cover of Preview, the weekly events magazine with an article written by Melissa Aguilar. Another article will appear in Doug Pike's Outdoor Column of the sports section.

The meeting was adjourned.  
Marilyn Peery - Recorder

# Paddling Trips

(be sure to contact the coordinator of any trip you are interested in)

**10/26-27 Open Water Sea Kayaking Workshop** with Karen Knight and Bob Foote for intermediate/advanced paddlers. 281-292-5600

**10/27 Canoe and Crab Caper-** Paddle Double Bayou and enjoy a feast of steamed blue crabs. Fee GBF 281-332-3381

**10/27 Skiffs & Schooners Wooden Boat Festival** on Dickinson Bayou see [www.scowschooner.org](http://www.scowschooner.org) for more info or 281-559-1092.

**10/27-28 Stroke Drill** with Mark Poindexter [clslalom@hotmail.com](mailto:clslalom@hotmail.com)

**10/28 –New Boats Paddle** (old boats can come too) on **Armand Bayou** from 9 AM- 1PM. Good for kids with parental escort. Contact Natalie Wiest home phone: (281)332-2730. work (409)740-4567 (Galveston, M-F 9-5) email: [wiestn@tamug.tamu.edu](mailto:wiestn@tamug.tamu.edu)

**11/3 Colorado River-** overnight camping trip from Plum to La Grange. fraser Baker 713-466-7906 [fraser@pobox.com](mailto:fraser@pobox.com)

**11/17 Greens Bayou-** Day trip on a local bayou. Bob Arthur 713-895-7278 or [boba100@aol.com](mailto:boba100@aol.com)

**11/18 Sea Kayak Trip on Jones Bay.** Meet in Hitchcock at 9AM – trip length 10 miles. Contact Natalie Wiest home phone: (281)332-2730. work (409)740-4567 (Galveston, M-F 9-5) email: [wiestn@tamug.tamu.edu](mailto:wiestn@tamug.tamu.edu)

**11/23-25 Guadalupe/ Hill Country** paddle-enjoy Thanksgiving on Thursday with your family and then join us for a paddle in the Hill Country for one to three days. Camping will be at the Guadalupe State Park. Paddle the Guadalupe and possibly the Medina.. Bill and Donna Grimes 713-728-1645 [donna.grimes@mindspring.com](mailto:donna.grimes@mindspring.com)

**12/1 Brazoria County Paddle-** day paddle in this area. Contact Mark Andrus 979-849-3732 or [mandrus@brazoria.net](mailto:mandrus@brazoria.net)

**12/8 HCC Christmas Party** at Northwest Fitness and Sports Club - If you would like to help, contact Tracy Caldwell at 281-558-4877 or [tcaldwell@backpacker.com](mailto:tcaldwell@backpacker.com)

**12/8 Pre-Party Paddle-** enjoy a local paddle before the party with John and Anne Olden. 713-864-0205 or [johnold@ix.netcom.com](mailto:johnold@ix.netcom.com)

**Roll Sessions** *Come and practice kayak and canoe rolls, braces and wet exits. Roll sessions are held at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at the Westside YMCA pool in Houston located on the Katy Freeway (I-10) at 1006 Voss Road. On the 4th Monday, an instructor is available to teach. For insurance purposes, the YMCA requires all participants to wear a helmet. Fees are \$5 for members of the Bayou City Whitewater Club and Houston Canoe Club and \$7 for non-ACA members.*

Contact Fleet Captain Cheryl Cleary at 713-521-1642 or [ccleary@excite.com](mailto:ccleary@excite.com) to add any trips to this page. Any comments or suggestions regarding this page should also be directed to [jbartos@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jbartos@ix.netcom.com)

**Running Slalom Gates on the Guadalupe:** The gates will remain hung on the river and you are welcome to avail yourself of them any time. For those of you who don't know what this is about, every fall/winter for about the last 7 years, Mark Poindexter has been running a series of informal slalom races at Hueco Falls on the Guadalupe River. Paddling slalom gates is one of the best ways to improve your skills. During the "race weekends" many skilled paddlers are present practicing their skills and they are usually willing to help less experienced paddlers hone their skills. I have seen major improvements in my own paddling and in the skills of others who have gone to the gates to practice. One way to gauge your improvement is to time your runs through the course and compare your time as a percentage to that of Mark's. There is usually a chance participate in a "pick up" game of kayak polo on Saturday afternoon and then on Sunday, you can have your runs timed. For more information, contact me off list at: [scott.coultas@chamberlainlaw.com](mailto:scott.coultas@chamberlainlaw.com)

# “The Cutoff”

trip report by Natalie Weist

Sunday, September 30th was a day just too pretty to stay inside and eight of us took full advantage of it to paddle The Cutoff in the Trinity River system.

This is a new location for a club trip, a positive benefit of my former Lost on Lost River escapade - and Ron Nunnelly, who had been on that trip, was brave enough to give it a second try. He was also eager to show off/try out his brand new homemade woodstrip canoe, a real beauty, so a winner on all accounts. Bobby Hatfield, Coleen Connelly, John and Cindy Bartos, Mary Carter, and my daughter Ellen and I rounded out the number of paddlers in a variety of craft; all solos except for Ellen and me tandem in a canoe.



*Ron Nunnelly showing off his beautiful handmade wood strip canoe, first HCC trip for the boat and he had had it on the water only once the day before. Marv Carter is admiring the boat too.*

To get to this stretch of water, use Exit 803 on Interstate 10, east of Houston, and head north on highway 565 for about 3.5 miles. Turn right at its intersection with FM1409 and follow 1409 about a half mile to the bridge over Old River. Whoa there! Stop on the right side of the road, near side of the river to put your craft in the water. We found the access area very rutted by both water runoff and presumably 4-wheelers, but it wasn't a hard carry to the river bank.

From the put-in, head south (right) on Old River until you see a sizable intersecting stream entering from the left in about a mile. That is The Cutoff - turn on it and paddle 'til you figure you're halfway as far as you want to go, then turnaround and head back: or risk getting Lost on the Lost River like I did earlier. That's about 10 miles from the starting point.

Only a few homes peek through the wooded canopy of this very pretty waterway. Tall trees line both banks. Marshlands beyond aren't very visible - nor did a single duck hunter materialize on the river, nor was a single shot heard, despite previous warnings. You can see sizable cypress trees from any point on the river, there are many willows and lots of hardwoods and understory trees. I was surprised to see many cardinal flowers (*lobelia cardinalis*) and swamp lilies (*crinum americanum*) in bloom. Those bright red cardinal flowers do seem to like woodlands by streams, but the swamp lilies I thought had required more direct light, and I had thought they were spring bloomers but no complaints on their last-of-September showing!



*the group on the main body of the Cutoff, which flows between the Old and Lost Rivers in the Trinity river basin*

Monarch butterflies flitted along, and many broad-winged hawks included us on their southward migration trail.

A sandbar just big enough for 8 made a nice place to take a break and all too soon we were back on the meander trail back to the cars. Wish you could have been with us, but you'd have had to eat in your boat. Be sure to include this on your trip planner for another day.



**Cheryl Cleary** displays her Rendezvous quilt which she made using past years' T-shirts. Last year as she helped lug boxes of these T-shirts into the shed, the idea hit her to make use of these designs. She worked them into a beautiful quilt, which she then donated to the Rendezvous as a fund raiser. Raffle tickets were sold and the winner of the quilt was Ann Derby



## Mark your Calendars for the Houston Canoe Christmas Party

**When?** December 8th, 6 PM to 10 PM

**Where?** Northwest Fitness and Sports Club

**5304 Hollister - between Hwy.290 and Pinemont**

check out the map at

[www.northwestfitness.com/about.html](http://www.northwestfitness.com/about.html)

### What to Bring?

Food –HCC will provide drinks and Meats. You need to bring either a dessert, veggie, salad, or main dish

RSVP to Tracy Caldwell

**Email:** [tcaldwell@backpacker.com](mailto:tcaldwell@backpacker.com)

A **Local Paddle** Planned BEFORE the Party - Saturday AM – Contact John & Anne Olden at [johnold@ix.netcom.com](mailto:johnold@ix.netcom.com) 713- 864-0205



**Jim Null** – As Chair Person for Rendezvous – He gets to Carry Chairs!!

**Houston Canoe Club**  
**P.O. Box 925516**  
**Houston, TX 77292-5516**



## **What's in this issue?**

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