

Colorado River at Pierce Ranch

By John Bartos (with assistance by Page Williams)

The population of Pierce, Texas just about doubled November 11, 2001, when 34 paddlers paddled a section of the Colorado River south of Wharton, starting at the Lane City Dam Portage. The Pierce Ranch and Texas R.I.C.E. (Texas Rice Industry Coalition for the Environment) were our gracious hosts for the day.

After starting the morning with coffee and kolaches at the ranch's hunting/ecotourism office in the small I-59 town of Pierce, we shuttled down to the Hollywood Park for the takeout. The Colorado River is very pleasant in this area and it passes through nice countryside with rice fields and overhanging oaks and has



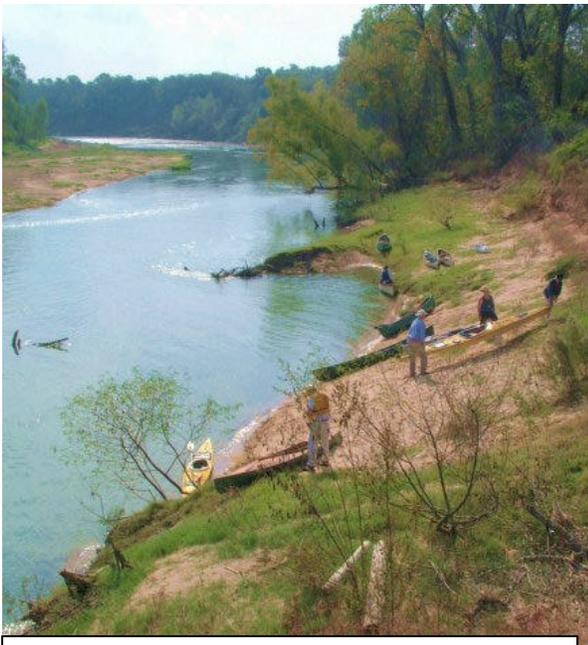
HCC members enjoy lunch together

ample sandbars for stretching your legs or camping. Flocks of geese flew overhead and a doe darted out yards ahead of our shuttle vehicles. All of the various access points of the Colorado can be found in the Lower Colorado River Guide available from the LCRA.

They have done a great job of creating a river trail from Austin to the coast, and the 36-page guide is available for \$5 by calling 1-800-776-5272. There was adequate flow to paddle without dragging even though the river was lower than at other times of the year. Alternative access points in this area include Hwy. 59 and State Hwy. 35.

Pierce Ranch is a 32,000-acre working ranch and rice producer that also has cabins for rent. See www.karankawa.com Owner/Manager Laurance Armour, who is also President of Texas R.I.C.E., even supplied ranch hands to assist in put-in and take-out.

The Pierce Ranch and Texas R.I.C.E. hosted all paddlers at a BBQ lunch at one of their rental cabins and talked about the R.I.C.E. organization and what they are doing for the environment. Texas R.I.C.E. was chartered in 1995 to address issues and concerns of



Put-in on the Colorado River at Lane City Dam

environmentalists and conservationists through a consensus-building forum, and trustees include members from the rice industry and from groups such as the Sierra Club and Galveston Bay Foundation and HCC.

The Texas rice belt along the upper Gulf Coast includes some of the vital wetlands and winter-feeding grounds for millions of ducks and geese. Even though they are heavy water users, the rice industry has reduced their usage of water by 40% over the last 30 years. Pierce Ranch is the location of Site #5 on the Central Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail map and offers a viewing platform to observe waterfowl from October to March.

After lunch, we were offered a tour of the ranch, and everyone went home with bags of organic Jasmine and Brown Lowell Farms Rice grown by El Campo's L.G. Raun, and highly praised by rice aficionados. For more information on TEXAS R.I.C.E., write to them at P.O. BOX 24, EL CAMPO TX 77437.

Padding on the Gulf Coast in November: It just doesn't get much better than this.

Thank You, HCC by Jim Null

Thanks to an excellent Rendezvous committee and the heroic efforts of many volunteers, and against many obstacles, we completed another successful Rendezvous.

The need to change locations because of the hydrilla problem at Huntsville State Park created many difficulties, primarily the last minute need to find an alternate site and the consequent lack of time to do adequate publicity.

As those of you who attended already know, the Fluor complex in Sugar Land worked out beautifully. The water was great for both clinics and trying out new boats and the free-style venue was spectacular. We are confident that the site will work out even better next year.

830 people registered and numerous others came in to see what was happening. 697 took part in the 96 clinics offered; this was almost as many as were offered in 2000. 28 clinics were filled, compared with 21 in 2000. Next year we expect a far greater attendance with many more clinics.

I received a thank you card from Sharon Booton following the Rendezvous, that I would like to share with you: Sharon fell on the mud and sprained her leg and had to "sit it out"

*Dear Donna and Crew,
A bit late perhaps, but a huge Thank You to you and the crew at the Registration /membership tent at the Rendezvous.
Please pass along my thanks to those who cheered me up, brought me food and drink, etc. But I think it's an extreme method to gain members, don't you? There must be easier methods than holding people hostage with an injury forced to hear folks laugh and carry on - have such a good time. But it does work once in a while. Will be happy to see you and the other members at a future meeting.
Sharon Booton*



Jim Null presented a small canoe to Rick Conley, the facilities manager at Fluor Corp. To help him and his boy scouts keep the various parts of the boat straight, Jim has labeled the areas with "up", "down", "front", and "back". In spite of this, Fluor Corp. has invited HCC to use their facility for the 2002 Rendezvous.

KAYAKS MAKE A SPLASH AT BAY DAY FESTIVAL

By Tom Douglas

On October 30, the Bay Day Festival at Sylvan Beach Park in La Porte celebrated the multiple uses of Galveston Bay. And as we all know, one of the most important of these is paddling. We knew that there would be several thousand people there to take in the displays mounted by many different nonprofit groups, educational institutions, resource agencies, and industries, not to mention the live music. So, our idea was to show off paddle sports by taking advantage of the park's waterfront area for a live demonstration of our own. Catriona ("Cat") Day's ocean kayak was perfect for carrying the kayak polo goals out to their respective locations. While we were warming up and tossing the water polo ball around, we noticed that one of the goals kept wanting to wander toward shore, even though the wave action was quite gentle on the bay. We were having fun just tossing the ball around anyway, so we made up an impromptu game of keep-away. This turned out to be a good demonstration of what the different boats (and their paddlers) could do. Cat's ocean kayak provided the most stable platform for a booming toss. James Wood, paddling a Dancer, could reach a loose ball faster than anyone else. In close quarters, no one could turn faster than Candy Donahue, who was paddling a short Yak Board sit-on-top kayak. Even the color scheme of the boats made for a patriotic theme -- Tom Douglas's red Corsica complemented Candy's blue Yak Board and the other two white boats. Play had to be interrupted occasionally when the southeast breeze moved us close to shore. Though it didn't seem like we could have been out there for an hour, we were eventually reminded that our time was up when the Port of Houston's fireboat appeared on the horizon. Unless we wanted to get REALLY wet, it was time to yield our turf to the next demonstration. Back in the park's breakwater area, we were reminded of the progress that paddle sports are making on the

bay -- in addition to the usual fishermen in powerboats, there was also one in a sea kayak. Once the boats were loaded up, each paddler received a couple of small thank you gifts for their participation, and all adjourned to the festival ground to enjoy the occasion. Special thanks to Donna Grimes for loaning Candy her Yak Board, and to Cat Day, who spent part of her time visiting from Nova Scotia with us, paddling on Galveston Bay.



Cat Day tosses ball to James Wood, under intense pressure from Candy Donahue

For sale or trade:

For Sale - Aquaterra Chinook with a rudder. In good condition. Rugged and comfortable, a great kayak for day and extended trips. Lots of cargo space. \$600. Contact Mary Carter 713-461-5466 or marcar1@pdq.net.

For Sale - used red Dagger Callisto It is a 13' 8" touring kayak and ideal for a small person - woman. It is way too small for my 6 ft 230 lbs. At my weight it plows through the water. With my daughter, it glides. The kayak is in excellent shape. Cost \$550, critters@houston.rr.com. For description and specs, see <http://www.dagger.com/dagger2000/products/categories/TK/pages/callisto.html>
Pete Cragg

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

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@dellepro.com

Bill Grimes (713) 728-1645

William-Grimes@hlp.com

Rendezvous Chair: Jim Null 713--664-1083

medislide@earthlink.net

Newsletter Deadlines

Have to the editor 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

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

November 14, 2001

The meeting was called to order by Commodore Fraser Baker. Officers were introduced. They included Recorder Marilyn Peery, Purser Candy Donahue, Newsletter Editor Donna Grimes, Fleet Captain Cheryl Cleary, and Governors Mary Carter, Mark Andrus and Bill Grimes. Minutes were approved with the amendment that the REI grant application was for only \$1000.

New members and guests were introduced. There were 49 people present. Cheryl Cleary gave the Fleet Captain's report. Natalie Wiest presented a program on paddling in southeast Texas.

Jim Null reported on the Rendezvous. Despite the change in site and bad weather, there were 697 clinic participants, comments were generally favorable about the new site and Fluor has invited us back next year. He presented the club with a check for \$15,741.45 to repay the advance given to Rendezvous. This amount closed out the Rendezvous account. Louis Aulbach has resigned as Rendezvous treasurer. He deserves many thanks from the club for all his hard work as Rendezvous treasurer for so many years.

Candy reported that there is \$5,288.65 in the treasury. With the Rendezvous reimbursement, there will be more than \$21,000.

John Bartos reported for the conservation committee. The San Marcos River Foundation has applied for a permit for water rights. The water would be left in the river to support wildlife and the health of the river. The plan would be administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The petition has been accepted by TNRCC and there will be a hearing. Mary Carter is sending a letter from HCC in support of this petition. Several other groups have also done so.

Andy Sansom, the long-time head of TPWD is leaving this position. A motion was made that he be made an honorary member of HCC. The motion passed. Ann Derby will make the certificate.

Tracy Caldwell made a motion that we spend up to \$1000 for a Christmas party to be held December 8 at the Northwest Fitness Center from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. The motion passed. The club will provide drinks and meat and a sign-up sheet was passed for members to bring a side-dish, salad or dessert.

A Dagger Sojourn canoe will be auctioned at the party. It is a demo boat received by Rendezvous in lieu of payment for booth space. The minimum bid will be \$450.

The following officers were elected for 2002.

Commodore – Fraser Baker

Vice Commodore – Jim Null

Recorder – Marilyn Peery

Purser – Kevin Casement

Newsletter Editor – Donna Grimes

Fleet Captain – Randall Nord

Governor – Candy Donahue

Who was here first?

by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda Gorski

Beginning about 1820, settlers from the United States entered the area that we know as Houston and Harris County. Two hundred years of 'city building' later, few people know much about the native peoples who lived along Buffalo Bayou. We focus on the Europeans who moved in and claimed the land, but who was here first?

During the 1600's and 1700's the Spanish were extremely sensitive to attempts by the French to cross the Sabine border and enter Texas. In the 1680's, LaSalle caused a lot of trouble by establishing his fort near Victoria. By the 1750's, Frenchman Joseph Blancpain had opened a trading post for the local tribes in the Wallisville area. The Spanish outpost, El Orcoquisac, located near present Wallisville, was established in 1756 by Governor Jacinto de Barrios at the French trading post to oppose the French presence and trade with the Bidais and Akokisa (Orcoquizas) tribes. The Bidais and Akokisa lived throughout Harris County, mostly in the woodlands on the north side of Buffalo Bayou.

The Akokisa most likely occupied the Barker and Addicks Reservoir areas. They lived primarily at the mouths and confluences of streams and rivers. They practiced some limited agriculture, raising maize; however, the bulk of their diet was birds' eggs, fish, wild fruit and game, including deer, bear and bison. Winter found them in permanent or semi-permanent camps, while summer saw them wandering in search of food. In 1830's, Indians of various tribes (Coushattas, Bidais, Caddos, Alabamas, Lipans) camped in and around Houston to trade furs and venison for lead, powder, cottons and rugs. In 1837, several Indian tribes came to Houston and camped in the forest on the north bank of Buffalo Bayou. This camp was probably the area known as Beauchamps Springs, also known as Beauchampville, located on White Oak Bayou near

Woodland Park. It was named for a man who camped in the forest near the springs with the Bidais Indians.

John Torrey and his brothers, who arrived in Houston in 1836, built the first frame building in town as a trading house for Indians. Torrey's trading post was abandoned in the early 1840's. At that time the Indians transferred their goods to the John Kennedy store on the northwest corner of Travis and Congress and to the store of Cornelius Ennis on Main St. between Franklin

and Commerce. The John Kennedy Trading Post traded with Indians as late as 1870. Details of the relations that Houstonians had with the Indians are not widely reported. We do know that early settler housewives in the area were taught by the Indians to make root dyes for coloring thread, to fashion crocks of clay

and to use 'spring houses', excavations dug beside running springs where meat, milk and butter could be kept cool.

Relations with the Indians were often perplexing, if not cordial. In Harrisburg, in the 1840's, a family of German immigrants was enjoying a holiday dinner in their log cabin. In contrast to the frontier character of their home, they had set a refined table with linens and china in preparation for the feast and thanksgiving. Just as thanks were returned to God, an Indian strode into the room with two wild turkeys. The arrows were still in the turkeys and they were dripping blood all over the carpet. He threw the bloody mess on the white linen tablecloth, snatched up two pies, shouted "SWAP!" and vanished.

According to Henrietta Bleick, a member of the Habermacher family that live on land that is now Barker Reservoir, Indians used to come in large numbers to the area. They camped on Buffalo Bayou near Habermacher Crossing which was located near the modern Highway 6. The severe winter of 1875 caused widespread suffering and death for many of them. It was last time that there was such a large gathering of the Indians and marked the demise of the true first settlers along Buffalo Bayou.

Bikers now quietly ride through the meadow of Barker Reservoir where various Native Americans would gather

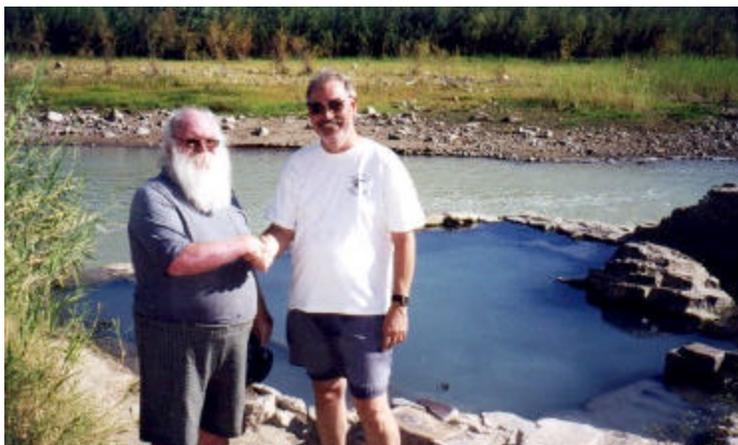


HCC MEMBER MEETS VACATIONING SANTA AT HOT SPRINGS

By Linda Gorski

Louis Aulbach, Houston Canoe Club member and author of river guides including The Upper Canyons of the Rio Grande, the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande and The Lower Pecos River, got an unexpected surprise during a recent visit to the Boquillas Hot Springs. He met Santa Claus!

"I was in the Big Bend doing research for my upcoming river guide on the Great Unknown of the Rio Grande. In the course of the research my co-author and I were taking photos at the Hot Springs when we struck up a conversation with a man with a strangely familiar long white beard, sparkling eyes, a red nose and a pretty jolly tummy. When I asked what he did he said that he is a full time RV-er and a Winter Texan who spends the Christmas season playing Santa in Harlingen. He looked just like those cards



Yes, Louis, there really is a Santa Claus!

Phil Flory and his wife Ina Ruth hail from Hillside, Colorado. Flory says that he has been playing Santa for years in Harlingen. "Once the children pull my beard and push my tummy, they're convinced I'm the real thing." Ina Ruth made matching Santa and Mrs. Santa costumes for the couple and

they frequently participate in Christmas parades in south Texas as the stars of the show.

This was the Flory's first visit to the Hot Springs. "We'd heard about these healing springs for years and thought we would come here on our way to Harlingen." Aulbach says he's just disappointed his three children Rachel, Stephen and Matthew weren't with him on this trip.. "I'm sure they would have gotten a big kick out of meeting Santa in such an unexpected place. But they were pretty impressed with the photos!"

Meeting Santa wasn't Aulbach's only surprise during this visit to the Hot Springs. "I've been here several times and when we've paddled this section of the Rio Grande we always look forward to a stop at the Hot Springs, especially in the winter. The water temperature is around 105 degrees and historical records tell us that the springs have therapeutic qualities, which is why they were built up as a tourist attraction in the early part of the last century."

"The water was particularly low this time, below the level of the concrete walls inside the bath. For the first time I noticed that J. O. Langford, who built the baths at the Hot Springs, had carved his initials in the concrete when it was poured along with the date – 1912. I had never seen that before. It was an exciting addition to the research we've already done on the Boquillas Canyon area and the Hot Springs in particular for our next book."

For more pictures and stories about hiking and paddling in the Big Bend, check Aulbach's website at <http://www.hal-pc.org/~lfa/>



HCC CHRISTMAS PARTY



When? December 8nd, 6 PM to 10 PM

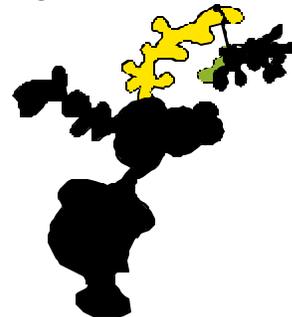
Where? Northwest Fitness and Sports Club
5304 Hollister - between Hwy.290 and Pinemont
check out the map at www.northwestfitness.com/about.html

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 (281) 558-4877**
Email: tcaldwell@backpacker.com
- Sense of Humor – We are going to laugh!

What to Expect?

- Slides of Paddling
- Games, Prizes,
- Auction of a Dagger
- Sojourn
- Surprises!



**Visiting with Friends
BE THERE**

A **Local Buffalo Bayou Paddle** from Woodway to Shepherd planned BEFORE the Party - Saturday AM – Contact John & Anne Olden at johnold@ix.netcom.com 713- 864-0205

Who Be These People ?

Ken Barnard: Auctioneer extraordinaire!

1. Where were you born and raised?

I was born and spent my first 22 years in Owensboro, Ky. It's a medium sized city (55,000) in northwestern Ky., right on the banks of the Ohio River. At that time, rural areas with many lakes and small streams surrounded it. Fishing and hunting and small boats were a big part of my early life.

2. Are you married, have children

I married a local girl, Shirlene, on Dec. 12, 1970. We have one daughter, Leslie Ann, who is to be married this Dec. 12, 2001. Something of a family tradition since Shirlene's parents were also married on a Dec. 12th.

3. Where educated and degree?

I received my BA in History/Education from Ky. Wesleyan College in May, 1971. It was a small liberal arts school and both Shirlene and I lived at home and worked part time.

4. Previous occupations? While attending school, I worked as a stock boy, a grill cook, a truck driver, and as a welder's helper. After graduating I took a pay cut and taught 6th grade in Union County, Ky. We next moved to Chicago where I was a security officer for the US Customs Service. I later transferred to Washington DC to work as an investigator for the US Civil Service Commission. We next moved a short distance to Maryland where I worked for NTW (now NTB) for several years. We transferred to Houston in 1979 and I ran a NTW store here for some time.

5. Present occupation – I've been running a Solutions, Inc. store for the last 14 years. We sell mainly pesticides and pool & spa chemicals.

6. Other places lived, how long in Houston? I enjoyed growing up in KY but, like most young people, couldn't wait to get away from home. Chicago was way **too cold** and DC was way **too dangerous** – at least where I worked. MD was nice. I lived close to two bass lakes and a small river. I really like the Houston area. There is so much to see and to do here. Also, I much prefer hot weather over cold weather so I must be in the right place!



Ken surfs the rapids on the San Marcos River

7. How did you become involved with HCC? A little over ten years ago, I met Bob Mabe and he got me involved with the HCC. I found a great group of people and also found out just how little I actually knew about paddling. Now, many classes and many years later, I find that I still have much to learn and that is part of the fun.

8. What is your favorite type and place to paddle? I started out using a canoe for fishing and found the paddling to be as much fun as the fishing. Then I discovered whitewater and became hooked forever. Although I still have a flatwater canoe and a sit on top sea kayak, my real love is a nice easy whitewater river - Class II or easy Class III. My all-time favorite run is the upper half of Section III of the Chattooga River in Georgia. Locally, I do a lot of day trips on the San Marcos and the Guadalupe Rivers.

When they are low, it's fun to kayak surf at Surfside.

daughter are heavily into Paso Fino Horses and do sometimes get me out with them.

9. Do you have any other hobbies or outside activities? I used to bike and hunt a lot but not recently. I still go fishing although it's usually in one of my boats so not really separate from paddling. Both my wife &

Mary Carter:

- Post Registration Chair for RDZ
- Present HCC Governor



1. Where were you born and raised? New York, and Yonkers NY

2. Are you married, have children Not married, one daughter

3. Where educated and degree? J.D. University of Houston

4. Present occupation - Attorney, 14 years

6. Other places lived, how long in Houston. 22 years in Houston

7. How did you become involved with HCC? Former husband was a member.

8. What is your favorite type and place to paddle? Like all paddling except white water beyond my capabilities.

9. Do you have any other hobbies or outside activities? Reading, birding, gardening

The following items were in " **found** "box at HCC tent at Rendezvous

- Pr black booties 7" w/zipper
- Pr pink kiddie booties
- Pr sun glasses clip-on
- Lady's watch
- ball cap kids
- 1 Marsoops
- 1 Lady earring
- 1 Shower curtain ring, clear

RSVP @ 713-436-0429 (Marty) or MartyMC2@aol.com

Marty Harris

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Robby and Sherrill Canet

807 Elmwood
Baytown, TX 77520-2509
robcanet@hotmail.com
281-837-0410

Heard about us from a friend's friend who has a canoe and the website

Mr. Jody Larriviere

4410 W. 12th St.
Houston, TX 77055
713-961-2987

Jody@louisianafoods.com

Heard about us from a friend

Richard and Kathleen Swope

855 Stacewood Drive
Beaumont, TX 77706
409-860-1868

RKSWOPE@CS.COM

Heard about us on the internet

Silas Mckinley Jr.

4944 Lindell-Apt 6E
St. Louis, Mo 63108
314-454-1924

Bob Scaldino and Susie Bryan

946 Arlington St.
Houston, TX 77008-7046
713-880-3525

BSCALD@HOTMAIL.COM

Heard about us from friends

Scott Krauszer

745 International Blvd. Apt. 87
Houston, TX 77024
713-681-5018

Heard about us at Rendezvous

Thomas E. Vorpe

1810 Oak Tree Circle
Pearland, TX 77581
281-482-8632

tvorpe@ev1.net

Joe and Barbara Clemens

3711 Bee Bayou Lane
Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-313-5049

jclemens@unocal.com

Heard about us as an advertisement about RDVZ

Paddling Trips

(be sure to notify any trip coordinator before attending a trip)

12/1 Brazoria County Paddle- day paddle on the Brazos River starting at the Hwy. 35 bridge.

Contact Mark Andrus 979-849-4738 or

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

12/8 Pre-Party Paddle- enjoy a local paddle on

Buffalo Bayou before the party with John and

Anne Olden. 713-864-0205 or

johnold@ix.netcom.com

12/29-01/1 Annual HCC Medina New Year's

Trip – Traditionally the Tigards agree to bring in

the new year by paddling the Medina. Some-

times the Medina is the Frio or the Guadalupe or

the San Marcos.....BUT, they will paddle over

the New Year's Weekend. Contact them for

details at 281-494-7977 or Tigards2@hal-pc.org

12/12 HCC Monthly Meeting Wednesday---

plan trips, talk paddling, meet people, 2700 SW

Fwy west of Kirby. 7:00 PM Everyone Welcome

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 to

add any trips to this page. Any comments or

suggestions regarding this page should also be

directed to jbartos@ix.netcom.com

TPWD's Lighthouse Lakes Trail (by Page Williams)

As part of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's 2nd annual Lone Star Legacy Weekend, October 21 and 22, the Lighthouse Lakes Canoe & Kayak Trail hosted an open house with guided trips through the trails, flyfishing competition, kayak race, rod and bait-casting reel raffle, and "test drives" of various craft brought by outfitters. Seizing upon a good excuse to feast on Cajun Boil at the freshly reconstructed Boiling Pot in Rockport, I loaded my new kayak and headed south to meet my friend, Anna Fisher, who brought her new kayak in from her new home in Fischer. (Some of you may remember Anna from her days at Harris County Flood Control's environmental section, or her post-retirement project of a video on saving Clear Creek.)

The Lighthouse Lakes Trail is located just west and north of the Port Aransas ferry and is accessed by launching from the causeway and crossing the Aransas Channel. Then you may choose the Cutter's Loop of 5 miles, the Electric Lake Loop of 1.25 miles, the Redfish Loop of 6.8 miles, the South Bay Loop of 6.7 miles, or shortcut your way with several connecting trails. There are 65 GPS coordinates supplied on the map, with key numbers marked along the way with signposts.

I had purchased the 2' x 3' waterproof, tearproof, foldable photomap in advance by mailing a \$20 tax-deductible donation to Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation to TPWD Resource Protection, 4200 Smith School Rd, Austin TX 78744. GPS would be very useful on an unguided trip - my map and compass were fun to have, but TPWD's guide service was quite reassuring as I paddled through a maze of shallow shoal and/or turtle grass, with oyster shell flats, surrounded by spartina and dwarfed black mangrove.

TPWD's Bill Harvey was my guide both days, and he gave several interesting briefings at rest stops on the plant and marine life of the area, the importance of preserving sea grass beds, and the history of the lighthouse and the Trail's construction. He explained duck blind ethics and TPWD's new plan for annual "sunsetting" of the ubiquitous crab traps. The bird life was excellent, including a hunting osprey, several up-close roseate spoonbills, lots of brown and white pelicans, and the usual herons, egrets and LBJs (little brown jobs that I could not identify). A minnow net would be fun to take on future trips, and a serious fisherman would have a banner day, judging from the large redfish we flushed in the shallows.

My fellow paddlers were interesting, including the editor of "Saltwater Texas", one guy from

Saskatchewan, and a man from Queretero, Mexico, who owns a company that builds kayaks, and is developing kayak coastal resort north of Veracruz. There was heavy participation from Austin Sierrans.

We were blessed with perfect paddling weather - sunny and warm with mild breezes. On Saturday, more than 50 people participated and on Sunday more than 30 people participated. Both days offered a "long" and "short" trip. I chose the "long" trip both days and was amused by TPWD's definition of "long" as the first day was 3.5 miles, and the second day 5.2 miles. Both trips were less than 3 hours - probably a good thing as there were novice paddles in rented boats both days.

At the end of Saturday's trip we were treated to a sandwich buffet; for Sunday's trip we were treated to a large veggie-and-dip platter plus a huge bowl of mango salsa with chips. A videographer recorded our activity on Sunday, so perhaps the day will reach the TPWD TV show in a few months. As I cleaned my kayak Sunday evening I noted that the oyster shells had added a few battle scars, thus helping to elevate its appearance from novice status! Canoers, note: kayaks are taking over the world!

When the water rises, Barton Creek is Paddled! By Bob Ward

Saturday, six of us from Houston met in Austin at the Loop 360 bridge and Barton Creek (John Olden, Loren Starcher, Jim Barton, Karen Barton, Travis Barton and Bob Ward). After following our shuttle leader Jim Barton, we finally put in at Lost Creek about 11:15 at +/- 310cfs. The water level held up better than we expected and we took out at Zilker Park about 3:45 at +/- 260cfs.

This was my first time to paddle Barton Creek and I thought it was outstanding. Both the actual run and the scenery. Other than a few houses up on the cliffs, you would never know you were right in the middle of a big city. Other than low being scrappy at Campbell's hole, there seemed to be enough water for a great run, especially for someone with my meager talents. There were numerous rapids and a lot of rock dodging between the two main events, Twin Falls and Triple Ledge. These were both running well enough at this level to provide challenges. At Twin Falls, I got to practice going over a 4-5 ft drop too slow, practice rolling while stuck (unsuccessful) and on a dicey eddy line (also unsuccessful). Despite the bruised ego, it was still a blast! Triple Falls provided unlimited surfing opportunity and Travis and Loren tore it up! It should go on the record that Karen Barton had no flips on the run and that total was one less than her husband. You're welcome, Karen!

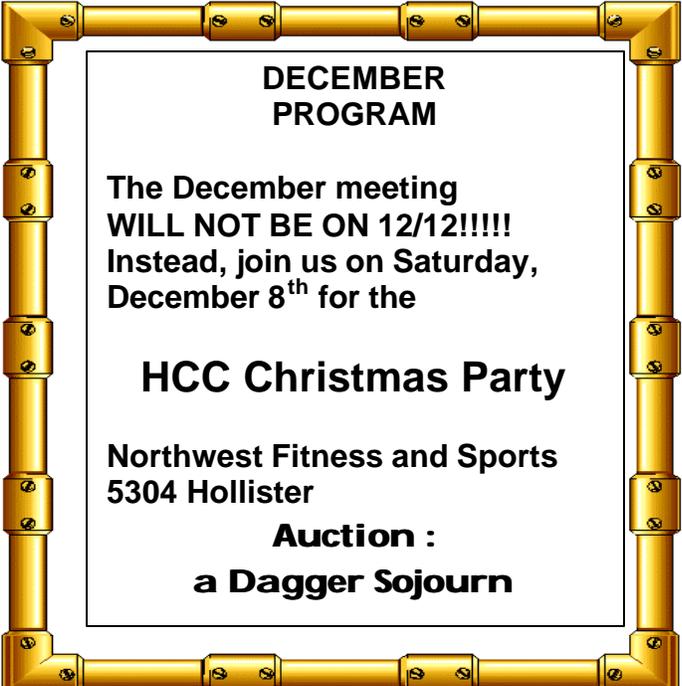
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P.O. Box 925516
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What's in the newsletter?

- Pg.1 – Colorado River at Pierce Ranch
- Pg. 2 – Thank You - Rendezvous
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Trip List
- Pg. 11 – TPWD – Lighthouse Lakes Trail
Barton Creek Paddle



**DECEMBER
PROGRAM**

**The December meeting
WILL NOT BE ON 12/12!!!!!!
Instead, join us on Saturday,
December 8th for the**

HCC Christmas Party

**Northwest Fitness and Sports
5304 Hollister**

**Auction :
a Dagger Sojourn**