

HOUSTON CANOE CLUB

WaterLine



APRIL 2002

www.houstoncanoeclub.org
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Hot Line 713-467-8857
Volume 15



Steve Pituch in his Coho, made in his garage

We went the Corpus Christi last weekend to look at possible houses in case we move there. Just before we left we had a little time for fishing and kayaking. It was very foggy and calm, or, in other words, beautiful weather for kayaking. We found a place called Packery Channel on Padre Island that was perfect for a little spin in the Coho. A large pelican landed near me in a big splash and we checked each other out for a while as we cruised in the same direction.

My son John has decided he would rather have a Coho so I am currently working on Coho #2.

Regards,

Steve Pituch

Up Santa Elena Canyon

By Bill Whitaker

Now when most paddlers think of running a canyon, they automatically think down the canyon – down stream – with the flow. Given the diversity of our sport, however, not everyone thinks that way.

I've had a passing interest in poling ever since I started reading R.M. Patterson's books on traveling by canoe in Canada in the first half of the 20th Century. His Dangerous River is my favorite. I took a poling class at Rendezvous a few years back and found it interesting but doing it on Raven Lake had to be a little different from doing it in the current of a river.

For the past several years I've been going to Big Bend National Park with a church men's group in February each year. Part of activities center

around canoe trips, usually through Mariscal Canyon. This year the water was really low, around 1.5 on the Rio Grande Village gage, and we were looking at alternatives. I learned that some of the outfitters were offering what they called boomerang trips that put in at the mouth of Santa Elena canyon and paddled upstream to Fern Canyon, about 2.5 miles from the mouth of the canyon, and then returned to the put in. These trips were paddling trips but it seemed to me that going upstream in a shallow river would be a natural for poling. I got in touch with Bob Popp from College Station, one of the small Texas poling clan and arranged to meet him, along with Doug and Pat Ebeling, on the San Marcos to try poling on a river and see if poling up Santa Elena made sense to them.

The practice session went well. We poled up from Pecan Park to Cummings Dam, with a portage over the Westerfield bridge. The river was at around 600 cfs, yet

I made it with the exception of one place, the little riffle at the end of the pool above Westerfield crossing. The more experienced polers made it but I couldn't control the angle of the boat well enough. While none of the polers had done Santa Elena, they didn't see why it wouldn't work so I bought a pole from Duane Te-Grotenhuis and added the Santa Elena trip to the plan.

Friday morning, February 15, found us carrying the canoes from the parking lot at the Santa Elena Canyon Trail about 200 yards down Terlingua Creek to the Rio Grande. Gordon Leeks and Claren Kotrla were paddling tandem in my Mohawk Intrepid 17 and I was poling Skipper Lay's Dagger Reflection 16. Moving upstream, I found that I could easily stay ahead of the tandem boat although neither boat had any trouble progressing against the minimal current. There was even a little upstream breeze that helped me, standing up, a bit more than it did the paddlers. There were a few pools where I couldn't reach bottom with the pole but could still progress by paddling kayak style, standing with the pole. A couple of miles into the canyon we encountered some riffles and swift, shallow places. I managed to pole up one of these that the paddlers couldn't make and then on the last two, we all had to step out and track up. Tracking is the other method that wilderness paddlers use moving upstream. Using both bow and stern painters to guide and pull the boat, you can move along at a pretty good walk as long as the footing is good. The idea is to have the bow out a little further than the stern, providing the forward motion with the stern painter and controlling the bow with the bow line. The angle of the bow keeps the bow line tight. This worked nicely and we arrived at Fern Canyon in something a bit over an hour from the put in.

Fern Canyon is a narrow canyon entering Santa Elena from the Mexican side. Depending on your agility and climbing skills (and fear of heights) you can work a few hundred yards up the canyon. There are a couple of places where there are seeps from the canyon wall



Enjoying Fern Canyon



Poling in Santa Elena Canyon

where lush ferns grow reliably. I remember visiting Fern Canyon on my first trip through Santa Elena in 1979 and the ferns this time looked just like the pictures from that trip. You can also walk or paddle a bit further upstream to Arch Canyon, another narrow canyon on the Mexican side. This entrance is much more difficult and well beyond my climbing ability. I don't know if there is a practical – or safe – way to get up into Arch Canyon.

After lunch at Fern Canyon, we started paddling back down Santa Elena, intending to drop one of us off at the put in to pick up the car and the other two paddlers to solo the boats down to the commercial take out a mile or so down river. Shortly after departing Fern Canyon, a gale force wind came up, blowing up the canyon. It was a real grunt to progress against it with very little help from the current. It took longer to get back to the take out than it did to go up the canyon. When we got to Terlingua Creek we decided that carrying the boats back to the car was better than trying to solo them against the wind and ended the trip at that point.

Paddling or poling, the trip up Santa Elena is practical at low water and gives a one day, or even half day, opportunity to see something of this trade mark of Big Bend paddling. Poling and tracking, with some practice, are very efficient methods of traveling upstream in the right circumstances. You may want to add these skills to your repertoire.

Technical Notes:

Poles: Aircraft grade aluminum, 1.125 inch diameter, 12 feet long with a plastic plug and a 3/8 inch spike about two inches long in each end. Cost is about \$75. The pole can be used bare or can be coated with the material used to coat tool handles.

Canoe & Kayak Safety

On the immediate need for Canoe and Kayak Safety Training:

Rob Johnson Head Coach
Umzinyathi US Canoe Club
35 Carter St Bolton CT 06043

An incident at Mansfield Hollow Dam, Mansfield CT, yesterday underscores in capital letters why "some paddling organization" must immediately become more familiar with the general public and offer beginner certification training to everyone.

The air temp was almost 60 the water certainly not over 40-45 degrees. There is almost no wind at the put in spot, but I can just make out heavy chop 1-2000 meters on the other side of the lake. Being ACA/Red Cross-trained at age 9, I am wearing proper water shoes, have good flotation in the ICF Kayak, and a wing paddle. I am very comfortable with proper - light but warm - paddling clothing. I have decided because its real early in the season and the water is very cold that I am not going to use any new equipment today. I, however, as most racers do, have to paddle solo. The plan is to stay 20 feet off shore and if it's too rough, stay in sheltered areas.

I view one canoe on the lake way off in the distance, sort of aimlessly moving around as recreational paddlers often do. I head up the long lake for a short way. I reach the Columbia Canoe Club and the wind is just too heavy. White caps lap into my boat, so I head back to the more sheltered lake where the ACA Divisional Championships, CT State Games and at least one Olympic Sprint Nationals have been held. I think it will be a less esthetically pleasing paddle but still a good workout.

As I get about half way to the other side where it turns to bog and swamp, I see the canoe again, or more correctly I see parts of it. The whitecaps are up and the canoe is REALLY low in the water and spinning left and right. I can't see the paddler. Something is wrong! First I see the bow, then the stern then finally a head. He's turned over in frigid water and probably has been in it for quite a while. He's at the complete mercy of the wind, which has now driven him into the swamp. Now I am sprinting to get there.

Thank God for the bog. He is standing in waste-deep water just staring at the canoe, a tandem Lincoln with no keel swamped to the gunnels. He is purple, shivering and probably hypothermic. Frankly, he is lucky he is still alive. His life jacket is stuffed in the bow; he's got on 10-pound rock climbing/hiking boots and heavy clothing. His cell phone and video camera are in his hands - soaked and shot. The put in point is now directly upwind, a little over a thousand meters away. I am a little worried how to get this guy out of here.

I ask him if he's all right (I am trying to balance the Stiletto with winds slamming me into swamp bush). There is no immediate answer. He is definitely mentally shutting down. I ask again, "Do you need help getting out of here?" This time I get a nod of the head. I get him to grab the nose of the K1 and drag me into the swamp. I get out in waste deep water – getting soaked of course (now I am worried for me). I can't over emphasize the wave height and wind power here. I wouldn't be here if it weren't for the paddler in trouble....

As he stands there holding his soggy electronics, I empty the boat quickly and help retie his gear and then tell him the bad news: I can't tow him out, and he certainly can't swim to the far shore and even if he did, there is no way he could walk out after another swim. He's got to paddle. He doesn't like this at all. But, we can't stay here as now I am freezing too.

So, I get him in the canoe and he starts to jump in the back seat. Very politely but assertively, I make him take off the heavy boots and kneel in the center. He still doesn't get the gravity of his situation and shows more concern over removing his nice boots. I hold the boat and give him a private lesson in C1. I get him into the wind and instruct him on how to fight the wind and move at an angle to the shoreline. I am not positive he can do this while shaking. Then to get in my boat, I have to shinny up the back of the K1 while holding onto a dead tree. At age 43 and 220lbs, that was a precarious and painful experience. Together we start back into the lake. It takes a lot of encouragement and a bump of the kayak nose here and there (he crashes me once) but he gets the idea and we take about 35 minutes to get back to the take out point. In a way, the paddling exercise made him start warming up – we were lucky here. . I think he's going to be ok, so I don't call for more help. Even if I did, I am not sure where it will come from. It takes me awhile to warm up. My legs are still cold an hour later. When he finally leaves I tell him to "GET THEE TO A LIVERY AND GET SOME LESSONS."

Here is his story...

He has never been out in a canoe before. He's supposed to be meeting his brother and take a few pictures on a nice day. His brother doesn't show, so not wanting to waste a great day, he decides "How hard can it be anyway." He goes out sitting in the back with no forward ballast (after all that's what the seats are for, sitting down - right?). Its so nice and calm here, he actually thinks a PFD might be a good idea, but no, he can swim so he skips it; after all he's dressed warm and his \$200 hiking boots will keep his feet warm if they get splashed - so off he goes....

Half way across, the wind turns the bow and he starts spinning. Eventually the boat completely swamps. Yes, the water is colder than he imagines – and you heard the rest above. Oh, yah... after I tell him the Canoe Club trains paddlers he says, "I was thinking before I went out that a lesson would be a good idea"...

My point here is just because you own a boat does not make you qualified to do anything more than look at it. Without basic training I wouldn't even let this guy tie the boat on the roof of his car, it might blow off and kill someone behind him. His "perfectly normal" action endangered not only himself but me as well. But, just like all the C&K competitors I have ever known, once he was in trouble there are no options but to help him. Heck, even legally I had to help him out or I'd be held criminally negligent. After all I recognized something wrong and I know better.

If the guy had joined a club, be given instructions, and been with experienced paddlers, he would likely not have gotten in trouble. **If** the Livery who sold him the boat, as part of a non- ego-threatening program, had recommended a club that could have trained him he would not have gotten in trouble, but regionally and nationally there are not many clubs so this is a national problem. **If** existing paddling clubs offered Safety Training, this kind of incident would not have happened. **If** competent National Association REALLY pushed paddler Safety Training and Club creation many, many more people would be able to safely enjoy these wonderful sports. **If** the public knew about our sport, the entire paddling world would change for the better! **If....**

PS: There is no time to wait for courses held once or twice a year, at say the Nationals. If anyone has a curriculum we need it here – we obviously need it now. Re-certify me later, but let me get the word out now. Send a basic course to every club you can identify. Why wait for "this guy" or another to do commit another cascade failure again?

We have the power to create and to organize our sport. We need to use it all the time or we are truly negligent, because we all know - this will happen again.

Become a Better Paddler Classes offered by ACA HCC Instructors

Patti Carothers at SouthWest PaddleSports is offering the following classes in the Houston-Galveston-San Marcos/New Braunfels areas:

- * **Quickstart Kayak** Apr. 7, May 4, May 19
 - * **Quickstart for women only**
Palacios May 24-25-26.
 - * **Kids Quickstart** 1:30-4:30PM, Apr. 7, May 4 & 19
 - * **Basic River Kayak** April 21, June 9
 - * **Whitewater Kayak** April 13-14, May 25-26
 - * **Surf Clinic** Saturdays; Apr. 20, May 11, 12
 - * **Basic Coastal Kayak** Apr. 27
 - * **Sailing lessons**, April 14, May 11
 - * Canoe training on request
- Contact Patti: email info@paddlesports.com
<http://www.paddlesports.com>
281-292-5600 281-36 PADDLE (367-2335) metro 800-WE PADDLE (937-2335)

Sue Eda and Pat Isley's Classes

ACA Introduction to Basic River canoeing class for the HCC on Saturday, May 11. use your own boats, or use some of ours. We can teach solo or tandem.

We will be teaching several **beginning canoe classes** as well. They are Red Cross Fundamentals of Canoeing classes and last an entire weekend. Students will be taught both solo and tandem skills as well as safety and rescue. The class dates are: April 20-21 or May 4-5 . call or email Sue for details. (713) 465-8711 or sseda@mail.esc4.com

Check the Houston Canoe Club website www.houstoncanoeclub.org for other **ACA certified HCC instructors** who might give private lessons

For Sale

Blackhawk Shadow - men's solo canoe modified to have 3 seats and to use for children's tandem or as parent and 2 small children as well as solo. Fiberglass with cane seats. Good condition. \$600 or BO. Contact Marilyn Kircus, mkircus@academicplanet.com or 713-782-0178.

Yakima Q24 canoe/kayak rack. Excellent condition (only used to carry lite canoes for a short distance) All accessories included. New cost \$650 - today's cost \$300. Will be on Ebay soon. 281-486-0463 Dave Wood

Perception Keowee III tandem recreation kayak. It's got two adjustable seats with high back rests, a removable smaller person's seat fits in between. Lots of stow away space for a nice picnic or an overnighter on the lake or class I-II rivers. Firecracker red, selling for \$680 at REI, will sell for \$350. It's in Houston. Please email me at kevin.fujii@chron.com if you're interested. If you'd like to check out its specs., www.kayaker.com

Brand spankin' new innovative **Seven2 G3 carbon fiber paddle** for sale. It's 194 cm, right hand control, regular grip width, 30 degree feather. Denver's Confluence Kayaks sells this new model for \$375. I'm selling it for \$325. Please email me at kevin.fujii@chron.com. You can check out the paddle's specs, at www.seven2.com

Welcome New Members

Doug Huang 7979 Kendalia Dr.
Houston, TX 7703 713-298-4482
Dhuang@wt.net heard about us at the presentation at Houston Arboretum & Nature Center

Rob and Lin Pelle 2105 Castle Dr.
League City, TX 77573 281-332-8361
rob-pelle@AdrenalineSportsOutfitters.com
heard about HCC from website

Bibi Petersen 8317 Nairn
Houston, TX 77074 713-777-4291
bibipetersen@hotmail.com

Robert and Cindy Vincent
3207 Mill House Run
Missouri City, TX 77459
281-778-7165
robert@mysteriesbyvincent.com
again, the website introduced the Vincent's to us



From The Helm

By Randall Nord
HCC Fleet Captain

Since my paddling philosophy lends itself to a nice lead-in to duties and responsibilities for the Fleet Captain, I'll start with my views on paddling. Simply stated, it's to get out on the water, be safe and have fun. I would hope that most club members share these ideas. Houstonians and their neighbors are blest to be in a location that truly offers year-round paddling with over a dozen places to paddle less than an hour from downtown. With so many opportunities, reaching the Commodore's goal for the club to paddle over 7000 miles in 2002 should be easy.

To paddle all these miles, we need members to coordinate trips as well as members to participate in trips. Thus, the primary duty of the Fleet Captain is to promote club trips and solicit trip coordinators along with recording these trips and the miles paddled. There are a few requirements for being a trip coordinator. The coordinator needs to be a club member as well as a member of the ACA. Participants should also be (but not required) members of the club and ACA. We need trip coordinators but we need trip participants too! Both are vital for having a successful club and achieving our mileage goals. Over the past few months, trips have been cancelled because of lack of participant interest. My challenge to the membership is to get on the river, bayou, lake or stream and paddle either as a participant or trip coordinator. If each club member paddled in two or three club trips this year the club would easily exceed 7000 club miles.

Because I feel that an important duty of the Fleet Captain is to promote safe paddling, I distributed the pamphlet "Know Your Limits" put together by the ACA at the March meeting. I also feel that filling out a float plan prior to paddling is an important aspect in trip preplanning and have distributed an outline and some useful internet sites for float plan preparation. How are your CPR and basic first aid skills? Since our paddling activities put us in situations where immediate care is not readily available, it is important to have these skills and I encourage members of the club to be current in these life saving techniques. In addition, we need to realize that safety covers a broad area and I plan on presenting a safety tip on the trip list handed out at the monthly meetings.

For 2002 make a commitment. Get involved with the club, get out on the water, be safe and have fun with long time friends and make a few new ones

Houston Canoe Club

Officers for 2001

Commodore **Fraser Baker** 713-202-2503
fraser@pobox.com

Vice Commodore Jim Null 713--664-1083
medislide@earthlink.net

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

Purser **Kevin Casement** 713-748-0468
paddlinman@hotmail.com

Fleet Captain Randall Nord 281-565-0541
keeppadding@mail.ev1.net

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

Governors:

Mark Andrus 979-849-3732
mandrus@brazoria.net

Bill Grimes 713- 728-1645
William-Grimes@hlp.com

Candy Donahue 713-666-6542
Peterpan101@ev1.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

General meeting Minutes

March 13, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Commodore Fraser Baker. Officers present included Vice-commodore Jim Null, Recorder Marilyn Peery, Purser Kevin Casement, Newsletter Editor Donna Grimes, Fleet Captain Randall Nord, and Governors Mark Andrus and Bill Grimes. There were 46 people present. The officers were introduced.

Christy Long gave a short presentation about the pool sessions which are sanctioned by the ACA and administered by the Bayou City Whitewater Club.

Jim Null introduced Ron Smith from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department who presented a program on the TPWD web site, the Texas River Guide. There is a link to this site on the HCC web site.

Minutes of the February meeting were read and approved.

Fraser read a letter from the American Red Cross thanking us for our \$861 donation.

Chet Tigard has agreed to chair the 2002 Rendezvous. Jim Null moved that we proceed with plans for this event to be held in October 2002. Bob Arthur seconded the motion, which then passed.

Donna Grimes introduced guests and new members. Our new T-shirts are now on sale and Ron Smith, our speaker, was presented with one.

Randal Nord gave the fleet captain's report.

Kevin Casement reported that our balance on February 1 was \$22,522. The present balance is \$26,945. Expenses were the Red Cross donation and T-shirts. Income was from dues. His report was accepted.

The meeting was adjourned.
Marilyn Peery, Recorder

Prestigious Schools on the Bayou by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski

Two of the oldest and most prestigious schools in the City are located on the banks of Buffalo Bayou west of downtown. St Thomas High School sits on the high bank overlooking the bayou at Shepherd Drive and Memorial Drive. Further upstream in the suburb of Piney Point Village, the Kinkaid School is nestled in the forested woodlands between San Felipe Rd and the bayou.

Both of these schools are roughly 100 years old and are two of the oldest schools in the City. Yet, while each is comfortably situated in the suburban neighborhoods, they have their roots in the downtown and mid-town areas. By the turn of the 19th century, Houston's population had grown dramatically. Cotton, oil, railroads and lumber had brought prosperity which inspired the settlement of neighborhoods to the south down Main Street and then, later, to the west along Buffalo Bayou.

St. Thomas College, as it was originally called, was founded in 1900 by the Basilian Fathers. The school occupied an old 2-story frame structure at Franklin Ave and Caroline St which had been erected in 1861 by Franciscan Fathers. The South End, the neighborhood south of downtown which we now call Midtown, became more heavily populated in the early 1900's so the Basilian Fathers moved St. Thomas High School from downtown to the South End in 1903. A block was purchased between Austin and LaBranch, Hadley and McIlhenny Ave. for St Thomas High School. St. Thomas High School occupied a building at that location from 1906 to 1940.

In 1929, a half dozen years after Will Hogg began to develop River Oaks on the south side of the bayou, a 32 acre tract of land for the future expansion of St Thomas High School was purchased on the wooded north bank of Buffalo Bayou above the Shepherd's Dam Bridge and near Brunner Ave.

Maurice Sullivan, partner of Birdsall Briscoe, designed the new St. Thomas High School. The building was constructed, in 1940, of reinforced steel and concrete faced with Cordova shell stone. The front walls of St Thomas High School slant obliquely from the ends to form an apex at the rounded entrance pavillion where 4 massive columns rise to support a semicircular parapet.

St. Thomas High School was relocated to its present 16 acre campus on Memorial Drive at Shepherd Dr. in 1940. It has distinguished itself over the past 100

years as a college preparatory school for boys where 95% of its graduates attend college.



Thomas High School, set among the tall oak trees on the north bank of Buffalo Bayou at Shepherd Drive.

Margaret Hunter, born in 1874, was the granddaughter of Johnson Calhoun Hunter, one of Austin's Old 300 and daughter of a Confederate veteran. She married William J. Kinkaid in 1899. She was a teacher in the Houston public schools at Hawthorne Elementary School, but after her marriage, she found that married women were not allowed to teach in the Houston public school system.

So, in 1904, Margaret Kinkaid opened a school in her home on San Jacinto at Elgin. Her first class had seven children. Mrs. Kinkaid's school closed for the birth of her second son, but she reopened again in 1906. That date is considered to be the official beginning of the Kinkaid School.

By the early 1920's Kinkaid School had eight faculty members. The school had outgrown the house, and Mrs. Kinkaid moved the school to a building at 1301 Richmond at Graustark Ave. in the fall of 1924. A high school building was added in 1947 and, in 1949, a gymnasium was built at 4315 Yupon St.

Mrs. Kinkaid retired at the age of 77 in the spring of 1951, and John H. Cooper became headmaster of the school. Tragically, Mrs. Kinkaid was killed in an automobile accident on December 20, 1951.

Under Cooper's direction, the Kinkaid School looked to the future and it acquired forty wooded acres on Buffalo Bayou in the Memorial suburb of Piney Point Village. The new buildings for the Kinkaid School were dedicated in December, 1957.

The Kinkaid School is the oldest independent nonparochial school in Houston, and it is the largest such institution in Texas. In 1992, enrollment in grades pre-K to 12 was 1,250 students.

The Kinkaid School is just upstream from the canoe access to Buffalo Bayou at Briar Bend Park. Or, if coming downstream, it is in the section below the access at Wilcrest Rd. St. Thomas High School is at the access point near Shepherd Drive.

SAN MARCOS KAYAK RODEO & SLADOE

WHEN? April 6th 2002 Prelims begin AT 1:00pm
WHERE? Rio Vista Park Dam, San Marcos, TX
HOW MUCH? \$10.00 entry fee
**TWO CATEGORIES: MEN'S &
WOMEN'S** JUDGING CRITERIA DISCUSSED DAY OF
EVENT.



TROPHY'S AWARDED TO
TOP THREE FINALISTS IN EACH CATEGORY.
COME EARLY TO HELP WITH
THE 21st Annual RIVER CLEAN-UP
AND GET A FREE BBQ DINNER!

The Bayou Beckons (formerly known as Buffalo Bayou Regatta)

Dates: May 4-5

Place: Buffalo Bayou's Sesquicentennial Park in downtown Houston
(race begins at the San Felipe Bridge and ends in Park)

Events: Buffalo Bayou Regatta's largest canoe and kayak race
Anything that Floats Parade
Styrofoam Cup - river cleanup event
Picnic in the Park Party (following the race)
School of Fish Education Pavilion
Sun. Houston Dragon Boat Festival

HCC Members:

We have always helped with this event as sweep boats, safety, registration, etc. Sign up to help in April's meeting or email Donna Grimes at donna.grimes@mindspring.com

Who Be These People?- Randall Nord , fleet captain

1. Where were you born and raised?

Was born in Natick, Massachusetts but primarily raised in Quincy, Massachusetts, the city of presidents – John Adams and John Quincy Adams.

2. Are you married, have children?

Was once but single again. No children but wait..., I have a goddaughter – does that count?

3. Where educated and degree?

I received a BS degree in chemistry from the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Since that wasn't enough abuse and punishment I went back, three years later, to work on a PhD in chemistry at Texas A&M University.

4. Previous occupations?

After completing my under graduate degree, I joined the Peace Corps and taught chemistry and physics in Ghana, West Africa, for 2 years. It was a great experience, to be totally submerged in a culture getting to know the people and their customs. Upon returning I worked in a local R&D laboratory for a year before returning to college.

5. Present Occupation

Right now I'm a chemist in the refinery and fuels group at Ondeo Nalco Energy Services formally Nalco/Exxon Energy Chemicals, formally the petroleum division of Nalco Chemical Company. (And they tell me change is good!)

6. Other places lived, how long in Houston.

Lived in California for 4 years but too young to remember most of it. Of course College Station while working on my degree and now Sugar Land for the past 11 years.



7. How did you become involved with HCC?

I heard about the club while at REI but was sold on the club by meeting club members Walter and Patricia Brown. I was camping at Huntsville State Park on Thanksgiving a couple of years back and had a site next to them. We each had our canoes so that broke the ice. They told me about the club and all the fun stuff the club did. I thought that I should check it out. I'm glad I did.

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

I primarily like to paddle flat water and slow moving rivers and streams. I enjoy getting out to paddle and really don't have a favorite place. I've enjoyed paddling amongst the cypress trees at Caddo Lake and in the canyons and along the bluffs of the Devil's river. Each place is unique and I try to appreciate what each place has to offer.

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

I like the outdoors and enjoy camping, hiking, cycling (road and mountain), bird watching and fishing. Often it is difficult to fit it all in. While at home I like to tinker – do a bit of woodworking, auto maintenance and gardening.



TRIPS WITH HCC -

3/29-31/02 - Easter Weekend Trip - A trip in the hill country canoeing several rivers - possibilities are Frio, Guadalupe and Medina. Contact Donna Grimes at 713-728-1645 or donna.grimes@mindspring.com

4/6-7/02 Annual Women's Trip - Paddle Village Creek and stay at the cabin in Village Creek State Park. Contact Anne at 713-864-0205 or aolden@ix.netcom.com. Please include full name and phone number in email correspondence.

4/5-7/02 La Louisianne Freestyle Canoeing Symposium - Mandeville Louisiana. One of the premier places for beginners to experts to improve their canoeing skills. John Steib 225-654-5224

4/10/02 HCC Monthly Meeting - Wednesday- Red Cross Bldg. 2700 SW Frwy just west of Kirby. Natalie Wiest will speak on paddling places around Houston

4/13/02 Oyster Creek Cleanup in Sugarland. HCC members asked to help with this since we are using the Sugarland area for our Rendezvous. A good showing of HCC members would be good PR for the club. Contact Lillian Tigard at 281-281-494-7977 Tigards2@hal-pc.org

4/20/02 Houston Paddlefest - Independence Lake, Missouri City - Details to come.

4/21/02 Hidalgo Falls Festival - Enjoy the festival sponsored by TRPA and paddle the Brazos. Contact Mark Andrus for more information at mandrus@brazoria.net or 979-849-4738

4/28/02 Sheldon Lake - Come see the birds and their younguns in this perfect setting. Water lilies should also be in bloom. Call Fraser Baker at 713-466-7906 or fraser@pobox.com

5/4-5/02 The Bayou Beckons 2002 - Featuring the 31st Annual Buffalo Bayou Regatta, 2nd Annual Houston Dragon Boat Festival, Anything That Floats Parade and School of Fish Education Pavilion. For information call the Buffalo Bayou Partnership at 713-752-0314.

5/11/02 Medina River Cleanup - The Lake Medina Conservation Society is looking for groups to join in the annual Medina River Cleanup. Donna Grimes would like the club to adopt a section of river. Contact Donna for more details at 713-728-1645 or donna.grimes@mindspring.com

6/22-23/02 Kids Paddle - again this year – back by popular demand, an opportunity for adults to be kids as KIDS RULE in a float down the San Marcos. Paddle, swim, jump from rope swings and splash each other. There will also be a group dinner and entertainment that night. For more details, contact Donna Grimes at 713-728-1645 or donna.grimes@mindspring.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 \$10 for members of the Bayou City Whitewater Club and Houston Canoe Club and \$15 for non-ACA members.*

For Trips or info contact Fleet Captain Randall Nord at rfnord@ondeo-nes.com

The First Annual Hidalgo Falls River Festival will be held on **Sunday, April 21**, at the TRPA Hidalgo Falls property on the Brazos River near Navasota. Dealer representatives, outfitters, and exhibitors who will have participated in the Houston PaddleFest the day before are planning to pack up in Houston on Saturday afternoon and come up to Hidalgo to camp and set up that night. Early the next morning (around 8:30) there will be a 12-mile flatwater downriver race (which could end up being simply a more leisurely float trip for some) ending at the rapids. A whitewater slalom race will begin at 1 p.m., and a whitewater rodeo around 2:30. Throughout the day there will be exhibits, demos, and classes. For information on the event, contact the following people:

Downriver race/float trip: James Williams 979-776-5530 (no email)

Slalom race: Scott Coultas (scott.coultas@chamberlainlaw.com)

Whitewater rodeo: Bruce Litton (dbl93@ev1.net)

Exhibits and demos: Ben McCue (benmccue@hotmail.com)

Classes Patti Carothers (swpaddle@swbell.net)

Overall coordination: Steve Daniel (sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu)

Houston Canoe Club Coordinator: Mark Andrus. Contact him for additional information at 979 849-4738 or mandrus@brazoria.net

The Lake Medina Conservation Society (LAMCOS) is looking for paddling groups to join in **the annual Medina River Cleanup on May 11**, the beginning of National River Cleanup Week. We have divided 50 miles of the river into twelve segments beginning 15 miles upstream from the City of Medina through Bandera and ending at Medina Lake. We would like paddling groups to volunteer to adopt sections for cleanup. LAMCOS will host a free barbecue for all participants from 2-6 p.m. at the Bandera City River Park. Free camping will be available. T-shirts will be given to all participants and shuttle help is available, if requested in advance. Trash bags will be provided in advance and will be picked up at designated river crossings

HCC plans to help with this event. Coordinator for HCC is Donna Grimes. 713 728-1645 or donna.grimes@mindspring.com

Fiesta Earth Day Sprint Canoe Race, April 20

The Alamo City Rivermen are please to announce the First Annual Earth DayFiesta Sprint Canoe Race which will be held **April 20 at Woodlawn Lake in SanAntono**. The location will me on Woodlawn Lake which is a small lake situated in the west central section of the San Antonio with a picturesque view of the down town skyline which features the Tower of America's and the historic Little Flower Cathedral.

We will install the course on Saturday April 13 with the course being available for practice up to April 20 the day of the race.

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

Join the American Canoe Association (ACA)

The Houston Canoe Club is a member of the Paddle America Club (PAC) of the ACA. As a part of PAC, the HCC members are able to join ACA at a great savings to them. As a member of ACA, you will receive a month magazine Paddler, help with paddling education and safety, and often receive discounts on other ACA Sanctioned events. ACA provides HCC with liability insurance providing our members have joined ACA. In order to join, fill out the HCC membership – ACA portion (\$15 for individual membership; \$20 for family membership). After joining ACA through the Paddle America Club, ACA will directly “bill” you for the coming year/s at the reduced rate.

Check out the electronic format of this newsletter – available to current members only – At www.houstoncanoecub.org

What's in the newsletter?

- Pg.1 – “Up’ the Santa Elena Canyon
- Pg.3 – Canoe & Kayak Safety
- Pg. 4 – Paddling Classes
- Pg. 5 – For Sale
 - Welcome New Members
 - “From the Helm” – Randall Nord
- Pg. 6 – HCC officers & minutes
- Pg. 7 – History – schools along the bayou
- Pg. 8 – San Marcos Kayak Rode
 - Bayou Beckons
- Pg. 9 – Biography – Randall Nord
- Pg. 10 – Trip List
- Pg. 11 – Hidalgo Falls River Festival
 - Medina River Clean up
 - Earth Day Canoe Races



April 10th Speaker:
“Paddling in the Houston Area”

Natalie Wiest has lived in the Houston area 20 years and paddled many of the Bayous, Creeks, Bays, and Lakes of the area. She helped update the New Member’s “Areas to Paddle” list and has helped with the HCC website paddling places. She will share her knowledge and give hand outs on paddling places around our area.