



HIDALGO FALLS FESTIVAL

By: Mark Andrus

A group from Houston Canoe Club attended the first Hidalgo Falls Festival on April 21, 2002. We camped out on the site the night before the festival, so we would be ready to paddle the next morning. The Houston Canoe Club members were Mary Zaborowski, Paul Woodcock, Malynda Richardson, and Mark Andrus. We took the trip from Hidalgo Falls to Washington on the Brazos in the morning.

The trip was much easier than the take out which required ropes to pull the boats up the riverbank. Local paddlers with canoe trailers provided the shuttle.



Hidalgo Festival kayak display –(photo-Patti Carothers)

There was slalom and rodeo kayak competitions in the afternoon, which we watched. It was also fun watching the paddlers ride their boats from the top of the bank down into the water. Some of the kayak manufacturers had demo whitewater kayaks to try out surfing in the falls. It was a new experience to be able to actually try out a boat in whitewater.



Making an entry into the water at Hidalgo (Patti Carothers)

Later that day, I went into College Station and attended Aggie Muster. My father's class ('52) had their 50-year reunion during Muster Weekend. Later that night and the next morning, I looked around College Station and Bryan and I noticed how different it was now from what it was like when I was a graduate student there in the 1970s.

Hidalgo Falls was bought and preserved by the Texas River Protection Association and by various paddlers as a place to paddle. I am on the steering committee for Hidalgo Falls. We welcome donations from paddlers who willing to contribute to help maintain the property. Contact me if you want any information about the property. There is a link to

information about Hidalgo Falls from the PaddleTX website.

Houston Canoe Club's 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 Minutes May 8, 2002

Recorded by Cindy Bartos in the absence of HCC
Recorder Marilyn Peery

7:10 Meeting was called to order by
Commodore Fraser Baker

Introduction of officers present: Jim Null, Kevin
Casement, Donna Grimes, Bill Grimes, and
Candy Donahue. Randall Nord arrived after
introductions

Jim Null announced future meeting programs
including that the September HCC meeting will be
a "Swap Meet"

Program presented on Armand Bayou by Mark
Kramer

In the absence of the recorder Fraser Baker
asked that the minutes of last month's HCC
meeting be approved. John Bartos made a
correction to the minutes: Chet Tigard stepped
down as Southwestern Canoe Rendezvous Chair
due to personal reasons, rather than health
reasons as stated in the minutes. Minutes were
approved as corrected.

Introductions of first time attendees to the meeting

Commodore Fraser Baker announced that since
no one has volunteered to act as Chair of the
SWCR that we are in the position to postpone the
event. There has been communication with the
American Canoe Association that may offer
alternatives. The HCC membership will be
notified of any decisions.

Fraser Baker also announced the HCC officers
are exploring the possibility of having paid
advertising in "The Waterline". The Club is
looking for someone willing to take on the
responsibility of handling the advertising. If you
are interested please contact one of the officers.

Fleet Captain's report: Randall Nord.

Purser's report: Kevin Casement

8:25 Meeting adjourned

The Difference in Two Water Encounters

By Donna Grimes

Recently, I volunteered for two different water-related activities: the Buffalo Bayou Regatta and the Medina River Cleanup. Being a paddler in Houston, I wanted to do my duty and help locally with the adventure of 100+ paddlers racing down the waterway of Buffalo Bayou. So, my husband Bill, Anne Olden, Marilyn Peery, and Debbie Lockey paddled down the bayou from the race's beginning at San Felipe and Voss to Shepherd on Friday, May 3rd, checking for areas where HCC could help by setting up safety personnel. As we trekked down the bayou, I was amazed at how much litter cluttered each eddy, along the shore, and in the water itself. The bayou was packed with debris. However, Bill stated that it was relatively clean...relative to 20 year ago when the major paddling challenge was portaging garbage and log jams.

I kept thinking, "Man, looks like we need to do a river cleanup, here." This feeling was re-inforced the next day after the corp of engineers raised the water flow to 500 cfs to make the flow higher for the racers. As we stationed ourselves at the safety spots we had scouted the day before, we watched as pods of debris floated down the bayou, having been released by the rise in the water level. One of the earlier paddler was Patty Carothers in a kayak encircled with garbage. She was one of the lucky ones early enough to catch one of the rising *garbage flotillas*. She reminded me of Pigpen, the character from Charlie Brown who lives in a cloud of dirt. As she passed us, she shouted, "I have never seen the bayou this dirty!"

My next water encounter was a river cleanup the following week – on the Medina in the hill country. Since I paddle this small, windy river several times during the year, I felt obligated to help keep it clean. I had a crew of about seven boats to clean a stretch of 5 1/2 miles. We put in at Ranger Crossing (where Highway 16 crosses the Medina near Bandera) and the 7 boats headed down with our sacks, hoes, and nets ready to gather garbage. The river was cleanso clean, we got to teasing each other, rushing to the

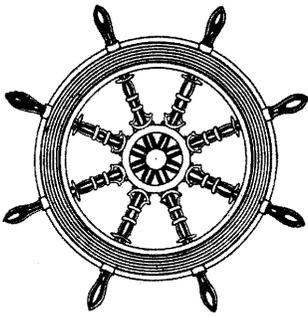


Medina River cleanup crew including 4 HCC members: Bill & Donna Grimes and Bryan & Alex Richter (photo by Richter)

occasional coke can, wanting to get it before the next anxious river cleaner came along. I even got out of my boat to pick up an empty soda can next to a tree, to hear a fisherman shout, "Hey! That's my drink!" At the end of the five miles, 7 boats of hardy workers only had enough debris to fill one small tandem boat with garbage and carry it to the top of the hill.

This same amount could have been collected in one eddy on the Buffalo Bayou. My point is.....I would like to see us lovers of Houston waterways, work at cleaning our bayou. I will be meeting with the Buffalo Bayou Coalition soon as a follow-up to the Regatta and will voice my feelings and try to find out how often clean-ups are conducted.





From The Helm:

Mark Andrus

I am the most senior of the three Governors of Houston Canoe

Club. The Governors are elected to staggered three-year terms with a new Governor elected each year. My term as Governor ends in January 2003. I had been Vice-Commodore during 1999 prior to being elected as Governor. The club nominations committee will usually ask one of the officers leaving another club officer position to continue on as a Governor.

The official duties of the Governors involve keeping the physical property of the club and being a member of the club's board of directors. The club had rental canoes until several years ago, which the Governors kept and checked out. The two most senior Governors are on the Hulsebosch Committee, which makes grants to paddling organizations and activities. Unfortunately, there has not been any money in the Hulsebosch Fund the last couple of years. The two most junior Governors serve on the nominations committee.

Some of the unofficial responsibilities that I am involved with are I prepare the club exempt organization tax return Form 990EZ each year and I serve on the club conservation committee. I am also a director on the board of the Texas Rivers Protection Association and on the steering committee for Hidalgo Falls. I have previously been on the Rendezvous Committee in 1991, 1994 and 1996.

The club tax return asks what is the organization's exempt purpose. I have been stating that the purpose is "PROMOTE THE SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND USE OF CANOES AND KAYAKS FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES." We are first interested in safety, so the club promotes paddling instruction and safety measures for club trips. The club is also interested in protecting the waters we paddle in and enjoy.

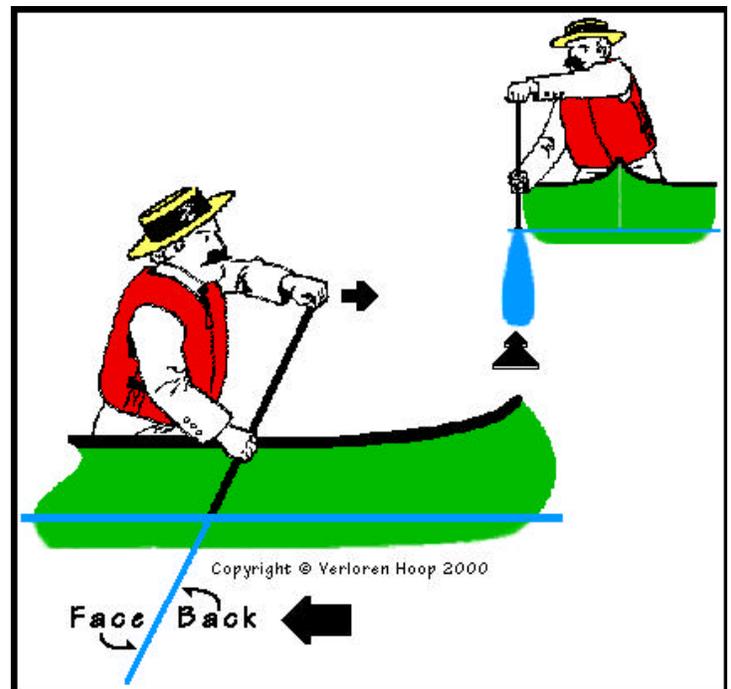
Both canoes and kayaks are mentioned because the club is for all types of paddlers instead of just being for a one type. Recreational is included because paddling is fun.

It is important to me that Houston Canoe Club does include all types of paddling because I have enjoyed doing different types of paddling and I have learned many of them in Houston Canoe Club. I have a sea kayak, whitewater kayak, recreational kayak/canoe (Rob Roy), tandem canoe, and a whitewater solo canoe. I even have a rowboat. Houston Canoe Club offers many wilderness canoe and kayak camping trips, which are my favorite paddling activities.

Houston Canoe Club is a paddling club so our most important mission is to go out and paddle. It is important to avoid the rut of spending more time talking about paddling instead of actually doing it. Our most fun times are on the water or camping by the water.

I ask that the club keep its paddling focus after I leave being an officer after being on the board for the last four years.

Having a Good Forward Stroke: The Position



For Sale

The following items are for sale from Lee Deviney Austin, Texas
512-306-8058 txpaddler@aol.com

ZRE Zaverl marathon canoe paddle 53" 10 oz. Z-medium model. Barely used. One very small chip on edge has been repaired. \$145 (new price 174.95)
<http://www.zre.com/gearshop/paddlesport/paddles/index.html>

Descente Flite 6 wing 216-226cm(marathon paddle) length lock adjustable feather and length. All carbon-well used but very stiff (surface scratches but the edges are still in decent shape. \$150 (new price \$320

Descente Flite 3 Large wing 213-223cm (one size smaller than sprint wing, can be used for marathon or sprint). All carbon-less used than the Flite 6, some surface scratches, good edges. \$175 (new price \$320 The Descente Wings weigh in at about 33 oz. with the length lock.

Mako T-1 Seakayak/touring carbon paddle 220cm. Advertised at 26 oz. which I believe w/o having weighed it. Used once for about 40 minutes. Take apart. No scratches (as new). \$165. (new price \$210 +tax and shipping)

Neck Gliss Kayak. Good whitewater & river running boat. Only \$285.

Prijon Invader Light. Good beginner & river running boat. Large volume.
\$185. Call 512.343.0414 (Austin phone #)
bill.leon@juno.com

The following items are for sale from Kay DiDonato 281-568-1934

Blue Hole 16' tripping boat (\$400).
MBW 14' solo whitewater play boat (\$350),
Mad River 14'8" solo rigging (\$450),
Down River Gags, beaver tail **wood paddle**,
break-a-part Mohawk **Kayak paddle**.

Want to purchase a used recreational or **touring kayak**; can be sit-in or sit-on top kayak. Jacqueline Webster
goddess@argolink.net

need of borrow or rent a cabover **pickup truck camper** or shell for my long bed Chevy truck.

I'm needing it to use in Colorado during the Primal Quest adventure race in July. If any of y'all have one or have knowledge of where I can commandeer one, then please contact me at west@jump.net or 512-217-7320 to West Hansen

Perception Splits Annual Conservationist Award Among Five Recipients

Easley, S.C.-- For the first time since its inception in 1981, Perception Kayaks has awarded its River Conservationist of the Year Award to two individuals and three organizations.

The winners announced Thursday are: American Canoe Association in Springfield, Va.; Friends of the Reedy River in Greenville, S.C.; James River Basin Partnership in Springfield, Mo.; Rebecca Kress of Ukiah, Calif.; and **Tom Goynes of Martindale, Texas.**

The five winners were the only nominations submitted in a contest which, in years past, typically generates hundreds of candidates vying for a single award. The contest's previous organizer, Veronica Griner, departed last year, prompting speculation that this may have caused the project to lose some promotional ground, said Spokeswoman Sharon Riddle.

"We wanted to make sure that everyone who submitted something was a winner," Riddle said. "It surprises me how many people volunteer to have free-flowing rivers. It's like a mentoring program for me. There's such a love there for what's natural and what's free, and they just want to give it to people. They give their time and energy--they're a whole other part of the family."

Each winner will receive a portion of a "few thousand dollars" to help further their efforts, Riddle said. She declined to announce a specific amount.

Congratulations to you all, but especially to our Tom Goynes!!

Patti Carothers

ACA National Chair - Membership, Marketing & Communications

Who Be These People? - Don Wilson -also known as " Surfer Don"

1. Where were you born and raised?

I was born a navy brat near Brooklyn in New York City, New York. But we soon left for Hawaii where I would be living for the next three years. Then from Hawaii, we moved to Jacksonville, Florida, where I was raised for the next twelve years of my life. It was there, in 1960, when Dad first joined a canoe club, that originally fostered my passion for canoeing. From Jacksonville, we moved to Houston, Texas in 1962, and I've lived here ever since.

2. Are you married,?

Nope, and I don't have any children. Still single after all of these years. I may have come close a few times, but never quite settled down.

3. Where educated and degree?

Received an AA (Associates in Arts) degree from what was South Texas Junior College, currently known as the University of Houston Downtown College. Since then, I have also received several course certifications in Computer Programming, Business Management, and Real Estate from Houston Community College.

4. Previous occupations?

I've had several different jobs in my career which spans over a period of 17 years prior to 1988. Those were mostly jobs involving computer operations, telecommunications, data records management, and computer programming. Among the most notable companies that I've worked with were Chevron, Texas Instruments, and Shell as a contract worker.

5. Present occupation? -

I am a licensed Real Estate Sales Agent, self-employed in association with Crabb Real Estate in Stafford, Texas, since 1988.

6. How did you become involved with HCC?

I think I've first heard of the HCC about 1964, when it was first organized. Tried to get Dad to join, but that never quite came about. Since then, I've visited their booth a few times over the years at several of the boat shows, but never really got around to joining the Club until early 1991.

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

I enjoy flatwater paddling in a canoe or kayak year round on rivers and lakes such as Buffalo Bayou, Clear Creek, Oyster Creek, and Sheldon Reservoir. In the spring and summer months, I enjoy fishing from my sit-on-top kayaks in places like Christmas Bay, West Bay, and Galveston Bay. Also during the summer months, I enjoy surfing in my sit-on-top surf kayak on the Gulf of

Mexico at places like Galveston and Surfside, Texas. I'll paddle almost anything that floats, from a 9-foot solo sit-on-top kayak, to a 40+-foot 6-paddler outrigger canoe, which includes just about everything in between.



Don Wilson enjoying the HCC Xmas Party

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

As far as water sports are concerned, they include swimming, surfing, and fishing. Other outdoor organizations that I belong to are the Paddling Anglers in Canoes and Kayaks, the Texas Outrigger Canoe Club, the Coastal Conservation Association, and of course the American Canoe Association.

Among indoor hobbies, I like to write new programs for my computers, whenever I have the time to do so.

10. Any other comments?

Practically, every time I go out on either a paddling trip or workout with a paddling club, I can't help but think back to the more simpler times of my earlier days of canoeing in the 60s with my Dad. Even today, I think I've learned more about canoeing from him than just about anyone else. And he didn't even consider himself an expert in the sport.

**A Pessimist's blood type is
always:**

B-negative

Up and Coming Trips for the HCC Club:

For Trips or info contact Fleet Captain Randall Nord at rfnord@ondeo-nes.com or 281-565-0541

6/1-2/02 Kerrville Folk Festival & Paddle - What a great combination! Paddle during the day and listen to folk music at night!!! Contact Bill Grimes at 713-728-1645 or donna.grimes@mindspring.com for complete details.

6/8-9/02 Family Paddle on the Brazos River - Come join families and friends on a good paddling journey down the Brazos River. For all the details, contact Mary Z at 713-884-1925, coachz66@hotmail.com or maryzabo@yahoo.com

6/12/02 HCC Monthly Meeting - 7 PM Wednesday - Red Cross Bldg. 2700 SW Frwy just west of Kirby. Skye Lewey of the Nueces River Authority will talk about off-road vehicles in Texas stream beds.

6/22-23/02 Kids Paddle - 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 be a group dinner and entertainment that night. For details, contact Donna Grimes at 713-728-1645 or donna.grimes@mindspring.com

8/3-4/02 Weekend on the Neches - Come watch or participate in the Neches River Race on Saturday and enjoy a leisure paddle on the Neches River on Sunday. Everyone is invited to stay (for free) the night at the M and B Canoe/Kayak Rentals and Campground in Slocum Texas. Contact Mary Z. at 713-884-1925, coachz66@hotmail.com or maryzabo@yahoo.com for all the details.

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.*

Potential Loss of the Bridge at La Linda By DAVID McLEMORE / The Dallas Morning News 05/05/2002 E-mail dmclmore@dallasnews.com

LA LINDA CROSSING, Texas - The bridge sits in splendid isolation in the middle of nowhere. In the shadow of the Dead Horse Mountains, it spans the Rio Grande at Heath Canyon, a natural crossing carved out of the Chihuahuan Desert highlands. To the south, the dark Sierra del Carmen in Mexico stands like guard towers.

The bridge closed in 1997, and the U.S. Coast Guard has wanted to demolish it. Authorities gave the span's supporters a year to come up with an operating plan or the "hazard to navigation" will be torn down. The only traffic on this section of the river that anyone can remember are canoes and an occasional raft.

Kay Love is one of the Brewster County leaders who favors the bridge at La Linda. After the U.S. Customs Service abandoned the bridge, it put a barricade on it. The bridge won't go down without a fight. Mexican authorities and some of their U.S. counterparts have rallied behind a determined group of Brewster County residents to save the bridge at La Linda. It is, they say, the economic hope of the region.

Bridge defenders say that it is important as a link for development of eco-tourism across the Rio Grande. It is also vital to friends and families living along the border. More important, it's the only bridge they have.

The opponents - the U.S. Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Border Patrol - have been reluctant to support efforts to reopen the bridge at La Linda, citing tight budgetary resources.

"There are about 400 river miles between Del Rio and Presidio, the nearest ports of entry," said Brewster County rancher Kay Love. "We know if we lose the bridge at La Linda, we'll never see another one built. We know it's remote and difficult to find people willing to work there," Mrs. Love said. "It just seems to us the height of bureaucratic stupidity to blow up a bridge just because you can't figure out what to do with it."



The Gerstack Bridge at La Linda (photo by Rolf Laub)

Dow Chemical built the bridge in 1964 to aid shipment of fluorspar ore from its mines in the state of Coahuila, Mexico, to the railhead in Marathon, 70 miles north.

After the mines closed, U.S. bridge ownership fell to the National Parks Conservation Association, a privately funded ecology organization. Mexico retained its half of the bridge.

Mexican Customs shut its office at the bridge in 1995 after an agent was killed in a gunfight with drug runners. Two years later, U.S. Customs officials officially abandoned the bridge, moving an inspection station to

Marathon. Concrete and wire barricades erected by U.S. Customs block traffic across the bridge. The bridge was left to the desert solitude.

In 1997, the U.S. Coast Guard ordered destruction of the bridge as an "unreasonable obstruction to navigation." Once the bridge ceased carrying traffic, it technically became an obstruction in navigable waters, officials said, even though the only craft on the river are rafts and canoes from Big Bend National Park.

Officials backed off a June 30 demolition date, saying they would give supporters a year to develop plans.

"If there is an opportunity to develop the area, why not? I'd love to see some development in that region," said Nick Mpras, chief of the Coast Guard's bridge administration office in Washington, D.C. "But we want to see that they have a viable plan and financial resources to have it take place."

Its very isolation offers the county the designation as the gateway to Big Bend National Park and the Big Bend Ranch State Park. The Big Bend Border Council believes the county can be much, much more. In 1994, Mexico formally declared Maderas del Carmen and El Canon de Santa Elena, covering 1.2 million acres of pine forests, plunging canyons and 9,000-foot peaks as protected lands - roughly equivalent to the federal and state parks and managed lands in the Big Bend on the U.S. side.

The first steps to creating a tourist magnet were taken in late 1996 when Monterrey industrialist Alberto Garza Santos bought 50,000 acres in the high country of Maderas del Carmen and began pumping in development money. His Museo Maderas del Carmen receives a handful of visitors who cross the river by ferry at Boquillas del Carmen and then drive a few hours into the mountains. According to the Texas comptroller's office, if 10 percent of the current visitors to the Big Bend region extended their stay by a day because the Maderas del Carmen was more accessible, personal income in the area would increase by \$2.3 million.

"Those mountains and canyons don't stop at the river," Mrs. Love said. "The nearest connection point between the folks at Big Bend and those Mexican natural preserves falls right at La Linda."

Mr. Garza's efforts to develop Maderas del Carmen are serious and sincere, Mr. Fain said. "But he's told us that no one's going to put money in anything if there's no bridge. Open the bridge, and people will come to explore more than just Big Bend park. Without the bridge, there will be no investment. It's that simple." In the effort to save the bridge, the people of Brewster County quickly found an ally in Enrique Martinez, the governor of Coahuila.

In sound shape The bridge cost only a few hundred thousand dollars to build nearly 40 years ago. A preliminary examination indicates the bridge remains in sound shape. Estimates on its demolition range from \$700,000 to \$1 million. Although no formal cost analysis has been done, Mr. Wright said he estimates that infrastructure costs of a "bare-bones" port of entry, which would give customs a 24/7 presence at the bridge, would run about \$6 million.

Houston's Earliest Settlers...and They Were British!

By Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski

It was with some relief that the preservation community learned that the Houston Archeological and Historical Commission recommended in early 2002 that the Jeff Davis Hospital building on Elder Street get special historical landmark status.

For many years the old hospital has been empty and neglected, even though it is a noteworthy historical landmark for Houston in its own right and the building sits on a parcel of land that resonates with the history of this dynamic city from its earliest times. Yet, the succession of governing bodies of this City have wished the Jefferson Davis Hospital and its controversies would simply go away.

The Avenue Community Development Corporation hopes to restore the old building and allow it to take its place among Houston's historic structures.

The Jeff Davis Hospital was built on a parcel of land that is northwest of the Sesquicentennial Park on Buffalo Bayou. It is located behind the Post Office, across the railroad tracks and beyond the elevated I-45 on Elder St near the Fire Department headquarters on Dart St. Built as Houston's first public charity hospital in 1925, it was soon overcrowded and was replaced by the new Jefferson Davis Hospital on Allen Parkway in 1937.



Jefferson Davis Hospital (photo by Louis Aulbach)

The hospital was named in honor of Jefferson Davis as a result of the controversy generated when the City decertified the old City Cemetery site upon which they wanted to build the hospital. Veterans groups representing relatives of Civil War veterans buried in the City Cemetery protested the abandonment of the sacred ground. A compromise settlement determined that the hospital would be build above ground without disturbing the graves that still exist there, and the hospital would be named in honor of the President of the Confederacy.

But, yet again, the hospital site came to controversy in the mid-1980's. Dilapidated and abandoned by Harris County who controlled the property, the old building was an eyesore. The Houston Fire Department wanted to expand a maintenance building near the property and construction began in 1986. A construction worker noticed that graves were being uncovered and work on the project was stopped until excavations could be done. Ken Brown, professor of Archeology at the University of Houston led a team of researchers who investigated the site.

Not only did they determine the extent of the old City Cemetery site which had been encroached upon by City buildings and roads, but an even more astonishing find was made.

The graves which had been placed on the site in the late 1800's intruded on graves which appear to be from a much earlier time period. About 40 of these earlier graves were excavated in a small portion of the Jeff Davis site. The common characteristics of these graves were the orientation of graves east to west (the head), and body was wrapped in a shroud and buried without a coffin. Because the graves were filled with fresh soil of high organic nature they are called 'black earth graves'.

Ceramic pieces found in the black earth graves date from the 1600's and they are a type of ceramics used by English colonists of that period. The black earth graves were mandated by a law of the City of London in 1563 (rescinded in 1685) for persons who died of disease. The nature of the burial was designed to accelerate decomposition and retard spread of disease.

Further excavations found that the graves were aligned within an area bound by a moat ten feet wide and ten feet deep that is similar to a colonial pattern found in Charleston, South Carolina, and dating from the same period of English colonization.

Was there an English colony here on Buffalo Bayou in the 1600's? So far, no historical records can be found to verify this colony.

We can only wait until the City decides that it needs to further improve on the Fire Department facilities in the area. The opportunity to excavate the land during an archeological assessment of the property around the old Jeff Davis Hospital may provide clues to a history of the City that has patiently lain hidden for over 300 years.

Welcome to Our New Members

Robert and Carolyn Pearson

3803 Kiamesha Missouri City, TX 77459
281-835-5229 robertdls@ev1.net
or could be robertols@ev1.net

Laurel Elise Bavetz

1741 Canal Dr Sargent, TX 77414
979-245-1848 L4sargent@webtv.net
Heard about HCC from a friend

Noreen Harmatuk

27265 Lana Lane Conroe, TX 77385
281-681-9650
nharmatuk@jackhenry.com

Rex L. Mann

1603 Rock Fence Dr.
Richmond, TX 77469-6545
281-232-6629 heard about HCC from
boy scouts

Roy Willis

8222 Kingsbrook Rd #586
Houston, TX 77204
713-827-9476

Leigh Starlin

4514 Hidden Springs
Houston, Tx 77084
281-550-6384 darlins@aol.com
discovered HCC from the web site

Raoul and Alicia Ochoa

7511 Fuchsia Humble, TX 77346
281-852-1669
amnew2pc@pdg.net
saw us at REI

TRIP PARTICIPANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Are you thinking about taking a trip with HCC? Often, participants are not certain how they should go about this or what they are to do. Listed below is a list of suggestions:

(The following information is reprinted with permission from the Carolina Canoe Club)

1. Don't attend any trip beyond your ability.
2. Call the trip coordinator at least 3 days before the trip. Call if you decide not to go.
3. Find out all information about the trip.
4. Be on time at the meeting place.
5. Bring safety equipment and be prepared for bad weather.
6. Provide your own food, transportation and equipment (life jacket required).
7. Follow instructions and commands of the trip leader.
8. Keep the boat (or shuttle car) behind you in sight at all times. If you lose sight, stop, wait, then search.
9. Know and abide by the AWA Safety Code.
10. Leave the river and environs cleaner than you found them.

Kids' Paddle on the San Marcos

Last year, 55 parents, HCC helpers, and kids showed up for a hot summer day of fun on the San Marcos River. There were many stops to body float with the current, jump from a cypress tree into the water, maneuver through the rapids at Cotton Seed and **SPLASH WATER ON EVERYONE!** Thanks to popular demand, a similar trip will take place again this year on **Saturday, June 22nd** at Pecan Park on the San Marcos River. Like last year, this is **NOT just a Kids' trip** – it is a trip for the family and for HCC members who are young at heart. Because of the high number of new and inexperienced paddlers who may come, **I will need LOTS of HCC helpers.** Contact Bill or Donna Grimes at 713-728-1645 or donna.grimes@mindspring.com



Kids paddling on the San Marcos

Paddling near Aligators Al Vazquez KayakGuide.com^m

Doing most of my paddling in Florida, I've encountered hundreds of gators of all sizes on the water. I can tell you that I've had many more close calls driving than I've had paddling close to gators. And over time, I've grown to enjoy seeing them as I've gotten used to their behaviors. And I also appreciate seeing them as a barometer of the health of our streams and of water quality even as development reduces their habitat.

On the narrower streams we paddle, the normal behavior of gators is to slip into the water if we approach because they feel more protected from us. This behavior is because they view us a a threat to them. It is typically not any type of aggression, but just the opposite, a defensive move. I've only been approached on the surface by a couple of smaller gators that had obviously been fed and accustomed to humans. And even then, they didn't get too close.

On one of the most pristine streams in Florida, Fisheating Creek, a gator slid into the water ahead of us as we approached in a single tandem kayak. It then realized it was in a shallow, narrow part of the stream and started swimming frantically ahead of us to escape the threat. We slowed our paddling and enjoyed watching it continue to swim away from us in front of the boat for a couple of minutes until it was able to reach a deep water pool and hide on the bottom. This is not the behavior of an aggressive animal.

The standard advice on paddling near gators is:

- Never feed them
- Don't get too close
- Don't corner them
- Stay away from them during mating season when they become more territorial in the spring
- Don't take small creatures along paddling near gators
- Don't harass them
- Enjoy and appreciate them as a window to our past natural history.

I hope my experiences help you enjoy these creatures as time goes by. They are another beautiful aspect of our beautiful sport of paddling.

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