



Angelina River/Steinhagen Lake/Martin Dies State Park

Multiple trip reports by Natalie Wiest

I have paddled this area three times this year and found it a delightful paddling experience, so I am sharing the trips with you and encouraging you to come and see the area for yourself. Of course a canoe is the best vehicle for sight-seeing. The park also has a very nice Web site so you might enjoy virtual visiting at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/martindi/martindi.htm>

My first trip of the year was with Sue Hamblen, just the two of us in sea kayaks, in April. Sue had advertised the object of the trip as seeing the spring flowers and we were amply rewarded. Not only were dogwoods and azaleas in full bloom, but I was delighted to find a silverbell tree very close to our put-in, and



*Marilyn Kircus paddled through blackwater swamp among the water lilies
(photo from Natalie Weist)*

a bankful of native azaleas for our return. Our put-in and takeout were from the same spot, an unimproved boat ramp on the southwest corner of the Hen House Ridge Unit of Martin Dies State Park. There is a very good PDF map of the park at the Park's web site. Since paddling to the south proved less interesting than we'd like, we headed back north, under highway 190, and off into a blackwater swamp just north of the Walnut Ridge Unit of the park, and then by circuitous route, the whole way around the Walnut Ridge Unit (actually an island). The

kayaks worked very well for the open lake areas we traversed, but as I found out later, this is a wonderful canoeing place as well. We made the trip up and back from Houston in one day, leaving as the sun was coming up and coming back as the sun set. That's a fairly tiring way to see it but it can be done!

My second trip wasn't exactly planned. In May I was to accompany a Girl Scout canoe trip on Village Creek, but waters there had risen making it unsafe for that activity. So, the adult canoeing staff and I headed up to Martin Dies as an exploratory trip, checking potential for later Girl Scout adventure. This time I was in an open canoe with my daughter Ellen, and the Scouts rented a canoe at the park for their threesome (about \$25 for the half day). The canoe rentals go from the Walnut Ridge Unit, so we put in

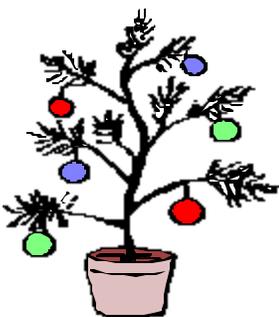
there and for this trip did only the circumference of the island. The three adults in the scout canoe found the upstream portion of our trip a little challenging – of course if you're doing a full circle around an island and there is any current at all, you are sure to have to paddle into it at some spot. To my surprise as we were launching, I noticed a very familiar car at the boat ramp – that blue eared Focus that Marilyn Kircus drives. Sure enough, some hours later as we rounded a bend in the island I noticed a lone canoeist with excellent canoeing form (ya know, ya really can tell someone who knows how to paddle even from a distance) towards the middle of the lake. I thought I recognized the turquoise boat too. It was Marilyn, very surprised to hear me calling her name across the water. I joined her and Debbie Lockey for camping that evening, and a magnificent break-of-day swamp paddle the next morning. Debbie and Marilyn had been stalking birds the day before and that morning, and I hope you may have seen Debbie's photo album that resulted. The place was VERY birdy that time of year. Something like half the campsites in the park are right on the water and Marilyn and Debbie's choice of a site on the south side of Walnut Ridge was great.

The park ranger's very positive reviews of a downstream approach to the park on the Angelina River influenced my third trip in June, putting in at Bevilport, maybe 5-6 miles upstream of the park. There is a very nice public boat ramp there, an easy put-in, and easy shuttle back to the park for the takeout. Ellen and I were again in my green canoe, double-bladed, and Marilyn and her friend Hulin in canoe and sea kayak. By now the weather was quite warm, but I can attest to the fact the water in the river is very pleasantly cool. I've come to adopt "cooling by jumping in" as a method of dealing with our summer heat and it works great. This stretch has some nice, big sand bars. The other important find of our trip was three very large primitive camping areas along the river managed by the Corps of Engineers. The total paddling distance is easy to do in a single day – I think this stretch would be great for a two day overnight trip for kids/families to enjoy at leisure. Our visual treats of this trip – one side swamp full of swamp lilies in full bloom; another swamp with lotus in full bloom; alligators parading in front of us at the lunch stop. Take your time and be sure to enjoy the side trips on this stretch; you can take as long or short a time as you'd like. I see the park advertises trips through this same stretch as 4-5 hours in length.



Ellen Weist and Marilyn Kircus on nice sandy beaches of the Angelina River (photo Natalie Weist)

Martin Dies State Park is about 15 miles east of Woodville, about 150 miles northeast of Houston. I've enjoyed every trip up there – I'm sure you will too. Be sure to take a boat!



Houston Canoe Club Christmas Party - Dec. 14th

Mark you calendars for Dec. 14th for the HCC party held again this year at the Northwest Fitness Center of Hwy 290 & Pinemont.

Thank you, Ann Derby and Cheryl Cleary, for volunteering to organize this

Camp Logan Riot, August, 1917

A History of Buffalo Bayou

By Linda C. Gorski and Louis F. Aulbach

We received several messages about last month's article in the Waterline that highlighted Camp Logan, a World War I Army training camp built along Buffalo Bayou in Memorial Park. One was from Mark Andrus who commented "I enjoyed the Camp Logan article ... however, it seems incomplete not to mention the Camp Logan riots."

How many of you besides Mark realize that the peace and tranquility of Buffalo Bayou was shattered by a racial riot of historic proportions on the night of August 23, 1917?

As we told you last month, construction work at Camp Logan began on July 24, 1917 on orders of the War Department to meet the growing need for trained men to fight in World War I. Camp Logan was a huge place ... built on 3002 acres of what is now Memorial Park, it held 1329 buildings and had a troop capacity of 44,899 men.

To guard the construction site, the Army ordered 645 black soldiers from the Third Battalion of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry regiment from Columbus, New Mexico, to Houston. The soldiers were bivouacked away from the permanent Camp Logan in an area immediately west of Reinerman Street and north of Washington Street.

From the minute they arrived in Houston, the black soldiers of the Third Battalion faced racial discrimination. Many of the men had been raised in the south and were familiar with segregation but they expected to be treated differently as Army servicemen. Local residents including members of the police department, public officials and even streetcar conductors viewed the presence of the black soldiers as a threat to the racial harmony that existed in Houston at that time.

On August 23, 1917, around noon, police arrested a black soldier for interfering with the arrest of a black woman in the Fourth Ward. A black military policeman, Corporal Charles Baltimore who was attached to the Third battalion inquired about the soldier's arrest. There was an argument and a Houston policeman hit Baltimore over the head. Baltimore and the other black enlisted men with him ran, with shots from the white policemen's guns ringing over their heads. They captured Baltimore nearby and took him to police headquarters where he was soon released.

However, before Baltimore could return to camp, a rumor started that he had been shot and killed whereupon a group of black soldiers decided to march to the police station. Almost simultaneously, a rumor started that a white mob was approaching the camp. At that news, black soldiers rushed into supply tents, grabbed rifles and began firing wildly in the direction of the supposed mob. Over 100



Houston Chronicle headline for the Camp Logan Riot, 1917.

armed soldiers marched down Washington Street, crossing to the south side of Buffalo Bayou on Shepherds Dam Road (now Shepherd Drive) turned up San Felipe Rd. (now West Dallas) and headed for town.

In their two-hour march on the city, the mutinous black soldiers are reported to have killed fifteen whites, including four policemen and seriously wounded twelve others. Four black soldiers were killed, two accidentally shot by their own men.

The next morning, August 24, a curfew was declared in Houston. According to stories from Mark's great-uncle and grandfather, all recruits in the Houston area waiting for transfer to units were restricted to City Auditorium. On August 25, the entire Third Battalion was sent by train back to New Mexico. By August 27 order and civil authority were restored at Camp Logan and in Houston.

Punishment for the black soldiers was swift and harsh. Between November 1, 1917 and March 26, 1918, the army held three separate courts marshal at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio for soldiers from the 24th Infantry, indicting 118 enlisted men for mutiny and riot and finding 110 guilty. Nineteen soldiers were hanged and sixty-three received life sentences in federal prison. No white civilians were brought to trial.

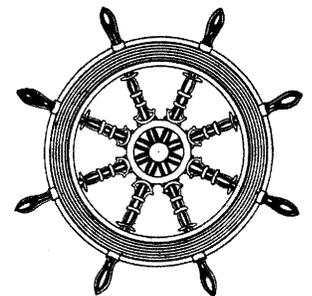
Racial incidents occurred at virtually all camps in the south where black troops were stationed in World War I, although the incident at Camp Logan was by far the worst. Except for the racial incident involving the soldiers from the Third Battalion 24th Infantry, relations between the Army at Camp Logan and Houston's civilian community were good and remained so for the duration of the camp's existence.

If you'd like to read more about this chapter in Houston's history check out [A Night of Violence: The Houston Riot of 1917](#) by Robert V. Haynes. It is available at Houston Public Libraries.

** Photo courtesy of the Houston Press.

From the Helm: Donna Grimes - The newsletter editor

For two years now, I had assembled a monthly newsletter, contacted people for articles, biographies and ideas, and researched articles on safety and paddling places around Houston. I've thoroughly enjoyed doing this; however, it's time to turn the "duty" over to another HCC member and let that person's interests and dedication to the club show.



One thing that has bothered me about this job is the cost to the club. It averages \$350 a month to publish about 275 newsletters –(\$220 for printing and \$130 for mailing). When I took over the job two years ago, I checked around for better prices and found none. For twelve monthly additions, that's \$4200 – by far the greatest expense of the club.

What to do? That's my question to you. Last year we raised dues, which helped, BUT our expenses (telephone, storage shed, newsletter, donations to ARC for use of the building, other donations like to Sheldon, etc, New Member packets, etc) cost far more than our yearly income. **I would like to hear from our membership about what could be done in alleviate our yearly losses.**

We could go electronic with the newsletter and only send to those without email (10% of our membership); we could cut the paper back to every other month, add paying advertisement or..... what? Please let me know what your ideas are. Contact me, Donna Grimes 713-728-1645 or email me

donna.grimes@mindspring.com

Who Be These People? John Ohrt – Commodore Elect for 2003

1. Where were you born and raised?

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana

2. Are you married, have children ?

Married to Carolyn, no children

3. Where educated and degree?

BA Univ of Denver Denver Colorado.

4. Present occupation –

Present occ - lawyer

5. Other places lived, how long in Houston.

Moved to Houston from Shreveport in 1967

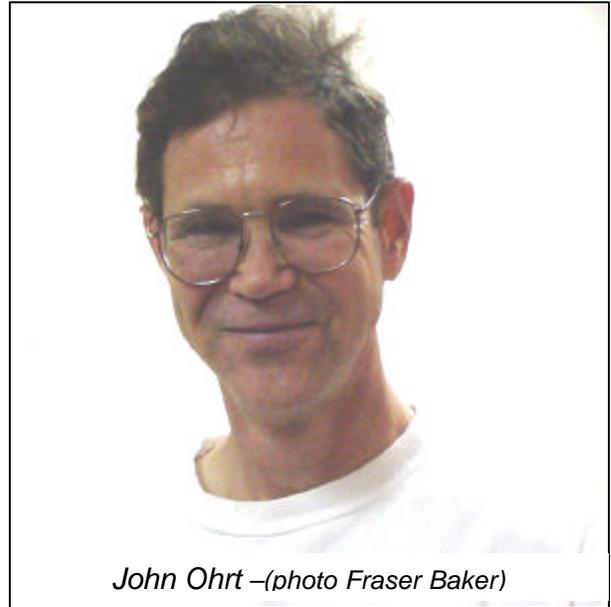
6. How did you become involved with HCC?

I learned about the HCC from Wayne Walls at his old canoe shop on the Katy

Frwy and joined for a short time in the mid 70

s. I then took a break (I

didn't own a boat) and Carolyn and I took our



John Ohrt –(photo Fraser Baker)

first HCC trip over Labor Day

1978 on the Medina River. We joined shortly afterward.

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

My favorite type of paddling used to be long distance flatwater canoe racing, but today it would be whitewater paddling or a good overnight river trip. My favorite places to paddle would be the hill country streams

\$1000.00 Reward for Arrest & Conviction!

TELL YOUR FRIENDS!! FORWARD A.S.A.P.!!!

**ATTENTION: KAYAK TRAILER & 10 BOATS STOLEN FROM
CANOESPORT, HOUSTON, TX eptember 27, 2002**

Trailer: Tournament Three Tier Kayak Trailer

10 Kayaks Stolen:

All Yellow Plastic :

Necky Kayaks (5)

Perception / Aquaterra (5)

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

CANOESPORT Bruce Gillan or Charles Duvic

713-660-7000, Toll free 866-665-2925

Houston Auto Theft Dept: 713-308-3500, (cn138774602-y)

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Renewal - 2003



Houston Canoe Club Membership Application

First Name/ _____ Last Name _____

Spouse's name _____ Address _____

City/St./Zip _____

Email (*write clearly*) _____

Home Phone (____) _____

Work Phone (____) _____

Liability Waiver

The Houston Canoe Club always strives to make boating experiences as enjoyable as possible. However, some elements of risk including personal injury or death and property damage always exist in canoeing, kayaking, and water activities. I do hereby recognize this risk and agree to hold the Houston Canoe Club, its organizers, leaders, coordinators, officers and instructors from liability for any personal loss or injury which I may incur, and I do hereby WAIVE any remedy I may have in law or equity. This Liability Waiver is in effect while in transit to and from any Houston Canoe Club event and while participating in any Houston Canoe Club outing.

Signature _____ Date _____

HCC Membership Fees: (Effective Jan1 – Dec. 31)-If you joined AFTER September, 2002, your dues are paid thru 2003

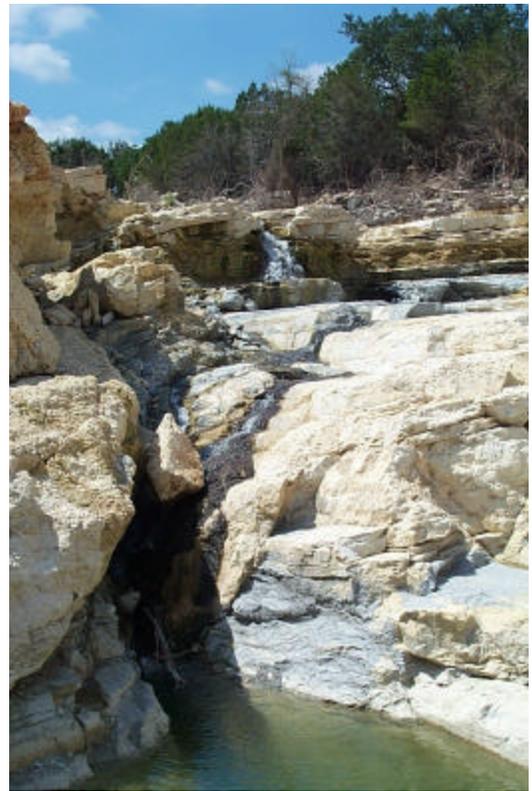
HCC family Membership \$25.00 _____

Make Check payable to Houston Canoe Club
Turn it into the Purser, Kevin Casement
Or Mail to:

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

Membership in the Houston Canoe Club makes you eligible for a special discount on membership in the **American Canoe Association (ACA). ACA offers new members a subscription to *Paddler* magazine, *The American Canoeist*, discounts on books, instruction, events, and races. It is highly recommended (but not required) that one joins ACA

Take an incredible pictorial look at **The Spillway Canyon** with Tom Hornseth, Comal County Engineer as he surveys the area in preparation to rebuild the South Access Road. These photos were taken on 9/26/2002 on a descending trip from the Spillway down to South Access Road and the amazing ascent back to the top
The Guadalupe cut a dangerous slice through the canyon when it went over the spillway in the floods in July



Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

Joe Bradley

680 W Sam Houston Pkwy S #1013
Houston, TX 77042 (713-334-8936)
allagashme@aol.com
heard about HCC at REI

Michael and Lisa Burnett

1414 Corral Dr. Houston, TX 77090
281-580-5429
burnett1@bigplanet.com
learned about HCC from the web

Lisa and Doug Damon

23826 Welsh House Lane
Katy, TX 77439 (281-347-0565)
chippewa@fbcc.com
web is where they heard of HCC

Dale and Patti Moore

6922 FM 2621 Brenham, TX 77833
979-836-8255

Ann Best

420 W. 32nd Houston, TX 77018
abest1@houston.rr.com or ann.best@hp.com
713-861-8360)
Heard about HCC from her Dad, Ed Best

Items For Sale

Ladies' Wet Suit, size 12-14. Neoprene Farmer Brown style. Excellent condition. Was \$185.00 new. Will sell for \$25.00. Contact Martha Williams at 713-849-4467 or marthaw713@aol.com.

H2 Pro – WW canoe with saddle, air bags - \$450. **Wenona 19' fiberglass sea kayak** with air bags \$800 Contact Bob Mabe – 281-437-9527.

Freestyle pad for \$30. It's 36 in by 40 in and cost me about \$75. Contact Candy Donahue at 713-666-6542 or peterpan101@ev1.net

Wanted: an old **Dagger Quintus** paddle call John Ohrt 713. 877-1504 or jcohtjr@aol.com

Wenonah Adirondack 16 foot tandem canoe, Kevlar Flexcore, 49 pounds with two nice Grey Owl bent shaft paddles, and two Suspenders CO2 inflated life vests. Sale price is \$1200 for boat, paddles and vests. Call Steve Steve Pituch at 713-922-8001.

Officers for 2002

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 **John & Cindy Bartos** (interim f.c's)
jbartos@ix.netcom.com
713-957-3809

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

Houston Canoe Club General Meeting

October 9, 2002

(these minutes have not been approved and any corrections will be so noted in next months minutes)

7:05 p.m. Commodore Fraser Baker called the meeting to order and introduced the officers present: Jim Null, Bill Grimes, Mark Andrus, Kevin Casement,

Program: Presentation by Tom Goynes, president of Texas Rivers Protection Association on the state of Texas rivers. Topics addressed included the closing of the Guadalupe River, water right's permits and the use of off-road vehicles in rivers.

Minutes from the previous meeting were read by Fraser Baker and accepted as read.
Martha Williams introduced visitors to the meeting

Fleet Captains' report by John and Cindy Bartos.
The top mileage leaders (to date) were announced

Purser's report was read by Fraser Baker and accepted as read

Bob Arthur reported as a member of the Texas Rivers Conservation Advisory Board of a recent meeting on the Nueces River to observe affects on the river of off-road vehicular traffic.

Conservation Committee report: John Bartos asked for the Club's endorsement of the Lone Star Sierra Club's Resolution to Support Principals for Protecting Texas Water Resources. Motion passed.

Nominating Committee Report: Bill Grimes presented the committee's slate of HCC officers for the year 2003:

John Ohrt: Commodore

Mary Zaborowski: Vice Commodore

Mary Carter: Recorder

Kevin Casement: Purser

Sherri Blifford: Newsletter editor

Fraser Baker: Fleet Captain

Paul Woodcock: Governor

Anne Olden: completing the two years remaining of the Governor's position being vacated by Candy Donahue

The floor was opened for additional nominations and there were none. The floor will again be open for nominations and followed by the election at the November meeting.

Christmas Party: Ann Derby and Cheryl Cleary have agreed to co-chair the Christmas party (tentative date is December 14, 2002 at the Northwest Fitness Center). A motion was made and carried to spend up to \$1000 for the party.

8:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned

Minutes by Cindy Bartos

Up and Coming Trips –

11/2 Brazos River Trip Check out the Brazos River in part of the Columbia Bottomlands in Brazoria County. Put in at Brazoria and take out at FM 2004 Contact **Mark Andrus** by phone 979-849-3732, or by email mandrus@brazoria.net.

11/2 Canoe Clear Creek Observe river processes such as erosion, sediment deposition, and meander migration at work in the Clear Lake area. See the effects of floods, and some of the measures taken to reduce their effects on humans. Paddling time: 3-4 hours (moderate/strenuous). Trip fee:\$12.50. Reservations required. Rental canoes, including delivery to the put-in point,may be reserved at additional cost. Contact **Galveston Bay Foundation** by phone 281-332-3381.

11/2 - 11/3 Overnight on the Colorado River A 16 mile paddle with several riffles from Prarie Valley to La Grange with a camp out 10 miles into the trip in a beautiful grassy meadow on a sandbar. Bring your good nature for a good time. Contact **Fraser Baker** by phone 713-202-2503, or by email fraser@pobox.com.

11/9 - 11/10 Overnight Canoe Trip Mike and Eva Quearry are planning an overnight canoe trip with camping out of the boat. Location is undetermined at this time, but if you are interested in this type of adventure contact them to help plan it. Contact **Mike and Eva Quearry** by phone 713-721-9462, or by email quearmw@ev1.net.

11/09 @ 1:00 pm Kayak Rodeo at Rio Vista Park on the San Marcos We are hoping to see all Houston's kayakers there. These events are becoming a lot of fun. We are hoping to put El Foamalo in to make the hole really sticky. Also, there are a lot of things to do for folks that don't want to compete. Dealers and reps will be there so y'all can try out new boats and gear. Contact **Scott** by phone (512) 393-8287.

11/15-11/17 Caddo Lake Canoeing We stay at the Bennick's Pine Needle Lodge and explore the lake from there. Pre-trip meeting is Wednesday Nov. 6th. Contact **Sandy Truxillo** by phone 713-464-9488, or by email sandyt@explorerpack-paddle.com.

11/16 Canoe Double Bayou

On the east side of Trinity Bay, the waters of Double Bayou have witnessed pirates' exploits, pioneer settlements, and the birth of a future Texas governor. From our river's-eye view, we will see a rich variety of plant life ranging from upland piney woods to bayside marshes. There is also diverse animal life, an active harbor for shrimp boats, and a conveniently located public park. Paddling time: 3-4 hours(moderate/strenuous). Trip fee: \$12.50. Reservations required. Rental canoes, including delivery to the put-in point, may be reserved at additional cost. Contact **Galveston Bay Foundation** by phone 281-332-3381.

11/29 - 11/31 Post Thanksgiving Hill Country Paddle Work off that Turkey and cranberry sauce by paddling some rivers in the Hill Country after Thanksgiving. Friday through Sunday. Rivers to be determined. Contact **Bill and Donna Grimes** by phone (713) 728-1645, or by email donna.grimes@mindspring.com.

12/08 Cypress Wonderland Before the pace of holiday events reaches its peak, get firmly in touch with nature by paddling through the network of lakes and bayous that wind through the largest cypress forest on the Texas coast, only 30 miles east of Houston. This is one of the most scenic canoe outings in Southeast Texas. Paddling time: 4-5 hours (moderate/strenuous).Suggested contribution to the **Houston Sierra Club**: \$10.00. BYO canoe orkayak. Contact **Tom Douglas** by phone 713-869-6026.

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

Non-Profit
Organization

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Check out the electronic format of this newsletter – available to current members only – At www.houstoncanoeclub.org on the trip page

What's in the newsletter?

- Pg.1 & 2 – Angelina River by Natalie Weist
- Pg.3 & 4 – Camp Logan Riots – history of Buffalo Bayou by Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski
- Pg. 4 – From the Helm – the newsletter costs
- Pg 5 - Biography: John Ohrt
- Pg. 6 - MEMBERSHIP FOR 2003 APPLICATION
- Pg.7 – Pictures of Canyon Spillway damage from flood in July
- Pg 7 – New Members
Items for Sale
- Pg 8 -- Officers and minutes
- Pg 9 – Trips and Activities



