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Meeting January 12th

Program: How to use a GPS device.

Come join us at 7 pm at the Red Cross Building on north side of IH 59, near Kirby. We always welcome visitors.

We need your correct email address!

Please send your current email address to Marilyn Peery now.

Email address: mpeery@ev1.net.

The Waterline is the monthly newsletter of the Houston Canoe Club, Inc. The Waterline is made possible by your dues and critically depends on member contributions. Please submit items (please do not embed photos in MS Word documents) to the Editor at the following address. sherrib57@hotmail.com

Officers for 2005

Commodore: **Rudy Rivers**

281.495.9742

rudyrivers@sbcglobal.net

Vice Commodore: **Mary Zaborowski**

713.884.1925

coachz66@hotmail.com

Recorder: **Christy Long**

281.485.3046

clong@smith.com

Purser: **Anna King**

281.265.4155

alking@houston.rr.com

Fleet Captain: **Fraser Baker**

713.202.2503

fraser@pobox.com

Newsletter Editor: **Sherri Blifford**

713.776.0681

sherrib57@hotmail.com

Governor 1: **Ron Nunnelly**

281.334.6074

Texascanoebuilder@hotmail.com

Governor 2: **Ken Anderson**

281.856.9388

klandrsn@hal-pc.org

Governor 3: **Paul Woodcock**

713.722.4945

plwdcck@yahoo.com

Change of Address

Submit change of address to Marilyn Peery.

Email address:

mpeery@ev1.net.

Physical address:

Marilyn Peery

4119 Mischire Rd.

Houston, TX 77025

Waterline Submissions

For Sale

Kayaks for Sale

Anthony Belcher has a custom built Pygmy Coho kayak, a racing kayak, and a downriver kayak for sale.

For details, contact him at 713.825.5980 or email:

anthonybelcher4@yahoo.com

Klepper Aerius 2-person collapsible kayak with rudder and sail package Made in Germany, an engineering marvel. Ash-birch frame, rubber and canvas hull. Blue and Gray. 17 feet long, 80 lbs. Great for someone who lives in an apartment without storage room for a hard craft. Breaks down into three bags, plus one for the sails. Assembles in 15-20 minutes. Air sponsions in side panels make it almost impossible to roll over or sink.

One owner, this classic model is old, but still in great shape. Has been in the Atlantic Ocean in Boothbay Harbor, ME, many rivers and lakes in PA and WI, but no whitewater, so it is gently used.

Current models go for \$2,000 or more. (See the Klepper website at

www.klepper.com) Only \$400 for this used one. Contact Ron Scott at 281-931-3780 or email

Submit content to the Newsletter Editor,
Sherri Blifford, by the 18th of the month.

Send electronic submissions to
sherrib57@hotmail.com.

Send snail mail submissions to
Sherri Blifford
10222 Windsor Lane
Houston, TX 77031

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News Bulletin

by Sherri

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One of our governors, Paul Woodcock, is in St. Luke's Hospital, fighting an infection so he can have open-heart surgery. He has been there for a couple of weeks now, in and out of various surgeries and ICU. It's been a rough ride through some scary rapids, to say the least. I've lost track but I think he has had four kinds of surgery already, with a lot of pain, fever, and infections.

We've put out a plea for blood donors on the HCC list but still need your help, especially type O positive. Mary Z can give you details on his latest condition since she is with him almost every day. Give him a call or go see him. and keep him in your prayers...

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Freeze Trip Plans Changed

by Mary Z

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Paul Woodcock is in St. Luke's Hospital, preparing for open-heart surgery. He won't be quite ready to lead the post-freeze trip so, unless someone else steps forward, that portion is post-poned. You might contact Dana Enos, Bobby Hatfield, or Dave Conger to check the status. Mary Z is still planning the pre-freeze and freeze trip portions of the trip.

Friday January 14 – Prefreeze Paddle

From New Webberville to gravel bar above the bridge at CR969 at Utley, TEexas (16 miles), spending Friday night on the river.

Saturday, January 15 – Freeze Trip

Meet up with the others from all over the state and paddle 8 miles to the famous Dutch Oven Gravel Bar for an evening of beef stew, veggies, baked bread, peach cobbler, cowboy coffee and GROG, all for \$6 per person plus a bottle of brandy and red wine to contribute to the GROG.

Paddle out to Bastrop at Fisherman's Park (6 miles).

Total for Pre-Freeze and Freeze trip = 30 miles.

Contact for both the pre-freeze and freeze trip is Mary Z

Home phone: 713-884-1925

Cell phone: 832-215-4551

Coaching office: 713-802-4705

Email: coachz66@hotmail.com

Sunday, January 16 - Post-Freeze Trip *This is the part that is changing.*

Start Sunday afternoon at Fisherman's Park (Bastrop) and end Wednesday at Prairie Valley Park. Contact for the post-freeze trip is Paul Woodcock.

Home phone: 713-772-4945

Cell phone: 713-594-9969

Email: plwdcck@yahoo.com

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Bob Foote & Karen Knight Classes

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Bob Foote & Karen Knight, two of the finest canoeists in the US, have agreed to give two separate one day classes to HCC members March 5th and 6th and the classes are filling.

Saturday March 5th will be a solo canoeing class and Sunday March 6th will be a tandem class. Each is limited to 10 people per class, first-come, first-served. The cost is \$50.00 per person per day. This is a fraction of what comparable classes would cost you in North Carolina plus having to drive 1,000 miles.

The classes will be at Oyster Creek in Sugar Land and go from 9 to 5. This is a tremendous opportunity to get instruction at the highest level right here in our own backyard. This is a chance to improve your canoeing skills which can open up a wider world of possibilities for your boating.

These classes are targeted to HCC members, but they are not financed by HCC. For more information, contact Ken Anderson at 281.856.9388 or email: klandrsn@hal-pc.org

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Wilderness Medical First Aid Class in March

by Sherri Blifford

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Don Greene (owner of the Whitewater Experience) is sponsoring a Wilderness Medical Associates class March 5th and 6th. This is a full 16 hours of basic wilderness medical education over a single weekend. He says this course is a condensed, intense, "Reader's Digest" version of vital wilderness medical knowledge for any outdoor leader who takes the safety of friends and family seriously. Part of this course certification requires CPR, which may also be offered one evening during the week prior to the course.

Don requires this course of his guides (and he is actively looking for part-time guides, if you are interested). I took this course last year and unfortunately have had to use it more than once so I recommend it heartily. This is not your basic how-to-apply-a-bandage course. It is serious study with simulations and lots of interaction, taught by a Jamie Butler, a lead instructor with WMA and an ER nurse at one of the busiest emergency rooms in Texas.

One caveat: There is a \$100 nonrefundable deposit so you don't want to sign up on a whim (WMA charges Don whether anyone shows up). Please do not sign up if Aunt Matilda's birthday or a Foley's sale will keep you from attending. This course is offered once a year and every year it fills with people turned away so if you sign up, show up.

[Click here for the reservation form.](#)

For more information, see his website at <http://www.whitewaterexperience.com>

ACA Calendar Picture Revives Memories

by Bob Arthur

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If you've received the 2005 ACA calendar, and thumbed through looking at the pictures, you came to November and Burro Bluff. The picture is taken from the Texas side looking upstream and maybe 1/4 of the way up to the top of Burro Bluff, which is out of the photo to the extreme right. Burro Bluff is probably 1700' high. The canoes would look really small from the top of the bluff. Top center of the photo on the Mexico side is the entrance to Tule Canyon. This canyon extends many miles into Mexico. On the Texas side is an old smugglers trail to the top of Burro Bluff marked with small rock cairns. Not a stroll through the park as you might imagine.

Some of you may have known Leonard Hulsebosch who died a number of years ago and Winston Padgett who died Christmas day last year at age 65 of Lou Gehrigs disease. Both came to mind when I saw this photo. Both were characters and as long as Leonard lived, he and Padgett pulled practical jokes on each other. Almost in the center of the photo, is a large pile of rocks. These are large automobile size rocks. On top of one of the rocks is affixed a metal plaque, about 12" square with these letters....."IGTLWL". Padgett had the plaque made and he installed it in memory of Leonard. You'll have to figure out what the letters mean.....a riddle as it were.

I first went through there in 1982 with a group from Houston. Joe & Betsey Butler, now of Albuquerque, Ralph & Tess Julian who were NOC instructors from TX at the time and now living in Asheville, NC, Larry Wild, Winston Padgett and others, including JC Foster whom some of you may have met at the first Rendezvous in 1989. He had on overalls for most of that weekend.

We laid over a day there and camped on the Mexico side on the rock slab, visible in the photo across from where the canoes are beached. The evening we arrived it began to rain and the river came up about 11' to the very edge of that rock slab. A scary situation.

One never knows just how high the river will rise or where its actually raining hardest.

There is a story about the river running backwards in the San Francisco Canyon area because of heavy rains far to the North of the river and the resulting flash floods.

A thousand memories.....we experimented with the very first Thermorest sleeping pad that I had ever seen, by laying pebbles under it to see if we could feel them through the pad, and couldn't. I had bought a sling light camping chair (which I still have) and Winston (6'6" & 250 Lbs) tried it and later bought two for himself. Those chairs were \$55 in 1982 dollars. That and much more happened on that rock slab including experiences spirits made from a century plant.

The rapid is called Upper Madison for some reason and I've never run it on my three trips down there. Generally the boats are so heavily loaded that it doesn't make sense to run it, so it's lined on the Mexico side and then no one wants to pull boats back up after they are unloaded.

Padgett made that trip many times over the years, sometimes two or three times a year. On his last one, the story goes, he was climbing up some canyon, reached up on a rock ledge to pull himself up and a rattlesnake bit one of his fingers. The fangs went on each side of the finger, so actually, he was gummed by a rattler. True story.

So a thousand words won't quite cover everything about that photo. If I ever had a spiritual experience it was on a lower canyons trip. Three trips over the years and not enough.

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Clear Creek Trip Report, 12/19/04

by Rick Brunson

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Click on image to enlarge.

On a beautiful sunny and warm Sunday afternoon, six boats representing the Houston Canoe Club traveled down 7 twisting miles of Clear Creek near Friendswood. Club members Ken Anderson, John and Anne Olden and Alex Brunson paddled with visitors Jon Pafford, Rick and Jack Stafford on this trip that Rick Brunson organized in his own backyard.

The group put in on the heavily wooded shores of Friendswood's 1776 Memorial park near FM 2351 and took out at the canoe launch site of League City's Countryside Park near Bay Area Boulevard. The three-hour float passed through several public and private parks with hardly any sounds other than call from owls, woodpeckers and fellow paddlers.



Click on image to enlarge.

Sights included a Great Blue Heron, a Red-Headed Woodpecker, a "Water Turkey", an old chimney, several luxurious homes, two Shetland Ponies and a water treatment plant (well, at least it made a nice mini-waterfall!).



[Click on image to enlarge.](#)

Congratulations to John and Anne Olden who were able to reach HCC's 100-miler status during this trip!





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Clear Spring Waters of Houston!

by Louis F. Aulbach

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Sandbar below the US 59 highway bridge.

When the Allen brothers established the Houston Town Company in 1836, they paid a lot of attention to the promotion and sale of town lots, but they thought little of services for the new residents, such as a municipal water supply. As a result, the residents of Houston were on their own to find drinking water and water for use in their homes. For the first fifty years, residents of Houston relied on cisterns to capture and store rain water for personal use. Bayou water and some shallow wells were used to supplement the supplies of water when necessary. Although some cisterns were above ground structures, many homes and businesses had subterranean cisterns. Excavations at the Horace Taylor home site in Sesquicentennial Park uncovered a 16 foot deep, bottle-shaped brick cistern that was a water supply for his large farmstead. Recent excavations in the Frost Town area have unearthed smaller, but more common, residential cisterns.



Louisiana Street spring.

Even when the City Waterworks opened in 1879, the city water system pumped water directly from Buffalo Bayou, and bayou water was as unappetizing then as it is now. In 1887, two artesian wells were drilled and brought on line to supply the public water system. The discovery that Houston was built over a vast reservoir of ground water permitted the city to grow apace for another half century or so until the Lake Houston

and Lake Livingston surface water systems were constructed.

Today, evidence of the reservoir of fresh water in the ground beneath the City can be seen along Buffalo Bayou, if you know where to look.

An early Houston writer had remarked that there was a spring at the head of a gully that began near the southeast corner of Preston Avenue and Louisiana Street. A large puddle usually collected on Louisiana Street. While the street is now paved and the spring is buried, you can still see the free flow of spring water pouring forth from a large drain under the Louisiana Street bridge.



Artesian water bubbles out of the sand in Buffalo Bayou.

Farther downstream, the water-bearing sand layer is exposed by the bayou. At a point immediately below the US 59 bridge, the banks of the bayou, which are generally thick with clay, give way to sand. A small sandbar, about 30 yards in length, lies along the south bank of the bayou. At the foot of this sandbar, with a nice view of the former International and Great Northern Railroad bridge and the former Myers-Spalti Manufacturing Company in the distance, artesian water bubbles up and flows into the bayou. It almost looks pure enough to dip one's cup into the bubbles for a drink! But, use caution. I did say "almost."

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