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HotLine 713.467.8857

Volume 25

**March 2003**

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**We need your correct email address!**

Please send your current email address to Marilyn Peery now.

Email address: [mpeery@ev1.net](mailto:mpeery@ev1.net).

For us to notify you of the newsletter and other important items, we must have your address. Bad addresses slow down the process.

**Program - March 12, 2003**

*Outfitting Your Canoe for River Camping*  
by the "Gear Guys"

Our own Dana Enos and Paul Woodcock will give us tips and tricks including:

1. Outfitting your canoe with hooks, straps, sprayskirt, paddles, etc.
2. Packing the right tent, sleeping equipment
3. Packing foods, purifying water
4. General morale humor to get you down the river

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 trip reports, news worthy items and any literary musings you wish to force upon your paddling buddies to the Editor. Electronic submissions are preferred. Please submit to the following address.

Editor: Sherri Blifford

Phone: 713.722.9685

Email: [sherrib57@hotmail.com](mailto:sherrib57@hotmail.com)

Sims Bayou Cleanup March 29th

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Feel good, do good, and get good and dirty.

Sims bayou clean up

Saturday March 29

Need clean up folks, and assistance with taking  
a canoe trailer (with a 2 inch ball) to the clean up area.

Contact Evelyn Merz 713 644-8228 or Don Greene 713-774-1028.

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## 2002 Paddling Awards

by Cindy Bartos

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The members of the Houston Canoe Club paddled an impressive 5825.2 miles on club trips in the year 2002. Congratulations to the following members who received paddling awards for individual miles paddled and/or for coordinating trips throughout the year:



### 100+ Mile Paddlers for 2002

Click on image to enlarge.

Photo by Ann Derby

Receiving a Houston Canoe Club cap and a certificate for paddling over 100 miles (from left to right): Mary Ellen Zaborowski, Paul Woodcock, Fraser Baker, Janice Frels, Dana Enos, Sharon Anderson, Donna Grimes, and Bill Grimes (Natalia Sorokina-Canada and David Conger not shown)



### 2002 Top Three Mileage Paddlers

Click on image to enlarge.

Photo by Ann Derby

Receiving an HCC cap and a trophy paddle for being the top three mileage leaders:

1. Mary Zaborowski (275.8 miles)
2. Paul Woodcock (226.9 miles)
3. Fraser Baker (206.9 miles)



2002 Top Trip Leaders  
Click on image to enlarge.  
Photo by Ann Derby

Receiving a trophy paddle for Trip Leaders of the Year are (from left to right): Bill and Donna Grimes, Mary Zaborowski, and Fraser Baker.

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## Houston Canoe Club Officers and General Meeting Minutes

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### Officers for 2003

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Commodore: **John Ohrt**

713.877.1504

[jcohortjr@aol.com](mailto:jcohortjr@aol.com)

Vice Commodore: **Mary Zaborowski**

713.884.1925

[coachz66@hotmail.com](mailto:coachz66@hotmail.com)

Recorder: **Mary Carter**

713.461.5466

[marcar1@pdq.com](mailto:marcar1@pdq.com)

Purser: **Kevin Casement**

713.748.0468

[paddlinman@hotmail.com](mailto:paddlinman@hotmail.com)

Fleet Captain: **Fraser Baker**

713.202.2503

[fraser@pobox.com](mailto:fraser@pobox.com)

Newsletter Editor: **Sherri Blifford**

713.722.9685

[sherrib57@hotmail.com](mailto:sherrib57@hotmail.com)

Governor 1: **Bill Grimes**

713.728.1645

[william.grimes@centerpointenergy.com](mailto:william.grimes@centerpointenergy.com)

Governor 2: **Anne Olden**

713.864.0205

[aolden@ix.netcom.com](mailto:aolden@ix.netcom.com)

Governor 3: **Paul Woodcock**

713.722.4945

[wdcck@hotmail.com](mailto:wdcck@hotmail.com)

### Waterline Submissions

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Submit content to the Newsletter Editor, Sherri Blifford, by the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Send electronic submissions to [sherrib57@hotmail.com](mailto:sherrib57@hotmail.com).

Send snail mail submissions to Sherri Blifford  
8233 Kingsbrook Rd., #134  
Houston, TX 77024

### Change of Address

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Submit change of address to Marilyn

### General Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2003

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These minutes have not been approved. Any changes or amendments will be posted in next month's issue of the Waterline.

7:10 Meeting called to order by Commodore John Ohrt

Announcements:

- The Red Cross building now has a parking garage available for visitors to use. They ask that you not park on the first floor and to exit through the automatic gate. [Editor's note: John Ohrt discovered that the garage closes at 9 PM.]
- HCC yearly membership dues are now due. The newsletter will no longer be sent to non-paying members.

Mary Zaborowski introduced Michelle Whitbeck, an Outdoor Education Planner who presented the program on Annac National Wildlife Refuge.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as they appeared in the February newsletter.

Kevin Casement gave the Purser's report.

Fleet Captain's report given by Fraser Baker. Fraser encouraged members to check out the newsletter on line. The February and March newsletters will only be accessible by members, but the April and all future newsletters will be on the HCC website.

John Bartos gave the Rendezvous Committee report. A motion was made and carried to give the committee authority to attempt to conclude negotiations with the ACA regarding taking over the SWCR.

Peery.

Email address:

[mpeery@ev1.net](mailto:mpeery@ev1.net).

Physical address:

Marilyn Peery  
4119 Mischire Rd.  
Houston, TX 77025

Conservation Committee report given by John Bartos. A bill has been introduced to the state legislature addressing the use of 4x4 vehicles in streambeds. A sample letter and addresses will be offered on line for members to use as a contact to legislators.

Mark Andrus reported the next TRPA meeting will be held at Pecan Park on Sunday, March 2 and invited all to attend.

John Ohrt recognized and welcomed new visitors to the meeting.

Former Fleet Captains, John and Cindy Bartos presented the 2002 Paddling Awards.

Minutes taken by Cindy Bartos in the absence of Mary Carter

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Hidalgo Falls Update, We're amost there - Please help  
by Sherri Blifford with help from Don Greene and Patti Carothers

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Tom Goynes told me Sunday that the Texas Rivers Protection Association was within \$400 of being able to buy the Hidalgo Falls additional two acres. According to Patti Carothers (Paddlesports owner), the ACA approved a \$500 gift to TRPA at their meeting this weekend and then added another \$230 from board members and friends. We've raised almost \$14,700 of the \$15,000 purchase price for the two acres of property between TRPA's current 10-acre tract and the rapid at Hidalgo Falls on the Brazos near Navasota. The purchase is part of a long-term plan to acquire (and thus protect from commercial and residential development) the entire thirty acres adjacent to this unique river feature only 70 miles from Houston. With our ownership of the original ten acres (which are upstream and downstream of the rapid), we are assured of having access to the river. This purchase is part of an effort to guarantee future generations of paddlers that the property immediately bordering the rapid will be under our ownership as well.

Hidalgo Falls is a little gem where beginning paddlers can experience their first real white water near Houston, according to Don Greene of The Whitewater Experience.

We must protect access before all the land is fenced by developers.

If you think it's too late to contribute, you're wrong. Tom Goynes says any money above the actual purchase will go toward closing costs, maintenance, and improvements.

If you want to make your donation tax deductible, make the check out to the Texas River Recreation Association (TRRA). If taxes are not an issue, make it out to the Texas River Protection Association (TRPA). Either way, indicate that the donation is for Hidalgo Falls, and send your check to:

Tom Goynes

P. O. Box 219

Martindale, TX 78655

Latest news - We made it! Click here for the story [News](#)

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## Personal Note from the San Marcos River Cleanup

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On the San Marcos River cleanup we go by a lot of hostile-looking barbed wire fences and the occasional truck with occupants watching us.. Now we're here picking up trash, for Pete's sake, but we can't set foot on the river bank. Landowners don't want us on "their" river.

Finally at a lovely unfenced spot one owner stands at the edge, greeting us eagerly with gratitude. We talk about the river and its magic. He remembers how in his youth he was a little down – he doesn't like the word depression – but he was "kinda' in a black cloud and couldn't see out of it".

Then someone took him out paddling a canoe and he found that peace a lot of us do on the river. He says "the lights just came back on for me".

When we get back to camp, I write out a check for Hidalgo Falls. It's not a big check but I'll feel it a little. So why would I give money for a place I will probably never get to see?

Because I want to turn the lights back on for some other kid someday. Don't you?

Please send Tom a check.

Sherry

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Take Action  
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### Bring Your Pens!

At the next club meeting, there will be postcards showing a 4x4 in a river. The cards are ready to go to state senators and representatives on the committees that will hear SB 155 and HR 305. This legislation is designed to prevent the destruction that has been taking place in our shallow rivers - the Nueces, Frio, Llano, Canadian and others. Labels with the legislators' names on them will be on the cards.

>br> All you have to do is to print your name and address on the card, then sign it. I'll put the stamp on and mail it. You may sign up to 28 cards (the total on the committees) or just a few. You may also take some for mailing to your own state rep and senator.

The important thing is to let these folks hear from us!

Anne Olden

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### Section Leaders Needed for Medina River Cleanup May 10

I am looking for volunteers to head up sections of the Medina River Cleanup on May 10 at Bandera City Park. I have divided the 50 mile stretch from 13 miles above the town of Medina to Medina lake into 12 sections of 3-5.5 miles each. The section leader will: Recruit paddlers for his/her section, run the shuttle, and report trash that cannot be removed.

If you would like to help, please call (830) 612-3643, send an email to [brischetto@wireweb.net](mailto:brischetto@wireweb.net) or write to:

Bob Brischetto, Coordinator  
180 Jones Beach  
Lakehills, TX 78063

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## Pecos River Trip Report

by Dana R. Enos

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### **Participants:**

David Conger, Sam Williamson and his dog Robbie, and Dana Enos

### **River Condition:**

145 CFM, very good flow

### **Weather:**

The first eight days were excellent with clear, blue skies and temperatures ranging from 45 degrees to 70. Nights were clear so one could lay back and enjoy the great display of the stars and planets. The last two days the weather deteriorated and dropped to the low 30s.

It got cloudy and snowed.

### **Thursday, January 30**

Emilio Hinojosa (Comstock, TX) shuttled us from Comstock to Pandale for \$35. We put in at 1230 and took out at 1500, traveling five miles. We observed six deer feeding on the riverbank. Camped on a small island that had good rock ledges. The temperature was in the mid 60s.

### **Friday, January 31**

We put in at 1000 and took out at 1500, traveling six miles. This was the type of day you dream of having: good water flow, wind at your back, clear skies, temperature in the mid 60s, just drifting along. We ran all the rapids with no dragging. Today we saw four deer, a bald eagle, a Belted Kingfisher and a Green Kingfisher (saw a lot of Kingfishers on this trip). All this was concluded with another night to observe the stars.

### **Saturday, February 1**

Put in at 1000 and took out at 1600, traveling eight miles. Today we had to get out of our canoes about three times and drag them over some shallow spots. Another beautiful day with temperatures in the mid 60s. We camped on a rock ledge and found a series of historical pictographs on the canyon wall. Another great night for star gazing.

### **Sunday, February 2**

We put in at 1000 and took out at 1430, traveling eight miles. This morning we had a heavy fog that did not burn off until noon and then the day turned out just great with temperatures in the middle 60s. At camp, David and Sam fished while I went looking for a pictograph site about which Louis Aulbach had told me. I did find it and it is a beauty. The panel is approximately 90 feet long and in good condition. I checked later and found Forrest Kirkland had painted this panel and it shows up in "The Rock Art of Texas Indians" on page 73, referred to as the Ingram Ranch Site. Another great night to view the sky.

### **Monday, February 3**

Returned to the pictograph site this morning so David and Sam could see it. Put in at 1030 and took out at 1600, traveling seven miles. We could not believe we were having such good weather - clear skies, about 70 degrees, and no wind. We lined Harkell Rapids and Sam had a little problem when his canoe pinned against a rock but there weren't any serious problems. We filled our water containers near mile 33 and camped on a rock ledge near Camp Canyon. I took a hike up Camp Canyon and located some faint pictographs and decided to return the next day. We are getting spoiled with all the clear nights.

### **Tuesday, February 4**

David and I returned to the pictograph site in Camp Canyon and had a hard time deciphering the paintings since they were so faded. We went to the head of the canyon to check out a cave and then, as we hiked out, we tried to find a special pictograph (Lizard Man) but had no luck. I need to go back and try to find this painting. We put in at 1030 and took out at 1530 (Lewis Canyon), traveling six miles. Good weather again but we did have wind picking up in the late afternoon. We noticed numerous nutrients have moved up this river since the last time we made this run. Another clear night. We

decided to lay over tomorrow and do some fishing.

### **Wednesday, February 5**

The wind canceled our plans to fish so I decided to visit the Lewis Canyon Petroglyph site. They continue to remove dirt, exposing more glyphs and extending the rock retaining wall. Last fall a large group including Louis Aulbach, Paul Woodcock, and I worked a weekend at this site. After going to the site I returned to camp and hiked up Lewis Canyon visiting two shelters that had evidence of natives living in them but no pictographs. David and Sam spent the day exploring the canyon. The day was a little cooler with the temperature about 60 but we still have clear skies.

### **Thursday, February 6**

We put in at 0900 and took out at 1600, traveling seven miles and camping at the Weir Dam. Ran part of Lewis Canyon Rapids and lined the rest of the way. We lined Waterfall Rapids and portaged around Painted Canyon Rapids. The day started out cloudy, cool, and windy and, as the day progressed, it warmed up but the wind did not let up. I have been on this river two times before but this time as I approached the Painted Canyon Rapids, I became aware of the rock formation directly above the ledge at Painted Canyon resembling a frontal view of a Hawk's face. The rock face has eroded, forming what appeared to me as two hooded eyes and a beak. David and Sam were indifferent to my observation.

### **Friday, February 7**

Put in at 0900 and took out at 1500, traveling eight miles. The weather has deteriorated to cloudy, windy, and cold (temperature in the low 30s) with rain and some snow. Interesting experience today as we disturbed a bald eagle that was feeding along the river and he flew directly over our canoes. He was only 40 to 50 feet high, so we got a great view of him as he passed over us. We also observed a lot of beaver activity. This night we went to bed early due to the cold, depressing weather.

### **Saturday, February 8**

Put in at 0900 and took out at 1230, traveling six miles. In this long, flat stretch one can have problems with a head wind and the shallow mud flats. We were fortunate to have a slight head wind and the water level was up so we had no problems passing over the flats. Emilio had placed David's car at the takeout so we loaded up, went to Emilio's Grill and Café in Comstock for some good Mexican food.

After eating, we went our separate ways as I reflected upon the wonderful weather we had, the good companionship, the wild animals, the spectacular scenery, the impressive pictographs, and the challenges that only this river can give you. I consider myself most fortunate to have been able to experience a portion of the many things the Pecos River has to offer.

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## Things I have learned on camping trips

by Paul Woodcock

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Here is a list of things I have learned on canoe camping trips. I am not going to explain how I learned them. I must also state that sometimes I have to relearn them.

1. Always check out gear before a trip and never take something new without using it before the trip.
2. Never get separated on a trip or portage trail
3. Always pack medicine in two separate packs
4. Never trust guide books or topozone maps
5. Always carry an extra paddle.
6. Always have some kind of map and compass even on day trips
7. Never leave camp without survival gear and water
8. Always carry a multi tool on your belt  
(You will always have friends.)
9. Always carry rain gear
10. You have to trust your bow partner
11. Be ready to change your itinerary
12. Be open to learning new things
13. Always camp out with someone before going on an extended trip
14. Be willing to accept people for who they are.
15. Try to set up camp before the afternoon winds.

Editor's note: One of the benefits of a club is learning from each other. If you have lessons to share, please send them to me at [sherrib57@hotmail.com](mailto:sherrib57@hotmail.com).

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## San Marcos River Cleanup Notes

by Sherri Blifford

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Mary loves to cook!

Click on image to enlarge.

Photo by Sherri

We had a good turnout in spite of the cloudy, cold weather. I don't really have time or space for a full report; maybe someone else will offer. Briefly put, I didn't expect to have fun picking up trash. It was simply a duty to fulfill.

I was wrong. If you didn't come, you missed some great camping and paddling.

Most of us camped at Tom Goynes' Pecan Park Retreat with our tents near the rapids.

Louis Aulbach entertained us with historical tidbits. Mary and Paul provided a great camp fire and breakfast.



Louis Aulbach and Paul Woodcock

Click on image to enlarge.

Photo by Sherri

Of course I went swimming again but we don't want to dwell on my mishaps, now do we? For the benefit of other inexperienced paddlers, though, I feel compelled to point out the value of instruction and last month's lessons learned. I knew what to do (avoid the strainer and stay on the right side of my boat), I had my gear stashed for easy removal, and I had dry clothes double-bagged and handy.

I didn't choose to take a flying leap but it was a lot easier to recover with good planning and a kind stern mate.. Maybe next month I'll even learn how to stay *in* the canoe!

See you on the river.

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Maggie passed away.....

by Bob Arthur

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I do not know if Maggie was a good canoe dog, but I bet she was. She's been absolutely everywhere a canoe can go. Perhaps you can say better than I just what makes a good canoe dog, but a few good ones come to mind. Phil and Paula's "Flap" and Mike Clark's "Hobo" were gooduns. Hobo, an apt name for a dog who showed up at Mike's one day, stayed a number of years and then left. Perhaps he's "riding the rails" as a good hobo will do.

Yeah, Maggie had been everywhere. She came to a Rendezvous years ago as a little ball of fur and came again later when Ted Bell of Bell Canoes exhibited there. You'll see her every time you see a Bell Canoe. Her "fingerprint" is on every one of them and so a part of her has been everywhere a Bell has been and I guess that makes her a good canoe dog. Does in my book.

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New Members ---- For Sale ---- Wanted

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New Members

Kevin Longin and Kathy  
Cusick  
2294 Puter Creek Road  
Spring Branch, TX 78070  
[kmcusick@juno.com](mailto:kmcusick@juno.com)  
830-885-5324

Lita Graham  
3035 Becket  
Pearland, Tx 77584  
[grahamlita@copwf.com](mailto:grahamlita@copwf.com)  
713-436-2383

Brian and Brenda Justus  
2000 Westborough Apt 407  
Katy, TX 77449  
[j4@houston.rr.com](mailto:j4@houston.rr.com)  
281-398-5744

David and Geraldine Kovach  
[dave.kovach@cdicorp.com](mailto:dave.kovach@cdicorp.com)  
1712 Keystone Dr  
Friendswood, TX 77546  
281-992-5641

Bob Krogman  
[robkrogman@aol.com](mailto:robkrogman@aol.com)  
3850 FM 518  
League City, TX 77573  
281-538-7539

Suzanne Pacheco  
5401 Rampart #549  
Houston, TX 77081  
713-779-3006

Stephen and Miriam  
Rosenbloom  
[rosenbloom@houston.rr.com](mailto:rosenbloom@houston.rr.com)  
4943 Wigton  
Houston, TX 77096  
713-723-5710

For Sale/Wanted/Lost

Old Town Discovery Sport 15 canoe  
15'-3", 43" wide, 3 seats, deep forest green,  
max 5 HP outboard, titled with TX numbers,  
material Superlink3, row/paddle/motor,  
bought new (6/22/2002) \$1,000.00 + \$77 tax =  
\$1,077.00,  
sell for \$750.00. See at

Call Randy (409) 729-0206 or cell (409) 540-0136.  
Red Dagger Impulse WW Solo Open Canoe  
Very good condition. Wood rails, skid plates. Foam  
saddle, thigh straps, knee pads, Voyager bags,  
and a spare paddle. ALL for only \$400. Excellent  
beginner boat or spare for company.

Call Ken Barnard: (713) 666-5666

Dagger Rival Wanted

I'm interested in buying a Dagger Rival  
in good or very good condition.

Glenn Hart

email: [glennhart@austin.rr.com](mailto:glennhart@austin.rr.com)

Paddles Lost

I lost three bent shaft paddles at Baybrook Mall  
in Webster on February 17th in front of Mervyn's.

I leaned my blue denim sack/holder with two  
wooden paddles and my 16 year old daughter's  
Zaveral paddle against my car and drove off.

I am hoping someone will know the whereabouts  
of these paddles. The wooden paddles are old  
and have been repaired repeatedly, but the  
Zaveral is new with the original sticker on  
it plus two stickers my daughter put on it.

One is a green frog playing a banjo and the  
other is a round sticker with a S and 7 on it.

My e-mail address is [PCROFT@POSTMARK.NET](mailto:PCROFT@POSTMARK.NET)  
and my phone number is 281-334-3632. Thanks in  
advance, Pat Croft.

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## River Oaks area entrepreneur sells out and moves to Hidalgo Falls!

by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski

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**The tall pines of Memorial Park remind us of the 1830's lumber industry in River Oaks and Memorial Park.**

An entrepreneur who owned land around River Oaks sells all his property holdings and moves to a farm on the Brazos River, just upstream of the popular kayaking and canoeing spot at Hidalgo Falls.

That story is extraordinary, but not too surprising.

What is surprising is that it occurred in 1835! Even before the City of Houston was conceived by the Allen brothers.

The first known resident of the area that we know as River Oaks was Allen C. Reynolds. Reynolds, who was born in Connecticut in 1786, grew up in New York and served in the War of 1812 as a captain in the United States 27th Infantry. After the war, Reynolds apparently visited Louisiana for his name appears in Jean Laffite's diary. Then, in 1826, at age 40, Reynolds sailed for Texas, and for a while, he ran a mercantile establishment in Galveston with his partner William T. Austin. Initially, Reynolds acquired property in Brazoria County while, as early as 1826, he applied for a land grant of one league in what is now Harris County. He moved his wife and four children to Texas in 1830, and in 1831, Reynolds was granted a league of land by Stephen F. Austin that encompassed 4,428 acres extending south of Buffalo Bayou to the present day Bellaire Boulevard. The tract ranged from about Shepherd Drive on the east to the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks near Wesleyan Street on the west.



**The Southern Pacific Railroad trestle crosses Buffalo Bayou in Memorial Park.**

When paddling from Loop 610, you will pass under the Southern Pacific trestle in about one mile. The Reynolds tract begins at the railroad bridge and runs along the south bank of the bayou as far as Shepherd Drive.

Reynolds built a residence north of the present Wesleyan Street and Highway 59 intersection, and from 1831 to 1835, he operated a sawmill and a grist mill on Buffalo Bayou. He reportedly transported the lumber he cut down the bayou in his boat, taking it to Harrisburg since the town of Houston was yet to be founded. Lumber was a very commercial product in the 1830's, just as it is today. Not only was there a growing market as settlers flooded into Texas and the Austin colony, but markets as far away as Tampico, Mexico were eager for the tall, straight lumber of east Texas pine. In 1835, Reynolds sold all his property to James Spillman and moved away. He bought the William and Peter Kerr land grant in Washington County in 1835, and he built his home on Hidalgo Bluff, a few miles upstream of Hidalgo Falls on the Brazos River.

Allen Reynolds died, at age 51, in Washington County on March 14, 1837 and is buried in a small cemetery on Hidalgo Bluff. He had no idea that the land he owned would become a part of the City of Houston or that it would include River Oaks, Greenway Plaza and the City of West University Place. Yet, with an estate valued at \$100,000 in 1837, Reynolds seems to have done all right for himself.

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Over the years I have come to realize that boating can take you places you would not ordinarily go, and through boating you can experience things that most people miss. Things like

- Standing at the Rockslide with the canyon walls of Santa Elena rising a thousand feet straight up
- A summer sunset horizon to horizon rainbow on the Brazos
- Deep piles of leaves in the Neches River bottomland
- The amazing petroglyphs on the Pecos
- Laying up under the canoes while a hill country thunder boomer passes overhead
- Sitting in an eddy at the top of Tablesaw (or some other rapid) craning your neck to see what happened to the first guy down
- A great blue heron at dawn on the Colorado
- The sun shining through the wings of a roseate spoonbill at Armand's Bayou

Things like that.

There is a lot of boating out there with a lot of places to see and a lot of things to do. When I joined the HCC, one of my reasons was to go to those places and to do those things. Over the years I have been lucky enough to do some of them, although my "to do" list seems to stay full. Along the way I have met some great people, which, in retrospect, has been the best part. I have gotten a great deal out of my membership in the HCC over the years, and I am looking forward to another year of paddling. There are going to be lots of good trips. lots of good times, and lots of opportunity for special experiences.

Get out there and boat.

# Not Found

The requested URL /hcc\_trips\_nl.pl was not found on this server.

Additionally, a 404 Not Found error was encountered while trying to use an ErrorDoc handle the request.

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*Apache/2.2.15 (CentOS) mod\_ssl/2.2.15 0.9.8l DAV/2 mod\_auth\_passthrough/2.1  
FrontPage/5.0.2.2635 Server at www.houstoncanoecub.org Port 80*

## Burnam's Ferry Exploration Trip - Postponed due to River Conditions

by Bob Arthur

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### Notice:

**Regrettably, the trip will have to be postponed. Its too wet in the river bottom and since both the put-in and take-out are on private property with unpaved pasture roads, they are now impassable to highway vehicles. We'll try again soon, tentatively April 19-20. Hopefully it'll be drier then.**

On March 15-16, 2003 a group of paddlers and avocational historians will undertake an exploratory canoe trip to attempt to locate the site of Burnam's farm and ferry, which is located somewhere in the area of the Colorado river near the Fayette/Colorado County line. The site was an important strategic location during the Texas Revolution. Here's a little background.

As nearly as can be determined, J. B. Callicoatte arrived in Texas from Mississippi in the fall of 1835. He was at the Siege of Bexar from late Nov. to early Dec.1835 and was in the Texas army as it began its retreat from Gonzales on Sunday evening, March 13th, 1836, a few days after the fall of the Alamo. The army camped for two days at Burnam's Ferry, Thursday and Friday, March 16th and 17th burning Jesse Burnam's home and store and sinking his ferry, so that they couldn't be used by Santa Anna's army. Burnam never forgave Sam Houston as he felt that his property was "off the beaten path", actually located on the San Felipe branch of the La Bahia Road, which went to a crossing near present day LaGrange. They marched to Beeson's Ferry (or Dewees Ferry near present day Columbus, TX) and from there to San Felipe de Austin, then to Jared Groce's farm on the Brazos River near Hempstead before turning toward Harrisburg (part of present day Houston) and on to San Jacinto. John Bayless (J.B.) Callicoatte was my great, great, great grandfather.

A map exists of the original land grant plats showing Burnam's property and a possible location for the ferry area, but it is also possible that the river has changed course in the intervening decades. Topographical maps of the area show two old oxbows, but nothing is presently known about how old they are or when the river may have changed course. So during the March 15-16th canoe trip, which is, coincidentally, exactly 167 years after the event, we'll try to locate the actual site of Burnam's Farm and Ferry. We'll set up a base camp [a full moon weekend, by the way] in the vicinity of the river and Burnam's Ferry Rd. in what has come to be known as Santa Anna Bottom. A day trip will be planned either to or from that base camp.

Please contact me before March 13th since I will be out of touch on the 14th.

Call 713/895-7278 or Email: [boba100@aol.com](mailto:boba100@aol.com)

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## Hidalgo Falls Update, We Made It!!

by Steve Daniel

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Thanks to the support of more than 60 individuals and organizations, we were able to collect over \$17,000--enough to pay for the new Hidalgo property and closing costs and to have \$585.47 left over. Yesterday Tom Goynes, president of the Texas Rivers Protection Association, signed the deed, so the additional two acres of property (including riverfront immediately adjacent to the rapid) are ours. That means that we now own 12 of the 30 acres that we hope will someday be a showcase park for paddlers in Texas.

As part of the deal worked out with Jimmy Orlando, James Graham and Patti Carothers of SouthWest PaddleSports purchased a 16' x 60' mobile home on the property for \$15,000 to be used as an instructional outpost. Without their support, TRPA would not have been able to purchase the property. We all owe them a big thank you.

Of course, because we spend about \$600 a year to pay for our electric bills and property taxes, we still need donations. In addition, we have established a fund that will be used to purchase additional land as it becomes available. We are also looking into getting corporate support for improving the environmental quality of the property and for acquiring additional acreage. Such support will take some time to develop. In the meantime, you can send tax deductible contributions to the Texas River Recreation Association (TRRA), Tom Goynes, secretary-treasurer, P.O. Box 219, Martindale, TX 78655. If you do not itemize or do not plan for your contribution to count as a tax deduction, you can make your contribution directly to the Texas Rivers Protection Association and send it to:

Tom Goynes

P. O. Box 219

Martindale, TX 78655

To see exactly where the new property is or to get information on the Festival, go to the Hidalgo Falls website, <http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/hidalgo.html>.

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