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HotLine 713.467.8857

Volume 26

April 2003

[Click here to return to the MENU](#)

Contents:

Click on a title below to go to the story

[How the Gear Guys Pack](#)

[Newsletter Changes to Online](#)

[Officers & Minutes](#)

[New Hidalgo Falls Opportunity](#)

[How to Orchestrate River Trips](#)

[Houston - the Head of Tidewater?](#) by Louis Aulbach
and Linda Gorski

[The Perfect Run](#) by Paul Woodcock

[Invitation to King William Parade](#) by Joline

[4 X 4 Hearings Report](#) by Anne Olden

[Buffalo Bayou Regatta](#)

[New Members / For Sale /Lost](#)

[Buffalo Bayou Trip & Picnic](#) by Buffalo Bayou
Partnership

[Sandy Truxillo's trip to Devil's River](#)
Trip List

[Note from Other Folks](#)

We need your correct email address!

Please send your current email address to Marilyn Peery now.

Email address: 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 - April 9, 2003

Lower Colorado River Authority Paddling and Camping

by **Brian Trusty**, Supervisor
Environmental Programs and Facilities

Brian will speak on LCRA parks and river access sites, any new regulations that affect paddlers, clean-ups, recreation programs and events throughout the Basin.

and

Cody Ackermann,
Recreation Program Coordinator
at Canyon of the Eagles

Cody will speak on upcoming events at Canyon of the Eagles.

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

How the Gear Guys Pack

[Back to Index](#)



Paul Woodcock

Click on image to enlarge.

Photo by Sherri

Paul Woodcock began the March program with a "fashion show" when he and Dana Enos showed us some helpful ideas on packing for a river trip at the last meeting.

They each brought what they had packed for the Buffalo River Trip last month.

Paul did a great imitation of a fashion model as he described the parts of his outfit and why he chose them from the convertible pants that change to shorts to gloves and hat.

Among their hints:

- Wear quick-drying layers of clothing
- Organize a kitchen cupboard
- Use straps that release easily
- Use packs with shoulder straps



Dana Enos
Click on image to enlarge.
Photo by Sherri



Jack Borns' granddaughter
Destiny enjoys the program.
Click on image to enlarge.
Photo by Sherri

Thanks, guys, for all the helpful hints and entertainment.

[Back to Index](#)

Newsletter Going Online

[Back to Index](#)

In March we decided to discontinue printing the newsletter for a variety of reasons, including cost as the primary one. The new online format has been well received with easy access and more photos (and bigger ones) By eliminating formatting and printing cycle time, we can also include more news in a more timely fashion.

Never fear, those of you who cannot access the online version. Let us know and we will print one out for you. The format may be slightly different from this but all the information will be included.

The online newsletter will no longer require a password in hopes of reaching more prospective members when folks read of our trips, events, and fun. The club, after all, is about the joy of paddling, and making friends on trips and through activities shared.

[Back to Index](#)

Houston Canoe Club Officers and General Meeting Minutes

[Back to Page 1](#)

Officers for 2003

Commodore: **John Ohrt**

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jcohortjr@aol.com

Vice Commodore: **Mary Zaborowski**

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coachz66@hotmail.com

Recorder: **Mary Carter**

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sherrib57@hotmail.com

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Governor 2: **Anne Olden**

713.864.0205

aolden@ix.netcom.com

Governor 3: **Paul Woodcock**

713.722.4945

wdcck@hotmail.com

Waterline Submissions

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
8233 Kingsbrook Rd., #134
Houston, TX 77024

Change of Address

Submit change of address to Marilyn

General Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2003

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

Commodore John Ohrt presided over the meeting. John announced that the Red Cross garage closes at 9:00 PM and everyone should park outside if possible.

John introduced the officers.

Mary Carter, recorder read the minutes of the February meeting which were approved as written.

Kevin Casement, purser gave the purser's report: as of January 31, 2003, we had \$24,340, and as of February 28, 2003 we had \$24,525. The increase is from new memberships and renewals.

Fraser Baker gave the fleet captain's report. He asked for past trips and briefly gave upcoming trips. Fraser reminded everyone that the trips are posted on the web site.

Bob Arthur gave the Rendezvous committee report. The committee has submitted a proposal to the ACA and we are waiting a response.

Anne Olden reported on the TRPA. Post cards were available to send to legislators in support of the 4x4 legislation.

Under new business, the club discussed the negative cash flow and suggested that the newsletter be made available on the web page. Anyone will have access to the newsletter, member or not. Hard copies of the newsletter will be sent to any club member that wants one. Only members will have access to the club roster

Peery.

Email address:

mpeery@ev1.net.

Physical address:

Marilyn Peery
4119 Mischire Rd.
Houston, TX 77025

access to the club roster.

The following motion was made and seconded: to make the newsletter freely available on the HCC web site to the public at large. The motion carried.

John welcomed visitors and encouraged them to join the club.

Mary Z. introduced Paul Woodcock and Dana Enos who gave a very interesting program on how to pack a canoe and what to take on an expedition trip.

[Back to Index](#)

A New Hidalgo Falls Opportunity

by Steve Daniel

[Back to Index](#)

On March 10 we finalized the purchase of the two new acres at Hidalgo Falls, so now some of the property immediately adjacent to the rapid is owned by TRPA. It will provide paddlers an even more convenient access to the river....

Now just when you thought things were calming down regarding the purchase of property at Hidalgo....

Johnny Orlando, one of the three sons, currently owns the six acres immediately upstream from the two acres we just acquired. He now wants to sell us four of his acres, the parcel immediately adjacent to our new property. It is the property overlooking the rapid. It is, no doubt, the best property we have had a chance to acquire thus far. To see an aerial photo, go to

<http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/johnny.html>

It has some big trees and, with work, could look as nice as our downstream property. Because Tommy Orlando (the son who owns the 8 acres between our downstream property and the newly acquired two acres at the rapid) has no plans to sell his land ever, I suspect that as paddlers start using the better access provided by our new two acres at the rapid, the lower property will be used less and less.

Johnny is willing to accept \$10K per acre from us (because his mother, Gerry, has put in a good word for us), though he has already been offered (depending on how much is initially put down) between \$12K and \$15K/acre. We will have to pay for the survey dividing his property, but since the surveyor already has most of the information in his computer, it will not be as much as if we had to start from scratch. So that we won't have to do this all over again in two or three years, we will put in the contract with him an Option to Purchase his remaining two acres within the next ten years (if he decides to sell) for \$10K/ac.

Of course, we don't have \$40K+ now, and Johnny wants to have this completed within the next three months. I have talked to Pat Guseman, the woman who recently bought the 18 acre tract downstream and adjacent to our lower property, and she is willing to buy our property from the entrance gate to the lower property (slightly little less than three acres) for \$10K/ac. If she buys the property, she would probably also spend a fair amount of money improving the entrance road from the highway.

That means that we would have to come up with a bit more than \$10K--some of which has already been pledged--(unless, of course, there is a groundswell of support for retaining the lower three acres by people who want to contribute \$30K to TRPA). If you think we should retain the three acres (and have the money to back up your desire), please let us know now before we proceed much further with Pat Guseman. We have to move on this rather soon, because Johnny needs the money and will probably jump at his first solid offer.

I know this is beginning to sound like this whole Hidalgo Falls thing will never end. It just happens that it is happening more quickly than we originally imagined, and in fits and spurts. If you go to the aerial photo mentioned above, you will see that if we sell the lower property and purchase Johnny's four acres, our property will be more consolidated and our ultimate goal (of acquiring one solid piece of property) will be cut down to 19.7 acres (of which we will already own 13 acres). If we hold onto the lower property, we do so with the expectation of someday acquiring Tommy's eight acres. That would be wonderful, and if we thought we could do it, we should definitely try to do so. Once we give up this land, it is probably gone for good (after all, Tanie Orlando owned his property for fifty years, and given the unique character of the spot, the cost of the land will never be this low again even if it is ever sold). But that means coming up with \$40K now. The question is can we, should we do it? And who will step up with that kind of cash now?

[Back to Index](#)



Don Greene pauses to lecture on Buffalo Bayou
Click on image to enlarge.

Photo by Sherri

Being a group leader is so much more than herding folks from point A to point B. To guide a trip that is safe, facilitates fun, education, and personal growth, is a learned art. If you wish to find out about leading trips that reach their potential, come spend an evening with Don Greene of the Whitewater Experience on Tuesday May 6 from 7 to 10 PM.

Topics for this special evening include: group dynamics, satisfying varied expectations, resource protection, safety, food, logistics, of course, but the main discussion will center on taking care of what can go wrong, and focus on what can go RIGHT.

What helps youngsters to overcome fear? How do you facilitate fun, play, and tap the magic of the river and the outdoors.

Don has been the designated head river guide for astronaut Admiral Alan Shepherd, Terry Hershey, Gov. Ann Richards, Mayor Kathy Whitmire, Ray Miller, TV newsman Steve Smith, and just recently, Dr. Jane Goodall.

For a \$12.00 donation to HCC or the Texas Rivers Protection Association you can have a stimulating, pleasant evening.

He is a voting member on the Memorial Park Conservancy and the Texas Parks and Wildlife rivers advisory board. He is a former chairman of the board of the Bayou Preservation Association.



Buffalo Bayou at Woodway and 610

Click on image to enlarge.

Photo by Sherri

His credentials include: help creating the Colorado River trail, 25 years of being a Dept of the Interior outfitter, featured guest on Good morning America. Plus being award the Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge George Washington's gold medal for Excellence in Outdoor Education.

To reserve your space, send your check to Don before April 20 (Easter) at: The Whitewater Experience

6005 Cypress

Houston TX

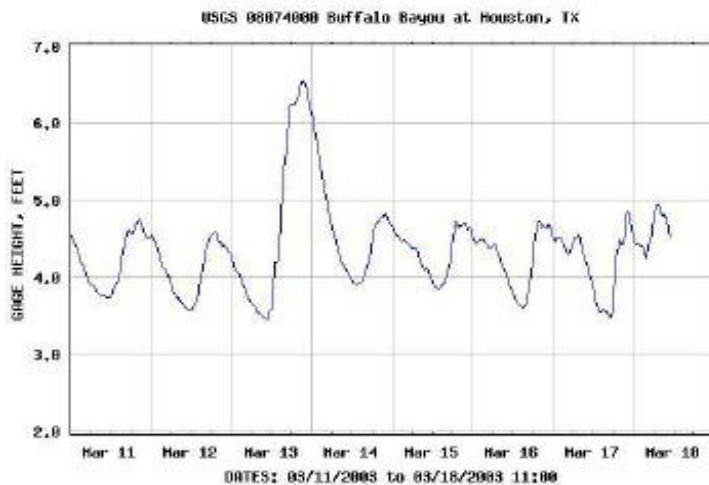
Blend your experience with Don for a an extremely enjoyable evening.

[Back to Index](#)

Houston - the Head of Tidewater?
by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski
[Back to Index](#)

When the Allen brothers decided that the high, wooded bank of Buffalo Bayou opposite the mouth of White Oak Bayou was the place to establish a new town, they advertised the location as the head of tidewater. This was an important point. As land speculators, the Allens knew that a town rooted in commerce had the best chance for fast growth. The faster the growth of the town, the sooner they could cash in on their \$5,000 investment by selling lots.

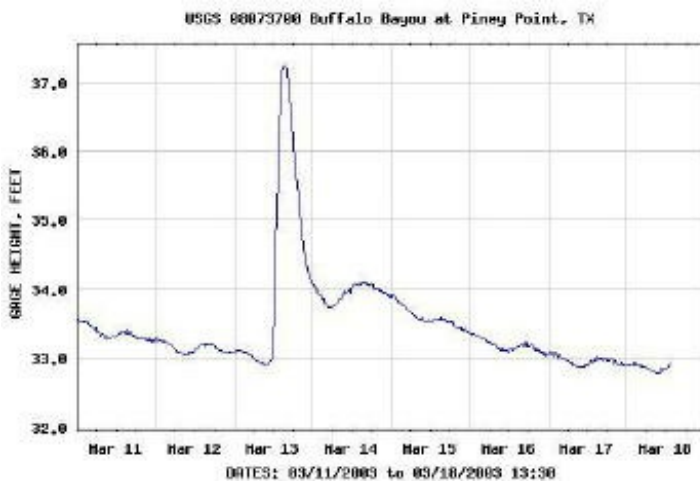
Harrisburg, some six miles or so downstream, was the major port during the pre-republican period. By establishing a port farther upstream and closer to the interior of Texas, John and Augustus Allen sought to capitalize on the setback that Harrisburg suffered when it was burned to the ground by Santa Anna on his march to San Jacinto.



[Click on image to enlarge.](#)

The race to create the shipping center of the new republic began in the late summer of 1836 as Gail Borden surveyed the town site of Houston and the Allens declared it as the place where steamers from New Orleans would unload the fine goods of the world for Texas. Houston was the head of tidewater and a port accessible by ocean-going steam ships.

The head of tidewater was significant because the tidal flow meant that there would be a reliable depth of water in the bayou for shipping.



[Click on image to enlarge.](#)

Whether the junction of White Oak Bayou and Buffalo Bayou was actually the head of tidewater was a subject of debate during the intense competition of the mid-1800's. When dredging of the bayou became the common practice, the point was moot. Today, the point at which the tidal influence occurs is a few hundred yards upstream of the Shepherd Drive bridge. Early in the twentieth century, the gauge at Waugh Drive measured the tidewater, but the subsidence that has occurred in the last fifty years has caused the U. S. Geological Survey to abandon the gauge at Waugh Drive in favor of

the one at Shepherd Drive.

The tidal influence on the bayou is easily seen in a comparison of the readings of the Shepherd Drive gauge with the Piney Point gauge which is several miles upstream. The graph of the gauge height at Piney Point shows a fairly level pattern of stream flow (except where there is a spike due to a rain storm). At the Shepherd Drive gauge (called, somewhat ironically, Buffalo Bayou at Houston), the gauge height undulates in a wave-like pattern, clearly showing the effect of the tide.

Yet, without looking at the graph of the gauges, one would not even be aware of this tidal effect. The tidal influence on Buffalo Bayou, which was such a critical factor in the establishment of the city of Houston, is today just an interesting curiosity.

[Back to Index](#)

As a wilderness tripper I don't look at rapids as some place to play and get an adrenaline rush but as an obstacle to getting down the river. I enjoy those feelings as much as any paddler, but any accident that causes damage to either a boat or a person when you are 200 miles from the nearest road can be serious. We usually line the boats or portage whenever there is the slightest sign that we might have a problem. An example of this mind set was early in the morning when we came to an easy class one rapid. It was a straight run with no turns but some big waves at the bottom of the run. It would be an exciting run, but it was forty degrees, and you could see that the bow person would get wet and, even more importantly, some water might splash on the stern paddler. Not wanting to get wet and be cold for two hours while we dried out, I elected to line the boat through on the left side of the river. It took only a couple of minutes, and then we were paddling down the river dry.

We do run some rapids when we can't line the boats or when the portage is extremely tough. It was late in the day and we were tired when we got to a very long rapid. It was easily a class two and later on when we found a guide book published after we took the trip where it was listed as a three. You could see the current snaking through the rocks turning to the shoreline and then heading out through the middle of the river. It was really hard to scout the bottom of the rapid because of the distance, but it did look clear. Dana decided to take his solo to the left side of the river and maneuver through some of the slower current. He had decided the water was too big for his solo. I had learned by this time that we couldn't maneuver our duck hunter with the finesse that Dana could his little boat, so I opted to follow the path on the right side.

There was a chute cutting through the center of a ledge, so we back paddled slowing the boat to almost a stand still so we could hit it straight on. It was barely wide enough for us to get through, and as current of the river caught, I was amazed once again at the sheer power of the river. There was a series of rocks straight ahead, but the main current was turning right. I did a quick pry and felt the boat turn, and we were heading toward a high bank of the river. The current made a u-turn as the bank jutted out in the river. I absolutely hate this scenario. I did a series of draws trying to keep the back of the boat from hitting the bank. We cleared it. When I saw just under water a large rock on our right, I leaned into the rock, and the boat just slide around it like a ball hitting the rail on a pool table. The current then ran straight down the center of the river. We took a couple of back strokes to slow down the boat so we could line up the last chute, but with no luck. The current had us and we were speeding forward, caught in the power of the Bloodvein.

Then I became aware of something we had not seen when scouting the rapid. It was a small whirlpool. We were able to slip the boat sideways to miss it, but that brought close a large boulder where there was a large pillow of water. When we hit, the bow of the boat left the water at about a 45-degree angle. It seemed as if time stood still. I could see my bow partner high in the air doing a perfect stroke, the sun light reflecting off the water dropping from the blade of her paddle. As I glanced down, I saw my paddle enter the water just at the edge of the whirlpool. The canoe came down with water splashing over both of us, and then once again, I felt the power of a huge eddy grab the boat. We did an eddy turn, and I sat there, my heart bounding with excitement, breaths coming in huge gasps, and let out a loud primordial yell, basking in the glory that we had actually made it.

There are things I will remember forever.

The first car I owned.

That very special paint horse.

The pass that I intercepted in the football game that ended an opponent's drive in a championship foot ball game.

My first girl friend and

"THE PERFECT RUN."

[Back to Index](#)

King William Parade in San Antonio - Invitation

[Back to Index](#)

Hi you guys, want to do something on Saturday morning, April 26, you probably haven't done before? Want to be part of the Saturday Paddlers' entry in the funky King William Parade? We need lots of people and it's loads of fun.

Mostly you have to show up, with a paddle, in your river hat with flowers or some other decoration on it, wearing a Hawaiian shirt, shorts and tevas, and if you're really into it, a tee-shirt with the bikini picture on it, and carry a fanciful kite on a fishing pole!

Check your calendar, set the date, and get back to me to get your name on the list.

Send an email to Riverjomo@aol.com to join up or get more information.

[Back to Index](#)

4 X 4 Hearings Report

by Anne Olden

[Back to Index](#)

Committee hearings on Sen. Bill 155 and House Bill 305, banning 4x4 vehicles in Texas rivers, were held on March 18. A number of organizations, such as TRPA and National Wildlife Fund, landowners and others spoke for several hours in favor of the bills. It was gratifying to hear so many people, most of whom had to travel to Austin for the hearing, support the objectives of the bill. However, it is important to keep in mind the opponents, who are concerned that this is the beginning of limiting access to all river users. Others feel that this gives riverside landowners unfair rights to access the river in ways prohibited to the general public. One speaker summed up by saying the volatile mixture of alcohol, gasoline and testosterone fuels the problem. Let's continue to work for a reasonable solution to this situation.

220 Postcards Signed and Mailed

Thanks to all of you who signed a TRPA postcard (and helped with postage) at the last meeting. The card went to legislators and senators on the committees that will hear the legislation to ban 4x4s in Texas rivers. If you missed that opportunity, there will be more postcards at the next meeting.

[Back to Index](#)

Buffalo Bayou Regatta

[Back to Index](#)

Donna Grimes needs volunteers for the 33rd annual Buffalo Bayou Regatta Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The regatta is sponsored by the Buffalo Bayou Partnership and is Texas' largest canoe race.

Contact Donna at 713-728-1645 or donna.grimes@mindspring.com

Whether you canoe competitively or just for fun, there's a Regatta entry level for everyone. Join in the fun at the 15-mile canoe and kayak race down the Bayou. For more information, call 713-752-0314 or log onto www.buffalobayou.org.

[Back to Index](#)

New Members

Bernardo and Susan
Maldonado
3910 Echo Mountain Dr.
Kingwood TX 77345
281-360-4506
bamtx@kingwoodcable.net
Carolyn Goldman
3314 Larkwood Ln
Sugar Land TX 77479-2274
281-265-9419
gcarolyn758@yahoo.com

Mary Murphy
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Houston TX 77007
713-861-5455
mmurphy17@houston.rr.com
281-398-5744
Cecilia and Joe Gill
2106 Third Street
Galena Park TX 77547
713-674-8435
whitewaterider@aol.com

John Hightower
P O Box 2365
Sugar Land TX 77487
713-857-6058
papadoc1@att.net

For Sale/Wanted

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
<http://www.oldtowncanoe.com/sport.html>
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

Phoenix Vagabond Pokeboat (for 2 people)
Like a kayak, 40-lb Kevlar. natural Kevlar color, two
convertible paddles, two sets of foot braces, two flotation
bags, very stable, 16'5"L x 29"W x 15"H. Used once,
excellent shape Paid: \$2,189 Asking: \$1650
phone: (281) 837-0410 (please leave a message)
pager: (713) 415-7109 (after 3:00 PM weekdays)
e-mail: robcanet@hotmail.com

Discovery 174 canoes (2)
used (1998 models) \$450 each obo. For details contact
Mark McClain 972-253-4449 or see pictures and
descriptions at
<http://members.aol.com/canoecamping40/canoesale.html>
Mark McClain
Irving, Texas, USA

Buffalo Bayou Tour and Rainbow Lodge Picnic

[Back to Index](#)

WHO:

The Buffalo Bayou Partnership, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing Houston's historic waterway.

WHEN

Take a trip down the banks of Buffalo Bayou and learn about the habitat and history of Houston's historic waterway. On this 3-mile canoe trip, participants will travel down the Bayou at a leisurely pace to the outdoor elegance of Rainbow Lodge. Upon arrival at Rainbow Lodge, a picnic lunch will be provided.

WHEN:

Sunday, April 27 from 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

WHERE:

The tours meet at Spencer-Clements Park (5000 Memorial Drive). Participants will be transported by bus to Woodway and 610, where the canoes will enter the bayou. The tour will end at Shepherd drive, across the street from Spencer-Clements Park.

WHAT ELSE:

Advance reservations are *required*.

The cost is \$55 per person, which includes canoe and equipment rental. To purchase tickets, please call the Buffalo Bayou Partnership at (713) 752-0314, or email Gretchen Ferguson at gferguson@buffalobayou.org.

[Back to Index](#)

Sandy Truxillo's Memorial Weekend Devil's River Trip

[Back to Index](#)

With the water level high, Sandy Truxillo is offering his annual trip to Devil's River at a special rate for HCC members who have Class II paddling skills. This trip is one he normally offers to the public but he is restricting it for safety reasons this year. His description follows.

Canoe one day on the river that some call Texas' most unspoiled stream. Also hike to a 3000 year old Indian rock shelter and pictograph site.

Itinerary includes a visit to a 100+ year old winery in Del Rio, dinner at an excellent Mexican restaurant in Ciudad Acuna, and a 10 mile paddle on a section of the river that includes Dolan Falls and several Class II+ rapids (minimum Class II skills required).

Lodging choices include camping or bunkhouse lodging. Space is limited.

Contact Sandy Truxillo (713) 464-9488 or send email to sandyt@pdq.net

[Back to Index](#)

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.

*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*

From Linda Gorski in the UK



Click on image to enlarge.

Here's a photo of Donna and Bill Grimes and Karen and Jim Barton posing in front of Stonehenge Rapid ... at low water, of course! They are over here in the UK visiting me. Whenever we cross over the Thames or the Avon or the Wye on our travels they look longingly and wish they had their boats! Once a paddler ... always a paddler.

Scouts Need Boat Donations

Troop 889 has a high adventure program involving the "white water merit badge."

We are planning training sessions on Lake Woodlands, a trip to Hildalgo Falls and a weekend trip to the San Marcos / Blanco rivers in early August.

We have 9 scouts and 4 adults. We currently have 8 boats ranging from a 84' Hydra swift, pirouette, animas to G-force. We are in need of 5-6 more boats to fit the remainder. If you have any old ww boat(s) that is collecting dust, let me know. No boat is too old or too used. I will arrange pick up. San Antonio and Austin are not too far to come to get a boat.

Contact Peter Cragg at critters@houston.rr.com.

HCC Geocache Report

by John Bartos

We took a very pleasant trip out in the Lake Charlotte complex on Saturday and checked up on the HCC geocache while there. It is still intact and in good shape. There have just been a few visitors to it. Another good reason to check out a magnificent place to paddle. Water on the Lake Charlotte gauge was at 11.2 and that was superb. See more info on the cache at http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?ID=42594
