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HotLine 713.467.8857

Volume 31

September 2003

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Program - September 10, 2003

Freestyle Canoeing

Lillian Tigard, and John and Cindy Bartos will tell us about Freestyle paddling and the upcoming championships.

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 trip reports, news worthy items and any literary musings you wish to inflict on your paddling buddies to the Editor at the following address.

sherrib57@hotmail.com

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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

General Meeting Minutes

August 13, 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 at the meeting.

John thanked Mark Andrus for preparing the HCC taxes.

John introduced the officers and asked visitors to introduce themselves and tell a little about their paddling experiences.

John welcomed long time members Barry and Ann Bennick to the meeting after a long absence.

Members modeled their favorite summer paddling hat, and told a little bit about why it is a favorite.

The minutes from the July meeting were read and accepted.

The Purser's report was read and accepted.

Members told about paddling trips taken over the last month.

John Ohrt told about upcoming trips, and encouraged members to lead and attend trips.

Mary Z. introduced Mylinda Richardson who presented a wonderful program on trips on the Rio Grande.

Lillian Tigard will give the September program on freestyle paddling.

John announced that John Heath and Mike Galt both passed away. John was an expert on native kayaks, and had been at several Rendezvous. Mike was a freestyle expert and boat designer

and also attended several Rendezvous.

Respectfully submitted, Mary W. Carter

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

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Labor Day Float Trip
by Mary Ellen Zaborowski
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Photo by Paul Woodcock
Click on image to enlarge.

This wonderful river divides the states of Texas and Louisiana. This river has a good flow from below the Toledo Bend Dam at Hwy 63 down to the Anacoco Bayou, which gives us a good 28-mile float trip camping on beautiful white sand beach type bars. The weather was overcast with the threat of rain, yet this gave us protection from the UV rays of the burning sun reflecting off the white sand.



Photo by Paul Woodcock
Click on image to enlarge.

The shuttle to the take-out was provided by Leesville Parrish School District School Bus. This gave all the option to have your car/truck at the take-out when you wanted to float either two days or three days.



Photo by Paul Woodcock

Click on image to enlarge.

The first day out was filled with excitement of paddling and in the water to play to keep cool as we drifted on our journey down the river to the waiting campsite. Then that afternoon the tarps and large blue parawing provided us shelter from any sun or rain showers while camping on this white sand bar.



Photo by Paul Woodcock

Click on image to enlarge.

Finally in the evening the smell of T-Bone Steaks and fresh corn on the cob filled the air to tempt all that were hungry. The darkness of the night came upon us, with sounds of the frogs and owls along the river banks. Then this was interrupted briefly by a firework display that was fantastic. This gave an evening of joy to all ages. Then the quiet came upon us again with the night sounds drifting us back into sleep.



Photo by Paul Woodcock

Click on image to enlarge.

Morning came with the smell of coffee, eggs, tortillas, salsa. After packing, we headed off down the river for our next campsite in 14 miles. Others in our group opted to paddle out to the take-out Sunday Evening. After lunch we all had to gather under tarps with our children very near, against the approaching bad weather. The storm only lasted about 20 minutes, with hard beating rain, and strong wind shears. The storm passed and we continued paddling down the river to the second night of camping and the start of the "Red Neck Games" for the children and adults.

For the second night adults could enjoy the benefits that a "Margarita Barge" can give. All had a great time and we started back to camp with the smell of sizzling beef fajitas on the grill.

The evening rains passed with the stars coming out for our view of Mars and the moon before we drifted back into a peaceful sleep.



Photo by Paul Woodcock

Click on image to enlarge.

We were all awakened at 5:00 a.m by Danny Rowzee telling everyone the water was coming up real high and to get boats to dry ground. In the distance we heard the thunder and saw the lightening stikes. So we made sure everything was tied down to weather out this bad storm with high winds. Heading back to our tents was the safest thing to be in with this storm coming.

It finally struck, then blew out about 7:00, so we could have a good breakfast for a bunch of hungury peopl and kids. We had pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk and orange juice. After packing up for the last time, we had an easy good flowing paddle of 6 miles to the take-out about 11:00.

Packing the gear,canoes, sandy , tired happy kids, we then headed back to Houston, yet in our minds we will never forget " The River".

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6/27 arrived @ campground

6/28 paddled both upper and lower Ocoee in one day. Never mind this was the first day & my paddling "legs" weren't under me yet. Never mind I brought only the Slasher (which last year I said I wouldn't bring to WOR again). Yes I rolled some, but who knows how many swims I had. Beat up I still had fun. But, if I bring the Slasher only to big water again, someone please just shoot me. Ocoee was running noticeably higher than I remember during past runs. Really quite awesome.

6/29 paddled French Broad including Kayaker's Ledge & Frank Bell. Christy Long had an awesome roll in Frank Bell but flipped at the bottom and swam because a well meaning "rescuer" got in the way of her roll. This river also seemed higher than I remember from past trips. Really nice. 6/30 Section III of Chattooga. Again bigger water than I remember from past. Christy again had a great roll at top of Bull Sluice but was off line going over the first drop & flipped. She unfortunately had a face to rock confrontation with decapitation rock. Fortunately no teeth were lost/broken and she paddled the next day despite pain & worry. I was following Christy, horrified when she flipped, exultant when she rolled, horrified on her second flip, forgot about Christy when I flipped, swung out for roll, it didn't feel right so I tucked in and ran the drops hugging the bottom of my boat rolling up at the bottom. Again, don't paddle boats you can't handle on big water.

7/1 I missed a trip to the upper green by getting up too late. Damn!! Marilyn not concerned as she doesn't like paddling in the rain (this was Bill's day. Thank you Bill)

7/2 Set out to paddle the lower Green. It was in the trees (dangerous for most of us) and seemed to be just a fast flush down the river w/ most if not all fun spots washed out. Out caravan was spotted by a TV van that followed looking for a story. Susan Eda gave them an interview giving them river safety pointers and why we decided not to paddle. Went to Ashville to an AWSOME outdoor store, biggest in S.W. NC. Also went to the race course on the French Broad in Ashville. No gates were up. The Broad was really cooking!! Ate at Barleys, a place with lots of real beer on tap and lots more in bottles. They make very good calzonnes.

7/3 set out to paddle Raven Fork. It had all ready dropped. Paddled Oconoluftee (sp?). It was scrappy at the top but became a challenging technical run w/ no consequences and all had a good time.

7/4 The TELLICO!! No need to say more except that it was at a higher level than I'd seen it before. Thanks Bill! Loonng drive back to camp. Got to sleep at 1:00AM next day.

7/5 Wayne Dickert of NOC spent AM with open boaters and PM with kayakers on the Nantahala. I paddled an Esquiff "Zoom". I found this boat very sloww and hard to control despite outfitting by Mikey, which is the best outfitting I've seen short of customed to one person outfitting. Marilyn really liked Esquiff "Prodigy". It was very light and fast yet still maneuverable. We will watch to see how well this light boat wears.

7/6 Paddled on the Nantahala again and demoed a GTX outfitted as a C-1. I did not like this boat. It is pretty slow and very hard to roll. Made two practice rolls but actually swam once. I think this is because of the one size fits all outfitting that had my knees sliding all over. Marilyn demoed an Outrage and found it to be a heavy tub.

We then spent time w/family who were having a reunion in the area. During this time I saw someone turning flips in Nantahala Fall in a Liquid Logic boat outfitted as a C-1. I tried to follow him down the river and talk to him: What model? How did he like it? What did he weigh? How was it on the Ocoee (running the rapids. I could see it would be great playing in them). I want to convert a playboat but don't want to buy something I can't run rivers with without getting constantly trashed. I had my fill of that on Saturday!! I'm wondering about the difference between the Space Cadet, Pop, Session and Session+. The volume of these boats looks about right for my weight. If any one knows

anyone weighing 165-170 who has converted one of these boats, I'd like to talk to them. I've been told charging into an eddy in a Session + can be quite an "arresting" experience.

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The Scraping of Buffalo Bayou

by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski

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A tree-lined Buffalo Bayou, Waugh Drive to near Studemont, 1953

Photo courtesy of TexasFreeway.com.

Used with permission.

Few people who canoe or kayak Buffalo Bayou through Memorial Park fail to appreciate the fact that this segment of the bayou more closely resembles the bayou in its natural state than any other. One exception to that might be the wild and untamed stream as it flows through Barker Reservoir. But, that section is off limits to recreational paddling.

The creation of Barker Reservoir was an attempt to regulate the high volume flows of Buffalo Bayou through downtown. After major flooding in 1929 and 1935, there was a lot of pressure to try to solve the problem of devastating floods. Of course, Tropical Storm Allison in 2001 showed that the reservoir approach was not fool proof.

In any case, in addition to the creation of the reservoir, the U. S. Corps of Engineers recommended that Buffalo Bayou be channelized to improve the transport of flood waters to Galveston Bay. Channelization was done from the reservoir at Highway 6 to a point just above the what is now the West Belt.

A second phase of channelization took place during the 1950's between Shepherd Drive and Sabine Street. Between 1953 and about 1958, in conjunction with the construction of Memorial Drive into downtown, the banks of the bayou were cleared of their natural woodland environment. Both sides were scraped, as the process was called, and most of the trees were removed to be replaced by landscaped, grassy banks.



Buffalo Bayou, between Waugh Drive and Studemont, channelized and "scraped", c. 1958

Photo courtesy of TexasFreeway.com.

Used with permission.

It was also part of the design to create the concrete embankments and channel similar to what has been done to White Oak Bayou and Brays Bayou. Fortunately, that part of the plan failed to be implemented because of protests and a shortage of funding. The two photos clearly show the before and after conditions. Both pictures focus on the section of the bayou between Waugh Drive, with the Buffalo Motel on the southeast corner, and the railroad trestle that was just east of Studemont Street. The park land along the bayou is certainly an appealing and pleasant recreational area, but can you imagine how nice it would have been, if Buffalo Bayou had allowed to retain it's natural state all the way to downtown?

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New Members

Randall and Martti Cade

mmcade@txucom.net

Charles Campbell

charlescampbell@hotmail.com

Karen Geiger and Calvin
Doody

birdsguys@yahoo.com

Robert and Helen Ellis

bobellis@ev1.net

Lynn and Gerry Trenta

lynn@txtrentas.com

Kim Tweedel

tweedel@sbcglobal.net

For Sale

2001 Wenonah Aurora

16', burgundy Royalex, tandem with center/solo seat also, vinyl trim, very good condition, normal surface scratches. Good all around canoe for Texas waters. \$650.00

email:

robertflinn@sbcglobal.net

1979 Sawyer Cruiser

17'9", green fiberglass, aluminum gunwales, Good condition, with a few minor gelcoat chips and patches and the usual scratches, 450.00. Not a rock basher. Still very pretty and a very fast, sweet paddler.

email:

robertflinn@sbcglobal.net

Mohawk Probe 12

Solo playboat, Royalex. Fully outfitted w/ saddle, thigh straps and air bags. Paid \$600 4 yrs ago. Will take \$350 and throw in excellent wood paddle.

Call Rich Pollack at 713-432-1887 or email:

Shimshamrich@yahoo.com

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Classes

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Southwest Paddlesports Classes and Events

Sea Kayaking by Wayne Horodovich from the Univ. of Sea Kayaking

Sat. Oct. 18 the Texas Kayak Fishing Expo in Aransas Pass from 9-5. Cost \$125

Rolling lessons with Wayne Horodovic

Sun. Oct. 19 h from 9-1. \$60 Aransas Pass

Advanced strokes and maneuvers with Wayne H.

2-5 PM \$50 Aransas Pass

Sat. Oct. 11 Houston Paddlefest at Lake Woodlands from 12-4

Free Demo Day at Hidalgo Falls on the Brazos River

Sun. Oct. 12 Lunch Video Magazine vol. I & II will be shown (or some other latest release) at dusk.

Mon. Oct. 13 Hot Dog Lunch for those staying for Columbus Day

Patti Carothers

SouthWest PaddleSports

26322 IH 45 North

The Woodlands, TX 77386

281-292-5600 or 281-36PADDL (7-2335)

patti@paddlesports.com

website: <http://www.paddlesports.com>

Spring Woods Canoe Group

ARC Basic River Canoeing Class

American Red Cross basic river canoeing October 4 and 5. Contact Sue Eda by phone: (713)465-8711 or email: sseda@mail.esc4.com

ARC Basic River Kayaking Class

Offered by the Spring Woods Canoe Group October 4 and 5. Contact Sue Eda by phone: (713)465-8711 or email: sseda@mail.esc4.com

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Texas Freestyle Canoe Roundup

by Lillian Tigard

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On Columbus Day week-end, October 11 & 12, the Houston Canoe Club and the ACA will be sponsoring a Texas Freestyle Canoe Roundup. I will chair the event. We will have all the best Freestyle Canoe Teachers in the Country here to share their knowledge. It will be a two day event, with clinics for novice, intermediate and advanced Freestyle paddlers. We will have a special clinic for White water paddlers who want to learn freestyle. We will also do short 4-hour clinics for Tandem recreational canoe on Saturday. On Saturday night we will host the National Freestyle Canoe Competition under the lights.

I have been doing White Water Canoeing for over 20 years and swore I would never do Freestyle canoe until I got old. Well as all of us do, I got old. I started Freestyle Solo Canoe back in August, 2000, after participating in a class taught by Karen Knight. I wish now that I had started earlier. By submerging myself into Freestyle Canoeing I have gained greater balance, flexibility and boat control. Every time I get out on Whitewater, I can feel the difference. It is subtle but I know I am a better paddler. I do less and accomplish more.

Bob Foote, Nationally known Canoe Instructor, is now recommending Freestyle paddling to all of his White Water Students. He knows that it can improve their overall paddling.

By the way, Men's Solo Freestyle National Champion, Mark Molina, just won the International Competition in Rolling in Greenland for his age group. This is quite a major accomplishment. I am sure the flexibility, balance and discipline, he learned in Freestyle Canoeing helped him accomplish this great feat.

So I put a challenge out to all you white water paddlers and flat-water Paddlers, come join us in Sugar Land, close to Houston on October 11 & 12. It will be a two day event. I have set up a special clinic for White Water paddlers wanting to learn Freestyle Canoeing.

I will be sending out registration forms in August. If you are interested in attending please let me know and I will send a registration form directly to you. My email address is tigards2@hal-pc.org.

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