



www.houstoncanoeclub.org

HotLine 713.467.8857

Volume 33

November 2003

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Christmas Party December 13, 2003

Cheryl Cleary volunteered to organize the party and she could use your help with decorations, equipment, and music. Call Cheryl at 713-957-2538.

The Christmas party is the December general membership meeting and is a family affair. Please come join us!

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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Program - October 8, 2003

Bayou Preservation Association

BPA Executive Director Mary Ellen Whitworth will tell us about the BPA and work they are doing to preserve the bayou. She is a professional engineer with over 15 years of experience in environmental engineering.

We need your correct email address!

Please send your current email address to Marilyn Peery now.

Email address: mpeery@ev1.net.

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2004 Officers

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Officers elected at the November 12th general membership meeting are:

- Commodore: John Ohrt;
 - Vice Commodore: Mary Zabrowski;
 - Purser: Anna King;
 - Recorder Anne Olden
 - Newsletter editor Sherri Blifford;
 - Fleet Captain Fraser Baker;
 - Governor Ron Nunnely;
 - Governor Ken Anderson (for the remaining one year of Anne Olden _ s term).
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Pre-Thanksgiving Paddle on the Upper Guad/Medina

by Louis F Aulbach

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Sunday, November 23 - Tuesday, November 25

We are taking advantage of school holidays to do some paddling on the Upper Guad and/or the Medina, depending on the water.

Whitewater skills required.

Day trips. Camping at state park or campgrounds.

If you are interested in joining us, please let me know by e-mail:

lfa@hal-pc.org

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Freestyle Championships

by John Bartos

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Lillian Tigard - 2003 National Interpretive Canoeing Women's Solo Champion

Click on image to enlarge.

Photo by Fraser Baker

The 2003 ACA Interpretive Canoeing National Championships were held on October 11, in Sugar Land, Texas. In the opinion of many, it was the best presentation and best paddling ever. Everyone who performed is to be congratulated.



Click on image to enlarge.

Photo by Fraser Baker

The winners were:

- **Tandem**

- 1st place: Bob & Elaine Mravetz, Sharon Center, Ohio

- 2nd place: Roy and Peg Ivey, Anderson, South Carolina

- **Men's Solo**

- 1st place: Ray Halt, Erie, Pennsylvania

- 2nd place: Jonathan Hammond, Clayton, New York

- 3rd place: Tom Jenkins, Hughes Springs, Texas

- **Women's Solo**

- 1st place: Lillian Tigard, Sugar Land, Texas

- 2nd place: (Tie)

- Jill Aaron, Ashland, Massachusetts

- Elaine Mravetz, Sharon Center, Ohio

3rd Kim McMillan, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Other competitors and exhibitors were:

- Elise Windus (Sugar Land, Texas)
- Donna Hammond (Alexandria Bay, NY)
- Karen Knight (Sugar Land, Texas)
- Bob Foote (Sugar Land, Texas)
- Tom Fink (Slidell, Louisiana).



Jonathan Hammond

[Click on image to enlarge.](#)

Photo by Fraser Baker

The performances were under the lights, aided by a nearly full moon and a pleasant evening with virtually no wind. Ray Halt paddled to a song of his own composition called "Thank You For Freestyle".

Jonathan Hammond recovered from a swim and wowed the crowd with his tenacity. And he is eleven years old.

The crowd liked the diversity of interesting music and paddling styles.

Tom Fink was able to identify the variety of Mayfly hatch during his excellent routine.



Tryon Lindabury ran the sound system and yours truly did the announcing while missing partner CEW.

[Click on image to enlarge.](#)

Photo by Fraser Baker

Judges were Tom MacKenzie and Anne Lindabury. They stayed up all night working on the evaluations of the routines.

Thanks much to the ACA Freestyle Committee, the ACA, the Houston Canoe Club and mostly to Lillian and Chet Tigard who put on a fine Freestyle Event. There was further support in the form of premiums for winners from Bell Canoe, Chacos, NRS and others.



Click on image to enlarge.
Photo by Fraser Baker

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A Perfect Day for Paddling

by John and Anne Olden

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Houston enjoyed a perfect fall day on Saturday the 18th of October. For a week Buffalo Bayou had been running high from the previous week's rain. A call to the Army Corps of Engineers in Galveston on Thursday reassured us the water would be down by Saturday, and it was. The new bridge over Woodway is finished, so there are no longer pilings in the bayou and most of the debris has been cleared away. Nevertheless, there is still rebar and broken concrete, so it's important to be careful; also, a dropping bayou leaves mud behind.

Thirteen people made the trip. There were the usual stumps and downed limbs in the early part of the trip, but no serious strainers. The pilings under the railroad bridge were visible and with a little current flowing there was some swift water just beyond. The other obstacle, a pipe that runs across the bayou farther down, was passable on the right. A great blue heron flew ahead of us occasionally, and kingfishers and other birds were heard. We didn't spot any of the warmer weather reptiles out sunning, but we did see a 6-8' alligator shortly before the takeout on the left. His eyes and snout were visible at the surface, and his tail was out on a sandbar. The usual takeout just above Shepherd Drive on the left was muddy and overgrown, so the steeper but dryer bank under the bridge was used. Many of the paddlers were new to the bayou, and all agreed it is a quiet and relaxing paddle in the heart of Houston.

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Natasha Canada's presentation on whitewater trips in Russia brought gasps at the sight of boiling whitewater during the November meeting. She said she began her first whitewater trip in May of 1978 while she was in college, using a folding kayak. She capsized in icy cold water, had her first shot of vodka, and says, "Needless to say, I was hooked."

But the serious trips (class 3 to 5) came a little bit later when she started to work. There was a very strong tourist club in the company where she worked. The club had hiking, mountaineering, and white water sections.

"I tried hiking and skiing but my heart belonged to water." "During the 1980's I made at least two trips per year (it was common in our club): a week trip during May holidays and a 2 to 3-week trip during summer vacation. Our company encouraged employees to participate in these kind of activities so it even paid for our tickets. This is why we went not only to Karpaty, Karelia, and Caucasus (popular destinations in the European part of Russia) but Siberia and Kamchatka as well. I need to mention that all our trips were expedition style: sleeping in tents, cooking over a campfire, taking all necessities with us because we were in uninhabited wilderness for the most part... Briefly speaking, survivor style."

"Perestroika drastically changed the life of the people in USSR. There is a big gap in my water trips in 1990's. In 1995 I moved to the US. Four years ago I joined HCC and learned American way to enjoy the river. I liked it! But at the same time I missed the expedition style trips. So in summer 2002 I took part in white water trip (class 4 to 5) on Kola Peninsula. It was new (and very interesting!) region for me because during Soviet time it was close to the general public."

Natasha showed photos from some of her expeditions in class 4 and 5 whitewater. Most of her trips are in wilderness areas with either folding kayaks or inflatable ones packed in to the site. She described picking berries and catching fish to supplement the porridge packed. One of the more interesting segments of her talk was a description of a wilderness sauna using heated rocks and plastic drapes.

Recently she opened a Bed and Breakfast in St. Petersburg. She takes a few hardy souls on treks in Russia during the summer months, combining sight-seeing with a wilderness paddle. Her introduction to the geography and scenery was fascinating.

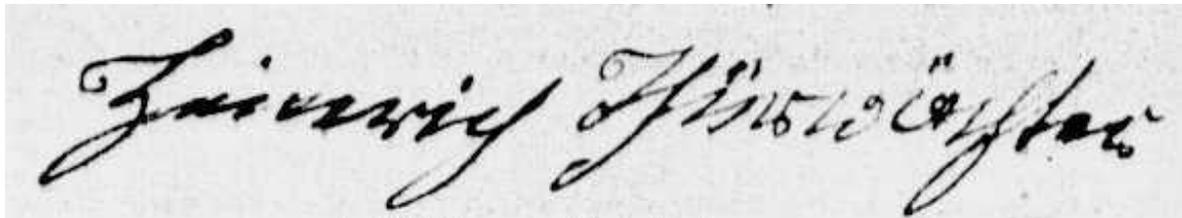
How do you spell that?... the peculiar story of Heinrich Thürwächter
by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski

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As one of the first Germans to immigrate to Texas, having arrived in the Austin Colony in 1827 from Germany via Ohio to apply for land, Heinrich Thürwächter should earn a modest, but respectable place in the history of Texas.

Further to his credit is the fact that Thürwächter, a carpenter by trade, lived and worked in the prospering commercial port of Harrisburg on Buffalo Bayou prior to 1836. He enlisted the Army of the Republic of Texas and fought with distinction at the Battle of San Jacinto.

Andrew Forest Muir, the noted historian of the City of Houston, has estimated that Thürwächter's name has been recorded in some fourteen different variants of its spelling. From the earliest entry on Stephen F. Austin's applications for land, to the muster rolls of the Texas Army, to deed records to land in the City of Houston, and to depositions for a veteran's pension later in his life, Thürwächter's name took various forms, including Durwechter, Tarwester, Tearwechter, Tierwester, Terwechter, Terwester, Terwichter, Tewister, Therwachter, Thurwester, Tierwhester, Tushmaker, Tuwester and Thurwachter.



Heinrich Thuerwaechter's signature.

Why was it that they could not get his name right?

Muir suggests that it may be due, in large part, to Thürwächter's personality and to the fact that he spoke English with a thick German accent. The recording agent often did his best to spell his name phonetically, but the results were mixed.

Known to be somewhat of an eccentric, Thürwächter insisted on signing his name in the old gothic-style German script that he learned as a young man in Germany, even late in his life. The two vowels with umlauts were especially puzzling. Needless to say, his signature was indecipherable to nearly every official in Texas.

Thürwächter's original grant of land, issued in 1832, was a tract on Brays Bayou extending north toward Buffalo Bayou. Today his tract stretches from Brays Bayou to I-45 and encompasses Texas Southern University.

Heinrich Thürwächter is known in most historical accounts today as Henry Tierwester. His name is perpetuated in its Anglicized form in Tierwester Street on Houston's southeast side.

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For Sale and Wanted

Supernova, Solo--- Red Nova Craft Canoe

Kev/Spectra, 48 pounds length 14'10" Visit www.novacraft.com to see a picture of the canoe.

Barely used. \$1,100.00 Call Nancy- cell at 713.875.4476 or home 281.240.2552.

Sugar Land area. Nancy.Bell@fortbend.k12.tx.us

2-person kayak

Perception Keowee II, yellow to sell for \$300 (or best offer) or trade for something smaller and lighter. It has been garage stored on its side. Sherri Bond email:

SL007BOND@aol.com

Kayak

2002 Blackwater 11.5', muti red/purple. Excellent Condition, stored in a garage.

Need to sell as moving. Only \$450.

Length: 11'6" / Width: 25 1/4" / Weight: 45 lbs. Cockpit: 36" x 21" / Capacity: 280lbs.

Contact Mandy at 713-822-4317 or email: mandy_almond@yahoo.com

Canoes

Several canoes for sale

Call Don at 713-774-1028

Seakayaks and canoe

A few seakayaks and canoe for sale. Prices range from \$250 to \$1350. Chris:

Reply via email surfseeker@crescentb.net

Boy Scout Troop needs a used kayak

I have a boy scout in my troop that is looking for a used Tandem kayak to purchase. Something relatively stable, it won't be used for racing but rather paddling bayous and marshes for leisure. Please let me know if you have something you would like to sell or if you know where I should look. Thanks, Roy Lewis

email: WWILDCHILD@aol.com

Kayak-like boat for two

Phoenix Vagabond Pokeboat (for 2 people), 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: \$1150 phone: (281) 837-0410 (please leave a message) pager: (713) 415-7109 (after 3:00 PM weekdays)

email robcanet@hotmail.com

Wrecks I have had, part 2

by Paul Woodcock

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This is part 2 of a series of wrecks that I have had and what I have learned from them.

The Water Fall

There was a huge island in front of us; to the left was a 30-foot water fall. The portage trail was long and the guide book said we could run the three rapids on the left. It would add three miles to the trip but that is the route we decided take.

The river narrowed down and we could scout the first two rapids from a high rock. The third one we could barely see and there was no easy way to scout it, but the guide book said it could be run and from this distance it looked easy enough.

We ran the first two with no problem but the route was narrow and the current extremely fast. As we raced on to the third, one cut between the island and the shore, I heard Mary yell "It's a waterfall!" There was nothing to do but just power through.

I made two strokes and felt the boat leap of into the air. We hit the water with a shock and the canoe heeled over on the right gunnel. I leaned over the left side and my paddle didn't reach the water. We were rocketing along on the side of the boat. It seemed like minutes before the Bear settled down upright and I was surprised that there was little water in it.

When I looked back I could see Dana lining his canoe through the gap. It was then that I realized that I had lost my glasses. I had them strapped on but they were gone. I had a bruise on my check where I must have hit the gunnels trying to keep the canoe from going over.

We searched to boat to no avail. I had a spare pair but it was in my York pack so we decided just to paddle to the next campsite. When we were unloading the canoe there they were in the stern.

Lesson learned: Never trust a guide book

The Eddy

We could not find the portage trail so we assumed that the rapids could be run. We were on the left bank and Dana was on the right bank. He yelled "You can run it just keep close to the rock on the left."

We had run a small rapid to get to the eddy we were in, so we could not go upstream and then hit the rapid straight on.

We got the bow right next to the rock and I felt the current swing the stern around I tried to draw but it had no effect. Bear is 17-ft long and there were about 16 feet 11 inches between the rocks we hit and the boat turned over.

I surfaced watching the canoe go sideways toward the rocks where it would T-bone between two rocks. I swam to the canoe forcing it around one of the rocks and into an eddy.

I saw Mary circling in a huge 100 ft. eddy and saw that she would circle to where I was. I walked over to Dana and we were discussing the wreck when I heard a yell from Mary as she was making her second circle around the eddy.

She could not stand up the first time around. Dana and I waded out and helped her out as she came to shore making comments about two old farts talking and not helping her out of the water.

Lesson learned: Never ignore a woman who is yelling at you.

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Houston Canoe Club Officers and General Meeting Minutes

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Officers for 2003

Commodore: **John Ohrt**

713.877.1504

jcohortjr@aol.com

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713.884.1925

coachz66@hotmail.com

Recorder: **Mary Carter**

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Newsletter Editor: **Sherri Blifford**

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sherrib57@hotmail.com

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william.grimes@centerpointenergy.com

Governor 2: **Anne Olden**

713.864.0205

aolden@ix.netcom.com

Governor 3: **Paul Woodcock**

713.722.4945

plwdcck@yahoo.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

General Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2003

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

The meeting was held at the Red Cross building and Commodore John Ohrt presided. John introduced the officers.

John announced that the pool sessions at the Y are still cancelled until another location can be located.

Lillian Tigard announced that the Texas Freestyle Canoe Roundup and National Freestyle championship would be held in Sugarland October 11 and urged everyone to attend.

John Ohrt gave a brief talk about marking your canoe gear with your name and phone number.

Mary Z. introduced Mary Ellen Whitworth from the Bayou Preservation Association who gave a slide show about Buffalo Bayou. Mary Ellen announced that Bob Arthur was a member of the BPA canoe trails committee and urged everyone to visit the BPA web site for a listing of canoe trips in Houston.

The minutes from the September meeting were read and accepted. The Purser's report was accepted.

Fleet Captain Fraser Baker asked for descriptions of trips taken and Grady Hicks gave a first hand experience of the Safari. Upcoming trips were announced.

John Ohrt announced that Wayne Horodovich would teach sea kayaking October 18; the annual freeze trip will be January 31; the Christmas party will be December 13.

Paul Woodcock announced the nominations for officers for next year. Commodore – John Ohrt; Vice Commodore – Mary Zabrowski; Purser – Anna King; Recorder – Anne Olden; Newsletter editor – Sherri Blifford; Fleet Captain – Fraser Baker; Governor – Ron Nunnelly; Governor – Ken Anderson (for the remaining one year of Anne Olden's term).

Thanks to the retiring officers. Don't forget to paddle!

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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Renewal Time

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It's that time again. Please renew your HCC membership now. For all the fun of trips, education, good programs, and outings the price is small. Fill out the form and mail it with your check now.

[Click here for the Renewal Form](#)

Don't forget to renew your ACA membership, too, so you'll be covered on trips.
See you on the river!

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