



Houston Canoe Club
Water Line



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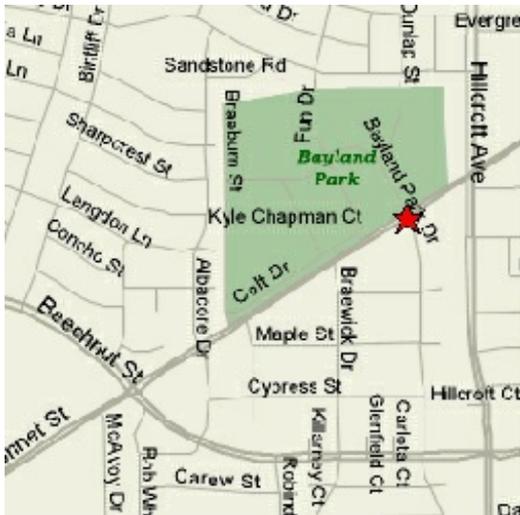
Meeting Announcement!

The next Houston Canoe Club general meeting will be Wednesday, June 14, 2006, and will be the Spring Cleaning/Gear Swap Meet!.

It's time to do some (late) spring cleaning! Get out all your old, clean, gently used paddling equipment to sell, trade or barter with your friends at HCC. This is also a great time to fill up all that empty storage space you have in your garage (ha, ha).

Just about anything related to paddling is fair game: Paddles, Boats, PFD's, Videos, Books and more. Please make sure that all items look and smell clean.

The meeting begins at 7 PM at Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet, in the community building. The park is located just west of Hillcroft on Bissonnet.



The Waterline is the monthly newsletter of the Houston Canoe Club, Inc. The Waterline is made possible by your dues and critically depends on member contributions. Please submit items to the Editor at joanne8678@yahoo.com



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A Note from Jo Anne

Summer is in full swing here in Texas, so take this opportunity to enjoy the cool waters on hot sunny days. A couple reminders for these extra warm days:

- Drink lots of water while you are out in the heat. Heat exhaustion can sneak up on you and water will help you keep it under control.
- Sunscreen, sunscreen, sunscreen!
- Even if it makes you warm, always wear your PFD!
- Remember that booze and boating don't mix.

I hope you enjoy your warm weather paddling! Have a great summer.

Also remember that if you are interested in some instruction to kick off your safe summer paddling season, [contact me](#) or anybody else on the Instructor list at houstoncanoecub.org and find out what is coming up that will fit your needs!

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The New Rio Vista

by Robert Langley



Once upon a time there were three waves, a papa wave, a mama wave, and a baby wave.



The papa wave was too gnarly, the baby wave was too boring, and the mama wave was just right. So what did the silly yackers do? They all went and played on the big gnarly wave of course!

Friday morning, May 26, at seven, Rob and I went to try out the new Rio Vista Whitewater Park. By 9:00 am we were joined by kayakers from Houston, Dallas, Austin, and San Marcos.

Access

The landscaping is not finished yet but I have to say that they have dramatically improved access from river right. It is now an easy walk from the parking lot to the river. Once the landscaping is complete it should be a great place to just sit and take in the view.

The First Drop, Papa Bear



In many ways the first drop is similar to the old dam, more scenic but many similarities. The water drops through the notch and slides over a smooth rock like the old dam. The wave at the bottom is also about the same size but a little longer. That is where the

similarities end. Now about the time you open your eyes after going through the wave it is time to do something important. There is a big eddy on river left. On river right the designers have placed three large rocks right on what would be the eddy line or the wave train. The last of these was designed to flip kayakers.

The Second Drop, Mama Bear



The second drop is smaller and a little stickier but still a working wave. Although not as intense, it also offered opportunities to practice your roll. The eddies on either side of the river are pretty easy to catch but neither offers much still water. The water circulates around T-boning back in to the main current. This wave

is better suited for beginners but be prepared for a few scratches on your boat. At current levels the nose of my boat was in the notch and took a beating as I slid back and forth across the wave. Make sure everyone is wearing protective footwear when playing here and downstream. The gravel the team used to shape the bottom of the river is sharp, and probably will be until erosion has its way with them.

The Third Drop, Baby Bear

The third drop is not particularly interesting at current levels but is some place to play and a good place for beginners to practice ferrying. The water is pretty shallow making rolls difficult but self rescue easy.

Timing

I expected it to be crowded on a Friday before a holiday weekend. We got there early and had good paddling until about 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. Despite probably peaking at close to twenty boaters it was not too crowded with the three drops. We came back after lunch about 2:00 p.m. and the place was a zoo. There were two diehard paddlers left but they soon gave up and left.

The moral is that the tubers and swimmers own the afternoon so get there early.

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Jorge I. Pereda, Jr.
770 N. IH 35, Apt 911
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Friday, May 12, 2006

RE: Houston Canoe Club

To the fine people at the Houston Canoe Club,

This is the wet and disoriented fellow on the red Coleman sit-on-top you encountered last Sunday. I am not sure where to start, so I will start abruptly.

Had I not met you fellows, I would have faced two options when faced with the first rapids:

First option on the menu would have been prudence. Dock and try to walk on wet clothes and sandals to any populated area, and call a taxi. Two things could have happened then. I could either have found help quick, and call it a mean, tiresome, and generally forgettable day, or I could have wandered around desperately until nightfall, at which time I would have been forced to call the police, embarrassed and dehydrated.

My second option, would have been braving the rapids by myself. Here, two other possibilities arise (staying on the boat not realistically being one of them). My ride would have been lost immediately (with my phone, water, and car-keys). With luck, I would have made it to a shore, only slightly beaten, but still water-less, car-less, and lost. The second and last possibility – well – things could really have gotten ugly.

But I found you fellows. The statistics of it are amazing. What is the probability of meeting a group of paddling instructors at the start of the very first serious rapid? Seriously, had I woken five minutes earlier or later that day, our paths would very probably not have crossed. I feel as if I had fallen off the roof of a 20-story building, and landed on a speeding trailer loaded with pillows.

No one wants to have to wonder whether that one guy they met made it, so it would be natural to take a fellow out of the water, check for a means of communication, and send him on his way after pointing him in the general direction of a road, to meditate on the consequences of irresponsibility and solo-kayaking.

However, you went high above and far beyond this very reasonable path.

First, the excellent fellow with the keep-your-cool nose-clip stayed behind the rest of the group to explain to me that whatever happens, I should not try to find the bottom with my feet in a current, because I risk being stuck and pulled underwater. I laugh about it now, but this is not the kind of thing one knows instinctively. He could have very well considered his part done, and proceeded to follow his team, but instead, he walked back with me to show me exactly where to ride the rapid through.

What I'm trying to say here, and I think I'm already being too wordy, is that you could have left me marooned, but you didn't. You could have then exasperatedly made sure I traversed the rapids with no heavy risk, and try to get me to a reasonable spot in dry land ASAP. But you didn't. You took me in as a friend, and not only did Susan (and I'm sure others I didn't see while swimming), with super-natural speed rescue my kayak and loose bottle several times (and I really have no idea how they did it, so amazingly quickly), but you fellows made sure I had a killer time. As if this weren't enough, the very cool Rudy Rivers gave me instruction, encouragement, and got me back to my car several miles away! You were on a weekend trip planned specifically to have fun with experienced teammates, but you took the time to do free what I am sure some of you have charged for at one point or another. I'm pretty sure the responsibility of having a complete newbie infiltrate your group is not exactly weekend material. Yet, the very aptly named Rudy Rivers not only gave me a pretty expert and patient course on the basics of rapid navigation, but he (and the whole group, really) encouraged me to have fun, and spare the repeated damage to my dignity (ha!) no thought.

And I did. I had a killer time. I had recently been brooding on the idea of buying a motorcycle for therapeutic purposes. I am convinced that adrenaline in controlled doses is not only healthy, but necessary, and my desk job has really been giving me plenty of bile, but no adrenaline. After last weekend, though, the prospect of a motorcycle seems idle.

I think I am in love with the sport, and you might be glad to hear that I have enrolled for instruction in San Marcos. I would have asked one of your gang, but I imagine you would be much more interested in instructing someone who has a remote idea of what he is doing, and I will not be that person for some time.

You are an amazingly fun and good-natured group, and I am lucky to have met you for reasons that go far beyond safety.

If any of you ever has any business in or around New Braunfels, please do not hesitate to call or drop by if you need anything at all (lodging, transportation, storage, conversation, tea, or whatever else):

Office: 2405 S. IH 35, Suite J
Home: 770 N. IH 35, Apt 911
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Cell: 512 2979949
Home: 830 214 6524

Well, I think that pretty much covers it. I should really work on writing shorter letters. Grateful, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jorge I. Pereda, Jr." with a stylized, cursive script.

Jorge I. Pereda, Jr.

P.S. I posted a copy of this letter to P.O. Box 925516, Houston, Texas, 77292-5516, and emailed one to Rudy Rivers.



River Lunches

by Dave Ramsey

The following is a compilation from members of the Carolina Canoe Club and others. Thank you for your contributions. They are great! If someone has something to add, send it to me and I'll add it to the list: firstbackpacker@yahoo.com See you on the water (especially at WOR).

--Dave Ramsey

DEFINITION: "River Lunches" are lunch time meals that are compact (for easy storage in a small boat such as a kayak) and require no refrigeration or heating and require no utensils other than occasionally a knife, fork, or spoon or "spreader".

A few comments of my own - Dave Ramsey:

- Pack lunch in Ziploc and use it for trash.
- To spread stuff, I take a 5/8" x 7" "craft stick" (called "Craft Paddles" at Wal-Mart). Use and then throw it in the Ziploc with rest of trash.
- ALWAYS remember a plastic spoon (or 2) for items requiring a spoon - it's real messy if fingers or tongue is used exclusively.
- Like Jones Wayne (below), I like Boyardee Ravioli with the pull-off lid. I also like Hormel's Sweet & Sour Chicken & Dinty Moore Beef Stew with the pull-off lid. (Hormel has several other good ones too.)
- I always add a dessert such as Jell-O Pudding Cup or cookies like ginger snaps.
- Several items I love (not together): Edam cheese; Peter Pan Honey Roast peanut Butter; Pizza like Chris Nudi (below), but without chicken or sausage and not frozen; Quiznos Angus Beef sandwich will last till noon; Lunchables Pizza, the all cheese kind (without meat); Pickled egg; Slim Jims & cheese.

R.M. Martin (Robert) Robert:

Usually I eat a big breakfast before paddling. I take enough food with me to stay the hunger until the take out. A typical lunch for me on the river is a Snickers bar, fruit cup, Vienna Sausages, and a diet coke. It's simple and can be bought in any convenience store. I then gorge myself the first chance I get after winding up shuttle.

Paul Scrutton:

I was using those 'Tuna-Lunch-Kit things' for a while. They seemed like a reasonable solution for lunch. I'm now back to power-bars/granola bars, preferably with the silver foil wrap that makes them waterproof and easy to store in your PFD pocket, so you don't actually need to get out of your boat to have lunch.

Marc Harkness:

The freshest available whole-wheat flour tortillas are a great start for any sort of river meal. I like to spread a bit of mango chutney or rhubarb/strawberry preserves on the inside, and then fill them with strips of chicken (lightly floured and browned) and julienne squash and zucchini, and perhaps some baby spinach or sprouts and shaved Parmesan. Some good Dijon mustard. Mayo if you're feeling adventurous. Cut it in half, roll it up in cellophane, bag it, and you have something that travels well in a small dry bag.

Pack a Nalgene of some pliant white wine, say a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc, and

some breakdown plastic stemware for yourself and your mates, and there is a fine noontime river repast. String quartet - optional.

Gary Gurkin:

Nathans' grilled over an open fire. (or, if you absolutely must be a Philistine, Beef master's) Or if you want to molest some mollusks, grilled oysters.

David Blumberg:

Reply to Gary Gurkin above: try Hebrew Nationals

Greg Runyon:

First, my river lunch is dependent on the size breakfast I have had and how long/difficult the river run, and how long the drive is to the put-in/take out. I like to have a pretty large and good breakfast with lots of protein and carbs, and strong coffee. This usually gives me the energy and focus to paddle most of a day, even without lunch.

However, with longer days, less breakfast, or more difficult river I prefer a relatively light lunch since I found out that I am sluggish after a big lunch. My optimum lunch is a two-layer peanut butter sandwich (no concerns about storage), a bottle of protein drink (Strawberry Boost is preferred) and one can of "Red Bull". Then, I am good to go. Sometimes I will also have a protein bar. I like "Marathon" made by Snickers.

Greg Joyner:

I like to bring boiled eggs in a baggie, and grapefruit already cut into bite size pieces. Make sure you save your baggies for your empty shells - energy food and healthy.

Doug Sprouse:

Last weekend we talked about bringing the leftover oatmeal in a Ziploc, but not really sure how that would do in the dry bag. Usually I'll take some sort of energy bar and fruit of some sort, better if it is the kind that will hold up a bit. Bananas don't work so well. Apples, oranges, grapefruit, that sort of stuff.

If I plan ahead, bagel sandwiches with your choice of in-betweens hold up pretty well. I do also like to bring tortillas, and some sort of filling in a Tupperware. You can pre-mix your beans, salsa, and cheese, whatever.

Charles & Nancy Brabec:

I've brought peaches and tomatoes in a Rubbermaid container that almost exactly fits the item and had success. I've also put strawberries in rectangular containers. As a diabetic I've learned that I have to have plenty of protein plus fat. So I make salami sandwiches on low carb tortillas. Lean ham or turkey doesn't work. And, add whatever fresh fruit is available. - Nancy

Bowman, Everett:

Ingeniously packaged in a sanitary, waterproof, biodegradable wrapping, bananas are an excellent and nutritious choice, so long as no one sits on them during the shuttle.

Larry Ausley:

I'd add two words: Beanie Weenies!

Nelson Highley:

I'm surprised that no one has mentioned those peanut butter on cheese crackers - the snack that keeps half the business community going. They need to be waterproofed somehow but they are good even after being sat upon during the shuttle! And, they go well with bananas.

Back in the 70's a group of us would try and do a blackwater run every New Year's Day and it was our practice to provide a fairly elaborate lunch for it. One year we had three small backpacking type stoves along. We took along steaks frozen in dry ice so that they had all morning to thaw. (Don't try this with chicken - steak ages, chicken spoils.) The meal included soup, salad, steak, rolls and fruit for dessert. We toasted the New Year with sparkling fruit juice in genuine polycarbonate Champaign glasses. (Yes, we actually had a checkered table cloth too.)

Jim Mead:

Easy Cheese - no refrigeration needed, keeps forever, and comes in a crush proof aerosol can. I prefer the sharp cheddar. It's usually in the grocery store aisle with chips

and crackers. Only drawback is that if it gets too cold the can won't extrude cheese, but warming it under your paddling gear for a few minutes usually works. Bring a couple of bagels in a ziplock, apply the Easy Cheese, and you're set.

Clif bars are also good (especially the fudge brownie, apricot and peanut butter crunch) and pack a lot of calories in a small package. Chocolate Pop Tarts are a guilty pleasure snack on the morning trip to the put in.

The small travel size bottles of waterless hand cleaner are handy to have. If I can't wash my hands, I try to hold food with the zip lock or sandwich bag.

Fruit - I go with apples. Peaches and bananas squash too easily. Oranges require too much handling with grimy hands to peel. Pack out cores and peels in a ziplock.

Nancy Hight:

SpaghettiOs® - Low fat, high carbs, fair amount of protein, flip-top tops that fit back into the can when you are done, tasty hot or cold. Each delicious serving of these tender little O's provides a serving of vegetables, a serving of grains AND at least SIX essential vitamins and minerals.

Brian Carver:

This is a must read if you insist on bringing any snacks on the river. Of course I found the review of Sepasang Naga Squid Cracker to be delight!

http://www.taquitos.net/snacks.php?page_code=25

When I went on the Grand Canyon, we were outfitted with Canyon REO and they did a wonderful job and setting up lunches. Everyday we would have sandwiches, fruit, and some kind of Gatorade. Then after all that they would have cookies or snacks. One of the snacks, I came away with is roasted Taquitos brand Corn Nuts. I found it's a hearty snack that you could through into a PFD eat on the fly and don't care if you drop part of it. The birds will eat them!

I just found them CORN NUTS!

Jones Wayne:

I always take Chef Boyardee Ravioli or similar with the pull-off lid and a fruit cup. It is indestructible and I can handle eating it cold. People do look at me funny at times. I wash the remainders out in the river and put it all back in my small dry bag. The downside is that my dry bag has been stained permanently red and smells strangely of a combination of sunscreen (which I keep there, too) and tomato sauce. Don't forget to pack a spoon.

JS:

Smoked Gouda Cheese, Pepperoni, Swiss cheese, Atkins Bar

Diane Owens:

I like cheese, Triscuits and some homemade trail mix consisting of dehydrated fruit and nuts. Particularly the string cheese can withstand not being refrigerated for a day. Other cheeses do as well, but they get a little greasy. Cured meat like salami and pepperoni, work well, too, because of the high salt content.

Gene Langlinais Gene.Langlinais@earthtech.com:

PBJ on Cinnamon raisin bread Ummmmmm!

Chris Nudi:

Freeze pizza in plastic bags the night before and by lunch time your pizza is ready - not hot, but any food tastes great on the river, pizza better than most - lots of people eat it cold.

Marilyn Gist:

One of my favorite river lunches at WOR was in 1994 on the Nantahala. While running the shuttle, we stopped midway to leave a large whole watermelon tied in a net hidden in the (cold) little creek that joins the Nantahala on river right just at the surfing spot beach. The surfing spot is on river left, can't remember the "official" name of that spot, but any cold creek would do. Someone carried a large knife in their boat carefully wrapped in cardboard. It was a warm day and we thoroughly enjoyed the fresh, cold watermelon midway down the river! So did everyone else who was there or

stopped by at the time, as it was a whole lot of watermelon!

Another day, two of the women in our group were too pregnant to paddle, so they met us at Ferebee with hand-churned homemade peach ice cream. WOW!!

Other than that, my favorite on the river lunch is a bagel with cream cheese. Don't really want anything too heavy while paddling hard, and it makes me less nervous about refrigeration than carrying meat cold cuts in a sandwich. I do generally freeze my water in an old Gatorade bottle (a small one) the night before, and keep that in my small insulated lunch box to keep stuff cold. It's melted enough to give me a still cold drink by lunchtime but has kept my lunch cool in the process. Just leave a little room in the bottle for expansion before you throw it in the freezer. Can't do that at WOR of course unless you are renting a cabin with a freezer, so I try to fill up that Gatorade bottle with ice from the cooler instead.

Jim Wei - J&J Computer Service:

Powergels, small enough to carry in the pfd pocket, and easy to eat enough to munch one down in an eddy while waiting for the group to run down. I hardly ever stop for lunch on rivers.

Tiffany Mozingo:

I use an Everything bagel and make a Salami and Swiss sandwich with an apple. In the winter, a small thermos of soup, or hot cider is great.

Mary and Jack Hebrank:

A bagel with cream cheese and a large apple, preferably followed by a homemade brownie. I have a very high metabolic rate. If I don't stop to eat I'll be missing moves and missing rolls long before the takeout. - Mary

Gil Williams:

Peanut butter and jelly sandwich and a trail mix of M&Ms and your favorite nuts and stuff.

Larry Stewart:

On the shorter trips I bring a Snickers Marathon bar or two, some beef jerky and plenty of water or Gatorade.

On longer trips a good ole MRE (Meal, Ready to Eat) that can be bought in army surplus stores and online does a great job full of calories, protein, and has a heater pack so you can hot food!

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Bob Foote's Grand Canyon Presentation

by Christy Long



Cliff (left) and Skip awed by the Grand Canyon presentation.



Full room with people standing along the back wall



Rick Brunson (left) presenting Bob Foote with a thank you token for a great discussion and presentation on how Grand Canyon trips have evolved over the years.



Camp Mohawk and New Park

by Natalie Weist

In my neverending quest for new public places to put boats in the water, I noticed a listing for Camp Mohawk on Chocolate Bayou – or at least it seemed it should be on the Bayou, the turn being right across Hwy 35 from the Chocolate Bayou Park.

Perhaps those of you who are of Boy Scouting persuasion knew this camp from those activities. In fact, even with the big green Camp Mohawk signs on 35, the next sign on the road itself says “Private Road”, so I am assuming the park is so brand new in the Brazoria County management, they just haven’t removed the sign (“private road”, that is). In any case, there are brand new renovations going on at the park and it is a lovely facility. Not only are there spaces for overnight camping, there are also dormitory structures sleeping 30, 40, and 42 people that can be rented, for a fee; and pavilions, chapel, and campsites. AND a nice, sizable lake, that would be ideal for canoe/kayak instruction. Indeed, they have a ranger certified in kayak instruction and they have set up 2 hour kayaking classes for this summer!

The kayaking instruction will take place June 22, July 13, and July 27. Cost is \$25 per person, and requires pre-registration. Call 281 581-2319 or (979) 864-1541 to sign up. For those of you who really like to get your hands dirty, they are also offering “Handmade Native American Pottery” classes on June 20, July 11, and July 25, again at 2 p.m. No fee listed, but you must pre-register.

The lake does not connect to Chocolate Bayou, so wouldn’t work as an alternate putin to the boat ramp on the south side of Hwy 35.

To get to Camp Mohawk, travel highway 35 south from Alvin, approximately 8 miles, just past the crossing of Chocolate Bayou. Whoa, pardner, turn right at the Camp Mohawk sign. Ignore that “private road” sign and proceed to the entrance of the park. For more information about the park, go to www.brazoriacountyparks.com on the Internet.

I didn’t paddle the lake, and there wasn’t a huge (but a very easy) access waterfront in the park. Seems to me like some good potential for a revived Canoe Rendezous? And, if you are willing to consider that possibility, Oyster Creek Municipal Park, by the town of Oyster Creek, has even longer and more accessible waterfront, covered pavilion, flush toilets, and a very large picnic/camping area that would be worth checking out too.

Go for the gusto, and get out and paddle!

First Quarter, 2006 Pool Session

Pool Fees

The pool sessions provide a service that is hard to find in the Houston Area. After you have lessons, practicing the new skill is the next step to perfection. The clear, warm water of the pool and the helpful eye of the spotter gives confidence to those just starting in the sport.

The table below is a summary of the attendance and the fees for the first quarter. Contact Christy Long for more information about this event or the table.
 281-485-3046 hm
 clong@smith.com wk

These participants pay a \$16.00 fee

Spotter does not pay \$6.00 fee.

First Quarter, 2006 Pool Session Pool Fees										
	Number of Attendees	ACA Members	HCC Members	HASK Members	BCWC Members	Non ACA Member Attendee	Dad's Club Pool Fee per Session	\$6 Fee Collected	Number of Spotters	Overage HCC Covered (in red)
January 9, 2006	9	9	5	1	5	0	\$50	\$52	2	\$2
January 23, 2006	10	8	4	0	6	2	\$50	\$48	2	(\$2)
February 13, 2006	Dad's Club cancelled									\$0
February 27, 2006	18	14	6	6	5	4	\$50	\$102	1	\$52
March 13, 2006	12	11	4	2	6	1	\$50	\$66	1	\$16
March 27, 2006	12	12	6	2	5	0	\$50	\$60	2	\$10
First Quarter	61	54	25	11	27	5	250	\$328		\$78.00



May 2006 General Meeting Minutes

Minutes for Houston Canoe Club General Meeting May 10, 2006

Call to Order 7:15

Christy Long - Commodore
Introduction of Officers and Governors
Vice Commodore, Rick Brunson-present
Fleet Captain, Anne Olden-absent
Newsletter Editor, Jo Anne Johnson-absent
Recorder, Bob Price-present
Purser, Fraser Baker-absent
Governor 1, Bob Arthur-present
Governor 2, Ken Anderson-present
Governor 3, Dana Enos-present
Conservation, John Bartos-present

Introduction of New Members and Visitors

Business/Announcements

April Meeting Minutes with Bob Price, Recorder
April Financial Report Fraser-No report
HCC dues reminder Fraser-No report

Program

Rick Brunson - Vice Commodore

Eric Ruckstuhl, Bayou Preservation Association - Mr. Ruckstuhl discussed the many creeks and bayous in the area and the BPA website that shows the location of each. Find the BPA link through the HCC website. The program lasted thirty minutes with fifteen minutes of questions and answers.

Trips

Bob Price/for Anne - Fleet Captain
Past trips
Upcoming Trips/Classes-flyer listing trips and events

Committee Reports

Constitution/By-Laws Committee Status / Fraser-no report
Budget Committee Status / Christy-first meeting scheduled May 30, 2006

New Business

To get new business on the agenda for the officers meeting or general meeting, contact the Recorder, Bob Price.
or Using Roberts Rules you can move a motion at a general meeting.

Junes Program

Swap Meet

Adjourn 8:20

Put up chairs, clean up room, go out to eat

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Exploring Lake Woodlands

by Anne Olden



We met at North Shore Park on Lake Woodlands Drive to paddle on Saturday morning, June 3. Marty and Nancy Lorin have explored the lake area, so Betsy Anderson and I followed their lead, going north on the lake. There were several large nests near the treetops to our left. Great blue herons were flying into and out of at least two of the nests, although no youngsters were visible. Paddling below two roadway overpasses, Marty led us out of the lake and up a lefthand channel. He said that recently it had been blocked with water hyacinth. Today it was open, perhaps due to last week's rains. There were cattails here, birds and a small turtle on a log. After a ways there was a fork to the right, and water was rushing over some concrete and rocks, clearly draining the trees and low areas beyond.

We turned around and went back to the overpass. Nancy then led us up the right channel, her favorite. It is narrower, with more trees, and welcome shade. The stream narrowed, and we dodged low braches. Nancy skillfully wove between two parts of a downed pine tree that appeared to have been cut. The way opened up for a short while. Then what appeared to be a downed log below the surface created a little rushing water, and we decided to turn back.

Back into Lake Woodlands we moved near the shore and put out buoys in order to practice strokes. Two ladies from the Willis/New Waverly area joined us.

Lake Woodlands offers a good place to paddle, with easy access on the docks or boat ramp, restrooms and picnic tables – also ducks looking for a handout. Take binoculars if you enjoy birds. The park closes at dusk, so be sure to load up in time.



Medina River Cleanup

by Christy Long



May 5 Debbie and I headed for the hill country to participate in the Medina Cleanup. At 20 CFS we knew this would be a good level for a cleanup because there would be little chance of getting pinned while getting close to the banks, trees, or strainers.

We took advantage of Pioneer Campground's donation of two nights of tent camping, showers, and Saturday morning coffee. We arrived too late for the hamburger meal they provided Friday night. The campground was great and the bathrooms were so clean. With two bathroom stalls, two sinks and three showers, there is plenty of room for everyone.

Saturday we had breakfast in Rudy Rivers' trailer because it started raining just as we finished cooking. Then as we ate and looked out over the Medina River we heard pings on the trailer; it started to hail. We figured the cleanup would be called off, but when we got there at 9:00, we found that the registration for the cleanup was simply postponed until 10:00. Which give us more time to socialize before the clean up.

Many people from Houston drove up Saturday morning through all the bad weather and reported hail on the side of the roads. These people were real troopers.

The cleanup went smoothly on Section 7, Peaceful Valley Toad Crossing to Ranger Crossing Park. Rudy, the section head, had seven people in his group, three from Houston and four locals; in two canoes and five kayaks. Debbie Snow (K1), Ken Anderson (OC1), Christy Long (K1), and Rudy Rivers (S-O-T) from Houston. Kathy (S-O-T), Bob (S-O-T), their son (OC2), and his friend (OC2), were locals.

We picked up eight bags of trash and all kinds of rebar, tires, blocks of wood with nails, and chairs. Saw snakes, turtles, fish, and water fowl. Small green fern were just coming out and this section has large tress shading most of the river. There were no strainers or downed trees, which you sometimes come across, in the bends of the river or in the rapids. The Medina River is a real gem.

After the river cleanup we cleaned up, put on our free t-shirt, and headed for the party. We ate B-B-Q, listened to a great band, and socialized. Many prizes were handed out for unusual pieces of trash and Ben M Nolen awarded Gary Tupa with a beautiful wooden bent-shaft paddle for the most outrageous piece of trash.

Several of us had Mr. Nolen sign our Rivers and Rapids guide book.

On Sunday we were rewarded for our cleanup efforts with 400 CFS in the upper Guadalupe. Eleven of us ran Bergheim Campground to Edge Falls Road. Susan Eda, Pat Isley, Dan Carrol, Marilyn Peery, Cliff Peery, Sue Nul, Bob from LaGrange, Debbie Snow, Ken Anderson, Christy Long, Rudy Rivers, and a fellow that put in at the same time when we did.



Memorial Day Paddle

by Cindy Bartos



The storms began rumbling through early in the morning of May 29th. A quick check of the weather radar showed good news - the storms were moving north and east so we packed our lunch (glad we loaded boats the night before) and headed out to Columbus for the Annual Memorial Day (buddy) Paddle. We started the trip driving through the rain but just west of Houston the rain stopped and left a cloudy sky that would keep the temperatures down throughout the day. Not long after arriving at the boat ramp under Hwy 71 we got word the Fraser had cancelled the trip due to the weather. Well there were 16 boats (about 20 paddlers) ready to go so we put in and off we went.



Not long after putting in we saw several Mississippi kites - some soaring, some perched - a great sight to watch with or without binoculars. The water was a cool river green with a good current but the wind picked up soon after our leg stretch at the island (which due to changes in the landforms we took out on river right rather than on the island). Shortly before the usual lunch stop we saw 3 small deer creep hesitantly down to the river. They seemed to be more interested in quenching their thirst than be concerned about the kayaks and canoes paddling by.



While stopped for lunch the sky to the north became a dark gray and the wind really picked up with gusts we were guessing of 20 - 30 mph. We decided to secure the boats and wait it out to watch the direction of the storm. After determining the rain was going to pass us by we headed out on the river with the strong wind behind us at times - but was often a more challenging head or cross wind.

The take out at Beason's Park was not far and we were all able to load the boats and head home satisfied by a wonderful day of paddling - and not a drop of rain!



Oyster Creek

by Natalie West

Exploratory trip of May 20, 2006

Mark Andrus, Marilyn Kircus, Natalie West: all paddling canoes - with kayak paddles!

The three of us really enjoyed paddling this beautiful stretch of Oyster Creek. Since none of us were familiar with it, I had posted it to the HCC site as an "exploratory trip", and now that we have explored it, I would like to recommend it as very tripworthy.



We met at the CR226 crossing, just east of the town of Clute. There is a nice (well, by canoe standards) boat ramp with good, hard-surface access to the water. To get there from Clute, go east on 226, which is called Stratton Ridge Road in town. We met at 9:30 and by 10:15 were ready to paddle off, having run a shuttle to Oyster Creek Municipal Park for our takeout, about 6 miles downstream.



We had the creek entirely to ourselves. Little blue herons, little greens, snowy egrets, great blue herons were frequent sightings. As I waited for Mark and Marilyn to run the shuttle, I watched swallows feeding their young in the nests under the 226 bridge. We saw only an occasional splash of alligators, which I presume to be abundant on this stretch of water. The most striking overall feature was the beautiful big oak woodlands on both sides of the creek, although pushed back by a levee on the lower stretches. Since I had just read the history of the area, I could easily imagine barges moving up and downstream in the pre-Civil war plantation era, laden with cotton or sugar cane on its way to market, or supplies coming back upstream.

The woodlands were full of birds as well, but without binoculars we didn't try very hard to locate or identify the songsters. The big oaks negated the wind effects on some stretches; the bends of the stream meant we had the wind at our backs part of the way; in our faces at others. Current was not noticeable; it would be an interesting experiment to try running this in the opposite direction ("downstream" to "upstream") on a strong south wind. It took us only four hours to run the stretch, including two short breaks.



Oyster Creek Municipal Park is a very nice facility with covered picnic pavilions, flush toilets (yeah - a great feature for a paddling trip), and huge wooded picnic grove where we ate our lunch. It also has a mega-playground for the younger set; and a long fishing pier. The park has mowed banks on the river for about a quarter of a mile - great potential for a large canoeing or kayaking event like Rendezvous. It is east of the town of Oyster Creek on highway 523; there is a paved boat ramp (but no parking) just south and west of the 523 crossing; the park is on the north and east side.

This is a very nice stretch of water, no big skill challenges, and lovely scenery. You should check it out for yourself, or maybe we can get a club trip together. See you on the water!

The Waterline is the monthly newsletter of the Houston Canoe Club, Inc. The Waterline is made possible by your dues and critically depends on member contributions. Please submit items to the Editor at ioanne8678@yahoo.com



Houston Canoe Club
Waterline



www.houstoncanoecub.org :: Volume 57 :: June 2006

Classifieds

Wanted to buy!

Do you have any member selling a used canoe? I am interested in buying one for me and my boys.

Mark Bitara 936-525-7760

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Upcoming Trips

June

One Day: 6/10/2006 Sabine-to-Bagby Promenade Grand Opening Paddle

Come celebrate the grand opening of the Sabine-to-Bagby Promenade (a new 23-acre, \$15 million waterfront park in downtown Houston) with a pre-event paddle. We plan to put in at the canoe Launch near Sabine Street on the north side of the bayou. After you drop off your gear, free parking is available at City Parking Lot H off Memorial Drive next to the Fonde Recreation Center. I haven't run this before, so keep your eyes open. It may be easier/better to take the trail directly from Lot H to the canoe launch.

After a short round trip paddle (1 to 2 hours) we'll put away our gear and join the party. The Buffalo Bayou Partnership is hosting a celebration from 7:00pm to Midnight. Events will include the lighting of the promenade light, a Floating Cinema, live music, food and drinks, strolling entertainers and boat rides and Fireworks.

Put-in Location: Sabine Canoe Launch

Time: 5:00pm arrival. 6:00pm Launch

Date: June 10, 2006

Website: <http://www.buffalobayou.org/eventsrec.html>

Beginner 2: Familiarity with basic strokes and can make the boat go straight on flat water typically experienced on Armand Bayou.

Contact Rick Brunson by phone 281 482-0883, or by email rvbspam-hcc@yahoo.com.

June 21-25, 2006 Family Paddling Camp

You & your kids can get together with other families to learn paddling skills & boating safety. For kids 7 & up & their families on San Marcos at Olympic Outdoor Center. Cost is \$10/hr for onwater time (about 4 hrs/day). Families may camp in the Center or by the water. Meals & other activities for families will be coordinated by staff. Updates on website at www.kayakinstruction.org

Contact Administrator by phone 1-866-222-7998.

July

7/1-7/9 Carolina Canoe Club Week of Rivers

Rack up some river miles with the Houston Canoe Club while enjoying the gracious company of the Carolina Canoe Club members.

This trip is challenging and should not be taken lightly. Read about the rivers in the area then contact the trip coordinator to discuss the details. On some runs, even the take outs are rated. Sanctioned by American Canoe Assoc. Non-ACA members must pay \$10. For more info www.carolinacanoecub.com

Contact Christy Long of HCC member by phone 281-233-5358 wk, or by email stevechristylong@att.net.

dues and critically depends on member contributions. Please submit items to the Editor at joanne8678@yahoo.com