



Houston Canoe Club  
*Waterline*



www.houstoncanoecub.org :: Volume 2010 :: July

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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 HCC's Newsletter Editor, Linda Gorski at [LindaGorski@cs.com](mailto:LindaGorski@cs.com).

The Waterline is prepared by an on-line newsletter editor written by Fraser Baker, HCC's Webmaster.

## Next Meeting Announcement

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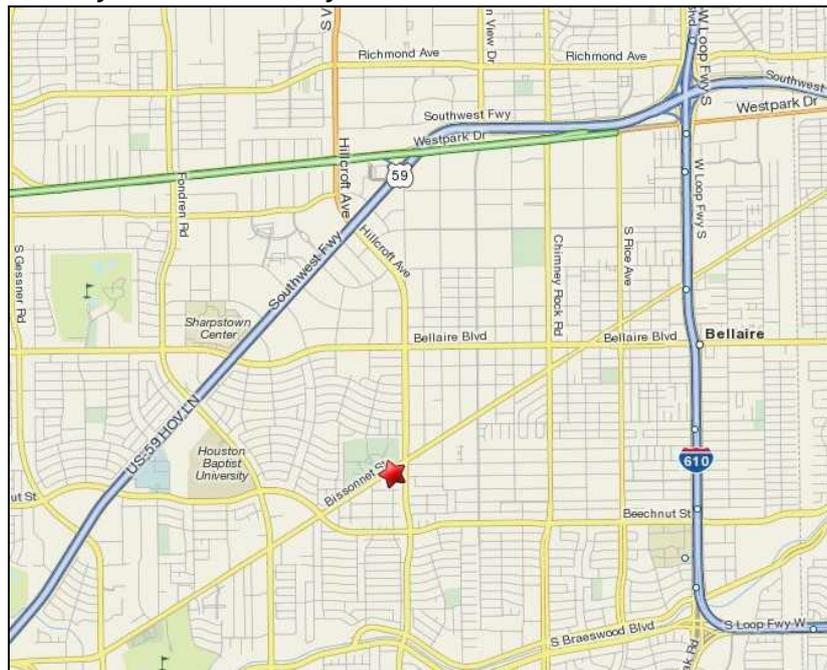
- When:** July 14, 2010 @ 7:00 PM  
**Where:** Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas  
**Directions:** First driveway, North side of Bissonnet, just West of Hillcroft.  
**Speaker:** [Gina Donovan](#), Houston Audubon Society  
**Speaker Bio:**  
**Description:** Gina Donovan, executive director of the [Houston Audubon Society](#), joins us in July for a presentation entitled "Birds and Bottomlands". Ms. Donovan is an accomplished conservationist and now author, and this event will include a book signing opportunity for her new book "[Neches River User Guide](#)".



**Gina Donovan**

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Map to Bayland Community Center:



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Be sure to set this date aside on your calendar, then come out to support our speaker and club.

## Last Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** June 9, 2010  
**Recorder:** John Ohrt  
**Minutes:** HOUSTON CANOE CLUB GENERAL MEETING  
Bayland Park Community Center

Commodore Bill Grimes called the meeting to order.

Officers and guests were introduced.

Sophie Lopez gave a Safety Minute on how to get back into your boat if you fall out.

The program speaker was HCC member Bob Pearson. He presented a Power Point on his trip to Quetico Provincial Park last September with Ron Nunnely.

Donna Grimes gave the Fleet Captain's report. Past trips included Pickett's Bayou, Greens Bayou, Sabine River, Burnham's Ferry, the Columbus Loop trip, Lake Charlotte, Inks lake, and the San Marcos River.

John Ohrt reviewed the minutes of the May general meeting which were accepted.

Harmon Everett gave a financial report and reported the expenditure of \$420 to have ACA Paddle Safe brochures printed with the club logo.

John Rich reported that the newsletter has lots of stories coming in; keep them coming.

Commodore Bill Grimes announced his resignation effective June 30, the day he retires from Centerpoint. Fleet Captain Donna Grimes also announced her resignation. Ken McDowell will serve as Commodore until the next election. Ken thanked Bill for his service to the club and his willingness to lead.

Ken plans to make temporary appointments until the elections in November. He also will act as both Commodore and Fleet Captain. He stated the goal to relieve Harmon of doing double duty as Purser and Webmaster.

The meeting was adjourned .

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Please contact HCC's recorder, John Ohrt, if there are any omissions or corrections.

## New Members

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**Member Name:** [Carl Alexander](#)  
**Membership Type:** individual  
**Member's Family:**

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**Member Name:** [Michele Zacks](#)  
**Membership Type:** individual  
**Member's Family:**

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**Member Name:** [Michael Portman](#)  
**Membership Type:** individual  
**Member's Family:**

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The HCC cordially welcomes new members to our club. New members are the life blood of the HCC, so be sure to provide opportunities for all our new members to paddle by coordinating more trips.

## Market Place

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### Items For Sale

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**Item:** [Wen-no-nah Whisper 15-1/2](#)  
**Description:** Wen-no-nah "Whisper" is a 15-1/2 foot lightweight solo canoe. Jensen designed to be quick but stable. It's perfect for those flatwater HCC trips where you need to keep up with the group. Really good condition.  
**Asking Price:** \$500  
**Contact Name:** Ken Barnard  
**Contact Phone:** 713-666-7298 9-5 Mon - Sat.  
**Contact Email:** kenkayaks@yahoo.com  
###

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**Item:** [Cobra Expedition](#)  
**Description:** Cobra "Expedition" is one of the fastest sit on top kayaks ever designed. It is 18 feet long and only 24" wide. It has a rudder and three covered hatches and is rated for up to 425 lbs total capacity. In their ad in the Dec. issue of Canoe & Kayak it is described as being *"ideal for anyone interested in performance touring or fishing. A high level of paddling efficiency enables paddlers to travel longer distances in a shorter time."* Its current retail price is \$1470 or buy mine used for \$500.  
**Asking Price:** \$500  
**Contact Name:** Ken Barnard  
**Contact Phone:** 713-666-7298 9-5 Mon - Sat.  
**Contact Email:** kenkayaks@yahoo.com  
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### Items Wanted

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Please contact the Newsletter Editor to post any items that you may have for sale or desperately need.

# Items that you Should Carry in your Boat for a Safe Trip

by  
Ken McDowell and Linda Gorski



The Houston Canoe Club had a booth at the annual [KBR Kid's Day](#) on Buffalo Bayou on June 5. Each vendor was required to sponsor an activity for children and ours was to demonstrate what you needed to carry in your boat for a safe trip.

We brought a kayak and a canoe and equipped them as if we were taking them on the water. We made up the list below to hand out. This list will be old news to long-time paddlers but we hope it will be useful to those who are just taking up canoeing and kayaking.

## ITEMS THAT YOU SHOULD CARRY IN YOUR BOAT FOR A SAFE TRIP:

- PFD (lifejacket) WEAR IT!
- Painters (ropes) bow and stern
- Paddles (spare for each boat)
- Whistle
- Knife (pocketknife)
- Bailer and sponge
- Waterproof dry bags to store gear
- Drinking water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Water bottle (attached to boat)
- Emergency Throw line
- Boat repair kit
- First Aid kit
- Sunglasses and Sunscreen
- Long Sleeve shirt
- Hat
- Maps, charts or guidebook of your route in waterproof case
- Compass
- Matches/Firestarter
- Food/Snacks
- Headlamp or flashlight
- Insect repellent
- Extra set of clothes

Let someone know where you are going. File a float plan with someone who can help... family, friends, Park Ranger, Game Warden, Coast Guard, law enforcement, outfitter.

Get formal lessons... contact the [American Canoe Association](#).



# HCC Participates in KBR Kids Day on Buffalo Bayou

by  
**Linda Gorski**

Several members of the Houston Canoe Club were on hand to provide boating safety information and demonstrations at the annual [KBR Kids Day](#) sponsored by the [Buffalo Bayou Partnership](#) on Saturday, June 5 at Sabine Promenade on Buffalo Bayou.

Ken McDowell brought along his sea kayak and whitewater canoe fully outfitted with safety equipment to demonstrate what you need to carry in your boat for a safe trip. A helpful checklist of this safety equipment was developed by Ken and Linda Gorski to hand out at the booth. This list is printed in an article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Ken, Harmon Everett, Greg Walker, Robert Killian, Ken and Susan Anderson, Mary Zaborowski and Linda Gorski braved the hottest and most humid day of the year to greet many folks who signed up for free kayak rides at the adjoining North Lake Kayak booth.

According to Jessalyn Ballard of the BBP, the event was a huge success and she has asked the Houston Canoe Club to come back for the event next year.

The Houston Canoe Club has a trifold display board and several posters as seen in the photo below that can be used for public outreach and community activities such as the KBR Kids Day. If you know of an event coming up at which the club should have a presence, please email Linda Gorski at [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com) or Paul Woodcock at [plwdcck@yahoo.com](mailto:plwdcck@yahoo.com).



**Ken McDowell, Harmon Everett, Susan Anderson, Mary Zaborowski, Ken Anderson, and Greg Walker were on hand at the Houston Canoe Club's booth at KBR Kids Day on Buffalo Bayou.**

Photo by Linda Gorski



# Great Unknown of the Rio Grande Presentation at REI

by  
**Linda Gorski**

Are you looking to embark on your first expedition paddle in the Big Bend? The Great Unknown of the Rio Grande is the right trip for you.

Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski will present a program on paddling the Great Unknown of the Rio Grande at [REI's Galleria Store](#) on **Thursday, August 5, at 7:00 p.m.** If you have thought of doing an expedition canoe trip of 6 or 7 days, but did not want to get in over your head on your first trip, then this program is just the trip for you.

The Great Unknown segment is completely within the [Big Bend National Park](#) and offers several advantages to the first time expedition paddler, such as convenient shuttle services in the area, access to the put in and take out by paved roads and safe places to park your vehicle while you are on the river.

This 75 mile section of the river begins immediately downstream of Santa Elena Canyon and flows through some of the most beautiful scenery the river has to offer including Mariscal Canyon. The trip ends at Rio Grande Village on the far eastern part of the Big Bend National Park. This portion of the river is part of the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River and is subject to special new rules and regulations which will be discussed in this presentation.



**Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski paddling the Great Unknown of the Rio Grande, with Ken Anderson in the background.**

Photo by Chuck Leinweber

Louis Aulbach is a native Houstonian and is a graduate of St. Thomas High School, Rice University and University of Chicago. Linda Gorski is a writer and research consultant who has written for publications around the world including several years as a reporter for the Houston Chronicle. Aulbach is the author of [five guides to rivers of West Texas](#) including The Lower Pecos River, the Devils River, The Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande, the Great Unknown of the Rio Grande, and the Upper Canyons of the Rio Grande which was co-authored by Gorski. They are currently writing a history of Houston as it developed along Buffalo Bayou which is scheduled for publication in 2010. All of their books are available for sale at REI.



# Response from Harris County Precinct 4

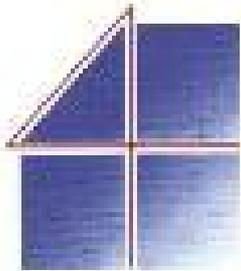
May 21, 2010

by

Edited by John Rich

Last month's Waterline newsletter included a letter written by HCC's Vice Commodore Ken McDowell, to Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Eversole, concerning a canoe access issue at Jesse Jones Park. You can review that letter, here: [A Letter to Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Eversole](#)

What follows is Commissioner Eversole's response, from his park administrator, Dennis Johnston. The letter below, between the separator lines, is a faithfully reproduced digital version of the paper correspondence which was received in response to Ken McDowell's letter. I have added Commissioner Eversole's photo at the bottom, as well as links to his office web site, and the Jesse Jones Park web site, both of which include contact information.



JERRY EVERSOLE, COMMISSIONER

May 21, 2010

Kenneth McDowell  
Vice Commodore  
Houston Canoe Club  
Post Office Box 925516  
Houston, Texas 77292-5516

Dear Mr. McDowell:

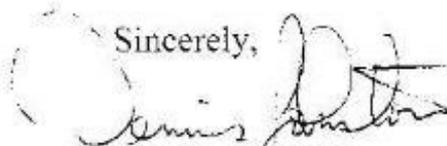
I appreciate your inquiry into the canoe rules and regulations concerning point to point canoeing and kayaking in Precinct 4 Parks. The point to point canoe program has been a successful endeavor at Jesse H. Jones Park since I started guiding canoe trips there in 1983. There are many reasons why we continue to maintain a firm stance on the point to point rule and they are as follows:

1. Jones Park is a popular fishing destination especially during the white bass run in the winter and spring seasons. Our trails/access, parking and launches are not designed to accommodate a large volume of vehicular traffic and combined with the large number of pedestrians present during this fishing season, it would create a hazard. The canoe launch trail at Jones would become nothing more than a high volume boat launch for fishermen at this time of year if allowed to put in and take out there, and there are other alternatives for fishermen (see #4).
2. There is absolutely no parking or leaving vehicles at the end of the canoe launch so paddlers must either have another driver drop them off or drive their vehicle back to the parking lot and then walk the half mile back to the

launch. Someone, who as you mention in your letter might be in "non-peak physical condition," is going to have to walk regardless or have an extra driver who could also pick up paddlers at the downstream destination. Either way it requires some semblance of conditioning or the need to coordinate a separate driver or pick-up plan. Both options still require rigorous physical canoe portage from car to launch.

3. It is a dangerous situation to put people out on Spring Creek who are either very young children (under 16) untrained or unable to withstand the challenges and rigors of potentially strong water and wind currents. My experience has taught me that both of these can create serious force upon the water that may be totally unexpected. Likewise you wouldn't take someone rock climbing, water skiing, snowboarding etc., who was physically unable to handle unforeseen challenges of the proposed sport. Spring Creek is not a lake or pond and although it does not have whitewater rapids, rainstorms from days prior can create wicked currents. I have also experienced wind combined with water forces that become nearly impossible to paddle against. While most of your club members may be skilled paddlers, we have many visitors who are not. I have seen people put canoes in Spring Creek with the intent to paddle upstream and they find themselves quickly going the other direction. A person may be able to walk back using a beach or trail but try walking back up a swollen stream bank with a canoe in tow through blackberry brambles and briars. Again, I emphasize that I have seen this myself as a guide over many years. The water and wind forces within this creek can be extremely deceptive and may be encountered differently in places away from the launch site itself.
4. There are several places that a person could launch a canoe if they just want to paddle around and pull out at same location including Edgewater Park, Kingwood's River Grove Park. the north or south side of Highway 59, Peckinpugh Preserve's Alligator Lake, Pundt Park ponds and Lake Houston. Portage at any one of them is not much farther than the top of our canoe to ordinary high water and some such as Edgewater Park are less.
5. The advantages of one-way point to point paddling trips far outweigh two-way traffic. and scenic viewing opportunities are much better going one way as well as the obvious ease and advantage of going with the flow regardless of your boats keel drag. experience level or physical shape. All of which inexperienced canoeists may not be aware of until it is too late to try paddling upstream.
6. Harris County offers alternative paddling options including sponsored canoe trips. The staff will not only provide you with a canoe but they will drop you at the launch site, launch and carry your boat back to the trailer and provide transportation to and from the pick-up site all free of charge. Training seminars are offered throughout the year at no cost and most of them are followed up with free guided trips on the water. These guided trips and training seminars are suited to providing a safe and enjoyable experience for older children (12 to 16 years of age), seniors and people with limited experience, physical shape and conditioning. Included in the free price is the guidance and assistance of a very experienced staff.

Occasionally there may be an exception made to the point to point rule such as scientific study or survey or the need to get across the creek for assistance with the Spring Creek Greenway project. If you or members of the HCC feel you have an exceptional reason or need special accommodations to put in and take out at the same location, please contact the park staff directly and explain the situation. Otherwise, it is not prudent to change the rules as presented on our web site for the many reasons listed above.

Sincerely,  
  
Dennis Johnston  
Park Administrator

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT 4 • 22540 ALDINE-WESTFIELD • SPRING, TEXAS 77373  
(281) 353-8100 • (281) 353-8920 FAX • [www.hcp4.net](http://www.hcp4.net)

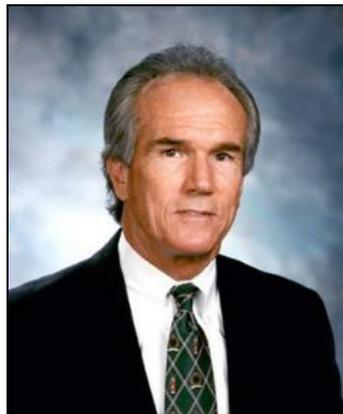
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Ken McDowell replies:

*"Please note, the reply to our request was actually written by Dennis Johnston, Precinct 4 Parks Administrator. I understand his not wanting to change the posted rules for the public at large. In general, the response is favorable to HCC, in that it leaves the door open to request "special event" status for HCC activities."*

Cheers,  
Ken

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**Commissioner  
Jerry Eversole**

Web site: [Harris County Precinct 4](#)

Web site: [Jesse H. Jones Park](#)



# Up Hondo Creek -- Without a Paddle

June 12 - 19, 2110

by

**Linda Gorski**

Have you ever been paddling down one of our beautiful Texas streams and gazed up at the bluffs, wondering what might have been happening there in prehistoric times? Three members of the Houston Canoe Club spent a week out on the banks of Hondo Creek in Medina County recently discovering exactly what life was like approximately 6,000 years ago.

Louis Aulbach, Linda Gorski and Robert Killian joined about 300 other members of the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) at the 2010 TAS Field School, taking part in an amazing archeological dig at a prehistoric site called Eagle Bluff on the bluffs above of Hondo Creek. The site is located in northern Medina County, between Hondo and the small community of Tarpley on FM 462.



**Robert Killian, Linda Gorski and Louis Aulbach spent a week at an archeological dig on the bluffs above Hondo Creek in June.**

The site we studied is known to archeologists as 41ME147 (the Calvert Site), a multi-component site with terrace deposits perhaps 5 meters thick. This locale is literally along the southern edge of the Edwards Plateau; the site itself sits atop a high bluff overlooking Hondo Creek.

Louis and Linda dug together in Area 1 and ended up excavating down to the early Archaic level, discovering hearth features, burned rock middens and loads of artifacts.



**Louis Aulbach digging in his unit.**

Photo by Linda Gorski

Robert was digging in Area 4 which turned up an equal number of stone tools, points and occupation features. Among the myriad finds in our trenches was a thin triangular point which proves we were down to the Early Archaic period, that dates to about 4000 BC.



**Linda Gorski digging in her unit at 41ME147.**

Photo by Louis Aulbach



**Among the many artifacts uncovered at the dig was this early Archaic triangular point.**

Photo by Linda Gorski



**Louis on the banks of Hondo Creek.**

Photo by Linda Gorski

We did walk down the bluff to the banks of Hondo Creek where another group of archaeologists was water-sifting for artifacts that had washed into the creek.

Robert took advantage of the cool waters most afternoons swimming in a deep pool he discovered. Since the temperatures hovered near 100 the entire time we were out there, these afternoon dips in the creek were most welcome.

Most of the folks attending the field school camped at the Medina County Fairgrounds just north of downtown Hondo. The campsite featured huge live oak trees which offered welcome shade after a hard day in the trenches. We were awakened at 5 a.m. each morning by the blaring sound of a truck horn and after breakfast we were on the site (about 16 miles away) by 7 a.m. We spent every day from 7 a.m. until 1 or 1:30 digging before we returned to the campsite to clean up and prepare for dinner at 5:30 and programs and lectures from 7 until 9. Our days and evenings were full.



**Robert heading down to the creek after a day of digging.**

Photo by Linda Gorski



**A view of Area 1 site. There were actually four dig sites on the bluff.**

Photo by Linda Gorski

Field School organizers proclaimed the dig a huge success and indicated we would be back in Hondo next year to continue excavating to see if there are even earlier occupations at the site. If you have ever been interested in getting involved with archeology this is a great way to start. You learn on the job and share the experience with some really excellent folks. Check the [Texas Archeological Society](http://TexasArcheologicalSociety.org) website for more information.

For paddlers, Hondo Creek rises 7½ miles northwest of Tarpley in south central Bandera County and runs southeast for 67 miles through Bandera, Medina and Frio Counties. The stream is intermittent in its upper

reaches and frequently dry. But when it rains, the creek flash floods quickly. See [www.RiverFacts.com](http://www.RiverFacts.com) for more information on paddling Hondo Creek.



**The author Linda Gorski on the banks of Hondo Creek**

Photo by Louis Aulbach



# "Before You Go On a Canoe Trip, Learn Canoeing"

## by Ernest Hemingway

1920

by

Introduction by John Rich

The famous American writer Ernest Hemingway got his start as a staff writer for the Toronto Star, a weekly newspaper in Canada. Hemingway is known as an adventurer, whose exploits include service in World War I, the Spanish Civil War, D-Day in World War II, and an African safari where he almost died in a plane crash. He was an avid outdoorsman. One of the columns Hemingway wrote for the Toronto Star, is titled "Before You Go On a Canoe Trip, Learn Canoeing". That advice which he gave 90 years ago, still applies to canoeing today. That article is reproduced in its entirety, below.

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### "Before You Go On a Canoe Trip, Learn Canoeing"

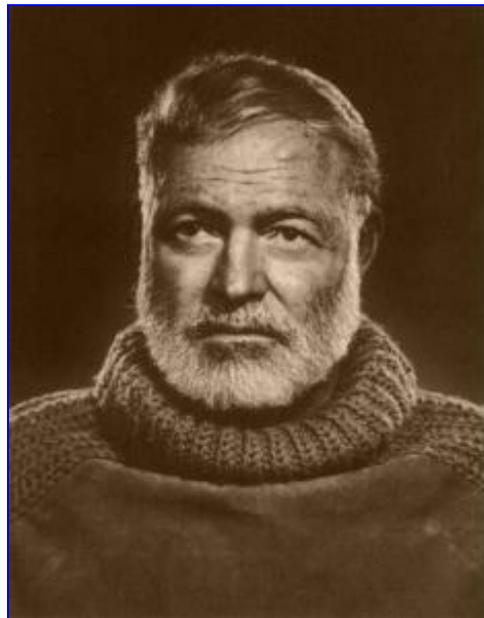
by Ernest Hemingway

*"We are going on a canoe trip up to Algonquin Park," writes a lady to the editor, "two girls and our husbands. As we have never been in a canoe and have only been motor picnicking, what advice can you give us for our trip?"*

The first thing a beginner at canoe cruising should do is to spend as many afternoons as possible between now and the time of his departure, on the Humber, learning what a frail, tippy, treacherous and altogether delightful craft a canoe is.

He should learn to handle his canoe in wind and wave, and should practice paddling it loaded with three people in it, as a loaded canoe is even trickier than a lightered one.

If your experience of outings has been restricted to picnics by motor car, then you are in very grave danger as a canoeist. For the first and last thing about canoe cruising and camping is the necessity of reducing baggage to the absolute minimum.



**Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961)**

Put it this way: as nearly all canoe trips involve portages, you must get all your belongings into as few packages as possible, and yet you must be able to carry those packages comfortably for distances ranging from 500 yards to two miles.

The ideal cruiser, the half-breed guide of the north bush, makes a portage in one trip. He carries his canoe on his head, and all his belongings in a pack on his back.

There's your standard. You will in most cases have to make two trips to a portage, the first time over with your canoe, and the second trip over with your dunnage. If that dunnage is in a score of separate pieces, instead of being packed neatly and

economically in a dunnage bag, you are going to have your trip ruined. I have seen many a haggard and fed-up camping party struggling over the portage trails with unmanageable dunnage. When they pull their canoe ashore, it is laden with loose gear. Pots and pans are shoved up under the decks or lying loose on the baggage. The tent, damp and therefore loosely and largely folded, is taking up half the space of the craft amidships. Poorly packed bags and heaped up, with blankets, clothing and stuff, and wooden boxes of grub are perched perilously on top of all. They dump all this junk out and carry the canoe over the trail, then come wearily back for the baggage, which is more than a load, not only because it is more kit than they should have brought on a canoe trip, but because it is poorly packed, in small places, instead of in one or two large pieces that can be comfortably toted on the back.

Even on a fairly long camping trip, your dunnage should be no heavier nor bulkier than you can comfortably carry on your back. You can determine this before you set out. And by dunnage is meant everything except the canoe and the paddles - tent, food, blankets, pots and pans, and personal baggage.

Put everything in bags. Take no boxes, no bottles. The brown canvas dunnage bag about three feet long and a foot in diameter, is the best size, commodious and handy. One blanket, one change of underwear, a rubber sheet, a light raincoat or slicker, should be all the clothing taken. If the weather is chilly, sleep in your raincoat and extra socks.

If two are in a canoe, one man should take the tent in his bag and the other should take the grub in his. This means cutting personal kit down to the bone. The pots and pans, of the smallest size and fewest number, should be equally divided between the two bags, and small canvas sacks should be made to put these dirty utensils in, or about the second day they will be found constituting a part of that bunch of disagreeable small junk, which usually includes axes, fishing rods, cans of food, boots and cameras, which litters the bottom of the canoe, and makes every portage a blasted nuisance.

The ideal canoe is this: there are thongs on the thwarts into which the paddles fit for portaging. The axe is hitched snugly under the floor board. Amidships, side by side, lie two dunnage bags, with their tump lines attached. One six-foot fishing rod is stowed ready for sport under the thwarts. Not another thing, unless it be the knee cushions, are loose in that canoe.

If food absolutely must be taken which won't go into the two dunnage bags, be sure that it is at least in a bag, and as small a bag as possible. For food is the heaviest thing to be taken.

A side of bacon, cakes of dried soup, butter in a tin, jam in a tin, tea and sugar in small salt bags, condensed milk if you must have milk, then cans of beans, meat, etc. A box of patent pancake flour is a good thing. Empty it into a tin. Take no glass. If you can't get bread along the line, take what you will need in a separate bag, and make it a regrettable separate bundle on the line of march. A cotton flour bag makes a good bread bag. A general rule covering grub is to seek that which is in the smallest and most keepable form. Many foods spoil when opened. If you are going into the far bush where bread is not within a day's paddle, better learn to make biscuits from mother, take along a small tin folding reflector oven and a bag of flour and "burn your own."

Motor campers have no conception of the need for economy in kit in canoe cruising.

The great point is - cut, cut, cut. Weed out something from your kit every time you look at it in preparation. Go easy on the clothes. You will sleep in them anyway, most likely, and you, must wash linen as you go: Wash at night and dry by the camp fire.

A warning about canoes: A lot of dish-shaped pleasure canoes are being made nowadays which are murder on a canoe trip. Be sure to rent a good, wide-bellied canoe that will carry a load in wind and wave. Rented canoes are often old fellows that have been painted so often they have about 50 lbs. of white lead on them. Pick the lightest and roomiest 15 or 16-foot canoe available.

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## Upcoming River Trips

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### HCC Trips:

**Date:** Saturday, June 26, 2010

**Title:** [Paddle the Wilbarger Paddling Trail](#), Saturday, June 26, 2010.

**Inclusive Dates:** 6/26/2010

**Description:** What: I am planning a trip on the Colorado River to paddle the Wilbarger Paddling Trail  
Level: The Colorado River is a Class I river, perfect for beginners

We will shuttle our vehicles. There is not a lot of parking at the entry area so we will use as few vehicles as possible to get the boats in the water. The take-out point is a city park with a lot of parking, so that should not be a problem. If you need to rent a boat, Rising Phoenix Adventures is nearby and they charge \$25.00 per kayak. If you rent a kayak, the price of the rental includes a shuttle with them.

Also, a few of us will be camping for the weekend at Buescher State Park. You can camp or just come out for the day trip on the river. If you'd like to join us for the camping, please let me know ASAP. I have a couple spots open, but they are going fast! Of course, you can always get your own campsite, if you'd rather. We are in the Oak Haven Loop. We are also planning on doing a "true pot luck" on Saturday evening. If you'd like to join in on that, just bring something to share.

If interested in joining me, pop me an email with cell phone # where you can be reached. I'll send further info to those who respond.

**Skill Level:** **Beginner:** Familiarity with basic strokes and can make the boat go straight on flat water typically experienced on Armand Bayou, can maneuver the boat on slowly moving water, is aware of basic river safety and can confidently avoid hazards and strainers frequently experienced on Texas' Colorado River or the Buffalo Bayou at a modest flow rate.

**Contact:** Contact Sophie Lopez by phone 281-733-9434, or by email [SophieL22@comcast.net](mailto:SophieL22@comcast.net)

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**Date:** Sunday, June 27, 2010

**Title:** [Sunday on Lake Pass \(Lake Charlotte\)](#)

**Inclusive Dates:** 6/27

**Description:** A day trip on Lake Charlotte, Lake Pass and Miller Lake. The plan is to put in at Cedar Hill Park, paddle across Lake Charlotte to Lake Pass, down Lake Pass to the Trinity and then back up Lake Pass to Miller Lake. We will

eat lunch on the south side of Miller Lake and then head back to the park. The trip will be about 8.5 miles if we paddle more or less straight across the lake and about 4 hours of paddling with maybe another hour for lunch.

**Skill Level:** **Beginner:** Familiarity with basic strokes and can make the boat go straight on flat water typically experienced on Armand Bayou, can maneuver the boat on slowly moving water, is aware of basic river safety and can confidently avoid hazards and strainers frequently experienced on Texas' Colorado River or the Buffalo Bayou at a modest flow rate.

**Contact:** Contact Dave Kitson by phone 713-729-4246, or by email [davej10@hotmail.com](mailto:davej10@hotmail.com)

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**Date:** Saturday, July 03, 2010

**Title:** **Carolina Canoe Club Week of Rivers**

**Inclusive Dates:** 7/3 - 7/10

**Description:**

For 9 days, the various paddlers meet and break into groups to paddle various rivers in the Carolina area. Trips will be mainly Class II with some Class I and more Class III. If you would like to try more challenging water with people who have paddled those waters, this is the place to go.

**Skill Level:** **Intermediate:** Knowledge of basic whitewater safety, self-rescue and rescue such as retrieving a pinned boat. Able to capture small eddies, run Class 2 rapids confidently, but challenged by Class 3 rapids such as Cottonseed on the San Marcos at say 300-400 cfs.

**Contact:** Contact Robert Langley by phone 713-683-6317, or by email [roblangley@comcast.net](mailto:roblangley@comcast.net)

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**Date:** Monday, July 12, 2010

**Title:** **White water in New Mexico and Colorado**

**Inclusive Dates:** July 12 - 16 plus

**Description:**

Enjoy the beauty of the West coupled with some good white water from Class II - IV. We will be joined by members of the

**Skill Level:** **Advanced:** Paddles a white water boat (canoe or kayak) has mastered basic strokes and maneuvers, adept at playing & surfing, is able to run Class 3 rapids confidently, but challenged by Class 4. Able to self-rescue or Eskimo roll in Class 3 rapids and able to assist in rescues. Reads water quickly & accurately.

**Contact:** Contact Donna Grimes by phone 713-728-1645, or by email [donnapaddles@gmail.com](mailto:donnapaddles@gmail.com)

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## **Other Club Trips:**

# Colorado River - Burnham's Ferry

May 30, 2010

by

John Rich

Bob Arthur is the leader of this paddle trip, covering 11 miles on the Colorado River, along a stretch near Ellinger, Texas, about a 1½ hour westward drive from Houston. Few people get the pleasure of paddling this stretch, because the put-in and take-out are both on private land, with access permission provided by Bob's son who lives in the area. Access to this area from public bridges is otherwise few and far between.

It's billed as the 174th Burnham's Ferry crossing, because of the historical significance of this old ferry crossing site - it was used by Sam Houston's Texas army on it's way to San Jacinto, where the fateful battle was fought in 1836 in which Texas won its independence from Mexico. While we did get to examine the old ferry crossing site, we have yet to see the old Burnham homestead ruins, as that is on private land, and Bob is still working on gaining access to that site.



The trip was canceled twice previously due to heavy rains, which made the dirt access roads across cow pastures and through the river bottom flood plain impassable to most vehicles. But this third time was a charm, and we had beautiful weather for the day paddle, as well as the overnight camping on the river bank. The water was flowing nicely, and no-one turned it into a race, so we just floated along pleasantly and enjoyed the sights and sounds of nature, usually paddling only

enough to keep the bow pointed in the correct direction.

The only drama was when a motorboat passed by at high speed, without paying due deference to canoes, and the waves tipped over one kayaker, who was then swept toward a strainer. The boat and paddler were soon reunited, no worse for the wear. But we see far too many motorboaters who don't seem to know that they should slow down when passing canoes. Oh, and Harmon's car didn't appreciate the steep hill it was forced to climb, and it signaled an overheated radiator, that turned out not to be true - lucky for him!

## Participants:

Kevin Albers

Ken Anderson

Bob Arthur

Joe Coker

Roy & Lydia Cruzen

Harmon Everett

Robert Killian

Mike Pollard

John Rich

Charles & Chance Zipprian  
Matthew & Brandy Zipprian

[Click here to view a photo album \(67 photos\) of the trip,  
and then select "slideshow".](#)



**The author, John Rich**  
Photo & watermelon by Fraser Baker



# Nine Days on the Pecos River

May 12 - 20, 2010

by

**John Rich**

For nine days in May, five canoeists joined together for a wilderness expedition trip on the Pecos River of west Texas. The Pecos is known for its desert canyons, stark beauty, a multitude of rapids, isolation, and a dazzling array of ancient Indian cave paintings. The planning began with a list of 12 participants, but one by one, they started dropping out due to other commitments, or personal problems. When the day came to get on the river, we were down to just five. Later on, Charles and Daniel Zipprian would join us for the last two days, by paddling upstream to intercept us.

## Participants:

Louis Aulbach  
Steven Aulbach  
Matthew Aulbach  
Bin Lizzo (Steven's girlfriend)  
John Rich  
Charles Zipprian  
Daniel Zipprian

These are all experienced outdoorsmen (and women), as well as canoeists. The small group moved along the river fairly quickly and mostly without any problems.

This trip is normally done in 7 days, but two extra layover days were added to this one, to allow for some extra hiking. One of those days was used to hike to an Indian cave and rock art site called Bee Cave at mile 4½. Normally we paddle right past that site because we're in a hurry to get to a campsite further down on a time-constrained Day 1. This cave contained some black linear images that are quite different from the other styles of pictographs found in the region, and it was a new site for me. The other extra day was spent in Lewis Canyon, hiking to three cave art sites.

As usual, low water levels made the first two days tough. We were scraping bottom a bit, and when we reached "the flutes", we got out and tight-rope walked on top of the ridges and dragged our heavily-laden boats beside us by the bow lines, guiding them through the shallow grooves. But after that, the water level deepened, and the river passage was much more fun.

We were plagued by rain about four nights in a row, dampening some sleeping gear as water seeped in under the tents. But the days were sunny, and we had time to dry everything out before the next night. Furthermore, the rain dumped huge amounts of water into the river, raising the class level of rapids up a notch - normally class II rapids became class III's. The rain also turned a normally dry pour-off in Lewis Canyon into a spectacular waterfall.



**John, Matthew, Steve, Bin, Louis**



**Daniel & Charles**



**Steve & Bin in Waterfall Rapid**



**John in Painted Canyon Rapid**

For more commentary and photos, see the photo album below. Since this was my 5th trip on the Pecos River, I didn't repeat photos of all the cave art which I have captured previously. I concentrated mostly on those things which were new and unique for this particular trip.

[Click here to view a photo album \(107 photos\) of the trip, and then select "slideshow".](#)



# Greens Bayou

May 22, 2010

by

Christy Long

9 miles from Green River Road to Greens Bayou Park  
Tide was in

HCC Participants:

Dutch  
Tracy Caldwell  
Jacqueline Webster  
John Berlinghoft  
David Kitson  
Sophie Lopez  
John Clark  
Linda Leatherwood  
Christy Long (not shown)



**Lime green boat: John. Yellow: Christy. Red & green: Dutch & Tracy with camera ready in case something good happens.**

Beautiful day, warm, and sunny. The first thing that did NOT catch my eye was the old rusted out car at the top of the put-in, under the bridge. Later I heard that the car was downstream, we did not see it as we paddled downstream.



We meet at Green River Road, ran our shuttle and started to launch around 10. The water was at a good level and we were able to paddle and float along. The birds were out in force. I sighted grey herons, egrets, ducks, and many more I could not name.

**Jacqueline, resourceful as ever**

It was peaceful paddle with everyone chatting and getting to know one another. We stopped several times along the way to get a closer look at the foliage or to check out a side stream.



**Bridge with hanging fishing line**

As we floated toward one of the bridges, we could see something sparkling from the bridge. There must have been twenty fishing lines with large hooks at the end of each. The hooks were in the water so we took care to prevent being hooked.

The trip was longer than planned but no one seemed to care.

Another good day on the water.

Christy Long

