



A Day on the Neches River — by Tracy Caldwell

I woke up to the sound of the early morning songbirds. It was a little after 6:30 on Sunday and we were camped at M and B campground near Slocum. This was the beginning of my first Neches River wilderness trip. When I got out of the tent the camp was already busy with activity. Mary Z, our trip leader wanted us

to get an early start for the a nine-mile trip, get off the river by early afternoon and then drive four hours back to Houston after the paddle.

Mary utilizing some of her coaching skills gathered everyone together for a pretrip meeting. We would be paddling around nine miles, and she was expecting logjams to be blocking the river. This would mean lots of maneuvering and possible portaging for ten boats and fifteen people. As we



(f) Alyssan , Len & Heather Simmns (m) Nancy Bell, Anne King, Linda Hickson, Gloria Billingsly, Ron Nunnely, Mary Z. (b) Randy Caldwell, Randall Nord, Paul Woodcock, Michael & Frances Dean
photo (Tracy Caldwell)

were getting ready to run the shuttle, Mary asked Randall to be the sweep vehicle and gave him a two-way radio. I thought this was a bit odd but never gave it another thought....until

Everyone got in his/her car and we set off. We left the campground on a winding farm road. The next turn was onto a county road, which gradually turned into a gravel road. Then the gravel road turned into a red clay road, which was very dusty. In fact, the dust was so thick that you couldn't see the car in front of you. Mary called on the radio, " Randall? Are you still with us?" After every turn she would call to make sure everyone made the turn; however, it wasn't too hard to follow the billowing cloud of red dust. Farther down the road the dust changed from red to white when the road changed from red clay to white sand. When we reached the put in every one was glad to have endured the dust without losing anyone.

As the drivers took off for the take out, Mary suggested that the rest of us start getting the boats in the water. The bank was fairly steep with a high ledge and lots of slippery mud at the bottom. With everyone working

as a team we lowered the boats down one at a time. There were five canoes, two sea kayaks and three Sit On Tops. Before we could get all the boats in the water the drivers had returned from the scuttle.

In a few short minutes everyone was in their boat and we began the trip. The river seemed a bit low and there were a few trees to maneuver around. Everyone was excited. At least half of the paddlers had never paddled the Neches before. There was a bit of shade but not really any current in the river. After we had paddled a short while, we encountered the first big logjam. Ron helped everyone maneuver his or her way through the jam. This was only the first of many logjams. Before the trip was over everyone was an expert with logjams. We paddled the whole nine miles without seeing a house or any signs of civilization. We did not see any other paddlers either. Everyone enjoyed the nature and the solitude.

After a couple of hours we stopped for lunch on sand bar under a shade tree. Everyone ate their lunch and then had a refreshing swim to cool off. Then it was time to head down the river again. Most of us could have stayed and swam all afternoon but we still had



A Peaceful Paddle on the Neches River (photo: Tracy Caldwell)

many miles to paddle. The river was gradually getting a little wider and there were a few less logjams. Before we knew it we were at the take out. Before heading back to Houston, everyone commented on what a lovely river the Neches is and how much fun they had.

I would like to thank Mary Z for leading the trip and providing us with the free camping at her campground. It was a great trip and if you ever get the chance to paddle the Neches, I highly recommend it.

Want to Learn how to Paddle in Moving Water?

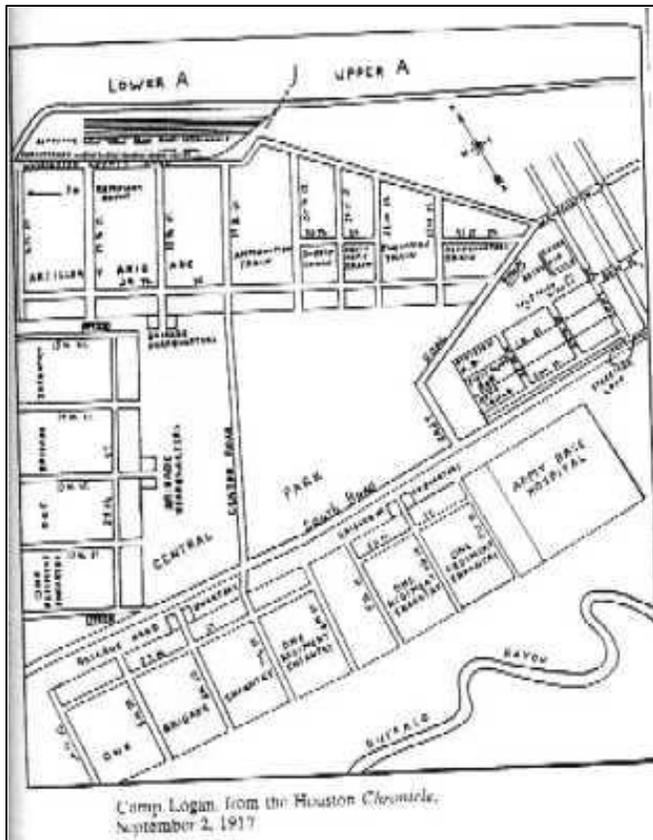
There will be a whitewater skills class on Oct. 5-6 on the San Marcos and/or the Upper Guadalupe River (if there is enough water by then). An ACA and Red Cross Basic River Canoeing class will teach ferrying, eddy turns, safety and rescue, and river reading skills. Cost of the class will be \$75. The course will focus on teaching you boat control and safety skills to have fun safely. You may use your own boats, or rent one of ours (solo or tandem) for \$25 per person. Instruction in solo and tandem canoeing and kayaking is available. Prerequisite skills: You should be able to go straight and turn your boat in both directions.

For more information, or to register, call: **Susan Eda** at H (713)465-8711 or W (713)365-4515, ext.123, or call **Pat Isley** at H (713)465-4116

Camp Logan – a World War I Training Base on Buffalo Bayou at Memorial Park

By Linda Gorski and Louis F. Aulbach

One of the most interesting chapters in Houston's history was written in Memorial Park along the banks of Buffalo Bayou. For it was here that the U.S. Army's sprawling Camp Logan was built in the middle of the First World War to train soldiers for combat. The thing that surprises us is how little you will hear or read



about Camp Logan in any of the books dedicated to Houston's history. Even the Handbook of Texas dedicates just one paragraph to it!

Camp Logan was an emergency training center in World War I, located on the earlier site of a National Guard Camp just beyond the western city limits of Houston. It was named for Major General John A. Logan, a prominent Civil War Union officer. The land was leased by the United States from the Hogg family who, by World War I had assembled the block of land that includes Memorial Park in their vast real estate holdings.

Construction of the center began on July 24, 1917 in the area that is now Memorial Park. The developed area of Camp Logan was 3,002 acres within a tract of 9,560 acres.

The next time you visit Memorial Park or paddle along its banks imagine this ... in 1917 Camp Logan was a tent camp supplemented by 1329 wooden buildings with a troop capacity of 44,899 men. Photographs of the camp depict row after row of tents on raised wooden

platforms along graded streets near mess halls and latrines. Most tents had wooden walls about 4 feet high. The streets in Camp Logan were unpaved or surfaced with oyster shell or cinders. The City of Houston hired Layne & Bowler Company to drill a 600 foot deep water well south of Washington Avenue to service the camp and that well produced over 1 million gallons of water per day!

A complete sewer and trench system was installed. Sewer lines were of ceramic pipe with brick and mortar manholes. In addition to the main camp, a Remount Depot was constructed just west of the main camp. The Base Hospital was at the southeastern corner of Camp Logan. A rifle range was built 8 miles west on Hillendahl Road. Drill fields were between 1 and 2 miles northwest of the camp proper. In short, Camp Logan was a big place!

Completion of the first phase of the camp was accomplished by August 15, 1917 setting a record for construction of World War I camps. Within three months, more than 30,000 men were living and training at Camp Logan.

Training at Camp Logan was in drill, practice marches and rifle marksmanship with details to schools for chemical warfare, bayonet practice, hand grenade use, and cooking. Practice marches of 8 miles were made every few days. Breaking of horses was a recreational activity at Camp Logan as well as a serious duty. The 108th Engineers are known to have held impromptu rodeos at Camp Logan.

Houston may also have faced the first overcrowding of its school system in 1917. The First World War and the establishment of Camp Logan brought 500 school age children to Houston and the new City Auditorium was converted to a schoolhouse to educate them.

Despite the enormous amount of work that went into building Camp Logan, it only operated as a military establishment for 20 months, from 1917 – 1919. On March 20, 1919 it was turned over to the U.S. Public Health Service. In 1919 a building at Camp Logan, used by the American Red Cross during WW 1, was converted into a hospital for charity purposes.

Shortly after World War I, Mike and Will Hogg regained possession of the tract on which Camp Logan was built. The City of Houston acquired the property from them for the development of Memorial Park in 1925.

We may not be able to see any of the buildings at Camp Logan above the ground today, but according to a recent archeological survey, the camp has left it's mark on Memorial Park. "The imprint of Camp Logan remains clear to this day. The system of roads and drainage ditches form visible lineations matching the camp map grid where ground disturbances have been minimal."

The next time you paddle by Memorial Park, you might give a silent salute to the soldiers who trained there in World War I.

Welcome New Members

Joe Dellinger

758 Memorial News Apt. D Houston, TX 77079-4456
281-531-5417 jdellinger@amoco.com
hear about us from REI

Marcel and Shirley Duronslet

PO Box 5403 San Leon, TX 77539
281-339-5088 mjduron@aol.com
heard from friends

Robert D. and Lisa Hambrick

1905 Oak Hollow Drive West
Pearland, TX 77581
281-992-2602 bdhambrick@sbec.com
HCC knowleged from the internet

David and Desiree Latimer

18514 Hot Creek Ct. Humble, TX 77346
281-812-3466 desi-lat@yanoo.com
heard from REI

Kenneth and Lori Lynn

9607 Huntington Hall Drive Houston, TX 77099
281-530-3222 ldkglynn@msn.com

Albert and Carolyn Morris

14007 Elm Circle Humble, TX 77396
281-372-0729 a.g.morris@worldnet.att.net
was a former member

Cathy Valderrama

10014 Tolman , Houston, TX 77034
713-947-8618 pigeonlady1@hotmail.com
heard from the newspaper

Renee White

6117 Pecan Ln, Katy, TX 77493
281-391-9883 reneew@pdq.net
net

Bill Wibker

1331 Mardi Lane, Houston, TX 77055
713-464-8145 bwibker@swbell.net
net

Devon and Shannon Williams

5330 Blossom St, Houston, TX 77007
713-426-9067 dwilliams12@houston.rr.com
net

Bob and Barbara Cortez

5939 Reumer Houston, Tx 77074
713-271-4035 bbcortez@aol.com
net/website

Eric Kalgerg

5126 Santrey Houston, TX 77084
281-345-6949 ekalberg@hotmail.com
web

Greg and Jean Truax

1306 Pine Chase Dr Houston, Tx 77055
truax@hal-pc.org 713-932-8840
REI/ Sandy Truxillo

Caution – Water in the River

By John Olden

Six HCC members (5 solo canoes, 1 C-1) ventured to the Medina River on Friday, July 26, the first HCC paddle since the Hill Country flood in early July. On our way to the river we noticed a FEMA Disaster Assistance Center in Bandera. Leaving Bandera on Hwy. 16 the flood effects were more apparent. The highway at two bridges west of Bandera had suffered erosion from the flood and had temporary repairs. Flood debris was piled up along the road and in the fields. From the high water marks it was evident that in places the entire valley had been inundated. The most noticeable change in the river that we could see from the road was large gravel banks along the river, some 100+ feet wide where all vegetation had been washed away.



Chet Tigard views debris and canoe in the trees (photo-Jim Null)

The Friday put-in was in the town of Medina at a small city park. Take-out was at Camp Bandina Road for a 6.7 mile paddle. This stretch is not paddled very often since there is usually not enough water. There was no water shortage for us though; it was still running 770 cfs. This level is not a place for the inexperienced. Four of the whitewater-experienced group got to practice their self-rescue skills, an important part of canoeing. The river was characterized by long quiet pools followed by drops filled with brush and trees, some standing, some down. The least obstructed path was not easy to spot and quick maneuvers were necessary to avoid obstacles. There was often overhanging

brush that would force you toward large trees in the middle of the river, waiting to catch your boat. We encountered one runnable dam and one low water crossing that required a portage on the right; the culverts on the left made it dangerous. There were a couple of places we did not run due to obstructions.

On Saturday we were joined by 5 other solo canoeists for a run on the stretch we typically do from Camp Bandina Road to the Tarpley roadside park on FM 470. This is 7.8 miles. In this section there were generally fewer obstructions than in the upper stretch, and perhaps more rapids and fewer long pools. However, again good scouting and careful maneuvering was necessary. At Stewart Falls, trees were down everywhere in the river; most portaged left, two right. There were several good surfing spots on both days.



All three routes through Stewart Falls on the Medina River were

A few statistics: In the days before the storm the flow was 18 cfs. On July 26 it was 770 cfs, on Saturday 740 cfs. The average flow for July is 65 cfs. This flood was something over 50,000 cfs. The river peaked July 4 at 39 feet. The record flood peak was 49.5 feet in 1978. Records have been kept since 1880.

Officers for 2002

Commodore **Fraser Baker** 713-202-2503
fraser@pobox.com

Vice Commodore **Jim Null** 713--664-1083
medislide@earthlink.net

Recorder **Marilyn Peery** 713-669-9193
kit.santome@pdq.net

Purser **Kevin Casement 713-748-0468**
paddlinman@hotmail.com

Fleet Captain **John & Cindy Bartos** (interim f.c's)
jbartos@ix.netcom.com
713-957-3809

Newsletter Ed. **Donna Grimes** 713-728-1645
donna.grimes@mindspring.com

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Bill Grimes 713- 728-1645
William-Grimes@hlp.com

Candy Donahue 713-666-6542
Peterpan101@ev1.net

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Have to the editor by the 18th of the month.
Electronic submissions:

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Snail Mail:

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Houston, TX 77035

Change of Address

Contact HCC Recorder, Marilyn Peery

Monthly Meetings:

Second Wednesday of every month at the
American Red Cross Building
at 7 PM

A COWBOY'S GUIDE TO LIFE:

LETTIN' THE CAT OUTTA' THE BAG IS A
WHOLE LOT EASIER 'N PUTTIN' IT BACK
IN

Houston Canoe Club General Meeting August 14m 2002

(Note: these minutes have not been approved. Any changes or amendements to the minutes will be noted in the November newsletter)

7:10 p.m. Commodore Fraser Baker called the meeting to order followed by the introduction of HCC officers. Officers not in attendance: Recorder Marilyn Peery ; Governor Mark Andrus

The program was presented by John deBessonnet, Parks Planner for Harris County on planned canoe trails on the San Jacinto River, specifically in Rio Villa Park. Further information on the plan can be obtained on the Master plan's website at www.eng.hctx.net/parkplan.htm or from a link to all Harris County Parks' website at www.co.harris.tx.us/parks/

In Recorder's absence the meetings from the last meeting were deferred. Introduction by Donna Grimes of new visitors to the meeting. Fleet Captain Randall Nord presented the trip report of past and upcoming canoe trips.

Commodore Fraser Baker announced that the HCC will be working with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership on planned canoe launch sites.

John Bartos presented the Conservation Committee's report. He announced Texas Parks and Wildlife will be receiving comments on the Land conservation Draft until August 16, 2002. John read a letter written by Diane Wassenich to the House Recreation Committee concerning the use of 4X4 vehicles in river stream-beds. Some of the issues mentioned in the letter were destruction of habitat, safety concerns, the need for a state agency with authority over streambeds, and to give increased attention to the needs of 4X4 drivers in areas away from the rivers. A motion was made and carried for the HCC Conservationo committee to endorse this letter and/or co-op a similar statement to the Texas House Recreation Committee.

Due to the high cost of printing and mailing the HCC newsletter, Fraser Baker mentioned the possibility of switching the newsletter to an electronic version. Discussion followed and the HCC officers will consider input and opinions expressed and determine a solution

Purser's report given by Kevin Casement. A nominating committee is being formed to present a slate of HCC officers for the year 2003. If you are interested in being on the committee, contact the Commodore.

(minutes taken by Cindy Bartos in Marilyn Peery's absence)



Nominating committee working on 2003 HCC Officers Slate:

The nominating committee, consisting of Bill Grimes, Candy Donahue, Skip Rathgeber, and Natalie Weist will be working on candidates for the 2003 HCC offices. As of this time, they are looking for a Commodore, Vice Commodore, Newsletter editor, and two governor positions as Candy Donahue is resigning because of her class load at Rice University. They hope to have a slate of nominees for the October general meeting on the 9th. If you have any suggestions for filling these positions, please contact one of the members of the committee ASAP

Our own Paul Woodcock comes in first in his racing division with fellow paddler Ron Nunnally at the Neches Wilderness Canoe Race (photo: Tracy Caldwell)

Items For Sale:

H2 Pro – WW canoe with saddle, air bags - \$450. **Wenona 19' fiberglass sea kayak** with air bags \$800
Contact Bob Mabe – 281-437-9527.

Scupper Pro for sale. Teal colored, triple hatched, thigh straps, back rest. In very good condition. Works well on sea, river, and lake. Lots of room for gear. A dog or small child can easily ride in an open hatch. \$625. Will consider trade for 2 single-person, Walden Paddler or Keoweetype recreational kayaks, or one kayak and the balance cash. Contact Tony at Oakdene Vacation Home <http://HeadForTheHillCountry.com>
Austin: 512.441.1836 Mason 915-347-0268

Freestyle pad for \$30. It's 36 in by 40 in and cost me about \$75. Contact Candy Donahue at 713-666-6542 or peterpan101@ev1.net

Wanted: Does anyone have an old **Dagger Quintus** paddle they would like to sell. If so please call John Ohrt 713. 877-1504 or jcohortjr@aol.com

Wenonah Adirondack 16 foot tandem canoe, Kevlar Flexcore, 49 pounds, new cost \$1545, with two nice Grey Owl bent shaft paddles, and two Sospenders CO2 inflated life vests. Total new cost is about \$1950. For pictures go to our web site at: <http://users.ev1.net/~spituch/> Just a few minor cosmetic scratches on gelcoat bottom of hull but nothing warranting a repair. Used only about 8 times on calm Armand Bayou. Canoe has been garage kept in Katy, TX. Sale price is \$1200 for boat, paddles and vests. Call Steve Steve Pituch at 713-922-8001.

sell or trade a **2 person kayak perception keowee II** - I got it from an hcc member a year ago, and it has sat on its side in my garage ever since. Would sell for \$400 or trade for something smaller and lighter. Sherri Bond (281)855-6680

Red Dagger Impulse. WW solo open canoe. \$500 includes Voyager bags, thigh straps, knee pads, bailer, and a Bob Foote paddle. Contact Ken Barnard 979-793-3248 or ken@controlsolutionsinc.com

Up and Coming Trips with HCC

10/5-6 Texas Parks & Wildlife's Wildlife Expo in Austin at headquarters. 800-792-1112

10/5-10/6 San Marcos/Upper Guad Basic River Canoeing Class Susan Eda and her group is teaching a Basic River Canoeing class that will cover through Class 2 whitewater skills. It is both Red Cross and ACA sanctioned. Instruction will include whitewater skills training for solo and tandem canoers and kayakers. This class is for paddlers who have basic control of their boats, i.e. -can go straight and turn their boats in both directions. Cost is \$75 if they have their own boats. Boat rentals are available for \$25 per person for the class. Contact Susan Eda by phone (H (713) 465-8711 or W (713)365-4515, ext. 123), or by email (sseda@mail.esc4.com).

10/12 - 10/13 Lake Raven Canoe/Kayak Trademark Campout Meet for a weekend of canoe/kayak paddling camping, dutch oven cooking, adult & kid's games, hikes and a Saturday Night Campfire. Bring camping equipment, canoes/kayaks and accessories you no longer need to sell or trade. Make camping reservations for your stay through Huntsville State Park or State on system in Austin. Contact Jack Borns by email (jackborns@yahoo.com) or Mary Zaborowski by phone (713-884-1925), or by email (maryzabo@sbcglobal.net).

10/11-10/14 October Paddlefest Paddlefest, a paddle boat fair featuring boat demos by prominent manufacturers, instruction by Nigel Foster, and a surfing contest for sea kayak, white water and sit-on-top categories to be held at various sites around Houston, including the Woodlands (10/12), Clear Lake (10/13) and Quintana Beach County Park (10/13-10/14). Contact SouthWest Paddle Sports by phone (281-367-2335), or by email (info@paddlesports.com).

10/ 19-20 Lighthouse Lakes Trails Lonestar Legacy weekend in Aransas Pass. Sea kayaking instruction, guided trips, fly fishing clinics. Contact 9 **SouthWest PaddleSports** 281-292-5600 info@paddlesports.com

10/ 25-27 TPW's "Becoming An Outdoors-Woman" workshop in Brownwood. Reservations. Ashley Mathews 800-792-1112 x 6-4.

11/2 - 11/3 Overnight on the Colorado River A 12 mile paddle with several riffles from Prarie Valley to La Grange with a camp out 8 miles into the trip in a beautiful grassy meadow on a sandbar. Contact Fraser Baker by phone (713-202-2503), or by email (fraser@pobox.com).

11/15-11/17 Caddo Lake Canoeing We stay at the Bennick's Pine Needle Lodge and explore the lake from there. Pre-trip meeting is Wednesday Nov. 6th. Contact Sandy Truxillo by phone (713-464-9488), or by email (sandyt@explorerpack-paddle.com).

11/09 @ 1:00 pm Kayak Rodeo at Rio Vista Park on the San Marcos We are hoping to see all Houston's kayakers there. These events are becoming a lot of fun. We are hoping to put El Foamalo in to make the hole really sticky. Also, there are a lot of things to do for folks that don't want to compete. Dealers and reps will be there so y'all can try out new boats and gear. Contact Scott Hickman by phone (512-393-8287), or by email (Hickman_Scott@ci.san-marcos.tx.us).

Roll Sessions:

Come and practice kayak and canoe rolls, braces and wet exits. Roll sessions are held at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at the Westside YMCA pool in Houston located on the Katy Freeway (I-10) at 1006 Voss Road. On the 4th Monday, an instructor is available to teach. For insurance purposes, the YMCA requires all participants to wear a helmet. Fees are \$10 for members of the Bayou City Whitewater Club and Houston Canoe Club and \$15 for non-ACA members.

Run on Bull Creek in Austin by Glenn Hart

I finally got a chance to paddle Bull Creek last Sunday, September 8th. Bull Creek, located in northwest Austin, within the city limits, is a narrow creek that flows completely through city parkland during the run. The creek is right on the edge of the Balcones Fault, and although I'm not a geologist, I imagine that has something to do with the numerous ledge drops/waterfalls on the run.

Heavy rains that morning in west Austin had caused a rapid rise on the creek. When we put in at about 2:15 at the first crossing on Spicewood Springs Road west of Loop 360, the flow was 469 cfs, a good low to optimum level.

We happened upon several other boaters at the put in, and I think everyone knew each other except for me. There were about seven kayakers and me. As usual, I was in the only open canoe (OC1), a Mohawk Probe 12. We started off and immediately ran a nice narrow rapid with a small slot between a rock and a tree stump. Soon after, we encountered a four foot ledge, the first of many drops that ranged from four to eight feet. It was a smooth drop that I slid right over with no difficulty other than the fact that I submarined a little and took on some water.

I enjoyed the nature of the stream a lot. It was very narrow, with some overhanging branches and some tight spots formed by trees in the streambed. There were several limestone cliffs and a few undercuts, which posed no real hazards at this level. There were about four six-foot ledge drop/waterfalls and two eight-footers. The run is rated Class II/III. The flow was good, and there was no flat water. Unfortunately, there were few eddy turn opportunities (which I enjoy) for my canoe, although the kayakers found plenty of eddy lines to work on squirts.

We soon arrived at the eight foot waterfall to the west of Loop 360 near the big parking area. On most days this spot is populated by hikers, bikers, and assorted swimming and stick-fetching "dawgs". Ken got out his video camera, and everyone had fun running the drop. I decided to portage this one since there were a couple of fairly significant strainers in the outflow below the falls.

We continued through quite a few nice rapids, crossed Loop 360 for the second time, and stopped to scout "The Big One", also know as "BORES", or "the Big One Relatively Speaking". This is a seven or eight foot drop that reminds me a little of Seven Foot Falls on the Chatooga River. The creek drops through a horseshoe-shaped tongue that can be run straight on. There is a very fast outflow in the middle of the line where a boater can fly through with walls of water on both sides. The kayakers enjoyed this so much that several of them pulled their boats back up and ran it numerous times. They also played in a small hole below the drop that had a washing machine action that was really interesting. As is usually the case when the creek is up, a small crowd gathered to watch. At very high water, this unusual falls causes a large flume to form in the middle that is about five feet high. I've seen the hole at this level, and it forms a VW Beetle-sized hole.

I knew that even if I turned over in my canoe, there was a very large recovery pool, so I went for it. I pretty much made the line I had planned and enjoyed most of the rapid, except for at the bottom. A side current (or some kind of monster) tipped my boat to the left and when I tried a really hard brace I found that the water didn't have enough resistance because it was too aerated. So over I went. I've begun to realize that the main purpose as open boaters is to amuse others with displays of carnage. And I didn't disappoint! But I didn't have any problems except that my paddle got stuck between two rocks in the outflow. I was able to wade over and pull it out, even though I hadn't been able to see it.

The rest of the trip went well. There was a good surfing hole formed by the low head dam at Bull Creek Park just above the low water crossing on Lakeshore Blvd. Then there was a five foot ledge drop (where it was getting a little shallow by now), and another couple of rapids before the FM 2222 bridge, where we took out. The bridge and the rapid above it could be a dangerous place at high water. Also, I've heard that the ledge drops become grabby at high water.

I enjoyed my first run of Bull Creek, and I'd like to try it at a little higher level. If I had my "druthers", I'd rather see the gradient (which I believe is 30 feet per mile) made up of typical rapids instead of the straight ledge drops. But then I don't design these things!

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Check out the electronic format of this newsletter – available to current members only – At www.houstoncanoeclub.org on the trip page

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