

www.houstoncanoeclub.org February, 2002 Hot Line 713-467-8857 Volume 13

CAMP HUDSON AT THE DEVIL'S RIVER PUT IN

By Linda Gorski and Louis F. Aulbach

The next time you travel out west of Del Rio to the Devil's River put-in at Baker's Crossing, imagine, if you will, a herd of camels lowering their heads to drink water out of the river, or cavalry soldiers in blue uniforms camping near the same location. Now look across the highway from the put-in and there you will see a stone historical marker designating this place as "Camp Hudson". A lot was going on at this sleepy spot back in the 1800s!

Camp Hudson was founded in 1857 on the site, but it turned out to be too close to the river and the first rainy season almost washed the camp away. Later the camp was reestablished at a point a few hundred yards to the north and several feet higher in elevation.

Camp Hudson was one of several outposts established between San Antonio and El Paso built to protect travelers on the Chihuahua Trail. The buildings at Camp Hudson were designed to cope with the harsh weather along the Devils River. Constructed of a mixture of gravel and lime the buildings staved cool in the summer and warm in the winter.



At the height of its occupation, Camp Hudson housed Companies D & G of the 9th Cavalry and by April 1868 other troops were also garrisoned at the camp. The camp was pretty much the center of activity in this part of the world and even had a weekly newspaper, The Camp Hudson Times. The Times documented daily life at Camp Hudson and in the surrounding area including "front"

page" news, a society column, obituaries, ads for business and services and plenty of editorial comment. As one Ranger described it, "These papers are, of course, on the 'berlesque' order, but are as eagerly looked for as any Paper".

In 1859, one of the experimental camel caravans led by Lt. William H. Echols from Camp Verde passed through Camp Hudson on its way to West Texas. Colonel Robert E. Lee, then in charge of the Texas Department, was determined to test the capabilities of these beasts of burden in the deserts of West Texas against the traditional mule. Echols had 24 camels and an equal number of mules with him when he reached Camp Hudson where he picked up another officer and an infantry company for a 75-day patrol through West Texas. In 1860 Echols took another detachment through Camp Hudson, this time with 20 camels on his way to explore the Big Bend.

In April 1871 Camp Hudson had three commissioned officers and sixty enlisted men. In March 1876 Lt. Col George Pearson Buell was stationed at Camp Hudson with two companies of cavalry. At that time the post was mainly used to protect newly arrived settlers and daily reports from this time reflect that troops had several encounters with Indians even following them all the way to Mexico.

Camp Hudson was permanently closed in January 1877 when the threat of Indian attacks no longer existed in that area. The private property on which the camp once stood shows no sign of the original buildings or of the Army's occupation of the site. But if you camp at the Baker's Crossing Campground before paddling the Devil's, beware of the ghosts of those cavalrymen and

camels who may still be haunting the spot!

The Highway 163 bridge, or the campground just upstream, is the put-in for the 15 mile trip to the Devils River State Natural Area. It is a long, arduous paddle that must be completed in one day since camping along the river in this section is prohibited by the landowners. Check with the Park to make reservations for camping along the river at the Park.



The Devils River Put in at Bakers Crossing

Third Annual East Fork/West Fork Challenge - - Join the Fun!

Join the night-time thrills in an adventurous 16-mile cance race on **Sunday**, **March 10**. Challenge racers leave from Lake Houston State Park at 4am, and tackle both the east and west fork of the **San Jacinto River** before finishing in Kingwood. The event helps raise awareness of the unique and beautiful San Jacinto River. Sponsorship funds benefit the San Jacinto Conservation Coalition, a nonprofit making inroads on smart growth and habitat conservation in the region. For race rules and registration forms visit

www.sanjacinto.cc/challenge.htm or contact Mike Stinson at 281-358-8830 or stinsonmike@hotmail.com



I want to buy a used canoe. The cheaper the better as it is for a container to fill with outdoor goodies to be auctioned off at a fundraiser. We want to paint the canoe with a Cajun theme. The new ones are just too expensive. If you have any ideas, please let me know. It is for a wonderful organization (Assistance League of Bay Area) that raises money for clothes, personal hygiene items, mentoring and tutoring for less fortunate children. Also, we would love anything you have to donate.

Thanks, Nancy Warren nkwarren@houston.rr.com 281 990-0544 281 286-1776 (fax)



Mary Zaborowski, representing HCC, presents a check for \$1,000, grant money from REI, to Tom Olson, manager for Sheldon Reservoir State Park for the restoration and preservation of this bird sanctuary

Welcome to our Newest Members

Vladamir and Yulia Khavkin 2109 Sawdust Rd. #2901 The Woodlands, TX 77380 281-364-7423 jtrudono@hotmail.com heard about us from a friend

Will and Rebecca Ponder
2021 W. Main St.
Houston, TX 77098
713-529-1939 wponder@aol.com
heard about us through the grapevine

Items for Sale or Wanted:

18' Wenonah Jensen Ultralight - kevlar/skincoat - "Standard Class" Safari ready - with seat & knee pads 2-1gal.water bottles with foam blocks installed 1-Zaveral 52in. 11oz. Whitewater blade 1-Zaveral 54in. 8.5oz Ultralight Racing blade Photos available via- email Never raced on the SanMarcos Excellent condition- \$2000 Contact Jack Krohn 713 667-1440 captjack@wt.net

Kayak Paddle For Sale Werner Camano - fiberglass - 240cm RH- 60deg. Feather Excellent Condition - email for photo \$160 (\$237new now) Contact Jack Krohn 713 667-1440 captjack@wt.net

Want to buy a used canoe. The cheaper the better as it is for a container to fill with outdoor goodies to be auctioned off at a fundraiser. We want to paint the canoe with a Cajun theme. It is for a wonderful organization (Assistance League of Bay Area) that raises money for clothes, personal hygiene items, mentoring and tutoring for less fortunate children. Also, we would love anything you have to donate. Contact Nancy Warren nkwarren@houston.rr.com 281 990-0544 281 286-1776 (fax)

WHITE WATER BOATS; from Scott Coultas:

Dagger Outburst. Blue and marbleized red. This all around performer is ready take on all kinds of challenging whitewater. Stable, fast and roomy this boat is equally at home on the tight mountain rivers of the East and the BigWater desert rivers of the West. Only one owner. Never paddled to church on Sundays by a little old lady from Pasadena. Garaged. Outfitted package includes, drain plug, bow nose cap, Salamander back band and stern air bags. \$350.

Perception Saber Blue. Warning: This boat may be too hot, hot, hot for you to handle. With the Saber, you can explore the boundaries of your abilities and stretch them to new heights. Long, low and lean this boat is fast and sharp. Your boat will come with bow and stern nose caps. Priced to move at \$125. (white water)

Valley Mills Barcelona Blue and Black. Fiber Glass. Paddle a slalom racing legend. This boat was designed for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona Spain. Learn the fast and clean moves all the racer's know. Adjustable seat and foot braces. Bow and stern grab loops. \$400.

For additional information please contact Scott at scott.coultas@chamberlainlaw.com

Houston Canoe Club Officers for 2001

Commodore Fraser Baker 713-796-0946 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 Randall Nord 281-565-0541 keeppaddling@mail.ev1.net

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Gandrus@dellepro.

Bill Grimes 713-728-1645

William-Grimes@hlp.com

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

Newsletter Deadlines

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

Donna.grimes@mindspring.com

Snail Mail:

Donna Grimes 4838 Kingfisher Houston, TX 77035

Change of Address

Contact HCC Recorder, Marilyn Peery

Monthly Meetings: Second Wednesday of every month at the Amercan Red Cross Building at 7 PM

Address: 2700 Southwest Freeway – Hwy 59 S @ Kirby

Houston Canoe Club General Meeting January 9, 2002

The meeting was called to order by Commodore, Fraser Baker. Officers present included Recorder Marilyn Peery, Purser Kevin Casement, Newsletter Editor Donna Grimes, Fleet Captain Randall Nord, and Governors Mark Andrus, Bill Grimes and Candy Donahue. There were 44 members present.

The speaker, Tom Olson of Sheldon Lake State Park, was introduced by Mary Zaborowski and was presented with a check for \$1000. The check was a grant received by HCC from REI to promote education and conservation at the park. Mr. Olson talked about the history of the park and long range plans for its improvement.

Fraser read a certificate being sent to Andrew Sansom, retiring director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife, making him an honorary member of HCC.

Guests and new members were introduced.

Candy Donahue gave the treasurer's report. Income for 2001 was \$6,326.26. Expenses were \$12,059.05. We have a total of \$20,945.23 in the treasury.

Randall Nord gave the trip report. There will be a clean-up on Greens Bayou on Saturday. Volunteers are needed.

A paddle/social at Stephen F. Austin Park on May 18th is being planned. A motion to advance \$100 for rental of the group shelter from 2 PM May 18th-2 PM May 19th was approved. A fee will be collected from participants, except for new members, to reimburse the club.

Cheryl Cleary presented a chart of miles paddled in 2001 by members and urged people to get any missing information to her so she can compute the final totals.

The meeting was adjourned. Marilyn Peery Recorder

2002 - New Officers and New Committees formed



HCC Officers: (1 to r)

Fraser Baker (Commodore) Randall Nord (Fleet Captain) Marilyn Peery (Recorder) **Kevin Casement** (Purser) Candy Donahue Mark Andrus Bill Grimes (3 governors) Donna Grimes (newsletter editor) (not shown: Jim Null -Vice commodore)

Membership Committee

(I to r)
Donna Grimes
Tracy Caldwell
Skip Rathberger
Martha Williams
Anne Olden

(not shown: Marty Harris)



Conservation Committee

Front: Cheryl Cleary, Mary Carter, Candy Donahue, Ann Derby

Back: Bob Arthur, John Bartos, Mark Andrus

From The Helm:

By Donna Grimes

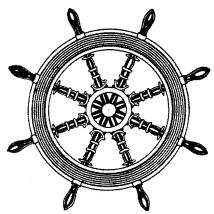
As an officer of HCC and as the editor of the *Waterline*, I appreciate the efforts of volunteers. There is NO WAY the newsletter would have its many articles if not for those willing to write up trip reports, do research, and submit biographies and other ideas of interest to our paddling members. I especially want to thank Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski for providing articles each month about Buffalo Bayou, the Rio Grande, the Devil's River, etc. Every month I look forward to reading these myself. Plus, Fraser Baker has been a tremendous asset in maintaining the electronic newsletter.

Have you tried accessing this? Here's how: Go to the HCC webpage

www.houstoncanoeclub.org and click on the "Trips" page. Then click on the "Waterline." As user name, enter your email address BEFORE the @ sign. There is no password. You then have an opportunity to view any of the past months' newsletters. Also, I want to know how you feel about this process. Are you interested in receiving your newsletter electronically or is the work of putting this on the web not worth the work. PLEASE LET US KNOW - Fraser is working on revising it to allow you to pull up just certain pages and making the download time less, but we need to know from you if it is worth it or not.

Also, as newsletter editor, I made a vow last year to do two things: having the newsletterto the members by the first of the month and providing information about our various active members via their biography and picture. I feel I have succeeded in these and appreciate the positive feedbacks from the membership. It is only for this "thanks" that any volunteer works so hard. Now this year, I'd like to continue providing biographies (which members seem to enjoy). However, I cannot do this without help from you. I have asked some of you to provide information on a questionnaire, and I'm hoping to receive enough of these to fill the 12 issues for 2002.

My second goal this year is to provide information about the duties of the officers and



what the officers' goals are. Watch for the monthly article "From the Helm" as each officer provides an article.

As officers, we want to provide the best leadership possible for the membership. But, we, too, are only

volunteers and we rely on your feedback. Please let us know if you appreciate what we are doing and if you have a constructive idea. let us know.

Email Failures:

The following email addresses were returned. This means you will not be able to access the electronic Waterline or be notified that it is posted. Please call Donna Grimes 713-728-1645 or Marilyn Peery 713-669-9193 Or email me at donna.grimes@mindspring.com
Kit.santome@pdq.net

Failures:

John Orht - jeohrtjr@aol.com Paul Penning - plpenning@aol.com Robert Kingsbury -1040PaulK@Kingsburybusiness.com Barbara Riehl – avenoso@tenet.edu Steven Rodgers – d.Stephen.Rodgers@us.akermar.com Charles Turman - chuckturman@yahoo.com Bob Wall – rwall@aol.com Tom Williams – thomasw1230@aol.com Anthony Belcher highheel@lightinternet.com Sue Eda – sseda@csc4.net Larry Harrison – larry@harrisonlpa.com Fred Hoehne - surfsi@swbell.net Betty Holder -The Exercise Lady @gateway.net Robert Naeger - rinaeger@houston.rr.com

Who Be These People?

Kevin Casement: HCC Purser



- 1. Where were you born and raised?
 Born and raised in Fordville, ND, a town of about 350 people. Grew up working in my one of my Dad's businesses, a John Deere farm equipment dealership. As for the other business....well, it was a mortuary, so not a whole lot going on there.
- 2. Are you married, have children Nope, not married and no children. But I'm taking applications for the marriage part. You have to be comfortable sleeping in the back of pickup on occasion, though.
- 3. Where educated and degree? B.S. in Biotechnology from North Dakota State University and Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Beyond that, educated through life. . .
- 4. <u>Previous occupations</u>? Student for first 26 years or so, then a couple at an intellectual property law firm as a Scientific Advisor.
- 5. <u>Present occupation Director</u>, Tech-nology Assessment & Licensing at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Business is technology transfer, which is essentially involves facilitating the commercialization of new

- inventions created at MDA through eating of start-up companies or licensing technology to existing companies.
- 6. Other places lived, how long in Houston. Fordville, ND for the first 18 years, then about 4 in Fargo, ND for college, and then in Houston for the last 10 years or so.
- 7. How did you become involved with HCC? Oh, back a few years or so, was looking for a place to find some peers that enjoyed outdoor activity as much as I do. Also, see question 2.
- 8. What is your favorite type and place to paddle? Multi-day expedition travel is where it's at for me, often solo. I love being out in the wilds where it's just me out in the big world to take every challenge and surprise that nature throws at me. I'm forever curious about what is around the next bend, over the next rapid, and beyond the sunset. As for places, the Big Bend area is wonderful as is the Boundary Waters, but it's the places I haven't been that intrigue me the most.



Kevin. Our OWN Indiana Jones

- 9. <u>Do you have any other hobbies or outside</u> <u>activities?</u> Well, just a few. Mountaineering, backpacking, extreme trekking. I'm also a swiftwater rescue technician on a couple different search and rescue teams.
- 10. Any other comments
 If someone could tell me how to not have to work so I could paddle more that would be great. Oh yeah....and see guestion #2.

HCC TRIPS

2/2/02 Lake Charlotte - paddle through a cypress swamp in the Trinity River delta area east of Houston. Contact John Bartos 713-957-3809 or jbartos@ix.netcom.com

2/13/02 HCC Monthly Meeting –Speaker: Patti Carothers "Treatment of Minor Cuts when Paddling" Wednesday- Red Cross Bldg. 2700 SW Frwy just west of Kirby. Everyone welcome.

2/23/02 Clear Creek Cleanup - Details to come.

3/2/02 Sheldon Lake - Should be a good time to see birds. Mary Z. plans on paddling Carpenter's Bayou then conduct a bird count on Sheldon Lake. The fun doesn't stop there! Plan on meeting at the Educational facility for an old fashion wiener roast and exchange interesting paddling stories. For details contact Mary Z. at (H) 713-884-1925, (C) 832-215-4551, coachz66@hotmail.com or maryzabo@yahoo.com

3/2/02 San Marcos Cleanup – Each year, paddlers across Texas gather for commaraderie, food, and river clean-up. HCC annually gets to clean the most active part of the river - Ann Derby will coordinate this annual river cleanup. Contact her at 281-491-3973 or MADerb@aol.com

3/9-17/02 Pecos River - Spring break is here! At least for some. Paddle this well-known west Texas River with Mary Z. and friends. Contact her at (H) 713-884-1925, (C) 832-215-4551, coachz66@hotmail.com or maryzabo@yahoo.com

3/23/02 Annual Armand Bayou Cleanup- associated with Trash Bash. HCC has been involved in this event for many years. Help keep our urban wilderness paddling area looking sharp. To pre-register call 281-486-9500 or club members should contact Mary Carter at marcar1@pdq.net for more details.

3/23/02 Event - Buffalo Bayou: A Confluence of History, Nature and Dreams - Presented by Houston Seminar and co-sponsored by Buffalo Bayou Partnership. Check http://www.houstonseminar.org/Spring2002/buffalo.html for information and http://www.houstonseminar.org/registration.html for registration and FEE information. Note: they are also having a lecture Monday night. Check links for details. (FEE CHARGED FOR THE NON-HCC EVENT)

4/6-7/02 Annual Women's Trip - Paddle Village Creek and stay at the cabin in Village Creek State Park. Contact Anne at 713-864-0205 or <u>aolden@ix.netcom.com</u>. Please include full name and phone number in email correspondence.

4/5-7/02 La Louisianne Freestyle Canoeing Symposium - Mandeville Louisiana. One of the premier places for beginners to experts to improve their canoeing skills. John Steib 225-654-5224



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 \$5 for members of the Bayou City Whitewater Club and Houston Canoe Club and \$7 for non-ACA members.

Buffalo Bayou's Historic Bend at Sesquicentennial Park

by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski

Before Buffalo Bayou reaches Allen's Landing, it makes a long, right-turning bend between Preston Avenue and the Franklin Avenue bridge. Today, this "corner", a quarter circle piece of land bound by Preston Avenue on the south, Smith Street on the east and Buffalo Bayou on the north and west, is Sesquicentennial Park. This entire area, including the park and the north bank of the bayou, is rich in the history of the City of Houston.

In 1852, Horace Taylor, who was to become one of the most influential men in Houston, married and bought his brother's 6 acre tract bounded by Smith, Preston and Buffalo Bayou which today includes Sesquicentennial Park. A dense wood grew along the bayou - sycamore, prickly ash, bois d'arc, sweetgum, holly, box elder and mustang grapes. Some of the magnolia trees were nearly 100 feet tall.

The home of Emily and H. D. Taylor, which had been constructed by the brothers in 1851, was enlarged 6 times and eventually contained 10 rooms. It was a house fit for the Taylor's status in early Houston. Horace and his brother were cotton merchants and were very successful. Horace Taylor was

an alderman and later became the first post Civil War Mayor of Houston. In a manner that is uncommon in today's political world, he refused his salary of \$3000 during his term as mayor. The bridge across Buffalo Bayou at Preston Avenue was extremely important to the commerce of early Houston. Although the business of the city revolved around Main Street and the shipment of goods was through Allen's Landing, the flow of cotton and agricultural foods from the countryside depended on access to the farmers market on Market Square via Wash-ington Road and the Preston Avenue bridge. The importance of this artery is seen in the fact that a 'high bridge' over the bayou was constructed in the 1840's. The Long Bridge, as it was called, spanned Buffalo Bayou, replaced the ferry, and linked Wash-ington Rd to Preston Ave. It provided access for the mule trains and caravans of ox wagons carrying produce from truck farms west of town to the Farmers' Market. It was imperative that high water in the bayou not prevent the products of the Brazos Valley from getting to town.

Preston Avenue Bridge with a remnant of the brickwork from the previous structure still extant



As an interesting footnote, Richard Allen built this first bridge over Buffalo Bayou at Preston Ave. Allen was a slave owned by J. J. Cain, and he was brought to Texas in 1837 from Virginia. He was a skilled carpenter, and after he was emancipated in 1865, he continued his career as a contractor and bridge builder.

Across the street, to the north, is the One Bayou Park building, still under construction. It is an interesting renovation of the Tennison Hotel. The Tennison Hotel, built in the early 1920's, was a 'railroad station hotel' serving business travelers arriving by train at the nearby Grand Central Station.



The Grande Central Station 1900

It was one of several hotels designed by architect Joseph Finger, including the William Penn Hotel, the Texas State Hotel, the Auditorium Hotel, and the DeGeorge Hotel. As passenger train business declined, the hotel died. Prior to the conversion to upscale apartments and office space in 2000, the building had been vacant since the 1970's.

The central Post Office is now located where the old Grand Central Station once stood. Actually, there was a succession of three Grand Central Stations of the Southern Pacific Railroad on this site. And, prior to that, the area covered by Grand Central Station, its terminal tracks, switching yards and the parkways that surround it, included the site of Henry Henke's Wagon Yard, a campsite established during the 1870's as an adjunct to his New Orleans Store in Market Square.

Henry Henke founded a grocery store on Market Square in 1873. He hired Eugene Pillot to help with the grocery business, then made him a partner. Together, they created the first supermarket chain in Houston called Henke and Pillot. The chain was sold to the Kroger Company in 1956.

A Central Depot for the Southern Pacific Railroad was a 3 story brick building completed by the end of 1887. This station was remodeled twice, in 1906 and in 1914. During this period of rail traffic, hotels clustered around the depot. The Brazos Hotel, located adjacent to the station, was a popularly priced hotel that catered to traveling salesmen who would arrive in Houston by passenger train. The Macatee Hotel was one block east. The previously mentioned Tennison Hotel was built in the 1920's to serve these same customers.

In 1929, a new station was planned and designed by Wyatt C. Hedrick, Inc of Houston in a modernistic style. Construction began in May, 1933 and it opened on September 1, 1934 as 'Grand Central Station'. It was razed in 1961 for the new US Post Office.

Access to this section of Buffalo Bayou is possible from Allen's Landing Park at the foot of Main St (although it is closed due to construction in the area at this time), or from Eleanor Tinsley Park on Allen Parkway, about a half mile upstream. Parking is adequate at both locations.

Please circle type of membership



ACA Individual

ACA Family

Total:

NEW

RENEWAL



Houston Canoe Club Membership Application

First NameLast Name	
Spouse's name Address	
City/St./Zip	
Email (write clearly)	
Home Phone () Work Ph	one ()
How did you hear about HCC? Liability Waver	
The Houston Canoe Club always strives to make boating experiences as enjoyable as possible. However, some elements of risk including personal injury or death and property damage always exist in canoeing, kayaking, and water activities. I do hereby recognize this risk and agree to hold the Houston Canoe Club, its organizers, leaders, coordinators, officers and instructors from liability for any personal loss or injury which I may incur, and I do hereby WAIVE any remedy I may have in law or equity. This Liability Waiver is in effect while in transit to and from any Houston Canoe Club event and while participating in any Houston Canoe Club outing.	
Signature	_ Date
NEW member ? Yes No HCC Membership Fees: (Effective Jan1 – Dec. 31)	
HCC family Membership \$25.00 (new members only) ACA membership**	**Membership in the Houston Canoe Club makes you eligible for a special discount on membership in the Amer -

\$15.00

\$20.00

ican Canoe Association (ACA). ACA offers new members a subscription to Paddler magazine, The American Canoeist, discounts on books. instruction, events, and races. It is highly recommended (but not required)

that one joins ACA

Membership to the Houston Canoe Club offers you several advantages:

- A member of the oldest canoe club in Texas (established in 1964)
- Host of the largest on-water boat show in the country, The Southwestern Canoe Rendezvous
- Monthly newsletter with articles on local trip written by club members, safety advice, used boats, and upcoming trips
- Trips led by qualified trip coordinators to both local areas and distant locales
- HCC web page, access to instruction, and help with anything paddle related

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

Address: 2700 Southwest Freeway -Hwy 59 S @ Kirby

Hot Line: (713) 467-8857 - to leave a message or find out about upcoming trips

Webpage:

www.houstoncanoeclub.org

Return to:

Houston Canoe Club P O Box 925516 Houston, TX 77292-5516 Houston Canoe Club P.O. Box 925516 Houston, TX 77292-5516 Non-Profit Organization

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Check out the electronic format of this newsletter – available to current members only –

At <u>www.houstoncanoeclub.org</u>

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IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO HCC FOR 2002

