

HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP



▲ JANUARY

NEWSLETTER

2004 ▲

HOG CALENDAR

- Breakfast – LePeep Restaurant.....Jan. 10**
Don & Ray: 713-522-7809 (9am)
- Potluck Dinner.....Jan. 24**
Judith & Jeanne: 281-829-9532 (5pm)
- General Meeting & Newsletter Mailout.....Jan. 27**
Don & Ray: 713-522-7809 (7:30pm)

Welcome New Members

Jana B. • Marie G. • Leslie R.

MEET US FOR BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, JAN. 10 9AM

Our HOG monthly breakfast will be at LePeep Restaurant.

Join us for breakfast and friendly chat with other HOG members, friends and prospective members. This is a good time to get to know other members and discuss upcoming events and activities.

3810 Farnham

Major Cross Streets: Farnham & Greenbriar
Shopping Center: Shephard Plaza

For more information
and/or directions, call

Don & Ray at 713-522-7809



See you there!

From the President's Desk...

Happy New Year!

Can it be 2004 already? Can the Holiday Season be over? I hope your holidays have been as blessed as mine.

This year's HOG Christmas Party was one of the highlights of the season. These times are about good friends and good food. There was an abundance of both. Special thanks once again to Don and Ray for serving as hosts. I know Ray worked hard to get all those decorations up.

The White Elephant gift extravaganza got off to slow start. We are such a polite group that nobody would steal anything! But then an item got stolen and the fun was on. Items were flying across the room like the opening day at a .99¢ store. I can't wait to see how many of those gifts will be back next year.

The calendar for the early part of the the year has only the basics. If you would like to schedule an activity please check with Judith or Jeannine first, then let me know. Russell will then want to have all the details for the newsletter. If something comes up and there isn't time to get a notice in the newsletter we can email to most of the membership. If you want help with organizing an activity let me know about that, too.

Hope everyone had a great holiday season and we look forward to seeing you at the next HOG event.

—Bill Coxsey, President

The **Houston Outdoor Group (HOG)** is a social group for gay men, lesbians and gay friendly persons who enjoy the outdoors. Activities are organized by HOG members, individually or by ad hoc groups, and are reported in the monthly newsletter. Events may be typical sports activities (camping, hiking, etc.) but can also include any social activity, whether indoors or out. Call the Hogline at (713) KAMP-OUT for information, a free trial newsletter or write to **HOG, PO Box 980893, Houston, TX 77098**.

There are no formal membership requirements except for the annual fee of \$20 per household to cover the cost of the newsletter. HOG is affiliated with the IGLOO. www.radix.net/~erewhon/igloo/rindex.html

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

BOWLING

Sunday Bowling: 713-522-9612
Monday Nite Women's Bowling: 281-437-6218
Montrose Monday Night Men's Bowling:
713-641-5424
Wednesday Night Mixers Bowling:
713-522-9612



COUNSELING

Montrose Counseling Center
713-529-0037
www.MontroseCounselingCenter.org



HOUSTON TENNIS CLUB

www.HoustonTennisClub.org
713-522-1053

ROLLER SKATING

OutSkate

Wednesdays – 8-10pm (\$5 admission)
The "Z" Zenith Roller Rink
8075 Cook Road @ Beechnut
For information: 281-933-5818
dobie367@aol.com



CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB

www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org

The Montrose Softball League Houston

http://MontroseSoftballLeague.com
713-867-3913
Houston Women's Softball League
409-257-1885

RAINBOW FISHING CLUB

PO Box 66450
Houston, TX 77266
713-523-6381



Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club

713-682-4165
www.RainbowRanglers.org

RAINBOW FISHING CLUB

Deep Sea Fishing — Galveston / Freeport

Hola Fishies!

We have decided not to go out in December due to cold weather and the Red Snapper ban. The new season starts April 21, 2004 and runs to October 31, 2004.

In 2004 Galveston Party Boats (New Buccaneer) will require \$40 deposits which must be paid within 2 weeks of reservations. If you want the back of the boat fishing spots, the full \$75 needs to be paid up front. Total cost remains \$75. A new seven day cancellation for refund policy will apply.

Effective immediately the club will not handle reservations or deposits or refunds. Individuals need to call the boats directly (Galveston & Freeport) and make your own reservations and deposits. Galveston Party Boats is requiring full payment of \$75 up front if a group has five or more going, thus we'll have to make reservations individually. This will also be easier on the Coordinator!

For Galveston Party Boats on the New Buccaneer, call 713-222-7025 and ask for Andy Hernandez (Thursday-Monday 6am to 1pm). Insist on talking to Andy. He will take care of you. *No credit cards or checks.* Mention the Rainbow Fishing Club and he will work to get us fishing together on trip day. Deposits by money order to Galveston Party Boats. Only those making deposits and reservations soon will get back of the boat spots. You need to ask for that. Please advise the club at 713-523-6381 of your reservations so we can coordinate seating and fishing spots as best we can.

The first 4 dates are April 24, May 22 & June 26 (all Saturdays) on the New Buccaneer, Galveston and July 24 on the Captain Casey of Captain Elliott's Party Boats, Freeport. If you have questions, call the club at 713-523-6381.

New Bicycle Club:

Different Spokes Houston. E-mail: kmwright@pdq.net and let Keith know you want to join their rides around Houston and/or for more information.

Rollerskating:

OutSkate meets Wed 8-10pm at the Zenith Roller Rink
8075 Cook Road at Beechnut.
\$5 – Info 281-933-5818 or e-mail: dobie367@aol.com

Nice Apartment for Rent:

1114 Joe Annie #2, near Waugh & Dallas.
Around \$600. 1 Bedroom, 6 unit complex.
Call Catherine Cash 713-623-2935. Free laundry room, washer & dryer and small patio with grill & chairs.
Bikers, Rollerskaters, Fishy folk most welcome!!!

John
713-523-6381

Save these HOG dates:

February 14th - Potluck

Hosted by Peter
281-448-5533 • More info to follow

March (6th or 13th) - Potluck

Hosted by Don & Ray at their Galveston beach house
713-522-7809 • Exact date to follow

April 10th - Potluck

Hosted by Santiago & Marvin
713-869-5616 • More info to follow

April ?? - Bird watching

High Island • Date and more info to follow

April 16-18th - Camping Trip

Pedernales Falls State Park

Hosted by Jon G. • jonrussell@houston.rr.com

This is the weekend after Easter weekend. Each site will be for the weekend \$39. We have three sites with two tents on each site. Total campers are 12. Please RSVP early so that we can secure more sites if necessary - available sites are limited.

May 21-23 - Camping Trip

Enchanted Rock

Coordinated by Howard & Terri
713-528-6174 • howardk@hotmail.com

Three sites have been reserved for HOG, for a maximum of 24 people. Fee is \$5 per person per day for entrance and \$10 per campsite per day. Car parking is extra.

June 5 - Sand Castle Competition

Galveston • More info to follow

June ?? - Camping Trip

Gualupe River

Hosted by Ed B. • 713-529-6661
Date and more info to follow



To receive the color version of the newsletter by email via the HOG Yahoo Group, please drop me a line at RussellBWilliams@aol.com



HOG Potluck Dinner

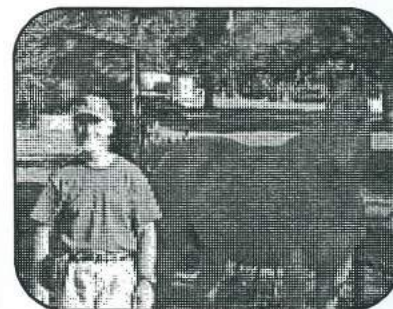
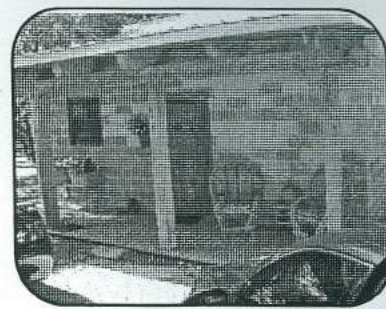
Join us for the January HOG potluck dinner at the home of board members, **Judith and Jeanne**, on Saturday, **January 24th** at 5pm.

They will provide the main meat dish and soft drinks. Please RSVP so that they can assign your side dishes and give you directions to their home. **BYOB!**

Contact them at **281-829-9532** to confirm your participation at this event. Hope to see you there!

Lost Maples Photos

November 21-23, 2003



HOG OFFICERS

President - Bill C.

713-526-6963 • billpctx@houston.rr.com

Vice President & Director of Membership - Dave M.

713-868-7991 • texdave@msn.com

Directors of Activity Support - Jeanne & Judith

281-829-9532 • jlbivens@ev1.net

Director of Publicity - Jon G.

713-290-0220 • jonrussell@houston.rr.com

Newsletter Editor - Russell Ben W.

713-862-1488 • RussellBWilliams@aol.com

Director of Finance / Treasurer - Arthur G.

713-862-9766 • AGonzales1105@aol.com

Memberhip Records - Dwayne K.

281-655-5447 • djkcpa@aol.com

HOG NOTES

MONTHLY MEETING

The HOG General Meeting is held in conjunction with the newsletter mailout on the last Tuesday of every month from 7:30 - 9pm at Don & Ray's.

Call 713-522-7809 for directions.

Members and non-members are welcome.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit articles, photos and/or ads before the 15th of the month for publication in the following month's edition of the HOG Newsletter.

Contact Russell at 713-862-1488

or send email to

RussellBWilliams@aol.com

HOG NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION / MEMBERSHIP

Individual or couple at same address - \$20 / year

PLEASE PRINT!

NAME 1: _____

NAME 2: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

New member Renewal

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE HOG?

Make your check payable to: ARTHUR GONZALES

MAIL TO: HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP
P.O. BOX 980893
HOUSTON, TX 77098-0893

The HOG mailing list is confidential, but you can sign up to be on our phone list. Only members who sign up receive the list.

E-MAIL: _____

I would like to receive the newsletter at the above email address instead of by U.S. Mail: YES NO

PHONE #: _____

Include me (us) on the phone list: YES NO

I, the undersigned, agree to hold the Houston Outdoor Group (HOG), its officers, volunteers, members and guests free from any liability for injury to myself or others or damage to property as a result of my participation in HOG activities. I further agree that I shall do nothing intentionally to jeopardize the health or safety of myself, HOG members and guests, that I have familiarized myself with all of the necessary precautions for safe participation in HOG activities, and that I will take such precautions.

SIGNATURE(S) REQUIRED

Signed: _____

date

Signed: _____

date

The activities sponsored by the Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) are cooperative in nature. Individuals participate at their own risk and with the understanding that trip leaders are not to be considered experts. The Houston Outdoor Group and its individual volunteers take no responsibility and disclaim any all liability for personal injury or property damage associated with its activities.

HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP



▲ MARCH

N E W S L E T T E R

2004 ▲

HOG CALENDAR MARCH EVENTS

Potluck/SocialMar. 6
Hosted by Don & Ray • 713-290-0220
Galveston Beach House

Lake Somerville State Park.....Mar. 12-14
Coordinated by Ed Baltz • 713-529-6661

HOG Breakfast.....Mar. 20
Tecate Mexican Restaurant at 2615 Ella Blvd.
Coordinated by Dave & Milton • 713-868-7991

General Meeting & Newsletter Mailout....Mar. 30
Hosted by Don & Ray • 713-522-7809 • (7:30pm)

MEET US FOR BREAKFAST SATURDAY, MARCH 20 9AM

Tecate Mexican Restaurant
2615 Ella Blvd. • 77008

Come and enjoy the delicious dishes from the diverse selection offered at the Tecate Mexican Restaurant on the edge of the Heights area. This popular restaurant, conveniently located by the northwest loop, is built with an Alamo style on the outside and the inside is set up in a comfortable environment for the whole family.

Contact Dave & Milton for more info
713-868-7991

See you there!

From the President ...

There are two events coming up that need support from the members:

Saturday, April 24th, is the annual Galveston Beach Cleanup. For several years the HOGs have been a part of this event. It is a way for us to give back to the community. We would meet in Galveston to pick up our assignment and then go pick up the garbage. I have enjoyed this day outdoors every time we have done it, but before I commit the group I need to know who would be interested. Don and Ray are going to be at their beach condo that weekend. They have invited us to go there after the cleanup so we can "cleanup" ourselves and then do something in the afternoon/early evening. Since Sunday is the birdwatching trip to High Island if you want to stay in Galveston it will be a quick trip over to join the birdwatching group. Please let me know as soon as possible so I can get us an assignment.

Those of you who get the emails from our HOG Yahoo Group know that we have a conflict for June. Empower will be staged as a part of Pride Month this year. It is scheduled for the same weekend as our annual trip to New Braunfels. The date for the New Braunfels trip is firm since it is the weekend our friends from Austin can join us. Many of the people who worked Empower in September are the same ones who will be on the New Braunfels trip. It is going to be difficult, if not impossible, to mount a full exhibit at Empower, but we need to have a presence, at least.

If you are not going on the float trip will you please consider spending some time at Empower? I will look into having a smaller booth, or the possibility of allying with another group with a booth, so we can hand out information about the Houston Outdoor Group.

The Houston Outdoor Group is a membership driven organization. The members plan and sponsor events. I need members who can help out with these events. Thanks.

—Bill Coxsey

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Montrose Monday Night Men's Bowling:
713-641-5424
Wednesday Night Mixers Bowling:
713-522-9612



COUNSELING

Montrose Counseling Center
713-529-0037
www.MontroseCounselingCenter.org



HOUSTON TENNIS CLUB

www.HoustonTennisClub.org
713-522-1053

ROLLER SKATING

OutSkate

Wednesdays – 8-10pm (\$5 admission)
The "Z" Zenith Roller Rink
8075 Cook Road @ Beechnut
For information: 281-933-5818
dobie367@aol.com



CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB

www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org

The Montrose Softball League *Houston*

<http://MontroseSoftballLeague.com>
713-867-3913
Houston Women's Softball League
409-257-1885

RAINBOW FISHING CLUB

PO Box 66450
Houston, TX 77266
713-523-6381



Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club
713-682-4165
www.RainbowRanglers.org

RAINBOW FISHING CLUB

Deep Sea Fishing – Galveston / Freeport

Hola Fishies,

We now have ten paid in full for the Sunday, May 2nd trip (8 women & two guys) and four paid for the Saturday June 5th trip (2 guys & 2 gals). For May 2nd we have 5 spots on the back side of the boat that are adjacent to our first 10 plus an extra 5 on the other side if necessary. \$40 deposits for the side of the boat spots are needed ASAP. Pay the other \$35 at the boat.

For the June 5th trip we have the whole Back of the Boat reserved (15 spots out of a possible 16). \$75 deposits in full are needed for these spots.

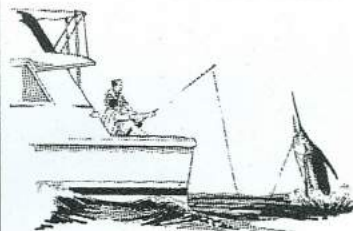
Deadline for both trips is February 26, but we expect to extend it this Saturday for another two weeks. Please call John at 713-523-6381 for reservations and information and send checks to:

Rainbow Fishing Club
PO Box 66450
Houston, TX 77266

For those who are concerned about sea sickness, we have had almost no problems over the past 7 years when people follow the recommendations of the *Houston Chronicle* fishing sports writer: Take 2 Dramamine at bedtime the night before and two as soon as you board the boat (about 1/2 hour before the boat sails). Eckerd has their "Motion Sickness" tablets for \$3.99.

RAINBOW FISHING CLUB

Deep Sea Fishing — Galveston / Freeport



April to October
Call HOG member
John for a sample
newsletter at
713-523-6381

Welcome New Member

• Joel A.

Save these HOG dates:

March 6th - Potluck Social (5:00 pm)

Hosted by Don & Ray at their Galveston beach house
Call for directions & food assignment - 713-522-7809

March 12-14th - Camping Trip

Lake Somerville State Park - Nails Creek Unit

(on the south side of Lake Somerville. About 2.5 hours from Houston) Two spaces have been reserved (8 people per site).

Coordinated by Ed Baltz • 713-529-6661

March 20th - Breakfast at Tecate (9am)

Coordinated by Dave & Milton
713-868-7991 • texdave@msn.com

April 3rd - Potluck

Hosted by Santiago & Marvin
713-869-5616 • More info to follow

April 10th - Breakfast at Kenny & Ziggy's (9am)

Coordinated by Jeanne & Judith
281-829-9532 • jlbevins@ev1.net

April 16-18th - Camping

Pedernales Falls State Park

Coordinated by Jon G. • jonrussell@houston.rr.com

Each site will be for the weekend \$39. We have 3 sites with two tents on each site - 12 campers! Please RSVP early so that we can secure more sites if needed - sites are limited!

April 24th - Galveston Beach Cleanup

Coordinated by Bill & Thomas
713-526-6963 • billpctx@houston.rr.com

April 25 - Bird watching - High Island

Coordinated by Jeff Walker • More info to follow

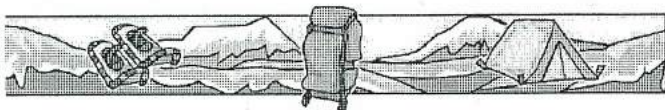
May 8 - Breakfast at LePeep (9am)

Coordinated by Don & Ray • 713-522-7809

May 21-23 - Camping Trip - Enchanted Rock

Coordinated by Howard & Terry
713-528-6174 • howardk@hotmail.com

Three sites have been reserved to accommodate 24 people. Fee is \$5 per person per day for entrance and \$10 per campsite per day. Parking is extra. The Austin group will also be joining us—they have reserved two sites for their group.



LAKE SOMERVILLE

MARCH 12-14

Plans are underway for our first HOG camping trip of the year. Ed Baltz is coordinating this effort and is standing by to take your RSVPs.

Ed notes that only two campsites have been reserved and can accommodate a total of 16 tent campers (tent-only sites). Parking and bathrooms are close by. The site overlooks Lake Somerville and has lots of wild flowers. There are two hiking trails – one winds through the forest for a few miles and the other goes across a nearby peninsula with excellent views of the Lake. Boating, kayaking and bicycling are a few of the activities that you can enjoy during the weekend.

Ed suggests dining out on Saturday evening in the historic little town of Burton which has an excellent restaurant run by a French chef from Houston.

The park is about 2½ hours from Houston. The cost will be about \$5 per person per night for the campsite and a few dollars per car per night. For more information, contact Ed at 713-529-6661 or edbaltz@yahoo.com.

HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP

CALL FOR INFO:

713-K-A-M-P-O-U-T

www.geocities.com/houstonoutdoorgroup

HOG OFFICERS

President - Bill C.

713-526-6963 • billpctx@houston.rr.com

Vice President & Director of Membership - Dave M.

713-868-7991 • texdave@msn.com

Directors of Activity Support - Jeanne & Judith

281-829-9532 • jlbevins@ev1.net

Director of Publicity - Jon G.

713-290-0220 • jonrussell@houston.rr.com

Newsletter Editor - Russell Ben W.

713-862-1488 • driftw@aol.com

Director of Finance / Treasurer - Arthur G.

713-862-9766 • AGonzales1105@aol.com

Membership Records - Dwayne K.

281-655-5447 • djkcpa@aol.com

On the HOG Horizon ...

June 5 - Sand Castle Competition
Galveston • more info to follow

June 12-13 - Empower / Pride Kick Off

June 11-13 - Camping / River Rafting
Guadalupe River
Coordinated by Ed B. • 713-529-6661
more info to follow

June 19 - Pool Party • more info to follow
Hosted by Peter

June 19 - Blueberry Picking
Coordinated by Howard & Terry
713-528-6174 • howardk@hotmail.com
Meet at Howard & Terry's at 9:00am and carpool
to Moorhead Blueberry Farm, just 1 hour north of
Montrose, just past Kingwood. Fifteen acres of wonder-
ful blueberries. Pick all you want at \$1.50 per pound,
buckets furnished. www.Moorheadblueberryfarm.com

HOG NOTES

MONTHLY MEETING

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Individual or couple at same address - \$20 / year

PLEASE PRINT!

NAME 1: _____

NAME 2: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

New member Renewal

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE HOG?

Make your check payable to: ARTHUR GONZALES

MAIL TO: HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP
P.O. BOX 980893
HOUSTON, TX 77098-0893

The HOG mailing list is confidential, but you can sign up to be on our phone list. Only members who sign up receive the list.

E-MAIL: _____

I would like to receive the newsletter at the above email address instead of by U.S. Mail: YES NO

PHONE #: _____

Include me (us) on the phone list: YES NO

I, the undersigned, agree to hold the Houston Outdoor Group (HOG), its officers, volunteers, members and guests free from any liability for injury to myself or others or damage to property as a result of my participation in HOG activities. I further agree that I shall do nothing intentionally to jeopardize the health or safety of myself, HOG members and guests, that I have familiarized myself with all of the necessary precautions for safe participation in HOG activities, and that I will take such precautions.

SIGNATURE(S) REQUIRED

Signed: _____
date

Signed: _____
date

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HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP



▲ APRIL

NEWSLETTER

2004 ▲

HOG CALENDAR APRIL EVENTS

April 3rd - Potluck

Hosted by Santiago & Marvin • 713-869-5616

April 10th - Breakfast at Kenny & Ziggy's (9am)

Coordinated by Jeanne & Judith
281-829-9532 • jlbivens@ev1.net

April 16-18th - Pedernales Falls State Park

Coordinated by Jon G. • 713-290-0220
jonrussell@houston.rr.com

April 24th - Galveston Beach Cleanup

Coordinated by Bill & Thomas • 713-526-6963
billpctx@houston.rr.com

April 25th - Bird watching - High Island

Coordinated by Jeff Walker • 713-729-5072
jwalker3@houston.rr.com

April 27th - General Meeting & Newsletter Mailout

Hosted by Don & Ray • 713-522-7809 • (7:30pm)

MEET US FOR BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, APRIL 10 9AM

Kenny & Ziggy's Delicatessen

2327 Post Oak • 281-871-8883

(between Westheimer and San Felipe)

Please join us at Kenny & Ziggy's for our monthly HOG breakfast. They serve kosher (Jewish style) food. The food is great and so is the service. I have made arrangements for a large party and they will do separate checks.

Coordinated by Judith & Jeanne

For more information, call us at 281-829-9532

See you there!

From the President

The annual **Texas Beach Cleanup Day** is Saturday, April 24th. This has been a great day to get outdoors, enjoy the beach and do something good at the same time. The Houston Outdoor Group has participated in the past. This is something I believe in strongly. Please reserve some time in your busy schedules to join the HOG in this very worthwhile (and fun) event.

Please contact me so I can get you registered. I have the forms that need to be turned in on Cleanup Day. Write to me at billpctx@hotmail.com or call 713-526-6963.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. at Menard Park at 28th & Seawall in Galveston. Yes, that is early. If you are running behind we will wait for you at the park until **nine a.m.** Trash bags, forms, and pencils will be handed out to keep track of what you may find. Wear shoes. Wear gloves. Wear sunscreen. Bring water. In the past there has been orange juice and some munchies to get everyone started on the day and some lunch after. Or we can always do a quick breakfast at a fast food place before we head to our designated area.

We will work hard and maybe splash in the water before we are done. We will be finished by noon so there will be time for other things in the afternoon.

For those of you who would like to make a weekend of it on the coast, Don and Ray will be staying at their condo that weekend. They will make it available for showering if you want to go do other things in town after the cleanup. If you want to stay over, there will be room if you want bunk out for the night. There will be limited bed and floor space so contact them in advance at 713-290-0220.

Don't forget that on Sunday, Jeff will be leading his second annual birdwatching trip. Check for details elsewhere in the newsletter. This was a big favorite last year. We can coordinate with them and take the ferry over to High Island on Sunday to meet up for birdwatching.

-Bill

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Are you ready
for PRIDE?

June 26, 2004



CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

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Monday Nite Women's Bowling: 281-437-6218

Montrose Monday Night Men's Bowling:
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HOUSTON TENNIS CLUB

www.HoustonTennisClub.org
713-522-1053



CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB

www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org

The Montrose Softball League Houston

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Houston Women's Softball League
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RAINBOW FISHING CLUB

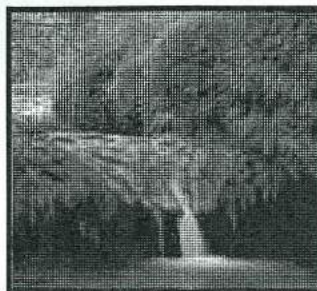
PO Box 66450
Houston, TX 77266
713-523-6381



Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club
713-682-4165
www.RainbowRanglers.org

Pedernales Falls State Park

April 16-18th



As of the newsletter publication deadline, eighteen (18) people have signed up to go to Pedernales Falls State Park. We may be able to squeeze one more tent into one of the sites

if anyone else would like to go. **Contact Jon or John at 713-290-0220 to sign up.**

Pre camp meeting will be during the breakfast on April 10th at Kenny and Ziggy's. Information about the campsites, maps, directions etc. will be handed out at that time. If you can't come to the breakfast you may email Jon at jonrussell@houston.rr.com and he will send you the information.

Pedernales Falls State Park consists of 5,250 acres, numerous spring-fed streams. Located in the Texas Hill Country near Johnson City in Blanco County, the park has six miles of river-front acreage and a wealth of water activities like swimming, wading, tubing, kayaking and fishing. There are sandy beaches on eroded banks and several water falls. Several trails offer scenic sojourns through fern-lined canyons dotted with Texas persimmon, red buck-eye and mustang grape.



The park has some 20 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails and 14 miles of backpacking trails, as well as the Pedernales Hill Country Nature Trail.

More information will be distributed at the pre-camp meeting on April 10th.

Welcome New Member

• Jim G.

Save these HOG dates:

April 3rd - Potluck

Hosted by Santiago & Marvin • 713-869-5616

April 10th - Breakfast at Kenny & Ziggy's (9am)

Coordinated by Jeanne & Judith
281-829-9532 • jlbivens@ev1.net

April 16-18th - Pedernales Falls State Park

Coordinated by Jon G. • 713-290-0220
jonrussell@houston.rr.com

April 24th - Galveston Beach Cleanup

Coordinated by Bill & Thomas • 713-526-6963
billpctx@houston.rr.com

April 25th - Bird watching - High Island

Coordinated by Jeff Walker • 713-729-5072
jwalker3@houston.rr.com

May 8 - Breakfast at LePeep (9am)

Coordinated by Don & Ray • 713-522-7809

May 21-23 - Camping Trip - Enchanted Rock

Coordinated by Howard & Terry
713-528-6174 • howardk@hotmail.com

Three sites have been reserved to accommodate 24 people. Fee is \$5 per person per day for entrance and \$10 per campsite per day. Parking is extra. The Austin group will also be joining us—they have reserved two sites for their group.

June 5 - Sand Castle Competition

Galveston • more info to follow

June 12-13 - Empower / Pride Kick Off

June 11-13 - Camping / River Rafting

Guadalupe River
Coordinated by Ed B. • 713-529-6661
more info to follow

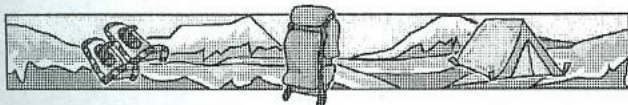
June 19 - Pool Party • more info to follow

Hosted by Peter

June 19 - Blueberry Picking

Coordinated by Howard & Terry
713-528-6174 • howardk@hotmail.com

Meet at Howard & Terry's at 9:00am and car-pool to Moorhead Blueberry Farm, just 1 hour north of Montrose, just past Kingwood. Fifteen acres of wonderful blueberries. Pick all you want at \$1.50 per pound, buckets furnished.
www.Moorheadblueberryfarm.com



High Island Birdwatching

April 25th

On Sunday, April 25th, we'll be going to **High Island** again to see some of North America's most beautiful songbirds as they migrate from South and Central America across the Gulf of Mexico to the Texas coast.

We will also visit a rookery to see roseate spoonbills, herons and egrets and their babies in the nests. Bring binoculars and insect repellent (or long pants and long-sleeve shirts) in case the mosquitoes are a problem.

Picnic tables are available if you want to bring lunch and there is a convenience store nearby.

High Island (not really an island) is on the coast about an hour and a half east of Houston.

We will carpool from the House of Pies on Kirby at 10am, but meet us there at 8:30 if you want breakfast first.

Entrance to the birdwatching area run by the Audubon Society is \$5.

Call Jeff at 713-729-5072 if you have any questions.

HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP

CALL FOR INFO:

713-K-A-M-P-O-U-T

www.geocities.com/houstonoutdoorgroup

HOG OFFICERS

President - Bill C.

713-526-6963 • billpctx@houston.rr.com

Vice President & Director of Membership - Dave M.

713-868-7991 • texdave@msn.com

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Newsletter Editor - Russell Ben W.

713-862-1488 • driftw@aol.com

Director of Finance / Treasurer - Arthur G.

713-862-9766 • AGonzales1105@aol.com

Membership Records - Dwayne K.

281-655-5447 • djkcpa@aol.com



Join the HOG Yahoo Group!

Our Yahoo Group is a private email group for members of the Houston Outdoor Group. With this group, we are able to send out last minute updates and reminders about upcoming events. You can also post photos from our camping events or HOG Socials.

If you have not already subscribed to our yahoo group, please contact Russell Williams at driftw@aol.com to get instructions and more information.

HOG NOTES

MONTHLY MEETING

The HOG General Meeting is held in conjunction with the newsletter mailout on the last Tuesday of every month from 7:30 - 9pm at Don & Ray's. Call 713-522-7809 for directions. Members and non-members are welcome.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit articles, photos and/or ads before the 15th of the month for publication in the following month's edition of the HOG Newsletter. Contact Russell at 713-862-1488 or send email to RussellBWilliams@aol.com

HOG NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION / MEMBERSHIP

Individual or couple at same address - \$20 / year

PLEASE PRINT!

NAME 1: _____

NAME 2: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

New member Renewal

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE HOG?

Make your check payable to: ARTHUR GONZALES

MAIL TO: HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP
P.O. BOX 980893
HOUSTON, TX 77098-0893

The HOG mailing list is confidential, but you can sign up to be on our phone list. Only members who sign up receive the list.

E-MAIL: _____

I would like to receive the newsletter at the above email address instead of by U.S. Mail: YES NO

PHONE #: _____

Include me (us) on the phone list: YES NO

I, the undersigned, agree to hold the Houston Outdoor Group (HOG), its officers, volunteers, members and guests free from any liability for injury to myself or others or damage to property as a result of my participation in HOG activities. I further agree that I shall do nothing intentionally to jeopardize the health or safety of myself, HOG members and guests, that I have familiarized myself with all of the necessary precautions for safe participation in HOG activities, and that I will take such precautions.

SIGNATURE(S) REQUIRED

Signed: _____
date

Signed: _____
date

The activities sponsored by the Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) are cooperative in nature. Individuals participate at their own risk and with the understanding that trip leaders are not to be considered experts. The Houston Outdoor Group and its individual volunteers take no responsibility and disclaim any all liability for personal injury or property damage associated with its activities.

HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP



▲ MAY

NEWSLETTER

2004 ▲

HOG CALENDAR MAY EVENTS

May 8th - Breakfast LePeep (9am)

Coordinated by Don & Ray
713-522-7809

May 14th - Forbidden Gardens - Katy, TX

Coordinated by Jeanne & Judith • 281-829-9532
jlbivens@ev1.net

May 21st - 23rd - Enchanted Rock

Coordinated by Howard & Terry. • 713-528-6174
howardk@hotmail.com (see page 2)

May 25th - General Meeting & Newsletter Mailout

Hosted by Don & Ray • 713-522-7809 • (7:30pm)

MEET US FOR BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, MAY 8 9AM

**Our HOG monthly breakfast will be at
LePeep Restaurant.**

Join us for breakfast and friendly chat with other HOG members, friends and prospective members. This is a good time to get to know other members and discuss upcoming events and activities.

3810 Farnham

Major Cross Streets: Farnham & Greenbriar
Shopping Center: Shephard Plaza

For more information
and/or directions, call

Don & Ray at 713-522-7809

See you there!



From the President ...

Sometimes no matter how well planned a weekend might be, it just won't work out. Heavy rains washed out an entire weekend of activities for us on the Gulf Coast.

My special thanks to Santiago, Marvin and Don for huddling with me in the driving rain under a tent in Galveston waiting for final word on Beach Cleanup Day. We were there and ready to go to work but the weather would not cooperate. Hundreds of other volunteers did not make it because of the storms and the organizers were forced to cancel. But there will be a fall cleanup on the third weekend of September and, barring a hurricane, we will try once again to have a fun day outdoors doing some good work at the same time. (By the way, I now have a huge sack full of plastic cups from Beach Cleanup Day so at the next social everyone can have their own, or two or three.)

Jeff had the same problem the next day for our bird watching trip to High Island. Thomas and I joined him for breakfast as we hoped for better weather. It didn't happen.

Let me remind members that we don't ask much of you except that you do try to host an event sometime during the year, whether it be the social, a breakfast or an outing. If you have never done one, you can always team with someone. Your officers can provide all kinds of expertise and support. If you've got a favorite place or event, share it with the rest of us. Nothing is too big or too small. Just propose something.

If you are even thinking about going to an event, would you please contact the person who is organizing it. They like to know your interest so they can make plans, or not. There are two big events coming up and the organizers would like to know even if you are only thinking about going.

Please note a change of phone number for me. We have gone totally cellular with our move to a new house: 713-560-9794. Always leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

-Bill

The **Houston Outdoor Group** (HOG) is a social group for gay men, lesbians and gay friendly persons who enjoy the outdoors. Activities are organized by HOG members, individually or by ad hoc groups, and are reported in the monthly newsletter. Events may be typical sports activities (camping, hiking, etc.) but can also include any social activity, whether indoors or out. Call the Hogline at (713) KAMP-OUT for information, a free trial newsletter or write to **HOG, PO Box 980893, Houston, TX 77098**.

There are no formal membership requirements except for the annual fee of \$20 per household to cover the cost of the newsletter. HOG is affiliated with the IGLOO (www.radix.net/~erewhon/igloo/rindex.html)

Are you ready
for PRIDE?
June 26, 2004

PRIDE



CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

BOWLING

Sunday Bowling: 713-522-9612

Monday Nite Women's Bowling: 281-437-6218

Montrose Monday Night Men's Bowling:

713-641-5424

Wednesday Night Mixers Bowling:

713-522-9612



COUNSELING

Montrose Counseling Center

713-529-0037

www.MontroseCounselingCenter.org



HOUSTON TENNIS CLUB

www.HoustonTennisClub.org

713-522-1053



CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB

www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org

The **Montrose Softball League** *Houston*

<http://MontroseSoftballLeague.com>

713-867-3913

Houston Women's Softball League

409-257-1885

RAINBOW FISHING CLUB

PO Box 66450

Houston, TX 77266

713-523-6381



Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club

713-682-4165

www.RainbowRanglers.org

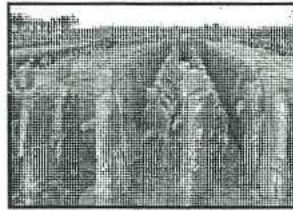
New to the calendar is a day trip to the **Forbidden Gardens** in Katy, TX on Saturday, **May 15th**. We will meet promptly at 10:30am and begin the tour at 11am.

Opened in 1996, Forbidden Gardens is located at the corner of Grand Parkway and Franz Road in Katy. It educates visitors on China's "Middle Kingdom." Forbidden Gardens has replicated (in miniature) the Forbidden City, the First Emperor's Terra-Cotta Army, the canal city of Suzhou and much more.

Meticulously constructed by Chinese artists, this replica of the 1974 archeological find of Emperor Qin's Terra-Cotta army is the museum's main exhibit and the main attraction that drew more than 50,000 visitors to the facility over the past year.

The cost for touring the gardens is \$10 per person

- or \$5 per person if we can get a group of 25 people. For directions & more information, please contact **Jeanne & Judith** at **281-829-9532** or jlbevins@ev1.net.



Enchanted Rock

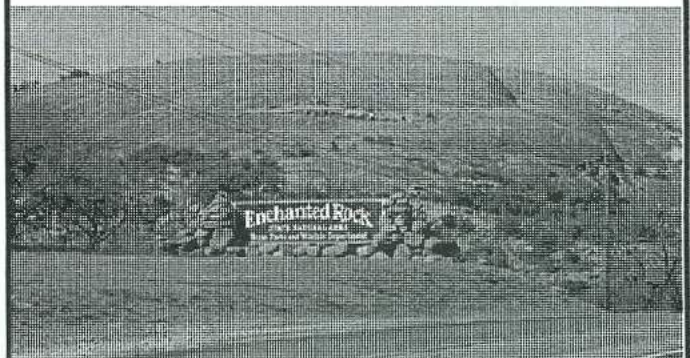
May 21-23

We will be camping at Enchanted Rock Natural Area near Fredricksburg.

Two sites have been reserved to accommodate 24 people. Fee is \$5 per person per day for entrance and \$10 per campsite per day. Parking is extra.

The Austin group will also be joining us—they have reserved two sites for their group.

For more information or to RSVP contact Howard & Terry
713-528-6174 • howardk@hotmail.com



Save these HOG dates:

June 5 - Sand Castle Competition - Galveston

The AIA Sand Castle Competition takes place on East Beach in Galveston. Admission is free and parking is \$5. For more information, see page 2, or visit the website at: www.aiasandcastle.com

June 12-13 - Empower / Pride Kick Off

June 11-13 - Camping / River Rafting Guadalupe River

Coordinated by Ed B. • 713-529-6661
(more info - this page, right column)

June 19 - Pool Party • more info to follow Hosted by Peter

June 19 - Blueberry Picking

Coordinated by Howard & Terry
713-528-6174 • howardk@hotmail.com
Meet at Howard & Terry's at 9:00am and car-pool to Moorhead Blueberry Farm, just 1 hour north of Montrose, just past Kingwood. Fifteen acres of wonderful blueberries. Pick all you want at \$1.50 per pound, buckets furnished.
www.Moorheadblueberryfarm.com

July 4 - Pot Luck

Hosted by Bill & Thomas • 713-560-9794
more info to follow

August 14 - Pool Party

Hosted by Dave & Milton • 713-868-7991
more info to follow

Group photo from the April 16-18 camping trip at Pedernales Falls



BIKING & ROLLERSKATING NEWS:

Plans to restart the **Lambda Rollerskating Club** and to start a new Montrose centered fun/casual bicycle club are progressing.

Anyone interested in helping can call **John** at **713-523-6381**.

A Day at the Beach ...

More than 2,500 of Houston's most creative and competitive architects and designers will pack up their buckets and shovels to participate in the annual **American Institute of Architects Sandcastle Competition**. Utilizing wit, imagination and their finest sand-sculpting techniques, they'll dazzle us with their creations. Everyone is invited to watch them create these structures. And don't forget to vote for your favorite!

- 6:30 - 10 am** Mandatory team check-in at the beach pavillion
7 - 8:30 am Beach open for access to sites
8:30 - 9 am Clear beach of all vehicles unloading equipment
10 am - 3 pm Sandcastle building
3 - 4:30 pm Sandcastle judging
4:30 - 5 pm Awards ceremony
3 pm - Dusk Pictures of all sandcastles and winning teams

HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP

CALL FOR INFO:

713-K-A-M-P-O-U-T

www.geocities.com/houstonoutdoorgroup

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713-862-1488 • driftw@aol.com

Director of Finance / Treasurer - Arthur G.

713-862-9766 • AGonzales1105@aol.com

Membership Records - Dwayne K.

281-655-5447 • djkcpa@aol.com

Guadalupe River Rafting

June 11-13

We will be camping at **K & L Ranch** camp, 5300 River Road, New Braunfels. Phone: 830-625-3038.

Directions: I-10 west, 46 west, River Rd right (a few miles past I-35). After the second bridge, you will find the K&L ranch camp. We will try to secure sites 26&27 for the weekend.

The cost should be about \$8 per person per night. The rafts should cost \$20 per person.

We will raft on Saturday, starting about 10am and the trip takes about 3 hours. There are some great hiking trails in this area as well.

We will eat dinner on Saturday at the Grist Mill in historic Groene, Tx.

For more information, contact **Ed Baltz, 713-529-6661** if you are going to join us.

HOG NOTES

MONTHLY MEETING

The HOG General Meeting is held in conjunction with the newsletter mailout on the last Tuesday of every month from 7:30 - 9pm at Don & Ray's.

Call 713-522-7809 for directions.

Members and non-members are welcome.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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Contact Russell at 713-862-1488

or send email to

RussellBWilliams@aol.com

HOG NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION / MEMBERSHIP

Individual or couple at same address - \$20 / year

PLEASE PRINT!

NAME 1: _____

NAME 2: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

New member Renewal

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE HOG?

Make your check payable to: ARTHUR GONZALES

MAIL TO: HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP
P.O. BOX 980893
HOUSTON, TX 77098-0893

The HOG mailing list is confidential, but you can sign up to be on our phone list. Only members who sign up receive the list.

E-MAIL: _____

I would like to receive the newsletter at the above email address instead of by U.S. Mail: YES NO

PHONE #: _____

Include me (us) on the phone list: YES NO

I, the undersigned, agree to hold the Houston Outdoor Group (HOG), its officers, volunteers, members and guests free from any liability for injury to myself or others or damage to property as a result of my participation in HOG activities. I further agree that I shall do nothing intentionally to jeopardize the health or safety of myself, HOG members and guests, that I have familiarized myself with all of the necessary precautions for safe participation in HOG activities, and that I will take such precautions.

SIGNATURE(S) REQUIRED

Signed: _____ date

Signed: _____ date

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HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP



▲ JUNE

NEWSLETTER

2004 ▲

HOG CALENDAR MAY EVENTS

June 11-13 - Guadalupe River

Camping / River Rafting

Coordinated by Ed B. • 713-529-6661

June 12-13 - Empower / Pride Kick Off

June 19 - Pool Party

Hosted by Peter • 281-448-5533

June 19 - Blueberry Picking

Coordinated by Howard & Terry

713-528-6174 • howardk@hotmail.com

June 29 - General Meeting & Newsletter Mailout

Hosted by Don & Ray • 713-522-7809 • (7:30pm)

A HOG Day at Forbidden Gardens

Judith and Jeanne led a group of a dozen HOG members to the Forbidden Gardens in Katy, TX. They found it to be a very educational and interesting experience. The displays were weathered, but the history and the details about them were great. Some of the displays were closed for renovations, but all in all, they enjoyed this worthwhile the trip into the past. Judith & Jeanne encourage you to visit the Forbidden Gardens if you haven't done so!

From the President ...

About once each year or so the subject of our organization's budget comes up. That time has come again as our bank account gets low.

Since last August our income has been \$1,414.66 while our expenses have been \$1,311.23. That leaves us with \$103.43 as the month of May began. It will be a tight squeeze to make it through the summer without some help from the members.

We have not mounted a big fund raiser in almost three years (garage sale). There have been several "angels" who have contributed more than their fair share to the treasury by picking up bills for things and making special donations. We can't depend on those angels to do it all though. We need your help, too. If you know your membership dues are coming up soon, please pay them. \$20 is a low, low price to renew so, if you can, add a little extra as a donation. It would be nice if you good make an extra donation of \$35. That is about what our phone bill runs each month so that would be a big help.

At our next breakfast we will be passing the hat to collect any donations of cold, hard cash that you can give. It will be one of those HOG caps that we also need to sell out.

Any other ideas of how to enrich our bank account will be appreciated.

— Bill

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lori Jo M. & Lisa C.

Jim D. • Brian D.

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Blueberry Picking June 19

Meet at Howard & Terry's home at 9:00am to carpool to Moorhead Blueberry Farm. The farm is one hour north of Montrose, just past Kingwood.

Fifteen acres of wonderful blueberries. Pick all you want at \$1.50 per pound, buckets furnished.

For more information and/or directions to Howard & Terry's home, please call 713-528-6174 or email howard at howardk@hotmail.com.

Empower June 12-13

Our Empower booth has been paid for but your help is needed to purchase items for the display and to give away. At the last Empower our booth attracted lots of attention and new members with all the camping equipment we had to give away.

Our booth was donated last time. This time we need to get the members to donate the items to give away. We need new camping equipment in its original box. We need a tent, 2 sleeping bags, ice chest, lantern (gas or electric, but remember no gas cannisters at the convention center), camp stove, camp chairs and anything else your creative minds can imagine.

PLEASE, HELP US OUT!

Before you shop please call **Bill** at 713-560-9794 to make sure an item has not already been donated.

See you at Empower!

Pool Party! June 19

Peter invites all HOG members to a pot luck and pool party at his home on Saturday, June 19

Runs from 4 pm to 8 pm. Smoking outdoors only. Bring your own towel and please **no oil lotions**.

Call Peter to RSVP, to get directions and to let him know what you will be bringing for the pot luck.

You may reach him at 281-448-5533.

PRIDE



ARE YOU READY FOR PRIDE? JUNE 26, 2004 - BE THERE!

AS BIG AS TEXAS

HOW ARE YOU VOTING IN 2004?

by Bill C.

It is time to consider new leadership for the Houston Outdoor Group. It has been my pleasure to serve as President for the last two years. But it is time for me to move out and bring in someone new to take the group on to bigger and better things. In August a new group of officers will be elected. Before that time I would like to have input from the members about who you think would do a great job in a particular position. Your phone calls, emails and conversations will be strictly confidential. If you have someone to nominate for a particular job, please do so. If you are interested in taking on a particular position, then nominate yourself. Attend the mailout session in June and July where this will be a major topic of discussion.

One final word on this subject: **NO!** Under no circumstances will I be a candidate! Yes, I will still be around and I will still be active but it is time for someone else to move us forward.

HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP

CALL FOR INFO:

713-K-A-M-P-O-U-T

www.geocities.com/houstonoutdoorgroup

ENCHANTED ROCK WEEKEND WRAP-UP

by Howard K.

Three of us hit the road on Friday (May 21) to Enchanted Rock, stopping to eat BBQ in Luling, then driving through San Marcus into the Hill Country. The yellow wildflowers were in full bloom as were the prickly pear cactus blooming.

We stopped by the peach stands along the road going into Fredricksburg and purchased lots of delicious Fredricksburg peaches. The weather for the weekend was perfect with morning highs in the mid 80s and evening lows in the upper 60s.

We had five campers and day hikers from Houston, one from College Station, three from San Antonio and five from Austin, so we truly had a Texas campout. The park was not full—so it was quieter than normal. The stars were in full show with several planets visible. The hikes on Saturday included Little Enchanted Rock, Enchanted Rock and some of us ventured into the cave.

On Saturday evening we went into town and ate outside at a Biergarten and watched the beautiful scenery—the men that is.

We want to thank Peter L. from Austin for getting there early on Friday and getting good campsites together for all of us. On the return on Sunday, Terry, Ed and I stopped at the Wildflower Farm east of Fredricksburg which is the largest in the country and enjoyed all of the beautiful flowers and blooming shrubs. We stopped by the Lavendar Festival in Blanco on the way back, too.

Hope to see you all next year.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

BOWLING

Sunday Bowling: 713-522-9612

Monday Nite Women's Bowling: 281-437-6218

Montrose Monday Night Men's Bowling:

713-641-5424

Wednesday Night Mixers Bowling:

713-522-9612



HOUSTON TENNIS CLUB

www.HoustonTennisClub.org

713-522-1053



Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club

713-682-4165

www.RainbowRanglers.org

CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB

www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org



COUNSELING

Montrose Counseling Center

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RAINBOW FISHING CLUB

PO Box 66450

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The Montrose Softball League *Houston*

<http://MontroseSoftballLeague.com>

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more info to follow

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Hosted by Dave & Milton • 713-868-7991
more info to follow

November 12-14 - Lost Maples / Fox Fire Cabins

Hosted by Jon & John • 713-290-0220
See May newsletter for more information

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713-290-0220 • jonrussell@houston.rr.com

Newsletter Editor - Russell Ben W.

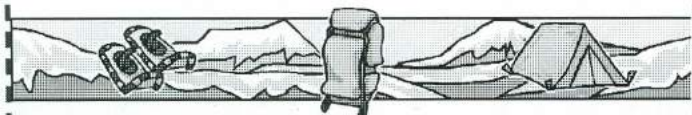
713-862-1488 • driftw@aol.com

Director of Finance / Treasurer - Arthur G.

713-862-9766 • AGonzales1105@aol.com

Membership Records - Dwayne K.

281-655-5447 • djkcpa@aol.com



HOG NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION / MEMBERSHIP

Individual or couple at same address - \$20 / year

PLEASE PRINT!

NAME 1: _____

NAME 2: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

New member

Renewal

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE HOG?

Make your check payable to: ARTHUR GONZALES

MAIL TO: HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP
P.O. BOX 980893
HOUSTON, TX 77098-0893

The HOG mailing list is confidential, but you can sign up to be on our phone list. Only members who sign up receive the list.

E-MAIL: _____

I would like to receive the newsletter at the above email address instead of by U.S. Mail: YES NO

PHONE #: _____

Include me (us) on the phone list: YES NO

I, the undersigned, agree to hold the Houston Outdoor Group (HOG), its officers, volunteers, members and guests free from any liability for injury to myself or others or damage to property as a result of my participation in HOG activities. I further agree that I shall do nothing intentionally to jeopardize the health or safety of myself, HOG members and guests, that I have familiarized myself with all of the necessary precautions for safe participation in HOG activities, and that I will take such precautions.

SIGNATURE(S) REQUIRED

Signed: _____
date

Signed: _____
date

The activities sponsored by the Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) are cooperative in nature. Individuals participate at their own risk and with the understanding that trip leaders are not to be considered experts. The Houston Outdoor Group and its individual volunteers take no responsibility and disclaim any all liability for personal injury or property damage associated with its activities.

HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP



▲ JULY

NEWSLETTER

2004 ▲

HOG CALENDAR JULY EVENTS

July 4 - Potluck Dinner

Coordinated by Bill & Thomas • 713-560-9794

July 10 - HOG Breakfast • Luby's-290 at 34th St.

Coordinated by Bill & Thomas • 713-560-9794

July 26 - HOG Night at the Astros

Coordinated by Bill & Thomas • 713-560-9794

billpctx@hotmail.com

July 17 - Arts Walk

Hosted by Dwayne • 281-655-5447 • djkcpa@aol.com

July 24 - HOG Social - 6pm

Hosted by Dwayne • 281-655-5447 • djkcpa@aol.com

July 27 - General Meeting & Newsletter Mailout

Hosted by Don & Ray • 713-522-7809 • (7:30pm)

From the President ...

I begin this month with lots and lots of *Thank You's*. At the top of my list is Jon, who helped me out so much with the Empower setup. Thanks to Russell for our activities flyer at Empower. Jon/John and Lisa/Lori donated items that we gave away. They also helped out by staffing the booth. Thanks to all those who worked the booth: Don, Ray, Peter, Rochelle, Dwayne, John, Jon and Russell. I hope I haven't missed anyone. The crowd was small but, as always, we made some new friends.

While all that work was being done at Empower another group was cruising down the Guadalupe. We had 27 people launch together including people from Austin and San Antonio. Thanks to Ed for organizing this annual favorite of ours.

At last month's mailout we began the discussion about officers for next year. I have heard a few suggestions. We have a great group of officers who I urge to continue their work. Dave, our Vice President, has served the group for several years and knows everyone well. I think he will do a great job as leader of the HOG. The big question for us is who will take up the Vice President's post as a leader-in-training? Please encourage either a current board member or other active member who you think would do a good job.

At both the July social and the July mailout the discussion about leadership will continue. Please come and join us for those talks.

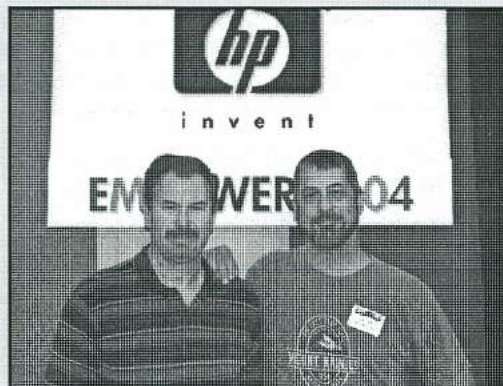
If you haven't signed up with the **HOG Yahoo Group**, you really should. There are times when certain events happen for which there is no advance notice. To keep up with last-minute announcements, please subscribe to the Yahoo Group. You never know when you might miss out on something really good because you didn't get the HOG notices. Contact Russell at driftw@aol.com to subscribe to the Yahoo Group.

— Bill

HOG members staffing a booth at Empower 2004 ... oh, no ... wait, these HOGs were floating down the Guadalupe during a week-end excursion coordinated by Ed B. Looks like fun!!!



Jon & John spent some quality time at the Empower booth to promote HOG awareness. Thanks to them and others for staffing our booth. See Bill's article on this page for more Empower recaps!



The **Houston Outdoor Group (HOG)** is a social group for gay men, lesbians and gay friendly persons who enjoy the outdoors. Activities are organized by HOG members, individually or by ad hoc groups, and are reported in the monthly newsletter. Events may be typical sports activities (camping, hiking, etc.) but can also include any social activity, whether indoors or out. Call the Hogline at (713) KAMP-OUT for information, a free trial newsletter or write to HOG, PO Box 980893, Houston, TX 77098.

There are no formal membership requirements except for the annual fee of \$20 per household to cover the cost of the newsletter. HOG is affiliated with the IGLOO

www.radix.net/~erewhon/igloo/rindex.html

HOG EVENTS IN JULY

4th of July Festivities July 4

For the last three years Thomas and Bill have hosted our Fourth of July Social. This year they have moved to a new place, but there will still be an excellent view of the downtown fireworks spectacular.

Parking could be a problem. You will most likely have to park a block or so away but it is a nice neighborhood to walk through. You can get a map with directions by emailing Bill: billpctx@hotmail.com

Dinner will be traditional July 4th favorites. If you have a favorite holiday dish, call Bill and tell him what you are bringing. If you don't know what to bring, contact **Bill** at **713-560-9794** and he will assign something for you.

We will gather beginning at 6 p.m. with dinner around 7:30 p.m.

Bring your portable camp chairs. We will walk over to the viewing area about two blocks away for the fireworks.

Meet Us for Breakfast July 10

Our HOG monthly breakfast will be at **Luby's at 9am.**

Join us for breakfast and friendly chat with other HOG members, friends and prospective members.

This is a good time to get to know other members and discuss upcoming events and activities.

290 @ 34th Street

For more information

and/or directions, call Bill & Thomas

713-560-9794

See you there!

Arts Walk - Galveston July 17

The HOG will spend this Saturday evening walking through the Strand for the July Galveston Art Walk. We will meet at the Fishermen's Wharf restaurant at 5 p.m. for an early dinner then stroll through the galleries.

According to the Galveston Tourism Office, the Art Walk is: *An evening where Galveston's art galleries in the Historic Downtown Strand District host an evening of openings and receptions of new works by local artists and national touring exhibitions.*

For more information, contact **Dwayne** at **281-655-5447** or djkcpa@aol.com

HOG Potluck July 24

Enjoy the 25 minute drive from downtown past the loop and past the beltway to this month's Pot Luck. Contact **Dwayne** at **281-655-5447** or djkcpa@aol.com for more information and meal assignments.

Potluck begins at 6pm. After the social you are more than welcome to stay for movies, card and board games

Houston Astros Night July 26

How about a nite out with boys!! The Boys of Summer: the Houston Astros. The HOG will go to a Monday nite game on July 26th when the Astros host the Arizona Diamondbacks at Minute Maid Park. It is a 7:05 start time. Our president can get good seats in the View Deck for \$10. It is up high but the view is terrific.

If you haven't been out to the ballpark, it is great to go with a group. In order to insure good seats, all together, you must make your reservations with Bill no later than Sunday, July 16th, since he will need to pick up the tickets in advance. Contact **Bill** at **713-560-9794** or email him at billpctx@hotmail.com

HOG NOTES

MONTHLY MEETING

The HOG General Meeting is held in conjunction with the newsletter mailout on the last Tuesday of every month from 7:30 - 9pm at Don & Ray's. Call 713-522-7809 for directions. Members and non-members are welcome.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit articles, photos and/or ads before the 15th of the month for publication in the following month's edition of the HOG Newsletter. Contact Russell at 713-862-1488 or send email to driftw@aol.com

Save these HOG dates:

Santiago is inviting HOG members to join him a chartered bus rides to one of the Louisiana casinos. It is a free (or very low cost) ride over to Louisiana for a four-hour casino visit. *Since it is only four hours you can't lose all your savings, but you can have a great time on the bus ride with the group.* He would like to go on **Saturday, August 7th**, for a **2pm departure**. If you are interested, give him a call at **713-869-5616**.

The **August 14th pool party/elections** should be a fun event. Milton & Dave are planning a special Hawaiian theme. Watch for details.

The **August breakfast** is set for the **21st**. We need a sponsor and location. Where do you want to go for breakfast? Somewhere new or an old favorite?

The September calendar is open but there are events tentatively scheduled for October. The **Greek Festival** in early October is always a fun event. Howard wants us to go as a group on opening nite, **Thursday, October 7th**. You can beat the big weekend crowds and we can have a great meal together. We are looking at the 3rd weekend in October for a fall campout at Boykin Springs. Details will be posted.

Saturday, Sept 4th and **Saturday, Oct 9th** we have 15 reservations on the back of the boat on the **New Buccaneer of Galveston**. \$75 is the cost paid in full in advance. Due date for 9/4 is 7/1/04 and due date for 10/9 is 7/30/04. Please reserve now by calling **John** at **713-523-6381**.

HOG OFFICERS

President - Bill C.

713-560-9794 • billpctx@houston.rr.com

Vice President & Director of Membership - Dave M.

713-868-7991 • texdave@msn.com

Directors of Activity Support - Jeanne & Judith

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www.geocities.com/houstonoutdoorgroup

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Signed: _____
date

Signed: _____
date

Lost Maples

FoxFire Cabins

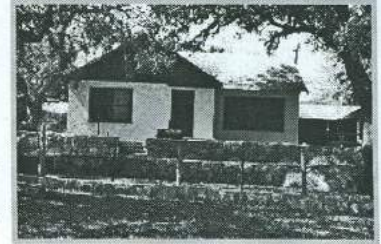
November 12-14, 2004

Once again we will be going back to Lost Maples, but staying at a different place. This year we have chosen to stay at a place called FoxFire cabins which is located a bit closer to Lost Maples State Park.

Their cabins are spread out through the hills. The one we reserved is called the **Farm House** and it is completely isolated with no one around but us HOGs. It has five rooms and sleeps 18 people. The amenities are a gas fire place, BBQ pit, full kitchen, two bath-rooms, washer & dryer and the beautiful outdoors. We even have our own river for wading in.



The date for this year's cabin retreat will November 12-14, 2004. The cost is the best thing about this whole deal — it is only



\$40 for the whole weekend per person. This cost is based on 18 participants.

This is a very popular campout and will fill up fast. All you will need to bring is clothing, food, yourself and a great smile.

Please call John or Jon at 713-290-0220 or email jonrussell@houston.rr.com to make your reservation.

Happy Trails!

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

BOWLING

Sunday Bowling: 713-522-9612
Monday Nite Women's Bowling: 281-437-6218
Montrose Monday Night Men's Bowling:
713-641-5424
Wednesday Night Mixers Bowling:
713-522-9612



HOUSTON TENNIS CLUB

www.HoustonTennisClub.org
713-522-1053



Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club
713-682-4165
www.RainbowRanglers.org

CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB

www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org



COUNSELING

Montrose Counseling Center
713-529-0037
www.MontroseCounselingCenter.org

RAINBOW FISHING CLUB

PO Box 66450
Houston, TX 77266
713-523-6381

The Montrose Softball League *Houston*

<http://MontroseSoftballLeague.com>
713-867-3913

Houston Women's Softball League
409-257-1885

HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP



▲ AUGUST

N E W S L E T T E R

2004 ▲

From the President ...

WHAT A GREAT TIME WE HAD IN JULY! There were indoor and outdoor activities for everyone. In the case of the baseball game it was both when the roof slid open.

Let me recommend the Galveston Art Walk to all those who didn't make this month's event. We fifteen or so on the walk. Thanks to Dwayne for coming up with the idea for this one. There are Art Walks once each month. You can check the Galveston tourism sites for the exact dates.

Thomas and I enjoyed having all of you over for the fireworks. Parking turned out to be easier than I expected. Most everyone got close enough. The view from the neighboring rooftop was very good.

With this newsletter I sign off as your HOG President. At this month's social at home of Milton and Dave, we will hold elections. Over the past couple of months the board has held informal sessions at the mailout and events to talk about leadership for next year. From those discussions I am pleased to say that the current lineup of board members has agreed to stand again for their jobs. With the end of my term we will need a new President. Dave has been our Vice President for the last year and is ready to stand for President. I hope all of you will support him. Please come to our August social where the new officers will be formally elected. Your input is what keeps this group going.

These two years have gone by much quicker than I ever expected. There have been so many fun times and new experiences. The new faces blending with the old ones in the group has been exciting, too. *And we continue to grow!*

HOG CALENDAR AUGUST EVENTS

August 7 - Gambling Trip

Coordinated by Santiago & Marvin
713-869-5616 • santipersonal@yahoo.com

August 14 - Pool Party and HOG Elections

Hosted by Dave & Milton
713-686-7991 • texdave@msn.com

August 21 - HOG Breakfast

Harry's - Tuam @ Bagby Street
Coordinated by Bill & Thomas
713-560-9794 • billpctx@yahoo.com

August 31 - General Meeting & Newsletter Mailout

Hosted by Don & Ray
713-522-7809 • (7:30pm)

There are so many people to thank and I do want to single out a few special ones: I could not have done this without the support of my predecessor, Jon. His encouragement was very important. I hope I can do as much for our next leader. Our newsletter editors were so vital. My thanks to David, Jon, and now, Russell for their hard work. All of you don't realize how hard the editor works to get the information out to you each month.

Like Jon, I don't plan to run away and never be seen again. I will be here and I will be an active member of the group.

— Bill

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HOG EVENTS IN AUGUST

Gambling Trip August 7

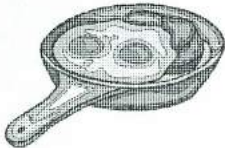


Santiago is inviting HOG members to join him a chartered bus rides to the **Paragon** casino in Marksville. The bus ride to Louisiana is free – it departs Houston at 2pm and brings you back by midnight.

The casino visit is only four hours, so you can't lose all your savings, but you can have a great time on the bus ride with the group.

If you are available for a little gambling on **Saturday, August 7th**, call Santiago or Marvin at **713-869-5616** no later than seven days before the trip. Reservations are a must!

Meet Us for Breakfast August 21

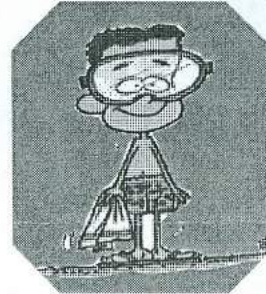


The **August** breakfast is set for the **21st** at Harry's located at Tuam and Bagby Streets. Harry's serves basic American breakfast.

To get more information, directions or to RSVP, please call **Bill** at **713-560-9794** or email him at billpctx@yahoo.com.

Pool Party & Board Elections August 14

The August **potluck /pool party** will be hosted by Dave Mathis and Milton on **Saturday, August 14**, from **5:30 til ???**



The theme will be Hawaiian. We will be serving grilled pork loin, soft drinks and rum punch. Besides bringing a dish to share don't forget a towel and swim /model wear (being this late into summer we all know that there are some of our members who have color in their cheeks).

Also August is the month of our **annual election** of officers. Please consider a position that you might fill and give us new ideas or even support one of our other members.

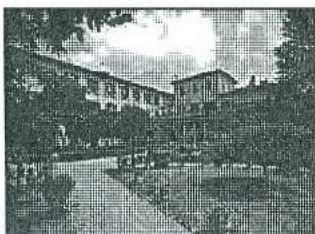
Please RSVP by calling
(713) 686-7991
or emailing
texdave@msn.com



Hiking through Tuscany Region October 1-12

HIKING TRIP UPDATE FROM JOHN:

Hello all! I am seeking confirmations from those who are going to meet me in Florence on October 1st. I will be staying at the Hostelling International hostel called



and because I like a bunkhouse atmosphere for my own personal preference.

Villa Camerata at Viale Augusto Righi 2-4 on the number 17 bus line. It is a mansion on a large estate about 5 km from the train station. I am sleeping in the dorm there to save money

They do have private rooms available for a higher price. I can also send some some recommendations along from my guidebooks such as *Let's Go Italy*, the backpackers bible.

I would like to get together in the bar/lounge at the hostel some time that day. I will arrive from Bologna on the morning of October 1st. I will probably be ready for a conference there around 4pm local time on the 1st to discuss the next day's walk.

I expect to have at least some meals in the restaurants and wineries of the region, but expect to pack some water and deli food in our day packs for picnics.

Let me know if you're coming along and make your travel plans to your own satisfaction as long as you make the rendezvous in Florence. Contact me directly with questions or concerns: john541@aol.com

Happy trails
John

DAVE M. FOR PRESIDENT!!!



The annual HOG elections are taking place on August 14th during our pool party at Dave & Milton's home (see page 2). If you would like to nominate yourself for any board position or if you have any questions about board levels of responsibility, please contact Bill at your earliest convenience. Hope to see you all at the pool party! Don't forget to RSVP!

Save these HOG dates:

September 11th - Galveston Beach Cleanup. Since we got rained out at the April beach cleanup, we're going to try again in September. Stay tuned for more details!

The **Greek Festival** in early October is always a fun event. Howard wants us to go as a group on opening night, **Thursday, October 7th.** You can beat the big weekend crowds and we can have a great meal together.

Saturday, Oct 9th we have 15 reservations on the back of the boat on the **New Buccaneer of Galveston.** \$75 is the cost, paid in full in advance. **Due date is July 30th.** Please reserve now by calling John at 713-523-6381.

We are looking at **October 15-17th** for fall campout at **Boykin Springs.** More details to follow!

Annual Halloween Camping Trip to Martin Dies State Park on **October 29-31.** Contact **Russell Williams** for more information at 713-862-1488 or driftw@aol.com.



HOG NOTES

MONTHLY MEETING

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBER:
STEVE C.**

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713-626-2837 • www.aves-health.org

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Montrose Monday Night Men's Bowling:
713-641-5424
Wednesday Night Mixers Bowling:
713-522-9612

MONTROSE SOCIAL GROUP

is making new friends, having fun and building community
info@msg-houston.org / www.msg-houston.org

CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB

www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org

COUNSELING



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SIGNATURE(S) REQUIRED

Signed: _____

date

Signed: _____

date

HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP



▲ OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

2004 ▲

HOG CALENDAR OCTOBER EVENTS

October 7

A Night at the Greek Festival
Coordinated by Howard
713-528-6174 • howardk@hotmail.com

October 9

Breakfast at Tecate
Coordinated by Dave & Milton
713-868-7991 • texdave@msn.com

October 15-17

Camping at Boykin Springs
Coordinated by Ed. B
713-529-6661 • edbaltz@yahoo.com

October 23

Potluck Social
Coordinated by Judith & Jeanne
281-829-9532 • jlbivens@ev1.net

October 26

General Meeting & Newsletter Mailout
Hosted by Don & Ray
713-522-7809 • (7:30pm)

October 29-31

Camping at Martin Dies Jr. State Park
Coordinated by Russell
832-265-3346 • driftw@aol.com



FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

Well, October is here with its milder days and cooler nights – a month that many believe to be one of the best for outdoor activities. Two of our members has planned camping weekends for everyone to enjoy. Please see details in the newsletter.

The first campout will be at Boykin Springs Recreation Area which was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1938. Features of this area include a nine acre man-made lake set in a forest of longleaf pines and the five and a half mile Sawmill Hiking Trail.

The second campout for the last weekend in October is at Martin Dies Jr. State Park located in the East Texas Piney Woods. If the timing is right, fall colors from the beech, willow, cypress and other trees may be seen mixed among the pine trees. While hiking, there is a good chance you will see woodland warblers, woodpeckers, bluebirds, herons, woodducks, cranes and possibly an alligator.

Being a group of people that enjoys the outdoors, it is important that we be aware of environmental issues and those who support our concerns. During this election season, please do your part by voting. If you are not registered to vote, you need to do so thirty days before the election takes place. History has shown us how important each and every vote is.

You DO count!

DAVE



*Bill and Don
participate in the
Galveston Beach
Cleanup on
September 18th*



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HOG EVENTS IN OCTOBER

A Night at the Greek Festival October 7

Thursday, October 7th, Greek Festival, 6:30pm. Let's meet at 6:30pm at the north entrance to the Greek Festival at the corner of Yoakum and Harold in Montrose. Admission is \$3 per person.

You can buy a variety of Greek foods, pantries, desserts, wine, beer, soft drinks, etc. There is a large gift shop, you can watch Greek dancing, tour the church, watch travel movies and *people watch!* Come join us for an evening of fun!

Call Howard K. or Terry P. at 713-528-6174 or email at howardk@hotmail.com to let us know who to be looking for at the entrance.

Boykin Springs Campout October 15-17

Boykins Springs is thirty miles north of Woodville in the Angelina National Forest. It is a 2.5 hour trip from Houston. It has hot showers, good hiking trails, a nine acre man-made lake and some interesting shelters built before WW II.

The five and a half mile Sawmill Hiking Trail spans from Bouton Lake to Boykin Springs Recreation Area. A three-quarter mile spur leads to the historic Aldridge Sawmill site.

White painted rectangular markings mark the trail. Hikers can see the Neches River from several points along the trail. Portions of the trail follow an old tramway once used as a rail line to haul logs to the sawmills.

Boykin Springs Recreation Area features camping, fishing (electric motors only), swimming and canoeing. The cost is \$7.00 per night per camping site.

For more information, contact Ed Baltz at 713-529-6661 or email edbaltz@yahoo.com.



Halloweed Campout October 29-31

Russell is planning a Halloween campout at Martin Dies Jr. State Park on October 29-31st. This annual event brings together tent and RV campers from various outdoor groups like HOG, the North Texas Camping Club and the Houston Camping Group and members of the Houston Pride Band.

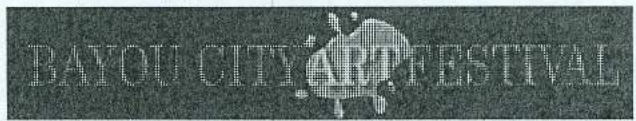
About forty men and women are currently signed up to attend this year's event for a weekend of organized group meals, arts & crafts, socializing, hiking and the hysterical

Meet Us for Breakfast October 9



Dave and Milton are sponsoring the breakfast at Tecate on October 9. The Bayou City Arts Festival is that same weekend Downtown. We would like others to join us if they are interested. The festival is on October 9-10 from 10am-6pm. The cost is \$8 for adults. There are 300 artists with artwork. We have gone before and enjoyed it. Lots of things to look at. Visit their website at www.bayoucityartfestival.com or call 713-521-0133 for more information.

If anyone is interested they can meet us at the house after breakfast and carpool since parking can be a problem downtown. Our phone number is 713-868-7991 (evenings) or 713-831-3583 (daytime).



Potluck Social October 23

Judith & Jeanne are invite all HOG members to a potluck social at their home on Saturday, October 23rd. Please contact them at 281-829-9532 or email jlbivens@ev1.net for directions and to sign up for your potluck dish. Join us for an evening of good food and great company!

Deep Woods Drag Review – a variety show with lots of really bad drag, skits and other silly musical numbers put together by the band group.

If this sounds like a wild and crazy party –don't worry– it is not! It's actually quite an assortment of serious campers sharing a nice weekend around a warm campfire ... the show is just our silly little way of having a good laugh!

This campout is a great way to meet people from other groups who are genuinely interested in camping and outdoor activities. You can join in on the group meal option or you can prepare your own meals - this is entirely up to you, but if you're going with the group meal option, **I need your headcount asap** so that we can shop for food accordingly!

If you are interested in this campout and would like more information, please contact Russell at 832-265-3346 or email driftw@aol.com.

You won't want to miss this one!

Save these HOG dates:

Saturday, November 6 - HOG's 20th Anniversary
Details to follow!

Friday-Sunday, November 12-14 - Farm House @ Lost Maples - Sponsored by Jon & John. For reservations and more information, call 713-290-0220.
Six slots still available -- call now to RSVP!

Saturday, November 20 - HOG Social - sponsored by Don & Ray. For more information, call 713-522-7809.

Saturday, December 11 - Christmas Party - Sponsored by Jon & John at 4pm. For more info: 713-290-0220.

TO HOST AN EVENT FOR THE
HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP, PLEASE CONTACT
OUR DIRECTORS OF ACTIVITY SUPPORT:

Jeanne & Judith •
281-829-9532 • jlbivens@ev1.net



BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



I am **Dave Mathis**, this year's president of the Houston Outdoor Group. I am originally from a rural town in southeast Connecticut where we lived walking distance of Long Island Sound and had behind our house over two miles of woods until coming to the first road. This is where my love of being outdoors

started. Florida, Nebraska and Kansas have also been past homes but have been in Houston for the last 18 years.

Currently, my partner, Milton and I have been together for eight years. We share our home with a beagle named Casey, a laid back cat named Monty and our mouse catcher cat named Sammy. I am also the father to three grown sons.

My interests are doing just about anything outdoors, especially hiking, walking and gardening. Cooking and grilling are favorite pastimes along with having guests over for meals. Other favorites include Texas wines and wineries, University of Texas football, UT ladies' and men's basketball, UT baseball and Connecticut Huskies ladies' basketball. I enjoy the Brazos River Bottom, country music (Lone Star and Brad Paisley), chicken enchiladas with green sauce and Shiner, but most of all—anything chocolate.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER:
HOLLY H.**

HOG NOTES

MONTHLY MEETING

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281-655-5447 • djkcpc@aol.com

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HOUSTON TENNIS CLUB

www.HoustonTennisClub.org
713-522-1053



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is making new friends, having fun and building community
info@msgshouston.org / www.msgshouston.org

CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB

www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org



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RAINBOW FISHING CLUB

PO Box 66450
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Make your check payable to: ARTHUR GONZALES

MAIL TO: HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP
P.O. BOX 980893
HOUSTON, TX 77098-0893

The HOG mailing list is confidential, but you can sign up to be on our phone list. Only members who sign up receive the list.

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I would like to receive the newsletter at the above email address instead of by U.S. Mail: YES NO

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Include me (us) on the phone list: YES NO

I, the undersigned, agree to hold the Houston Outdoor Group (HOG), its officers, volunteers, members and guests free from any liability for injury to myself or others or damage to property as a result of my participation in HOG activities. I further agree that I shall do nothing intentionally to jeopardize the health or safety of myself, HOG members and guests, that I have familiarized myself with all of the necessary precautions for safe participation in HOG activities, and that I will take such precautions.

SIGNATURE(S) REQUIRED

Signed: _____

date

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date

HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP



▲ NOVEMBER

NEWSLETTER

2004 ▲

HOG CALENDAR NOVEMBER EVENTS

Saturday, November 6

HOG Breakfast

Luby's on 290 @ W. 34th

Sponsored by Dave & Milton • 713-868-7991

November 12-14

Farm House @ Lost Maples

Organized by Jon & John

For more info: 713-290-0220.

Saturday, November 20

HOG Social

Hosted by Don & Ray.

For more information, call 713-522-7809.

Tuesday, November 23

General Meeting & Newsletter Mailout

Hosted by Don & Ray

713-522-7809 • (7:30pm)

From the President ...

A big thank-you to everyone who participated in the HOG garage sale. Whether you donated items to be sold, helped price items, helped setting up or helped with the closing down it all contributed to the \$480 that goes to the operating expenses of our club. A special thanks goes to Jon and John for the use of their home as a location.

Jon G. has been working very hard at organizing what has become an annual trip to the Texas Hill Country and hike at Lost Maples State Park. This year we will be staying at a new place to the HOGs for accommodations. Most of us will be staying in a large farmhouse with a large central kitchen which will make our group meals easier to prepare and give us a central meeting place. I'm looking forward to walking and wading in the river that borders the property along with that morning cup of java outside watching the sunrise in the beautiful surrounding hills.

Once again another reminder to exercise your privilege to have a voice in our country's future by voting your conscience in the upcoming election. It is expected to be close so there is an urgency that everyone participates. Whoever is elected they will be making decisions that will be effecting our freedoms, equal justice and the quality of our lives for many years to come.

Dave

Many thanks to
Jon G. for hosting
the HOG Garage
Sale on Saturday,
October 2nd.



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There are no formal membership requirements except for the annual fee of \$20 per household to cover the cost of the newsletter. HOG is affiliated with the IGLOO (www.radix.net/~erewhon/igloo/rindex.html)

Save these HOG dates:

Saturday, December 11

Christmas Party

Hosted by Jon & John at 4pm.

For more info: 713-290-0220.

Friday, December 31

New Year's Party

Hosted by Dave & Milton • 713-868-7991

April 15-17, 2005

Enchanted Rock

Sponsored by Howard K. • 713-528-6174

Two campsites have been reserved--capacity 16 people. Contact Howard to reserve your spot.

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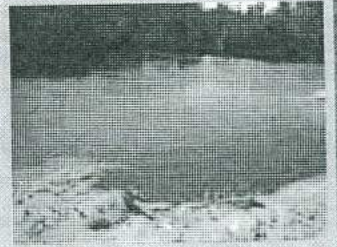
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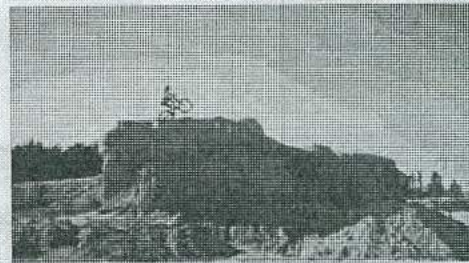


Boykin Springs Recap

Three HOGS—Tommie, Joe and Ed—enjoyed perfect weather for the October 15-17 campout at Boykin Springs. The Sierra Club of Texas was also camping at Boykin Springs that weekend. They joined with them for a hike to find carnivorous Pitcher plants, ate a dinner and lunch which they prepared for a small charge and attended some interesting presentations by the Sierra Club.



The group also hiked to the historic sawmill



ruins where the forest was cut in the early 20th century.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:
DARYL G. • GREG S.

HOG NOTES

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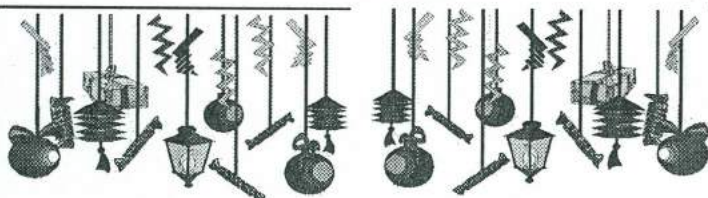
▲ DECEMBER

NEWSLETTER

2004 ▲

HOG CALENDAR DECEMBER EVENTS

- Annual Christmas Party**Dec. 11
4pm – Hosted by Jon & John
713-290-0220 • jonrussell@houston.rr.com
- Breakfast – Le Peep**Dec. 13⁴
9am – Sponsored by Don & Ray
713-522-7809
- General Meeting & Newsletter Maiout**.....Dec. 28
7:30pm – Don & Ray: 713-522-7809
- New Year's Eve Party**Dec. 31
9pm - ?? – Hosted by Dave & Milton
713-868-7991 • texdave@msn.com



From the President ...

Well it's finally here. Fall has arrived. What a big difference in the weather has taken place the last two weeks. Hog members who took advantage of the August-like conditions at Martin Dies State Park were Marvin, Santiago, Lori, Lisa, Ed, Dwayne, Milton, our camp organizer Russell and myself. All together there were 65 individuals from several groups representing Louisiana and Texas. Some activities that were enjoyed were hiking, canoeing, photography, conversations with the park staff, playing table games and culturally experiencing the theater arts in the form of a drag show. Everyone had many laughs.

Two weekends later there was the annual trip to the Lost Maples area. The weather changed to a cool fall crispness although there were a few brave souls who still couldn't resist a plunge into the waters of the Sabinal River. The main activity was the hike on Saturday in the Lost Maples State Park. Looking ahead brings us into the holiday season.

Planned for December is the Christmas potluck dinner with the much anticipated white elephant gift exchange. I'm hoping to see everyone there. If not I want to wish everyone and all those you hold dear a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Dave

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BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



We are Judith & Jeanne the Directors of Activity Support. We have been together for six years. We share our lives and home with our three dogs, Cody, Sara and Abigail and two cats Grimmey and Koda.

We enjoy camping, fishing, horseback riding, and attending Comets games (our WMBA team). Our goal for this year with HOG is to get more women actively involved and attending our functions. I'm originally from Kentucky and have lived in Houston for eleven years. I've been a member of HOG since about 1995. Judith is a native Houstonian and has been a HOG member for about two years. We enjoy spending time with our friends we've met through this organization. We love to travel and get away when time permits.

Halloween Campout Recap



Many, many thanks to the HOG members who attended the annual campout at Martin Dies State Park. The HOGs were part of a massed gathering of campers from the

Houston Pride Band, the North Texas Camping Club and the Houston Tennis Club.

Sixty-five men and women took over the park for a weekend of good food, good company, a little hiking and exploring and a good old fashioned drag



show just for kicks!

This was a very nice way for people from various groups to get together and enjoy the one thing we all have in common: *CAMPING!*

Thanks again for a wonderful weekend!

Russell Ben Williams



Christmas Party

Saturday, Dec. 11th • 4-8 p.m.

The HOG's Annual Christmas Party will be hosted by Jon and John at their home in Oak Forest. The festivities begin at 4:00 PM with a potluck dinner and a white elephant gift exchange after dinner.

Please join us for an evening of fun and holiday spirit. We encourage everyone to come, especially our new members. This is a lot of fun and you get a chance to meet everyone in the group.

Please contact Jon or John at 713-290-0220 to RSVP, get directions, and your food/beverage assignment for the potluck.

Hope to see you there!

(and don't forget your white elephant gift!)

Ed B.



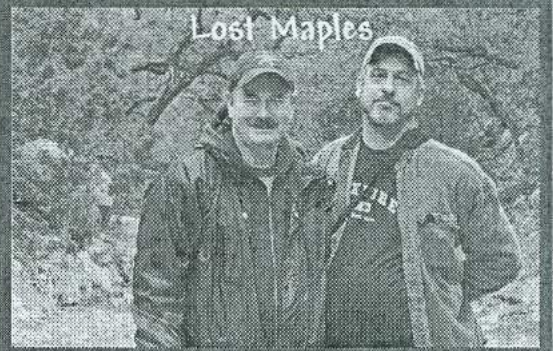
Martin Dies Jr. State Park

Lori & Lisa



John & Jon

Lost Maples



Save these HOG dates:

January 8

Breakfast at Harry's (Tuam @ Fairview)
Sponsored by Bill and Thomas
713-560-9794

February 5

HOG's 20th Anniversary Party at Baba Yega
Hosted by the HOG board
More info to follow in January newsletter

February 26

Messina Hof Vineyard Tour (lunch included)
Sponsored by Dave & Milton
713-868-7991 • texdave@msn.com

March 25 (Good Friday)

Camping at Pedernales Falls
Sponsored by Jon & John
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April 15-17, 2005

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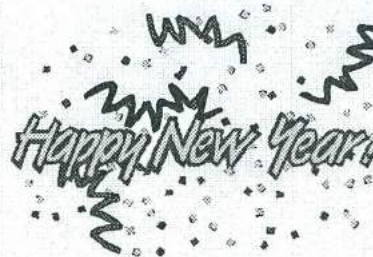
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:
VIOLET S. • KRISTI V. • ROB C.
JOEL R. • KELLEY J. • SHELLEY B.

New Year's Eve Party

Bring in the New Year with other HOG members and friends. Dave & Milton are hosting a New Year's Eve party on December 31st at 9pm to post midnight.

They will provide soft drinks and champagne for the annual New Year's toast. If you to attend, please bring something in the line of food to share with the group. It would be great to share the time together. You never know--your New Year may start out with some good luck in the way of a bear hug or kiss at the stroke of midnight!



RSVP!

(713) 868-7991

or

texdave@msn.com

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