



Celebrating 13 years  
of outdoor fun!

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**Tuesday November 24 Monthly Meeting 6:00 pm**

Pizza snacks at 6PM, followed by our short business meeting beginning at 6:30pm in conference room 225 of the new LCRA Redbud Center. Join us for a pot-luck dinner, yearly elections, and an opportunity to visit. We will have photos of outings available. If you have free outdoor-related items to share, bring them.

In addition to our pot-luck dinner and visiting, we will have election of several Board members and voting on two changes in our by-laws.

The following Board positions are up for election: Coordinator, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Web Chick  
Note, per the by-laws, Coordinator and Treasurer positions are open to members with Board experience. Also, the Coordinator position is open to members who regularly attend outings.

The by-law changes involve: Article III, Sections I and V, to limit membership to women (18 and over)  
Adding Outing Chairperson position to the Board; election to be in odd year. If you have questions regarding the elections or the by-law changes, contact a Board member or Jacque at [jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net).

If you wish to run for a Board position, do the same.

**TOWN Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month**, at the LCRA Red Bud Center. Outings discussion at 6PM, meeting starts at 6:30PM. Directions to 3601 Lake Austin Blvd: The LCRA Red Bud Center is located at the corner of Lake Austin Blvd and Red Bud Trail. Park in front of the building. The front entrance is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; in conference room 225.

**There will be NO MEETING  
in DECEMBER!**

**Check website for new meeting location  
starting in January 2010.**

**Notes on August meeting** from Lisa Sands (edited from email version due to limited space).

Eighteen members and two guests gathered to hear Chris Lintz discuss efforts to preserve cultural heritage in Texas. Chris is the only archaeologist within the wildlife division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. His focus includes both natural resources (non-renewable rocks, fossils, and minerals; and renewable plants and animals) and cultural resources (non-renewable artifacts, sites, buildings, structures such as bridges, and objects more than 50 years old.) Although 50 years does not seem like such a long time, this timeframe is used in both state and federal law.

*“Our mission is to provide all women the opportunity to learn and experience outdoor activities in natural surroundings through a safe, non-threatening, and supportive environment.”*

**TOWN LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**Coordinator/President** – Jacque Austin  
[jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net)

**Membership Chair** – Jenn Trivette  
[jltrivette@yahoo.com](mailto:jltrivette@yahoo.com)

**Club Treasurer** – Janet Fitzsimon-Barr  
[janetfb@austin.rr.com](mailto:janetfb@austin.rr.com)

**Webmaster** - Jacque Austin  
[jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net)

**Club Newsletter** – Dawn Goodall  
[2emailDawn@gmail.com](mailto:2emailDawn@gmail.com)

**Outings Coordinator** – Judy Dunavant  
[judydunavant@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judydunavant@sbcglobal.net)

**Publicity Chair** – June Apprill  
[japprill@swbell.net](mailto:japprill@swbell.net)

**Club Secretary** – Cindy Frey  
[cef0490@yahoo.com](mailto:cef0490@yahoo.com)

**Club Historian** – Paulette Boudreaux  
[pboudreaux@eccwireless.com](mailto:pboudreaux@eccwireless.com)

**Austin TOWN P.O. Box 300494  
Austin, TX 78703**

**Aug meeting notes continued** - Parks and Wildlife land is considered a sanctuary for cultural resources and collecting from TPWD land is prohibited unless you have a permit. Chris discussed how the TPWD is organized and noted differences in the way districts and divisions are drawn within Texas for the Parks department and the Wildlife department. There are 95 State parks, encompassing 916 square miles. In these areas, there is a high need for a complete site inventory of cultural resources. There are 52 Wildlife Management Areas, covering 1117 square miles. Whereas the parks department has 14 archeologists, as mentioned, the wildlife department has only one. He said that it is almost as though there is a financial firewall between the departments. Chris is the only archeologist that works of the Landowner Incentive Act and, as such, he works with private landowners to link up corridors for habitat preservation and to conserve rare species. Chris had had some good pictures of cultural artifacts and several members had visited the site of an oven in Seminole Canyon that was shown. In response to a question about what one should do if an item of interest is found, Chris stressed that it is always best to leave it in place and just inform park headquarters staff. He added that if there is a great concern that someone else might just pick it up, the exact location of the item should be documented. He said it is unfortunate when someone comes in with a box of stuff and states that it was found “out there.” Chris is obviously very knowledgeable, dedicated and hardworking and it was good to learn about the efforts that are being made to preserve our cultural heritage.



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<p><b>Saturday October 31 Informal GPS Workshop and Geocaching 10am</b> Let's limit this to TOWN-Austin members and adult friends with GPS units. No kids and dogs this time.</p>	<p>RSVP to Jacque jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p><b>Sunday November 1 Hike Reimers Ranch at 10 am</b> Join us to hike and investigate this county park. To participate,</p>	<p>RSVP to Jenn jltrivette@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b>Friday - Sunday November 6 – 8</b> <b>7th Annual Goliad Flotilla, Canoe Trail Goliad at the Goliad State Park.</b> TOWNies, spouses, and dogs invited. This is a Canoe Trail Goliad event <a href="http://canoetrailgoliad.com">http://canoetrailgoliad.com</a> I will coordinate our activities while we are at the state park for Fri and Sat and then the paddling 6.5 miles in the San Antonio River will be Sun a.m. follow by a free lunch. If you are coming with an RV, make camping reservation at the Goliad State Park. If you have a tent maybe we can share a site with an RV. <b>Canoe Trail Goliad</b> This is a FREE event but you have to sign up for it. To sign up e-mail Janie Holcombe: <a href="mailto:kccanoe@aol.com">kccanoe@aol.com</a>.</p>	<p>RSVP to <a href="#">Adela</a> at <a href="mailto:adela0932@yahoo.com">adela0932@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p><b>Sunday November 8 Hike Inks Lake State Park time TBD</b> Join us to hike and investigate this state park. More details soon.</p>	<p>RSVP to <a href="#">Vanessa</a> at verstuyftv@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b>Sunday November 15 Hike St. Ed's City Park 10am</b> Join us to hike and investigate this city park. More details soon.</p>	<p>RSVP to Jenn jltrivette@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b>Thursday - Sunday November 19 - 22 Campout at Inks Lake State Park</b> Includes all the TOWN femmes, family, friend, feline, and canines. Let's enjoy another lake outing, campfires, and congeniality at our beautiful Inks Lake State Park, just north of Marble Falls. I will send details about food and events in a later email.</p>	<p>RSVP to <a href="#">MarilynF</a> at mlfowler@austin.rr.com</p>
<p><b>Saturday November 21 Celebrate TOWN! at Brushy Creek Lake Park TOWN-</b> Austin members, their families, partners, friends, and leashed pets are included. We have reserved the Cedar Pavilion beginning at 9am until 6pm. (Cost is \$100 – paid by TOWN-Austin. Picnic tables will accommodate 50 folks. Restrooms are nearby. Parking is free. For park details, visit Cedar Park's website <a href="http://www.cedarparktx.us/cp/pr_bclp.aspx">http://www.cedarparktx.us/cp/pr_bclp.aspx</a>. <b>Note this is Brushy Creek Lake Park</b> located on Parmer Lane. Schedule of events: 11am Hiking 12:30 Lunch (Bring a potluck dish to share and your drink please.) 2:30pm Kayaking Details re: kayak rentals are below. Please RSVP before Wednesday, November 18th, so we may complete the needed purchases. Link to reserve a <b>kayak</b> is <a href="http://www.rowpaddlebrushycreek.com/">http://www.rowpaddlebrushycreek.com/</a> The phone # is 809-8916. The cost to reserve a one-person sit-on-top kayak is \$10/hour; cost for a two-person sit-on-top kayak is \$15/hour. Talk with Darla about a 10% discount if you reserve your kayak early.</p>	<p>RSVP to Jacque at jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net</p>



Mushrooms at campsite  
Ft. Parker State Park taken by Dawn



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<p><b>Sunday November 22 Introduction to Scuba Diving 1:30 - 4pm. Women only please.</b> Ever wonder what it would be like to scuba dive? Tom's Dive and Swim has generously agreed to conduct an introduction to scuba class for TOWN. The class would consist of an introduction to scuba equipment, learn a couple of skills, trying on equipment and swimming around. Please note that this is not a certification course, merely a "getting to know you" sort of low pressure gathering. You will need a swim suit and towel.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Tom's Dive and Swim <a href="http://www.tomsscuba.com/index.php/home">http://www.tomsscuba.com/index.php/home</a> (check out the photo gallery!) 5909 Burnet Rd., Austin, TX 78757 (near the 7-11 at the North-East corner of Burnet and 2222 (Koenig Lane) in Austin (512) 451-3425</p>	<p>RSVP to <a href="mailto:lisaM@lisamarengo@hotmail.com">LisaM</a> at lisamarengo@hotmail.com <b>class size will be limited</b></p>
<p><b>Friday - Sunday November 27 – 29 Renaissance Festival Outing</b> <b>Open to everyone, but please see details below. No pets allowed.</b> It is time for the Renaissance Festival again. Tickets at the gate are \$21.00 or you can buy advanced tickets for \$16.00 before September 25 at this link <a href="http://www.texrenfest.com/home.html">http://www.texrenfest.com/home.html</a>. You can also purchase tickets locally at HEB and Randalls for \$19.00.</p> <p>This weekend is Celtic Christmas Weekend. I will be going to the festival on Friday and Saturday. There is a special price of \$12.00 for Friday if you order online or by phone. At the gate the tickets are \$23.00. The whole festival is themed in the Old St. Nicholas Christmas theme and it quite beautiful. See the link I have enclosed below for all of the activities. During the day this is a kid friendly event. Towards the evening you will see more risqué costumes and behavior so I just want you to be aware.</p> <p>For those who want lodging in a motel/hotel check out the link as there is a list with phone numbers that you can call to make reservations. This is a very popular event as people from Oklahoma and Louisiana attend. So I suggest you make reservations early, you can always cancel them.</p> <p><b>Camping:</b> Is on site and is first come first serve. You are camping in large fields that are relatively flat. No reservations required and the cost is \$20.00 per vehicle for the whole weekend (Fri, Sat and Sun night). There is no electricity, water or dump stations available. Tents and campers allowed and you can run a generator if you choose. Some people sleep out in the open under the stars. Porta Potties are available. There is a Quick Mart in the camping area where you can buy ice, drinks and snacks.</p>	<p>RSVP to <a href="mailto:pboudreaux@eccwireless.com">Paulette</a> pboudreaux@eccwireless.com</p> 
<p><b>Saturday November 28 Downtown Historical Walk (time TBD)</b> Join us to walk and learn more about our downtown Austin. More details soon.</p>	<p>RSVP to <a href="mailto:ccastlebur@aol.com">CarolC</a> at ccastlebur@aol.com</p>
<p><b>Saturday December 5 Hike Turkey Creek (time TBD)</b> Join us to hike and investigate this county park. More details soon. To participate,</p>	<p>RSVP to <a href="mailto:nancyrushefsky@yahoo.com">Nance</a>.at nancyrushefsky@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b>Saturday December 12 Hike Bright Leaf (time TBD)</b> Join us to hike and investigate this county park. More details soon.</p>	<p>RSVP to <a href="mailto:ccastlebur@aol.com">CarolC</a> at ccastlebur@aol.com</p>



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<p>Friday, December 11, through Monday, December 14. Annual Christmas Campout!! Join TOWN Austin and the new TOWN Bastrop for a Christmas campout at beautiful Belton Lake, at the Cedar Ridge Campground; an Army Corp Engineer facility overlooking the beautiful Lake Belton. All are welcome including pets, however pets must be on leashes at all times. Paulette Boudreaux will cook chicken and sausage gumbo one night, and we will eat out one night.</p> <p>The lights at BLORA recreational area near Ft. Hood are fun to see. It is a 1/1.5 mile drive through event that costs about \$5/car. We'll carpool.</p> <p>Other activities include campfires, kayaking, birdwatching, walking around (as the park is large), and fishing. Street bikes can go on the roads, and some brave souls like to mountain bike at BLORA.</p> <p>The shelters are also available now, having been recently redone. They are in a different part of the park, but driveable distance, or in biking range.</p> <p>We have reserved the group room for meals and playing games, and for warmth!!</p> <p>Sites do go fairly fast. Beverly Travis and Paulette Boudreaux will be in the FIRS area. Call 1.877.444.6777 or go to Recreation.gov to make your reservations. Here is the informational link to the campground: <a href="http://www.recreation.gov/campgroundDetails.do?topTabIndex=CampingSpot&amp;contractCode=NRSO&amp;parkId=71077">http://www.recreation.gov/campgroundDetails.do?topTabIndex=CampingSpot&amp;contractCode=NRSO&amp;parkId=71077</a> Cedar Ridge (TX) 3790 Cedar Ridge Park Rd. Temple TX 76502</p>	<p>RSVP to Beverly btravis@hot.rr.com or Paulette pboudreaux@eccwireless.com</p>
<p><b>Sunday December 19 Hike Wild Basin (time TBD)</b> Join us to hike and investigate this county park. More details soon.</p>	<p>RSVP to <a href="mailto:CarolynD.atcadoolittle5@gmail.com">CarolynD.atcadoolittle5@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>NO December Monthly Meeting</b> Please note we do not meet in December. See you in January! SEE WEBSITE FOR NEW MEETING LOCATION!!!!!!!</p>	
<p><b>Sunday December 27 Hike Town Lake - (the Whole Enchilada) time TBD/afternoon)</b> Join us to hike and investigate this county park. More details soon.</p>	<p>RSVP to <a href="mailto:CarolC@ccastlebur@aol.com">CarolC</a> at ccastlebur@aol.com</p>
<p><b>Friday - Sunday January 8 – 10 Holiday Party at McKinney Falls State Park</b> It's not too early to reserve your camping site for our annual Holiday Party at McKinney Falls State Park. The party dates are Friday – Sunday, January 8-10, 2010. Yes, that's correct – the year is 2010 and it's the second weekend of January. (We moved the party from the 1st weekend to the 2nd due to New Year's Eve.)</p> <p>I just made my camp site reservations today by calling 512-389-8900. I was put into a call back queue and a TPWD representative called me back in &lt; 8 minutes to complete my reservation. Actually, I made my reservation for January 7-10, 2010. The reservation process required less than 1 minute once we started.</p> <p>Just FYI, we have the dining hall reserved for January 8th and 9th so we can eat, play games, etc. out of any bad weather.</p> <p>Make your reservations early to insure you get a camp site. Contact <a href="mailto:Jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net">Jacque</a> at <a href="mailto:Jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net">Jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net</a> to RSVP or for questions.</p>	<p>RSVP to Jacque jsaustin54@sbcglobal.net</p>

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We had 23 awesome women and 1 mom attend our **2nd annual Hummingbird**

## Trip Report for TOWN Austin's Annual Krause Springs Potluck Picnic, Hike & Swim

Thrilled to report that we had 33 awesome women attend our annual Krause Springs Potluck Picnic, Hike & Swim. We had TOWN members from Austin, San Marcos, Houston, and Waco chapters so it was fun opportunity to meet some new friends and see lots of familiar faces. Several TOWN members brought new recruits so welcome to those ladies, we hope you will join TOWN for more fun outdoor adventures very soon.

Thank you to all who brought a potluck dish, we had a huge collection of food, and as always, everyone enjoyed. Next, we went on a hike through the gardens, checked out the new mini-pool, the second waterfall, (which was down to a trickle), and one of the campground areas. Then Jacque lead a small group on a geocaching trip on the property. The rest of us headed for the swimming hole to cool off. We played in the main waterfall (which was flowing nicely), checked out the cave, swung from the rope swing, and lounged the afternoon away on our floaties. A big shoutout to Linda Terry from Houston TOWN who garnered the loudest applause for her rope swinging ability! The water felt fantastic. There were lots of other people at Krause and everyone was so friendly that it made for an even better afternoon.

After several hours in the water, we decided it was time to check out all the delicious desserts that were brought. The most impressive dessert was a cooler full of different individual ice cream treats packed in dry ice. Way to go, Sophie Lopez from Houston TOWN!

Then 10 of us decided to end our excellent day with a visit to Rosie's Tamale House for drinks, appetizers and more food. Wow! The funny stories that were shared and the adventures described. I never cease to be amazed at the incredible women in TOWN. Thank you to all who participated in making this another fantastic TOWN outing. Smiles, RoxAnn Donahoo

**Festival.** We had three wonderful days of Hummingbird Seminars, Boating Tours, Bus Tours to hummer homes, kayaking, swimming and nightly gaming parties with a potluck included. We had TOWN members from Houston, Austin and Rockport chapters. We had a wonderful opportunity to meet some new friends and see familiar faces.

Thanks to all of you who brought food for the potluck and fought the good fight against all the mosquitoes who seemed determined to have OFF and Deet as the drink of choice Friday night. We had a huge variety of food and no one left hungry for sure. Kudos to Sophie and Susan for the great pastas they cooked. After the potluck several women went and walked on the fishing pier that was right across from the Sandollar Resort and the rest of the group joined in the recreational room to play games.

Saturday morning we were up early. Some of the group headed to the seminars while another group of us met at Alice Faye's on the Bay for Breakfast. We watched a beautiful sunrise over the bay out of their big beautiful windows. The food was excellent and we had a great time. Afterward we headed for the boat tour that we had scheduled at 9:00. It was a two our tour on the bay that left Fulton Harbor where Capt. Mike took us to oyster reefs and islands to see birds. We saw 9 different species of birds, dolphins, one sea turtle and about a dozen jelly fish. The water was clear and very calm so it made for a very enjoyable experience.

Several of us met for lunch in a wonderful eclectic restaurant in downtown Rockport called Jama's Kitchen and Famous Cheesecake. The atmosphere and food were awesome and of course we had to try their specialty which is homemade cheesecake. It was wonderful and they boast of 120 flavors. We tried the pecan praline which was excellent. We walked around many wonderful art galleries and shops by the pier.

Next on our list of things to do was the 2:45 bus tour of homes with hummingbirds. This part of the trip was really neat because we got to see homes of private resident's who create wonderful habitats for hummingbirds and are willing to share their knowledge with us. We also got to see banding of hummingbirds which included demonstrations on how they are captured, weighing them, checking their fat content, putting a band on their leg and letting people hold them as they fly off. I have included a photo of my mom being one of the lucky ones to get to hold one before it flew off. She said she could feel the heart beating.

After the bus tour which had us all sweating, we headed to the pool to drink a few adult beverages and relax. The water felt fantastic. We wound up playing Marco Polo the adult version which was quite entertaining.

At 6:00 that evening we all met at Charlotte Plummer's for a wonderful seafood meal on the bay and got to recap our different activities with the group from the day. We learned a lot both about what we did that day and got to know each other better and now we have new and old friends alike. The funny stories that were shared and the adventures that were described never cease to amaze me. We have incredible women in our TOWN group. Thanks to all of you who took time out of your busy schedules to share a weekend in Rockport. It was another great TOWN outing.

Afterwards we headed to the recreational room to play Rummikub which was quite entertaining. We had a lot of laughs and thanks to Sophie for providing the entertainment. Sunday morning while some of us headed to the Pier to watch the sunrise and watch dolphins as close up at 10 feet away from us, CJ lead the kayaking outing. She took 5 kayakers to Copano Cove and they paddled for about an hour and a half and saw a lot of seagulls, brown pelicans and fishing jumping in the water. I women I spoke to who went had a great time so a big Thank You CJ for doing this for us.

Looking forward to next year! Paulette



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## Fort Parker State Park & Texas History and

Susan, Carolyn D., Gaynelle, and Marilyn met up and attended the **Trash Project** show last night.

This event was truly a "happening," in the old sense of the word. The City of Austin Solid Waste Services truck and employees' movements were choreographed to powerful music, bringing an artistic insight into these jobs and humans: We were just delighted and tickled and touched by the one-hour performance. The program began with the entire "cast" (of machines) roaring onto the tarmac sort of gracefully, then acts including the "Collections Quartet," "Automated Truck Quartet," the "Hand Signal Drill," (featuring Orange Jefferson on harmonica), the "Yard Trimming Duet," and the "Blower Quartet with Bucket Truck Solo."

I think you had to be there. Most moving were the ballet performed by a huge crane operated by Don Anderson, and the "Dead Animal Truck Drive-by," which soloed 3 times during the program to the sad strains of cello and orchestra, and with narrative by driver Tony Dudley about kids and lost pets and how he wouldn't want to work in trash or recycling. This was a memorable performance, folks; I hope you get to see the movie about it next year. Marilyn Fowler



View of lake from campsite, taken by Dawn



At Fort Parker Historical Site, taken by Dawn

**Limestone Bluffs Paddling Trail** Oct. 16-19, 2009, Submitted by Marilyn Fowler. Here's who came on this outing: Gloria Jacque Dawn Adela (Thursday Hero!) Carolyn Coughlin Nancy Welsh (she and CC from Longview) June Janie Holcombe from Karnes City Beverly Andra & Duane (Weekend Heroes for lifting & hitching!) Marilyn Fort Parker State Park has only about 30 campsites, and, thanks to Adela, who arrived Thursday and took our names to the Office and saved the loop for us, we were mostly all together!

The Park is studded with tall burr oak trees and sandy woods surrounding a large lake. The sun set right over the lake each evening, providing brilliant color, and early mornings lit up flights of white pelicans and egrets. Flocks of coots darted around the shallows and scrambled off when disturbed, running on the surface of the lake. Huge floating pads of American lotus plants in various stages of their life cycle flapped in the wind, making the lake look like it was dotted with flags. It would be great to see them in bloom, though it might be sneezy for some.

Nights were pretty cool, with temps in the low 50's, and daytime highs reached 74 at the most. Absolutely perfect. We had campfires each night, thanks to our wood providers, Gloria, June, and Carolyn.

On Friday's evening meal we had a cookie potluck, and Andra, Adela, and Gloria brought home-baked! In fact, every meal included cookies. Since there is no such thing as a bad cookie, we feasted all weekend.

We shuttled to the Confederate Reunion Grounds, an historic encampment, and put our boats in where the Navasota River makes a swift little turn. John, a boat shuttler from the State Park, helped every single one of us into our boats and on our way! Above and beyond, we thought. The 3.5 mile Paddling Trail was calm and quiet, and we did need to paddle to keep moving. A TPWD brochure described "towering" limestone bluffs. Not really. There were a few nice 15-foot exposures along the banks, but otherwise the scenery was hardwood riparian woodlands, vines, and stumps. The water was brown but mostly clear. No rapids of any class. We saw a few birds. Since I brought up the rear, most critters were gone by the time I paddled by, but looking behind I saw a kingfisher or two resume their activities.

Arriving into Lake Fort Parker 3 hours later, we smacked boldly through the floating lotus pads, bumping against seed pods handily pointing down on bent stalks to plant in water. We accelerated, one at a time, through the thick reeds and grasses to a waiting Duane Clark, who hoisted us over the muck and duckweed safely onto the shore. Thanks, Duane!

Bev went out on a sunrise paddle in the 52° breeze while most of us still slept or drank our coffee. Later, June and I enjoyed a Sunday afternoon paddle when the day had finally warmed up and most folks had left. The Lake was very quiet for us. When we could hear the rushing water over the CCCC dam, we turned around, probably missing it by a mile.

Several of us explored the Springfield Trail, which went about 3 miles total and gave us a view of the CCCC dam built in the 1930's. (CCCC=Civilian Colored Conservation Corps) We saw no signs of the town of Springfield, which flourished in the 1840's but faded when the railroad bypassed it.

Another group hiked along the Navasota River and saw the primitive campground, which they thought was very nice.

At Old Fort Parker - The Parker family, some of the original immigrants into Texas, hailed from Illinois and settled down near what is now Groesbeck, building a fort around their simple cabins as protection against raiding Comanches. One day the gate to their fort was left open as men were working the fields, and a large band of several hundred Comanches descended upon those in the fort and killed many and captured a few, including a child, Cynthia Ann Parker. Cynthia Ann was at first a Comanche slave, then a daughter, then a wife and mother. When Texas Rangers surprised her band several years later, they noticed her blue eyes, and tried to ransom her, but she refused to go with them. Another time she did go with them, and was returned to a very unhappy life with her former family. She never did re-adapt to the white settlers' ways. Her sad story, related to us in Old Fort Parker and told over and over in that area, reminds us TOWN women how fortunate we are to have control over our lives and make our own history.

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## July 4 Paddle on Town Lake from Lisa Marengo

Janet and John Hubble LAID DOWN the gauntlet with a MOST impressive display of floating patriotism-watch out for this dynamic duo! Not only were they sporting Ol' Glory attire; they even went so far as to hot glue tiny magnets onto their kayaks to place magnetic blingage....wow! The pictures just could not do justice to their awesome masterpieces! I tip my hat to you both! The Festival Beach put in was great-it turns out that this is where the Austin Police put in their boats! Ten of us met up for the festivities: Janet & John, June, Caroline, Dawn, Nancy, Gary, Sharlotte, David (in a raft-which I do not recommend!) & myself.



Photos provided by Lisa

We never did find CJ that was putting-in at the Statesman, probably due to crowds floating about like oh so much colorful flotsam! We jockeyed for position and were treated to a bagpiper serenade, the Austin Symphony Orchestra and both the Westlake and magnificent Austin fireworks. The temperature on the water was very pleasant, but the stiff breeze for the return paddle gave us quite a workout! Speaking of workouts....my eternal gratitude to June who helped push the raft upstream with the nose of her kayak and with me pulling them like a tug toy as the wind was making the raft virtually impossible to paddle! You must have eaten your Wheaties, June!!!! THANK YOU! The moonlight was high and wonderful for the paddle back. My thanks to all who made this such a wonderful outing!

Four of us enjoyed the festivities at the **Blanton Art Museum** Friday evening: Marilyn Vache, Debra Galloway and husband, Vince, and myself.

It was Poetry Slam Night, and we had poet-led tours of the galleries, as well as an astounding show in the main stage.

Some of the installations we were shown are world-class. I can't wait to return and take my time going through the galleries. The \$3 parking at the garage was an incentive, too.

The University and the Museum have done a lot to make this an exciting and accessible event. by Marilyn Fowler

Jane, Cheryl, Janis, Paulette and Marie joined me **tubing on the San Marcos Thursday**. We had a leisurely float down the river. It was fairly slow but very refreshing and enjoyable. After going down the chutes the first time Janis lost her plastic case with car keys, money, drivers license, etc. We spent about 15 mins searching and decided they were probably far downstream. We were in the processing of unloading our picnic lunch when an (angel) young man approached the area asking if anyone lost their keys!! Janis leaped with joy!!!! He was walking down a path along the river and saw the plastic pouch. There's good people in the world, we only hear about the bad ones on the news. Needless to say, we all (especially Janis) had a wonderful remainder of the afternoon floating the chutes, eating our lunch and just hanging out along the river. Jane and Cheryl had to leave for San Antonio a little earlier and the rest of us left around 3pm. Submitted by June

Okay, so we didn't end up where I expected we would, but we had a great time, regardless! So, the next time you are heading out to **Hamilton Pool**, you might want to check and see if it is actually open...or closed due to high bacterial counts! (Don't worry, there are those of us fighting the good fight against these pesky little bugs.) LisaS, Joan, MarilynV, Cindy, JanetC, and Jessie joined me on what we thought would be a swim at Hammy Pool...imagine our surprise when it was closed. We were not to be stopped, though, since we already had our suits on...we were going to swim, darn it (and it takes me too long getting it on and off, trust me)! So we headed over to Emma Long Park on the lake and had a great time. It was so cool and refreshing in the cold lake waters, made me want to stay all day...even with the blue skin and teeth chattering.

Marilyn and Cindy had to leave early, but Joan and Lisa stayed to play with us. And play they did, those two are a lot of fun, jessie had a blast. We will definitely have to do that again really soon. Next time I will have to bring a little towel to carry around because there seemed to be an issue with water in the eye syndrome...and after a while there just isn't any space left that is dry enough to wipe the eyes with.

Thanks for joining me, ladies, I had a lot of fun.  
Submitted by jenn

# Trip Reports



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Austin TOWN

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## September TOWN meeting –

submitted by Lisa Sands;(edited for space) Twenty five women (including four new members and a guest) gathered to hear Joy Emshof discuss her trip to Mexico. We learned how to pack light and travel inexpensively. Joy is an entertaining speaker and we learned that her husband Bob is “a muy macho hombre” – more about that later. On this trip Joy and Bob were celebrating their first anniversary and the friends who accompanied them celebrated their 30th anniversary. Since they planned to travel by plane, buses, bikes, and other means, they each had one backpack, not a big one, and that was all. There was one additional bag that contained everyone’s snorkeling gear. The airbus price was obviously higher than the \$9.95 advertised price but with fees and taxes, it was only \$250/person. The entire cost for the trip including all transportation, lodging, food and gifts was \$1400 per couple; this included two guided fishing/snorkeling trips. This came out to \$22 per day per person. By travelling in the off season, they greatly reduced their costs and were able to enjoy sightseeing and visits to the beach without a crowd.

Joy had a list of items that each person should bring and she made each of them unpack their backpack in front of her so that she could be sure that they stuck to the list. Joy said that she didn’t want to end up having to carry anyone else’s stuff. It was important to travel light because they carried their stuff with them all the time. The group did not make advance reservations for lodging. Upon arrival, money was exchanged. Some hostels and stores required Mexican currency. If additional money was needed, they were able to obtain it at the credit card machine and the exchange rate was good.

One month before leaving on the trip, the travel group started taking acidophilus tablets and continued to take them while on the trip. Joy also said that it is important to eat limes every day because this helps the acid balance, and to drink alcohol on the trip – like you needed encouragement to do this! There wasn’t any good wine so they drank tequila and beer. The acidophilus, limes, and alcohol help fight off bacteria. None of the travelers got sick and they ate in restaurants and off the carts in the streets. The travel group carried one SeriPEN device that produces an ultraviolet light which treats 1 liter (thus, each person brought a nalgene bottle) of water in 90 seconds. Joy researched this pen with the FDA and Backpacker magazine and, unlike filters or iodine, it gets rid of viruses and does not alter the taste of water like iodine. This pen runs on batteries and will treat 4000 liters of water. I think she said that it cost about \$75. Since water could not be purchased everywhere they went, she said that it more than paid for itself.

## Trip Report from Wimberley outing 8-29-09

As most of you know, the fabulous Black N Blue in Wimberley tour was messed up when the city closed down Blue Hole. We had 25 people signed up to go and most decided not to go since they couldn’t swim.

But there were 4 of us - Sandy Behrman, Carrie Lassitter, Joan French and myself who decided to go ahead and enjoy a nice dinner there in Wimberley then go to the Corral outdoor theater for the outdoor movie. We ate at Juan Henry’s and it was the same great service and food as last year, so we were pleased with that. Then the movie “Julie and Julia” was so enjoyable - Meryl Streep did a fantastic job! The temperature outside was very comfortable. It all added up to a great evening.

Hopefully we will get the rain we need soon so that we can put this great outing on the calendar for next year. Thank you ladies for joining me, RoxAnn Donahoo

Sept. meeting continued –  
To get around, the group rode the collectiva (like a 12-15 passenger van, crowded but very reliable), buses which were very modern, and they rented scooters (cute picture of them with the scooters.) They were able to barter for \$20/day for the scooter because they were staying in the hostel. The quoted price was \$35 because they thought that they were “tourists” staying in the expensive hotel. While staying in the hostels, they paid \$9.00/night. It sounded very interesting because they met people from New Zealand, Scotland, and Canada. In Cancun, the hostel price included pastries, coffee, milk, and juice. Joy said that they felt safe in all the hostels. Most had gates that were locked at a specified time. The hostels had kitchens so they were able to cook nice dinners. They carried their lunch while out and about and had tortillas, tuna, avocados, lime, and hot sauce. At one point, the group stayed in a hostel that was right next to a hotel that was probably \$300/night and was 30 yards from the beach. The pictures she had were just beautiful. They also stayed in a hotel that was \$40/night, divided by four people. In Tulum, they stayed in a hut within walking distance of the ruins (more beautiful pictures). There they only had electricity, provided by a generator, from 8 am – 10 pm. There was no running water in the hut but there was a very nice shower hut. The huts had thatched roofs, and wood on the sides (another pretty picture). They saw a fishing boat come in and inquired and were quoted a price of \$150/day (for all four travelers), beer and water included, for snorkeling and spear fishing. They had a guide and another crew member. The guide even got in the water to point out sights and show them where the fish were. The guide offered them the fish that were caught and told them that the restaurant would cook the fish for them. They ended up sharing a huge platter of fish, spiny lobster sautéed in butter and garlic, beans, rice, onions, etc. with the guide and crew members and their wives. They told Carlos, the fishing guide, that they were considering going to Achamal to swim with the giant green sea turtles and sting rays. They would have had transportation costs and the entrance fee for this activity was \$60/person. Their guide ended up taking all four of them for \$150 (again, beer and water included). He drove the boat in and there was no entrance fee. They swam with the sea turtles and sting rays, snorkeled in the reefs and reef fished. The guide caught more fish and lobster for another feast and Joy speared a fish! She was the only one of the four travelers who was able to catch a fish in this manner. They snorkeled almost every day. At one point, Bob hit his elbow really hard on the boat and cut it to the bone. They wrapped it in a bandana but it continued to bleed freely, even while they swam (someone asked if they were worried about a shark attack and Joy said it did cross her mind). Joy, who is a nurse, decided that she needed to use the suture kit that she had in her 1st aid kit. Since she had no anesthetic, their friend went to the bar and got a bottle of their best tequila and two shot glasses. Joy declined a shot until after the surgery so Bob drank two shots. Joy swiped the sand off the table (this was her sterile technique) and opened the suture kit. Their friend numbed the area with some ice and Joy stitched it up. A local dog sauntered up and plopped down next to them. Joy had a great picture of the surgery and the dog which was monitoring the procedure. The bartender later said, “Su esposa es muy macho hombre.” At about 1:00 am that night, there was a knock on the hut door and someone asked, “Is the doctor awake?” Although Joy repeatedly said that she was a nurse, not a doctor, they pleaded with her to go help a sick person. It was very dark (no electricity after 10) so they struck off with flashlights on trails that wound between huts. They finally arrived and the local person said, “Hello, the doctor is here.” Again, Joy tried to explain that she was a nurse. The tourists were German but they seemed to understand. Joy determined that the woman suffered from turista and recommended that she take lomotil and eat crackers. When Joy saw her the next day, she was doing much better. Joy had great stories and pictures from their adventure. They are planning to travel to Mexico again in the spring and to travel on a budget to France next fall.