MEETING MINUTES - March 17, 2026 PACK MEETING

PACK Board For 2026	
President	Ken Bement
Vice President	Max Miller
Treasurer	Eli Rivera
Secretary	Dave Druffel
Web Master	Bruce Behrens

Opening

Ken started the meeting

Showed pictures of PACK banner

Guests and New Members

Rick Poole - needs a kayak
Rod Dolan - has a kayak
Jason Troyna - has three kayaks

Local location pictures — Ken showed pictures of Salt Lake, Dana Cove, Little Pasture Bayou and Fayette County Lake

Meeting Location For 2026

Trini Mendenhall Community Center - 1414 Wirt Road

Show And Tell — New Items? — Modified Items?

Tyler talked about and demonstrated his new collapsible chair
It is called the Bayou Racer and you can get a cushion

William talked about the Buffalo Bayou Regatta - It is this Saturday - March 21st

Dave bought a used kayak trailer - an Easy Ridge
under 4000 pounds - no title necessary

Discussion about rudders - a fin on the back of a kayak helps with straightness
Port Isabel - used top waters with jigs instead of corks - very effective

Ross went to Rahal and discovered the water was low

Dave indicated that the American Inn will allow us to park for the weekend at no charge

Blank waivers - Ken handed out copies

Two Safety Spot Light Items

1 - Awareness of surroundings when moving items

Be careful around
1) Uneven and soft ground
2) Steps and gaps

Pay attention when lifting heavy objects
1) What is the lifting height?
2) What is the distance to move?

Team up for the heavy /bulky items

Steady pace - don't rush too much

2 - Cell phone battery is low on charge

If you are ever left or stranded and your phone battery is low, change your voice mail to a message that gives the following:

1) Your approximate location
2) the date and time
3) summary of your situation
4) instructions for help

That way, when your cell phone stops working, your voicemail will pick up any incoming calls.

Anyone that hears your voicemail message will be able to send someone to help.

PACK Boat Builders

Ken showed a picture of a kayak that Chris Arceneaux built 19 years ago
Also showed three section kayak that Bob Tippie put together
Bob has built three other kayaks and cut two of these into three sections

Canoe Building Class

There is a possible canoe building class coming up in the Fall of 2026
It is being organized by a local woodworker - Tim
The group is Woodworkers Of Texas - www.woodworkersoftexas.org
Six day class of ten students building a 16' canoe
By Newfound Woodworkers of New Hampshire
You will leave with the know how to build your own

Fishing Tales

Ross Ozuna February 21st -- Salt Lake --------- 27", 27.5" and 28" reds
Ross Ozuna March 2nd -- Salt Lake ---------- Red limits
Blake Lake Charles, LA Went to docks with brother-close to Gold Nugget
Ross Ozuna - San Luis Pass - not good -- got no bites
Was in the cut - had challenges getting back in
Bruce went fishing with Callie and Eli
Went to Port O'Connor on March 10th
Bruce and Craig went to Baffin Bay
Beautiful wade fishing in the afternoon
Tower boats along the shore line
La Pesca - giant lodge Ate at the King's Inn - it closes at 8 PM
Boat ramp at the riviera
Four bedroom house with a pier

Past Events

February 21st Lufkin, Texas Trip Initiator - Max Miller
Went upstream for a while and then downstream past hairpin turn
Caught three fish - along bank - mud with sand
Very peaceful location - saw hogs crossing river

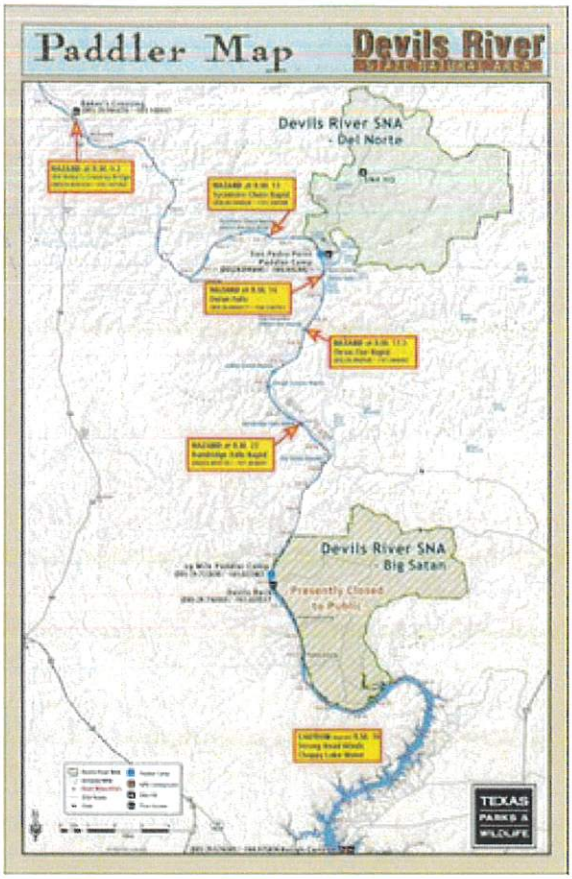
March 8 - 11 Devils River Trip Initiator - Blake Colburn
Blake got COVID, so Marcus will present info on page 3

Future Events

March 21st - HOW - Heroes On the Water Non-PACK event
This event is sponsored by the Matagorda chapter
All skill levels are invited - beginners to advanced
HOW outfits the participants with kayaks and poles

March 19 - 22 Rahal Bayou Trip Initiator - Steve Spadoni
Port O'Connor area
Twelve people are signed up - full group

April 16 - 19 Caddo Lake Trip Initiator - Max Miller
Stay at the Uncertain Inn -- run by a husband and wife team
House with grassy area to the lake
Can go up or down the stream Eight different hotel rooms
Not too much vegetation



Guest Speaker

Marcos Enriquez (with a little help from Blake)

Discussion about Devils River - last two trips

Two biggest deterrents for this trip
1) WAG Bags (aka Waste Alleviation & Gelling Bags)
2) Amount of gear you can bring it is limited

It is a 15 mile trip that takes 4 days / 3 nights
It is a 7 hour drive to Del Rio and the Amistad National Rec Area

Anglers work together and divide up the gear

Marcos bought a new frame for his hammock
Also got a Coosa kayak off of Facebook Marketplace
This year, Marcos bought some bags off Amazon - had to take gear in and out of kayaks

Marcus indicated that his method of angling is fly fishing
Fly line - uses one floating and one sinking
Rod - uses a 7-weight (7wt) fly rod - it is a multi piece rod

One concern was having rods out going down the the rapids - worry about broken rod

There are two really good spots along the river for camping for larger groups

Safety concerns
1) Head lamp access - it is a must at night
2) Radios - for communication - work as a team
3) Determine a set time for camp arrival - in case someone gets lost

Key learning - one of the biggest concerns is dehydration
--Drink lots of water --REI sells water filtration bottles
--It is very easy to dehydrate --Can get cramping in your hands

Highly recommend bright orange or pink dry bags - helps with visibility
Ricky took a tumble and lost a floating bag - later he found the bag downstream

There are some rapids on the river that can be a challenge for the group
Blake talked about working as a team to move kayaks

The best time of the year to go to this location is in the Fall.
There are plans in the works to take another trip in October 2026