

Trails

June 2007

Volume 2, Number 1

Plan for the July trip now!

- Ruidoso trip report
- Plan for the trip to Pat Barber's ranch now
- New feature: Moon Phase
- Photos from Ruidoso
- July meeting date and site

Ruidoso Trip Report

About 20 of our fellow PBOC members attended the Ruidoso "gold panning" trip the weekend of June 15th. Our directions to camp were a bit sketchy but everyone found the site.....(it's first come, first serve in Bonito Canyon so it's hard to predict where camp will be located). Everyone arrived at the site Sammy Hunnicutt and Valarie Walmsley had picked out and it was near enough to Rio Bonito to hear the stream at night (always soothing).

When I got to camp, Sammy, Valarie, J.D., Barbara, and Jonathan had found their spots and had erected their tents. I thought that I might sit around the entrance of the South Fork Campground and direct traffic to our campsite. I perched myself on a lawn chair and did a little sketching (as a

bit of a joke for Ronna Porter who was going to teach field journaling and sketching (I have NO talent in such matters). Ronna was very kind about my efforts even though I tried to convince her that it was meant to be a joke.....good teacher.... Anyway, members began to show up in singles and packs and eventually I decided to go make my camp and then return to my "vigil" to direct campers. I stayed until

midnight and finally decided that everyone that was going to show up had shown up (more than I expected!) I went back to my somewhat isolated campsite and had just gotten my head on my pillow when a group of hooligans began walking up and down the canyon road, shouting, swinging their flashlights, etc. It got maddening and about the time that I was getting dressed to go talk to them, they disappeared, for a while! Finally, their retirement or my fatigue won out and I drifted off. I wasn't surprised to learn that everyone in the main camp was as frustrated as I was with the situation. I found out later that J.D. took the initiative to go have a talk with their adult "supervisors" and asked that they reign their brood in for



Bonito Canyon in the summer.....can't beat it....

(cont. pg. 2 "Ruidoso")

July 27th PBOC Trip to Colorado City Ranch

On July 27th, we will go to Pat Barber's ranch near Colorado City. The beauty of this trip is that you can make a "one-dayer" out of it if you choose. Pat has his own lake with all kinds of attractions including an

old fashion cookout. You can fish, swim, boat, do a little archeology, sight-see, photography, sketch, or just sit and have fun with the group. This will be a great outing. I'll have more details later along with pic-

tures of the ranch and lake. I'll send these along to you before the next PBOC meeting on July 24th. This will be a great summer outing so mark it on your calendar now. No reservations required!

Ruidoso trip report

Saturday night. (This is why some animals eat their young).

On Saturday morning the group broke up into smaller groups to go birding, prospecting, or sight-seeing. A larger group, led by our able mining engineer, Sam Vanlandingham, went up one of the canyon roads to seek out one of the many abandoned mines and explore the mining industry in the area. Our group went up the canyon road (many loaded in the back of my pickup) and found an old mine to tour. Sam wasn't really sure which mine we had found but studied his maps diligently to find the answer. Most of us were just happy to be out in the country. Ronna took the opportunity to sit down with a group and begin her field journal instruction (she had quite a group). We were looking down on a mining operation and there were thunderheads hanging over the mountains. There was no short-

age of subject matter for the artists or the photographers.

After the group got their fill of prospecting, etc. and lunch was coming on, we came down out of the canyon and got together at the campfire circle for lunch and visiting. This is one of the first times that I can remember that we were able to establish a group campfire circle and everyone naturally congregated toward it. We need more of these! After lunch several of us decided it was time to try our hands at panning for gold in the Rio Bonito. David, Sam, Kathy and I rode down to a likely spot on the river with our pans, metal detectors, and shovels and began our quests for riches (ha). We actually managed a small showing of silver and a suspected flake (and flake may be optimistic) of gold. It was enough to whet my appetite to go back some time and get a little more industrious at the search (it's always been one of my

fantasies to live in the forest and find a way to make a living there).

After our prospecting ended, everyone, once again, gravitated toward the campfire circle to visit, sketch, etc. and prepare for supper. I wandered off for a couple of hours to have a little quiet time and the group began supper preparations. We sat until late into the evening enjoying the campfire and the company. Personally, I got a kick out of getting to know some of the newer members a little better and to listening to Sam Vanlandingham's stories. We have a really "eclectic" group and it was fun listening to everyone's stories. All finally went to bed and I went to find a quieter canyon downstream. On Sunday morning everyone drifted toward home at their own schedule including me. I felt guilty for not going back and telling everyone goodbye but I knew that I'd see everyone again soon.

"A blonde walks into a department store... no, better not tell that one...."

I need donations for material folks!



Ronna beginning her art instruction



Some of the old mining operation



Looks like something out of E.T. or Close Encounters doesn't it?



"From whence forth comes our riches."

Uh huh.....



Kay and a couple of her companions...(her two legged one was there too!



Why walk when you can ride?

**"All Hayduke ever needed in life was guns and peanut butter."
(You gotta read the Monkey Wrench Gang)**

July Meeting

The club will have it's July meeting at one of haunts in Midland. The meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Casa Lopez restaurant in Midland, 4411 W. Illinois Street on Tuesday, July 24th. We will be discussing the upcoming trip to Pat Barber's ranch in Colorado City, Texas (just a few miles east of Midland/Odessa. Please try to make

the meeting and bring a friend or two. We'll have all kinds of activities planned!



**Casa Lopez at
4411 W. Illinois
in Midland- 6:30**

Moon Phase

One of the things I used to do with the old club was to give the moon phase for the upcoming trip (for we stargazers and other crazies). The moon phase for the July trip will be, well.....'pert near full. So, if you're into stargazing, good luck, it'll be bright as day. If you're into romance, 'atta boy!



**The Newsletter of the
Permian Basin Outing**

The Sibley Nature Center
1307 E. Wall
Midland, Texas 79705

Phone: (432) 684-6827
Fax: (432) 685-3396
Email:

richard@sibleynaturecenter.org



The Sibley Nature Center

We're on the web at:

www.pboc.info

The Permian Basin Outing Club participates in monthly outdoor adventure programming such as canoeing, caving, backpacking, mountain biking, and other activities geared for the outdoor enthusiast. Memberships are \$25 annually which includes all trips, special activities, and a monthly newsletter announcing new trips, meeting times and dates, and trip reports. Call the Sibley Nature Center in Midland, Texas for additional information and registration....(432) 684-6827.

Permian Basin Outing Club
1307 E. Wadley
Midland, Texas 79705