

Trails

July 2007

Volume 2, Number 2

August Trip to the South Rim of Big Bend National Park - Richard

Inside this issue:

July trip report	2
Pics, pics, pics	2
Photo contest	3
More pics, pics,..	3
Nuthin but the bac	4
Back page!	4

Special points of interest:

- Don't miss the August trip to Big Bend's South Rim!
- July trip fun, fun, fun
- Photo contest
- The Pat Barber Memorial Portapotty

If you've not been there, you're in for a treat...the South Rim in the Chisos Mountains of the Big Bend National Park...and if you're worried about the heat in Big Bend in August, remember, you'll be well over 7,000 feet in elevation so heat isn't the problem that you'll find in the desert.

It's a little known fact that the southern most stand of aspen in the country is found along the South Rim. On clear days, you can see well into Mexico, Elephant's Tusk, the Sierra del Carmens, and many other extremely picturesque scenes in the Big Bend country.

Pat Dearen, a Big Bend old timer (and I mean that ONLY in the best sense of the word Pat, will be leading this trip. Most members will want to get to the park Friday night, camp in the Basin (up in the mountains) and get up Saturday

for the hike to the South Rim. If you can get away earlier on Friday, August 17th, you will probably want to get up into the mountains when you arrive. Pat will have more details at the August meeting.

For those of you that haven't backpacked in a while or have never backpacked, this is a moderate trail where almost all of the work is done during the first part of the hike. Once you've gained the altitude, the rest of the trail is not only easy but absolutely beautiful. You should see an incredible variety of birds and mammals and, if lucky, you might get to see one of the bears that have "reintroduced" themselves back into the park. Before the Big Bend became so active, the Mexican brown bear was a common site in and around the mountains. Most of the bears were driven off or killed during the ranching days but have made a resurgence in re-

cent years and are not all that uncommon to see. Be sure and take a camera and plenty of film (or digital media and batteries). And I don't need to tell you birders that the Colima warbler is found almost exclusively in the United States, in the Chisos mountains. Binoculars would be a nice addition if you're not worried about overall weight of your backpack.

I don't know if Pat will want potential numbers of participants for this trip but I will email all of you if he does request a number. Remember, the trip is planned for August 17th through the 19th.

August Meeting

The August 14th meeting for the PBOC will, once again, be at Casa Lopez which is located at 4111 W. Illinois, in Midland and the meeting time is scheduled at 6:30. If you've not been there, the restaurant is about a

half block west of Midland Drive on Illinois St. They've been very kind to us there and the food is good!

Please remember, you don't have to be planning to attend the

month's trip to attend and please feel free to bring a guest that might be interested in joining the club or just someone that wants to meet all of your charming and intelligent fellow PBOC members!

July trip to Pat Barber's Ranch was a blast! - Richard

Someone that attended all 3 days should be writing this report but since *those folks are hard to find...*

An estimated 35 to 40 people attended the trip to Pat and Sharon Barber's ranch on the weekend of July 27th. We had brand new members, guests, old.....uh.....members, and a couple of reprobates that still defy explanation.....of which I proudly claim membership.

Anyway, there wasn't much hoopla around it but we did dedicate the spanking new used **Pat Barber Memo-**

rial Portapotty. Pat taped over the best part of the "plaque" that I made for him....and since he did I'm including the "plaque" in this newsletter's collection of pics! I know Pat would want that.

Several campers, including David and Kay Crum, decided to make a weekend of trip and camped out both nights. I was one of the weenies that made a day-trip out of it but what a day it was. Everyone participated swimming, catfishing, horseshoes, football, canoeing, kayaking, arrow

head hunting and most of all....eating. The feral hog...or as Sharon Barber likes to call it, the quivering mass of pig fat...or something to that order, was delicious. It's a good thing that Sammy Hunnicutt brought his massive smoker on wheels, as well, because we also had ribs, brisket, stir fry, as well as the purloined parcel of porcine perfection... don't I talk good? Since I'm beginning to drone, look at the pictures below and on the following page and see for yourself the fun that we had. Much, much thanks go to Pat and Sharon Barber for their hospitality!!

"If you're attractive enough on the outside, people will forgive you for being irritating to the core."



We made Frank Gray catch his own supper



This was a fun and safe trip....but we did find a diamond back rattler under that paddle boat...(I think Frank ate it too.)



Michael was here just a second ago and "poof" ..he was gone!



Gae..trying to hide behind her hand



Charlie is either supervising Sharon or salivating over supper....



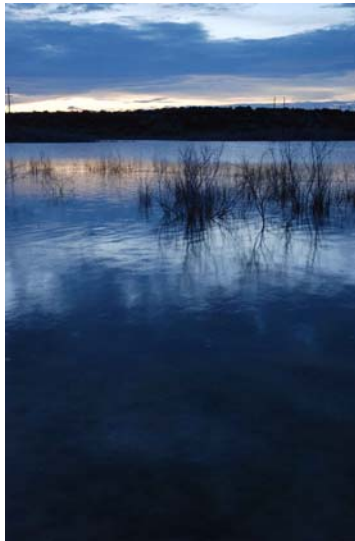
**"I can row a boat.....canoe?"
I'm sorry....I just had to.. R.G.**



We haven't taught David yet why the kayak doesn't go when the paddle isn't in the water...



**Madam President
(We could've elected David but he couldn't get through the swim suit competition)**



Wun of mi purdy shots..

**"There are No Stupid Questions.
But there are a LOT of Inquisitive Idiots."**



**The Pat Barber Memorial Port-a-Potty
While Sitting on This...Think of Me**

This is the "plaque" located in Pat's new "facility."

Of all of my pictures and creations in this newsletter...this is the one that I'm proudest of...

Photo Contest

Remember!....we have a PBOC photo contest going. You can use any photos that you've taken over the 2007 PBOC Calendar year (that was taken on one of the trips). I've been working like crazy to find some mindless, useless, and inane prizes....guaranteed to bore or embarrass the winners! What other incentive could anyone need!



Take THAT Beverly Hillbillies!!



**The Newsletter of the
Permian Basin outing**

1307 E. Wadley
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

and www.sibleynaturecenter.org

**The Sibley Nature Center
1307 E. Wadley
Midland, Texas 79705**