

Trails

October 2007

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Caving Trip Report—Richard

Well, we had about 15 members attend the Black and Cottonwood caving trip in New Mexico's Guadalupe Mountains. The maps were a bit chancy toward the end of the trip but everyone found their way to our Dark Canyon campsite. The weather couldn't have been better even though there were "mysterious lights" seen flashing off in the distance which may or may not have been lightning. David Crum reported something lighting up his tent at irregular but very intense levels....(remember, Roswell isn't that far from where we were camping!) Anyway, lightning or not, we had beautiful weather for camping and caving. Tony Grieco, a long time caver from the old PBOC Club and one of the original members of the local caving club, the PBSS, met us at camp from his home in Hobbs. I hadn't seen Tony in, literally decades,

and, unlike the rest of us, he looked pretty much the same as he did way back when. Tony has become a heck of a bicyclist and last summer road his bike from Mexico to Canada in some 23 days! Bill Bentley, our co-leader on the trip had made it to camp early Friday afternoon and was camped about a quarter mile past the rest of the party.

We all met up Saturday morning after a very enjoyable campfire Friday night at David and Kay Crum's campsite and divided the group into two, one group heading to Cottonwood cave and one to Black cave. Though Cottonwood was just off the beaten track and near camp, Black is well hidden and the Forest Service had given us only a "step log" to find it....so many paces at 270 degrees magnetic this way and then so many steps at 70 de-

grees magnetic that way, and so on and on. Finding the cave was the highlight of the weekend for me. We only got off track, or thought that we had gotten off track once in the several mile trek to the cave...but we eventually found it! The last time any of us were even in Dark Canyon was about 12 years ago. I didn't go into the cave because we had limited permits and I had been in both caves before...so I trekked back alone to camp and had a wonderful day of relaxing and taking photographs of the area. After a few hours, Bill Bentley came back to camp from leading the Cottonwood group and he and I visited at length about just about anything that came up. It had been a long time since Bill and I got a chance to think back on all of the adventures that we had experienced over the years and I had a great time

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Special points of interest:

- Cottonwood and Black caves were beautiful!
- Plan for the November 2nd trip to McKittrick Canyon
- PBOC 2008 Calendar planning session set
- Richard Galle seen as greatest and best looking outdoorsman in all of history..... (okay...now you know who writes the newsletter.....)

Get ready for Christmas!

That's right....get ready for the annual PBOC Christmas Party. Jan Artley is in charge of this year's party so it'll be more than the usual debauchery that I would normally plan. We will have food, entertain-

ment, our regular slide show, the 2008 PBOC Calendar, fun and games, etc....so plan to be at the Party. We may even have a few surprises on hand. The party presently is being planned for the Sibley

Nature Center on Saturday night, December 1st,time still under the planning stage. This has always been a great way to end the club's year and start the new year so please plan to be there!

Caving

thinking back to “the old days.” Before long, Tammy Roark and her son Jake and father Bob Perkins came into camp from Black cave. Jake was very excited about his new adventure and had plenty of tales to tell. The rest of the group followed closely behind with similar tales. Meanwhile, at Cottonwood, the Houston grotto had gotten permission to visit some of the other “regions” of Cottonwood and Steven Schafersman got a chance to join them for further exploration of some of the “farther reaches” of Cottonwood.

At the campfire that night he regaled us with the scenery that he encountered. I’ve got to tell you again; the weather was outstanding and just cool enough to really enjoy a good campfire. The sunset was incredible and no pictures will ever do it just (though we heartily tried). I was back and forth from the campfire to my truck because I’ve discovered that if I don’t listen to Texas Tech’s football games, that they will lose. I think that I finally convinced David that this was true and I was given a pass for going back and forth to the radio.....(Tech

absolutely whipped Iowa State that night.....my point made!) Several parties left Saturday night for home after a wonderful outing and some lingered to enjoy one more night in the woods. As far as I know, David had no more “out of body experiences with mystery lights.” (I have included pictures of the trip in the newsletter, but alas, no mystery lights.....)

Thanks to Bill and Tony for a great experience!

“The best leaders inspire by example. When that’s not an option, brute intimidation works pretty well too.”

Planning Meeting

You don’t want to miss the planning meeting to assemble the 2008 PBOC Calendar! It’s kind of like missing a vote. If you don’t like the winning candidate and you didn’t vote, etc., etc. Last year I sent out a notice for a planning session at Chili’s and we had 23 people show up! We ended up having to shout at each other to be heard so this year we plan to meet at the **Sibley Nature Center at 6:30 p.m. on November 20th**. We’re asking that all who want to attend, (and we’re encouraging everyone to be there), to let me know by calling Sibley at 684-6827 or emailing me at richard@sibleynaturecenter.org, to let us know if you’re planning to be at the meeting. We’re going to order pizza and we need a headcount. These meetings are always fun and we get a lot of work done in a short amount of time.

If you’re interested in helping plan next year’s calendar, please plan to attend and bring your personal calendars, school calendars, football schedules, etc. so that we can make every effort possible to plan the calendar with no further changes. We changed the date of a couple of trips in 2007 for reasons that we couldn’t help but everyone agrees that it is a bad precedent and we don’t want to repeat it.....soooooo..... If you can’t attend the meeting but feel strongly about somewhere that you want to go next year, whether it’s a repeat of earlier trips or somewhere new.....or, for that matter, a new activity that we haven’t done yet, please give me a call or email me with your suggestions. Remember, your ideas have a better chance of success if you can come to the meeting.....soooooo.....

Okay, I’ve preached enough and am getting tired of saying.....soooooo.....

Sooo.....

Caving Pics!



Tony Grieco pointing out cave features



David Crum, Bob Perkins, Tammy Roark, Tony Grieco, and Jake Roark

“Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99% perspiration...which is why engineers sometimes smell really bad.”



“Cottonwood Contingent” with PATRON Bill Bentley

**The Newsletter of the
Permian Basin Outing
Club**

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**The Permian Basin
Outing Club**

We're on the web at
www.pboc.info

Next Meeting!

The regular meeting for the club will be held at Casa Lopez at 6:30 p.m. on October 30th. We will be making final plans for the November 2-4 trip to McKittrick Canyon in the Guadalupe Mountains. Steven Schafersman is the trip leader for this event and he will have additional information regarding the trip.

If you haven't been to McKittrick Canyon, or even if you have been, this is a great trip! The trail is very level (for the most part) and is an easy day-hike. We try to plan this trip for the "peak weekend" for fall foliage. If you've seen any of the pictures from last

year's trip you'll know what I'm talking about. People compare McKittrick Canyon in the fall to the foliage that you'll see in New Hampshire! Steve has arranged limited camping at

National Park Service's Pine Canyon campground and some of us will be camping at our old spot on BLM land at Park's Ranch.



**Bill Bentley cooking
supper....**

You can get more details, maps, etc. at the meeting. Again, nag, nag, nag, come to the meeting whether you're planning to attend the trip or not and bring a guest!

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