



A Great Time at Mott Creek Ranch

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- What a great trip to Mott Creek Ranch!
- Plans are in order to replace the Labor Day weekend trip
- Make plans now to attend the July trip to the Barber's ranch in Colorado City
- We have a history you know!

There were about 15 of us touring Marisue Pott's Mott Creek Ranch over the weekend of June 20th-22nd. I was preparing to spend 5 days there with the club and then an ensuing Region 18 teacher's workshop so I was hoping for good weather and wasn't disappointed. It was warm as you'd imagine in June down in the canyons of the panhandle but storms built up in the afternoon and helped with the heat.

When everyone arrived Friday night Marisue joined us along with Rick Day and his sister Stacy and her son Colby. Sammy and I built a fire in the fire circle (the nights get really nice and cool after the sun sets). Marisue regaled us with some of the history of the ranch both nights. I've heard the stories before but never get tired of hearing them. There is a historical house on the ranch that saw quite a bit of action in the old days. It seems that two young cowboys were forced to live in the small house together for some time and one was a northern sympathizer while the other was a southern

sympathizer from the earlier Civil War. All it took is an argument over a song to precipitate a gunfight between the two, resulting in both of them getting killed. While the one was eventually recovered by family members, the other still resides in the soil, lost somewhere on the ranch. The story ends with a "ghostly" presence following a family!

On Saturday we started with a heretofore unexplored (by us anyway) canyon that Marisue called Bobcat Canyon (bobcat tracks were present). The canyon made a serpentine channel through all kinds of plant life and ended in what we called a "shut-up" when I worked in Big Bend but was a dead-end..whatever the name. We joked about how fast it would take us to climb vertical walls in the event of a flash flood. Afterwards we visited another part of the ranch that I had never been and were provided with a spectacular view of the ranch from a high point overlooking a windmill and a small stock pond. We continued our tour to the "red rocks' area and a historical

dugout and several other areas that are favorites for historical and photographic buffs. Marisue said that they had had little rain but everything looked really green to us and the creek was flowing well (West Texans consider any water and greenery as a successful spring and summer). Stacy, Rick, Colby, and I went fishing later in the day at Marisue's small lake and everyone caught bass and at least one catfish. Rick and I made several trips to a high point along one of the ranch roads to check on the weather and got some great looks at lightning though it refused to rain on the ranch. (It did rain a little on Monday night along with a spectacular lightning display).

On Sunday morning PBOCers reluctantly packed up and started their trips home. For once, I got to wave to everyone on their way out and prepared for the arrival of 9 teachers from different parts of the state. Rick, Marisue, and I got to repeat our tours a second time on Monday and Tuesday but enjoyed it just as much the second time around!



Tom and I have agreed that he looks grouchy in all of his shots—photo by Richard



My old buddy Rick Day (our trip leader) and our good friend and ranch owner Marisue Potts

photo by Richard



Hunting arrowheads

photo by Richard



The elusive rain—photo by Richard



The Mott Creek Ranch Hilton

photo by Tom Cooper

"You were meant for me. Perhaps as a punishment."



Equally elusive round tailed horned lizard—photo by Tom Cooper



Rick is pointing to the Buffalo kill site—photo by Tom

July Trip to Pat Barber's Ranch

On the weekend of July 18-20 the club will be heading to PBOC members Pat and Sharon Barber's ranch near Colorado City. This should be a relief to everyone that is suffering from "sticker shock" at the gas pump since it's just down the road from the majority of us.

The ranch has lots of areas to explore but the highlight is the large (by west Texas standards) lake that Pat has on the premises. The last time that we went to the ranch we swam, canoed/kayaked, went arrowhead hunting, fished,

pitched horse shoes and, for the highlight, had a big bar-b-que cooked over the local mesquite embers.

This is a great weekend trip though several of us went for just the day (a really L O N G day). Pat and Sharon have established a really good campsite beside the lake and there will be shelter from the sun and a port-a-potty for those members that don't want to go "natural." I haven't talked to Pat yet about how we want to arrange the bar-b-que but last year Pat provided one of his pesky feral hogs that

frequent his ranch. The only problem with that was that it had to be cooked for many, many hours and several club members had to baby-sit the beast for hours on end. I'll suggest to Pat that everyone brings their meat of choice or go veggie, etc. so that everyone can enjoy their free time.

At any rate, this is a fun trip that doesn't require getting a bank loan to fill your gas tank..plus it gives you the option to make a "one-dayer" out of the trip if you want to sleep in your own bed at night.



Labor Day Trip

As many of you know, the Labor Day trip to the Gila Wilderness, a 1,000 mile round-trip has been cancelled, primarily due to gas prices. Everyone that I've talked to still wants to do a trip but have "encouraged" me to make it a closer destination. Several suggested that we find somewhere cooler, as well...at least with water so that we

could jump into the lake/river when it gets hot. One of the suggestions was Ruidoso or Cloudcroft... (Ruidoso's Bonito Canyon was really popular last year). Others suggested a one-day outing with a star-party at night, possibly at Castle Gap just south of Crane (also very close to Midland/Odessa). Still others would like to see a trip

on some other weekend other than the 3 day Labor Day weekend. I've got several ideas as well but perhaps we can discuss alternatives at the next meeting and at the July trip to the Barber's ranch. Be thinking about where you'd like to go and we'll make an informed decision.

"The downside of being better than everyone else is that people tend to assume that you're pretentious."

July Meeting

The next meeting for the PBOC will be, once again, at Casa Lopez on July 15th at 4111 W. Illinois in Midland at 6:30 p.m.

I really encourage you to take the time to come to these meetings even if you don't plan to go on the upcoming trip.

The club is social in nature and we found in the old club that had over 600 people in its 17 year history, that things tend to fall apart if participation dwindles. We are all busy during the summer and history shows that trips and participation tends to lessen during the 3 month period. We've got

over 100 people in the club and we should be able to get participation at the meetings to help decide what we want to do for upcoming trips.....end of lecture.



The Newsletter of the Permian Basin Outing Club

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Historical plaque in front of the line camp house where shots rang out—photo by Tom

We're on the web at: www.sibleynaturecenter.org

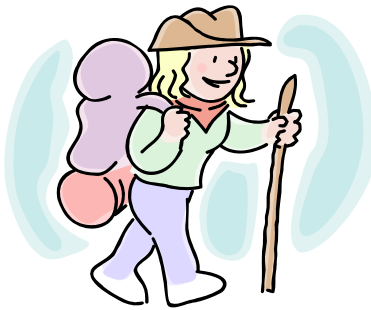


This was actually Mikey at the teacher's workshop but I just HAD to include it—photo by Richard



Our Mott Creek group—photo by Richard

The Permian Basin Outing Club—Richard Galle



The current Permian Basin Outing Club is a resurrection of 3 prior Permian Basin Outing Clubs...the first one started in the mid-70s and a clone of the Texas Tech Outing Club which I was remotely involved with when I was a student there. That club lasted several years and began to struggle when no one wanted to continue the leadership of the organization. The second “incarnation” of the club had an even shorter history...for the same reasons. The third issue of the club started in November of 1984 with a total attendance of 2 on the first trip which was to Big

Bend National Park...Rick Gray and I being the only two attendees (the weather turned bad in the Permian Basin and scared everyone off). From that point on all meetings and trips were extremely well attended and the first really big trip was the April 1985 Mariscal Canyon canoeing trip that was attended by over 30 members. The club lasted until 2001 when most of the leadership, myself included, left the Permian Basin. During the 17 year history of the club we had over 600 members, many of them remaining active even after they moved or were transferred to other parts of

the country. We literally had active members from New York to California...a truly national organization! In 2006 we decided to give the club another chance through the Sibley Nature Center. The club grew to over 100 people almost immediately and remains active today. The club features monthly trips to backpack, canoe/kayak, cave, hike, fish, and other assorted outdoor adventures. Club members automatically receive a membership to Sibley and receive a 10% discount on purchases at Ski Skeller (where many of us buy outdoor equipment. A good deal in all!