



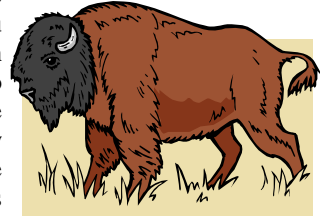
# Trails

## Caprock Canyons State Park—September 12-14

On the weekend of September 12th the club will be traveling to the Texas panhandle to attend, what proposes to be a great weekend of history and recreation. We have.....or rather Sammy has arranged for the club to see the state buffalo herd which resides at Caprock Canyons State Park. While I was the Executive Director of the Plainview YMCA I spent many weekends hiking and biking the park and was privileged to see the herd when they first established them there. It's well worth the trip to see them. There is an interior fence and an exterior fence. Visitors to the park can only get as far as the exterior fence and, as I understand it, we will get to get inside the interior fence and get a first hand

look at the herd. In addition we will also get an "unlocked gate" ride down the "rails to trails" trail at Monk's Crossing on Saturday night to view the bat flight out of the trails tunnel. For those of you not familiar with the deal, many years ago the hike/bike trail was actually a railroad bed, complete with tunnel. The tunnel is occupied by bats and they take their evening flight around sunset. For those of you a little more adventuresome you can take a mountain bike down the trail to the tunnel. I've ridden trail many times on my bike between Monk's Crossing and South Plains. If we get enough riders we can arrange to

have vehicles at both ends, negating the need to turn around and make a round-trip, which was my usual fate. The railroad bed is only 3% grade so it takes no great effort. The fun part of this is that we'll be traveling it at night using moonlight to navigate by (again, which I've done many times). You cross over many bridges that span deep gorges. The added aspect of doing this at night really adds to the



"mystique." Try it!

### September club meeting

The club will meet at Casa Lopez at 4111 W. Illinois at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8th. We will be handing out maps and answering questions about the trip. This is a great time of year to recruit new members so, once again,

even if you're not planning to make the trip, come on over and have dinner and bring a guest. This will be a very leisurely trip (unless you plan to bike) and would be a great opportunity to introduce new members to the club

and its outstanding members.....okay, a great chance to introduce them to the club. We members are "an acquired taste."

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#### Special points of interest:

- Get your mountain bikes ready!
- Castle Gap didn't disappoint
- New picture downloading capabilities
- Time to start thinking about 2009 Calendar

## Castle Gap—August Trip Report

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A few members were wary of the weather and chose not to attend the Castle Gap trip but we still had about 15 people there including 4 kids....full of energy.

The ideas of this trip was to enjoy the scenery of Castle Gap (which is superb), do a little cookout, and finish the night with a great campfire and star party. We accomplished all but the star party, thanks to the cloudy overcast. The clouds did make the weather nice and cool even though we'd have to have a radio telescope rather than an optical scope to enjoy the stars.

I got to the Gap around 3 p.m. to find Bill Bentley waiting for me at the gate. We

placed flagging at all of the important intersections and proceeded to the campfire area. While Bill cooled his heels I went to the south rim of Castle mountain and gathered plenty of firewood for the campfire and for Tom's "smores." Shortly after Bill and I arrived Don Moore showed up and for a while we thought that everyone had come to the conclusion that it was going to rain. We started preparing our hamburger supper and had just about polished it off when other members began to arrive. Several members walked to the south rim of the mountain and took in the spectacular view from there. As folks arrived I took the time to put people into my truck and take them to the overlook. We were lucky to have an absolutely beautiful sunset that went from orange to the

deepest shades of pink and red that I've seen. When it got too dark to see anything down below we went back to the campfire. As is common at our campfires, conversations ranged from prior experiences camping to the upcoming school year to astronomy and physics. The night got quite dark and it became a classic campfire roundtable. Members began to drift off around 10 p.m. Tom and I sat at the fire to further solve the world's problems until he left at around 11p.m. Since we had just stoked the fire I felt that I needed to stay until the fire died down sufficiently (tough work). The quiet was deafening! When the loudest thing you hear is a fire crackling....that's living! I finally got home and in bed by 3 a.m.....tired but happy.



**I don't know what they found but I'm sure they all see it! - photo by Richard**

*"There is no greater joy than soaring high on the wings of your dreams, except maybe watching a dreamer who has nowhere to land except the ocean of reality."*



**Happy trio! - photo by Richard**



Great chef and fellow Red Raider  
Don Moore—photo by Richard



Bill Bentley at the OK Corral—photo  
by Richard

## 2009 PBOC Calendar

It is beginning to be that time of year to think about what we want to schedule for calendar year 2009 for the old PBOC. This year the officers...newly elected....and immediate past officers will meet to decide our fate for the upcoming year. We want your input! If you would kindly email me with your ideas whether it be a repeat of trips in the past or something new, I'll start a file to

be presented at the planning session in November. Autocracies do work but that's not how we work. We want as many ideas from as many members as possible. Many of our past trips are well worth repeating if not to do the same activity but to explore new horizons. I just spent part of a week at

*"If you think the problems we create are bad, just wait until you see our solutions."*

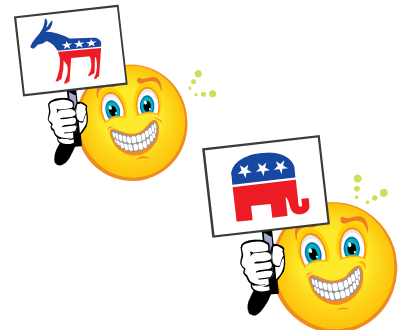
Big Bend Ranch State Park and saw things and went places that I've never been....as an example. Please feel free... heck....feel obliged to give us some ideas. Email your ideas to me at: richard@sibleynaturecenter.org. Remember time and gas expenses but otherwise....go wild with your ideas.

## Elections

Yeah, yeah...I know it's a little early to think about club officer elections but have you turned on the television lately? Elections are in the air! We usually elect a Prez., a Vice-Prez, and an editor (which I've been holding down since the inception of the club. Now believe it or not, these positions are important to the success of the club. There are no rules in the club that prevent you from re-electing existing officers or if you want to try

something new, you're welcome to go that route too. We want to elect the slate of officers *before* the early November planning meeting for the 2009 Calendar (so that we'll know who to blame for bad planning in 2009....

We'll hold elections....very informally, in early November....McCane and Obama are not on our ballot so don't start stressing! No Clintons either....



**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PERMIAN  
BASIN OUTING CLUB**

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*Don't forget, you can now upload/download pictures at the Permian Basin Outing Club site which you can find by going to the Sibley Nature Center website at [www.sibleynaturecenter.org](http://www.sibleynaturecenter.org). When you get to Sibley's opening page, find the Permian Basin Outing Club "button." There you will find a link to the Gallery. Go to that and you'll find a registration page with instructions about registering, download sizes, etc. You can download and upload pictures to your hearts content but read the rules! We'd also ask that you stay reasonable in the numbers of pictures that you contribute and, of course, **content is important**. Anything that could be considered less than tasteful will get you in deep poo! Enjoy!*

**We're on the web at:**  
[www.sibleynaturecenter.org](http://www.sibleynaturecenter.org)



**Sunset at Castle Gap.....this picture hasn't been manipulated in Photoshop...this is Mother Nature at work!! - photo by Richard**