

**Special points of  
interest:**

- New calendar finished
- January trip back to Big Bend National Park
- Christmas Party was a great success

# Trails

January 2009

## A great slate of upcoming trips

If you haven't seen the 2009 PBOC Calendar you should take a quick gander at it. We feel like we have a great schedule that will offer members a great variety of outdoor adventures. In January we will be headed to one of our favorite destinations, Big Bend National Park. Our trip leader, Pat Dearen, has chosen one of our favorites, the Mule Ears trail, as our destination. For those of you that have never done Mule Ears, it is a relatively easy trail with easy "ups and downs" except for a rather steep hill to negotiate just before we arrive at our camp. More on that later. In February we'll be rappelling in the Davis Mountains at Point of Rocks. If you haven't rappelled before or if you're a veteran, this is always a popular trip. All equipment and instructions will be provided. March will find us at a new destination, the Pole Ranch, which is in the Texas

panhandle. In April we'll be traveling back to Lake Amistad for fishing, boating, swimming, etc. May's trip is for canoeing enthusiasts in Colorado Canyon on the Rio Grande. In June and July we will be traveling to Mike Rush's ranch and Pat Barber's ranch for swimming, fishing, boating, etc. August will find us in the cool mountains in and around Cloudcroft, New Mexico. September's trip will be back to the Davis Mountains at the Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch. This is some of the prettiest country in the Davis Mountains complete with a running streams and a species of trout that occupy the area. In October we will travel to Dog Canyon in the Guadalupe for camping a day-hiking and in November we will return to Big Bend Ranch State Park to see new country. And, of course, we will have our annual PBOC Christmas party in December. A great year of events!



## January trip to Big Bend National Park

As I mentioned above, the January trip will be to Big Bend National Park to do the Mule Ears trail. A total of 15 hikers can be placed on the permit so it will be "first-come-first-served." If you don't make the list of 15 you can still go on the trip but you will have to make reservations yourself through the National Park Service. Pat

has set a deadline for January 20th to commit to the trip. The trip itself is set for the weekend of January 23rd-25th. This is a relatively easy trail with one steep hill to negotiate at the terminus of the trail...but it's not that difficult. The rest of the trail is fairly easy. We will day hike out of our base camp behind Mule Ears and probably go

to Smokey Creek which sports a waterfall and pool. This trip is geared for photographers too if you are of that ilk. Please remember to let me know by January 20th if you want to make this trip...but the sooner the better! Call Richard at 684-6827 or email me at:

[richard@sibleynaturecenter.org](mailto:richard@sibleynaturecenter.org)

### New leadership

As you may or may not know, Kathy Lupardis has been elected President of the club for 2009. Kathy and Bill have been valued members since the inception of the club and have been very involved in many of the trips. Bill and Kathy met at a mining operation in Colorado years ago so they are definitely outdoor types!



you're not familiar with the "symbol" it is a beautiful "gilded" toilet plunger. After each president finishes their reign, they add something to the plunger that is symbolic of their personality and then the following president will add their "touch" etc., etc. The old 1984-2001 club actually buried the old "symbol of the office" and many other personal items from each club member in a time capsule buried way up in the Davis Mountains. It's silly but a lot of fun. I'm sure Kathy has *something* in mind to

decorate the "staff" with or will by the end of the year. We all want to thank Kathy for taking on this role and an additional thanks to Sammy for filling the important role of president in 2008! We will change the contact information on the website as soon as possible (since we never changed it from Kay Crum to Sammy last year!)

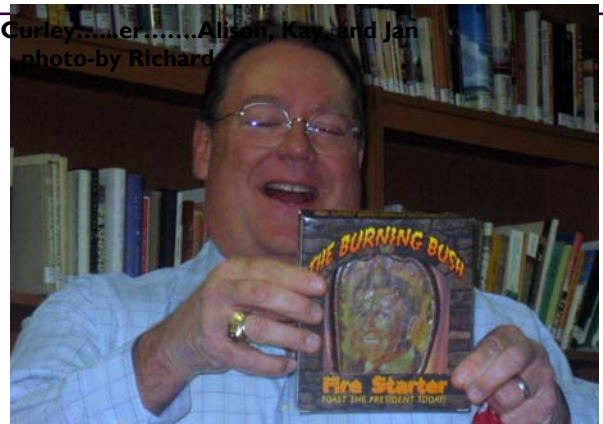
Congratulations Kathy!

Sammy Hunnicutt was the 2008 club president and handed over the "symbol of office" to Kathy at the Christmas party. If

**"Until you spread your wings, you'll have no idea how far you can walk."**



**The irony of it all...this is what David brought 2 years ago and he ends up with it.**  
photo by Jan Artley



**"The Burning Bush" fire starter....look carefully at the package!**  
photo by Jan Artley

### Christmas Party



Well, this year's PBOC Christmas party didn't disappoint. We had about 37 people show up and no one made too much a fool of themselves....always a good sign. We started with a wonderful meal from Carino's, watched the annual slide show and then got down to business opening the white elephant gifts. There were several actually useful gifts but there was the usual smattering of tasteless, absolutely useless

stuff as well. I didn't see anything that was outright embarrassing...come on folks...get with it! I personally looked for something tastefully embarrassing but was told that that was oxymoronic....or maybe they told me I was a moron. Anyway, everyone stayed longer than usual and enjoyed the eats, drinks, and visiting with friends. Santa didn't show but I don't think that he is on the PBOC mailing list so obviously he didn't get

the word. I've included several pictures in the newsletter.....Sammy, I promised not to include that one "lampshade" photo of you..I'm not sure Valarie would appreciate it. For those of you that missed the party this year, you missed a great time. Thanks go out to Jan Artley, our Christmas party coordinator and hostess!



Pat Barber didn't get my gift this year....that's why he's smiling—photo by Richard



Some of the group.....the others are under the tables photo by Richard



This is NOT the symbol of Kathy's new office...it's much too nice—photo by Richard



Brandon....one of the pups—photo by Richard



I've never seen Sharon not smiling—photo by Ricahrd

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

### January meeting

We will meet, once again, at our usual haunt, Casa Lopez at 4415 W. Illinois in Midland. The meeting will take place at 6:30 on Tuesday, January 20th. We are open to ideas of other places to meet but everyone seems to like Mexican food!

We will be discussing the upcoming trip to Big Bend National Park.



Moe, Larry, and Curley...er...Alison, Kay, and Jan—photo by Richard

**THE NEWSLETTER  
OF  
THE**

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**We're on the web at:**

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