



Trails

April 2009

Amistad Trip.....Hot, Windy.....fun!

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Special points of interest:

- Get ready for the May float trip through Colorado Canyon
- Meeting date changed

Approximately 12 to 15 members made it all the way to the Amistad Lake campsite for a little recreation. The problem that we had last year of cold north winds wasn't a problem this year....wind yes but no cold! Almost everyone arrived Friday night with a few late arrivals on Saturday. Rick Gray and I were on vacation at the cabin that we use every year and we had gathered firewood for the group previously. The wind was just too high Friday night to risk a fire but everyone enjoyed the communal "circle" and the good (if not windy) weather and the lake. Speaking of the lake, the water was, to the best of our estimation, much higher than we've seen it in the 23 years that Rick and I have been visiting the lake. Many of the prime tenting area was some 10 feet out into the lake this year...so everyone had to make do with the

existing campsites and had to spread out a little further than in years past.

Saturday found Steven listening to 5 hours of opera on his satellite radio while everyone else fished, explored, went into Del Rio, or simply enjoyed the view. Rick and I continued to be frustrated at the slow fishing that we had been experiencing all week but, hey, that's just icing on the cake. The lake and the view were worth the trip, not to mention the isolation of the place. No t.v.'s, no cell phones, etc. Peace and quiet are greatly underrated. We went down to visit everyone Saturday night and watched everyone fix their suppers, (an odd fixation that the club seems to have...what is the other guy having and how can I weasel some of it). After a short visit, Rick and I went back to the cabin to fix our own supper

and promised to come back down for a later visit (which never happened in that the majority of the campers went to bed early). A small campfire was witnessed from our perch above the camp and I practiced some Morse Code to see if anyone knew enough to answer. I got some unintelligible attempts for answers but it wasn't Morse code.

We went back down Sunday morning to wish everyone a safe trip home and to get ready to take up our boat. Everyone seemed to be in a good mood....(except Rick and I since vacation was over). Not much to report for this trip except a quiet and restful experience on one of Texas' great and scenic lakes. What else could anyone ask for?

May Meeting

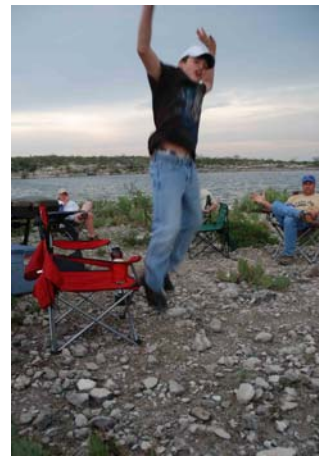
PLEASE NOTE: The usual Tuesday meeting for the May canoe trip will be held on May 6th, a Wednesday night meeting. It will still be at Casa Lopez at 4411 W. Illinois in Midland at 6 p.m. I am in charge of

the trip but I will be in Ft. Davis conducting a workshop on Tuesday so won't be able to get maps and all of the other materials that you'll need to you on the regular meeting date...so, again, the

meeting will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, May 6th, at 6 p.m. The trip will be a canoeing trip down Colorado Canyon on the Rio Grande near Big Bend Ranch State Park. More on that in the newsletter



I'm sorry.....this is just wrong! - photo by Richard



The most energy seen all weekend—photo by Richard

Mediocrity
“It takes a lot less time, and most people won’t notice the difference until it’s too late.”



These two were neighbors and didn't get along at all! - photo by Richard



Some of the group—photo by Richard

Colorado Canyon Float Trip—May 8-10

If you plan to go on the canoeing trip on Colorado Canyon on the weekend of May 8-10 you need to let me know NOW. I have 5 canoes left which will accommodate 10 people. The canoes will be \$20 each (\$10 a rider for those mathematically challenged and assuming 2 to a canoe). Colorado Canyon is just upriver from Big Bend National Park and is part of the Big Bend Ranch State Park operation. The trip is an all-day excursion but is easily done in a day. There are easy rapids with one big “haystack” nearer the takeout point. You can usually avoid this rapid if you don’t want to take a chance of getting wet but is a lot of fun to take and “do-able.” We will put in upriver (imagine that) at a site that I’ll have to ask David about since last year’s flood on the Rio Grande wiped out the old site....(they may have rehabilitated it by now) and we will take out near the “Tipis” roadside park on the Big Hill. I will

provide maps to our gathering spot and also provide suggestions for campsites. We can camp either in the National Park or the State Park but I need to visit with David Crum on his suggestions. He has made a lot of contacts with his job in Ft. Davis and he may have some suggestions for making the process go a little easier... (are you reading this David?)

I have floated Colorado Canyon a lot of times and have thoroughly enjoyed the trip every time. It isn’t a difficult float (though it will most likely be hot!) I got lucky on one of my solo floats of the canyon once and scored one of my three sightings of a cougar pacing me on a cliff above the river many years ago. Access to the put-in and take out are all paved so transportation shouldn’t be a problem. We should be on the river by mid-morning and be off the river by late afternoon or

early evening on Saturday. Right now I have only a handful of members that are planning to go on this trip plus a few folks that David has signed up from the area.

Again, please let me know as soon as you can about reserving a canoe so that I can make sure that we have enough boats, life jacket, paddles, etc. It would be a good idea to pack plenty of sun screen, a light weight long sleeve shirt and even light weight long pants to slip on if you get too much sun or are susceptible to sunburn. Also, some form of river shoes, old tennis shoes, etc. plus a small ice chest with drinks and lunch. We’ll take our time and explore the river and the sights on either side of our float. A camera is a good idea too but make sure that you protect it from water damage.....same ideas from earlier floats. This is a beautiful float and well worth the effort.


“No matter how great and destructive your problems may seem now, remember, you’ve probably only seen the tip of them.”

I need material!....and a reminder....

Our newsletter is drab! I know it because I write it. If you have trip reports from non-PBOC trips that you want to share, trail cooking tips, outfitting ideas, suggestions for future trips, equipment that you want to sell or give away.....ANYTHING...well, almost anything, please email it to me. You got my email address and phone

number..(it’s on the newsletter). Heck, if you’ve got a good joke that can be shared publicly, send it to me. In the old club we had a guy that was a wonderful cartoonist and a wit to boot and he submitted great cartoons and witty sayings every month so help me out here....Also a reminder to some of the new outing club members

that you can present your Sibley membership card at Ski Skeller for a 10% discount on all purchases there. A lot of us buy a lot of our outing supplies there. If you buy a \$250 tent you’ve got your annual PBOC/Sibley dues recouped.



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