



Trails

Let Me Tell You About September's Trip!

The September trip to the Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch broke new records for attendance! Previously our record for attendance was the canoe/kayak trip down Mariscal Canyon in Big Bend National Park. We had 40 members on that trip. The recently completed trip to the Scout ranch had 46 people in attendance and the largest number of kids that we've ever had! Members came from as far away as Matador and San Antonio.

I arrived at camp after a quick lunch in Ft. Davis with Sammy and Valarie Hunnicutt and David Crum. Malcolm McElvaney had arrived around 11:00 a.m. that day and had already started

exploring the camp. I started my stay with checking on all of the facilities to make sure that water was running, etc. Soon people started arriving and setting up camp. The weather acted like it wanted to rain but the clouds slowly disappeared. Sammy and I went on a search for firewood and were successful in gathering enough firewood for the first night. After some consideration, we found our "group campfire" site and unloaded our work. As members arrived they made their various camp and settled in for a night of campfire stories (lies) and revelry (Sammy). We had a great time under beautiful skies. Some chose to sit by the campfire while others

chose to simply sit at their camp and enjoy the incredible skies of West Texas. People think that I'm crazy when I say that you can cast a shadow by starlight in West Texas...but it's true. I had a guy camp with me in the Davis Mountains many years ago. He was from the northeast (New York I believe) and when he got out of my Jeep that night at camp, he looked up and said that it looked like clouds were moving in. I followed his gaze and found that he was looking at the Milky Way. When I told him it was a cloudless night and he was looking into the center of our galaxy, he didn't believe me. When I went to my tent later that night I looked

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2010 PBOC Calendar

It's not too early to start thinking about locations and activities for next year. We usually start soliciting ideas in October and by the time you receive this newsletter, October will be here or just around the corner. We've had a great

calendar this year and we look forward to an exciting calendar for 2010. While at the Scout ranch last weekend several members indicated that we should book *at least* one if not two trips to the ranch next year. To have the sights and

sounds of the Scout ranch *and* running water and bathrooms nearby for \$8 a person for the weekend was outstanding! So start thinking of ideas and send them to me. I'll put a list together and we'll have the 2010 calendar ready by the Christmas party!

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Special points of interest:

- *September trip to Scout ranch was the highest attended trip to date*
- *Start generating ideas for trips/activities for 2010!*

Inside Story Headline

out to see what he was doing. He was still staring at the night sky....but I digress.... Members kept arriving well into the night (our distance drivers) and we finally closed down the fire and wandered to our individual camps. After breakfast on Saturday people began to take the Green Trail which is a relatively easy trail that leads to a 165 foot pinnacle known as the Needle, a large pool and sometimes waterfall called the Notch, and to the Pole Pens and eventually to Trick Gap Park. The weather was great if not slightly warm and there was water in the stream for most of the distance throughout our hike. I started out with my buddy from San Antonio, Rick Gray, and his daughter Olivia....also known as "The River Diva"....(go on some trips and you'll know all of the inside scoop). As always, little groups of folks passed and fell back, resting, taking pictures, soaking their feet in the water, filling canteens in one of the two spring fed water sources, etc. A small group of us stopped at the Needle and surveyed its heights (this little gem was my one and only "first climbed" claim to fame and I was clambering all over it to see pitons that I'd left in it years ago).

"Madness does not always howl. Sometimes it is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'Hey, is there room in your head for one more.'"

After a little

bit of lunch we made our way just a bit further to the Notch. Steven had already taken a dip into the pool and fortunately had finished his swim before the rest of the group got there....that's right....what you think..... Anyway, we stopped to get several photographic angles and to climb to the top of the gap to get a better look at the trout that are in the pool and to simply enjoy the view. Several groups and individuals tarried while others went on to the Pole Pens and Tricky Gap Park. I chose to stay at the Notch and just cool my heels. When everyone started heading back to camp I chose to take the stream bed route to get some greenery shots and immediately lost the trail but wasn't terribly concerned since the trail follows the stream....but the going certainly got tougher with all of the boulder jumping. Rick and Olivia Gray, the entire Day family, and Stayce and Coby Cochran were the last of all of the groups to get in and everyone began their dinner preparations as the sun began to set. I had made prior arrangements with my fellow football fanatic, Rick Day, to get back to his camp by 8:15 to listen to the Tech/Houston game on satellite radio (a mistake since Tech found a way to lose another one!) Rick and I sat down after dinner to listen to the game and Rick Gray vacillated between the game and opining about flower arrangements and

dress designs with the girls in the Day camp (I kid you not, years ago I asked Rick Gray what a pinafore was and HE KNEW!....and I'm not talking about the ship!) Again, you have to know a little history and be around to know the circumstances of his knowledge. The game lasted until almost midnight and after the poor results all I wanted to do was go to bed and whine about the outcome. You've got to understand that the Scout ranch is in a huge horseshoe shaped canyon and even though I was a long way off I could hear voices magnified from the Day/Gray camp for a long time. I have no idea what they were discussing but they were having a good time doing it!

Sunday morning consisted of cleaning camp, packing, and saying our goodbyes. As people wandered off to home I went to find the camp folks to let them know that they could turn off the water, douse the lights, etc. and promised them that we cleaned the camp. We were encouraged, as good and responsible campers, to come back at any time. We enjoyed ourselves to the extent that we wanted to be able to return so it was a good thing to hear that were welcome back! I'm sure that the ranch will be in our near future.



A small portion of the group at the Needle—photo by Stephen Shafersman



One of our new members...great at the campfire but no so at the dinner table—photo by Tom Cooper

October Trip to Dog Canyon

As you probably/should know, our October 23rd weekend trip is to Guadalupe Mountains National Park's Dog Canyon. This campsite requires you to pass Parks Ranch and Whites City, New Mexico and turn back toward the park for about 60 miles to a really beautiful campsite in the Guadalupe mountains. The weather should be cool and pleasant (but prepare for anything). I know that Stephen Schafersman and his small group of adventurers are planning to backpack from McKittrick Canyon to the Dog Canyon campground but the majority of the campers will car camp at Dog Canyon and day hike on any of the many optional trails. As always, plan to bring a daypack and plenty of water and snacks/lunch for the trail....and if you're a photographer, prepare for some of the

most beautiful country this side of heaven. We have one small problem with this trip. We don't have a trip leader. I may not be able to make this trip and, as it turns out, when we planned the 2009 calendar, we indicated that the trip leader "would be announced." Well, he/she hasn't been announced yet! I can easily get the numbers through this newsletter and subsequent emails



but we'll need to get someone to the campsite early enough to secure our place. If you are willing to do this, please let me know as soon as possible at:

richard@sibleynaturecenter.org or call me at 684-6827. I'll make it easy for you! We very well may have members of the Flatlanders Ski and Adventure Club going along on this trip and we need to be as organized as possible so if you're willing to put out just a tiny bit of work, please step forward and volunteer to lead this very easy trip.

October PBOC Meeting

Unless I hear otherwise...(there has been rumblings about finding a new meeting spot), we will meet at our usual spot at Casa Lopez Restaurant at 4415 W. Illinois at **6:00 p.m.** on Tuesday, October 20th. I will have maps available and my usual list of inane suggestions for the trip. All questions will be answered at that time (though if you have any questions in the interim, let me know and I'll try to

answer them). As always, this is a good opportunity to bring potential new members to the meeting to encourage them to join our little band of outdoor enthusiasts. And one other small item, since the restaurant is providing us space for free, consider at least

"Mediocrity, it takes a lot less time, and most people won't notice the difference until it's too late."

ordering tea or something to make their effort worthwhile. Heck, I'll buy you a glass of tea if that's what it takes....and leave a little tip for the waitress..

We'll see you there!



Peoples on ze trail—photo by Steve Schafersman



David & Kay Crum...on ze trail—photo by Steven

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PERMIAN
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Sister of the other new member...a bit
flighty...but not really—photo by Tom Cooper (at
the Pecos zoo on his way home)



Kind of an “artsy” shot of the Needle—photo by
Tom Cooper



One of many really pretty oasis spots
on the ranch—photo by Richard



Mountains behind camp—photo by Richard