

TRAILS

December 2009

JANUARY 22ND'S BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK DESTINATION DECIDED

After some discussion with Pat Dearen, January's trip leader, we have decided to backpack to the Banta Shut-In. I was down in the park for about a week earlier this month (for a little solo backpacking) and I checked with park officials to see if this stretch was still open and they said that it should not be a problem. They still have a 15 person limit (which can be fudged a bit) but the site is still available. The Banta Shut-In is a dramatic "squeeze" where the entire width of the major drainage of the east side of the park, Tornillo Creek, comes to a narrow defile. There is usually a bit of water there (which saved my life and the life of a couple of my buddies years

ago when we desperately needed a water source). The three times that I've been at the site there were a lot of animal tracks present, including cougar tracks! We will park at the K-Bar Ranch campsite near Park Headquarters and make the easy hike to the shut-in. Oddly enough, the 3 times that I've been to the site I came from the east side from the Old Ore Road so I've not approached the site from the normal way. The last time that I visited the site with the old club, Rick Gray and I decided to park on the Old Ore Road and hike cross country with a GPS unit and meet the club at our camping site. The club had



no trouble finding the site from the K-Bar Ranch parking area, however. The hike is relatively level so no problems if

you're not in the post-holiday shape that most of will be in. **We do need to know how many of you will be going on this trip so that Pat can make arrangements. Please let me know by return email or by phone if you plan to make this trip...say by Monday, January 18th, prior to the January 19th meeting.** This should be a great trip with minimal effort and potential for great scenery!

NEW MEETING SPOT

No one had any complaints about our usual meeting place at Casa Lopez Restaurant but there was a general feeling that we should change our cuisine so through the efforts of Sammy Hunnicutt and club president Sean Patty, we will

be meeting at Murray's at 3211 W. Wadley in Midland. Murray's has a great menu and a back room that will accommodate us. The prices are reasonable and it's a convenient place to meet. Sammy tells us that the folks at Murray's would like to

have some idea of the number of folks that will be at the meeting on the 19th of January so if you'll let me know by January 18th (the deadline for committing for the January 22nd trip), that'll satisfy our needs.

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Special points of interest:

- Getting ready for January 22nd's trip
- New cuisine for 2010 meetings!
- Christmas Party honors Sammy Hunnicutt

CHRISTMAS PARTY A GREAT SUCCESS

If you didn't make the Christmas Party this year, you missed a good one. We had about 30 members here and the "frolicking" took center stage. Being an old friend, I just couldn't resist the temptation to "recognize" Sammy Hunnicutt with a special "Prologue" to the main part of the annual slide show. You see, Sammy has a special "affection" for the movie *Deliverance*.....you know, the one with Burt Reynolds, Ned Beatty, etc.....the one that took place on a trip by canoe down a southeaster river. It was a really dark plot with all sorts of really bad things happening. Anyway, Sammy's affection for the deer population in the Davis Mountains State Park played a major role in the bit. The remainder of the slide show paled in comparison.....in my opinion.....



Andy Price at the Christmas Party—
photo by Richard

Have a wonderful
Holiday Season
Folks!



I was hoping that Sharon got the green washers again this year.....



"Energizer Bunny arrested....charged with battery." - (Sorry...I just had to.....)



Oh look!....it's a.....?



Kathy passes the "torch" or leadership to Sen....