



Trails

November 2010

PBOC Christmas Party coming soon!

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Special points of interest:

- * Christmas Party coming!
- * Carlsbad cold but gorgeous
- * PBOC 2011 Calendar to be ready for Christmas party

Well, it doesn't seem possible, but we've just about completed our 5 year of the 4th incarnation of the Permian Basin Outing Club. I think back on the year and some of my personal highlights....going to the Boy Scout Ranch twice in one year, going to Independence Creek Preserve and expecting foul weather only to experience one of the best (and least attended) trips of the year, backpacking in Big Bend National Park....all wonderful trips. And now we find ourselves at the end of the year, preparing for our annual PBOC Christmas Party. If memory serves me correctly, this should be almost my 30th PBOC Christmas Party. The party is planned

for Saturday, December 4th at 6:30 until everyone gets tired! As always, this is a great time to bring a guest and introduce them to your fellow club members! Here are a few particulars: again, the party is planned for Saturday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m. til ? at the Sibley Nature Center at 1307 E. Wadley here in Midland. As is our tradition, you should bring any beverage or your choice (we'll have tea, lemonade, and coffee) and an inexpensive "white elephant" gift, wrapped and unmarked as to the giver (and be sure to bring a gift for any guest or child that you might bring), and \$10 for the catered meal. Jan Artley is, once again, organizing this year's party

and she has never failed to find the most delicious food! There will be a feast, visiting, a year-end slide show, and, of course, the White Elephant Gifts.

In order to prepare for the party and to buy enough food (from Carinos), ***we need word from you if you are planning to attend the party, guests, etc. by no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30th.*** You may pay your \$10 when you arrive but please, don't say that you'll be here and not show! This is one of the events that we've never had trouble collecting fees. Help us keep it this way....please! I look forward to seeing all of you at our last 2010 event!

2011 PBOC Calendar

I'm excited to announce that.....we haven't completed the 2011 PBOC Calendar of events! I'm excited because we usually have it ready for this edition of the newsletter and I'm anxious to get it ready. The deadline each

year has been to have it ready by the Christmas Party and I assure you that it will be ready to hand out then. The most comments that I received from our membership is "Let's go to some new places." Now is the chance for any last

ideas that you might have so, if you have any unique ideas, please send them along to me or to Sean Patty. We'll have that calendar ready in plenty of time to hand them out on December 4th (and in the December newsletter.)

November Trip Report—Sean Patty

Friday – 11/12

10:30 a.m. Zach & I arrived at mile marker 10 on 62/180 and turned right. We then proceeded 1.4 miles down the road to Parks Ranch Cave camp-sight (of which the last .06 were pretty much 4x4 material). We then begin flagging the route back to 62/180 so any group members could find their way.

We then proceeded to Carlsbad Caverns National Park where we had a guided tour to Lower Cave scheduled at 1:00 p.m. After donning hard hats and headlamps our group of 12 proceeded down the Big Room trail where we went off-trail down 90 feet (via rope and a series of ladders). Lower cave is magnificent and statistically speaking we “explored” a portion of the cave that very few in this life will ever see. The tour lasted for about 3 hours and was well worth the price of admission. If you have never seen a “cave pearl” this is the place to go!

Around 4:00 Zach & I headed back to Parks Cave where we happen to meet up with Stephanie and her group. They were “inching” there way along the very rough road to camp. After arriving at camp and everyone settling in, we explored the larger of two main gypsum caves at the ranch. We were pleasantly surprised at how far back this cave went. We walked for a good 16 minutes and began running into crystal clear water that progressively got deeper and hampered our further exploration. This was Stephanie’s very first experience inside any kind of cave! The cave system was a delight!



It's cold in this office!

Saturday – 11/13

After a very chilly night of 31 degrees, we awoke to a beautiful sunrise highlighting pink on the Guadalupe’s in the distance.

Everyone broke camp, including Stephanie’s group, who decided to try their luck at the campground in White’s City (do to better roads in and out). After part-

ing, Zach & I met at the Visitor Center for a 9:00 guided tour of Left Hand Tunnel. This path, straight back from the lunch room, was named by Jim White. This is a lantern tour which really gives you the feel of what early cave exploration was like. The tour, once again, exceeded my expectations and was full of historical and geological significance. In fact, Amelia Earhart toured this tunnel and was planning to lead

“Oh, for the good old days when people would stop Christmas shopping when their money ran out.”

an expedition after her next adventure was completed. As luck, or a lack of, would have it though, Amelia was never found...

Once Zach & I completed Left Hand Tunnel, we completed a tour of the Big Room and then headed back to Parks Ranch. Stephanie’s campsite had been reoccupied by Jamie and Samantha and their 3 boys. Jamie and the boys were hiking McKittrick Canyon while Samantha enjoyed some well deserved down time reading a book and relaxing in the beautiful November sun at camp.

While Samantha was relaxing, Zach & I gathered mass quantities of assorted desert scrub to prepare for the fire of all fires. Please see the attached picture to feel the heat! Once Jamie and the boys returned we all enjoyed roasting marshmallows and eating Pringles while telling stories around the fire.

Night two was even colder and we all enjoyed a cool 26 degrees in the desert. The weather was truly splendid for November! I have never been to Parks Ranch but was impressed by the caves available to explore and Zach & I along with others who made the trip are a little richer in our experiences for having made the trek to SE NM...

Sunday – 11/14

Once the sun was up and another beautiful day was upon us, Zach & I headed out and drove the 8 miles back to White’s City to eat at the little run down restaurant that serves as good a breakfast as anywhere. After eating our fill we said goodbye to the Land of Enchantment and were already planning our next adventure!



Stalagmites/tites—photo by Stephanie Harper

Trip pics



Stephanie Harper's "winter camp" - photo by Stephanie



Frozen Falls—photo by Sean Patty



Parks Ranch Caving—photo by Sean Patty



Zach in gypsum—
photo by Sean Patty

"There has been only one Christmas -- the rest are anniversaries."



Green Pool of Lower Cave—photo by Sean Patty



Zach exiting cave—photo by Sean

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Don't forget to let me know by
November 30th if you will be
coming to the PBOC Christmas
Party!



Yucca—photo by Sean Patty
