

Trails

The Newsletter of the
Permian Basin Outing
Club

February 2011

New record set for attendance in February

Well, we may not have a club full of folks that want to put on a 50 pound backpack and hike 20 miles in a weekend, but we managed well over 50 for an event at Sibley on Saturday, February 12th!

During the planning phase for scheduling the 2011 POBC Calendar, we speculated that we might want to have a couple of in-town events to give everyone a chance to do a "one-dayer" and still get together as a group. We also speculated that it might not be greatly accepted but, boy, were we wrong! The RSVPs came in like crazy and Brandon Hawkins and Sammy Hunnicutt put everything in high gear and made purchases of sausages, hamburger fixings, and hotdogs early on the Saturday of the event. I showed up to help and pretty much just took orders from the boys. We got to Sibley around 2 p.m. and got the grills, tables, chairs, tables, etc. ready

to go. Folks started arriving early and began helping us set up the final steps for a successful event.

We started out with a dinner of the aforementioned bar-b-que items plus all of the side dishes that everyone brought and had a fine sit down meal. It was hard to get everyone away from the "dining room" and into the auditorium for our movie but we managed. Our fare for the evening was *Happy, Texas*....which was not filmed in Happy, by the way, but was a hilarious film about....well, go check it out and see it for yourself if you haven't already had the pleasure.

I was imagining that everyone would scatter to the four winds after the movie but we had planned to have a campfire at the Sibley fire pit after the movie and a surprisingly large number of folks brought their lawn chairs

out and sat around a great fire until at least midnight (I was so dazed by that time...all I know was that I got home around 1 a.m.)....that's two new records for the club....

After some discussion, the "boys" said that we should do this type of even quarterly and I, reluctantly, agreed. That'll make 16 PBOC events a year....but, what the heck, it's a great organization and we always have fun.

I'd also like to thank Brandon and Sammy for heading this little event up and for all of their hard work (and Jessica Hawkins, as well for that matter). I've been begging for volunteer help from our members and the boys (and girl) really stepped up.

Thank you guys (you too Little Bit)....and thanks for the bunny.

March PBOC Meeting

The next meeting for the outdoor club will take place at our usual watering hole, Murray's Deli, 3211 W. Wadley here in Midland, at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15th. We will be finalizing plans for the March 18-20 weekend trip to Big Bend Ranch State Park. This is a very popular trip and will be pretty much "car camping" with day

hiking, photography, howling at the moon...pretty much whatever you want to do. More on that later in this newsletter. As always, this is a good time to come visit fellow club members even you're not planning to go on the trip. If you're new to the club, you can come meet everyone and determine if you've made a mistake in

joining!....just kidding. We encourage everyone to come to the meetings for a good meal and to bring prospective new members to get a feel for what we're all about...and, as usual, I'm rambling in order to fill out the rest of this column so that the newsletter appears complete. I think that I've accomplished that.

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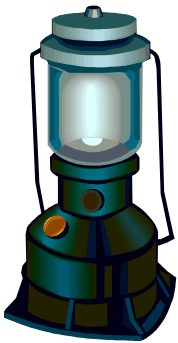
- Get ready for the desert in March
- Help us promote and recruit

March Trip to Big Bend Ranch State Park!



As I mentioned earlier in this month's newsletter, the club is planning a weekend trip to the Big Bend Ranch State Park. For the uninitiated, Big Bend Ranch State Park is very near Presidio, Texas and is easily made in a weekend. For those of you that have never been there, it's much like Big Bend National Park, a few miles down the road, but the rock formations and even the colors of the park are different, despite the fact that both are in the Chihuahuan desert. We've done this trip several times and enjoyed each trip immensely. The fare will be car camping (i.e.: bring all of the equipment, ice chests, food, etc. that you want...you don't have to figure out how to stuff everything in a backpack. This is even a friendly trip for kids and others that don't want or can't put out a lot of energy or stress on legs, limbs, etc. If you're into photography, you'll love this park. The rock formations going into the park look like something you'd find on another planet! We will probably be camping in one of our favorite spots called Pila Montoya which can be accessed by all types of motor vehicles, i.e. you don't have to have a high center vehicle like a Jeep. You do, however have to approach the park with some

*"In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism, your count votes."
-(I'm getting desperate for quotes)*



Additional inane clip art designed to help me take up space in the newsletter.....

We need volunteers!

On the weekend of May 13-15th, our club will have a booth/table at the "Great Outdoors Expo" to be held at the Horseshoe here in Midland. We will have camping, climbing, caving gear, a couple of kayaks, and other outdoor equipment on display to attract unsuspecting victims.....I mean potential members, to encourage them to join our club. Brandon and I talked about it and he was content for just the

degree of sensibility since the long entrance road is not paved.

Brandon Hawkins is leading this trip and currently finalizing plans. He does, however, need the numbers of the members planning to attend! We need those numbers by Friday, March 4th to insure that we have enough campsites for everyone. State Park entry fees are much cheaper than those in National Parks so that shouldn't be a problem for anyone and we use the meeting to arrange for carpooling if you so desire (and with the cost of gas going up, is probably a good idea.)

Plan on warm, balmy days (not a promise from me but at this time of year, this should be accurate) and cool evenings...so be sure and bring appropriate clothing, sun screen, etc. We will have a better idea of the weather conditions closer to trip time and will discuss that at the March 15th meeting as well.

There is much to see at BBRSP and, as usual, you are free to do whatever your little heart desires. There are a lot of back-country roads to drive (though

some are not appropriate for low-center vehicles), the very mysterious Solitario is just up the road from us and I'm sure that several of us will go see it and can carry members in the back of trucks (this requires high-center vehicles), there are springs in the park that may be running, and many other attractions to visit. Big Bend Ranch S.P. also has the official Texas Longhorn herd which you may or may not see, depending on where they are pasturing. Brandon has been working a little in the park in his position of working with the Trans-Pecos Water and Land Trust and their work in invasive species eradication along with his slave labor volunteers so he may have some new places to see that I don't know about.

This is a great opportunity to see some new country and welcome the undoubtedly early spring that we should experience in the park....and remember, if you choose not to attend this trip, we'll entertain ourselves at night talking about you!

Let me know if you plan to attend the trip:

richard@sibleynaturecenter.org

me know at the same email address cited in the BBRSP column. We've worked these tables before and it's just a kick to meet potential new members, answer questions for them, talk of the great outdoors, etc. I'm sure that we'll keep the table in drinks and snacks, etc. and make a party out of it (something we're apparently pretty good at.) Let me know!

two of us to man the table until he found out that it was more than just one day.....even slave labor has to take a break and get something to eat and go visit the litter box.....so, if you are willing to help us man the table that we will have set up and dispense information and registration forms for the outdoor club, camera club, Sibley membership, and anything else that we can rope new people into, please let



February Bar-B-Que event pics! (not exciting stuff....but....we're just eating..... All pics—Richard



Eating we can do!



That same look every time.....



Cook it and they will come...

"A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion."

- (told ya')



We had the heat on?

**The Newsletter of the
Permian Basin Outing Club**

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I just.....I just.....don't have words.....