

Trails

The Newsletter of the Permian Basin Outing Club

November trip to Enchanted Rock

Well, early indications tell me that this trip is going to make. We've already got a nice little group that has said that they intend to go!

For the uninitiated, Enchanted Rock State Park is near the little town of Fredrickburg which is an interesting place to begin with. It has great little shops, historical sites all over the place, and is in the beautiful hill country of Texas.

Our main goal on this trip is to give everyone that's interested, a chance to further their skills in rappelling or to try it for the first time. Enchanted Rock is a popular site for Austin based climbers to hone their skills on some really good rock. If you're interested in trying a little free

climbing, we'll be happy to set up a belay system and protect you from any "peels" that you might experience off the wall.

The trip is scheduled for the weekend of November 18-20 and, unless something unusual happens with the weather, the camping should be fine. For those of you that aren't interested in hitting the slopes, the chance to get in some great photography is another major attraction to this trip.

I've talked to our trip leader, Brandon Hawkins, and he has already reserved a few campsites and can easily set up more for additional trekkers. He feels that he needs at least a week to insure that we have enough sites so he's asked to set up the deadline for

commitment for Friday, November 11th. This will give us an idea of how much equipment to bring and how to set enough time aside once we get there to give everyone plenty of time to get their fill of climbing and rappelling. As with all trips, you don't have to participate in the planned activities. You can go off and do your own thing, sit around camp, day hike,.....whatever.

This is the last outing of the 2011 calendar with only the Christmas party left so plan to attend this trip if you can get away....I need more pictures for the year-end slide show anyway!

See you at the November meeting!

November 2011

Special points of interest

- *Get ready for the last trip of 2011*
- *Andy outdoes himself for trip reports.....really....*
- *Final PBOC meeting of the year planned for November 15th*

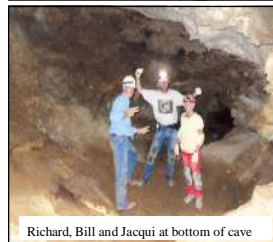
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PBOC Goes Caving with The Permian Basin Speleological Society at Ess Cave Near Iraan—October 29th, 2011

The Permian Basin Speleological Society invited PBOC to go caving with them at Ess Cave near Iraan. Our own Bill Bentley is a co-founder of the Permian Basin Speleological Society. He and club president Jacqui Thomas, were our guides. It was an exciting experience for PBOC members. Ess cave is undeveloped without manmade trails and paths. If you are an adventure junkie, and didn't make this

one, you missed out. The cave tour was two hours. These folks are experienced, knowledgeable and willing to teach others. Thank you guys for the tour. Web site: <http://www.caver.net/pbss/pbss.html>.



October Trip Report: Mount Livermore High Adventure in the Davis Mountains by: Andy Price

The Permian Basin Outing Club (PBOC), found adventure at Mount Livermore, the highest peak in the Davis Mountain range at 8,378 feet, and center of the Davis Mountains. We were the guests of the [Nature Conservancy at the Davis Mountains Preserve](#). Having access to this pristine area was much appreciated by our group.

Friday Afternoon: Pat Dearen, one of our notorious members, and I road up together. Sharing a ride is good for conserving fuel, renew friendships and cut costs. Pat is a noted author and historian having completed 18 books/novels and working on a new one. His knowledge of history and personal outdoor experience in West Texas makes for great conversation on road trips. He is also the trip leader for the January trip to Big Bend. We were about a quarter mile from the Preserve when we drove up on a road side park and entrance to the Madera Canyon Trail. We saw a cowboy in a black hat throwing a rope at a trash barrel to lasso it and was doing quite well. It was Richard Galle (club leader). He had left early and was taking a break. We pulled in and started discussing Richard's inclination toward toys, like ropes, whips, guitars and footballs. In a short time, this fella comes riding up on a nice looking mountain bike. It was Bill Bentley. Bill is one our long term notorious members. He is a co-founder and leader of the Permian Basin National Speleological Society. After visiting a while, Pat and I decided to hike the Madera Canyon trail which is a two and quarter mile hike up and around the mountain top, by the roadside park. It was good to see how quickly the area was recovering from the fires that had burned through there this summer. Steven and Gay Schafersman arrived later and hiked the same trail. The trail could be considered a moderate hike. It is a fairly new trail with great scenery, high vistas, a creek and pond along the trail.



Photo by: Steven Schafersman

PBOC members at Mount Livermore summit, breathing mountain air, and enjoying being alive on top of the world in West Texas. Just a couple of feet in either direction is a several hundred foot drop. Living on the edge, stepping out of our comfort zone with quality people, achieving goals, with a sense of accomplishment. Life is good in the Permian Basin Outing Club.

Weather Report - at Fort Davis:

(Temperatures at the Preserve were much cooler)

10/21/11
10/21/11
10/21/11

Friday:
Saturday:
Sunday:

High 82, Low 42, Average 62
High 82, Low 51, Average 66
High 80, Low 44, Average 62

Friday Evening: Almost every evening Pat will take a hike either at home or on the trail. He works on his novels at this time. This day was no exception. About 6:00 he headed out of camp into the sunset. Friday evenings at camp, tend to be a little more lively due to the fact we have not hiked all day and are glad to be back in the outdoors. One of our new members Chelsea Dey arrived with her friend Jeremiah, at about 8:00. At 9:00 the Gray family arrived from San Antonio. Richard later told me how he saw a small convertible sports car drive up with the top down and a young man that was wearing shorts and

no jacket, get out of the car. It was Andrew McCarthy. By now it was in the 40's with a good wind chill. The rest of us were wearing winter jackets. Campfires are still not allowed in the area due to risk of forest fire. The golden hour began about 7:00 which was close to sunset. Conversation began with renewing friendships with those we had not seen in a while. Like Steve and Gay Schafersman who have not been able to make a couple of our last trips. After a while "pass the guitar" time began with Alan Parsons pulling out his guitar. Pat, Richard and I had guitars as well.

Alan had requests for some country & cowboy songs. Pat sang and played some cool Rag Time songs as well as 40's music he had learned from his dad. He is quite a good musician. Richard was playing enthusiastically and blew out a string. He was also busy greeting late comers to camp. Steven and Gay brought an exotic wine glass lamp that lit up nicely and we used it for our camp light. Do not play music trivia with Tereasa Gray. You will lose.



Saturday: The hike up Mount Livermore

Saturday began with excitement in the air knowing we were about to hike up one of the highest mountain in the state of Texas. Richard was up early making his rounds visiting with different members to insure we would be taking only high centered four wheel drive vehicles up to the hiking point. He also took some time out to toss the football with Oliva Gray and her friend Kendal. Those two girls can catch and throw a football. Not all club members took the hike up the mountain and chose other activities for the day. At 10:30 the group loaded up and headed for the mountain. On our drive up we stopped to

check a road sign and everyone scrambled to see a gray fox about 75 yards from where we stopped. He sat there and watched us for a few minutes. Richard planned for anyone wanting a longer hike to begin three miles from the top and the second group to begin one and half miles from the top. I chose the three mile hike. I must admit it was one of the longest three miles I have hiked.

Fox watching us as we watched him.
Photo by: Andy Price



The constant "up the mountain gradient" was a stretch for me. However two of the members in the long hike group made it look easy. Andrew McCarthy and Rick Gray, were polite and hiked a large part of the trail with the group but eventually left us behind in a puff of dust. Club members understand it is not a competition but an experience and everyone has the opportunity to do their own thing.



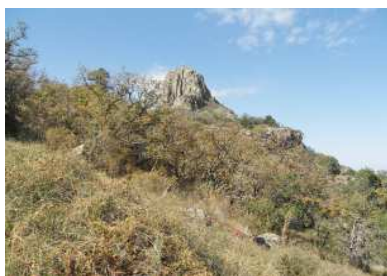
(Left to right) The long hike group Rick, Kendal, Oliva, Taffy, Malcomb & Andrew

Photo by: Andy Price

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The hike was similar to a constant hike up a set of football bleachers without the benefit of nice even steps. The company and conversation was good. My favorite part of each trip is the hiking. It is the best chance to strengthen old friendships and build new ones. Due to the steep grade, some of us slipped and busted our caboose or skinned up a knee or two. No pain no gain. Hey this is not sitting on the couch watching someone else do it, it's the real deal and the "Law of Use" in motion. The higher we got the more photos we wanted to take. The view was worth the effort.

as the trail neared the top of the mountain we could see the peak with the communications antennas.



Mount Livermore Peak (Photo by: Andy Price)

I

I realized at this point that Rick Gray was right when he said "Once we reach the last section before the summit, there will be a rock scramble". In other words real type rock climbing. You know where you don't look down and always, always maintain three points of contact. At the peak of the mountain are communication antennas, which by the



Photo by: Steven Schafersman

way Bill Bentley has worked on through his job. They used a helicopter to get to the top. There were a couple of times on the way up I wished I had a helicopter. Once on top, we shared our thoughts, relaxed, drank, ate and took photos.



(Photo) Ladies taking a break on the trail with quite a drop behind them. Left to right—Taffy, Olivia, and Kendra

All of us had our own moments of silence, to contemplate on all the beauty.



(Photo left to right) Chelsa & Jeremiah, Diane, Gay. Notice the drop off

Photo by: Steven Schafersman

Photo Gallery



Alan & Beverly Parsons, Stepping on to the summit.

Photo by: Andy Price



Left to right: Bill Bentley & Andrew McCarthy at the summit.

Photo by: Steven Schafersman



Photo by: Steven Schafersman



Alan & Beverly, good times at evening pow-wow

Photo by: Steven Schafersman



Jeremiah and Chelsa take an early morning hike before the push up Mount Livermore. Yah I know, when your young you can do that extra mile.

Photo by: Andy Price

Preparing for the climb and hike down the mountain. Re-hydrating, checking gear, tightening boot laces which is always smart for a steep hike down hill grade.



Photo bottom left: Diane Post taking a break. Photo by: Steven Schafersman



Photo bottom right: Dave Taylor doing photography stuff

Many of our members have heard "club lore" being spoken over a late night fire or casual conversation. Stories of yesteryear in the PBOC, when trail blazer outlaws roamed the old west. The wild and wooly days when every weekend was an outing club weekend come heck or high water. The days before high tech, and cushie, fancy fandangled camping gear that make camping sooo comfortable. Well here is four of those hard jawed desperados who have been true outdoorsmen and a part of the outing club for over 25 years, and

the instigator himself, that started the whole shabang (Richard Galle).



Desperados on top of the mountain. left to right Pat Dearen Bill Bentley Richard Galle Rick Gray

Photo by: Steven Schafersman



On our way down the mountain I hiked with part of our group led by Diane Post. We wanted to hike on the new east trail that Richard Galle

had helped to build. The group sat on Richard long enough for Steven to take his picture at the beginning of the trail.

The Newsletter of the Permian Basin Outing Club

November PBOC Meeting

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 Midland, Texas 79705
 Phone: 432-684-6827
 Email: richard@sibleynaturecenter.org

The final planning meeting for the PBOC in 2011 will be held at our usual spot; Murray's Deli, located at 3211 W. Wadley in Midland at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15th.

I don't have to remind you that this is a good time to catch up with everyone even if you're not going on the trip and to bring potential new members to meet everyone....so I won't.

Andy didn't leave me any room in this newsletter for my monthly quotes and it's a tradition so here:

Happy Trails to You

"During my service in the United States Congress, I took the initiative in creating the Internet." - VP Al Gore

"The day I made that statement, [about the inventing the internet] I was tired because I'd been up all night inventing the Camcorder." - VP Al Gore



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Saturday Evening: Rick and Susan Day arrived with their boys Saturday afternoon. Bill and Kathy Lupardus had been out bird watching. Paul a friend of Steven and Gay's had driven in as well. I must admit I didn't hear any groaning or complaints about leg cramps that evening. However some of us did quietly take a couple of Advil. Most of the football games were over except for the Texas Tech game which was delayed. Tech fans with general football fans gathered at Richards truck and settled in for the duration. It was worth the wait. Tech beat Oklahoma. The rest of us at camp gathered at the pow-wow area. We enjoyed conversation and guitars.



Bill - wind beneath his wings. Sounds like a song



John Eberly arrived with his two sons Saturday. They went hiking on Sunday morning.



Saturday night was colder and fingers for playing guitars were getting a little stiff. Pat didn't let that slow him down. Most folks turned in earlier than Friday. What a great day this had been. The coyotes howled through out the night. The true call of the wild.



Sunday Morning: Camp life starts slow on the last day. However some people tend to get their toys out and start playing all over again. People like Richard Galle and the Gray family.



Above: Richard lassos Olivia on the run.



Above: Kendal cracks the whip



Above: Olivia throws a lasso



Richard cracks the whip

Happy Trails until we meet again.