



TRAILS

The Newsletter of the Permian Basin Outing Club

November 2011

Outing Club Christmas Party on the Near Horizon!

December 3rd marks the date of the 2011 PBOC Christmas Party. We will start the party at 6 p.m. at the Sibley Nature Center at 1307 E. Wadley here in Midland. We're trying to finalize plans right now. We will have the usual gift exchange...and to explain that, we do a "white elephant" gift exchange with the usual trade-off options, etc. and we eat a fine meal furnished by Carino's here in Midland. The meal will be provided and each club member and guest will owe us...usually around \$10 though I can't hang my hat on that amount right now until Brandon finishes his fact finding soiree with Carino's. The food in that past has been exceptional. We will have music, the annual PBOC Christmas party slide show, featuring pictures from all of this year's trips, and some other surprises.

This event is a good time to bring a guest that might be interested in joining the club. Just make sure that your guest, if you do choose to bring someone, has a goofy

gift to put under the tree! Dress is casual though, in the past, some of the ladies actually dress up a bit since we never see them in anything but jeans and t-shirts, etc.....but casual is fine too.

Tea and coffee will be provided with the meal but for the rest of the evening it's BYOB. We don't have much room in our refrigerator so ice chests are welcome too. As far as the white elephant gift, keep it simple and cheap. We've seen some really nice gifts unwrapped from the tree but the idea is to keep it simple and cheap. My favorites from the past have been Bubba Teeth and I personally have wrapped fake dog....uh....droppings...and it went over very well....we're a classy group..what can I say?

Here's the really important part: We need to know if you plan to attend by Wednesday, November 30th by 5 p.m. We will order the food the next morning. The other important matter is that Sibley will pay

for the food and then we will collect from attending members at the beginning of the party. If you change your mind about coming to the party after November 30th...I'll have to send Guido and Antonio out with their violin cases to your house to collect. This has never been a problem in the past with the Christmas party but we've had problems a few times with camping fees, etc....so please keep up the good work with keeping us informed.

This has always been a fun, entertaining, and informal party in the past and a really good chance to see all of your PBOC friends one more time before year's end. Let me know if you'll be attending!



A Big Thank You!

In case I forget to say as much at the Christmas party, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank two people that have helped me tremendously in 2011 with the PBOC. As president of the club, Brandon Hawkins has worked booths, recruited new members, represented the

club at functions, and been an ideal club president. Andy Price has made just about every trip and has provided many of the trip reports over the year. In fact, Brandon and Andy just spent all day here at Sibley helping me prepare the sound system and other items for the

upcoming Christmas party. The trips and events of the PBOC seem simple but believe me, a LOT of planning takes place in the background. One person can do it if that's all they have to do at the workplace. Brandon and Andy have just been a great duo. Thank you guys!

Special points of interest:

- *PBOC Christmas party on December 3rd!*
- *BTSR trip in November a classic*
- *Trip Pictures*

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November Trip Report—Richard Galle

With apologies to all of you expecting a very thorough account of the November trip to the Buffalo Trail Boy Scout Ranch, I will offer this month's trip report. Andy is really good at this but time constraints dictate getting the newsletter out quickly.

About 15 PBOC members attended the November trip to the Scout ranch. In the past we have had the ranch to ourselves but not this time. There were several Scout troops and at least one Cub Scout group sharing the ranch with us. Also, an at risk youth group was in attendance and anxious to learn the climbing technique of rappelling...so I got to throw all kinds of people off of the 80 to 100 foot cliff at the ranch.

Malcomb McElvaney and Pat Dearen got to the ranch before Andy Price and I arrived a little past noon on Friday. I wasn't surprised to see that both Malcomb and Pat had already hit the trail since they are both hiking fanatics. Andy and I both established our campsites by

the time additional club members started to arrive. Friday night was a bit windy until the stars came out...gloriously I might add, and then the wind pretty much abated. We gathered in small clans to talk about our plans for Saturday. Everyone was asking me when the rappelling would begin and my stock answer was "Some time after breakfast." This satisfied most but there are actually some in our group that expect organization.....silly people....

After a bit of a chilly night Brandon and I met at the 80 to 100 foot overhang cliff known at the Scout ranch as "Graduation Rock." It seems they have a beginners slope that you can pretty much walk up, a 30 foot or so vertical for those that have learned the basics, and the infamous Graduation Rock that is, frankly, a little hair raising for anyone that has never been on a rope and dangling over *the abyss*. Brandon hooked up early for his very first true rappel. He was a bit nervous but did a fantastic job in leaning

out and trusting the rope (and his belayer). I told Brandon that anyone that didn't admit a bit of trepidation was either a liar or was someone not to be trusted in using climbing techniques. He came back to the summit after his rappel grinning from ear to ear and said that was one of the best experiences of his life. Cool! Andy Price was next and showed a lot of savvy since he had had a previous experience back in July at Point of Rocks. Both guys did really well. After Brandon and Andy went down, the rest of the group joined us on top and methodically sized their harnesses, stepped up to the plate, hooked the 8-ring, hooked the belay rope, and worked their way over the edge. We had a really neat experience when Rafael Aguilera, a photographer for UTPB (a magnificent photographer I might add) decided that he was going to give rappelling a try. Now you've got to know up front, Rafael is a brave guy but also a card carrying acrophobic. Just walking up to the top of the cliff was quite a feat for

**"The only reason people get lost
in thought is because it's
unfamiliar territory."**

Rafael. I gave him every chance to decline the offer to try his hand at the technique but he defeated his fear and hooked up....and was filming the whole thing from a high dollar still/video camera strapped to his chest. Rafael ended up horizontal on much of his trip down which produced a wild video for all of us to watch. Despite the hitch, Rafael finished the rappel and was stoked for the experience. I got a big hug from him when I got back into camp...which I accepted with a grin. I will tell you, if I was as scared as Rafael at the lip of that cliff, there is no way that I would have backed off. As much kidding as we gave

him, I've got to say, Rafael defeated his fear and did a great job!

Saturday night found us playing lighted Frisbee golf. Chelsea and Jeremiah brought the set and found a way to light the discs and the cage that we were all trying to get to. I was kind of reluctant to play since it was dark and I had spent the whole day with our group and the group of at risk kids up on the mountain but I hid it as best I could. After one match, however, I didn't want to stop! We started out with a few short throws to get used to the discs and then the basket was placed at least a hundred yards from our "tee-

box." This was FUN folks. We've made Chelsea and Jeremiah promise to bring this contraption on future outing club trips....it's very addictive.

After a bit of guitar playing and unwinding at the amphitheater, we finally broke up our little clan and all went to their tents for a well deserved rest. I think that everyone was worn out enough to have a good night...I was anyway.

Sunday morning brought everyone to the sad duty of breaking camp. John Eberly and his two boys stayed one additional night and from all reports, had a great time on Monday. What a great trip!



Trip Pictures!



Chelsea taking 5—Photo by Rafael Aguilera



You'r's Truly Coming Down for Lunch—
photo by Rafael Aguilera

“Hard work never killed
anybody....but why take a
chance?”



Troy Welch & George Taking a
Break—Photo by Rafael Aguilera



“The Heights” - photo by
Rafael Aguilera



Preparing to “Rap” down—photo by Rafael
Aguilera

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Our Spot for the Weekend—Photo by Andy Price



**A Little Daytime Frisbee Golf—photo by
Andy Price**



Brandon Taking it Easy—photo by Rafael Aguilera



Some of the Group Getting Ready—photo by Rafael Aguilera