

Trails

November 2007

Volume 2, Number 5

Inside this issue:

November trip	2
Calendar meeting	3
McKittrick pics	3
More pics...	4

Special points of interest:

- Don't forget the November 20th calendar planning meeting!
- Don't forget the December 1st Outing Club Christmas Party
- Don't forget to buy me something nice!!

PBOC Christmas Party

Don't forget that the 2007 Permian Basin Outing Club Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 1st at the Sibley Nature Center at 1307 E. Wadley here in Midland. The time has not yet been determined but I will let you know in plenty of time. I do know that Jan suggested that we give everyone an option to either bring their favorite desert, casserole, dip, etc. or donate \$7 and let us go out and purchase items for the party. Some people like to show off their culinary talents and bring their favorite dish while others, like me, that don't have any cooking talents, would prefer just to let someone buy an appropriate dish.

Again this year, be sure to bring a

white elephant gift to be exchanged. The old PBOC (the one that started back in 1984) started this tradition and some of the gifts were truly outrageous. Oddly enough, many were very appropriate for the person that received them.....but always in good taste.....well, most of the time anyway. My friend, Rick Gray, still brings his PBOC belching gnome on o u r f i s h i n g



trips....obnoxious little..., the gnome, not Rick. Anyway, plan to bring the drink of your choice and the club will provide the main entrée and the rest will be filled in with whatever you bring or what we purchase with your \$7. As usual, there will be an annual PBOC Christmas party slide show (another tradition) with samples of most of our 2007 trips, schmaltzy music,.....whatever I come up with. I try to get pictures of everyone in the show, and, of course, if I can catch you in an awkward or embarrassing moment, you can bet that it will make the slide show.... (my little contribution). Last year's party was a lot of fun and we really didn't know each other very well so you can count on this year's party to be a lot of fun. It's also a time to recruit new members so bring a guest (let us know so we'll have enough food) and enjoy the party.

David and Kay Crum

I'm sorry to report that our good friends David and Kay Crum are moving to the Davis Mountains area.....(good for them but bad for us). David has accepted a new job in the Big Bend area and will report for

duty in early December. He is planning to stay on with the Sibley board of directors and he and Kay say that they will stay active in the club.....yet, it just isn't the same. I hope that you will join me in wish-

ing them the very best in their new life's venture and encourage them to stay involved with us... (it's better to see them once in a while than never). We do wish both of you the very best!

November McKittrick Canyon trip - Richard

Well.....the trip could have started better. In an effort to be very organized for this trip, I left the Permian Basin fairly early Friday morning to put flagging up at the entrance to Parks Ranch (it's otherwise impossible to find). For the last umpteenth years we've simply marked the entrance by flagging the New Mexico mile marker that is directly adjacent to the entrance, making it very easy for anyone new to the area to find. Imagine my surprise when I turned north on the primary highway and lo and behold, the state of New Mexico had decided to broaden the highway considerably and had the entire east side of the highway torn up with massive piles of dirt, rock, and debris.....and no mile markers. Even those of us that have used Parks Ranch for years for camping use the mile markers to find our way into the ranch.

It took me the better part of an hour to find the correct entry because, not only was it disguised but there were numerous new oil field roads that weren't there even last year. I did finally find our road but they had fenced off the ranch to reduce oil field traffic and had actually fenced off the offshoot road after you make the main entry. I discovered that they had simply put a barbed wire strand that could be removed.....so I flagged bushes near the road at the entrance, flagged and made a note for the second entrance, and crossed my fingers in

hope that all of our folks would find the spot. After I flagged the entrance I went on to Carlsbad to buy groceries. On my return to the ranch I saw Steven and his wife leaving the area and they said that they were just scouting the spot so that they could find it Saturday evening for the campfire visit. I felt better yet when Charlie and Virgil Burks also found the entrance. This is the high point. I won't belabor the point but several people found it very difficult to find the entry and only Charlie and Vigil and I enjoyed Friday night's campfire.

On Saturday the three of us went to McKittrick Canyon and ran into Tom Cooper and his group getting ready for the Trek. Steven and the other portion of the club were camping at Pine Springs in preparation for their annual wine tasting shindig on Sunday and many of them took another trail on Saturday morning. We managed to hit the canyon a week or so early again this year (you just never know) but we still saw some very beautiful fall foliage. It seemed odd to me that the foliage always starts in the low areas where it should be warmer and then slowly creeps up into the higher areas where common sense tells me the temps should be cooler.

When we arrived back at camp, several members had found the site and we were joined by Tom, Janie, Pablo, Bob and Ruthann

Perkins. Charlie Burks and I had found Saturday firewood and we settled down for supper and a little visiting. Tom was interested in entering one of the gypsum caves there so we took a little foray into the nearest one and found it a bit wet and muddy but as entertaining as ever. I was supposed to take a group into one of the caves that afternoon but they either decided to do something else or couldn't find the entrance into Parks Ranch...(I hope the former rather than the latter). We got a rousing fire going and I took advantage of the dark skies and set up my small scope and showed several people the approaching comet which is nothing more than a glorious fuzz ball right now but very visible to the naked eye in the constellation Perseus. About this time, Steven and a couple of members of his group came in long enough to say hi and take a look at the comet through the scope. We settled in and enjoyed several hours of conversation around the fire and pretty much solved all of the world's problems. When the group started to break up to head off to bed or.....in Tom's case, the top of a toolbox.....don't ask....., I decided to head back home and enjoy the deserted backcountry roads. I've always thought that the back roads way home late on a Saturday night would be a great place to see a UFO. Like Fox Mulder, I'd have to see it to believe it but "I want to believe."

The PBOC Newsletter

"Because we're not satisfied until you're not satisfied."

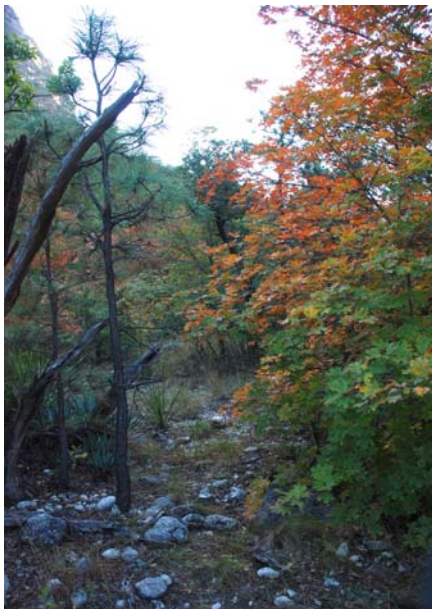
2008 PBOC Calendar Planning Meeting

Please don't forget that at 6:30 p.m. on November 20th here at Sibley, we are going to have our annual planning meeting to determine the activities and destinations for the 2008 PBOC year. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. Again, let us know up front if you're going to attend so that we can order enough pizza....and bring a couple of bucks to help us pay for it and bring your drink of choice....yeah, anything that you want to drink. If you think to do so, bring football schedules, per-

sonal calendars, etc. so that we can try our best to avoid conflicts with other events. We know that we can't avoid all conflicts but we will do our best to keep that from happening. Last

year we rescheduled several times and no one liked it, sooo.....

Committees are like dogs with three hind legs when you're trying to get things done but we want everyone to have a say on what we'll be doing next year so plan to be there!....and let me know by email.....



McKittrick Fall Foliage—Photo by Richard



McKittrick Trail—Photo by Richard

“When birds fly in the right formation, they need only exert half the effort. Even in nature, teamwork results in collective laziness.”



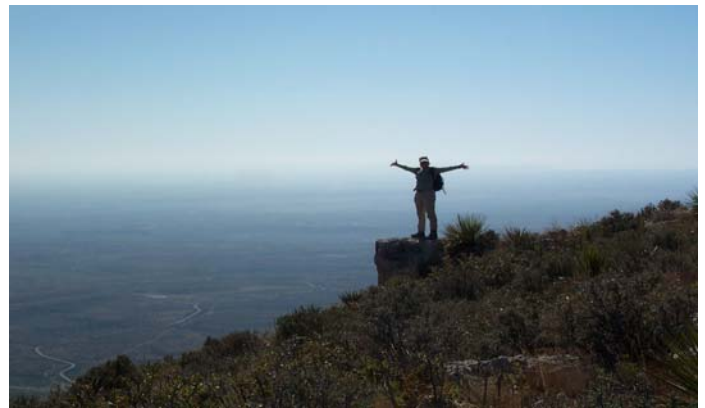
Saturday Night Campfire—Photo by Richard



Janie and Pablo—Photo by Tom Cooper



**L-R Pablo, Janie, Charles, Virgil, Charlis—
Photo by Tom Cooper**



**Stand-in for Julie Andrews in the Sound of Music?....on
the Permian Reef trail..—Photo by Steven Schafersman**



McKittrick Reef—Photo by Steven Schafersman



**Heather and her crew on the McKittrick Reef trail
Photo by Steven Schafersman**