

Trails

February 2008

Volume 2, Number 7

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Take note:

- April trip changes
- Start thinking about trains!

Get ready to see the Solitario!

David and Kay Crum are planning a great trip to Big Bend State park on the weekend of February 15th! The club went to the park in November of 2006 and it was a great trip. For those of us that are SO familiar to Big Bend National Park, it's fun to see some unfamiliar country in the state park.

For those that have not been to the state park, most of the roads are unpaved but passable with a car though you don't want to get into the back country with a low-center vehicle. Right now the plan is to camp along the Rio Grande river, which is accessible to all vehicles, and then shuttle everyone into the Solitario area with those of us that have higher centered vehicles and 4-wheel drives. This is really pretty country (if you like Chihuahuan desert) and the scenery is outstanding. If you look at the Solitario from

the air or on a topographic map, it's a spooky looking place and has some spooky stories surrounding ...ghost riders coming up on you in the middle of the night, strange lights in the sky, etc. Good stuff.

This trip will be car camping, that is, no backpacks required but it would be a good idea to take a day pack to carry water, snacks, cameras, etc. for day hiking. You'll defi-

nitely want to take your cameras for this one.

Big Bend State park and the Solitario are near Presidio. If the weather holds out, this should be an awesome trip (and it's much warmer down there than here!) Plan now to attend this great trip. Again, let me know if you're going. We need the numbers. Right now we have between 15 and 17 committed to go.



Nope, this isn't from BBSP but we know of a cross canyon just like this that we can take, if interested

April Boquillas float trip

Got a bit of a problem here. The National Park Service, my old agency, is sticking to their guns on limiting launch numbers to 20 per party with a full day delay on launching a second party.....literal transla-

tion: we already have more than 20 planning to do the April float trip so we've got to come up with an alternative. We'll check this month with the state park and see if they've got a launch limit for Colorado

Canyon, which is in the state park of the Rio Grande. If that doesn't fly, then we'll have to plan another activity. This really stinks, I know but with all of the new restrictions, it's not a surprise. More later.

January Trip Report—Richard

After all of the gnashing of teeth and hair pulling to figure out how to get 22 people into the Chimneys Trail with a 15 person limit, we ended up with exactly 15 people.....problem solved. But oh what fun we had with the fabulous 15! The weather could not have been better for a back-packing trip. The nights were a bit chilly but that's why they make warm sleeping bags.

Everyone arrived on schedule Friday at the trailhead and we went in as "teams"...that is, when people got to the trailhead they were ready to start NOW! so Pat left a note with the permits on the trailhead sign and we started the hour hike to camp. When Pat and I reached camp, we hurriedly put up our tents and started back to the trailhead to meet David and Kay...in that we had their backpacks and tent locked in Pat's "turtle" (an old term for trunk...which was another topic that we found to discuss...for those

of you over the age of 20). About half of the way back to the trailhead, we ran into David who was packing about 70 to 80 pounds of gear down the trail IN A SUITCASE! Needless to say, this wasn't the most comfortable of means to carry gear. True, the case had shoulder straps but still!... Now David is one strapping fellow but this was a bit much. I offered to take his daypack (being the heroic type that I am...it weighed maybe 10 pounds) and I went back to camp with David while Pat went on to the cars to gather up Kay and their other equipment. To make matters more difficult for David, one of his shoulder straps broke. He did manage to use the wheels on his suitcase and "wheeled" his way across the desert for a while but the whole deal was quite a sight to see. We finally made it to camp and some time later everyone made it back to camp. Saturday was one of those "here's the options, everyone can do whatever

they want. The majority of the group made the trek to the old Maverick road and took in the sites...i.e... Luna's Jacal. Now Luna was an old man (or he lived long enough to become an old man...100+) who eventually had 3 wives and dozens of kids and lived in what is know as a jacal (pictured below)...guess you couldn't pick up the Johnny Carson show back then. He actually hauled water and farmed in that desolate desert and managed to raise all of those kids. It's a fascinating story and one that you should witness for yourself if you have the chance.

Saturday night found most of the group huddled around a couple of candles (no ground fires in the park), swapping stories. On Sunday morning, everyone started out to reach their cars. It was an absolutely beautiful day for backpacking and everyone seemed to have a great time.

"A few harmless flakes working together can unleash an avalanche of destruction."



Pat, Sherri, Ronna, Janie, Kay, and David
photo by Tom Cooper



Luna's Jacal—Photo by Tom Cooper



Moe, Larry and Curly...er...Sherri, Janie, and Ronna—Photo by Tom Cooper

May 23rd trip to Chama, New Mexico

I know that it may seem very early to be talking about the May trip but our plans are to take the Cumbres/Toltec (the Chama) railroad and tickets are hard to come by. I need to know as soon as possible if you are going to go on this trip. I will take care of tickets from here but I'll need cash in hand (with little chance of a refund) if you want to go. The tickets usually cost around \$65 for the train. The train leaves Chama, New Mexico, covers some of the most beautiful country that you'll ever see and ends up at the end

of the day in Antonito, Colorado, where they will bus all of back to Chama. This is a camping trip (unless you make arrangements for a motel). There is plenty of national forest to camp in and we just have to be in Chama in time to pick up our tickets and board the train. If you've done this trip you'll know how incredible the scenery is. The train tops out above the tree line at a restaurant where they give you a chance to grab some lunch and then hop back on the train for the remainder of the trek. The last time that I

went, the train had to stop 3 times to allow elk to get off of the track! I've done the Silverton/Durango trip too and the Chama trip, in my opinion, is far superior. You can wander through the train and even ride in one of the empty coal cars outside for a totally unobstructed view of the scenery.

I will get back with you soon on details but you need to be thinking about your plans now so that we can secure tickets.

Election results

The new PBOC president is Sammy Hunnicutt. It was an extremely close race (one vote separation) between Sammy and Kathy Lupardis.....and Kathy voted for Sammy so she swung the vote just the way she wanted it! Sammy and Kathy are both very involved in the club and ei-

ther would make a fine president. I know that the club is important to Sammy and that he will do a fine job. Now we've just got to get Sammy and Kay Crum, the prior president together so that Kay can pass along the **Presidential Scepter** along...the symbol of Sammy's new office.....

(for those of you that weren't at the Christmas party, the symbol of the president's office is a gold plumber's helper....a very apt symbol for the office). We would all like to pass along our congratulations to Sammy for a clean campaign!

**"At some point,
hanging in there just
makes you look like
an even bigger
loser."**

Submit those pictures!

If you have trip pictures or other interesting pics that you'd like included into the newsletter, send them to me by email:

richard@sibleynaturecenter.org

and we'll try to get at least some of them into the newsletter. We've beefed up Sibley's ability to accept pictures so if you've got something you'd like in the news,

send em' in.! Also, if you've got trail recipes, tips, etc., please send those in, as well. Sometimes its hard to fill a newsletter and any submission that



you've got would be appreciated. Keep in mind that we try to get the newsletter out as early as possible so get them to me in a timely manner.

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

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we're on the web at:
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A typical PBOC trip



"Okay, everyone, get ready for this fantastic view. Bentley will describe this in detail, get the cameras ready."

Submitted by **Bill Bentley**

March 28th Rappelling trip

As you probably know, we are going back to the Davis Mountain's Point of Rocks park to rappel this March. We now own a 100 meter (312 foot) static rappelling rope which means this year we will be going off from the very top of Point of

Rocks, some 280 feet. I'll eventually need some idea of how many people are planning to attend this trip so that we can make camping arrangements at the state park. For all of you "adventure seekers", this

is a great trip at a great time of year to be in the Davis Mountains.

Feburary Meeting

The February meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Casa Lopez restaurant at 4111 W. Illinois in Midland on Tuesday, February 12th. I don't know yet if David and Kay will be there but, one way or another, we will have all of the information that you will need for the February 15th trip to Big Bend Ranch State Park. Come and enjoy the company even if you're not planning to go on the trip!