

December 2008



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PERMIAN BASIN OUTING CLUB

# Trails

## Cold But Beautiful— Guadalupe Mountains

I wasn't sure how many PBOC members were going to make this trip with all of the doom and gloom in the weather forecasts but we had a pretty good showing. Alison and I met up with Rick Gray, who came all the way from San Antonio and Patrick Dearen and had an early lunch in Midland before caravanning to Parks Ranch to set up camp for Friday night. Last year the New Mexico Highway Dept. was widening the road and had removed all of the mile markers and it took me 2 hours to find the entrance to the ranch. This year they were still working on the roads but they had replaced the mile markers. We had no problems finding the turn-in. We established our camps far from the usual spots and then began gathering wood for the Friday night campfire. When the sun went down the last thing that we were interested in was leaving our campsites and driving back to the woodpile so we hunkered down at Pat and Rick's site and waited for the only other "for sure" camper that we were looking for in the person of Don Moore. Don is known for showing up when he says that he'll show up. As it turns out Don had taken the wrong turn and had gone directly to Carlsbad. We established contact and found that he was at least an hour away. This was important in the fact that he was prepared to fix Friday supper for Alison and I. When he arrived we

insisted when he arrived that it wasn't necessary to brave the wind and cold to fix a hot dinner of hamburgers but, being Don, he insisted. We formed a wind break as best we could with vehicles and proceeded to fix supper. Let me say at this point that the Saturday and Sunday temperatures were great but the nights were brutal. Alison and I had water iced down in water in our ice chest and all water *froze solid inside of the ice chest....both nights.* I've had water freeze in a tent but never in an insulated ice chest. Needless to say, we didn't have to buy additional ice all weekend. Sleeping bags were nice and cozy but getting up in the morning was brutal.

On Saturday morning we all got up and assembled to drive to McKittrick Canyon. We understood that we had arrived about two weeks late for prime foliage but that the trail between the visitor's center and Pratt's Cabin were still pretty good... (I've included pictures) and we weren't disappointed. As we were preparing in the parking lot to go into the canyon Bill and Kathy Lupardus and their two grandchildren arrived. The kids were so cute all bundled up and wide eyed at the prospects of hiking the trail...(oh to be that age now and know what we know....). We all checked in, paid our fee and strung out along the trail in antici-

pation of the views. Pat, Rick, Don, Bill and Kathy and the grandkids, Alison, and I were prepared for cold winds but were soon pleasantly surprised at the mild temperatures, low to now winds, and absolutely beautiful, clear skies. We had already grown accustomed to the infamous Guadalupe weather but were treated to a surprise by Ma Nature!

As we went through the canyon we found Sherri and Janie who were planning to do the Permian Ridge but had passed the trail turn-off so had settled for the McKittrick Ridge trail. That was the last that we saw of them and I can only assume that their trip was successful. We took our time and really enjoyed the trail. On the way out we ran into Ann McKandles and a few of her friends that were enjoying the trail. This trip always has been a bit fractured in keeping everyone together but all enjoy the trip nonetheless. We arrived back at camp after gassing back up at White's City. Shortly after we arrived back at camp we were pleasantly surprised to see Wally and Diane Post driving up. They had enjoyed the Devil's Hallway trail and were planning to camp that night and do another trail on Sunday. They chose, intelligently, to make their camp nearer the woodpile.

(cont. on page 2)

## Guadalupe Mts. trip report cont....

---

We all agreed to have supper and meet at the woodpile for a good campfire. We had gathered enough wood for Wally and Diane to cook their "tube steak" supper and to keep all of us warm for a traditional Saturday night campfire. Pat and Rick were enjoying the warmth for the last time in a while in that they were planning to spend the next 3 days on the trail in the high country. The weather promised to get better so they were looking forward to a trip that wouldn't be much worse than what we had already experienced weather wise. We had a great visit at the fire (Don had come to his senses and headed home after the McKittrick trail that day....the only one of us to show any sense in the face of freezing weather)...and we had a lot of laughs. Rick, Pat and I recounted a lot of memories of the old PBOC and were entertained by a lot of other stories from everyone else. The fire was great and kept the cold away....plus the wind was kinder to us on Saturday night. We kept the fire high so that we didn't have to stand in it to stay warm. After a couple of hours we decided it was time to hit the sack and everyone went to their respective campsites..(Rick decided to stay up and finish off the wood..which he did). For those of you that have experienced cold weather camping, you'll know how tough it is to slip into cold sleeping bags but the pain is short. You really want to take care of "all of your business" so that you don't have to slip out of the tent in the middle of the night. We waited until the sun was over the horizon before we emerged. It's amazing

how, even when it's still cold, seeing the sun up is still comforting. Anyway, we all got together back at the main site. Rick and Pat were preparing their packs for 3 days on the trail and Wally and Diane had decided to go to Frijole Ranch and take the loop trail to Manzanita Springs, etc. Alison and I toured the ranch house and then joined Wally and Diane for the loop trail. This was a great idea in that the foliage here was at prime..again, I've included pictures. It was absolutely beautiful and the weather was perfect. When we arrived at the first set of springs it looked like a landscape architect had been put in charge of building the perfect scene. The springs were flowing and the trees were perfectly timed in their fall foliage. We saw several deer and I've never seen healthier deer...I initially thought that they were elk due to their size and appearance. At the first spring Alison and I decided to stick around a while and wished Wally and Diane a successful completion of the trail. We just had a hard time leaving the

beautiful site...took a lot of pictures and just lounged around for an hour or so. We finally, and reluctantly, left the site to complete the loop trail. Everything was beautiful on the trail but that first spring was the highlight of the whole trip scenery-wise. Alison and I reached the truck and started on our trip home. We stopped for dinner in Odessa (Rosa's) and made our way back to Midland, tired but happy.

The trip could be considered cold but extremely successful. It's hard not to realize how great it is to get together with good friends and enjoy nature at its finest. Campfires and stories make memories and this trip didn't disappoint. If you couldn't make this trip, really consider it in the future. McKittrick Canyon and the Gaudalupes are beautiful at any time of the year but especially so in the fall!

*"There is an island of opportunity in the middle of every difficulty. Miss that though, and you're pretty much doomed."*

## New PBOC President

---

By acclimation, Kathy Lupardus is our new club president. Bill and Kathy have always been very much involved in the activities of the club and all of us know that Kathy will make a great prez!

Sammy Hunnicutt has served well this year even though it's been an "eventful" year for him....a multitude of surgeries, his plant at Alon blowing up, and a

marriage to Valarie to boot! Kathy has to struggle through tax season every year (she's a CPA) but I know that she'll make time to contribute her time to the club. Thanks to all of you that made nominations and made your wishes known about the 2009 PBOC Calendar. We believe that we've got a great year ahead and look forward to each



trip. I have included the 2009 Calendar in this newsletter. Be sure and share it with any potential new member and go out there and recruit! We add new members all of the time but there's strength in numbers so share the wealth!

# PBOC Christmas Party

It's truly hard to believe but it's almost time for our annual club Christmas party! As most of you know, we had a scheduling problem and the party has been set for Saturday, December 13th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sibley Nature Center. We will have food available though you're encouraged to bring a cover dish and it is traditional to bring a "white elephant gift"....usually in the form of something totally useless and sometimes a little embarrassing (it's happened!). Everyone is invited and I will send out a reminder well before the event. This is also a good time to bring guests in order to encourage their joining our club (just make sure that they bring that useless gift so that they won't be left out of the loop). We will need numbers so please let me know if you plan to attend and if you are

bringing a guest! I suppose that December 6th would be a good deadline so that Jan Artley, who is good natured enough to volunteer to pull the trigger on the party again this year, will have enough time to plan on meal needs. The party usually goes: supper, gift exchange, annual slide show, the visit, visit, visit. We'll have additional copies of the 2009 Calendar available to guests and anyone else that needs a copy along with registration forms, etc. for anyone that we don't scare off at the party. Be sure and bring anything that

you want to drink at the party including "adult beverages" as Sammy is fond of saying...(yes, it's allowed!). The party usually goes 2 1/2 to 3 hours so if you have babysitters, etc. plan for that time frame.



This is a great way to end a very successful PBOC year and we really want to see all of you here, so please plan to attend and let me know by December 6th! Happy Holidays everyone!



**"The Group" (group picture followed by group hug) - photo by Richard**



**Oh deer! - photo by Richard**

*"Much work remains to be done before we can announce our total failure to make any progress."*



**Just a little color—photo by Richard**

Permian Basin Outing Club

2009 Schedule

- January 20 – Club Meeting January 23-24 – Backpacking – Big Bend National Park – Patrick Dearen February 24 – Club Meeting  
February 27-28 – Ft. Davis Rappelling – Richard Galle March 3 – Club Meeting  
March 6-8 – Pole Ranch (Texas Panhandle near Caprock Canyons S.P.) – Rick Day  
April 21 – Club Meeting  
April 24-26 – Lake Amistad – Richard Galle  
May 19 – Club Meeting  
May 22-24 – Colorado Canyon Canoeing (Rio Grande) – Richard Galle  
June 23 – Club Meeting  
June 26-27 – Mike Rush’s Ranch (near Coleman) – Mike Rush  
July 21 – Club Meeting  
July 24-26 – Pat Barber’s Ranch (Colorado City) – Pat Barber  
August 18 – Club Meeting  
August 21-23 – Cloudcroft Camping/Hiking – Kathy Lupardus  
September 22 – Club Meeting  
September 25-27 – Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch – Richard Galle  
October 20 – Club Meeting  
October 23-25 – Dog Canyon (Guadalupe Mountains) Hiking/Camping – Leader to be named  
November 10 – Club Meeting  
November 13-15 – Big Bend Ranch State Park Hiking/Camping – Hope David and Kay Crum  
December 5 – PBOC Christmas Party

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PERMIAN  
BASIN OUTING CLUB**

Sibley Nature Center  
1307 E. Wadley  
Midland, Texas 79705

Phone: 432-684-6827  
Fax: 432-685-3396  
Email: richard@sibleynaturecenter.org

We're on the web at:  
[www.sibleynaturecenter.org](http://www.sibleynaturecenter.org)



photo by Richard



“Spring.....in Fall” (yuk, yuk) - photo by Richard