



It's inevitable!

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What we call the "big" PBOC, started back in 1984, probably changed the dates of trips and meetings maybe twice in the club's 17 year history. The newest club seems to change things rather readily. In saying that, we've changed the May float trip date to the weekend of May 8th rather than the original weekend of May 22nd. I've got conflicts (I'm conflicted) for the original weekend and unless someone else wants to take on the responsibility of securing as many as 20 canoes, etc. and making the arrangements then we'll have to live with the change. The meeting for that trip will also have to be

changed for Wednesday, May 6th (which shouldn't present as much of a problem). I'll be out of town on the 4th and 5th. Also, I won't be available for the meeting for the April Amistad trip because I'll already be at Amistad for the week. This won't be that much of a problem because I can get Kathy Lupardis, our club president, or someone else to email the directions to the campsite. As far as I know, these are the only changes for PBOC year 2009...(famous last words). I hope that this doesn't inconvenience anyone. If someone else wants to take on the canoe trip in order to keep it on the original



weekend, I'll be happy to bow out and leave the planning to someone else but, if not, we'll stick with the change.

Special points of interest:

- Some schedule changes had to be made
- Canoe trip promises to be great
- Sammy and Bambi...news at 10!

Speaking of the May float trip

It's not too early to start thinking about the May 8th float trip through Colorado Canyon near Big Bend National Park. We'll need to start reserving canoes (and sticking to our reservations). The National Park will allow only 20 people to float in a

group....however, this section of river falls under the jurisdiction of the state parks system. We haven't quite nailed down what their limits are, if any, but I can tell you that if you have a burning desire to make this trip and do a little floating on the Rio

Grande, now is the time to commit. Call me at 684-6827 (Sibley) or email me at: richard@sibleynaturecenter.org if you wish to reserve a canoe...or if you have your own watercraft you still need to let me know since there may be a group limit.

February rappelling trip was a bit cool.....



"Just because you've always done it that way doesn't mean it's not incredibly stupid."

The week preceding our February 27th trip to Ft. Davis was predictably warm but the ensuing weekend of the actual trip was just as predictably cold. I've had this theory for years that the business traffic of the week produces enough carbon dioxide, etc. to cool the atmosphere just enough to ruin the weekends in the late winter and early spring....and sure enough... Oddly enough, I recently read an article in a scientific magazine that featured a scientist in England that had the same theory, studied weather patterns for the last 100 years all over the world, and, lo and behold, he came up with the same theory. Anyway....the weather was quite brisk.

I met Sammy and Valarie, David and Kay, Brandon and Steven and Gae, and Wally and Diane in the state park Friday night. Steven and his group went into town for supper and I hung out with the other folks on the east side of the creek. Needless to say, with such a diverse group we had a lot to talk about. Sammy was in his standup comedian role and kept us entertained for hours. We also had a *very* tame herd of deer come up and repeatedly ask for a handout. We broke several park rules and obliged them. I had one doe that insisted on touching noses with me...(I think that we're engaged now....) We huddled up around lantern light with

the other group when they returned from Ft. Davis and finalized our plans for the next day. David and Kay went back into town to their warm bed and I headed out to the mountains to my little hideaway.

On Saturday morning a group of us met at Point of Rocks to begin our rappelling. After some discussion, we/I decided that the top of Point of Rocks would be brutal with the cold and wind so we decided to go to the roadside park coming into Ft. Davis for a shorter, and perhaps, less windy rappel. I did warn the group, which had grown to a dozen or so, that we were on private land where we were actually rappelling but that I had never had trouble in the past....famous last words. We hadn't rappelled more than 3 or 4 people when the ranch owner happened to emerge on their way into town. They didn't say anything to us and we may have dodged a bullet except for the "just plain bad luck" of them arriving back at their gate just as a DPS trooper and his partner stopping a speeder just at that geographic point and time. After conversing with the DPS trooper we were called down from our perch to a short lecture about crossing fences. They were friendly enough and called the sheriff (who's family I knew) and he proceeded to tell us where we could and

couldn't rappel. Everyone was very friendly (thankfully) and we decided to go back to Point of Rocks to one of the shorter pitches there to finish our day. The day had gotten warmer so we picked a shorter route and everyone that still wanted to rappel got their chance. Brandon and his buddies opted to go work on a cabin in the Davis Mountains Resort and defer learning to rappel till a later time. All in all it was a great experience besides being chagrined at being run off of someone's property (I don't think that's ever happened before to us). I didn't find a soul that was unhappy about getting out of the wind and cold at the end of the day, however. The group was divided by other options on Saturday including going into Alpine to the annual Cowboy Poet festival, touring the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, and rappelling. Everyone reported having a good time and, after all, that was our intent. I learned of some new equipment that Brandon owned that I'll have to buy some day, we made new friends with a herd of deer, Sammy came up with new material for his standup career, and we talked about future trips and ideas for the club. Overall a great trip!



The Group (notice everyone is smiling....we haven't been run off yet) - photo by Richard



Brandon "holding court" - photo by Richard



Sammy's Angels—photo by Richard



My "date" for the day—photo by Richard

"The more of my behavior you accept, the less you have to forgive."

Next meeting—(if you haven't read the first column)

This will be easy.....there won't be one. I'll be out of town at the next meeting time getting the campsite ready at Lake Amistad. If you'll remember from last year, our directions were in error due to new highway construction down there. I will furnish the email addresses to our president Kathy Lupardis (or some

willing member) and get the exact directions her/them with mileages, etc. so that anybody can find the campsite. The April 24th trip is to Lake Amistad which was a very popular trip last year. The campsite is on a hidden public beach between Comstock and Del Rio. There are no reservations to be made and the

camping is free. This is a great place to fish, canoe/kayak, swim, sunbathe, explore, and have a roaring campfire to trade lies around. Be looking for an email the week of or prior to the camping weekend. It would be helpful to me to know how many are going prior to April 15, however so let me know if you will.



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The Sibley Nature Center



“Getting to know you” - photo by Valarie



Nectar of the gods—photo by Tom