

July 2009

Special points of interest:

- Some details on the upcoming "in the cool pines" trip to Cloudcroft, New Mexico August trip
- Barber's Ranch was a little hot but great fun
- August Meeting
- Trip pics
- A special tribute to David Crum

Inside this issue:

August Trip	1
July Trip Report	1
Trip Report Continued	2
August Meeting	3
Early info on September Trip	3
Trip Pics	3
A Tribute to David C.	4

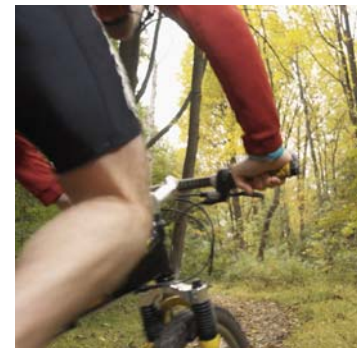
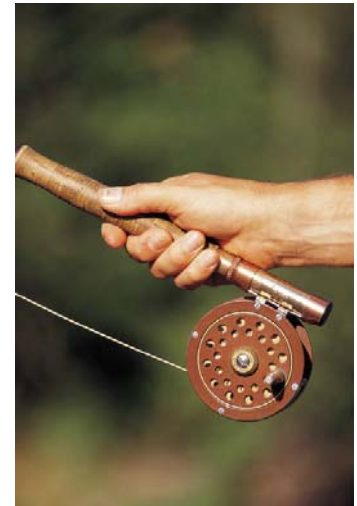
August Trip to Cloudcroft

The August 21st weekend PBOC trip will be to the tall cool pines of Cloudcroft, New Mexico. Our PBOC President Kathy Lupardus and her hubby Bill will be leading this trip. Kathy has researched several options for campsites and has recommended the Apache Campground or perhaps Black Bear. The costs are \$17 for the first vehicle and \$8 each for any additional cars.....or....\$85 for a group permit. We can decide on all of that later.

If you've not been to Cloudcroft you'll love the cool temps and all of the trees. Then there is La Luz Canyon, a great "back country" road that descends down to Alamogordo and the White Sands National Monument. I have taken it many times and thought that it would make a GREAT mountain bike route.....for one thing, if

you go from Cloudcroft all the way to Alamogordo, it's all **down hill**and you pass through beautiful country. If anyone is interested in that option we could arrange to have vehicles in Alamogordo for the ride back up to camp. Sammy Hunnicutt and a few others are planning to spend the day on a rented trout lake to do a little fly fishing. Alamogordo sports a great Space Museum with an Omnimax Theater which I've always enjoyed, as well. We already have quite a few folks that plan to go and we're asking that you commit soon to the trip so that Kathy can get a better idea of how much camp space that we'll need to get....so, let me know soon if you plan to attend this great trip. Email me at:

richard@sibleynaturecenter.org.



Trip Report—Barber's Ranch

Well....it was kind of hot but that's why we planned a trip with an accompanying lake! We had about 17 PBOC members plus Pat and Sharon Barber's family and friends attend last weekend's trip to their ranch near Colorado City. I think the heat may have scared a few of our regulars off but, speaking from experience and practice, if

you got too hot, just walk into the lake.....fully clothed.....up to your neck.....soak a while...then walk back out and let the breeze air cool you!

Pat and Sharon, as is their habit, put the campground in GREAT shape and even ran a water line to the camp for people to take

showers. It never ceases to amaze me at the pains that they take to make our campers comfortable...and they provided the brisket for the Saturday night feast to boot! I don't want to go any further before I extend a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Pat and Sharon for being exemplary hosts for this event.....every year.

(cont. on page 2)

Barber Ranch Trip Report cont....



I arrived at camp with two kayaks on board early Friday afternoon and found myself alone....but only for about 5 minutes at which time Steven and Gae came driving up sporting Steven's new/blue Dagger Approach 10 kayak. Steven, Michael Nickell, and I had met a month or so ago at Big Spring's Moss Creek Lake to test out my new whitewater Dagger Approach 10 and after testing it out, Steven immediately ordered one for his own kayak armada....sweet ride...turns on a dime....but I get off task.....

In a short while Pat Barber showed up to make sure all was in order. He and I unloaded a few items the added some of the "blue solution" that I had brought to the official **Pat Barber Memorial Porta-Potty** that we had brought to the ranch a couple of years ago.....like I said, Pat and Sharon go to great lengths to make his guests comfortable. After a bit, Wally and Diane Post drove in and set up their camp. This constituted 5 of the 6 outing club members that opted to stay the entire weekend camping out. Rick Gray, all the way from San Antonio, would be joining us later that evening to make the total six. Pat left to make a few more arrangements and I visited with Steven, Gae, Diane, and Wally. Later in the evening Pat and Sharon rejoined us for an evening chat and Steven, Gae, Diane and Wally were good enough to share their evening meal with me...(which is great because I sure wasn't in the mood to dig out the junk food that I had brought....thanks guys!). When Pat and Sharon left and the group decided to make it an early evening to bed, I decided to take a solo hike down the entry road and wait

at the gate for Rick. I found a big square post to climb up on and "perch" for my wait. I wasn't there 10 minutes when Pat and Sharon drove up in the dark...(they had stopped to see their son Austin, who lives on the ranch...). I think that I startled them to an extent when they drove up to the gate and there was this 6'2" gargoyle sitting high above their gate....in the dark....looking ominous. Since I didn't know what kinds of sounds a gargoyle made, I simply told the "good evening." We visited a few minutes and I went back to my solitary vigil. It was only a few minutes longer before I was able to get Rick Gray on his cell phone and he was in the area! After a few directions were transmitted over the ethers Rick drove up in his Jeep. I hitched a ride back to camp with him and we talked into the wee hours of the morning (and it actually started getting cool!) After a long visit we went to our individual camps and got some much needed rest.

On Saturday morning people began to arrive at camp and set up their shelters, etc. As the day began to warm up, people began to peel off to the lake for boating, swimming, and fishing. Wally, J.D. Drissell, and Sammy tried their hand at fly fishing in Pat's smaller fishing lake with some success....not at catching anything but in improving their skills at casting. Rick Gray and I went exploring. We were trying to find our way to the cliffs overhanging the Colorado River and we managed to find a road/foot path that took us down to the riverfront. We went back to the fishing lake to ask Sammy if he remembered how to get up the cliffs and after some consultation we

managed to find our road/path to the top.....great view.....

All of us made it back to camp to sit in the shade, boat, and swim. For whatever reason, horseshoes, one of our favorite pastimes at the ranch never broke out. I highly suspect the temperature might have had a lot to do with that. However, we had a grand time visiting both under the shelters and in the water.

Later in the evening we began the ritual of preparing dinner for the group.....I say we when I mean Sharon and a few willing volunteers. Sharon always takes the brunt of the preparations on herself while the majority of us sit and watch. What can I say Sharon? Thank you! Nearing sunset we began our feast and what a feast it was. The brisket could be cut with a spoon and all of the other delicacies that everyone else brought were delicious. I bugged out a little early to try to get back to the cliffs to get a sunset panorama but the sun and clouds didn't cooperate. I did have a grand time sitting on a jutting rock, solo, enjoying the coming evening. I made it back to camp to join the group. We stayed up for quite a while visiting until the group broke up and started heading home. Once again, six of us stayed for one more night of camping. As a postscript, I found out later from Pat that Sharon was upset that we didn't start the campfire that was so carefully constructed beforehand. It seems that she had placed a few **firecrackers** in the bottom of the campfire to liven up the group! Good try Sharon....save 'em for next time!

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



August Meeting

The August PBOC meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at Casa Lopez at 4415 W. Illinois in Midland on Tuesday, August 18th. Kathy Lupardus will have final details ready to disperse on the August 21st trip to Cloudcroft, New Mexico. As always, you're encouraged to attend even if you're not planning to attend the trip. We usually use this opportunity not only to enjoy each other's company but to diss and deride any member that doesn't attend. I'm kidding, of course but this is a great opportunity to invite

potential new members. They can observe that, in general, we're a harmless group and generally fun to be around. There are few exceptions to that rule....and you know who you are.....again....kidding.

On another note, there was some talk at the last meeting of finding other restaurants to meet in. I booked Casa Lopez for the entire year (to escape the monthly reminder) but if you have other ideas of meeting sites **and want to**

book them for us and notify me so that I can notify the club members....I'll be happy to make those changes. Any ideas anyone?



J.D. cooling his heels at the Barber Ranch—photo by Richard



Kathy Lupardus thinking about...something—photo by Richard



Rick Gray in his Truman Capote hat—photo by Richard

“If you never try anything new, you’ll miss out on many of life’s great disappointments.”

September Trip to the Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch

I would like to get some idea of the numbers of members that plan to attend the September 25th trip to the Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch in the Davis Mountains. This is a wonderful area if you haven't been there. It's a wonderful area *if you have been there*, for that matter. The canyons are beautiful and the scenery is unmatched for west Texas. There is a stream running through the property that sports large trees and a species of trout supposedly

found only in that stream. The trails are easy (at least the Green Trail is easy) and the opportunities for photography are great.

I'll request absolute confirmations at a later date but if you're sure that you want to attend, please let me know now. We've already paid the \$50 deposit (months ago) and I believe that the only other out-

of-pocket expenses from club members are like \$2/day, or some incredibly inexpensive commitment. I will have to have an exact number and roster to give Dan (the camp ranger) when we finally get there and the sooner that I can get those names, the better. It's a beautiful time to be in the Davis Mountains and it's a short drive from Midland/Odessa. Let me know!



Sammy with dangerous instrument—photo by Richard

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

The Permian Basin Outing Club
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

Your business tag line here.



**Bad panorama shot from cliffs at Barber Ranch (thanks sun...for nothing)
- photo by Richard**

A Promise is a Promise

On a recent trip to the La Junta de los Rios area with Rick Day, David Crum, and myself (doing an archeological survey), the weather was unseasonably warm even for the Presidio area. Rick slept in the back of his SUV with a small battery operated fan, I slept on the ground in my tent with no air conditioning, and.....get this.... David brought a refrigerated air conditioner and created a "cocoon" in the back of his truck, plugged the A/C in, and slept like a baby. I made a promise to him that pictures of his "arrangement" would make the next PBOC newsletter and from this point on, his new nickname would be "Weenie." I know.....it makes a

lot of sense and I was jealous in that it didn't get cool enough for me to sleep until about 3 a.m. but.....come on!.....an air conditioner!? He did share his ice water with me on a death march the next day so I do owe him a great deal of gratitude so.....

Thanks Weenie!

