

SIERRA CLUB CRIER

GREATER FORT WORTH GROUP • 817/588-1167

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE

SEPTEMBER 2001

Local issues? You bet we got'em; the Group could also use some help dealing with them

By Earl Burnam

Both Ron McCowen and Kathy Chruscielski brought up some good points in their letters to the editor in the August issue of the Sierra Club Crier. Ron is right. Bob Scott, Conservation Chair, and I really need more help with the environmental efforts. There is too much out there that needs attention. We cannot handle it all. Kathy is right. We need more reporting in the newsletter on local issues. In fact we need more people helping on local issues, and writing articles for the newsletter. The newsletter editor does more than he should have to do. He certainly should not be responsible for writing the articles, just for editing and getting them in the newsletter as space will allow. So Kathy, as the Air Quality Coordinator, it is my fault that the newsletters have not covered the power plant proposed for the Lake Weatherford area. (MIACULPA.) Frankly, I have stayed pretty busy on many issues, including air quality. Air quality is local, but greatly influenced by national and state level decisions. As are the Water Quality and Water Conservation issues. You could not begin to guess the amount of time that Bob Scott spends on meetings affecting water quality as well as all the many other environmental issues.

One reason that I have over the years been more active with the national and the state issues, is because in the past both the local and state officials have

'You might find you enjoy doing whatever you can to help protect and conserve our natural resources.' —Earl Burnam

been so unaware of, and even opposed to, environmental concerns. I have felt that if we can get environmental protection laws at the national level, the

Here's your chance to be involved in the politics of the environment

The November election is just around the corner.

This one won't be settled in Florida or by a guy named Chad, however. And the president's brother has absolutely no say-so at all in the matter.

November is not only the month for important state and national elections, but also for a very important election locally: that of the election of four new executive committee members for the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club.

The excom is made up of seven members; four elected in the odd years and three in the even years.

Nominating committee members are charged with the responsibility of providing names for the ballot, but they would like to have some volunteers to run for these positions.

It's not necessary to have been a long

state and locals would have to come around.

And it follows that if we can get the state laws passed and obeyed, the locals would have to come around. But things have changed. National is handling many responsibilities to the states, and the states to the locals. We need more effort focused on the local governments.

Please see GET, Page 2

time member or know a lot about the club. New members are encouraged to run. It is a good way to meet other members and volunteer a small amount of your time for the club.

You will learn about the club and make new friends. You won't find a lot of responsibility heaped on you, but can decide what you want to do.

It is always good to have new faces and new ideas on the ex-com. The ex-com meets one evening a month for a couple of hours to discuss group fund raising activities and other business.

If you have an interest in serving or questions about ex-com please call one of the members of the nominating committee: Russell Andrew, 817/561-7628 John Parker, 817/274-0859, or Eddie Jean Kriedeman 817/429-3346



On the inside

Where the discriminating hiker hangs out

FIRST: Any one who is any one will certainly be seen at the Beginner Backpack Class at the Fort Worth Nature Center from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sept. 15. More about that class in Outings, Page 3.

SECOND: Nobody but a real turkey would miss the annual Thanksgiving bus trip to Big Bend National Park. More on that on Pg. 6; registration form on Pg. 5

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

P.O. Box 1925, Fort Worth, TX 76101
817/588-1167

All the following numbers are Area Code 817 unless otherwise noted

Executive Committee

Chair	Tolbert Greenwood	346-3140
Vice-chair	Jenny Lehman	263-1357
Treasurer	Wendy Lambert	251-0016
Secretary	Russell Andrew	561-7628
	Paula Thomson	860-4441
	Jim Walling	444-4416
	Dan Smith	410-2955

Campaign Coordinators

Conservation	Bob Scott	282-1372
Clean Air	Earl Burnam	244-2328
Clean Water	Bob Scott	282-1372

Outings Contacts

Chair	Claudia Blalock	626-6063
Canoeing	Gary Kriedeman	429-3346
Bicycle	Don Bowles	571-9778
Backpacking	Claudia Blalock	626-6063

Administrative Contacts

Membership	Claudia Blalock	626-6063
Assistant	Gary Kriedeman	429-3346
Programs	Susan Robinson	582-8228

Newsletter Staff

Editor	James Moody	295-1623
Ad director	Wendy Lambert	251-0016
Circulation dir.	Steve Turner	457-7131



SIERRA CLUB
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Sierra Club National Hotline 202-675-2394

Web Pages

Fort Worth Group <http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tw/fortworth/index.html>

National, Lone Star www.sierraclub.org

The Planet www.sierraclub.org/planet

Political page www.sierraclub.org/politics

Action Alert

To subscribe, send message to: majordomo@igc.apc.org with the following command in the body of your e-mail message: subscribe sc-action

Get involved with Conservation Committee

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bob and I really need help. You do not have to be experts to help. You could come to the Conservation meetings and we will learn together. Not that Bob and I are great, but we can help. Besides, we need new blood.

Bob is not much younger than I, and I am getting pretty old and worn. We also need some younger people to carry on. Come to the Conservation Meetings and help. Or just call us if you have a special interest on which you could help us with the action. You might find you enjoy doing whatever you can to help protect and conserve our natural resources.

In addition to the proposed power plants in the Fort Worth area, a local issue is the proposed damming of the Sulfur River to furnish water for the DFW metroplex. This is in lieu of implementing real water conservation measures. This proposed lake site is fairly high quality bottomland hardwood habitat. Can anyone help?

At the old Carswell Air Force Base and the Lockheed Plant, the Air Force has been aggressively trying to locate and clean up contamination for over a decade. Contamination includes mostly petroleum products and metals and some TCE. Most of the below surface contamination is in shallow level water not used for drinking, but a little TCE has been found in the upper

Paluxy aquifer which is used for drinking water. To their credit, Lockheed no longer uses TCE as a de-greaser. Completion of the clean up of the ground water could take from 10 to 15 years. It would not hurt if someone from the Sierra Club could keep watch on this issue.

EPA seeks to scale back Clinton moves to curb emissions. New state required emission tests for vehicles is fought by inspectors. This is national, state and local. And the list of issues goes on & on. What do we work on? To what do we set our priorities? Please come to Conservation meetings and help us set our priorities. What issue can you help us with? For date, time and location of conservation meetings, call Bob Scott at 817-282-1372 or Earl Burnam at 817-244-2328.

And last week you couldn't even spell 'outings leeder'

Lead one outing within the next four months and you'll get a free home-cooked meal as well as the satisfaction of showing off our natural resources to other trip participants.

Everything you ever wanted to know about leading trips you'll learn at the training session hosted by Claudia Blalock. It takes place Sunday afternoon, Sept. 16, at her home.

Call 626-6063 to reserve your spot.

Several volunteer positions open in Group

If you enjoy our meetings and our members, how about volunteering to help? We have several open positions, including a volunteer coordinator and membership chairperson.

As volunteer coordinator, you will help line up volunteers for our table at Home and Garden Shows in Sept. and Feb. and help coordinate other volunteer events such as Earth Day celebrations, area park clean-ups, and member

events such as our Christmas party.

The membership chairperson greets new members at our meeting, updates our phone message on our answering machine, serves as a contact person for any questions from new members, and helps to coordinate new member events such as pot-luck dinners or cookouts. If you can help with either responsibility, call Claudia Blalock at 626-6063.

Club requires liability waivers for participation in outings

A new Sierra Club policy requires that a liability waiver be signed prior to participation in any of the Club's outings. That policy, which will precede the outings listings in future newsletters, states:

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to

the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call 415-977-5630.

The Club also reiterates that carpooling, ride sharing, and similar activities are strictly private arrangements among the parties involved. The Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them.

Greater Fort Worth Group Sierra Club Outings

Fort Worth Sierra Club outings are open to members and nonmembers. Trip leaders serve in a volunteer capacity and assume no responsibility above that of organizing the trip. If you have special needs or medical requirements, notify the leader prior to the trip. All outings officially begin at the trailhead. Leaders cannot assign carpools, but may help coordinate ride sharing. Many outings require advance reservations at the trip designation as well as from the participant. Notify the trip leader promptly if you must cancel. Donations of \$3 per person and \$5/family are requested for overnight trips to be used for conservation efforts of the club. Any park and/or camping fees are the responsibility of the participant.

September 6-9, Thursday-Sunday

Canoe the Illinois River in SW Okla. led by Marilyn Sumner with car camping. This is flat water paddling suitable for beginners. Leave the Metroplex on Thursday evening for canoeing all day Friday and Saturday. For details, contact Marilyn Sumner, 491-2382.

September 15, Saturday

Beginner Backpack Class at the Fort Worth Nature Center 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Learn how to set up a tent, select the right clothing and equipment, plan a trip, pack, and enjoy the outdoors. Class taught by the Outings Committee whose members have a combined camping experience of over 60 years. Bring a bag lunch. Beverages provided. To register, contact Claudia Blalock, 626-6063. Cost: \$15 per person.

September 16, Sunday

Outings Leader Training New leaders are needed for dayhikes, car camps, canoe trips and backpacking trips. Training will be offered at 3:30 p.m. at the home of Claudia Blalock. Must complete Basic Red Cross First Aid class as well and agree to lead 2 outings within the next 6 months. To register, call Claudia Blalock, 626-6063 or cpblalock@msn.com

October 6-7, Saturday-Sunday

Beginner backpack on Big Brown Creek Trail, in Fairfield SP. Sat. morning we will hike through 3 miles of wooded and swampy areas. Some bluffs along the trail offer excellent views of the lake. The campsite has water and flush toilets – so it is not very primitive. Sunday we will hike out on the same trail. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Wendy Lambert 251-0016 (H) or wlambert@concrete-pipe.org

October 13-14, Saturday-Sunday

Beginner backpack at Buckeye Mountain/Caney Creek Wilderness in W. September 2001

Cent. Arkansas. Dense hardwood forests cover the area and wildlife is abundant. Sat. we will hike the Buckeye Mountain Trail 6 miles to camp near a waterfall. Sun. we will hike 4 miles on the Caney Creek Trail. Optional lunch afterwards. Leader: Marcos Jorge. Co-leader: Wendy Lambert 251-0016 (H) or wlambert@concrete-pipe.org

October 19-21, Friday-Sunday

Sierra Celebration. Join Sierrans from across Texas for the Lone Star Chapter's fall celebration at the MO-Ranch in Hunt, Texas, near Kerrville. Stay in Moran Barn or camp for the weekend. Outings on Saturday includes tours of the Kerr WMA with a staff biologist as your guide. Swimming, canoeing, and horseback riding are available at MO Ranch. On Sunday, hikes are planned for Lost Maples State Park. Cost for weekend: Campsites: \$21/night; barn lodging: \$59 per person for 2 nights; communal meals \$18 per person for weekend. To register, visit the Lone Star Chapter Website at www.sierraclub.org/texas for a registration form or call 512-477-1729.

October 20-21, Saturday-Sunday

Car camp at Lake Mineral Wells State Park. Meet at the park by 2 p.m. for site check-in. We will plan potluck dinner for Sat. night and hike on trails within park on Sunday morning. State park is offering special program on Sat. night of cowboy poetry and music as well as nature programs during the day. You will need to reserve your own campsite by calling 512-389-8900 or by contacting the Texas State Park Website. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 626-6063.

Oct. 27-28, Friday-Saturday

Join us for a repeat trip to Caddo Lake State Park over the Halloween weekend and enjoy canoeing with a full moon. For those able to leave the Metroplex on Friday night, camping is available by reservation at Caddo Lake State Park. Call 512-389-8900 for reservations or contact the Texas State Park website. On Saturday, we will canoe from Pine Needles Lodge near the state park to a remote island and camp there. Canoe rentals are available through Pine Needles Lodge. Enjoy a potluck dinner on Saturday Trip ends with a catfish lunch at noon nearby. Leaders: Marilyn Sumner, 491-2382 or Tolbert Greenwood, 346-3140.

November 10-11, Saturday-Sunday

Backpack the David Boren Trail. The trail is located in Beavers Bend State Park in Southeastern Oklahoma. The trail will cover about 10 miles with spectacular views on a bluff overlook. Camp will be along a flowing stream. The trail will have some steep hills and stream crossings. If you want a challenging hike, come and join the fun. Leader: Wendy Lambert (817) 251-0016 (H) or wlambert@concrete-pipe.org Co-leader: Marcos Jorge.

November 18, Sunday

Dayhike on the Trinity Trail. Join Claudia Blalock and her dog Molly for a canine-led hike of approximately 3 miles on the Trinity Trail. Meet at the parking lot just south of the Hoffbrau Steakhouse on University Dr. in Fort Worth approx. 1 mile south of I-30. Bring water for yourself and your pet and wear appropriate clothing. In the event of rain, hike is cancelled. Leader: Claudia Blalock, 626-6063.

November 21-26, Wednesday-Monday

Bus trip to Big Bend National Park. A sleeper bus will depart Wed. evening before Thanksgiving to carry 40 campers to the park and return to Fort Worth by 5 a.m. on Monday. Four trips will be offered to accommodate all levels of physical fitness. Trip 1 is a strenuous three-and-a-half day backpack in the Dead Horse Mountains, following the poorly defined routes of the Telephone Canyon and Strawhouse trails. Trip 2 is the High Chisos backpack, rated moderate. You'll hike into the mountains to set up a base camp to make day hikes from. Trip 3 (also rated moderate) participants will camp in the Basin and make day hikes. Trip 4 will feature a group camped at Rio Grande Village, from where it will make easy day hikes.

February 15-18, Friday-Monday

Join veteran hiker John Parker for an easy car camp in the Chisos Basin Campground of Big Bend National Park. Feb. is the perfect time to see this grand park. Day hikes may include: Santa Elena Canyon, Boquillas Canyon, Cattail Falls, Grapevine Hills, Hot Springs, and Ernst Tinaja. On Sunday, we will hike Devil's Den on our way to the Gage Hotel in Marathon where we will stay. To reserve a room at the Gage, call 915-386-4205. For more details, contact John Parker, 817-274-0859.

Coming Events

September 11, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at LaMadeleine's Restaurant, 305 Main St. For more information, contact Tolbert Greenwood, 346-3140.

September 19, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club General Meeting. See box at right for details.

Newsletter deadline. Submit articles, ads, letters, or other information in writing. Articles may be submitted by mail, email, or on Iomega Zip disks accompanied by hard copy. B&W or color nature photos and electronic images (150dpi or greater) will be accepted (prints returned if submitted with SASE). Photographs of outings or other club activities are particularly encouraged. Identify subject of photo and state photographer's name. Please do not write on the back of photos. Mail submissions to Newsletter Editor, P.O.

General Meeting

Wednesday, September 19

7:00 Main Auditorium, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Camp Bowie at Montgomery (exit Montgomery off I-30, go north about a mile to Camp Bowie).

Program: Todd Nichols will coordinate a program promoting the Big Bend Thanksgiving bus trip.

Box 1925, Fort Worth 76101, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email jmoody166@aol.com.

September 16, Sunday

Outings leader training at 3:30 p.m. Details on Page 2.

September 17, Monday, 7 p.m.

The monthly dinner and planning meeting for Sierrans singles will take place on Monday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. at Don Pablo's, near the Irving Mall. Contact: Jenny Lehman. Look for outings this fall including, but not limited to, the

State Fair of Texas, the women's museum, and the Fort Worth Zoo. Anyone who wants to lead an outing, please let me know. The more leaders we have, the more outings we'll have.

Sept. 20-22, Thursday-Saturday

Fort Worth Home and Garden Show at the Fort Worth Convention Center. We need volunteers to work our table for a two hour shift. You get free admission to the show and just need to be able to hand out material related to the Sierra Club and Audubon Club to anyone who visits our table. To volunteer, call Earl Burnam at 244-2328.

September 25, Tuesday

Conservation meeting. Contact Bob Scott, 282-1372.

October 1, Monday

Newsletter folding party, Smoky's Ribs, 6 p.m., 5300 E. Lancaster. Eat, or have the beverage of your choice, while working with other Sierrans to prepare the newsletter for mailing. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

Sierra outings group discovers Vancouver Island

Abandoning the sweltering midsummer Texas heat, nine members of the Fort Worth Sierra Club ventured to cool, temperate Vancouver Island, British Columbia during the last week of July. Following a direct flight to Vancouver, the group, comprised of leader Marilyn Sumner, Tolbert Greenwood, Gwen Greenwood, Claudia Blalock, Paula Thomson, Wendy Lambert, Brenda Adams, Jim Nelson, and Jane Nelson, picked up rental cars and raced to catch ferries to Vancouver Island. Once on the island, the group divided for a few days to pursue separate interests before reconvening in Tofino on the west coast of the island.

Tolbert and Gwen Greenwood journeyed south to Victoria; fortunate enough to find accommodations in a bed and breakfast adjacent to the governor's house, they enjoyed the sights and culinary delights of British Columbia's capital from their strategic location. Highlights included a tour of the famous Buchart Gardens and a fireworks display synchronized with music. Not to be outdone, the rest of the group journeyed north from Nanaimo toward Campbell River before turning west and reaching beautiful Strathcona Provincial Park, where they enjoyed accommodations in charming lakeside

cabins. While Marilyn pursued her passion for bird-watching, the rest of our travelers hiked challenging Upper Myra Falls Trail through old growth forests, enjoying lunch at trail's end overlooking the spectacular falls, and spying a black bear foraging just off the trail. That afternoon, four shorter trails rewarded our hikers with more beautiful cascades, an abundance of wild berries, sinkholes, disappearing streams, and abundant wildflowers. The following day, Brenda, Marilyn and Paula drove back to Campbell River and caught a ferry to Quadra Island where they enjoyed an artist's workshop, more hikes, and extraordinary gastronomical delights. Meanwhile, Wendy, Claudia, Jim and Jane elected the challenging Bedwell Lake Trail, three hours up and an elevation change of 600 meters through magnificent old growth stands of western red cedar and Douglas fir. The reward for their grueling climb was a picnic atop a rocky overlook providing magnificent vistas of both Baby Bedwell and Bedwell Lakes.

All parties then reconvened at the Paddler's Inn in Tofino on the west side of the island for their much anticipated sea-kayaking adventure. Brief beachside instructions included everything from attaching sprayskirts, to operating the rudder, to conducting wet launch-

es, to properly lifting fully loaded kayaks. Their challenge was to cross the shipping channel, skirting Stubbs Island, and arrive at Vargas Island, their ultimate destination. The crossing was harrowing for some, as they negotiated shipping lanes shared with large powered vessels, plowed through the waves generated by those vessels, and faced strong headwinds. Once safely across the channel, confidence and skills began to build. Lunch on a private beach along the coastline of Vargas Island included such gourmet delights as smoked salmon, smoked oysters, and capers. To no one's surprise, it was later learned that their guide Doug had at one point studied in culinary school. After further explorations that first afternoon, our kayakers reached the charming Vargas Inn, built in 1910 and refurbished in 1970, and were treated to heaping bowls of appetizers, fresh baked salmon, pasta salad, and other delights. Hot saunas and showers rounded out their first day of kayaking.

Up early the next day to kayak around the tip of Vargas Island, all enjoyed learning to land in the surf, exploring tidal pools, lunching on another private beach, and hiking to a long-abandoned homestead. They even es-

Vancouver Island

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ped the elusive "Vargas Maiden" sunbathing in the nude on an abandoned beach. During the day, both guides shared their expertise in the history, flora and fauna of the region. Back at Vargas Inn that night, all shared a sumptuous meal of Dungeness crab, wine, and the camaraderie of friends.

The final morning began with a rigorous half-day hike to remote Ahous Bay on the far west coast of Vargas Island over a boggy, densely thicketed, corduroy trail, originally constructed as an escape route for shipwrecked sailors. After a snack and brief exploration of the half-moon bay, our kayakers hiked back to the Inn and prepared to kayak back to Tofino. They enjoyed a final day of calm, beautiful weather, using the current to help ferry them to shore this time. After treating their guides to a gourmet seafood meal at The Schooner, our travel-weary paddlers returned to sleep soundly at the familiar Paddler's Inn and go their separate ways the following morning. Most agreed that it just doesn't get much better than this!

Big Bend Thanksgiving Trip Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ **Dead Horse Mts. Backpack:** Strenuous. James Moody

_____ **High Chisos Backpack:** Moderate. Tolbert Greenwood

_____ **Basin Day Hikes:** Moderate. Jim Walling

_____ **Rio Grande Village Day Hikes:** Easy. Jordan Minyard

Membership

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Individual (\$35) Joint (\$43)

Annual dues include subscription to Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1.00). Dues are not tax deductible.

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Mail to Sierra Club, P.O. BOX 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

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The purposes of the Sierra Club are: To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Mission Statement

Return Service requested

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club
P.O. Box 1925
Fort Worth, Texas 76101

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Fort Worth, TX 76101

Begin a new tradition this Thanksgiving holiday

Tired of the same old routine Thanksgiving after Thanksgiving?

And who isn't? I mean, who wouldn't be ready to bang their head against a wall after yet another holiday filled with delicious food, congenial relatives, and football games?

Did I mention delicious food and football games? And how's this one for the real kicker: no leftover turkey and nauseum.

The Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club once again this year will be offering the sensible alternative to heartburn and indigestion and bearhugs from Aunt Matilda.

A sleeper bus will depart the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving day to carry up to 40 campers to Big Bend National Park for a holiday filled with fun and adventure.

Four different options will be available, ranging from easy walking day hikes to a slightly-more-strenuous three-and-a-half day backpack. All include camping options (no hotels!).

Trip 1: Dead Horse Mts. strenuous 30+-mile backpack led by James Moody (295-1623). Hike the Telephone

Canyon and Strawhouse trails (actually poorly defined routes). Some cross-country packing involved. Experience helpful, but reasonably fit people who have completed the beginner backpacking seminar should do fine. For complete details, trip website is www.thestargroup.com/BigBend.htm. Check this and the Group web site for additional trip information and links.

Trip 2: High Chisos Backpack led by Tolbert Greenwood (346-3140). Backpack to base camp in the heart of the Chisos Mountains and dayhike the remaining days to Emory Peak and the South Rim. See the famous Boot and fill your water bottles at Boot Spring (depending on water availability) Moderate difficulty.

Trip 3: Camp in a designated campsite in the Chisos basin campground with bathrooms. Day hike to Emory Peak, South Rim, The Window, and the Lost Mine Trail, considered by many to be one of the most beautiful day hikes in the state. Dayhikes include elevation gain and can average 10-15 miles/day. Moderate difficulty. Leader: Jim Walling (444-4416).

Trip 4: Take a leisure tour of Big Bend with easy dayhikes from the group campsite at Rio Grande Village Campground to the Hot Springs and Boquilles Canyon. Leader: Jordan Minyard (472-0710).

Cost of trip is \$160, payable by Nov. 10. Make checks payable to Fort Worth Sierra Club and mail to Todd Nichols, 200 Hibiscus Dr., Arlington, Texas 76018-1420. A reservation form can be found on Page 5.

Please make reservations by Nov. 5 to help leaders in their planning efforts.

In addition to transportation to and from Fort Worth, the price of admission also includes a lavish spread at the historic Gage Hotel in Marathon on the return trip home.

Prior to that, we'll all converge on Rio Grande Village, where there are pay showers. If you can't spare the change, those sitting around you on the bus will certainly pitch in a few quarters (not to mention soap and shampoo, too).

Mt. Sports in Arlington will give participants a 10 percent discount on all items purchased for the trip.

Registration Form, Page 5