



# Oklahoma Chapter

Coalition of Historical Trekkers

## Newsletter



Newsletter April 1, 2007

Greetings to All,

Well here it is the first of April with temps in the low eighties, most if not all trees are already leafed out and still way below normal for precipitation, all of the weather folks keep talking about is the twenty degree above normal temps. The heavy rains seemed to have followed I35 taking a sharp right turn across the northern counties. One of the recent storm cells left 4 tenths at the house while not 50 miles to the north they received upwards of three inches, almost the same results early this last week. It's starting to look like another hot and dry summer, one of the ranchers that I do coyote control for is worried as his pastures haven't recovered very well from two years of drought. On a topic not very appealing, we are way above on the count of confirmed tornadoes, not good news this early in the season. WHAT'S GOING ON, last edition made note of gas prices rising 46 cents in a month, don't know about other areas but think we got that one beat with a 16 cent jump in 48 hours earlier in the week, heard rumors of 3 dollar fuel by May.

April 18-22, the COHT National Gathering at Ft Osage, hope everyone can attend as many current activities have expanded with new ones being added.

Look forward to seeing the construction progress on the new museum and visitor center, Tater had mentioned a major snafu as of recent, hopefully they have that one lined out.

April 6-8, Spring Market Faire at the Cadron Blockhouse near Conway AR

April 13-15, Woolaroc Spring Rendezvous, usually well attended, have heard of some COHT members from neighboring state hope to attend.

June 29-July, Pecos Wilderness Mora Flats Trek hosted by NM state rep Jim Harsh. Jim has forwarded very detailed site directions and trek scenario, plan to condense it some and post in May newsletter, hope to make the event as it sounds like a great one.

Please check last edition for other current area events, don't really have any others to post at this time. Need to check on our SCT webpage as to whether Tracy's recent Missouri mini update newsletter got posted, included info for upcoming events in their area.

WHAT'S NEW, well I believe today is the first day of office for our new Treasurer and Executive Board member, Mr. Scott Carlson from Nebraska.

Confident he will do a fine job of it, just don't get him laughing!

There have been considerable discussions on several topics as of recent on the Exec/Governor boards concerning changes, improvements and to modify some current procedures, the last mostly dealing with the website, when any of these are adopted and ready to move forward will get them posted.

WHAT'S OLD, mid last month spent one of the most enjoyable trek woods weekends I've had in quite some time. Bryant and Kathy McInquire, local native Mark Grigg and I met at the War Eagle Mill for lunch at the Bean palace. After a good meal Kathy headed back to that work thing, the three of us set off to Madison County WMA. We camped at the same rock house as used for the last squirrel hunt, gathered in a decent amount of firewood and spent rest of the day just catching up. At dark I headed for the blankets as the wind was whipping pretty good and the temps were falling, didn't stir much till first light, guess Mark slept in the fire as it did cool down pretty good.

After our chosen means of breaking the fast gear was stowed and we headed off thru the woods in a round about way to the King's River overlook which is rather impressive. We started discussing whether there were viable means to reach the river in this area, with Bryant blazing the trail we followed a stream to a good sized waterfall, down in that lower area we discovered a huge rock house. While Bryant and I talked over different trek scenarios Mark found a reasonable trail down to the bottom, on his return we found a decent way out of there without back tracking up the creek. Bryant and Mark have plans to explore this part of the WMA more for future treks, it has great possibilities. After the hike back Mark decided to hang in camp and rest as his health had not been the best as of late. Bryant and I headed off on more adventures, he lead me over to area 10, site of the first squirrel hunt and major bear sign then on to the large cool cave where they rest in warmer weather. The evening meal back in camp was prepared by Mark he cooked steaks on green sassafras sticks over the coals, that was some really fine eating in fine company. At dark I headed to

the blankets again, the stars were all out and very bright shining down thru the trees. First light found my trail partners huddled up to the fire as it was a bit frosty, had a tough time crawling out of the blankets myself.

After some basic food and drink we began the hard part of breaking camp and heading out, after many goodbyes, handshakes and well wishes we departed.

This description does not do justice for such an enjoyable time in the woods, luckily get to relive it in the mind, can't wait for what they come up with next!

ADVERTISEMENT, not only do we have some really fine 07 auction items, updated list in the Town Hall section of message boards, there seems to be a growing list of fine Sutlers attending, best to start rounding up the mad money. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, probably the biggest day next to opening of deer season is this Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, Spring Turkey season is finally here!

Have a different box call that really makes good sound, have a fantastic load for the 12ga English Fowler, hope it impress a wiley old Tom, or with my luck a rather stupid younger one. Plan to hopefully make opening morning it will seem strange to have as much foliage this early in the season. Please check the current regulations for your hunting area as several changes have been made, the most notable is bagging two toms in the same day. With this early warmer weather hope they don't nest up early that will foul (not fowl) up the late season hunting, as green as it already is hens are already active off roost from several reports. There have been some very nice fish caught through out the area also due the warm up, large and small mouth bass are hitting about everything and about all the catfish are doing the same, haven't heard any reports on slab size crappie yet, not far off though.

BOOK REVIEW, finished off the first reading of Tony Hillerman's latest "The Shape Shifter" excellent as usual, it will get read several times or at least once more before sending to my sister. Finished Shirley Christian's "Before Lewis and Clarke, the Story of the Chouteaus, the French Dynasty that Ruled America's Frontier" would suggest keeping a note pad handy for this one also refer to the Family tree in the front, it can get confusing keeping track of everyone and how they are related, regardless it is a fantastic piece of work.

Have done preliminary work with David J. Peck, D.O. "Or perish in the Attempt, Wilderness Medicine in the Lewis & Clarke Expedition" this one looks very interesting with a different slant/theme on the expedition.

In closing wish all the turkey chasers the best of luck,  
please be extra careful in the woods as this warm weather  
has also awakened our, not so friendly at times, venomous  
dirt crawlers.

Take/Give Care,  
Brad Pickle  
OK State Rep  
SCT Governor