A Chihuahuan Desert Paradise

A splash of blue stands out against limestone cliffs. The honking of a great blue heron, interspersed with the descending trill of a canyon wren, can be heard off in the distance. This landscape, which at times appears stark and desolate, comes alive with color after a rainstorm. Amistad National Recreation Area (NRA) is a land of contrasts...and of hidden treasures. The same water that draws people to boating, fishing, scuba diving and water-skiing. Amistad NRA also provides opportunities for picnicking, camping and hunting. The reservoir, at the confluence of the Rio Grande and Devils rivers, was created by Amistad Dam in 1969. In addition to excellent recreation, this area is rich in archeology and rock art, and contains a wide variety of plant and animal life. So whether you come to boat, to ponder ancient mysteries, or to listen to bird song and watch the desert bloom, Amistad has something for you.

Please visit Amistad NRA’s official web page: www.nps.gov/amis

National Parks Look for Public Input

Park-goers can keep up with Amistad National Recreation Area by checking out our projects at http://parkplanning.nps.gov. This Web site gives you the inside track on park developments.

The new site opens the door to PEPC Planning, Environment and Public Comment. PEPC is an online collaborative tool that provides you with unprecedented, easy access to documents used in developing and tracking projects within the National Park Service. It also allows you to tell us what you think about the various projects planned for Amistad NRA.

“People lead such busy lives,” said Superintendent Alan Cox. “This Web site will help our visitors and others interested in Amistad NRA to keep abreast of park issues and provide a quick, easy method for them to tell us what they think. This input is invaluable in guiding our decision-making.”

Park projects can be as routine as trail rehabilitation and utility location, and as rare as a new visitor’s center or the relocation of a historic building. Users will find it easy to access several types of public documents, including Environmental Assessments (EA), Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and General Management Plans (GMP). You can also use this site to comment on parks managed by the National Park Service nationwide. The Web site also makes the public comment process more efficient, making the most of tax dollars. Public comments entered through the Web site are saved directly to a database, saving the park staff from hours of copy-and-e-mailing various public documents.

“It’s great to have an easy-to-use system that is so beneficial to both the public and the staff,” said Superintendent Cox.
Dear Amistad NRA Visitor:

My staff and I welcome you to one of the finest recreation areas in the National Park system. We’re proud of the work we’ve accomplished the last few years at Amistad National Recreation Area. We invite you to take full advantage of the many recreational and educational opportunities we offer.

Amistad NRA supports the local community beyond providing extraordinary recreational and educational services—the park also creates jobs and income that benefit the entire Del Rio area. We’ve just completed a study detailing the park’s economic contributions to the region. I’d like to sum- marize some of these contributions:

- Park operations directly create 53 jobs and pump $5.52 million annually into the local economy.
- Nearly 1.4 million annual park visitors support another 468 jobs and add more than $29 million to local economic activity.
- Seventy percent of visitors are from out-of-the-area, bringing in ‘new’ money to the local economy.
- Non-local day-users spend between $33 and $23 per day. About 80% of all fishing tournament participants are from out-of-towns; they spend the highest amounts.

Del Rio is a great place to live and work. We are proud to be helping our friends and neighbors and thank you for your support of the local community. Please see our website under “Management Documents” for a full copy of the report.

Feel free to contact me with your comments and suggestions. We take your input seriously—we want your stay to be as safe and enjoyable as possible.

Alan W. Cox
Superintendent
Amistad National Recreation Area

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Tips for Visiting Ciudad Acuña, Mexico

- Bring personal ID and keep it with you because you will need it to reenter the U.S.
- Bringing weapons, ammunition and drugs into Mexico is a federal offense.
- If you are unsure of what not to bring call the Mexican Consulate 830-775-2352.
- Check with your insurance company to see if you need to buy Mexican insurance.
- You may park near the U.S. Port of Entry and walk to Mexico, it’s 3/4 mile each way.
- U.S. Dollars are accepted at most stores. Some businesses will take credit cards.
- Declare ALL purchases when reentering the U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco are taxed.

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A Letter From the Superintendent

The High Bridge Tribune

The High Bridge Tribune: the official newspaper of Amistad National Recreation Area. The Pecos Railroad High Bridge is symbolic of the long span of human history represented at Amistad NRA. The high bridge pictured above and on front cover was built in 1892 for the Southern Transcontinental Railway; the current bridge was finished in 1944.

(Visit the following website for photos of the High Bridge construction: http://bridges.lib.lehigh.edu/books/book1631.html)

Superintendent: Alan Cox
Produced by: Anomare M. Kolski

Contributors to this newspaper:
Mark Morgan
Gary Kirnay
Lisa Evans
Jo Ann Kinsey
Eric Finkisten
Rick Slade
Joe Labadie
Blake Trester
Nancy Banton

Big Bend Natural History Association
Mike Boren - BBHAA Executive Director

Amistad National Recreation Area
4121 Veterans Blvd.
Del Rio, TX 78840
830-775-7491 phone
830-778-9248 fax
amis_interpretation@nps.gov
www.nps.gov/amis

National Park Service
United States Department of the Interior
www.nps.gov

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Take Pride In America

After nearly 200 hours of back-breaking work, Parida Cave is once again presentable and available to the public. Much of the work was accomplished by a dozen or so dedicated volunteers—among them were pilots and their spouses from Laughlin Air Force Base, college students, local teachers and several Student Conservation Corps members.

Park Archeologist Joe Labadie, who planned both the 1998 and 2004 Parida Cave projects, noted “Once again, volunteers have made a significant contribution to our park and have accomplished a Herculean task that was beyond the meager resources of the park. We are indeed fortunate to have a local community that is willing to pitch in and make their park all that it can be.”

Parade of Lights Festival on Lake Amistad

The Parade of Lights Festival on December 11, 2004 was the first one of its kind to be held in over a decade. The last event was held in 1993 when the reservoir storage was as full as it is currently. A ten year drought had lowered the water levels nearly 60 feet below conservation pool elevation of 137 ft. above sea level. Prior to the parade, Steve Billinglgy put on a show for spectators with his jet boat spraying water upwards then back down in an arc.

There were seven decorated boats that had entered the festival; Forever Resorts, Southwinds (USA) Marina, Del Tex RV and Automotive Repair Center, Del Rio Chamber of Commerce, two private boats piloted by Dennis Anderson, Curtis and Phyllis Hall, and Amistad NRA’s own “Knotty Buoy” was decked out with rows of lights and a lighted NPS arrowhead. The parade started at nightfall from the docks at Lake Amistad Resort and Marina. Led by the Star of Bethlehem on Anderson’s boat, the lighted fleet proceeded past Governors Landing up to the Amistad Dam, and then back to the marina dock. There were many spectators looking on and the viewpoint areas were overcrowding.

DECORATED HOUSEBOAT

FLEET OF LIGHTED BOATS

out on top of the dam for a great view of the boats. They even turned out all the lights for better viewing.

All future parades will be held on the second Saturday in December. If you wish to participate in the Parade of Lights 2005 please contact:
Barbara Plyler at 830-775-9775 or
Mark Morgan at 830-775-7492 x 234

Tips for Visiting Ciudad Acuña, Mexico

* Bring personal ID and keep it with you because you will need it to reenter the U.S.
* Bringing weapons, ammunition and drugs into Mexico is a federal offense.
* If you are unsure of what not to bring call the Mexican Consulate 830-775-2352.
* Check with your insurance company to see if you need to buy Mexican insurance.
* You may park near the U.S. Port of Entry and walk to Mexico, it’s 3/4 mile each way.
* U.S. Dollars are accepted at most stores. Some businesses will take credit cards.
* Declare ALL purchases when reentering the U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco are taxed.

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Val Verde County Sheriff: 911 or (830) 774-7513
Ambulance: 911 or (830) 775-1111
Diablo East Ranger Station: Intermittently Staffed (830) 775-6722
Rough Canyon Ranger Station: Intermittently Staffed (830) 775-1911
Pecos Ranger Station: Intermittently Staffed (432) 292-4544
Amistad Visitor Information Center - 7 Days - 8 am-5 pm, (830) 775-7491

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Superintendent:
Restoration, Heritage, and Water Commission had allowed folks to go...
Annual Lake Clean Up

All are invited to help keep Lake Amistad beautiful. The lake clean-up the two previous years have proven to be very successful. In 2003, 120 participants removed two tons of trash. The 2004 lake clean up had 28 participants who hauled out two thousand pounds of trash, including 21 tires. Come help us make the Annual Lake Amistad Clean Up 2005 the best one ever. Take pride in your National Recreation Area.

For more information call the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce (830-775-3551) or the National Park Service (830-775-7491) and sign up today.

Amistad NRA Fees

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Governors Landing</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Group Camp Sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Pedro, 277 North, Rock Quarry</td>
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<td>$1/person/night</td>
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</table>

Amistad NRA Fees Table

Volunteer

Amistad National Recreation Area has a variety of volunteer positions available each fall/winter season. Our greatest need is for Campground Hosts and Visitor Center Volunteers. We have a campground that requires hosts; however only one has full hookups (for the host only) and is the easiest to fill. The other 3 have sewer only and are great for campers with solar panels. We prefer long-term commitments for these positions. The term can be October-March continuous, or we can break it up into two 3 month positions from Oct-Nov-Dec and Jan-Feb-March.

We have a new Visitor Information Center 5 miles west of our headquarters building on Hwy 90. We need volunteers to staff the information desk, sell passes, boat permits, hunting permits and books, issue parking permits, and give quality information to our park visitors. We can accept applications for Visitor Information Assistants for the Visitor Information Center year-round however, we prefer long-term commitments of at least 3 months for these positions. We offer a full hook-up site with a view of the lake in exchange for 22 work hours per week.

Other volunteer opportunities that occur on a less frequent basis are archeology assistants, natural resource management assistants, park maintenance assistants, and environmental education assistants. If you have any interest in one of these fields, and can volunteer with us long-term, please send us your application or resume (with references).

Mail your application to:
Amistad National Recreation Area
4121 Veterans Blvd.
Del Rio, TX 78840.
Attn: Volunteer Coordinator
or Email: amist_interpretation@nps.gov
or Apply online at: www.volunteer.gov/gov

We look forward to your applications.

NOTE: We cannot consider anyone without their own accommodations and vehicle. We have no volunteer housing, no vehicles to spare, and no stipends.
Amistad National Recreation Area offers water-based recreation and protects our natural and cultural heritage. Amistad (Spanish for friendship) Dam, built by the United States and Mexico in 1969, forms International Amistad Reservoir on the Rio Grande, Pecos, and Devils rivers. Buoys mark the US/Mexico border along the Rio Grande arm of the lake. Enjoy your visit to Amistad NRA!

CAMPING

The National Park Service operates four campgrounds. All sites are primitive with no hook-ups, and feature grills, vault toilets, and covered picnic tables. Only Governors Landing has potable water. All sites are first-come, first-served. Reservations are not available except for Group Campsites. A dump station is located at Diablo East.

SAN PEDRO
Open all year
35 Sites with long, flat spaces, suitable for RVs or tents. Also, 5 tent-only sites. Camp Hosts on-site in the winter months.

GOVERNORS LANDING
Open all year
15 Sites, suitable for RVs less than 28 feet or tents. Camp Hosts on-site in the winter months.

SPUR 406
Open all year
8 Sites, suitable for RVs or tents. Camp Hosts on-site in the winter months.

277 NORTH
Open all year
17 Sites, suitable for RVs or tents. Camp Hosts on-site in the winter months.

GROUP CAMPSITES
Located at San Pedro, 277 North and Rock Quarry. All are primitive group sites and have covered picnic tables and a fire ring. Sites may be reserved up to three months in advance.

Privately owned campgrounds and RV parks with hookups are also available in the Del Rio area.

FISHING

CAST A LINE
The beautiful blue water of Lake Amistad provides excellent fishing and attracts many anglers to Amistad NRA.

BANK FISHING
You can fish from the shoreline anywhere outside of harbors and designated swim areas. Courtesy fishing docks are located at Governors Landing, Rough Canyon and at 477 South and Blackbrush Point.

WHAT TO FISH FOR
Some of the favorite catches at Lake Amistad are Smmallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Striped Bass, Channel Catfish, and Black Crappie.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS
Texas fishing license requirements apply when fishing on the U.S. side of Lake Amistad. When in Mexican waters with contraband will receive a mandatory prison sentence and a substantial fine.

NOTE: Mexican law strictly prohibits possession of guns, ammunition, and illegal drugs. Anyone caught in Mexican waters with contraband will receive a mandatory prison sentence and a substantial fine.

To obtain a Texas fishing license, contact a local Texas Department of State Health Services office. To obtain a Mexican fishing license, contact the SAGARPA office at 830-775-0878..

4 Texas fishing license requirements apply when fishing on the U.S. side of Lake Amistad. When in Mexican waters with contraband will receive a mandatory prison sentence and a substantial fine.

AMISTAD NRA

Boat Rentals
Lake Amistad Resort & Marina 830-774-4577
Rough Canyon Marina & Store 830-775-8779
Air Force (Southwinds) Marina 830-775-7800
Ruth’s Rentals - Rough Canyon 830-774-5377

Authorized Fishing Guides
Herschel Black (830) 775-3599
Jerry Black (432) 292-4710
Glen McGonagill (830) 775-6720

Charlie Rumfield (830) 774-3484
Gene Peil (830) 775-7243
Mike Fambro (432) 292-4538

Pecos Jack Tours
Canoe & Kayak Tours 830-276-6885
Lake Amistad - Devils River
Pecos River - Rio Grande

Boat permits are also available from the SAGARPA office in Ciudad Acuña at 380 Zapata, two blocks east of Blvd Guerrero (turn at the Chery dealer). Office hours are 8 am-3 pm Monday - Friday. The phone number in Acuña is 877-2-58-14 and 877-2-62-38.

NOTE: Mexican law strictly prohibits possession of guns, ammunition, and illegal drugs. Anyone caught in Mexican waters with contraband will receive a mandatory prison sentence and a substantial fine.

HUNTING

Unlike many National Park Service areas, Amistad’s enabling legislation allows limited hunting. Archery and small-game shotgun hunting is permitted on about 2,000 acres of federal land in five hunt areas. Texas hunting regulations and seasons along with Amistad’s regulations are used to manage hunting.

Free permits are available IN PERSON only at the Visitor Information Center with the following documentation:

Texas Hunting License
Drivers License
Hunter Education Card (if born after September 1, 1971) or state deferral.

While hunting, hunters must have the permit in their possession, must fill in the Hunter Data Sheet daily, and return the form by March 15. Failure to comply will result in loss of future hunting privileges.

More information and maps are available at the visitor information center and on our web site: www.nps.gov/amis.

PROGRAMS

COFFEE WITH A RANGER
An informal talk with an NPS ranger or other guest is held every Thursday morning at 10 AM from January through March. The programs are rotated among 3 of Amistad NRA’s campgrounds; Governors Landing, San Pedro and 277 North, and are held at the Campground Host’s site. Cowboy Coffee talks are open to the public and are free of charge. Bring your favorite mug, a comfortable chair, and lots of questions!

EVENING PROGRAMS
Every third Saturday of the month an evening program will be held in the theater at the Visitor Information Center on Hwy 90 W across from the Three Rivers RV Park. The free programs begin at 7:30 pm and cover a variety of subjects presented by experts in their respective fields. Contact the park for a schedule.

BIRD WALKS
A guided bird walk is offered every third Saturday of the month from September to May. We meet at Amistad NRA Visitor Information Center on Hwy 90 W at 8:00 am. From there we carpool to the Rio Grande below Amistad Dam. Bring binoculars, birding books, checklists, drinking water, snacks, and wear sturdy shoes. Bird walks are free.

DATES:
Jan 15, 2005    Feb 19, 2005     Mar 19, 2005
Apr 16, 2005    May 21, 2005    Sep 17, 2005
Oct 15, 2005    Nov 19, 2005    Dec 17, 2005

SUGGESTED BIRDING AND WILDLIFE VIEWING LOCATIONS

AMISTAD NRA
Spur 454: San Pedro Campground - Good for desert birds; very good for migrating and wintering sparrows. Good for butterflies in season.

Spur 406: Good for desert birds; in summer use spotting scope for interior least terns over Lake Amistad. Good butterflies in season.

Hunt Area 1: Great for desert birds. Check with Amistad NRA for hunting status.

Rio Grande Below Amistad Dam: Very good for riparian birds. Open by guided tour only. See bird walk schedule above.

(Cont. on page 5)
Amistad's Trails & Rails program is offered on the westbound Sunset Limited most Tuesdays and Saturdays. The program depends on the time the train arrives into Del Rio, but the National Park Service will accommodate groups with advance notice. Given advance notice, the Trails & Rails program can be held regardless of arrival time into Del Rio.

RESERVATIONS:
To make a reservation on Amtrak, call 1-800-USA-RAIL (1-800-872-7245). You will make your reservation for the Sunset Limited, and you do not have to mention the Trails & Rails program. Our program is presented onboard regularly scheduled Amtrak passenger trains. The National Park Service is not involved with Amtrak prices, reservations, etc.

TRIPS:
Del Rio to Sanderson trip: You will need to have someone shuttle you/your group back to Del Rio from Sanderson. On your way back you can visit the Terrell County Museum in Sanderson, stop by the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center in Langtry, and check out Seminole Canyon State Historical Park.

South Del Rio near Winery: (Valenti St. and River St. off Nicholson, and Guyer Lane off Qualia Drive) Good for migrating warblers.

Amistad NRA’s Visitor Information Center is located 10 miles west of Del Rio on Hwy 90 West, and is open 7 days a week, 8 am - 5 pm, closed Thanksgiving Day, December 25 and January 1. The center has various interactive displays, a theater to watch a short film on the recreation area, an information desk, and a full book store and lounge area.

The book store is stocked by Big Bend Natural History Association and has many great titles and fun things for sale. You can purchase field guides, books on Texas history, rock art, Texas Indians, borderland history, maps, star charts, wildlife posters, puzzles, children’s books and much, much more!

The information center has all National Park Passports for sale, and annual or daily boat permits (see page 3 for info on passports and permits).
Learn About Amistad NRA’s Cultural....

Amistad National Recreation Area

Amistad National Recreation Area has developed two major rock art sites for public visitation, Parida Cave and Panther Cave (which is jointly managed with Seminole Canyon State Historical Park). Both sites were developed years ago and are intended to provide boaters with educational opportunities that complement recreational activities. In recent years, however, a prolonged regional drought had lowered lake levels by nearly 60 vertical feet. As a result, there are times when both Parida and Panther Caves were closed to boaters because of dangerous river conditions on the upper part of the reservoir. Fortunately, rising lake levels mean that both sites are again accessible to the public.

Panther Cave is the region’s most famous pictograph site. The rear wall of the shelter is literally covered, from floor to ceiling, with hundreds of individual motifs collectively forming an uninterrupted panel more than 80 feet in length. The site’s namesake, a giant red painted mountain lion or panther, is almost 9 feet long from nose to the tip of the tail. Visitors to Panther Cave climb a 60-foot steel staircase up to the rockshelter which is protected by a tall metal fence. Adjacent to the protective fence is an elevated catwalk that limits where visitors can go, thus reducing potential damage to vegetation. The steel fence and other major improvements were completed in 1996 by the NPS and were designed in such a way as to maximize photographic vantage points.

Parida Cave offers an amazing array of pictographs and a spectacular view of the Rio Grande. The site is located on the Rio Grande about 14 miles downstream from the NPS Pecos River boat ramp adjacent to the U.S. Highway 87 bridge. Parida Cave, once known as Painted Cave Station, was a welcome stop for travelers riding on the transcontinental railroad that began service through the region in 1883. By 1892, the trains adopted a newer, shorter route through the region; yet by this time travelers had already painted graffiti over and adjacent to the prehistoric pictographs at the site.

At both sites, unobtrusive interpretive panels provide visitors with information about the pictographs, the prehistoric cultures that once lived in the reservoir basin, and the need to protect and preserve Panther and Parida Caves, as well as the many other archeological sites in the region. With both sites once again accessible by boat to the park, hopes are seen increased visitation to these unique resources.

The taking of any artwork or deliberate destruction of any cultural or natural resource on federal or state lands is against the law and punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.

Coming in October: 5th Annual Val Verde County Archeology Fair. Dates to be announced. Call 830-775-7491 x 223.

The Rock Art Foundation

In addition to the state and national parks in the region, the Rock Art Foundation is a private foundation that offers opportunities for visiting additional sites in the region which are not on public lands. Membership in this organization also provides opportunities for a wide range of educational activities, as well as field trips that can be found nowhere else in the region.

The Rock Art Foundation (RAF) was established by renowned photographer Jim Zingtraff. The RAF sponsors numerous activities for its members, including field schools, conservation and research projects, and annual rendezvous. It manages the Galloway White Shaman Preserve, adjacent to the Pecos River near Seminole Canyon State Park & Historic Site, and also offers regular field trips to some of the region’s most famous rock art sites. The RAF recently produced a CD-ROM featuring Lower Pecos Region pictographs. The RAF web site is among the best pictorial presentations on regional rock art available anywhere on the Internet. Visit their web site at www.rockart.org.

Texas Beyond History - Before Amistad

A new section has been added to the existing Lower Pecos exhibit on Texas Beyond History (TBH), the public education service web site published by the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in partnership with 10 other organizations having a vested interest in the cultural heritage of Texas.

Before Amistad (http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/pecos/before.htm) tells the story of the archeological and paleoenvironmental research that took place in southwestern Texas in advance of the 1969 completion of Amistad International Reservoir.

The addition is sponsored by the Amistad National Recreation Area, National Park Service (ANRA-NPS), a partner in TBH. Steve Black (TBH) wrote the section, aided by Vaughn Bryant (Anthropology Department, Texas A&M, a TBH partner) and Joe Labadie (NPS).

Paddling to Rock Art and Historic Sites

Lake Amistad is a canoeing and kayaking paradise. Amistad NRA has both open space and steeply walled canyons, which makes it a great place for paddling your canoe or kayak. The park boundary extends 24 miles up the Rio Grande, 25 miles up the Devils River and 14 miles up the Pecos River. Protected caves provide superb fishing and ideal camping spots.

The possibilities for destinations are endless, however, some of our staff and volunteers have taken the guesswork out of places to paddle on the lake, and have mapped out some trails for you to enjoy. Mentioned here is just a very brief summary of these trips. You can get more detailed information and maps from our Visitor Information Center on Hwy 90 W, or you can print them out yourself from our web site: www.nps.gov/amis.

PADDLE TRAIL 7 - Pecos Railroad Bridge

Paddle 6 miles beyond Parida Cave to Seminole Canyon and then to the boat dock for accessing Panther Cave. There are stairs leading to the rock shelter, and inside the shelter is a magnificent panel of rock art that was painted over 4,000 years ago. This is a very long day trip and should only be attempted by experienced paddlers.

PADDLE TRAIL 6 - Panther Cave

This trip starts at the Pecos boat ramp, goes to the Rio Grande and then to Parida Cave. This trip is short but it certainly packs a lot of adventure! It’s a great day trip that can be done in 3 around hours. There is a walking trail inside Parida Cave with interpretive signs to read, and some beautiful Upper Pecos River style art to view.

PADDLE TRAIL 5 - Parida Cave

Launch at the Pecos boat ramp and head up river about 5 miles and you will come to the railroad bridge, or “Pecos High Bridge” as it was known in early years. This is an excellent trip to do in one or two days. Camp overnight and enjoy the starry sky while listening for trains and watching them go by.

Regardless of which trip you elect to take, you will no doubt be pleased with the scenery at Amistad NRA. Take plenty of drinking water, and bring some snacks or pack a lunch to enjoy.

Rock Art Foundation Paddling Tours

Spring-Summer 2005

Paddlers can enjoy guided tours to several large pictograph sites in Seminole Canyon for a $5.00 tour fee (plus the standard $2.00 park entrance fee). Additional guided tours to remote sites in the park are offered on an irregular basis with advance registration and a nominal fee. These tours include the Presa Canyon tour, which requires about 8 hours of very strenuous hiking and climbing but offers the rare opportunity to visit seven of the park’s pictograph sites normally closed to the public.

Another is the Upper Canyon tour, which takes about two hours of moderate hiking, and includes stops at two pictograph sites and several 19th century railroad sites. Those planning a trip to Seminole Canyon State Park & Historic Site should check out their web site at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/semis.
In 2004, Amistad National Recreation Area, Texas, initiated an effort to remove more than 2,000 exotic mouflon sheep (Ovis musimon) from a large tract of the park designated for the recreational hunting of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) and other native species. In cooperation with neighboring landowners and a group of wild game trappers, the park started trapping sheep in May and had successfully removed more than 1,300 sheep by the end of July, when increasing summer temperatures brought activities to a temporary halt. Thanks in part to abundant summer rains, the benefits of this effort are already evident in the rejuvenation of the shrubs, forbs, and grasses that provide shelter and nutrition to a variety of native wildlife.

Mouflon sheep were first documented in the park during the mid-1970s when a nutrition survey of a variety of native wildlife.

The High Bridge Tribune
Boating Safety

Each year, tens of thousands of visitors come to Amistad to enjoy boating, fishing, and other water sports. The National Park Service is committed to ensuring that their visit is safe and enjoyable. You can help protect yourself and other lake users by knowing and obeying state and federal boating laws.

LAKE USE PERMITS

- A valid Amistad lake use permit is required for motorized vessels of any length and for non-motorized vessels 14 feet or longer. Lake use permits can be obtained from machines at Diablo East, Rough Canyon, and the NPS Visitor Information Center on Highway 90 West.
- Annual and daily lake use permits are available. If you purchase an annual permit from a machine, you must exchange the receipt and obtain a sticker from the Visitor Information Center, Diablo East Marina, or Rough Canyon Marina. Attach the sticker to the port (left) side of your vessel near the registration numbers. Annual permits are valid for one year from the month in which they were purchased.

REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs):
- All vessels must have one Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III, or V wearable PFD for each person on board. Check the labels inside your PFDs if you are not sure what type they are. PFDs must be in good condition, readily accessible, and the correct size for the people on board.
- All children under 13 years of age must wear their PFDs while the vessel is underway.
- All vessels over 16 feet in length (except canoes and kayaks), are required to have one Coast Guard approved Type IV throwable PFD on board.

Audible Warning Device:
- All vessels must have a functioning horn, whistle, or other adequate sound-producing device on board.

Required Lights:
- All vessels operated between sunset and sunrise, or in periods of low visibility, must display a white light visible from 360 degrees around. In addition, power driven vessels must display red and green navigation lights while underway between sunset and sunrise, or during low visibility.
- If you plan to launch your boat before dawn, remember to turn on your lights until sunrise.

Fire Extinguishers:
- All vessels with permanently installed fuel tanks are required to carry a functional “B” or “BC” fire extinguisher on board.
- Extinguishers must be charged and in good working condition.
- If you are not sure whether you are required to carry a fire extinguisher, play it safe and carry one anyway.

BOATING RULES

Obey Buoy and Other Markers:
- Cut your throttle to idle speed in no-wake zones in harbors. No-wake zones were established to protect docked boats from damage. Remember, you are legally responsible for any damage caused by your wake. These areas are marked by orange and white buoys with a circle and the words “flat wake” or “no wake”.
- Respect closures. Some areas of the lake are closed to protect swimmers, divers, and wildlife. These areas are marked with signs and/or orange and white buoys with a crossed diamond.
- Do not attach your vessel to buoys or other navigation aids. Doing so is illegal, as it may cause buoys to move, endangering other boaters.

Watch For Hazards:
- The lake level is constantly fluctuating, exposing unfamiliar with an area, or water levels have changed or concealing rocks and shallow areas. If you are unfamiliar with an area, or water levels have changed since you were last there, slow down and keep an eye out for underwater hazards. It is impossible for the National Park Service to mark every rock and obstacle in the water; you are responsible for operating carefully and avoiding accidents.
- Be especially careful beyond buoy #8 on the Rio Grande, and near Indian Springs on the Devils River. Shallow areas and rocks have caused accidents in these areas.
- Some hazards are marked by orange or orange and white buoys with a diamond symbol.

Check Weather Reports:
- Weather conditions can change rapidly on Lake Amistad. Check weather reports before you leave the dock, and tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. Get off the water as soon as possible if high winds, large waves, or storms develop.

Follow the “Rules Of The Road”:
- When meeting another boat head-on, keep to the right.
- When crossing the path of other vessels, yield to vessels ahead and to the right of you.
- When passing another vessel from behind, stay clear and pass on the safest side.
- Remember that non-motorized vessels always have right-of-way over motorized vessels.

Water Skiing and Wakeboarding:
- You must have a second person in the boat as observer. A rear view mirror is not sufficient according to federal law.
- Persons being towed must wear a Coast Guard approved PFD.
- You may not tow a skier or wakeboarder within 500 feet of a harbor, a swimming beach, or a mooring area, or within 100 feet of a person swimming, fishing, or diving. No one may be towed between sunset and sunrise.

Join Big Bend Natural History Association

Please enroll me as a member of BBNHA

ANNUAL DUES

__ Individual ($25)  ___ Associate ($50)  ___ Corporate ($100)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

__ Individual or Family ($250)  ___ Corporate ($500)  ___ Benefactor ($1,000)

New Member  ___ Renewal
Mr./Mrs./Ms. __________________________ Address __________________________
City ______ State/ZIP __________________

Make check payable to BBNHA or charge to: Visa  __ Mastercard  __ Discover  __
Card No. __________________ Exp. Date __________ Signature __________________________

DETACH AND MAIL TO:
BBNHA, P.O. Box 196
Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834
Telephone: (432) 477-2236
e-mail: bibe_bbnha@nps.gov

The Association’s goal is to educate the public and increase their understanding and appreciation of the Big Bend Area and what it represents in terms of our historical and natural heritage. You can be an important part of this effort when you become a member.

BBNHA was founded in 1956 to aid educational, historical, and scientific programs for the benefit of Big Bend National Park, Amistad National Recreation Area, and their visitors.

Your Benefits as a Member:

- A 15% discount on items sold by BBNHA.
- A 10% discount on most seminars.
- Current Big Bend calendar.
- Discounts at many other association bookstores in visitor centers at other national park sites.
- Opportunity to support scientific, educational, and historical programs in Big Bend National Park and Amistad National Recreation Area.

Past and present projects include:

- Operate book sales outlets in Big Bend National Park and Amistad National Recreation Area.
- Publish trail guides and brochures and assist with the publication of The High Bridge Tribune.
- Sponsor an on-going Seminar program.
- Provide annual grants for research projects and administer grants and gifts received for the park.
- Support the parks’ volunteer and educational outreach programs.

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Yes

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