

THUNDERBIRD LODGE
CAMPOUT
MIMBRES, NM
APRIL 22, 2010

Thunderbird Lodge in Mimbres, NM, as always, provided a wonderful haven for AZ #71 and the NM Chapters 433, 357 & 81. Very able and enthusiastic AZ hosts, Jim and Carol Warner provided a marvelous outing!

The weather was a bit cool this year, giving no quarter to outside games – BRRRRR! Arriving last but not but least were Ray and Hilda Nichols with their new neighbors and HRRVC members, Neil and Kay Honn. As we were outside greeting them, along came huge soft and fluffy snowflakes chasing us back to the warmth and cover of our units. Heavy oeuvres' de hors provided the evening repast along with Bill and Ursula Candaleria's traditional margaritas.

Friday was dubbed AZ day and Steak night. Our morning fare was an exotic egg dish concocted by "Chef Ray Nichols (use French accent si vous plais) and was absolutely delectable. Of course, Jim and Carol were in charge and kept all going smoothly doing the toast and bacon. After breakfast many in the group took off for Cliff Dwellings and other points of interest in the area i.e. the seldom seen waterfall below Bear Lake and a full Mimbres River. That evening luckily the rainy/snowy weather passed through by dinner that night allowing Jim and Sue Knoll to provide the group with a different sort of entertainment. Jim set up his telescopes and Sue helped by telling us where certain stars and planets are in the sky. Jim directed each viewer who could then spot what is ordinarily not known or seen by the human eye. Many ahas and oohs were emitted by those partaking in the fun.

Saturday AM found Hal and Louann Peer (yes, Loose did get up early) in the kitchen with the marvelous help of John Dittmar and Jim Warner. This day was designated "Breathe Inn" day. Following breakfast everyone was free to do their own thing. Key representatives spent time in the afternoon planning next year's camp out. Spaghetti, salad and dinner rolls provided the fare for Saturday PM. Evenings always provided card games, dominoes etc. Ralph and Sally Graves broke out a Mexican Train game for a few of us, Ralph, Sally, Bill, Jim Knoll, and Louann. AND Louann finally won a round of Mexican Train. WooHoo!! The other table of players, Sat. night played a very fast paced card game. Fun was had by all.

Sunday after coffee, every one was encouraged to attend the Chapter 433 Mayfair camp out to be held at Cloudcroft, NM at the end of May. Followed by clean up, and many good byes, we all left for various parts of the U.S.