

GEOLOGY OF THE SOLITARIO-FRESNO CANYON BACKCOUNTRY BIG BEND REGION, WEST TEXAS

American Association of Petroleum Geologists

68th Annual Meeting, Dallas Texas

Post-convention Field Trip #9

April 20 – 25, 1983

The trip will depart from the Dallas Convention Center at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 20th. Plan to be at the loading area no later than 1:45 p.m. so that we may load your luggage and make a prompt departure. For those of you attending technical sessions or exhibits at the Convention Center on Wednesday, there will be a luggage storage area available at the Center for keeping your luggage safe throughout the day. Check at the Information Booth or the Field Trips Booth for the exact location, or for any other questions pertaining to the trip during the Convention.

We will board a chartered bus at the Convention Center for the short ride to Love Field in Dallas where we will leave on Southwest Airlines flight #68 for Midland at 3:30 p.m. We will give you tickets for this flight when you board the bus. After arriving at Midland at approximately 4:35 p.m. and claiming your luggage, we will travel with the field trip leaders in a van caravan to Alpine, Texas. A dinner stop will be made enroute. We should arrive in Alpine late in the evening (the Midland-to-Alpine drive takes approximately 3 hours), and we will spend the night at the Highland Inn. Any luggage that you don't need for the trip will be left in storage at the motel.

After breakfast on Thursday morning, we will drive to the starting point of our backpacking trip, which will last until Sunday. Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights will be spent "sleeping under the stars"! During the days, you will need to carry only a canteen and daypack since your sleeping bags, food, and other essential gear will be transported to nightly campsites by the outfitting service. Your morning and evening meals will be prepared for you at the campsites, but you will generally carry your own lunches with your daypack. A list of suggested items to bring along on this trip is attached. If you can't bring your own sleeping bag or other essential items, please contact Dwight Deal (phone number at the end of this letter) to arrange necessary equipment.

Our outfitters will transport us into the remarkable geological wonderland of The Solitario on Thursday, where our trip leaders will explain the natural history of the geological features and the related botanical and zoological assemblages around us. We will camp at Tres Papalotes Thursday night. On Friday, we will visit the western portion of The Solitario, including Solitario Peak and the locality of the rare and endemic Hinkley Oaks. We will take water and our daypack, leaving our luggage with the outfitters, and hike down a narrow clefted canyon to Fresno Creek. In the evening, we will be reunited with our luggage inside Arroyo Segundo, a spectacular, lush, canyon on the west side of Fresno Creek. We will camp here for two nights.

We will spend Saturday hiking through the amazing lush Bofecillos Volcanic Field. We will observe complex faulting, volcanic stratigraphy, and learn about the ground water hydrology that is responsible for the many springs and water holes. The highlight of the day will be a visit to the secluded and rarely visited Mexacano Falls before returning to our camp in Arroyo Segundo.

On Sunday, we will hike south down Fresno Creek, past abandoned ranches, igneous intrusions, and old mercury mines. Our outfitters will meet us and transport us in vans back to Alpine to the Highland Inn, where we will spend the night. After time to clean up, our return to civilization will be "celebrated" with a cabrito roast with all the fixings. This evening gathering should be a festive time to share thoughts on the geology, natural history, scenery and sore feet experienced during the trip.

After an early breakfast on Monday morning, you will be transported back to the Midland/Odessa airport where we should arrive just before noon. Please schedule your own departures from Midland for the afternoon.

In an effort to keep costs down, we have booked double occupancy rooms (two beds per room) for our two nights (Wednesday and Sunday) in Alpine. A list of participants who have signed up for the trip is attached. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Dwight Deal
Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute
P.O. Box 63
Alpine, Texas 79830
Phone: (915) 837-5811

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR FIELD TRIP #9
Post-convention Field Trip
April 20 – 25, 1983

The field trip fee covers your bus transportation to Love Field, airline ticket to Midland, transportation from Midland to the field trip area, field trip materials, all meals in the field, breakfasts in Alpine, two night's motel lodging in Alpine, Cabrito Roast, and transportation back to Midland. You will be responsible for all incidental expenses, including your personal field equipment and your one dinner in route to Alpine on April 20.

Gear:

The following list is provided courtesy of our Fearless Leader, Dr. (of Geology) Dwight Deal of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute in Alpine, Texas.

Clothing:

Expect warm (shirtsleeve) days and cool nights. The weather should be good, but there is a chance that one of our rare spring storms might occur and you should have enough gear to put up with a day of cold drizzle, just in case.

I suggest:

- Weatherproof parka shell
- Wool sweater or down vest
- Wool shirt
- Hiking boots and adequate socks
- Long pants
- Light-weight shirt (for the expected warm days)
- Hat for sun protection, dark glasses, sunscreen

For cool and cold nights at camp:

- Stocking cap (wool)
- Wool mittens or gloves
- Thermal underwear
- Warm jacket
- Sleeping bag (contact Dwight Deal if you can't bring one)
- Foam pad (ensolite best for warmth, low volume, light weight)

Day hiking and other gear:

- Daypack
- 2-quart water container for each hiker (gallon plastic milk containers good)
- Personal eating gear – knife, fork, spoon, cup, bowl
(We will provide community cooking gear – you need enough to hold and eat your own portion)
- Flashlight (one for each person, spare batteries and bulb)
- Duffle bag to hold everything but your day gear, to throw in the back of a pick-up to be trucked to the next camp.
- Plastic containers only – **NO GLASS or breakable** items.

REMEMBER: Space will be limited in the 4-WD truck, which has to haul all our gear plus kitchen and other essential group items. Pack as if this was a backpack trip – keep it small and light. **NO BULKY BEDROLLS!** Lightweight backpacking tents OK. I can arrange rental of a few 2-person, 4-person, and 6-person lightweight tents if necessary. Best to have 6 go together. **PLAN** to sleep under the stars and have shelters **JUST IN CASE.**

Optional Items:

- Sneakers or Tennis Shoes to wear around camp
- Hand lens, geologic hammer and sample bags (collecting is permitted at some stops)
- Camera and plenty of film (the scenery, rocks, and sunsets are magnificent!)

Field trip guidebooks will be distributed at the beginning of the trip.