

Outdoor Christian Ministries Informational Newsletter

April 25th, 2010
Vol. 2
512-497-7050

www.ocmtx.org

Upcoming Events:

May 21-23, 2010

**Alamo City Christian Fellowship
Men's Retreat**

May 29 – 31, 2010

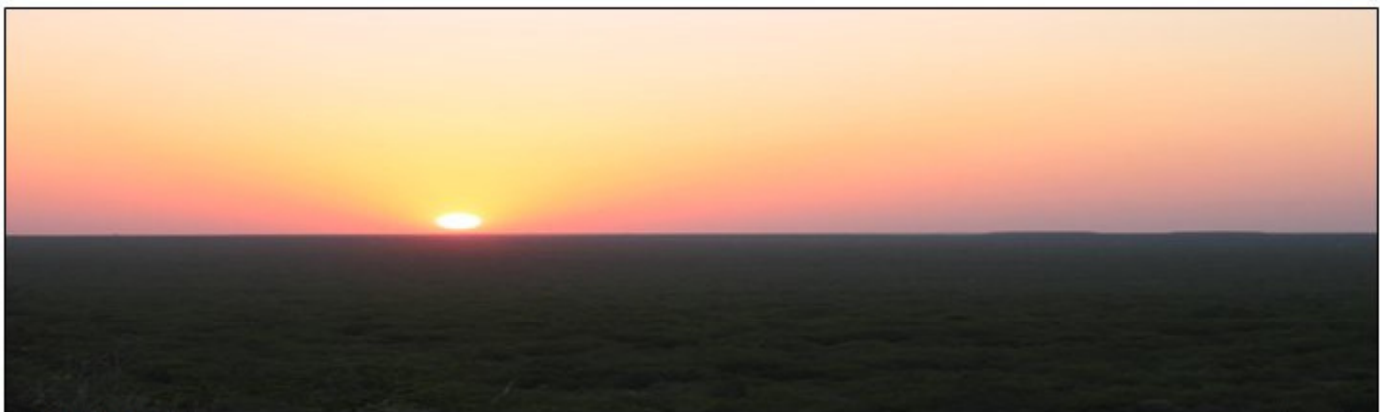
Family's Retreat – 2010

June TBA

Father / Son Retreat - 2010

2009 Year in Review

- **316 Total OCM Participants in 2009**
 - ACCF Doe Hunt Retreat – 15 people
 - Christian World Retreat - 53 people
 - May Youth Retreat – 18 people
 - Orphan / Sponsors Retreat – 74 people
 - Single Women's Retreat – 20 people
 - Construction Retreat – 10 people
 - Retreat in the Heat – 50 people
 - Roofing Repair Retreat – 6 people
 - Women / Child Retreat – 15 people
 - Various others



OCM EXPERIENCE



Last September Dale Burnett invited me to the Outdoor Christian Ministries (OCM) for dove hunting. My initial thought was that it would be a normal outing hunting doves. As a retired military officer I have bird hunted in several states as well as Korea and Japan. One bird hunt always seemed about the same as another. But I was on the threshold of an experience of a life time. Not a hunt experience, but a spiritual encounter that would change my life forever.

Dale said, "Get in the truck and I will show you and Kevin something special." Off we went to a place where Dale called the Look Out Point. Dale pointed to a geographic survey marker placed in the ground by the government. It listed the coordinates on the marker and the year 1917. Looking out on the vast wilderness as far as my eyes could see gave me a unexpected feeling. All of the countless creatures big and small hiding amongst the bushes and trees made me feel very small. It was like being a pebble of sand on a beach. Dale asked us to be quiet for a couple of minutes. What an awesome experience. The thought of God making all of these varied creatures and furnishing such a beautiful home for them was overwhelming. I unexpectedly had tears in my eyes because I was experiencing God's presence. Dale spoke about Jesus who would frequently go to the wilderness for meditation and prayer. He sometimes needed to get away from the massive crowds of people and the pressures of the day, which must have been enormous. I have never felt God's presence so strongly in my life. It felt as if He were standing at my side telling me that He loves all God's creatures, including me. The peaceful feeling was beyond description. It would be awesome if all people could experience such a moving spiritual encounter. The following day Dale gathered numerous passages of scripture telling about Jesus going to the wilderness. The OCM on the Briscoe-Gates Ranch is a very, very special place. Thank you Dale!

God bless all of you,
Bill Williams

Andy,

I have to say that April and I had one of the most memorable times we have had outdoors together! She or I have not experienced anything quite like the OCM! When we got home yesterday she couldn't wait to talk with her friends and share her experience. Looked at some of the pictures and videos we shot and ask if "next time" she could invite her best friend to come with her.



The experience through a Christian based environment was especially enjoyable! I hope we will be invited another time, because it all came down to making sure the experience was appreciated through God's hands. Meeting Mike Schneider there was as Mike said, "a GOD thing" :-). No doubt about it!

Here are some pictures that I hope you will share with your brother Dale. April really liked his kindness and true feeling of peace and fellowship. He is, like you, a very special person. God Bless you and your wonderful family! You made April and I feel as though we were part of the family! I know that I speak the same for Daryl and his son Weston! You have and surely will touch many lives through God's land and His animals at the Ranch. I just really cannot begin to tell you the level of appreciation we feel towards this mission you, Dale and Cliff have brought to us this weekend!

Thank you again for the unforgettable times and helping my Lord GOD be even closer in mine and April's hearts!

Dean L. Grand

President's Ponderings



As we begin the third year at Outdoor Christian Ministries (OCM), we are excited about the possibilities ahead of us. Volunteers have already started planning to add a new bath house and spruce up all of the buildings with a new coat of paint. While our guests increased during our second year, we are hoping for another increase in 2010. We remain in prayer for the lives that are impacted by this ministry and we are blessed by all of our volunteers who are helping make a difference in the lives of others.

My son, Matthew, and I recently helped with a retreat led by Pastor Mike Sides where 53 men and boys were in attendance. It was an extremely busy time with much to do. We were often hurried with the needs of a larger group. Several guests arrived late into the night and had to be picked up, the wet roads served as an obstacle, and ranch guides were stretched with things that needed to be done. Despite all of our challenges, the group (ranging in age from 8 to 80) was very happy and content to be spending time outdoors. They sang praises, worshiped by the camp fire and the barn, prayed together, and shared stories of their walks through troubles and triumphs. In reflecting upon that weekend, I realized that while Matthew and I were there to give assistance, the weekend was once again living proof that we could not out-give the Lord. We were both touched deeply by the group's love for one another and their love for Jesus Christ. My dream is to have a retreat like this at least once a month.

I have spent my life believing that God will provide. OCM has experienced hardships, one of the greatest being the loss of our good friend and OCM founder and president, Lee Morrison, in 2009. OCM was not sure where and how the next contributions would arrive. Once again, God provided. We needed a new roof and my old friend Mike Givens showed back up in my life and lead the way. We needed cash to pay the semi-annual land use costs and several donated without being asked. Thank you Jeter, Williams, Gunn, Schneider, Ballard, Pryor, Morrison, and others. We praise God for all these gifts and for all His blessings. It takes all of us to be God's hands and feet on this earth.

By Dale Burnett

Briscoe-Gates Ranch History – United States Geodetic Survey (USGS)

All across the continental US as well as in Alaska and Hawaii there is a network of survey monuments which are bronze disks about 8 to 10 cm. in diameter set in rock or permanent structures. The exact number can only be guessed, but there are reported to be one million or more in place in all manner of locations from city sidewalks and bridges to remote ridges and mountain tops. These have been set by surveyors since 1879 and are the basis for horizontal and vertical control for all the mapping done in the US.

Survey Monument Placement on Mountain Tops

Most of you reading this have probably been to a summit which had a monument in a prominent location that was easy to see. There may be a large rock at the summit and the monument will be cemented in place at the very highest point. If you have been lucky enough to visit OCM, then you were probably given a tour which included Lookout Point. It is upon this hill that one of these monuments exists. Here is a close up picture of it!!



On the next page is the exact government data from the USGS specific to our very own monument put in place in 1917 and confirmed in 1935. I wonder what the ranch looked like then – almost 100 years ago! Think you could find the monument using the highlighted directions below? Ha!

The NGS Data Sheet

AO0730 DESIGNATION - CUP

AO0730 PID - AO0730

AO0730 STATE/COUNTY- TX/WEBB

AO0730 USGS QUAD - DOS HERMANOS PEAKS (1982)

AO0730 *CURRENT SURVEY CONTROL

AO0730

AO0730* NAD 83(1993)- 28 03 35.88719(N) 099 46 23.34584(W) ADJUSTED

AO0730* NAVD 88 - 243.8 (meters) 800 (feet) VERTCON

AO0730

AO0730 LAPLACE CORR- -1.98 (seconds) DEFLEC09

AO0730 GEOID HEIGHT- -23.80 (meters) GEOID09

AO0730

AO0730| PID Reference Object Distance Geod Az |

AO0730| | dddmmss.s |

AO0730| AO0726 WINDMILL NORTHEAST OF STA CUP APPROX. 4.1 KM 0641053.2 |

AO0730| CV4661 CUP RM 14.072 METERS 07734 |

AO0730| AO0729 TWIN APPROX. 6.3 KM 3061249.3 |

AO0730

AO0730 SUPERSEDED SURVEY CONTROL

AO0730

AO0730 NAD 83(1986)- 28 03 35.88160(N) 099 46 23.32089(W) AD() 1

AO0730 NAD 27 - 28 03 34.87300(N) 099 46 22.14100(W) AD() 1

AO0730 NGVD 29 (07/19/86) 243.8 (m) 800 (f) VERT ANG

AO0730 MARKER: DS = TRIANGULATION STATION DISK

AO0730_SETTING: 7 = SET IN TOP OF CONCRETE MONUMENT

AO0730

AO0730 HISTORY - Date Condition Report By

AO0730 HISTORY - 1917 MONUMENTED CGS

AO0730 HISTORY - 1935 GOOD CGS

AO0730

AO0730 STATION DESCRIPTION

AO0730

AO0730 DESCRIBED BY COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY 1917 (CLG)

AO0730 STATION IS ABOUT 6 MILES W OF THE GALVAN RANCH AND 5 MILES W OF

AO0730 THE LAREDO-EAGLE PASS WAGON ROAD, ON THE HIGHEST AND MOST

AO0730 PROMINENT HILL IN THE VICINITY. TO REACH THE STATION FROM

AO0730 THE ESPEJO RANCH, FOLLOW THE ROAD EASTWARD 1 MILE TO A FORK.

AO0730 TAKE THE ROAD TO THE S AROUND A FENCE CORNER AND FOLLOW 9

AO0730 MILES TO A WINDMILL AND DIRT TANK. GO W THEN S ACROSS COUNTRY

AO0730 1-1/2 MILES TO THE HIGHEST HILL, WHERE THE STATION IS LOCATED.

AO0730 SURFACE MARK IS STANDARD DISK STATION MARK IN CONCRETE.

AO0730 UNDERGROUND MARK IS NAIL IN CONCRETE. REFERENCE MARK IS

AO0730 STANDARD REFERENCE DISK IN SQUARE CONCRETE MONUMENT,

AO0730 14.072 METERS (46.17 FEET) FROM THE STATION, N 57 DEG 34 MIN

AO0730 E, ELEVATION OF STATION, 243.8 METERS (800 FEET).

AO0730

AO0730 STATION RECOVERY (1935)

AO0730

AO0730 RECOVERY NOTE BY COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY 1935 (CIA)

AO0730 STATION RECOVERED AS DESCRIBED AND IN GOOD CONDITION.

AO0730

AO0730 STATION MARK IS STANDARD DISK SET IN CONCRETE AND INSCRIBED

AO0730 CUP 1917.

AO0730

AO0730 REFERENCE MARK IS STANDARD DISK SET AND STAMPED IN THE SAME MANNER.

AO0730

AO0730 BOTH MARKS ARE IN GOOD CONDITION.

Maintenance / Construction Update:

- The all volunteer team of Mike Givens, Mike Schneider, Clifford Graef, and Andy Burnett re-roofed the Trophy House in October 2009. Rain had been entering the building between the major joints and the building was in jeopardy of being lost if not fixed soon. With Mike Givens' 30+ years experience leading the way, the crew worked about 10 hours a day for 2 days to complete the task. The roof seems to be holding up well after several rainfall events since the repair work.
- Michael Givens and Matthew Burnett were leaders on re-plumbing a house one Saturday.
- Matthew, Clifford, and Mike have changed oil, replaced filters, changed tires, installed batteries, fixed flats, and completed a brake check on ranch equipment.
- Mike Schneider welded a metal sign frame for the 4X4 OCM sign that has been installed at the camp entrance.
- Clifford installed 12 metal tamper-proof rat/mouse bait stations and glued these to cinder blocks. Clifford replaces bait every month. Dale Burnett has been purchasing the bait.
- Clifford and John Grasshoff fixed the walk-in cooler door hinges. Clifford removed old broken gear and houseware from the barn.
- David Burnett and Joey Burnett spent time at Thanksgiving vacuuming and cleaning the Morgan building and blue trailer.
- Corinna Gunn and Pattie Burnett cleaned the Little House including vacuuming, removing trash, washing all towels, and scrubbing throughout.
- Mowing and weed-eating work has been done by John Grasshoff, Mike Schneider, Clifford Graef, Billy Williams, Matthew Burnett, Dale Burnett, Andy Burnett, Joey Burnett, and Mike Givens.

OCM Non-Cash Donation Update:

Since the last newsletter, OCM has received non-cash donations of:

- a carved OCM sign (Roy Gay)
- new Stihl weed eater (Jay Gunn)
- three wooden crosses (Pattie Burnett)
- numerous 12 gauge shotgun shells (Billy Williams)
- targets (Clifford Graef)
- propane (Mike Givens)
- rodent bait stations (Burnetts)
- tubing for 4X4 OCM sign frame (Mike Schneider)

In addition, a shovel, hoe, large push broom, extension cord, clothes dryer, truck battery, and a lawn mower battery were donated.

Booking a Retreat

If you wish to book a retreat, please contact Dale Burnett at 512-497-7050 or Pastor David Walker at 210-394-2795. You may also contact Dale by email at daleandpattie@msn.com. The best time to hold a retreat is from February to August. In some cases there might be a small fee for overnight stays to cover some of the cost of electricity and upkeep. After your retreat, if you wish to write an article or testimonial for the OCM newsletter, please do so and forward it to Andy Burnett at andyburnett@austin.rr.com.

2010 OCM Leadership

2010 OCM Board Members:

Dale Burnett – President
Steve Money – Vice President
Pastor Jerry Smith – Secretary/Treasurer

Additional Support:

Pastor David Walker – Advisor
Clifford Graef – Guide and Maintenance Support
Mike Schneider – Teacher and Maintenance Support
Pattie Burnett – Food and Housekeeping Support
Mike Givens – Construction and Guide
Andy Burnett – Newsletter/Website Support and Guide
And Other Volunteers

Donations

OCM has been blessed by many monetary donations, small and large. OCM has also been blessed with a multitude of non-cash donations including those of labor. Thanks to all of you that have contributed. If you wish to donate monetarily, please make your check out to Outdoor Christian Ministries and mail it to either:

Alamo City Christian Fellowship
Attn: Jerry Smith
6500 IH 35
San Antonio, Texas 78218

OR

Dale Burnett
3300 Elder Hill Road
Driftwood, Texas 78619

OCM is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your contribution is tax deductible. If you wish to donate materials or equipment, call Dale Burnett at 512-497-7050.