

# acu OUTDOOR CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 4

February 2006



Laura scaling the cliffs.

## Paradise on the Brazos

by *Laura Summit*

Our trip started out like any other trip I've been on so far here in Texas, a long car ride with the ugly brown flat west Texas landscape. So one can only imagine my thoughts, as a Northern California girl used to trees that look like they reach the sky, mountains with plenty of green grass to go around and streams full of trout—"Can we really be going to a place in Texas where the landscape is anything but flat?" I must say that I was pleasantly surprised. Paradise on the Brazos was beautiful in its own way, and such a relief from the mostly flat landscape of Taylor County.

Once we finally started climbing, that's when the real fun began. I had climbed before, but it had been a long time. So, it was a little bit of a challenge at first, but I got the hang of it again. My favorite part about climbing was done later on in the day. Lead climbing is awesome and gave me quite a rush. When lead climbing you go on what is called a bolted route. You must climb up to the bolts and clip yourself in. The bolts were about three to four feet apart. I had so much fun doing this, it was quite a challenge. Over all, I am very glad I was able to go on the trip; I had lots of fun and met so many wonderful people, I am definitely planning on doing it again in the future.

## Service Saturday Report: February 4

by *Brett Deaton*

On Saturday February 4th five members of the outdoor club traipsed across West Texas desert with Richard Valdez, the local trail chief of the mountain bike trail system at Buck Creek, placing signs and cleaning up litter and overgrown cactus.

The Buck Creek Trails are an 11 mile system of mountain bike trails northeast of Abilene that varies in skill level (from flat cruising to technically difficult descents). They are maintained by the Abilene Bike Club (ABC); but Richard Valdez has informally led the construction and maintenance of the trails since they were opened in 2000.

The work involved placing several new signs on rerouted sections of trail. We also cleared a new 20 meter connecting trail which rises up out of a steep arroyo and cleaned a section of trail that is regularly scattered with dried cactus, a hazard to bike tires. At the end of the day part of the group rode the trails.

If you want to ride on the trails yourself you can purchase a membership that lasts for a calendar year at Bike Town on S 1st. It is a worthwhile \$15 investment. And contact Brett Deaton (mbd02a) or John Green (jdg02c) if you would like to check out the trails or help out with the next trail maintenance service project.



Clockwise from top right: Erin, David, John, Brett, and Dusty

## Calendar:

- 🔥 **February 24-25:**  
Camping, Stargazing, &  
Briar-Removing  
Abilene State Park
- 🔥 **March 2:**  
Bouldering Night  
Abilene High School
- 🔥 **March 3-4:**  
Beginners Climbing Trip  
HSU Outdoor Adventures
- 🔥 **March 4:**  
Service Saturday
- 🔥 **March 24-26:**  
Backpacking Trip  
HSU Outdoor Adventures
- 🔥 **April 21-23:**  
Kayaking Trip  
HSU Outdoor Adventures
- 🔥 **April 22, 2006:**  
Earth Day &  
ACU for Abilene  
(with S.A.L.T.)
- 🔥 **April 28, 2006:**  
Arbor Day
- 🔥 **May 6:**  
Adventure Race  
(more details to come...)
- 🔥 **June 3, 2006:**  
National Trails Day  
American Hiking Society  
([www.americanhiking.org](http://www.americanhiking.org))



The International Mountain Bicycling Association is a non-profit educational association whose mission is to create, enhance and preserve trail opportunities for mountain bikers worldwide.

Since 1988, IMBA has been bringing out the best in mountain biking by encouraging low-impact riding, volunteer trailwork participation, cooperation among different trail user groups, grassroots advocacy and innovative trail management solutions.

IMBA's worldwide network includes 32,000 individual members, more than 450 bicycle clubs, more than 130 corporate partners and about 200 bicycle retailers. IMBA's members live in all 50 U.S. states, most Canadian provinces and in 30 other countries.

Through political lobbying, the formation of national land management partnerships and grassroots leadership, IMBA is the voice of mountain bikers worldwide.

Each year, IMBA's members construct hundreds of miles of sustainable, fun singletrack and volunteer more than one million hours to improve trails or open new ones.

IMBA is dedicated to protecting our public lands and enjoying them by mountain bike. Preserving the land and riding respectfully are ways to ensure that trails will be open to mountain bikers for years to come.

IMBA brings mountain bikers together to celebrate the sport. Passion for riding fuels advocacy and trail building efforts.

IMBA has a growing network of more than 450 affiliated clubs and organizations including Abilene Christian University's Outdoor Club.

*for more information, visit:* <http://www.imba.com>



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## Meet the Outdoor Club Council:

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