

Notes From the Field

The SACXS Field trip to the Sonora ranch was a great experience. There were 35 folks in attendance. Eula and I arrived at the ranch about 11am to help the ranch hand check every one in. At that time the temperature was about 92-94 degrees. At about 2:30 the ranch owner arrived with food. Then Eula and I hit the back roads. Rocks were plentiful...mostly lime stone and sand stone. We found a few fossils and saw lots of flint in several colors. Right away Eula found an Indian scraper. The ranch was very dry with very little grass so looking was easy. As always in that country, there was a sustained high wind about 45 mph. Winds gusting to 55 mph made hunting great. Humidity was down about 10-15%. In 3 days we found 8 types of cactus and several species of succulents .

Friday's supper was BBQ Chicken with extras...wow was that GOOD. Saturday started out hot, then about noon it became cloudy. This dropped the thermometer from about 100 to about 90...this helped. About 3 pm the sky turned twilight, and everything turned yellow. And a large red ball appeared in the sky. We tuned in to the radio station in Ozona and heard that there was a new fire about 50 miles north of us. The smoke was blocking the sun and cedar ash was falling everywhere. This made breathing hard, and our eyes were burning. This smoke and ash made for unusual photos-all sepia in color. In all, there were 3 fires in that area, but thank goodness none on the ranch. The closest was about 20 miles south where we could see the smoke boiling up on Friday.

Saturday night was a steak BBQ dinner. It was great. Sunday morning started off at about 82 degrees. By the time we left at noon, it was in the low 60s and dropping. It was cold! Overall the trip was a whopping success . We hope to make this a twice a year event . so everyone can attend....

Claude H Townsend



