



# Bordertown Sams

El Paso Texas Good Sam Chapter

April 2017 Newsletter

I Googled my symptoms...turns out I just needed to go camping!

Website: [bordertownsams.weebly.com](http://bordertownsams.weebly.com)

## Your Bordertown Sams Officers & Staff 2017

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**Texas Good Sam Chapter Standard Operating Procedure: Article I** - It is the purpose of the TEXAS GOOD SAM CHAPTERS to promote the use and enjoyment of recreational vehicles and outdoor fellowship among its members through trips and group activities. The State Organization shall maintain an attitude which is strictly non-sectarian, non-partisan, non-sectional, non-racial, non-denominational and non-discriminatory, and shall be dedicated to bringing together people interested in the ideals and principals of the Good Sam Club.



Apr 9 Ceci  
Apr 11 Barbara  
Apr 27 Susanna



April Anniversaries

No anniversaries

# Alpine 2017 continued

**Alpine** is a city in and the [county seat](#) of [Brewster County, Texas](#), United States. The population was 5,905 at the [2010 census](#). The town has an elevation of 4,475 feet, and the surrounding mountain peaks are over a mile high. The university, hospital, library, and retail make Alpine the center of the sprawling (12,000 square miles) but wide open Big Bend area (combined population only 12,500) including Brewster, [Presidio](#), and [Jeff Davis](#) counties. The town's name was changed to Alpine on February 3, 1888, following a petition by its residents. At this time a description of the town mentioned a dozen houses, three saloons, a hotel and rooming house, a livery stable, a butcher shop, and a drugstore, which also housed the post office.

Alpine grew very slowly until Sul Ross State Normal College (now [Sul Ross State University](#)) was opened in 1920. The development of [Big Bend National Park](#) in the 1930s and 40s spurred further growth. The population was estimated at only 396 in 1904, but by 1927 it had risen to 3,000. The 1950 census reported Alpine's population at 5,256, and a high of approximately 6,200 was reached by 1976. In 1990 the population was down to 5,637. In 2000 the population grew modestly to 5,786 and 5,905 by 2010.

The town was always small enough that no one insisted on tearing down old buildings to make parking lots, and it is still too small to interest big box store chains. [The Holland Hotel](#), built during a brief mercury mining boom, was designed by [Henry Trost](#), a distinguished regional architect. Today it helps to anchor a traditional downtown of early 20th-Century buildings still occupied by family-owned retailers and restaurants.

## Geography

The town sits on a high plateau, in the [Chihuahuah Desert](#), with the [Davis Mountains](#) to the north and the [Chisos Mountains](#) to the south. Outcrops of ancient volcanic rocks spread to the northwest. Other layers of rocks have been exposed over time as the mountains were forced up and then eroded. The high elevation cools the desert air in the evenings. Alpine is located on [U.S. Route 90](#) about 26 miles (42 km) east of [Marfa](#) and 31 miles west of [Marathon](#).

## Climate

In the winters, ample sunshine usually warms the days, though the nights can be chilly due to the 4,475 feet elevation. In the summer, the fierce sun causes hot days, pleasantly relieved in the evening by the same high elevation.

We all met up for our Soup and Sandwich night. We had a good turnout: Melinda, Victor, Suzanne, Edgar, Tom, Maria, Tim, Daphne, Ernie, Peggy, Jay, Greg, Ginny, Tim, Nelson, Ana, Jocelyn, Barbara, Henry & Dean. We took our group picture on Friday night since everyone was available. Jocelyn surprised us with a beautiful song. This young lady can really sing.

We all got together the next morning for a nice breakfast. There were eggs to order and plenty of bacon for all. After breakfast some of us headed to Fort Davis. Ft. Davis is an old fort in **FORT DAVIS, TEXAS**. Fort Davis, the county seat of Jeff Davis County, is on Limpia Creek at the intersection of State highways 17 and 118, eighty miles northeast of Presidio and 175 miles southeast of El Paso in south central Jeff Davis County. The precursor of the town was a rough-and-tumble settlement known as Chihuahua, which formed just southwest of the military post of Fort Davis after it was established in 1854. The fort was on the site of an earlier Indian village, which the earliest Anglo-American explorers of the area called Painted Comanche Camp. When Henry Skillman contracted to carry the mail from San Antonio to El Paso in 1850, a stage stand was established near the site of the future town. E. P. Webster, a native of Illinois, and Diedrick Dutchover, a Belgian immigrant who had fought in the Mexican War, rode with W. A. (Big Foot) Wallace to escort the first mail coach to the site, by way of Fort Concho. Webster remained in Limpia Canyon as the first master of the stage station there and may have been the first white settler in the area. Dutchover rode as a guard for two more years before settling at Fort Davis. During the Civil War, when Confederate troops withdrew from the fort, they left Dutchover, who had maintained strict neutrality while establishing a small sheep ranch near the post, in charge. Almost immediately the Apache chief Nicolás attacked the settlement. Dutchover, a Mexican woman with two children, and four Americans hid on the roof for three days while the Apaches looted the fort. On the third night Dutchover and all the others, except one of the Americans, who had fallen ill, slipped out and began the long trek to Presidio, eighty miles away. One day later the stage arrived to find a ravaged fort and the American dead on the roof, apparently of natural causes. Dutchover and the others staggered into Presidio four days later. The Belgian later returned to Fort Davis and was employed as a hauling contractor.

After Ft. Davis we ate at a pretty good restaurant named "Alicia's." If you ever visit Alpine, this is a must for Mexican food. It's great for breakfast too.

We had our pot luck but weren't able to go to the McDonald Observatory for the star party; reservations have to be made months in advance. After dinner we played an adult game called, "Cards Against Humanity." It was so much fun, but be aware, this game is not for those that get offended easily. We shared a lot of laughs.

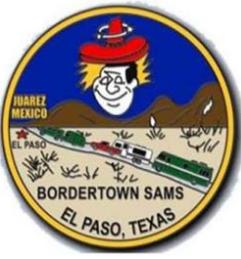
The next morning, a group drove up to Big Bend and others stayed in Alpine. Big Bend was well worth the drive.

We got together and played Uno. Some headed back home on Sunday, and the others came back home on Monday after our morning coffee and pastries.









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## Outing Destinations

January	13-16	Benson, AZ (280 miles)	Butterfield RV Resort 800-863-8160 520-58604400	
February	17-20	Alpine, TX (213 miles)	Lost Alaskan RV Park 432-837-1136	
March	1-12	Alamogordo, NM (112 miles)	Boot Hill RV 575-439-6224	<b>Cancelled</b>
April	21-23	Las Cruces, NM (45 miles)	Sunny Acres RV Park 575-524-1716	
May	26-29*	Silver City, NM – Blues Festival (160 miles)	Manzano's RV Park 575-538-0918 (NO CREDIT CARDS)	
June	16-18	Ruidoso, NM (143 miles)	RV Resorts of Ruidoso (top level) 575-257-2600	
July	1 – 5	Chama, NM (444 miles)	Sky Mountain Resort 575-756-1100	
August	10-13*	Cloudcroft, NM (112 miles)	Upper Fir Reservations are already made – we reimburse Victor and Jerry	
September	1-4	Grants, NM (331 miles)	Bar S RV Park 505-876-6002	
October	6-9*	Fredericksburg, TX (491 miles) Oktoberfest	Fredericksburg RV Park 830-990-9582 866-324-7575	
November	3-5 (date change)	Las Cruces, NM (55 miles) (probably Hacienda)	Hacienda RV & Rally Resort 575-528-5800	
December	1-3 or 8-10	Tabled until January meeting	Edgar is checking into White Sands	

\* These dates are for specific events and cannot be changed.