



SWPARC Annual Meeting in the BIG BEND!

When: August 11-14th, 2016

Registration: \$35

Registration closes July 15, 2016

Pay online through Eventbrite:

http://www.eventbrite.com/e/southwest-parc-annual-meeting-alpine-tx-2016-tickets-25419938721?utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=new_event_email&utm_term=viewmyevent_button

Call for abstracts is on website

Submit to Sean Graham : southwestparc@gmail.com

Abstract submission ends June 30, 2016

Where: Sul Ross State University (SRSU), Alpine, TX. Alpine is located in the heart of Trans Pecos, Texas, approximately 1 hour from Big Bend National Park. The Chihuahuan Desert is just 30 minutes south.

Airports: The nearest airports are El Paso International Airport (3.5 hours) and Midland International Air and Space Port (2.5 hours).

Trains: Amtrak stops in Alpine, an easy walk or ride from the SRSU campus. A commuter train runs from El Paso to Alpine, although its schedule is limited. However, it takes only slightly longer than driving, so this may be an option for those flying into El Paso.

Food and Lodging: SWPARC members will have the option of staying at the SRSU dorms for only \$30/night! Dorms are single rooms with doors entering into a common living room and shower area. Wireless is available.

Details on SRSU dorms: Please pay online for dorms before arriving and have a printed receipt of the payment by clicking [here](#)

The room rate is \$30 a night with an additional \$10 for linens.

When you arrive to campus you will check in at the Residential Living main office, it is number 17 on the campus map:
<http://www.sulross.edu/campus-locations>

Once you come into the office, they will hand you a contract that you will need to read and sign before receiving your room keys and ID card for entering the residence hall. If you will be checking in after 5pm, please contact on-call residential aide at (432) 294-0464 and they will help check you in.

IMPORTANT: Bring your own linens

Additional accommodations include several hotels starting at about \$64 per night. There are several quaint restaurants in town, several bars, and 3 fast food joints.

Camping: SWPARC members have a **free camping option**: a beautiful private property (belonging to a SWPARC member) about 15 minutes from Alpine. They can use the showers and toilets but these facilities will be subject to limits and lines based on the number of people. This location will also be the site of our second social.

Meeting Events: The meeting will include oral and poster presentations, 5 minute speed talks, and two well-provisioned socials! The socials will be sponsored by the Big Bend brewery, the most geographically isolated and delicious microbrewery in the United States!

Tentative meeting schedule (precise times may vary; dates will not):

Thursday August 11, 2016. Steering committee business meeting, 8 pm. Saddle Club, Alpine. Early arrivals welcome to meet us here after the meeting!

Friday August 12, 2016. Meeting commencement. 10am Keynote speaker, **John Jensen**, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. John was the **2015 recipient of the PARC Haskell Award**, for his efforts that led directly to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles. Notably, John was instrumental in the **conversion of two rattlesnake roundups into wildlife friendly, no-kill festivals**. John will speak about these and other conservation efforts, which involved some decidedly uphill battles.

Morning oral presentations.

Afternoon oral presentations.

7pm Social- Kokernot Lodge, Alpine. Meal and beverages provided with registration. Poster presentations. Silent and live auctions.

Saturday August 13, 2016.

Morning oral presentations.

Afternoon oral presentations.

7pm Social – Sunny Glen Canyon, Alpine. Meal and beverages provided with registration. Trivia. Lab practical challenge.

Sunday August 14, 2016. Field trips.

Option 1: Big Bend National Park with tour guide Sean Graham.

Option 2: Davis Mountains with tour guide Sky Stevens.

We will reserve a single university van for each trip that can fit 10 people. Both field trips will return very late to Alpine; you can convoy using your own vehicles and leave whenever you like.

Road cruising is optimal this time of year and visitors are guaranteed sightings of canyon lizards, Big Bend sliders, western diamondback rattlesnakes, Mojave rattlesnakes, gopher snakes, red racers, and long-nosed snakes. Lucky visitors may see grey-banded kingsnakes, Trans Pecos ratsnakes, and Chihuahuan hook-nosed snakes, among many others.



Kokernot Lodge; courtesy Sul Ross State University



Sul Ross State University; courtesy Sul Ross State University



Private residence at Sunny Glen; site of our Saturday night social and free camping!
Photo courtesy Sean Graham