

TOWN



NEWS

Dallas Chapter – September 2025

Monthly Meeting September 8th

6-7:30

Karen King's House

247 Barnes Bridge Sunnyvale 75182

Light refreshments will be provided

Barb's Pool Party



TOWN ACTIVITIES

Mark your Calendars!!

Thursday September 4th – 7th

Cooper Lake -South Sulphur Unit

Screen shelters reserved

Please let Barb know if you're interested.

Send \$20 deposit via Zelle or PayPal.

Contact Barb Minyard 214-538-1375

Thursday, October 16th - 19th

Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge

Contact Nancy Lee to sign up nlee002@tx.rr.com

Thursday, October 30th - November 2nd

Pedernales State Park

Contact Marie to sign up 214-733-3222

Wednesday, November 12th - Sunday

November 16th

Palo Duro

Contact Melissa Brown

254-582-1528

Monthly Meetings

6pm – 7:30pm

Second Monday of the Month

Contact Shirley to host 972-890-2491

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday December 6th



The Vore Buffalo Jump

Geology and archaeology combine in a unique and spectacular fashion at the Vore Buffalo Jump. For well over ten thousand years, Native American hunters used landscape features to help them secure the meat and hides that were essential to their survival. One of the most important archaeological sites of the late-prehistoric Plains, the Vore Buffalo Jump is a natural sinkhole that was used as a bison trap from about 1550 to 1800 A.D. It is likely that multiple tribes used the Vore site during that 250-year period and that at least 4,000 bison were trapped, killed, and butchered there. A sinkhole formed where gypsum soil was eroded, leaving a steep-sided pit about 40 feet deep and 200 feet in diameter. The Native people did not possess horses or guns at this time so hunting was done on foot. In order to process enough food for the winter they had to develop a form of hunting that could kill a large number of bison at one time. It took one buffalo per person to get through the winter. An alternative hunting technique called the “buffalo jump” consisted of luring buffalo to a precipice so they could fall to their death. Many Plains Native American tribes used ‘buffalo jumps’, places where bison could be stampeded over a cliff. These hunts were very dangerous but a successful hunt meant large supplies of food for the winter. A successful jump required knowledge of bison behavior and months of planning and preparation:

Large gathering areas with just the right combination of climate, ecology, and topography were scouted out.

Expeditions were sent to quarries to obtain the best glassy stone for making hundreds of butchering tools and arrow points.

Several groups camped across the region came together to set up a tipi village with outlying processing areas.

Ceremonies led by the Medicine People called in the bison and showed respect for the “Giver of Life”.

Stone drivelines that could stretch for miles were constructed and continually improved.

Runners “Buffalo Chasers” gathered small herds together and moved them carefully along the drivelines, and “decoys” lured the bison in close to the jump. A quick-footed man would wear a robe and buffalo horns and manipulate these large creatures into a stampede which would lead them off the cliff.

Messengers watched the herd from high points and raced back to the camp to alert the drivers to go out to the jump and take their positions.

The concealed drivers would leap up at the precise time to start and control the final stampede to the cliff.

Hunters moved in below the cliff and used arrows, lances, and stone mauls to finish all of the animals not killed by the fall.

The bison were unpiled, skinned, and butchered, and the many tons of meat, hides, and other products were transported to the camp for more intensive processing, preservation, and storage.

Days of ceremonies and feasts to give thanks for the successful hunt followed.

The Natives work fast to preserve all the meat. There could be as many as 250 bison to process. The bison are butchered at the kill site and the meat that isn't immediately consumed is taken to the village to be dehydrated into jerky by hanging strips of meat out to dry. Another food they made was Pemmican, the energy bar of the plains. Lean, dried muscle meat was combined with fat and other ingredients like berries, nuts, or herbs. The preserved meat was pounded with stones until it was in small pieces and almost powdery in texture. Fat from bone marrow and from around internal organs was then mixed with the dried meat in a 1:1 ratio and the berries or other ingredients were added. The pemmican was formed into patties or small balls or was stuffed into the cleaned intestine, which essentially served as a sausage casing. Pemmican was high in calories and protein, lightweight and portable, and slow to spoil. It is still a practical, nutritious, and popular food today.

Almost every bit of the bison was used. Some interesting uses: the stomach was used for a water container, testes were used for rattles and the brains were used to tan the hides.

Native peoples used this site for at least a thousand years before Lewis and Clark passed through here. The bison jump site consists of a mile long sandstone cliff; there are remnants of drive lines on top of the cliff and there are up to 18 ft. of compacted buffalo remains below the cliff.





