

Fort McKavett State Historical Site  
P. O. Box 68  
Fort McKavett, Texas 76841



# Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 1, Number 6

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Information for the newsletter?  
Contact Gabe Schooley at:  
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## ***Help Needed on a couple of Events***

**Fort McKavett will be giving guided tours on Veteran's Day Weekend, November 8-11, and needs Volunteers to assist. If you can give us a hand, contact Gabe at the Fort as soon as possible.**

**Christmas at Fort Concho, December 6-8. This is a maximum effort event. We will have several tents and displays and need help manning the camp. Let us know if you can attend, one day, two days, or three. Even a few hours would be helpful.**



*John Schultz with the new large wall tent and fly for events*

## **Legacy Day Weekend at Fort McKavett**

Fort McKavett Volunteers gave guided tours and living history exhibits during TPWD's Legacy Day Weekend.

We had the largest turnout of visitors to the site on both Saturday and Sunday since this event was organized.

There were our annual rainstorms and floods, but people came in both days to see the site.

Our inventory of equipment is growing for our events. We now have a new large tent and fly. Come see them at Fort Concho.

# Call to Arms...

## Events For Fort McKavett



November 1,2, Fort Stockton Living History Days

November 8-11, Fort McKavett for Veteran's Day tours

December 6,7,8, Christmas at Fort Concho

February 14-15, Battleship Texas, U.S.S. Maine Memorial and Living History Timeline

March 21-23, Fort McKavett, West Texas Heritage Days

May 17-18, Texas State Railroad Living History Timeline



*10th Cavalry Band in New Mexico. Was this what our Bandstand at Fort McKavett looked like?*

## Enlisted Men's Pay

<b>Sgt. Major</b>	<b>\$23.00</b>
<b>Quartermaster Sgt.</b>	<b>\$23.00</b>
<b>Chief Trumpeter</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Hospital Steward, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Principal Musician</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Saddler Sgt.</b>	<b>\$22.00</b>
<b>First Sgt.</b>	<b>\$22.00</b>
<b>Duty Sgt.</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>
<b>Corporal</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Blacksmith</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Farrier</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Trumpeter</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>
<b>Private</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>
<b>Saddler</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Hospital Steward, 1<sup>st</sup> Class</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>Hospital Steward, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class</b>	<b>\$22.00</b>
<b>Ordnance Sgt.</b>	<b>\$34.00</b>
<b>Ordnance Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>
<b>Ordnance Private 2<sup>nd</sup> Class</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>
<b>Engineer Private, 1<sup>st</sup> Class</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>
<b>Engineer Private 2<sup>nd</sup>, Class</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>
<b>Signal Corps Private, 1<sup>st</sup> Class</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>
<b>Signal Corps Private, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>
<b>Mechanics Extra Pay</b>	<b>\$0.35/Day</b>
<b>Laborers Extra Pay</b>	<b>\$0.25/Day</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Year Service Longevity Pay</b>	<b>\$1.00/Month*</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Year Service Longevity Pay</b>	<b>\$2.00/Month*</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Year Service Longevity Pay</b>	<b>\$3.00/Month*</b>

\* After May 1872, The funds were held in savings until discharge and were paid 4% interest.

Pay Day was on the average of once every other month. This was dependent on weather and activity of the unit.

**Hershler, Handbook**



## The Star Party Report By Lisa Lester



A few JSCAS members couldn't wait any longer and arrived at Fort McKavett on Monday and Tuesday. On Thursday afternoon JSCAS members began to arrive in droves! Tents and campers were set up, bedrolls unfurled, cooking gear was unpacked, and the telescopes were assembled. By sunset it looked like a star party was about to begin, as there were more than a dozen scopes on the field!

The sunset was beautiful and the skies allowed us to look at many wonders of the universe until about 12:30 am when the clouds started rolling in. Many tried to view in the sucker holes before finally calling it quits about 1:30. People headed off to bed with the attitude that a good night's sleep would help them to be ready for another night of stargazing. Friday morning dawned with overcast skies but they cleared out late in the morning. A number of JSCAS members headed into Menard for lunch and then went to the Menard Elementary/Junior High where they shared their love for astronomy with students in first through eighth grade. The students were invited to come to the fort on Saturday evening for the public star party.

Other club members spent the day kayaking, fishing, sleeping, hiking, and swapping information about various kinds of equipment. More JSCAS members arrived in the late afternoon and the field was a sea of scopes by sunset. Friday night brought another night of clear skies and good viewing until the clouds started rolling in again after midnight. Some of the heartier souls stayed up to see if the early morning hours would provide some viewing. Saturday morning was pretty overcast but cleared out before the noon BBQ. Buddy and his cooking team did an outstanding job of providing us with a delicious meal with plenty leftover for seconds! Members of the Friends of the Fort donated a wide variety of items for a silent auction. The items ranged from birdhouses and wildflower seeds to photographs taken at the fort. The Friends of the Fort raised over \$1500 from the BBQ, dues, and the silent auction. After the auction, the annual Friends of Fort McKavett meeting was held and the group took action on a number of topics to help Buddy and his staff with outreach. Late in the afternoon, JSCAS members gave presentations on astronomy to the public in the fort's schoolhouse. As the Sun began to set in the west, the Friends of the Fort fortified people with BBQ sandwiches and then everyone headed for the parade grounds. The public star party was a big success. The skies were clear and the crowd was appreciative! Several students from Menard got their parents to bring them to the star party so we know that we reached them during our presentations on Friday!

Sunday morning dawned extremely overcast. As people packed up a mist started falling as if to say "Yes, you must leave for now." As the last of us finished packing, said our goodbyes, and walked through the buildings and across the parade grounds a final time, we knew that we would be counting the days until we could return.