



WHAT: SoWest/CalOdes Dragonfly Blitz

WHEN: August 27-30 (or any part thereof)

WHERE: Southwest New Mexico, City of Rocks State Park Group Campsite will be our headquarters (Grant County)

WHO: Anyone interested, but please do let us know if you are coming so we can plan accordingly

Planners: Tony & Shela Godfrey (field trips, local arrangements)

Kathy & Dave Biggs (announcements, general information, pre-planning)

PLEASE LET ME KNOW THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS!

The gorgeous City of Rocks State Park is located about halfway between Deming and Silver City in southwest New Mexico, within a few miles of **Dashed Ringtails** (*Erpetogomphus heterodon*), **Arizona Snaketails** (*Ophiogomphus arizonicus*), and other unique southwestern species. This is near the area where the Godfreys found the first USA record for **West Mexican Leaf-tail** (*Phyllogomphoides nayaritensis*) last year.

Although the state park doesn't have a lot of ode habitat -- it's dry Chihuahuan Desert habitat -- it is within striking distance of several good locations with hot springs and others in the Gila River and Mimbres River drainage basins. For most sites we will have to do some driving. Carpooling is encouraged.

We will spend an entire day searching for odes in the Gila Wilderness Area. This is where we can find the **Arizona Snaketail**. This vast area was preserved as the first wilderness area in the world, thanks to the efforts of Aldo Leopold and President Theodore Roosevelt. Participants may have time to explore the magnificent Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, and the headwaters of the Gila River.

84 species have been recorded in the 4 county area we'll be visiting. Who knows what other Odes we may find?

Besides the reserved group campground, which has hot showers and a visitor's center, there are nearby campsites with hookups. Also many hotels are located in nearby Silver City and Deming. Ask Tony and Shela about places, and once determined, let Kathy know where you will be staying. A 14-inch Meade telescope is housed in an observatory within the group area. If conditions are good for viewing and folks are interested, we may be able to arrange a stargazing party for Saturday evening, August 29th. Other activities/programs may be presented on one or more of the other evenings.

Please let us know in advance if you would like to do a presentation.

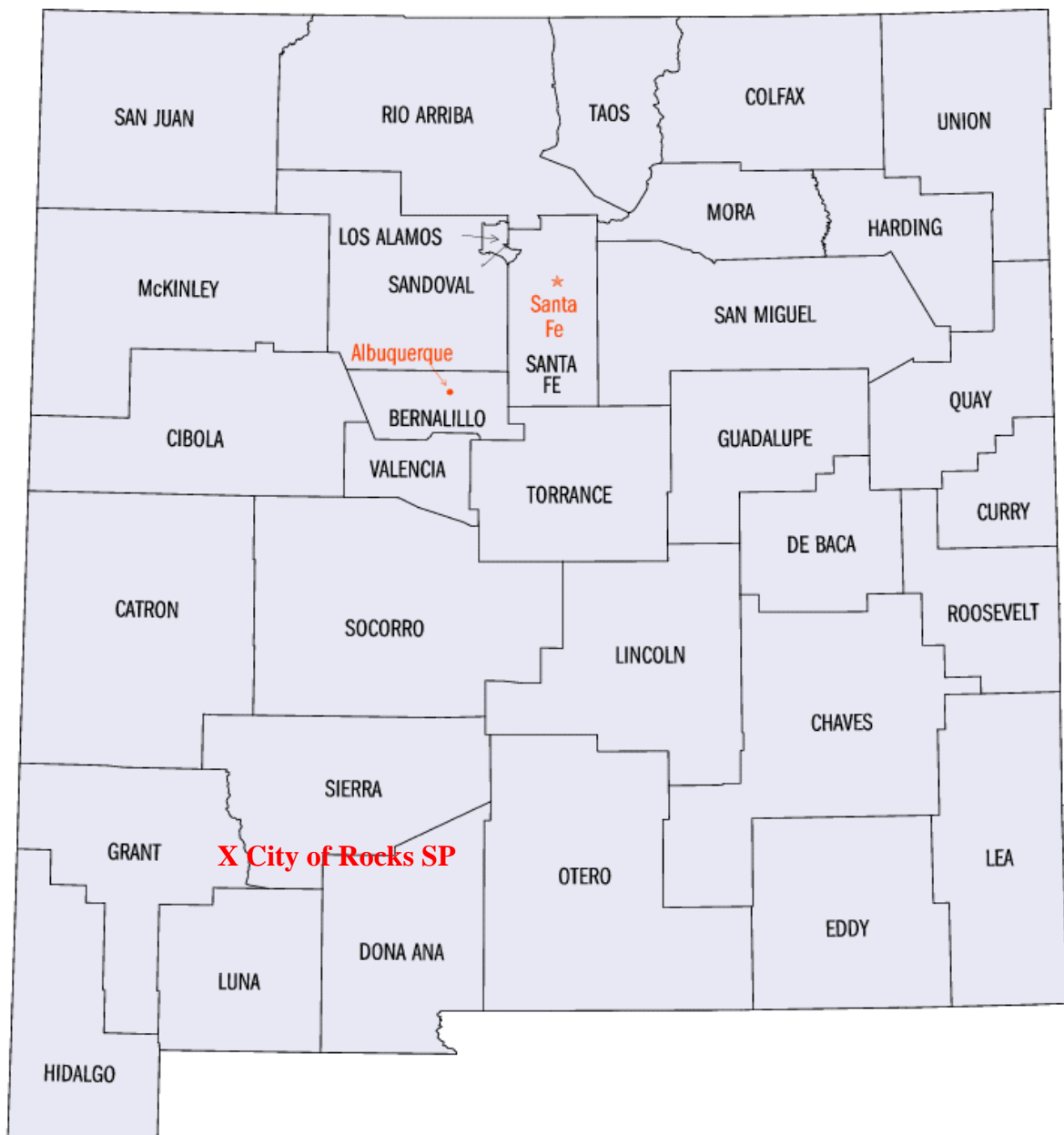
The cost per vehicle at the park will be \$10 per night if you are camping. If someone stays overnight in a motor home and needs electric, the charge is \$14 per night. The cost for someone staying in a hotel, but visiting the park between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm is \$5 per car.

The nearest airport to City of Rocks State Park is El Paso, with a driving time of 2 hours and 15 minutes. Tucson is about 3 hours away while Albuquerque is about four hours, but has daily flights to the nearby Grant County airport, located near Silver City.

Even if you can't commit for the whole blitz, if you live nearby in Arizona or Nevada, there will be a bunch of folks caravanning/oding their way to the blitz from California and Oregon and you'd be welcome to join us on either the way to &/or from the blitz. There may be similar groups arriving from the east or from the north. Perhaps you'd like to share your favorite hot spot with a group of caravanners!

There is a new official video just released on YouTube advertising the City of Rocks. The site is: *NM True TV City of Rocks State Park*. It has been posted to the Western Odonata Facebook group and here is a link to it: https://www.youtube.com/embed/MEOSrdIIETY?list=PLBuIHKwa2OWcOIGKkdVNU8-BkC1_Lk7BY

We thought it might be useful if you had a map showing the various counties in New Mexico:



Below is a working species list for New Mexico with those Odes already known for Grant and nearby Luna, Catron and Sierra Counties filled in. Let's see what we can find!!

ODONATES of NEW MEXICO by COUNTY:

-- RR Larsen, JN Stuart, and J Oldenettel (Last Revised: June 16, 2015)

Species in **bold yellow** have been confirmed on Odonata Central with a specimen/photo (others only dot map)

Common Name	Scientific Name	GRANT	LUNA	CATRON	SIERRA
American Rubyspot	<i>Hetaerina americana</i>	GR	LU	CA	SI
Smoky Rubyspot	<i>Hetaerina titia</i>	gr			SI
Canyon Rubyspot	<i>Hetaerina vulnerata</i>	GR	LU	Ca	SI
California Spreadwing	<i>Archilestes californicus</i>				si
Great Spreadwing	<i>Archilestes grandis</i>	GR	LU	Ca	
Plateau Spreadwing	<i>Lestes alacer</i>	GR	LU		SI
Spotted Spreadwing	<i>Lestes congener</i>			Ca	
Northern Spreadwing	<i>Lestes disjunctus</i>			Ca	
Western Red Damsel	<i>Amphiagrion abbreviatum</i>			Ca	
Blue-fronted Dancer	<i>Argia apicalis</i>				si
Variable Dancer	<i>Argia fumipennis (violacea)</i>	GR			
Lavender Dancer	<i>Argia hinei</i>			Ca	
Sooty Dancer	<i>Argia lugens</i>	GR	lu	Ca	SI
Powdered Dancer	<i>Argia moesta</i>	GR		Ca	SI
Apache Dancer	<i>Argia munda</i>	GR			si
Aztec Dancer	<i>Argia nahuana</i>	GR	lu	Ca	SI
Amethyst Dancer	<i>Argia pallens</i>	GR	LU		
Springwater Dancer	<i>Argia plana</i>	GR	lu	Ca	SI
Blue-ringed Dancer	<i>Argia sedula</i>	GR	lu		
Tezpi Dancer	<i>Argia tezpi</i>	gr			
Tonto Dancer	<i>Argia tonto</i>	GR		Ca	
Dusky Dancer	<i>Argia translata</i>	GR		Ca	SI
Vivid Dancer	<i>Argia vivida</i>	GR		Ca	SI
River Bluet	<i>Enallagma anna</i>	gr		Ca	
Northern Bluet	<i>Enallagma annexum</i>	GR		Ca	
Double-striped Bluet	<i>Enallagma basidens</i>	GR			SI
Boreal Bluet	<i>Enallagma boreale</i>	gr		Ca	
Tule Bluet	<i>Enallagma carunculatum</i>	GR		Ca	si
Familiar Bluet	<i>Enallagma civile</i>	GR	LU	Ca	SI
Arroyo Bluet	<i>Enallagma praevarum</i>	GR	lu	Ca	SI
Painted Damsel	<i>Hesperagrion heterodoxum</i>	GR	lu	Ca	SI
Desert Forktail	<i>Ischnura barberi</i>	GR	LU		
Pacific Forktail	<i>Ischnura cervula</i>	GR		Ca	SI
Plains Forktail	<i>Ischnura damula</i>	GR		Ca	SI
Mexican Forktail	<i>Ischnura demorsa</i>	GR	LU	Ca	SI
Black-fronted Forktail	<i>Ischnura denticollis</i>	GR		Ca	SI
Desert Firetail	<i>Telebasis salva</i>	GR		Ca	
Co. Green Darner	<i>Anax junius</i>	GR	lu	Ca	SI
Giant Darner	<i>Anax walsinghami</i>				SI

Paddle-tailed Darner	<i>Aeshna palmata</i>			Ca	SI
Rifle Darner	<i>Oplonaeschna armata</i>	GR		Ca	SI
Arroyo Darner	<i>Rhionaeschna dugesi</i>	GR	lu	Ca	SI
Blue-eyed Darner	<i>Rhionaeschna multicolor</i>	GR	LU	Ca	SI
White-belted Ringtail	<i>Erpetogomphus compositus</i>	GR		Ca	si
Eastern Ringtail	<i>Erpetogomphus designatus</i>	<i>gr</i>			
Dashed Ringtail	<i>Erpetogomphus heterodon</i>	GR	lu	Ca	
Serpent Ringtail	<i>Erpetog. lampropeltis natrix</i>	GR	lu	Ca	
Columbia Clubtail	<i>Gomphus lynnae</i>	gr			
Arizona Snaketail	<i>Ophiogomphus arizonicus</i>	GR		Ca	
Five-striped Leaf-tail	<i>Phyllogomphoides albrighti</i>	GR			
West Mexican Leaf-tail	<i>Phyllogomphoides nayarit</i>				SI
Gray Sanddragon	<i>Progomphus borealis</i>	GR	LU	Ca	si
Russet-tipped Clubtail	<i>Stylurus plagiatus</i>	GR			si
Apache Spiketail	<i>Cordulegaster diadema</i>	GR			
Pale-fd. Clubskimmer	<i>Brechmorhoga mendax</i>	GR	lu		SI
Halloween Pennant	<i>Celithemis eponina</i>				si
Checkered Setwing	<i>Dythemis fugax</i>	GR			si
Western Pondhawk	<i>Erythemis collocata</i>	GR	LU	Ca	si
Plateau Dragonlet	<i>Erythrodiplax basifusca</i>	GR	lu		si
Bleached Skimmer	<i>Libellula composita</i>				SI
Eight-spotted Skimmer	<i>Libellula forensis</i>				<i>si</i>
Widow Skimmer	<i>Libellula luctuosa</i>	GR	lu		SI
Hoary Skimmer	<i>Libellula nodisticta</i>	GR		Ca	<i>si</i>
Twelve-spotted Skimmer	<i>Libellula pulchella</i>				<i>si</i>
Four-spotted Skimmer	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>			Ca	<i>si</i>
Flame Skimmer	<i>Libellula saturata</i>	GR	LU	Ca	SI
Roseate Skimmer	<i>Orthemis ferruginea</i>	GR	lu		SI
Blue Dasher	<i>Pachydiplax longipennis</i>	GR	lu	Ca	SI
Red Rock Skimmer	<i>Paltothemis lineatipes</i>	GR		Ca	SI
Wandering Glider	<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	GR	LU		SI
Spot-winged Glider	<i>Pantala hymenaea</i>	GR	LU		SI
Mexican Amberwing	<i>Perithemis intensa</i>	GR			
Eastern Amberwing	<i>Perithemis tenera</i>	GR		Ca	SI
Common Whitetail	<i>Plathemis lydia</i>	GR		Ca	SI
Desert Whitetail	<i>Plathemis subornata</i>	GR			
Filigree Skimmer	<i>Pseudoleon superbus</i>	GR	lu		si
Variegated Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum corruptum</i>	GR	LU	Ca	SI
Black Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum danae</i>				<i>si</i>
Cardinal Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum illotum</i>	GR			
White-faced Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum obtrusum</i>			Ca	<i>si</i>
Striped Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum pallipes</i>			Ca	<i>si</i>
Band-winged Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum semicinctum</i>			Ca	SI
Black Saddlebags	<i>Tramea lacerata</i>	GR		Ca	SI
Red Saddlebags	<i>Tramea onusta</i>	GR	lu		SI

Field trip plans

As of June 16th, 37 people are planning to come. This is more than twice the number to ever have attended one of our blitzes before!

Another 34 are interested.

SO PLEASE let us know when your decision is firm, if you haven't already.

Field trip leaders: Tony & Shela Godfrey, Jim Stuart

All trips will originate from the City of Rocks Group Campground. Times tbd.

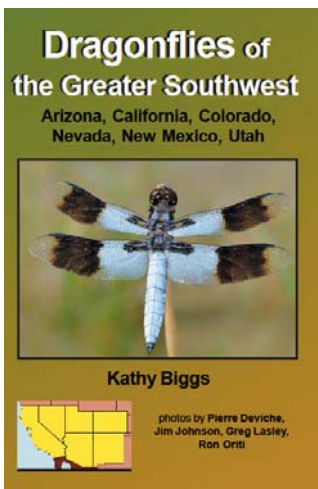
Date	Group A	Group B
Afternoon of Thursday 27th August:	Upper and Lower Mimbres Preserve	Katfish Kove on Mimbres Rv., *Cienega at the City of Rocks
Full day Friday 28th August:	Middle and West Forks of the Gila River	Percha Creek, Caballo Lake, Rotary Park, Paseo del Rio
Full day Saturday 29th August:	Percha Creek, Caballo Lake, Rotary Park, Paseo del Rio	Middle and West Forks of the Gila River
Morning of Sunday 30th August:	Katfish Kove on Mimbres Rv., *Cienega at the City of Rocks	Upper and Lower Mimbres Preserve

*The cienega at the City of Rocks State Park is not officially open to the public, but we have permission to take participants there. The area can easily be surveyed within an hour.

Note: Faywood Hotsprings is located next to the City of Rocks and may be a good place to look for odes while taking a soak after a long day in the field. The area is not actually one of our field trips, just an activity that participants may want to do at the end of the day.

For more information about the field trips, email Tony &/or Shela at artfullbirds@yahoo.com

In anticipation of this Blitz, and knowing that her *Common Dragonflies of the Southwest* was going out of print, Kathy Biggs has written a new guide for the Dragonflies (Anisoptera) of the greater Southwest: It should be available as of July 1st, but she is taking pre-orders now.



Kathy Biggs /Azalea Creek Publishing

ISBN: 978-0-9677934-9-8

232 pages - 5.5" X 8.5"

\$24.95

125 species of Dragonflies described with a list of ALL Anisoptera species; includes photographs of 97 species

200 full-color photographs of males and females

Regional distribution maps for each species

Descriptions of males, females, habitat, flight periods, behavior and ovipositing techniques

Includes descriptions of similar species

[Sample interior pages](#) can be found from this link.

Blitz participants can avoid shipping charges (\$5) by having Kathy bring their copies to the blitz.

However, the Damselflies are not included – those can still be found in her *Common Dragonflies of the Southwest*. There are only 13 copies of it left, and she is 'saving' these for folks signed up for the blitz. Let her know if you want one.

For more information about the guides, email Kathy at Biggnest@sonic.net