

# DESERT EXPLORERS

NO. 156 MAR. 2009

4WD SECTION OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM



## Rendezvous 2009 Updated

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### The Latest from Mary (Slightly abridged)

I met this date, Feb. 4, 2009, with Gerry Freeman at Nipton. Gerry gave me a complete tour of the property. I am submitting the following for your information:

I talked with Bobbi, and she stated that to date, about 50-60 DE's have registered. All the hotel rooms are rented; all the tent cabins are rented; most of the RV spaces, N and S, are rented.

#### FREEMAN HALL

Gerry took me to Freeman Hall. It is under renovation, and it really is a great old building built in 1930. He will have it cleaned up; he will have electricity in the building; he will have 2 toilets, hopefully 2 bath-

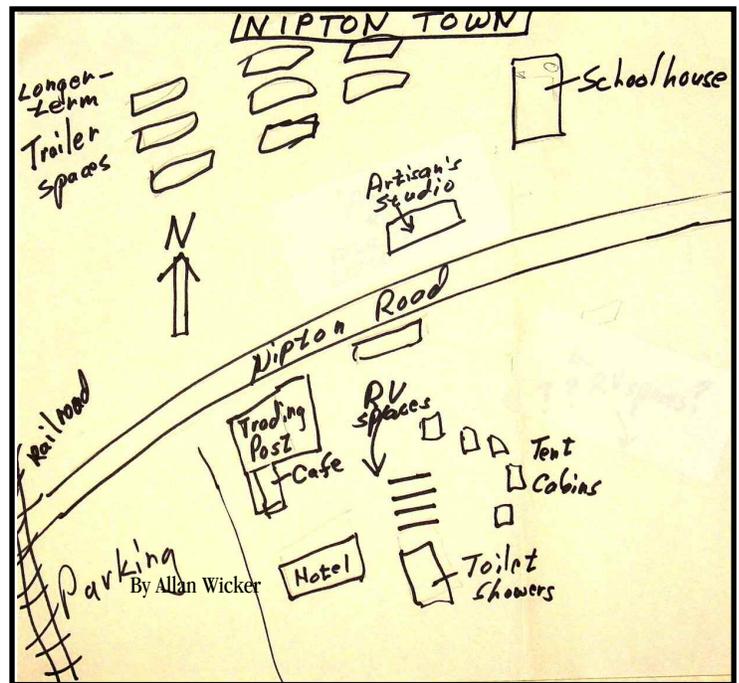
room sinks, a hot water heater, kitchen sink, and refrigerator in a small kitchen. He may not have the interior completely finished, but I trust it will be O.K. for us. I told Gerry to remove everything re: construction from the building, as we will be bringing in our tables, chairs, etc. The floor space is about 30 X 40. Certainly large enough for our auction and meals..

Freedom Hall should be big enough for displays around the outside walls. Also, there is lots of ground space immediately next to Freeman Hall where ramadas could be set up. This is also the space I have designated for the caterer to set up.

#### BATHROOMS, SHOWERS, HOT TUB, SAUNA

There is a total of 6 bathrooms. 2 in the courtyard between the store and cafe, and 2 in the south lot where the tents and 4 RV's spaces are.

There are also in this south site, 2 showers,



Nipton Map



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2 sinks, a sauna and a hot tub which is open for everyone's use. We have the complete south side of the road, this sits on the same side as the hotel. The lot is very, very large with a wonderful amphitheater and fire pit for the evening gatherings. There are also 2 showers along with 2 toilets on the north side next to Freeman Hall. So, there are 6 toilets and 4 showers for the general public. I don't think we need to get any porta-potties. RV spaces all have sewer hookups, so that relieves some of the burden on the toilets, showers.

**TRASH**

Gerry has asked that we clean up the area before leaving and put all the trash in the two dumpsters that are located on the N side of the street by Freeman Hall. I assured him that we would do this. There will be a need for a clean up committee on Sunday, to police the area and take all the trash to the dumpsters.

**COURTYARD BETWEEN THE STORE AND THE CAFE**

This is off limits to our group. The cafe is open 12 to 8, and this is where the customers sit. It is an area that is privately leased. Gerry has asked us not to use it, unless for some reason the cafe is closed, and even then he was cautious. I think it best not to use it except to go to the bathrooms which are located in this area.

**STORE**

I have asked Bobbi to have the store open at 7:00 a.m. or earlier with coffee, muffins, canned juice, hot chocolate, hot tea. She quoted a \$2.00 charge for coffee, hot chocolate, etc., less if you bring your own cup, \$2.00 for a large packaged muffin, and various prices for the juice, etc.

I invited Gerry and his wife to join us for the catered meal on Saturday. He accepted. He will let me know what their choices are, and I will tell Nancy.

Gerry did ask for a coordinator to be on the property to help people with where to go, and also to be a liaison between Bobbi and the group. I will be there early Friday, so I am available.

**Have you sent in your registration form?**

**Attention Attention**  
**Work to shut I-15 near Nevada border**

The southbound onramps and offramps to Nipton Road near Mountain Pass are closed. The ramps should reopen in late May, officials said.

Workarounds for the Rony are:

1. Take a dirt road from Nipton to Primm and get on I-15 South to LA.
2. From Nipton go west toward I-15 and a few miles before getting to I-15, take the paved road left (south) to Cima and then go to I-15 or I-40.
3. If you are coming from Las Vegas, take the dirt road from Primm to Nipton.

There is one near the RR track. Call Bobbi at the Nipton store for details 760-856-2335

Rock blasting at the California-Nevada state line continues, along with weekly closings of Interstate 15, according to a Caltrans release.

Northbound I-15 lanes will close at Baker from 10 to 11 a.m. Southbound lanes will be shut down in Primm, Nev., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The closings, scheduled each Wednesday, will carry on until blasting is finished, possibly through April, officials said.

Crews are blasting rock beside the road as part of a \$91 million project to add a lane for trucks descending into the Mojave Desert.

**"No gas in Nipton"**

**D**ave Given has reminded us that there is no gasoline available in Nipton.

Mary Hughes wants to remind everyone that dessert is not included in Saturday's catered dinner. Please bring a dessert to share. Bring your own tables and chairs.

**Lodging,  
Caterer,  
Speaker**

**By Mary Hughes  
2009 Big Kahuna**

**T**he upcoming March 20-22, 2009 Rendezvous in Nipton, CA is going to be just great. There will be trips, good food, wonderful lodging and of course getting together with friends. Mr. Jerry Freeman has been most courteous to the Desert Explorers in giving our membership a discount on rooms, tented cabins, RV spaces and the campground. The following rates are in place for our membership. All rates have the discount applied and taxes are included. The individual will make his/her own reservation.

Lodging Information:

Five available rooms in the Nipton Hotel: \$70.79 each night Friday and

Saturday for 1 or 2 persons.

Five available tented cabins: \$61.16 each night Friday and Saturday for 1 or 2 persons. Each tented cabin sleeps up to 6 people; for each additional person over 2 there will be a slight additional charge. Four tented cabins have 2 full size beds and a full size futon, will sleep 4-6. One tented cabin has 1 full and 1 twin bed. Cots can be put in the tent to sleep 4-6.

For all tented cabins you need to bring sleeping bags, etc. No linens of any kind are supplied.

Four available RV spaces on south side of Nipton Road (nearer the center of activities): \$31.50 each night Friday and Saturday; include sewer, water, and electricity hookups.

Ten available RV spaces on north side of Nipton Road: \$22.50 each night Friday and Saturday; include sewer, water, and electricity hookups.

Twenty available dry camp/tent spaces on south side of Nipton Road: \$22.50 each night Friday and Saturday.

If anyone plans on staying over Sunday night, a little less will be calculated on rates, on all sites.

The person to contact to make your reservation is: Bobbi at the Nipton Store, Tel. 760-856-2335. **Be sure to mention that you are with the Desert Explorers group.**

Mr. Freeman has given the DE's a window of time in which to reserve all the spaces. He requests that the hotel

rooms, tented cabins and the RV spaces south of Nipton Road be reserved for both Friday and Saturday night when you make your reservation.

The committee encourages you to make your reservations ASAP, as spaces are limited, and booking is on a first come, first served basis. Bobbi is in the Nipton store every day.

Caterer Information:

The Rib Company, Yucca Valley, CA will be our caterer. The Rib Company is the same caterer we had at Amboy. We are fortunate that they are willing to come to Nipton. As in the past, the menu looks to be delicious, and the prices are right.

Three selections are offered: Vegetarian: veggie skewers; 1/4 rack beef ribs, or 1/4 BBQ chicken. All meals will come with vegetarian beans, coleslaw, rolls, butter, choice of 2 beverages; selection will include coke, diet coke, sprite, and water.

The cost: \$20.00 per adult or child 10 and over, \$15.00 per child under 10. Portions are expected to be ample so save March 20 - 22 for the 2009 Rendezvous.

Given the travel distance of the caterer, food service will begin promptly at 5:00 p.m.

Speaker:

We are fortunate to have as our Saturday evening speaker, Dan Messersmith, Historian of Mohave County, Arizona. Dan is the founder of the Mohave Outback Explorers, (MOE). He will talk about the MOE organization and also make a presentation on the area history relating to Nipton and surrounding towns.

## Silent Auction

By Alan Romspert  
Silent Auction Jefe

It's time to get ready for the silent auction at our annual rendezvous, this year at Nipton March 20-22. We use the money raised at these auctions to make donations to museums or other organizations, as well as giving our members a chance to clean out some of those items that they no longer have a use for and think they could be used by others.

Please bring your items to the rendezvous or contact someone who will be attending to bring them for you. If you are not going and cannot contact someone

who will be going, contact me at (714) 870-0946 or email me at [aromspert@fullerton.edu] so we can arrange a pickup to get these items to the auction.

## Desert Magazine Blow Out Sale

The Jaussauds are bringing stacks of collectible "Desert Magazines" to the 2009 Desert Explorer Rendezvous in Nipton. They will be for sale at bargain prices and a full half of the proceeds will go directly to the Desert Explorers. Prices start at \$1 per magazine (all 1956 through 1978 issues). Most others are only \$2 with a few really rare issues topped out at \$6. There will be a few complete years of Desert Magazines in original binders starting at \$17 for the whole year.

Also, a nearly complete set of 498 "Desert Magazines" from 1937 through 1984 is available. This set includes all the hard to find magazines through 1961 and is missing only 36 relatively easy magazines to locate from 1962 on. These magazines are almost all in very good condition. As a bonus we will include an original "Desert Magazine Index" and 2 hard to find issues of "American Desert Magazine". This set is on sale for \$1500, half of which will be donated to the Desert Explorers. Please contact us via email (joeso@lonepinetv.com) if you are interested.

## Rendezvous Trips

### Inbound Trips

### Needles to Nipton Noodle

Thursday and Friday  
March 19-20  
Leaders: The Jaussauds

This is a unique back country 4x4 noodle leaving Needles 8:00 a.m. Thursday and scheduled to arrive in Nipton Friday afternoon in time for

"happy hour". Thursday night we'll camp in the boonies and enjoy a traditional campfire and potluck dinner.

Wednesday evening, March 18, all trip participants are invited to Bob and Sue Jaussaud's place on the Colorado River for a grilled chicken dinner featuring Tom Church's "secret sauce". Camping is also available.

The number of vehicles on this trip will be limited, so e-mail your reservation request to joeso@lonepinetv.com soon. Please indicate the type of 4x4 you will be driving and how many people will be with you. Thanks.



## Cow Cove Petroglyphs Hike

Friday, March 20

Leaders: The Marschkes

CB: 33

Years ago, one could drive right up to this petroglyph site. Now the area is encompassed by Wilderness. We will drive as close as we legally can to the site on an easy dirt trackway (some short patches of sand). We will park and walk the 1 mile or so to the rock escarpment which contains a worthwhile collection of rock art. We estimate that we will begin walking around 11:00 a.m. The walk is easy along the old road; it is flat and has negligible elevation changes. Remember that we will be in the sunshine so prepare accordingly. Bring plenty of water, and perhaps your lunch if you'd like to picnic with the ancients. The petros are scattered upon the jumbled rocks on a long basalt ridge, so expect some scrambling on and up the rocks if you want to see them all. Binoculars could be helpful. We will linger at the site for one hour, after which we will all hike back to our vehicles. It is our goal to arrive in Nipton no later than 4:00 p.m. to give campers a chance to set up camp and prepare for the potluck. Meet at the Bob's Big Boy parking lot near the Worlds Tallest Thermometer, at 10:30 a.m. The leaders reserve the right to cancel the hike due to extreme weather conditions. If the thermometer reaches 90 degrees in Baker, the trip will cancel. Please check the DE

website for any final updates regarding this trip before you leave for the rendezvous. Consider Baker as your final gas stop before Nipton unless you break from the group and continue to Stateline.

## **Day Trips Rosalie/Copper World**

**Saturday, March 21  
Leader: Bob Dodds  
CB: 30**

**M**ay plan is to visit Rosalie, Indian Roasting pits, Copper World Mine. Medium-High clearance 4X4 O.K..

You all know what to bring. I will have a plan B if something comes up. See you there.



**EMHT  
Saturday, Mar 21  
Leader: Neal Johns  
CB: 13**

**E**ast Mojave Heritage Trail First Segment (portion from Searchlight to Nipton).

We will drive on the pavement to Searchlight, then join the 4WD Heritage Trail, cross through the scenic Crescent Mountains and return to Nipton.



**Highland Range  
Saturday, Mar. 21  
Leaders: The Hansens  
CB: 15**

**W**e will be leading a trip into the Highland Range, which will include petroglyph sites at Highland Springs and Cow Springs, an approximate 30-mile loop on dirt roads 10 miles north of Nipton and, if time allows, an extended rock art site at Cottonwood Cove which requires hiking, maybe 4 miles round trip. Fuel will be available at Searchlight, so gas should not be a problem. High clearance 4WD will be required.

## **Outbound Trip Legendary Kokoweef**

**Mine  
Sunday, March 22,  
Leaders: Dave Given  
& Debbie Miller Marschke  
CB: 33**

**T**he legend of the Kokoweef & Lost River of Gold is one of the most interesting and intriguing mining tales the Mojave has to offer. A cavern first discovered by the Piutes, it has changed hands many times in its history and numerous prospectors remain missing in action (presumably still entombed within the labyrinth of the cave). In the 1930's Earl Dorr wandered underground for four days and discovered a "river of gold" in an underground cavern containing a river which he described as a natural sluice box. Unfortunately, to protect Kokoweef find from claim jumpers, Dorr blasted the entrance shut. Today, the mine still remains an active endeavor in search of the lost entrance to the cavern. We have negotiated permission with the owner to allow DE to visit the active property. Important - the owner requires all guests to sign a release form **IN ADVANCE**. If you are considering attending this trip, please contact Deb Miller [ dmiller@guideone.com ], or call 310-543-1862, and the release will be mailed to you for signature and return. Additional details of this trip will be posted as they become available.

## **Trip Reports El Paso Mountains Tale By Ana Romero**

**I**t was a great day for a trip to the El Paso Mountains. The weather was on our side, warm and sunny. We met fellow DE'er, Ted Kalil, at the Jawbone station along with friends Bill and Linda, and my brother, Tony, and sister, Rory.

•••••  
•Check the trips sign up board•  
•at the rendezvous for day of•  
•trips, time and meeting•  
•places as well as the CB chan-•  
•nel to be used. Also check for•  
•additional trips or cancelled•  
•trips. •  
•••••

We met everyone at 8:30 a.m. at the Jawbone Field Station which didn't open until 9:00 a.m., and we needed to stick around to get our passes to go on the newly opened trails. Big fines if you get caught on these new trails without the passes.

The first order of business was to scatter the ashes of Paul Condon, a friend who loved the Mojave Desert and was active in trying to keep access open to those who also love the desert. Paul is the one who introduced Robb and me to the El Pasos and led a couple of DE trips. Paul passed away a year and a half ago and in conversation once, had mentioned a particular mountain on which he said he wanted his ashes scattered. It was a beautiful morning and a slight breeze picked up the ashes and carried them in a cloud over the mountains he loved so much. Mission accomplished.

A little aside, crawling up this rather steep mountain trail was not easy for my sister who did not have lockers on her Jeep. Robb had to finish winching her up to the top of the mountain with his truck winched to mine. This took a chunk of time which we could ill afford on a short winter day. However, these are the chances one takes when 4 wheeling, right?

We next made our way to the ruins of an old mining cabin behind Paul's mountain which also afforded spectacular views. We decided to eat lunch here and enjoyed good company and pleasant conversations. Next stop was at the Burro Schmidt Tunnel since there were members of our group who had never been to the El Pasos and, therefore, of course, had never been to the Tunnel. On the way, we stopped at the Old Post Office ruins and were relieved to find them not only still standing but fully restored.

Alright, by the time we finished these

side trips, it was about two in the afternoon and we figured we only had about 2 hours of sunlight left. Certainly not enough time to set out exploring unknown trails. So, it was a group decision that we would return in the spring when days would be longer and we could just get right into exploring these trails without any side trips. In spite of our disappointment in not getting to the newly opened trails, a good time was had by all, and we still have those trails to look forward to.

## Quartzsite

By Marilyn Martin

After an uneventful trip, son, Michael, and I arrived at the designated Quartzsite camp site about 11:30 a.m. Wed. The Maneses had arrived the day before and set up camp in a spot large enough for the expected group. Mike and I were soon off to go shopping.

Next day folks started arriving, and the final list included: Neal and Marian Johns, Dan Messersmith, Dick and Connie Taylor, Homer Meek, Don Sweinhart and Betty Wallin, Jim and Jeanne Jacobs, Sunny and Jean Hansen, Bill and Barbara Gossett, Carl and Nancy Noah, Charles Hughes, Bob and Shirley Bolin, Lou and Pat Carfield and one cou-

On Thursday folks took off in every direction – some 4 wheeling and some shopping, but all returned in time for Happy Hour and later a campfire.

On Friday 7 vehicles decided to follow Dick Taylor, with Ed Manes in #2 spot as navigator and Dan Messersmith as Tail End Charlie (a group of leaders par excellence) to the abandoned Harquahala Peak Observatory which is on Harquahala Mountain, the highest peak in west central AZ and was established in 1920 to measure solar activity.

There is a very nice interpretive

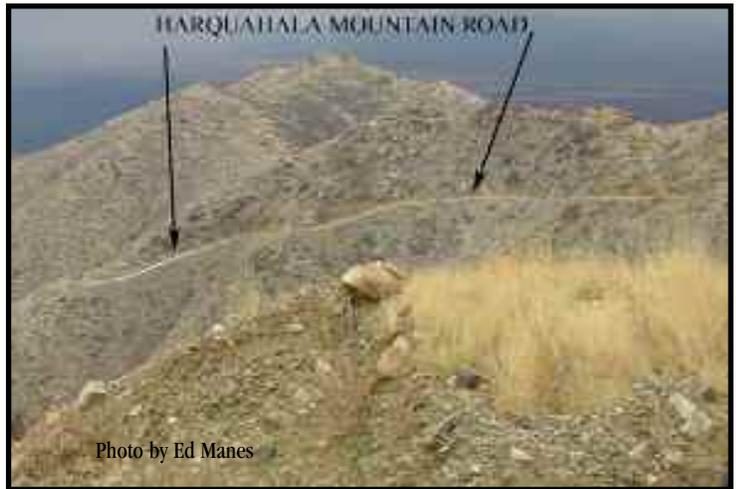


Photo by Ed Manes

### The "Road" to the Top



Photo by Ed Manes

### Where we Wound Up



Photo by Ed Manes

ple Dan and Rose (with a white American Exkimo dog) who disappeared to get a carburetor repaired. There were several dogs along but the hit of the group had to be Don and Betty's new pup, 9 week old Molly, a Toy Boston Terrier.

site at the bottom of the trail which informs one that Harquahala comes from an Indian word – aha qua hala – which means place where the water is high - and that 4 wheel drive is necessary to take the "45 minute. very steep 'road' to the abandoned site". They forgot to mention ROUGH. There was some really lush desert flora to enjoy.

About 3/4 of the way up on the 1 1/2 hour trip to the top, Ed discovered his car would not go into 4 wheel drive, and he and Maxine were forced to jump in with the Martins. As everyone was enjoying the spectacular view and interpretive

signs the sky darkened and a few sprinkles were felt. The group quickly agreed it would be prudent as we were on the highest point for miles around to get down the hill.

The same day other groups took off for shopping or touring. Maybe someone will write about their own tour. That evening another Happy Hour and campfire along with descriptions of the day's activities were enjoyed.

On Saturday Neal and Marian and others took off for a 4 day tour to parts south. This is one trip where you only see the entire group in the evenings. The

## Please!!

Check your e-mail address. Send corrections to

<mjmartin@dslextre.me.com>

Thank You!

remaining group enjoyed another Happy Hour and campfire.

The weather remained pleasant the entire time Mike and I were there. Unfortunately we endured heavy winds on our ways home, and I went through several heavy showers to discover a light snow at home. I really enjoyed getting out to visit with so many long-time friends.

## Future Trips

All trips require a four wheel drive vehicle and a working CB unless otherwise specified by the trip leader. Non-complying vehicles will not be allowed on trips. Leaders may authorize a variance at their discretion.

### Alamo Road/McCracken Mine/Signal Loops

(M.O.E.)

March 22-25

Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor

This will be a four-day three-night exploration of the Alamo Road, McCracken Mine, Signal region. We'll base camp on this journey near the old Auxiliary Army Air Field, which is located at the intersection of Alamo and Signal Roads. We have changed the dates to coincide with the Desert Explorer's Rendezvous in Nipton, CA from March 20 - 22 so that some of the DE folks can join us if they want. I will speak at the Rendezvous about MOE, what we do and what we are all about. I might sneak in a little local history if they don't nod off. The base camp will be accessible to motorhomes and camping trailers via 30 miles of dirt & gravel road, which is most likely to have some degree of washboard conditions. More details will follow as we approach this trip.

Ed. note: This trip will now take place

right after the Rendezvous.

## Anza-Borrego Desert

April 4-7, 2009

Leaders: Robb Anderson

Ana Marie Romero

CB: 13

Hopefully, we will hit Anza-Borrego during its wildflower peak. This is the week before Easter. Points of interest will include Coyote Canyon, Rodriguez Canyon, Devil's Drop-off, Fish Creek, and wherever the wildflowers are in abundance. If you are interested, please email me at [aromero0418@sbc-global.net.]

## 29 Palms Weekend

April 18-19

Leaders: Savage/Jacoby

We will be leading two trips in the 29 Palms area during the weekend of April 18 and 19. You are welcome to join us for either one or both. The spring colors should be incredible and the roads will be outstanding. For those who wish, there will be an ample supply of camping spots nearby as well as a number of motels and bed and breakfasts in 29 Palms on Saturday evening. We are planning to have a group dinner at a restaurant in 29 Palms on Saturday evening. This should be a great weekend so start planning by e-mailing either Bob or Nan, and we will save a spot for you. There will be a limit of 10 vehicles.

Saturday will be a moderately rugged

### Desert Explorers Trip Schedule

Rendezvous 3/20-22,	DE
Anza Borrego Apr. 4-7	Romero/Anderson
29 Palms April 18-19	Savage/Jacoby
Willis Well April 25	Dodds
Far Away Place TBD	Johns/Anderson

trip that will take us through the Dale Mining District and up on an interesting road to the top of the Pinto Mountains where we will visit the Ivanhoe Mine. We will also visit the Virginia Dale Mine and the townsite of New Dale. We will meet in downtown 29 Palms at 9:00 a.m. and spend the entire day on some outstanding dirt roads with excellent scenery, including the distinct possibility of spring wildflowers and cactus blooms. We should be back in 29 Palms by 4:30 p.m. High clearance and 4WD will be necessary.

Sunday a loop trip will take us through Gold Valley, which is surrounded by the old mines of the 1890-1910 era. The return will be via beautiful Music Valley. In addition to all of the Gold Basin Mines we will stop at the very interesting Goat Basin mine as well. Once again the scenery will be beautiful. We should be back in 29 Palms by 2:30 p.m. High clearance and 4WD will be necessary.

## Arizona Strip - East Side

(M.O.E.)

May 20-28

Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor

This is a return trip to the Arizona Strip, east side. We will base camp and re-visit many of the sites we have not seen for some years; look for some places or trails we have not run before. Our base camp will be near Twin Tanks, south of Pipe Springs National Monument. It is motorhome and camping trailer accessible via 30 miles of dirt and gravel road, which is most likely to have some degree of washboard conditions. We will visit some points on the north rim of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River and make some great loop runs that will give people a feel for the vastness and diversity of the terrain. More details will follow as we approach this trip.

Dick Taylor [dickandmouse@aol.com]  
Dan Messersmith [dmess@ctaz.com]

# Where In The World?

## Leaders: Anderson/Johns

After doing Vietnam, Cambodia, and Myanmar this past February, Reda and I are again thinking about where in this big, wide wonderful world we should go next. We're considering a more adventuresome-type travel - a cou-

ple of these trips are with the Dragoman outfit that does overland expeditions using big 4x4 trucks. Their trips are much more basic - family-run hotels and/or camping out. They're also more economical than regular tour companies. Below are some possible trips - prices do not include air fares, visas, tips, or insurance. If you are interested in joining us on any of these trips below, contact me - Marian Johns.

1. Africa - South Africa (Cape Town),

Namibia (world's tallest sand dunes, wildlife, Fish River Canyon), Botswana (Okavango Delta), Zimbabwe (Victoria Falls) - 21 days \$2300 (a Dragoman trip).

2. Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Egypt - (Istanbul, Ephesus, Cappadocia, Palmyra, Damascus, Petra, Wadi Rum, Cairo) 27 days \$2500 (a Dragoman trip).

3. North Africa - Libya (Tripoli, Roman ruins, Sahara Desert, cave art) 12 days \$1800 (not a Dragoman trip).

## CURRENT DESERT EXPLORERS WITH E-MAIL

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Emmett Harder	echco@msn.com	John Page	jppage@roadrunner.com	Bob Younger	bobyounger@verizon.net
Terry Hardwicke	thardwicke@charter.net				

4. Tibet, Nepal (new train - world's highest - from Beijing to Lhasa, overland around Tibet, Mt. Everest base camp, (Katmandu) 13 days \$1300 (not a Dragoman trip).

Everyone who has expressed an interest in one of the four proposed foreign trips we have mentioned in previous newsletters, has picked Tibet and the Sky Train from China as their choice. This probably won't happen until October as that's is one of the best times to see Mt. Everest. If anyone else is interested in going in October, let me know.

Interested in exploring the world? I'd like to make a list of people to contact if and when we are planning a trip. So e-mail Marian Johns your name and we'll let you know when we have something in the works. Or, if there is someplace specific you'd like to go, let us know.

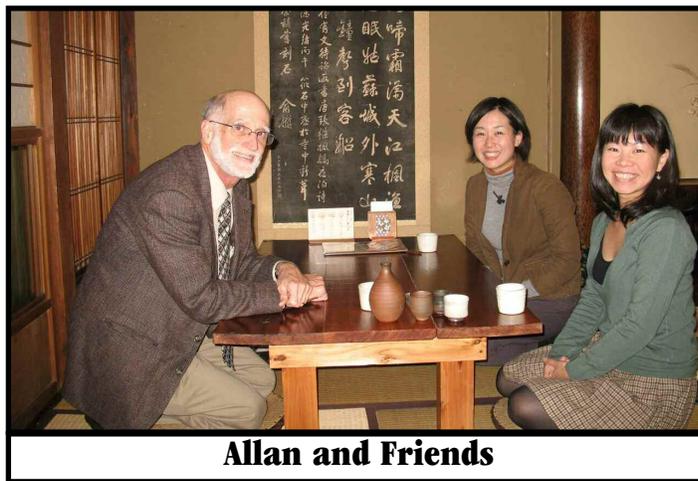
**Have you sent in your registration form?**

## Member Doings

**Joe Daly**  
1932 – 2009

### Allan Wicker

Allan sent this photo of himself “hard at work” in Japan.



**Allan and Friends**

Joseph A. Daly, a longtime resident of Saugus, died January 4, 2009 after a brief illness. He is survived by his children Anne Alustiza (Frank), Michael Daly and Catherine Daly Nguyen (Loc), grand-son, Colson Nguyen, as well as Sharon Daly. He was 76.

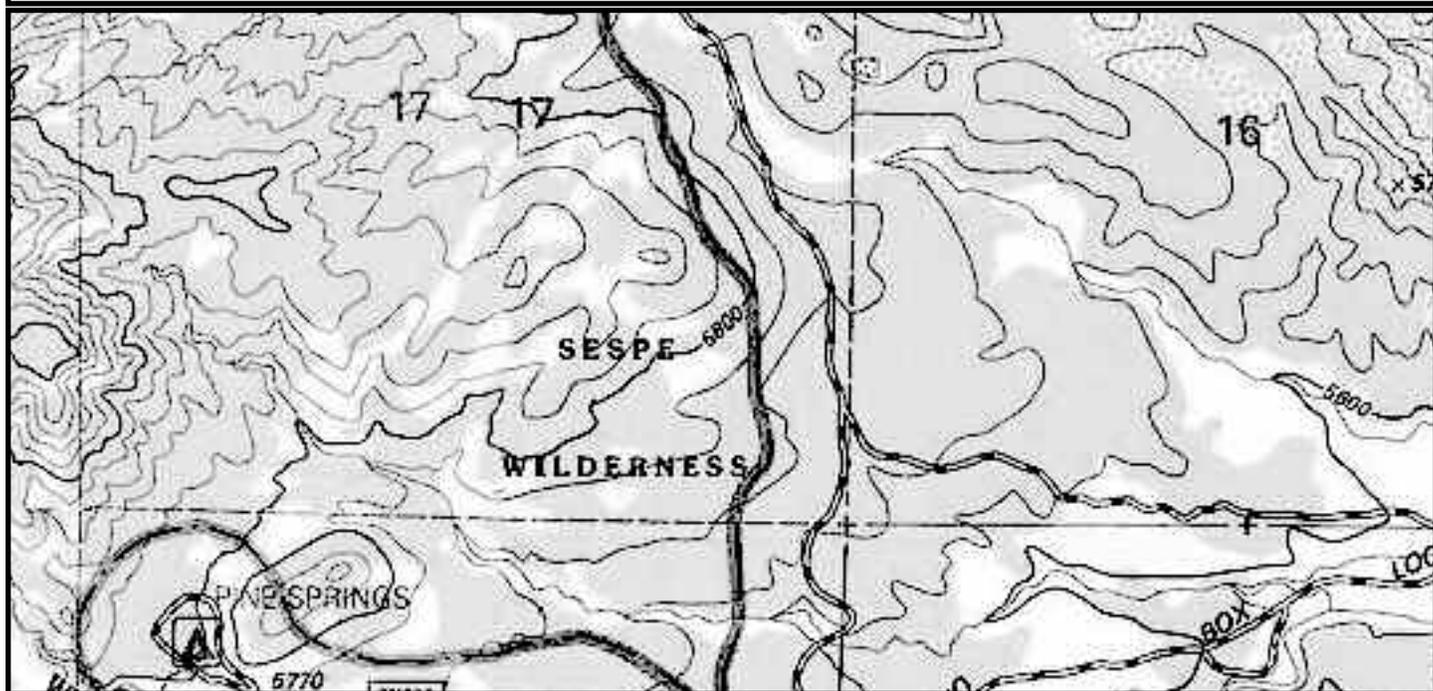
Joe grew up in San Diego and fought in the Korean War. He attended San Diego State University and Loyola Marymount where he earned degrees in engineering. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Joe was very active in the community. His numerous volunteer roles include Saugus Unified

### Where am I

Here are the location and winners for February: Northern part of Anza Borrego Desert, just below the state park boundary, Joan Steiner, James Proffitt, Leonard Friedman, Bill Cook and Mal Roode.

Bob Peltzman is lost again. “Where am I? Bob went right, when everyone else went left, and is completely lost. Send your guess as to where he is to Bob at bopeltzman@aol.com (with the word lost in the subject), and he will send me the names of people who correctly guess the location along with a different lost map to publish in another newsletter. Your answer to Bob should let him know what area he is in such as “The southern part of Death Valley near the Devil’s Golf Course.”



# Rendezvous Registration Form

## March 20-22, 2009

All names in party

---

---

Address

---

Phone

E-mail

---

Registration Fee (per vehicle) \$10.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Night Dinner:**

**Please indicate the number of meals for your party:**

Beef ribs \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_ meals X \$20 per meal = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\$15 for children under 10; no charge  
if you share your meal with them.)

**Grand Total (Registration, Meals)** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check out to Desert Explorers; INCLUDE SASE.**

**Send to Nancy Dodds 20035 Hodge Rd., Barstow, CA 92311 by March 10, 2009. No refunds.**

**You must be a member of MRVM to go on any trip.**

**Please bring your own tables and chairs for Friday's potluck and Saturday's catered dinner.**



**Joe Daly**

School District board member, American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6885, American Legion, Radio Club and Moose Lodge.

He was a Desert Explorer who joined us on many domestic desert trips as well as an international trip to Mongolia.

Article and photo from Reda Anderson.

## Directions to Wickers

In Claremont go north on Indian Hill Blvd. past Foothill Blvd. At the third break in the median (counting from Foothill) turn left into the entrance to Griswold's townhomes. You will see a set of three gates connected to an ivy-covered wall and tile-roofed townhomes.

From the I-210 eastbound the closest exit is Towne Ave. Then south (right) on Towne to Foothill, (left) on Foothill to Indian Hill.

From the I-210 westbound get off at Baseline and go west on Baseline to Indian Hill Blvd. Turn left (south), Approach the northern-most gate at the entrance. Stop there, and at the keyboard punch 037. (There is a directory) That will ring Allan's phone, and he will answer and open the gate from his phone.

Once the gate opens, pass through it turning right immediately. Then follow the street until the first left opportunity. Turn left and again left at the next opportunity. Park in any available parking area - not along the curb. The 1430 on the side of the house should be visible from the street.

Walk up the driveway, and follow the sidewalk to the house entrance. Desperation calls for assistance (909) 445-0082.

## M.O.E. Trip Schedule

All of the following are in the planning stages and may have changes in dates or destinations. You may calendar them in pencil, but wait for their final listing on the front of the MOE newsletter before making any firm plans to join one of these.

January and February: Depending upon the Quartzsite and DE schedule, we'll do Quartzsite one month and Day trip to the bottom of Diamond Creek on the Hualapai Reservation in the other.

March 22 - 26: Four day three night exploration of the Alamo Lake region. We'll base-camp on this journey.

April 19: We'll take some backroads to the Willow Beach area and perhaps do the original old trail built in during the building of Hoover Dam.

May 21 - 29: A trip to the Arizona Strip, east side. Base camp and re-visit many of the sites we have not seen for some years. Motorhome and camping trailer accessible via washboard gravel roads.

June 15: Day trip on Route 66 to Seligman and dirt roads to either Prescott or Bagdad. We have set this schedule to provide a base of trips for MOE folks to enjoy according to your schedule.

Ed. note: Usually we do not publish any trip schedules other than the D.E. trip schedule, but M.O.E. has so many planned (some not firmed up as yet) it seemed wise to pass the information on to all Desert Explorers. You're always invited on M.O.E. trips.

### Next Meeting

**Sat. April 11**

**11:00 a.m. potluck**

**at the**

**Wickers' 1430 Sitka**

**Claremont, CA**

**Ph: 909-445-0082**

## Organizational Fine Print and Choice Pieces of Potentially Useful Info

### General Trip Information

1. The Mojave River Valley Museum has two sections (groups) that explore the desert environment (Museum membership required):

a. The Desert Explorers, who use 4WD vehicles and cover the Southwestern states and Mexico/Baja, camping out wherever nightfall catches them. The trips are led by numerous experienced Desert Explorers subscribers. The Desert Explorers newsletter is available for \$18 a year.

b. The Mojave River Explorers, who establish a base camp in the Mojave desert, usually with motorhomes and trailers, and make daily 4WD/2WD sorties, attempting to find seats for those without 4WD vehicles, returning to camp each night. The trips are led by experienced Museum members who, collectively, have spent decades learning the hidden wonders of the Mojave. Their newsletter is available for \$7/year from editor Gene Stoops (760) 253-2419.

2. You MUST be a member of the Mojave River Valley Museum to attend a trip. Membership applications are included in every newsletter on the back of the last page.

3. When you join a trip, you agree to abide by the decisions and directives of the leader throughout the trip or until such time as you inform the leader that you are leaving the group to proceed on your own. The leader may, if his decisions or directives are not followed, inform a participant that his participation in the trip is terminated.

4. The Desert Explorers is a family oriented 4WD organization. Spouses and kids are welcome. Friendly dogs are OK as specified below. Trips will meet and depart from somewhere near the trip route, usually not from the Museum.

5. To receive the Desert Explorers' Newsletter, send \$18 for a subscription to Marilyn Martin, PO Box 291759, Phelan, CA 92329-1759. Make the check out to Desert Explorers.

Communications: CB is required and is the normal mode of communications between vehicles on a trip. Channel 13 is the Desert Explorers' channel. It's a good idea to monitor it whenever you are driving so that other members can contact you should they spot your vehicle on the road.

Weekend Trips: There is normally one major trip each month. This will be the trip on which you can look around and find old friends, new friends, collect debts, flirt with other wives/husbands and lie about other trips. There may be another trip during the month for people who have time for it or can't make the main trip. The purpose of all this is to generate more coherence as a group and get everybody to know everybody. We stole this idea from the Mojave River Explorers. Don't forget their fixed-camp trips on the first weekend of the month.

Trip Coordinator: John Page. Send your trip proposals to John. John will resolve any time conflicts and maybe bug you if you are late with a promised trip write-up. He will also coordinate private trips for subscribers upon request (see below).

Non Museum sponsored trip Point of Contact: We publish reports of subscribers' non museum sponsored trips in order to fill the pages, encourage you to get out into The Great American Desert, and to amuse and entertain you. Some trips, because of time or limited number of people, are not suitable for official museum trip status. Our Trip Coordinator is

the point of contact for Subscribers having or wanting to go on a non museum sponsored trip.

Potluck: There will be a Potluck on Saturday night of our weekend trips unless otherwise noted by the Leader.

Trip Details: Participants may be required to send a SASE to the trip leader to receive information on trip meeting place and other details. A SASE is a self addressed stamped envelope.

Finances: The cost of preparing and mailing the Desert Explorers newsletter is covered by the annual subscription fee as are extraordinary out-of-pocket expenses by Trip Leaders or members, which are incurred as a result of Desert Explorers activities. These expenses include costs of telephone calls, office supplies and postage but do not include any travel expenses, vehicle damage or personal injuries. Other extraordinary expenses must be authorized by the Executive Committee.

### Hot Tips for Leaders:

1. The leader is responsible for sending the trip announcement and trip report to the newsletter editor. The write-ups should be detailed enough so the participants will know what to expect and, if possible, have enough information in it so that a SASE is not necessary. (See the ones in this issue for examples.)

2. Try not to schedule trips on the first weekend of the month. This weekend is used regularly by the Mojave River Explorers for their outings.

3. Try not to use a reservation system or vehicle limits unless absolutely necessary. This will save paperwork for everyone. Request a SASE if necessary for sending out further trip details, meeting place, time, etc.

4. Support your other leaders' trips (by attending) or the Trail Gods will get you.

5. Maximum loss (vehicles or people) is 10% per trip.

6. Leaders, please put your CB channel 13 (or other channel if circumstances prevent using Desert Explorers' channel 13) in your trip write-up.

### Dog Policy:

Dogs can become a problem in camp mainly because of the large number of them and the sometimes blind eye of their humans. Therefore, and forevermore we will have a Dog Policy so that shy leaders will not have to make ad hoc policy.

1. Bringing a dog on a trip requires the ADVANCE PERMISSION of the Leader!

2. Dogs will be leashed/confined during happy hour & mealtimes.

3. People with dogs will be expected to clean up any poop in the campsite.

4. Dogs that fight, harass wildlife, eat small children etc., will be confined and banned from future trips.

# • OUR FEARFUL LEADERS •

NAME	KNOWN AS	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	HOME PHONE	CELL PHONE
Robb Anderson	Rawbananarob	1161 W. Duarte Rd. #4	Arcadia	California	91007	626-572-6015	avsoulfly@aol.com
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David Given	Tire-Some Fellow :-)	12871 Gifford Way	Victorville	California	92392	760-956-7675	dave1_2000@yahoo.com
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Sunny Hansen	Glyphologist	P.O. Bx. 290729	Phelan	California	92329	760-868-5316	760-217-7555 sjhsn@verizon.net
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Donald Swinhart	Mr. Nice	P.O. Box 23061	Santa Ana	California	92711	3061	ecv1069@earthlink.net
Gary Thomas	Cranky	1039 W. Seventh	Upland	California	91786	909-981-5487	g.cranky@verizon.net
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Allan Wicker	DE Chairperson	1430 Sitka Ct.	Claremont	California	91711	909-445-0082	909-239-5786 allan.wicker@verizon.net

Museum Membership Application - *Send a separate envelope to and a check made out to:*

**Mojave River Valley Museum Association, Inc.**

PO Box 1282, Barstow, CA 92312-1282 • Phone: (760) 256-5452

Family - Annual ----- \$25.00

*Entitles family to all privileges of membership (One vote per Annual Membership) including Museum Newsletter, ten per cent discount on publications sold by the Museum, participation in Association activities.*

Individual - Annual ----- \$20.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

## DESERT EXPLORERS NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

To subscribe for one year to the monthly newsletter of the Desert Explorers of the Mojave River Valley Museum  
send check for **\$20.00 made out to: DESERT EXPLORERS**, to Marilyn Martin, PO Box 291759, Phelan, CA 92329

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Ham Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

*You MUST be a Mojave River Valley Museum member to go on field trips... See above.*

Visit Desert Explorers on the  
Web!  
See more pictures and in  
color!  
<http://desertexplorers.org>

**DESERT EXPLORERS**  
Newsletter  
Editor: Marilyn Martin  
Asst. Editors: Marian & Neal  
Johns



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OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM**

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*Deadline for stuff for the Apr. Newsletter is Mar. 10th.  
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renew!!!***