

DESERT EXPLORERS

No. 159 JUNE 2009

4WD SECTION OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM



Rendezvous 2009

Rondy Trip Reports

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Heritage Trail

**Saturday
By Neal Johns**

We had 12 vehicles signed up to leave Saturday to travel over part of the First Segment East Mojave Heritage Trail. Somehow we ended up with 15 lined up ready to go. The plan was to head for Searchlight via pavement, gas up, and then follow the Heritage Trail back to Nipton. Historian Dennis Casebier had laid out the Heritage Trail more than 25 years ago and published four hardcover books containing directions, history, botany, "geology, archeology, and other tidbits regarding the countryside as you drove along the 660 mile 4wd trail. We were going to get a small sample of what was destroyed by the designation of wilderness that cut the trail in over a dozen places.

After gassing up in Searchlight, we took the old railroad berm road west toward the Crescent Mountains. After a few miles, we turned right toward the old Rex Bell/Clara Bow ranch. You kids probably don't remember these stars of the silver screen, but they were a hot pair then. Clara was known as the "It" girl. She had "It". Marian and I got married 19 years ago in the historic Nipton adobe hotel and honeymooned in the Rex Bell/Clara Bow room. Marian definitely had "It" in those days, now she has "Me". What a bummer, huh? The ranch will be available for tours someday, but not this time. A left turn pointed us toward the Crescents and Nipton again, and the scenery improved as we left the flat Joshua Tree desert and entered the mountains.

At the summit of the trail over the Crescents, I had planned a photo stop, but there was just not enough room for all the vehicles to park, so onward we went. Soon we were at the west edge of the mountains, and it was time for lunch. After a leisurely lunch, we took the required (due to wilderness) new route through the ghost town of Crescent toward the Nipton-Searchlight highway. Poor old Crescent is now in the middle of a modern mining area, and we could not wander around in it. All there was left before the mining was cans, foundations and debris. Now there is a big "No Trespassing" sign and a lot of bulldozer scrapes. Progress?

Shortly we were on the highway and on our way back to Nipton, just a few short miles away. Good trip, good weather, good people.

Life is a journey ... NOT a guided tour.. So don't miss the ride, and have a great time going around. You don't get a second shot at it.



Issue Number 159

Snow Job in the Ivanpah Range

By Debbie Miller Marschke

To give a trip report about our day at the legendary Kokoweef mine, I would need to start with the pre-run. I had been to the Kokoweef on two other occasions many years before, but with Caltrans closing the freeway exits and the interesting weather we've been having, I wanted to make sure I knew what to expect from our planned travel route. Steve and I drove out to Nipton on Friday February 13, confirming that the I-15 onramp at Nipton was closed. We decided to take the weekend to explore parts of the Ivanpah range we had never been to as part of this trip. Never mind all those Friday the 13th bad luck stories. Friday afternoon we ended up exploring some mines on the south side of the Ivanpahs, finding a very interesting mica mine, when suddenly it began to snow! When I say suddenly, I mean that it descended upon us without much warning. It grew dark. Within minutes it had changed from delightful to foreboding. It was 4:30 in the afternoon, the temperature had dropped, we were more than an hour travel time from Baker, we were on a 4 wheel drive road in a remote mountain range, the snow was blowing down sideways – and all we had was a tent. Steve said, "This is getting ugly really fast, we need to act now". In an effort to find a more sheltered spot to

pitch our cloth cocoon, we followed an old dirt road that dead ended at an abandoned mine with (what else?!) an abandoned, vandalized trailer. Of course we made a beeline for it, and climbing inside we quickly discovered that it was a pack-rat house. It was nasty. But when you can't feel your toes anymore, and you are looking back and forth between the choice of a "groady" trailer (that is out of the wind), and the driving snow coming down thick sideways outside the door, your standards start to change. We were resourceful. Since the trailer was half gutted, there was enough room to pitch our tent INSIDE the trailer. We covered the floor with a blue plastic tarp, creating what we knew would be an adequate barrier between our stuff and what was left behind by the critters.

The tent fit perfectly. Most of the gear I was going to use was now inside the tent, encapsulated from whatever had been in the trailer before us. We had set up our camp chairs, an electrical spool we found for a table, and we were able to cook our dinner on the camp stove out of the weather. Instantly, this place was no longer "gross"; it was "rustic". My toes thawed, and I didn't have to wake up hearing the tent flap all night. Our morning view was absolutely splendid. The snow had decorated everything in delicate and unique ways. Something that seemed like a compromise actually turned out to be a really great idea. And that, my friends, was my "romantic" Valentine's Day weekend.

Dave Given had found the connections I needed to make the right contacts to the Kokoweef. He and I began communicating with the mine in January. The mine has been owned by Larry Hahn of Las Vegas for years, under different company names. I had called Mr. Hahn and had written confirmation letters that would allow the large DE group to access the mine and property on a Sunday. Mr. Hahn would drive out from Las Vegas to escort us personally. He did require each member of our group to sign a waiver, which I worked on obtaining from each interested attendee in advance. I realized that the Kokoweef trip was the only outbound offered on Sunday, so I expected a large turnout. The only daunting task was how to get a long convoy of vehicles on the I-15



Photo by Debbie Miller Marschke

The "War Room"



Photo by Allan Wicker

Kokoweef Line Up

north, just to turn the entire group around at Yates Well Road and put them back on the I-15 south without losing anyone. I thought it would be akin to herding cats. We had excellent cooperation within the group, and all 23 vehicles were lined up and ready after we exited at Mountain Pass on Bailey Road. We were on schedule and on time at the mine!

We had an excellent attendance: myself, Steve Marschke, Ron Ross, Nancy MacClean, Mignon Slentz, Catherine Mayfield, Danny Siler, Norma Siler, Mal Roode, Jean Roode, David Mott, Bob Rodemeyer, Joe DeKehoe, Gary Preston, Charles Halstead, George Gilster, Carol Gilster, Bob Jaussaud, Sue Jaussaud, Toby Jaussaud, Bob Thille, Carol Thille, Willie Kalajian, Faye Kalajian, Mike Mumford, Donna Mumford, Dave Bullock, Penelope Bullock, Bob Jacoby, Richard Brazier, Jim Watson, Leonard Friedman, Rebecca Friedman, Hannah Friedman, Craig Baker, Alan Hodes, Tom Perasso, Glenda Roach, and Larry Briseno (forgive me if I forgot anyone). As our group approached Kokoweef Peak, gauzy clouds began to sink into the mountains, and it began to hail. This was a storm that was supposed to arrive at 2 p.m., but it was many hours early. The only travelers in our group that were inconvenienced by this hail were Steve and I – our Jeep CJ did not have its top on. We have a “bikini” top which is just like driving with an umbrella open over your head. The size of the hail was tiny, but we hoped it would pass.

Larry Hahn was waiting for us, and he escorted the convoy up to “The Big Room”. Luckily for this large group, the mine has a spacious meeting hall, complete with theatre style seats. The ceiling was about 15 feet high, and all four walls are postered with all sorts of geologic maps, diagrams, cut away depictions of the Kokoweef cavern (according to historical account), and other impressive looking illustrations. It looks like a war room. Mr. Hahn waited for the group to settle down after ogling all the diagrams. He started at the beginning, explaining that three Piute brothers made the discovery of an extensive cavern system which contained an underground river that was rich in gold sand. A natural sluice box within the cavern formation. Unfortunately, one of the brothers had a fatal accident and was never recovered from the cavern. The brothers never

returned, but they eventually told their story to prospector Earl Dorr. Dorr signed an affidavit in 1934 (which I had provided to our group) that described the subterranean canyon to be 3,000 feet deep in places. The affidavit gives a detailed description of this amazing find. By Dorr’s account, he would have been insanely rich if he could have brought the gold out. However, the story has many twists and turns. Dorr was also suspicious of anyone who could lay claim to the find, murder him for his mine, or exact some underhanded means of stealing his claim. His paranoia resulted in Dorr dynamiting the entrance to the cavern. Dorr spent the rest of his healthy days trying to relocate the entrance.

The rest of the history of the Kokoweef is the same: everyone wants to find Earl Dorr’s entrance corridor. Throughout time, the legend had continued, grown, and morphed. In my first two visits to the Kokoweef, the stories, tall tales, speculations, and possible connections with other legends made the Kokoweef Mine stock option pitch quite an exciting experience. It was like watching a Steven Spielberg movie and getting your chance to join other happy stockholders. Mr. Hahn did not make the sales presentation, however. But I am sure he would have sold some stock if we were interested. As Mr. Hahn unfolded the story, I imagined it was one hundred years ago. If I had been sitting in a saloon in Needles in 1910, and a salesman from the Orange Blossom Mine Endeavor was pitching stock for untold riches in gold, it would have been just like this. I would have been wondering “Is this too good to be true? I’m no scientist, so how do I know if all this data is real or fabricated? Hey, I don’t want to be left out, maybe I should invest!” I love the Kokoweef legend, and I don’t care if any of the story is fabricate; it’s a grand story! I WANT to believe in it!

After the presentation, Mr. Hahn dismissed the group with his blessings to explore the property at our pleasure. He would allow us to go into any of the open tunnels as long as we carried lights with us. I was very excited because I had never been allowed this kind of freedom on the claim property before. But as the group filed out of The Big Room, it began to snow! It was very cold and miserable outside. The weather chased most of the

group off the mountain and our day ended early. A few DE’s remained, but Steve and I were anxious about our “topless” five hour drive home in the snow, so we left as well. Mr. Hahn invited us to return when the weather was more conducive to exploring. I know I will be back!

Trip Reports

Alamo Road, McCracken Mine, Signal Loops

March 22-25, 2009
By Dan W. Messersmith

The group caravanning from Kingman met at Calico’s Restaurant in Kingman at 7 a.m. Sunday March 22. Those in attendance were Dick & Connie Taylor w/Sassy, Haul & Mary Reddick, Shelley Lossing and Martha Prumers and me w/Buddy. Joining us just for breakfast was Jeannie Jacobs. She informed us that Jim Jacobs had left for the base camp site in the motor home so he could go extra slow on the road out. Shelley and Martha would only be joining us for the day.

We were on the road by 8:00 a.m. and after a trip down the highway, where we had to dodge what seemed like hundreds of 18-wheelers, We pulled off at Yucca and on to the dirt road. It was a bit rough so we moved along at a slow pace.

When we got to the base camp site, Jim was waiting at the south end of the airstrip as campers were using the north end where we wanted to camp. I went down and met with them and found that they were out of Lake Havasu and had been there for the weekend and would be moving this afternoon.

With their permission, we moved up the airstrip and parked near them with the intent to move into their area after they left. A few minutes later, we heard a call on the CB from some of the folks who had been at the Desert Explorers Rendezvous at Nipton, CA coming over to join us. It was Coop Cooper w/Toby, Bob & Karen

Monson and Glenn Shaw.

Those of us tenting it went ahead and set up our tents. Glenn set up his Aliner. As lunchtime approached, we broke for a short lunch and then got organized to do the Brown's Crossing Road, Gold Bug Mine and Signal Road loop.

We got away from camp about 12:30 p.m.. Steve Mendez from Lake Havasu City had hoped to join us for this run but was not there by the time we left.

Our run was short today, so we took our time and made frequent photo stops along the way. The desert was bright green and wild flowers were beginning to make a grand show.

When we reached the Gold Bug road, I took Shelley in for a quick look as she was concerned that her F-150 would get too much of a workout and pin striping. She decided she would not take the run. She and Martha would work their way back to Alamo Road doing photo stops along the way and then head for home.

As we made our way through the narrows and washes toward the Gold Bug, Larry Brown came over the CB informing us he was in camp. He asked where we were, but as he did not have proper directions or map, he could not catch up with us and decided to remain in camp.

We made the narrow ascent up to the Gold Bug Mine and enjoyed the flowers along the way and the great views from the top. The winds had increased and become cooler. On the narrow, steep descent down toward the Signal area, several of our folks tried to keep their eyes on the hillside rather than the drop off. They enjoyed the hillside flowers a great deal. Thankfully, all the drivers kept their eyes on the road and we all made it safely to the bottom.

Following our trail out to Signal Road we made a quick trip back to camp to have a great first night's cocktail hour. Larry was set up and told us that Steve Mendez and another Jeep had arrived at 2:30pm, relating trail issues that kept them from joining us in time for the run. They had headed for home a short time later.

Unfortunately, the wind became colder and stronger. We moved Jim's motorhome a bit to help make a windbreak of his and Dick's motorhomes for our cocktail gathering, but we were not able to have a fire. The wind intensified as the night moved on. I had to put large

rocks in my large tent to keep it on the ground as the wind was hard enough to pull the pins out of the ground. The wind did not let up until very early in the AM and I got very little sleep until it stopped. My tent was damaged in several places.

Monday, March 23:

Camp was moving around about 6:30 a.m., and after coffee and breakfast, we were on the trail by 8:30 a.m. It was sunny day with a slight cool breeze. Our main objective today would be to drive Centennial Wash all the way to the Bill Williams River.

Centennial Wash is one of the nicest washes you can drive for a long distance. It is a wide, mostly sandy, wash with wonderful and diverse rock formations all along its course. It ends at the Bill Williams River. You used to be able to get all the way to the river and camp on the edge. It has now been blocked by metal railings and has become part of a wilderness area. Where one could once more freely enjoy the area, the majority of people now are blocked from doing so.

Our first stop along the wash was at what I call a "Cowboy Cave." It is a shallow natural cave in the side of the rocks. Indians may have used it for temporary shelter based on the artifacts found at the site. However, it was not a traditional spot for an Indian group or family to use for living quarters. The cowboys however made it a temporary home. They stacked up rocks for basic walls to block the wind and hung wire from nails to support a tarp or blanket or other cloth to make a shelter. Evidence of their frequent use is scattered all about the site.

We continued to drive down the wash, mile after mile, enjoying the flowers, the rock formations and the gentle ride in the soft sand. Eventually we came to the end and the blockade that has been erected.

We walked in to the water's edge and let the dogs have a nice swim while we watched the birds and remembered when we could camp on the edge of the river. I guess you can still camp there, you just have to pack in all your gear. As this is not a backpacker destination, and you have to carry a lot of gear to camp this far out, it makes little sense to block it off from those who can get there by 4x4.

Continuing on up the wash, we took a short "directionally challenged" side wash thinking it was the one we wanted. Turning around, we went further up the

main wash to the correct side wash and made our way to the trail that would take us northerly toward the eastern side of Ester Basin.

We came to a tricky little area where you have to find and turn back up a trail over your left shoulder. I missed it and we played around for a while trying to sort it out. As I was about to try a different route out, Dick and Larry found the correct trail, and we were back on course.

We soon arrived at the Lola Mine site and stopped for pictures at the old mill site. The years have taken its toll on it and it has collapsed upon itself. The old hand made stone staircase on its north side is still there and is always nice to see.

Continuing north towards and along Potts Mountain, our attention was drawn to an old adit on the mountain. It is the site of the Red Top Mine. Farther along we would pass the workings of the Lead Pill Mine site.

All along the trail we had to make our way through numerous large water cuts. Some were more severe than others. A few of us hit a tail end or two along the way but nothing was so severe that we could not get through although Jim kept some of our folks guessing with his friendly "warnings" about the "big wash-out" up ahead.

We got to Alamo Road and made short work of getting back to camp for cocktails and dinner. The wind again came up and was too strong for us to have a campfire. We again gathered around the windbreak of Dick's and Jim's motorhomes for cocktails and tall tales. It grew dark and most everyone had retired by 8:30 p.m.

My tent suffered a little more damage from the wind but was still usable for the night. The wind had made it a cold night again and Buddy and I threw on an extra blanket for the night.

Tuesday, March 24:

Camp was moving around about 6:30 a.m. again and after coffee and breakfast, we were on the trail by 8:30 a.m. It was sunny day with a slight cool breeze. Our main objective today would be to find McGuffie's Cabin in Mississippi Wash. (Jim and Dick had not been able to find it on an earlier excursion to the area and Jim claimed it had vanished or the wilderness gods had taken it off the

radar.)

We headed south on Alamo Road until we found the trail off to the west along Rawhide Wash. We worked our way westerly along a very nice trail past some prospects and mining activity until coming to Miller Mountain where we turned southerly passing Fools Peak on our right. Continuing southerly past the workings of the Little Kimble Mine, we got to the access trail that would take us down into Mississippi Wash.

Enjoying our short run down the rocky bottom of Mississippi Wash we soon came to the McGuffie Mine road that comes in from Alamo Road. Continuing down the wash we finally came to a short hill out of the wash that becomes very rough, steep and rocky on the down side into the cabin area. With some effort and spotting, all of the vehicles got through the tough spot and on down the rocky wash to the cabin site. Jim was happy that it had neither vanished nor been swallowed up by the wilderness gods.

After a short visit inside the cabin and photos taken in and around the site, we hiked down the wash to the dam and the pictographs below. Some of us stayed on the top area and others ventured down via a path to the wash below to view the pictographs up close.

Upon everyone's return to the cabin we declared it lunchtime and broke out our food and found a little shade along side our vehicles.

After lunch, we headed back up the wash to the tough area and did a little rock-work to make it a bit easier to get some of our vehicles out and then headed for McGuffie Mine road. It was at that point that Dick and Jim recognized where they had missed the turn in their earlier search for the site.

About halfway back to Alamo Road, we took a side trail up to a cabin at the Bonanza Mine. We stopped for some photos then took another trail out to Alamo Road where it was decided to go down to the lake.

Arriving at the lake, the first ones in the water were Buddy, Sassy and Toby. The dogs were quickly followed in by Haul and Mary, who rolled up their pants and waded out into the water up to their knees. Then came Bob, who had changed into his swim trunks and took a full-body dip in the very cold water.

After our visit at the lake, we headed

back up Alamo Road. Jim suggested taking some folks up through Maggie Wash which is a great little run through some tight canyon sides. Some wanted to go, some did not. I had Jim lead the Maggie Wash side trip, and I took others back to camp.

Back at camp Dick lined up his truck next to his motorhome providing an additional wind break and later Haul added his large truck to the site providing us enough quiet space to have a small campfire using a fire-box. Cocktail hour and dinner was shared in this area, and a small fire helped make our last night there much more pleasurable.

With the fire, folks stayed up a bit later, but we put the fire out, and most everyone had retired by 9 p.m..

Wednesday, March 25:

Camp was moving around about 6:30 a.m. and had coffee and breakfast. It was sunny day with a slight cool breeze. Our main objective today would be a short run up to the McCracken Mine area.

The Monsons and Larry Brown were going to pack up and head out so we said our goodbyes and were on the trail by 8:30 a.m.

Our trip first took us up to the site called Rock Cabin. At the site, we did some photos, and some of the folks wanted to explore an adit at the site. Most of us went in for some distance, others went in further, and some did not go in. After everyone had again gathered at the cabin, we headed for the other side of the mountain and the old town site.

We did not get far as the mine owners had bulldozed the roads and blocked access to the west side of the mountain. All we could do was return down the hill to our camp. With that disappointment, I called the trip done, and we returned to camp and packed up for home.

Except for this one disappointment, the trip was a great success and enjoyed by all.



Anza Borrego

by Hannah Friedman (age 7)

(with a little editing by her dad)

The trip to Anza Borrego was great. First, we all camped in different places, it was very windy. The next morning, we went to the Visitor's Center at 9:00, and then we went to the Military Wash. Military Wash is where World War Two practiced. Then we had lunch at the Pumpkin Patch and then we passed by Una Palma, that's what one palm tree means in Spanish. Then we stopped by an outdoor, unexpected fruit store was on the street on the way to the campsite. They sold grapefruit, tangerines and dates.

Then, on the way to the campsite for the second night, we went in three feet water. Then we came to the rocky hills. I was very scared and so was my friend, Ethan. When we got to the top of the hill, we set up the tents because that's where our campsite was. While Cyrus, Azi, Joe, Gadi, Ana, Robb and my dad, Leonard, were setting up the tents, me and my friend, Ethan, were playing golf by digging a hole in the sand and the golf club was a stick and the golf ball was a rock.



Photo from Ana Romero

Hannah in Sheep Canyon

Then Joe showed me and my friend some desert plants like squaw tea, the cholla cactus, the cat claw, and the desert willow.

The next morning at 9, we went on a hike to see a waterfall. After the waterfall, we went down the hill and Robb

helped us down. And, without Robb we would have a lot of damage to the car. Then through the water. After that we split up at the fruit place and then went home.



Twenty Nine Palms Weekend

By Bob Jacoby and Nan Savage

Those joining in on the trip to 29 Palms were: Leonard Friedman, Bob Younger and Mary Whalen, Richard Shapel, Don Sweinhart and Betty Wallin, Mal and Jean Roode, Joe de Kehoe, Glenn Shaw, Nan Savage, Bob Jacoby and Dick Brazier. Some of us got into town Friday evening and had dinner together at the 29 Palms Inn, a restaurant and hotel present in the area for some eighty years.

Saturday saw us on the road, meeting first at the Oliver's property, then up the road at an alternative meeting point in 29 Palms. Our first stop on dirt was an interesting once-thriving bakery, now abandoned and dilapidated. The site's unique feature is a cement wall that had been constructed by hand with reinforcement with what was most available, in this case, an old metal set of mattress springs! After passing by the "informal" dump for the area (the official dump is located 20

miles away in Yucca Valley), we continued past some mine tailings. Three cement colonnades on the hillside above us reminded us of a Greek temple. We then visited the Goat Basin Mine, got out and explored. It consists of a large hole that appears to be connected via an underground vein to a digging in the side of the mountain nearby. Bob Oliver suggested we take a side road up to a cabin he knows, and led the way. As we drove along, we were treated to beautiful unspoiled scenery on all sides. Eventually the road began to deteriorate, so Bob Oliver decided to go ahead to check it out. When he returned, he reported that he had gotten high centered, but had managed to disengage himself. Stopping soon for lunch, Joe de Kehoe set out to investigate the area. He returned with a treasure, a dried out desert tortoise shell, blached white from the sun.

We then headed back into town, stopping at the Old School House Museum, which is the local historical museum for 29 Palms. There we saw a particularly striking display of antique purple glass exhibited to best advantage in a window case where the sun light highlighted the purple tinge exquisitely. Most of the



Photo by Mal Roode
Joe deKehoe and Don Putman

pieces were intact and in superior condition. I noticed that all were of pressed as opposed to cut glass. Cut glass is carved by hand while pressed glass is



Photo by Mal Roode
Joe deKehoe and Treasure

in the sun's intense rays long before it changes hue. The museum also had a number of books for sale on the region, including Joe de Kehoe's own book, *The Sun and the Silence*. Several of the group purchased his book, and he obliged them with autographs.

At this point the Saturday trip officially ended. While some headed back into town to relax, others went on to look around the Joshua Tree National Park Visitor's Center. Here we saw excellent displays describing the desert climate, comparing Joshua Tree to other deserts around the world. A desert, I learned, is a region that receives less than 10 inches of rainfall in a year – that includes Antarctica. We asked the ranger to turn



Photo by Mal Roode

Coyote Hole Canyon

on a video of the National Park for us. Then we took the nature walk through the "Oasis of Mara," a natural oasis of palm trees native to the area originally irrigated by natural springs. Returning to Bob Oliver's, we enjoyed a fine potluck of homemade spaghetti and "Missoura" beans.



Desert Explorers Trip Schedule

Far Away Place TBD	Johns/Anderson
Lava Cave June 13	Messersmith
Red Desert, WY Jun. 28-July 6	Johns
Bristlecone Pines July 11 -15	Lawrence
Bristol Dry Lake Oct. 17 - 20	deKehoe

Welcome

Fred Raab

La Jolla

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<http://desertexplorers.org>

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Duke Doner	dirtroadduke@hotmail.com	Homer Meek	hmeek@social.rr.com	George Stoll	agstoll@csupomona.edu
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Alan Heller	faheller@msn.com	Robert Peltzman	bopeltzman@aol.com		
Axel Heller	axel43@earthlink.net	John Perko	jperko003@earthlink.net		

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.

Red Desert Southwest Wyoming

June 28 - July 6
Leaders: the Johns

Being a good desert rats, you'd think we'd know all about Wyoming's Red Desert. In fact, we've never even heard of it. (Thanks, Reda for the tip.) However, that will all change soon as we plan to do some exploring of that area come June - July. According to Wikipedia, the 6 million acre Red Desert is the location of the Killpecker Sand Dunes, the largest living dune system in the US. It is also home to the largest migratory herd of pronghorn in the US; home to the rare desert elk, which is supposed to be the world's largest elk; and home to herds of wild horses. Wow! Hope we actually get to see some of these critters.

It is here in the Red Desert that the Continental Divide splits to form the Great Divide Basin, an endorheic drainage basin (meaning it has no natural outlet).

There are plenty of other wonders to see in this area that we'll try to work into the schedule - like Dinosaur National

Monument, Flaming Gorge, Hot Springs State Park in Thermopolis, and Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks.

The plan is to meet in Vernal, Utah at 9:00 a.m. on June 28. Contact us if you'd like to join our expedition.

Bristlecone Pines

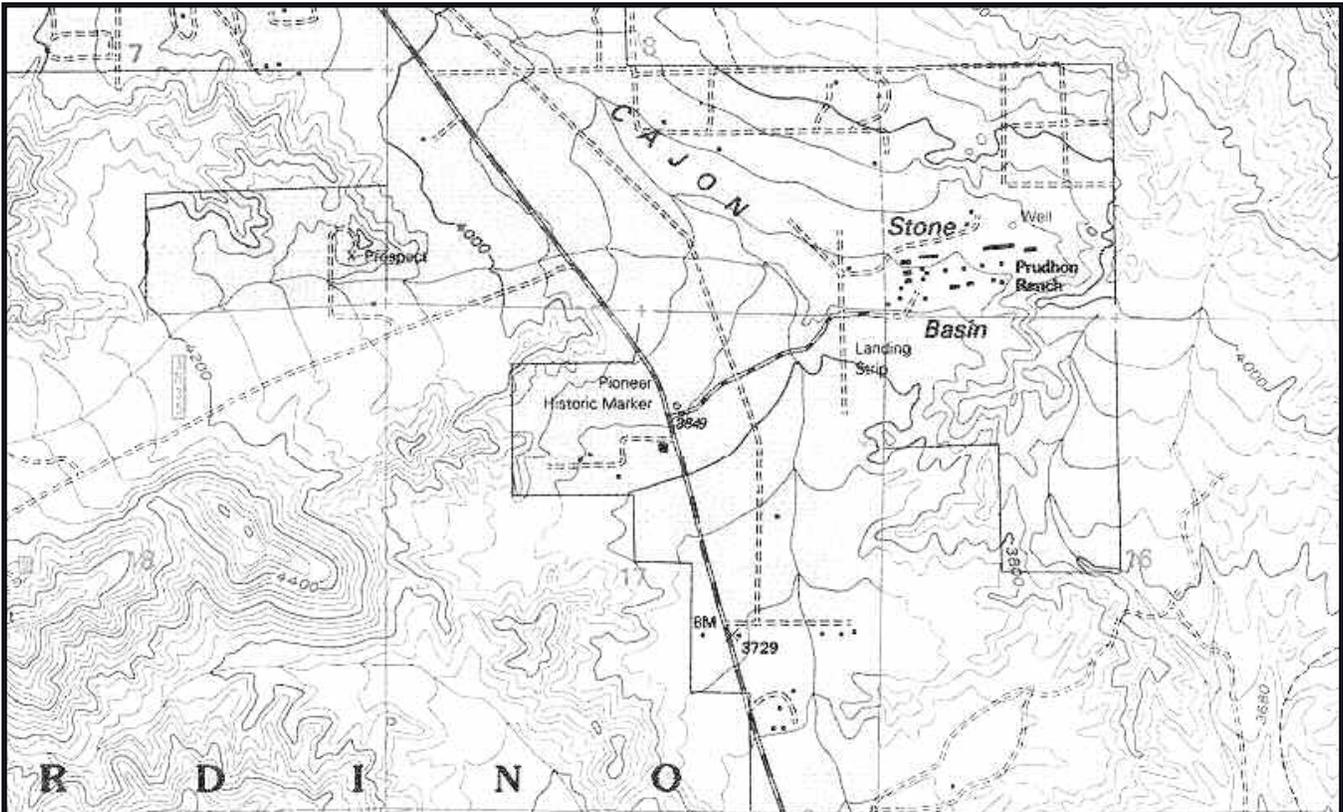
July 11 -15
Leader: Jay Lawrence

Meet in Big Pine at the junction of Highway 395 and 168 at the base of the three giant flagpoles in front of the campground. Be prepared for high altitude, cold and warm weather and a very scenic trip. 4WD with decent clearance and CB required Contact trip

Where am I?

Here are the location and winners for May: The location was volcanic tableland area north of Bishop. Winners were: James Proffitt, Mal Roode, Bob Thille, and Allan Schoenherr.

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."



leader for details and signup.

Joe de Kehoe [jdekehoe@bak.rr.com]
(661)331-3377

chairman, Allan Wicker at 11:45.
MKNUTES

Marilyn Martin moved the minutes be approved as published. Bob Jacoby seconded. Motion passed.

REGRETS

Sunny and Jean Hansen, Debbie and Steve Marschke, Mary and Charles Hughes, Vicki Hill and Jay Lawrence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MRVM BBQ will be May 9.

Jaussauds' beloved pet Toby died March 31. Ken Sears wants to resign as treasurer. Allan Wicker also would like to give some other DE a chance at being president. Allan thinks we should con-

Bristol Dry Lake Area

October 17 – 18, 2009

Leader: Joe de Kehoe

This 2-day trip will focus on the area along old Route 66 between Ludlow and Danby, and south into the Old Woman Mountains. A detailed itinerary has not yet been finalized, but will be published in the newsletter several weeks before the trip. This will be a tour focused mainly on the history of towns, railroad sidings and roadside businesses on this stretch of old Route 66, most of which have been long abandoned, and in the process we will visit places of special geologic interest –Siberia, Dish Hill Volcano, Trojan, Amboy Crater, etc.

The trip will begin Saturday morning in Ludlow and end Sunday afternoon, about noon, back on pavement at the railroad siding at Cadiz. Most of Saturday will be highway driving with minor detours on to side roads. Saturday afternoon we will head off road to camp somewhere in the vicinity of the Ship Mtns. or Old Woman Mtns. via Skeleton Pass Road. On Sunday visit Chubbuck and Archer on the way back to Cadiz. The off-highway portion of the trip is dirt and gravel road, some washboard, and high clearance is a must.

Details and times will be provided nearer the time of the trip.

Where In The World?

Leaders: Anderson/Johns

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 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.

Minutes

Allan & Ding Wicker's House

Sat. Apr. 11, 2009

By Marilyn Martin

PRESENT

Allan and Ding Wicker, Mal Roode, Bob and Nancy Dodds, Neal and Marian Johns, Marilyn Martin, Bob Jacoby, Alan Romspert, Nan Savage, Emmett and Ruth Harder, Joan McGovern-White, Catherine Mayfield.

The meeting was called to order by

Desert Explorer Ham List

Pete Austin	-----Diamond Bar	- KF6FZD
Janet Austin	-----Diamond Bar	- KF6FZE
Craig Baker	-----Sylmar	- KC6KKR
David Bullock	-----Los Angeles	- N3CUE
Jim Byrne	-----Chatsworth	- KE6RFR
Herb Clark	-----Mission Viejo	- KF6EAU
Joseph A. Daly	-----Saugus	- KG6GCW
Axel Heller	---Huntington Beach	- KG6DII
Ted Kalil	-----Apple Valley	- KG6AIT
Chuch Lahmeyer	-----Calif. City	- AF6GT
Jay Lawrence	-----Long Beach	- KI6KAV
Homer Meek	-----Torrance	- K6HKT
Carl Noah	-----Lake Forest	- AB7KD
Nancy Noah	-----Lake Forest	- AE6XL
Jim Proffitt	-----Garden Grove	- WB6FXG
Don Putnam	-----Barstow	- KC6SMI
Malcolm Roode	-----Highland	- KF6GZH
Cyrus Sarange	-----Anaheim	- KF6SME
Ken Sears	-----Cerritos	- KD6UHY
Bob Thille	-----West Hill	- KF6OWH
Brad Thompson	-----Valencia	- KA6UED
Betty Wallin	--Desert Hot Springs	- KD6CY
Al Walter	-----San Diego	- KG6SGM
Bob Younger	-----Santa Barbara	- N6VMN

Some Good Folks to Know

Mojave River Valley Museum

<http://www.mojaverivervalleymuseum.org>

Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the scientific, historical and cultural heritage of the Mojave Desert

Colorado River Historical Society and Museum

2201 Highway 68, Bullhead City, AZ

Located in historic 1940's Catholic Church

Exhibits: steamboats, early ranching, mining, Mojave Indians, Hardyville, gifts.

Friends of the Eastern California Museum

Independence, CA

Check them out! Open weekends. Old farm machinery, bookstore, reference library, great old photos and Owens Valley memorabilia. Nice folks, too.

Mohave Outback Explorations

2945 E. Leroy Ave. Kingman, AZ 86409,

dmes@ctaz.com

Motto: "The world isn't too bad if you can just get out in it."

Searles Valley Historical Society Museum

In Trona just off the main highway

Friends of the Mojave Road

37198 Lanfair Rd.G-15 Essex, CA 92332

(760) 733-4482 <http://www.mdhca.org/>

Historian Dennis Casebier writes desert guidebooks, leads trips, builds museums(!) and has other odd habits. Newsletter subscription is \$20.

Shoshone Museum Association

118 Hwy. 127 P. O. Box 38 Shoshone, CA

<http://www.discoverbaja.com>

Great newsletter, spectacular insurance prices, weather and road reports, etc.

sider term limits.

REPORTS

Newsletter

Marilyn reported we have 113 current members and 18 past due.

Distribution

Joan says all is well, but reminded us that postage is going up May 1

Website

Debbie had reported to Allan all is well.

Trips

Mal passed out the trip schedule. As usual we need more trips and trip leaders. He will try to find some volunteers. Allan Schoenherr and Alan Romsper may lead a trip.

RONDY REVIEW

Allan thanked everyone for their help with the Rondy. We had 50 vehicles registered and 96 people for the catered dinner. Allan announced that Jerry Freeman had told him anyone who camped at Nipton during the Rondy would be entitled to receive the second night of a future camping trip th Nipton free. Allan will

send the caterer, The Rib Company, a thank you letter telling them how pleased everyone was the dinner they served.

The Silent Auction netted \$388.50. Overall profit including the silent auction and registration fees was \$443.50.

Death Valley Junction and Pioneer Town were suggested as future Rondy destinations.

SATELLITE PHONE

Nan Savage, new sat phone custodian brought the sat phone for folks to see. She is looking into the possibility of changing the billing structure to save a few dollars Emmett moved that she be allowed to make the change if feasible. Neal seconded. Motion passed She also reminded us that DE's may borrow the sat phone for private trips by requesting it from her and paying the \$20 shipping fee.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Jacoby volunteered to take over as Treasurer. Many thanks, Bob.

Nancy Dodds will be walking in the Relay For Life to fight against cancer. Any sponsors would be welcomed.

Allan mentioned we still need to find a depository for the Stroud Collection. A couple of places in AZ were mentioned for consideration. No action was taken.

A nominating committee consisting of Emmett Harder, Neal Johns and Marilyn Martin was appointed to find a suggestion for someone to replace Allan as president. This will be a difficult task

The next meeting will be at the Johns' May 30, 11:00 a.m. potluck.

ADJOURNMENT

M.O.E. Trip Schedule

Wait for their final listing on the front of the MOE newsletter before making any firm plans to join one of these.

June 13 Lava River Cave.

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.

Desert Explorers are always invited on M.O.E. trips.

Next Meeting

Sat. May 30

11:00 a.m. potluck

at the Johns'

406 Lytle Creek Rd.

Lytle Creek, CA

Ph: 909-887-1549

Directions to the Johns'

From I-15 take the Sierra exit. Go north - toward the mountains, about 6 miles. 406 is on the left, west, side of the road near Valley Vista St. 0.3 miles past the restaurant and store.

DESERT EXPLORERS

Newsletter

Editor: Marilyn Martin

Asst. Editors: Marian & Neal Johns

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 buy 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
Robert & Shirley Bolin	Distributors Emeritus	1606 Corsica Pl.	Costa Mesa	California	92626	714-549-4361	robertshirl@earthlink.net
Robert & Nancy Dodds	Rock Bucket/No More Rocks	20035 Hodge Rd.	Barstow	California	92311	760-253-7506	orthebirds_99@yahoo.com
David Given	Tire-Some Fellow :-)	12871 Gifford Way	Victorville	California	92392	760-956-1776	daveg1_2000@yahoo.com
Bill Gossett	Wild Bill	433 Valley St.	Ridgecrest	California	93555	760-375-6169	bandbgossett@verizon.net
Jean Hansen	Sure Foot	P.O. Bx. 290729	Phelan	California	92329	760-868-5316	sjhsn@verizon.net
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Charles & Mary Hughes	Chas	1675 Highway 95 A2	Bullhead City	Arizona	86441	928-763-3927	mhach2juno.com
Bob Jacoby	Brewmeister	2245 Wellesley Ave.	Los Angeles	California	90064	310-490-6873	davey.r@worldnet.att.net
Bob Jaussaud	Sue's Husband & Chairman Viejo	P. O. Box 789	Lone Pine	California	93545-0789	818-585-6468	joeso@lonepinetv.com
Sue Jaussaud	Toby Feeder & Chairchick Vieja	P. O. Box 789	Lone Pine	California	93545-0789	760-876-9227	joeso@lonepinetv.com
Marian Johns	Woman of Considerable Will	406 Lytle Creek Road	Lytle Creek	California	92358	909-887-1549	aridneal@gmail.com
Neal Johns	Chm. Emeritus, Aridologist, Asst. Ed.	406 Lytle Creek Road	Lytle Creek	California	92358	909-887-1549	aridneal@gmail.com
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Marilyn Martin	Subscriptions & Newsletter Editor	P.O. Box 291759	Phelan	California	92329-1759	760-868-6606	760-641-1483 mjmartin@dslextreme.com
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Steve Marschke	The Quiet Man	4904 Reynolds Rd.	Torrance	California	90505	310-543-1862	951-316-6545 samarschke@raytheon.com
Joan McGovern-White	Newsletter Distributor	33624A Winston Way	Temecula	California	92592	951-303-3021	jmcgw@verizon.net
Dan Messersmith	M.O.E. Chief & Jeep Sleeper	2945 E. Leroy Avenue	Kingman	Arizona	86409	928-757-8953	928-715-0579 dmess@ctaz.com
Bill Neill	Tamarisk Eradicator	6623 Craner Ave.	North Hollywood	California	91606-2022	818-769-0678	bgneill@earthlink.net
John Page	Trip Coordinator Emeritus, Aridologist	3675 Gingerwood Ct.	Thousand Oaks	California	91360	805-493-1128	805-660-1218 jppage@roadrunner.com
Bob Peltzman	Lost Again	32014 Grenville Ct.	Westlake Village	California	91361	818-865-8464	bopeltzman@aol.com
Ana M. Romero	RawbananaAna	1161 W. Duarte Rd. #4	Arcadia	California	91007	626-821-0044	626-483-6540 anamarie418@yahoo.com
Alan Romsper	Flower Child	605 No. Pomona Ave.	Fullerton	California	92832	714-870-0946	aromsper@fullerton.edu
Malcolm Roode	Trip Coordinator	7014 Mountain	Highland	California	92346	909-864-3525	malroode@gmail.com
Nan Savage	Xterra Terror & Sat Chick	12354 Sarah St.	Studio City	California	91604	818-766-0401	nansavage@sbcglobal.net
Allan Schoenherr	The Good Allan	414 Bluebird Canyon Dr.	Laguna Beach	California	92651	949-494-0675	aschoenherr@fullcoll.edu
Ken Sears	Money Man	P.O. Box 4689	Cerritos	California	90703	562-404-1772	562-650-0461 dsearer@earthlink.net
Anne Stoll	Canologist	143 Monterrey Drive	Claremont	California	91711	909-621-7521	909-730-0137 annestoll@srirm.com
George Stoll	Lens Cleaner	143 Monterrey Drive	Claremont	California	91711	909-621-7521	agstoll@csupomona.edu
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
Betty Wallin	Blender Queen	P. O. Box 1214	Desert Hot Springs	California	92240	760-329-2403	wingit@ix.netcom.com
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.



**DESERT EXPLORERS
OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM**

Marilyn Martin
P. O. Box 291759
Phelan • California • 92329-1759

Deadline for stuff for the July Newsletter is June 10th.
Please!!! Send something...

! FLASH!
Check your subscription date to see if you need to
renew!!!