

DESERT EXPLORERS

No. 164 Nov. 2009

4WD SECTION OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM



Trip Reports Tibet Update

By Marian Johns

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Twelve people are going to Tibet – six now* and six next spring. So why do we have this odd arrangement? Well, all 12 of us were scheduled to leave October 1st and return on the 13th. However, 10 days before our departure date, we received an urgent message from Katherine Liu, our tour organizer in Tibet saying that Tibet suddenly could not issue Tibet Tourist Permits for the days between October 1st and October 8th, and since it is not possible to enter Tibet without the permit, this caused a major foul up in our plans. Every other requirement had been met; we were ready to go. All of us had paid our tour deposits, made reservations and paid for flights and gotten our Chinese visas.

So what was the problem with October 1st – October 8th? Evidently the Chinese are fearful of Tibetan protest demonstrations and riots in response to the 60th anniversary celebration of the People Republic of China which began on October 1st. And this is their way of keeping a lid on potential trouble.

And why did six get to go anyway? Well, Katherine was somehow able to arrange for our group of 12 to join another larger group that already had its permit. So what was the problem with that? Answer: theirs was a six day tour instead of our nine days;

our scheduled trip to the Mt. Everest Base Camp was not certain, and two other side trips would be cancelled. Plus, some of us were not thrilled about being a part of a large group. But as Ana Romero put it, “a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush”. So six of our fellow travelers decided they would go now anyway, as a part of the larger group, and then see some of China’s other highlights on their three extra days - since none of them had been to China before.

And the other six? We have chosen to take a chance and hold out for all nine days and the side trips we were looking forward to – probably late April 2010.

By the time this article appears in November’s DE Newsletter, those six will already be back and we are eagerly awaiting a trip report.

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.

Gold Butte, NV

(MOE)

Nov. 13-15

Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor

This will be a moving camp run for two nights in the Nevada area east of the Virgin River and south of I-15. We call it



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the Nevada Strip. We plan to depart at 8:30 a.m. from the south side parking lot along Beverly Ave. of Kingman Regional Medical Center located at I-40 and Stockton Hill Road in Kingman. Those who wish to show up earlier for breakfast and/or coffee at the hospital cafe may do so. (The food is excellent and inexpensive.) At Overton, NV we will do a lunch stop and get last gas and supplies, then take a cross-country back-road that will allow us to not have to drive I-15. Both camp nights are scheduled to be on the shores of Lake Meade or as close as we can come in the low water conditions. If you intend to go on this trip, please RSVP via e-mail to Dan at: dmess@ctaz.com or Dick at: dickandmouse@aol.com

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## Desert Bar, Swansea, Bill Williams River

(MOE)

**December 5 & 6**  
**Leaders:**  
**Messersmith/Taylor**

This will be an overnight run with a camp out as near the Bill Williams River as possible. We hope to have Carl and Nancy Noah lead the first part of the trip and treat us to a visit to the famous Desert Bar on Saturday, then head for a campsite on or near the Bill Williams River. On Sunday we will visit Swansea and then make a run for a crossing on the Bill Williams and return home via the trails of southern Mojave County. We'll meet at Calico's in Kingman for coffee and breakfast at 7:15 a.m. and depart for Parker at 8:00 a.m. If you intend to go on this trip, please RSVP via e-mail to Dick at: [dickandmouse@aol.com](mailto:dickandmouse@aol.com) or Dan at: [dmess@ctaz.com](mailto:dmess@ctaz.com)

## Cal-Neu Trip

(MOE)

**March 26-28, 2010**  
**Leaders: The Jaussauds**

Bob and Sue will lead and start this excursion by hosting a barbecue chicken dinner and camp at their place on the Colorado River Friday March 26. (Directions to Jaussaud's will be sent to those who RSVP for the event.)

Saturday morning we will leave from the Needles, CA Denney's Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. (CA and AZ should be on the same time by then). Weather permitting we'll camp out in a pretty wash Saturday night and enjoy a traditional potluck dinner after happy hour. Sunday we will end the trip mid-afternoon just south of Searchlight. There will be easy highway access Saturday evening for those who can only be with us one day or in case we need to head for shelter due to weather. During the trip we will noodle on back roads from Needles to Searchlight, experiencing lots of Route 66, railroad, military, mining, Indian, ranching and surveying history along with some beautiful country. As always, 4-wheel drive is mandatory with a working CB. There is one tail-dragger to go down on the Sunday trip. Come prepared to share a dish at the potluck on Saturday night and bringing along a little firewood would be helpful. Please send your RSVP to attend to Bob at: [joeso@lonepinetv.com](mailto:joeso@lonepinetv.com) and please copy Dan at: [dmess@ctaz.com](mailto:dmess@ctaz.com) and Dick at: [dickandmouse@aol.com](mailto:dickandmouse@aol.com)

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Skull Valley, Prescott and Kirkland

(MOE)

June 12 & 13, 2010
Leaders:
Messersmith/Taylor

Almost paved overnight run to Kirkland and Skull Valley areas to investigate the historic and culinary offerings of the area with a overnight camp near or motel stay in the Prescott area. While in Prescott on Sunday, we'll take in some of the historic sites. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. for coffee and breakfast at The Crookery Restaurant at Flying J Truck Stop on Andy Devine in Kingman and depart for the Kirkland area at 8:00 a.m. If you intend to go on this trip, please RSVP via email to Dick at: dickandmouse@aol.com or Dan at: dmess@ctaz.com

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## Arizona Strip Northwest Side

(MOE)

**September 4-11, 2010**  
**Leaders:**  
**Messersmith/Taylor**

This is a return trip to the northwest side of the Arizona Strip, Base camp approximately 30 miles in from St. George and 4 miles west of the Wolf Hole area on BLM Route 1004. While we will not do any Grand Canyon overlooks on this trip, we will take in great scenery, views and great 4x4 trails while traversing the tops of Black Rock Mountain, Seegmiller Mountain, Wolf Hole Mountain and Hidden Rim. Also included may be runs through the canyons of Hidden, Hole-in-Wall, Jump, St. George and Tombstone. More details will follow, as we get closer to the trip. If you intend to go on this trip, please RSVP via email to Dan at: [dmess@ctaz.com](mailto:dmess@ctaz.com) or Dick at: [dickandmouse@aol.com](mailto:dickandmouse@aol.com)

There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a. m.  
It could be a right number.

# Chair's Corner

By The Two Chair Ladies

We would like to call your attention to several things.

1. We Desert Explorers have NO FUTURE TRIPS scheduled. None, zero, not a one, zilch. Did you know we have about 120 Desert Explorers on the e-mail list - not counting spouses and kids? Seems we have plenty of people, but no trips or trip leaders. We need your HELP!!! We can't leave it up to the MOE (Mohave Outback Explorers) in Kingman, Arizona to plan and lead all of our trips. We need volunteers to lead trips.

2. Mark your calendars for NEXT YEAR'S RENDEZVOUS, MARCH 19 - 2, to be held at Death Valley Junction.

3. The NEXT MEETING will be at Dave McFarland's in Riverside - November 8 at 1:00. See details and directions elsewhere in this newsletter.

4. Desert Explorer no longer have the .com web site, only the .org

## Member Doings

### Diorhabda elongata

By Anne Stoll

Some Good News (for a change! -- but first the background).

We're just back from a family reunion in Grand Junction, CO -- a fine time that included a 3-day canoe trip on the Gunnison River. This beautiful river winds through Colorado's gorgeous red rock country featuring gentle sandy banks, plenty of water birds, and lush stands of pinyons, cottonwoods and -- UGH! -- yes, those nasty tamarisk trees. Most of us are only too familiar with this invasive pest tree, also known as a salt cedar. Some will even recall helping Bill Neill try to irradiate it. As we know, riparian



Diorhabda elongata

lands all over the Western U.S. have been severely impacted by the spread of this water-loving, prolific plant -- each tree can produce up to 500,000 seeds annually! It grows in dense, nearly impenetrable thickets that narrow and choke streams and rivers and crowd out native vegetation. Its needle-like leaves exude salt and are of almost no food value to native wildlife species. It's really bad stuff and seeing it growing energetically along the banks of all the Western rivers I've rafted and canoed over the years has been a most depressing sight.

But lo! a tiny hero -- Diorhabda elongata, the tamarisk leaf beetle -- has appeared and I've seen him in action! There, along the lovely Gunnison, were acres of DEAD tamarisk trees! Yes, the black trunks and limbs were still there, but the cottonwoods and willows were squeezing in between them, growing vigorously. Whoo-hoo! George and I were really excited about this! Of course the other people on the canoe trip thought we were a bit strange, doing our Bug Dance of Joy, but oh well.

Seems the beetles have been studied for the job since the 1970s. Quarantined testing began in 1992, but the real field tests began in 2004 when they became available for release on state and private lands. Not long after this they reached the banks of the Gunnison and Dolores Rivers. It takes these little guys about 4 years to kill a large tamarisk tree. They defoliate the trees by eating the leaves and they keep coming back over and over until the darn things are dead. Turns out they ONLY eat tamarisk needles and although birds will eat them, when the

tamarisks die, the beetles go too, so too many bugs is apparently not an issue.

So here's some good news for the day. Maybe some day soon our rivers will be free of this nasty tree again! Let's hear it for the Beetles!

## Alan Romsper was my friend too

By Anne (Duffield) Stoll

Alan Schoenherr did such a great job of remembering Alan in the last DE newsletter and I don't want to belabor our loss, but I'd like to add just a few things.

Alan Romsper was a wonderful desert mentor to me and a dear friend during an important, vulnerable time when I was starting a new life. I met Al, as I called him then, I think in 1979 when I began the master's program in archaeology at Cal State Fullerton.

The CSUF Anthro department was running a six-weekend-per-semester field school out at the Desert Studies Center at Zzyzx. We were learning the basics of archaeology, excavation and desert survey by day while overindulging after class, typical college stuff. It's a wonder some of us ever graduated, but to me the learning at Zzyzx was water given to a person dying of thirst.

Alan was coordinator of the Desert Studies Center then, working valiantly to fix the place up enough to hold classes and accommodate students. In the beginning, there was no electricity except from the noisy part-time generator, no toilet and shower facility, no wonderful kitchen, and no heat in the rooms. Somebody always got stuck in the sand on Zzyzx Road coming or going, somebody usually

found a scorpion in their boots in the morning.

Not only was I new to archaeology, I had never been out in the desert before, and I was excited and full of questions. Alan appreciated my interest and, in between pouring concrete and running pipe, he began teaching me about the plants and animals of the desert, taking me on hikes, explaining the interactions in the living communities to me, letting me tag along with the biologists.

I learned so much from Alan, he was so generous and gentle with his knowledge, always inclusive, never a snob – his understanding of the ways of that arid world made a lasting impression on me. He fostered a deep love and respect for the desert in me which I will always appreciate – as well as a fear of hot salsa! He will be sorely missed.

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## Mohave

By Nancy Woodside Nunn

Just wanted to let you all know that Mohave passed away today. He had a tumor in his mouth and we could not get the bleeding to stop. We took him to the vet and she verified that by looking at it it was cancer. He has been in a lot of pain this last year due to his allergies and his back end was not working as it should.

I got Mohave in Sept 2001. He started training to be a therapy dogs at 4 months old. He passed his Canine Good Citizen test, the testing to be a therapy dog in 2004. With my sister Sharon's amazing sewing skills he had many costumes and always brought a smile to those he visited. He also was a part of a reading program where the kids read to the dog. He brought smiles there and helped many children with their reading. He was a wonderful dog and I cannot say a bad thing about him. He brought many smiles to people including myself.

My heart is hurting so bad right now I



**Mohave**

can hardly see the computer screen for all my tears. Although I know it was the right decision to send him off to Rainbow Bridge it does not make it any easier. There will always be a place in my heart where this big goofy guy will reside. I believe that a part of me is gone now. I know that he will be waiting for me on Rainbow Bridge, but for now I must grieve.

He was a registered therapy dog through Therapy Dogs, Inc.

He was a R.E.A.D. - reading education assistance dog. He worked at the library in Phelan, and that program was called Weekend Wags.

Ed. note: Many DE met Mohave - a really well-mannered pup - on our trips to Quartzsite.

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## Lytle Creek is Burning!

By Neal Johns

That was the essence of the email I received from neighbor Scott Stapenhill while we were in Goffs, CA leading trips for Dennis Casebier's Museum early this month. We have Verizon Wireless internet for our laptop

so when we are gone, we check our emails and the news sites to see what is happening. Thank goodness for good neighbors. A couple of phone calls to neighbors on borrowed cellphones and we found out the fire was moving away. A look at the internet found out Lytle Creek Road was closed. We continued checking on the fire progress in case it turned back toward Lytle Creek and then headed for Arizona to join the twice a year mapping group of the Oregon-California Trails Association. This group, self named the "Trail Turtles" was mapping the Southern Emigrant Trail (over which many California gold rush travelers came) and the Butterfield Stagecoach Route. It was the 25th trail mapping outing for the group so we had a cake-fed celebration to mark the event.

Our first stop was in Prescott, AZ. Note: You had better pronounce this Pres-cut or they will refer to you as a GDT. I will let the reader decipher this adult acronym, common in tourist towns, which I learned in Palm Springs as a teenager. Having a little trouble finding the home of our mapping leader, my chauffeur, Marian, parked to look at the map. On the road again, needing to make a U-turn, she backed up to get closer to the curb. There was a small crunching sound. Uh Oh. Inspection revealed a large, fancy mailbox lying on the ground next to a bent post. "Maybe You should go knock on the door", my chauffeur said. A nice lady opened the door and listened to my sad story. I told her I was just passing by and had stopped the blond woman in the white camper when she tried to drive away. Disappearing afterwards, I was not privy to exactly what subsequently happened.

We stayed overnight at the house of our Mapping Leader and come morning headed for the Windmill. This was a meeting place in the boonies near Benson, AZ near where the trail mapping ended last time. Fully equipped with boots, hat, walking stick, GPS, compass, walky talky, water and vitamins (a.k.a. candy), I headed out to where the old trail was supposed to be. I have no doubt it was there somewhere but all I found was the old abandoned railroad berm that was on the hundred year old map. In a couple of days we gave up as the construction debris from the railroad



hid the old road which was within 100 feet of the railroad.

Moving on to another section of the trail near St. David, AZ, we had better luck, great luck in fact. Striding across the desert with our nose to the ground, looking desperately for rust stains on quartz rocks left by iron wagon wheel rims, we soon were on the trail. There was no ruts or depression left where the wagons traveled so long ago but the rich, chocolate brown spots and streaks on the edges of the rocks do not lie (just to make sure, we had them analyzed by an electron microscope a few years ago). We lost the trail a couple of times when it crossed a flat plain with no rocks, but projected forward the direction of travel and picked it up again when it crossed a deep arroyo. This is possible because the "go down" and "go up" wagon routes down and up decades old eroded arroyo banks have rocks in them. The wagon go downs/ups look just like normal small side arroyos but the rocks in them have rust on them. This trick saved us several times. Of course, you have to check all the side arroyos near the projected point.

Life was not as hard as I may have portrayed, however; the weather was perfect, and every evening a different

person fixed dinner for all. Best of all, we were in the beautiful desert with nothing but basin and range scenery and coyote calls around us

Disclaimer: It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that certain journalistic liberties were taken in describing the details of the mailbox incident.

Come to think of it, this disclaimer applies to many (all?) of my stories.

## Minutes

**By Ruth Harder  
Allan & Ding Wickers' Home  
September 26, 2009**

### PRESENT

Allan & Ding Wicker, Vicki Hill, Bob Jacoby, Jay Lawrence, Neal & Marian Johns, Catherine Mayfield, Emmett & Ruth Harder, Tommy Perasso & Glenda Roach.

### CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 by Vicki Hill.

### REGRETS:

Debbie Miller Marschke, Mal Roode,

Ted Kalil, Betty Wallin, Don Vollmert, Jean & Sunny Hansen, Nan Savage.

### ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO MINUTES:

The minutes were approved as published.

### NEWSLETTER:

Neal Johns said the last time he had talked with Marilyn Martin there were only 3 or 4 subscribers past due. He said he had talked with Cliff Walker who asked if we wanted any changes with the way they printed our trip schedule in the Museum Newsletter. It was unanimously voiced that they were doing a great job; no changes needed.

### TREASURER:

Bob Jacoby reported that on August 31, our bank balance was \$3,321.89.

Bob gave a report for Nan Savage. The satellite phone is now registered with a new plan – Satellite Phone Store. The original plan cost \$41.95 a month plus \$1.69 per minute used. The new plan costs \$37.50 per month with 20 free minutes. Additional time will be \$1.29 per minute; outside USA \$1.99 per minute.

Allan Wicker said Ken Sears still has some old treasury records, and he

wanted to know whether he should transfer them to Bob Jacoby or shred them. After some discussion Emmett Harder moved, seconded by Catherine Mayfield that the records be conveyed to Bob Jacoby to be kept till it is determined they are no longer necessary. The motion carried.

#### WEBSITE:

Vicki Hill gave a report for Debbie Miller Marschke. Debbie said the website is running smoothly and was updated September 12, 2009. Everyone agreed her slideshow tribute to Alan Romsper was very well done. Debbie thanks all who contributed pictures.

There was some discussion about what more we could do to honor the memory of Alan. There is a possibility that the family may want his ashes scattered in the Panamints. We'll keep you informed.

#### TRIPS:

Future trips were discussed. All trips remain as scheduled. Marian Johns and Catherine Mayfield talked about the trip to Tibet. Because of some difficulties with changing regulations, etc. the trip is now limited to 6 days so plans have changed. Only Catherine and 5 others are going now. Marian and 5 more will be going at a later date. Marian said if anyone is interested they have openings for 6 more on her trip.

Neal Johns said next week he will be leading trips from Needles to Goffs for Casebier's Rendezvous. The following week they will go to Benson, AZ to map the Southern Immigrant Trail. Volunteers are welcome! In mid November there will be a symposium of the Oregon California Trail Association at the Avi Casino. Their goal is to get the Southern Immigrant Trail named a National Historic Trail so it will be protected. It was decided Neal should send an e-mail to all members explaining these trips and giving all details.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

The annual Rendezvous was discussed. Ruth Harder passed out information about the accommodations at Death Valley Junction and sample menus from the caterer to be considered. Possible day trips were discussed; there are many interesting sites to visit. The need for a chairman for the Silent Auction as well as trip leaders was discussed. We will keep

you informed with latest updates in the newsletter.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Vicki brought to our attention an article in the L.A. Times, Sept. 18, 2009 'Mojave Solar Project Stopped'. After BrightSource Energy, Inc had scrapped their controversial plan to build a renewable energy in the eastern Mojave Wilderness, our own Gary "Cranky" Thomas was quoted as saying, "That's the best thing I've heard in months. Of all the solar projects being proposed, this is the one that would have driven a stake through the heart of a herd of at least 200 bighorn sheep. We would have died on the mountains out there to stop it".

Gary is the project coordinator for the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8 at 1:00 p.m. at Dave McFarland's home in Riverside. This will be a potluck.

The Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 13th at 1:00 p.m. at the Wickers' home. This will be a potluck. Exchange gifts (\$15:00 max.) should be marked Male, Female or Either.

Emmett Harder said he had proposed a class at CSUSB on the Mountain Meadows Massacre. If they decide against the class, he will plan a springtime field trip to the site.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

## Forty Niners

One year after gold was discovered in California in 1848 the famous Gold Rush was on. Many of us have followed the old emigrant trails on our 4 wheel drive tours around California. Many of us have relatives who came to California along with the gold-seekers and the people who hoped to become rich selling goods and services to the miners.

How much thought have we given to how the gold-seekers got to California, or what an arduous journey they made before they ever reached the beginning of a wagon trail. True some of them came directly into San Francisco by ship. Even

that did not put them in the goldfields. Usually they arrived broke and ill equipped. There were charlatans eager to take everything they could from a newcomer. These opportunists even would go out in boats to meet the incoming ships and buy equipment from the unsuspecting but broke emigrants that they could later sell to the eager gold seekers waiting in San Francisco at exorbitant prices. When the immigrants arrived in San Francisco they soon discovered they had been cheated. Now even more ill-equipped and broke, they were faced with the prospect of finding a way to the goldfields.

It's not exactly a day's walk from San Francisco to the goldfields. Seems the transportation business from San Francisco to the diggings must have been a lucrative business. Can you imagine riding in a crowded coach with a bunch of miners who had been at sea perhaps for months or had ridden or walked across the Isthmus and hadn't been able to afford a bath?

Those who reached the gold fields soon discovered, contrary to the stories they had been told or read, the nuggets were not lying on the ground just waiting to be picked up.

Gold mining in any form is miserable, back-breaking work. If you panned, you stood in icy water hours on end. If you tunneled or hard-rocked you faced the ravages of the dust and cave-ins. There was no easy way. Food and supplies were very expensive so most miners were under nourished and poorly dressed. Pneumonia was generally fatal.

Those who came around The Horn faced an often raging sea and a voyage of perhaps 6 months. Not exactly a nice holiday cruise. Ships were crowded and accommodations crude, often steerage-like. Thinking about what the food was like is enough to give one with a sensitive stomach nightmares. Sanitation was non-existent. Rarely were these gold-seekers sailors used to the rigors and food of a sea journey. How about seasickness? It would be very interesting to read the logs of these ships to see what the daily life was like.

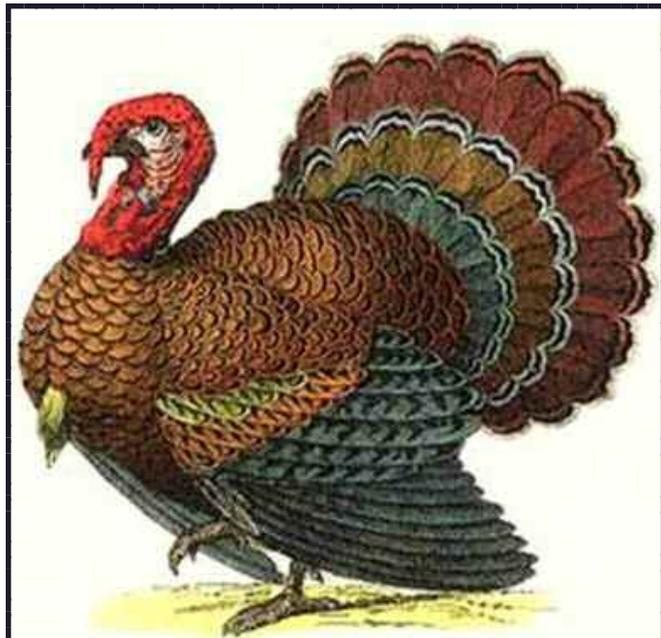
If one chose to cross the Isthmus and were lucky enough to survive the trip, he was again faced with a voyage of 10 to 12 days not to mention mosquitoes and a

mule journey, that although downhill, was most unpleasant. Of course you first had to wait for a space on a ship once you reached the coast. This could prove disastrous. Disease and a decrease in one's finances due to the delay took a heavy toll. Often the ships would cruise up and down the northern Calif. coast for days looking for the entrance to San Francisco Bay in the heavy fog.

There are very few stories of miners who actually became rich. These are the legends – the exceptions. Many made perhaps a year or two's wages and returned home. Many died of starvation and disease. Some stayed in California and became ranchers or businessmen.

Yes it's very interesting, and we see a lot of wonderful scenery when we retrace an old trail in our air-conditioned, well-sprung 4x4's usually traveling along at a comfortable speed listening either to

music or the the trip leader filling us in on the history and hardships encountered on the trail we are now traveling, forgetting that most of the folks were bouncing along at the top speed of about 3 miles per hour and often in the high heat of the Calif. Desert or the freezing cold of our Sierras. Do we ever stop to wonder how the sea-voyagers fared?



Happy Thanksgiving

## CURRENT DESERT EXPLORERS WITH E-MAIL

|                  |                            |                     |                                   |                  |                              |
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| Scott Hanenkrat  | kratcrew@sbcglobal.net     | Deborah Nakamoto    | sky-horse@att.net                 | Loren Upton      | patricia@outbackofbeyond.com |
| Sunny Hansen     | sjhsn@verizon.net          | Bill Neill          | bgnell@earthlink.net              | Don Vollmert     | mvollmert@conejo.k12.ca.us   |
| Jerry Harada     | jkh357.sbcglobal.net       | Stuart Nicol        | stu.nicol@att.net                 | Cliff Walker     | cjwalker@mindspring.com      |
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| Vicki Hill       | vlanehill@verizon.net      | John Page           | jppage@roadrunner.com             | Bob Wieting      | rdwieting@adelphia.net       |
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# Thanksgiving Trivia

Did you know that of the 18 women who came to America on the Mayflower only 4 were still alive at the time of the first Thanksgiving?

## Disclaimer!

The Editor and Asst. Editor are not responsible for any mis-spelling of Rendezvous by the DE Co-Chairs!

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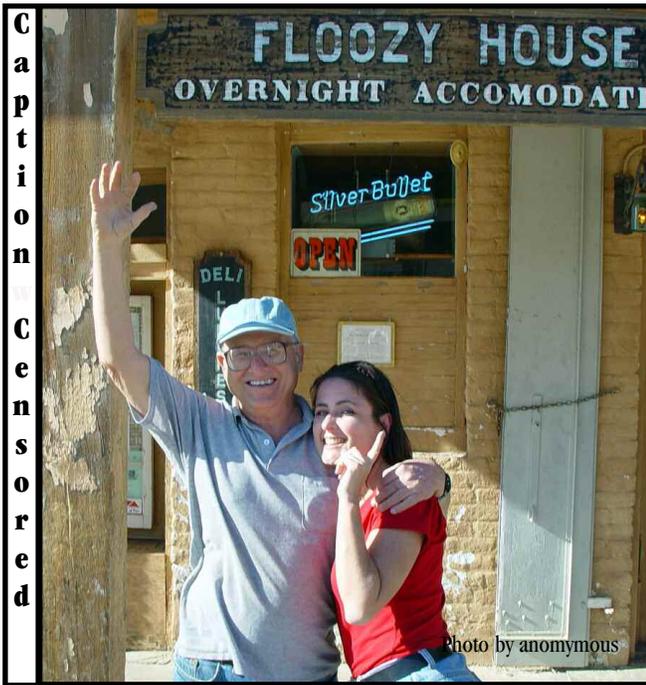


Photo by anonymous

## Where am I?

Here are the location and winners for Oct. Location was: Santa Clara Divide Road, San Gabriel Mnts., south of Acton, at the intersection of forest roads 3N17 and 4N33. Winners were: Leonard Friedman 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".

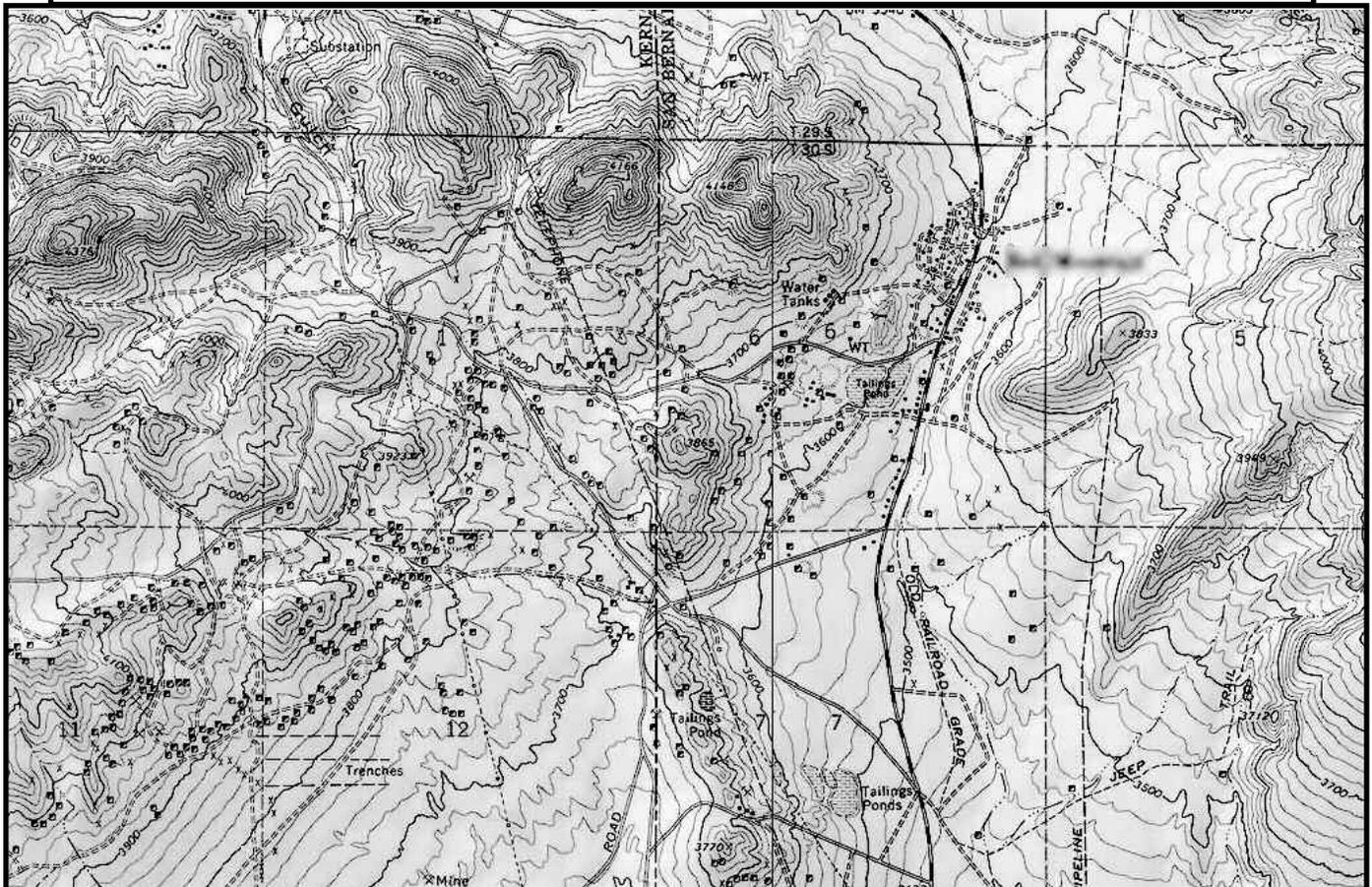




Photo by Allan Wicker

**Caption Censored**

## DIRECTIONS

**To Dave Mc Farland's  
167 Barret Rd., Riverside**

### From Los Angeles area:

Take CA-60 East to Riverside  
Where it merges with I-215 South; con-  
tinue about 1 minute.

Take exit 33 for 3rd St. toward Blaine  
St.

Turn left at 3rd St.

Continue on West Blaine St about 2  
minutes (0.9 mi)

Turn Right at Watkins Dr. about 2 min-  
utes (0.9 mi)

Turn left at Barret Rd. to 4th house on  
left side of street.

Call (951) 306-4464, Vicki's cell, or  
(951) 683-8129, Dave's home, if lost.

### From Orange Co. area:

Take CA-91 to I-60 East toward Indio.  
Immediately get off at Blaine and follow  
directions above.

## Next Meeting

1:00 p.m.

Potluck

Sunday, Nov. 8

At Dave McFarland's

Phone (951) 683-8129

(951)306-4464

## Desert Explorers Trip Schedule

|              |              |      |
|--------------|--------------|------|
| Nov. 14 - 15 | Gold Butte   | MOE. |
| Dec. 5 - 6   | Swansea      | MOE  |
| Dec. 13      | Xmas Party   | DE   |
| Mar 19-21    | <b>Rondy</b> | DE   |
| Mar. 26-28   | Cal-Nev      | MOE  |
| June12-13    | Skull Valley | MOE  |
| Sept. 4-11   | Ariz. Strip  | MOE  |

**Please!!**

**Check your e-mail address. Send  
corrections to [mjmartin@dslex-  
treme.com](mailto:mjmartin@dslex-treme.com)  
Thank You!**

## DESERT EXPLORERS

Newsletter

Editor: Marilyn Martin

Asst. Editors: Marian & Neal  
Johns

## 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,

[dmess@ctaz.com](mailto:dmess@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.

## M.O.E. Trip Schedule

**Visit Desert Explorers on the Web**

**See more pictures and in color!**

<http://desertexplorers.org>

### 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 - K16KAV  
 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

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

November: Mojave Road Loop. This could be an overnight run. Date(s) and details to follow.

November 13-15: Gold Butte, NV  
 December 5 & 6: Bill Williams, Swansea, Desert Bar and Parker. This could be an overnight run.

January 2010: Quartzsite run, with more 4x4 trips than shopping trips. This may or may not be timed with the annual DE excursion. Jim & Jeanne Jacobs will organize this one for MOE.

February 13 & 14: An overnighter to Temple Bar.

March: Bob and Sue Jaussaud will take us on a loop road from Needles into the California and Nevada deserts. We may start this with breakfast in Needles end this with a BBQ & Potluck at Bob and Sue's place on the river.

April: Eastern Arizona and Western New Mexico as we tour Canyon de Chelly and other ancient Indian sites. Haul and Mary Reddick are working on this trip. This will be a multiple day trip.

May: A multi-day run across Arizona to trace and drive as much of the various tracks of Historic Route 66 we can find. Not just the ones you find in

the tour guides. We have found, by accident, that there is more left out there than most folks know about or can be found on the modern maps. We intend to do our best to find out just what is left. 4x4 will be required as we may encounter some really old pieces that require some "go around noodling."

June: A day run or perhaps overnight run back to Kirkland and Skull Valley to investigate the historic and culinary offerings of the area with a possible overnight in Prescott. Planning dates are 6/11/10 and/or 6/12/10.

July: Return trip to Utah around the US 89 corridor. We will be making some visits to some of our favorite small towns in Utah for great food and hospitality. This is a running camp and motel trip. We will try and build in an overnight stay at the Rockin' R Ranch and Lodge in Antimony which would be a great little treat.

August: Nothing in planning yet

September: Return trip to the north-west side of the Arizona Strip, Base camp approximately 30 miles in from St. George and 4 miles west of Wolf Hole area on BLM Route 1004. Current planning dates are Saturday 9/11/10 to Saturday 9/18/10.

## 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 near 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      | 760-956-1776 | daveg1_2000@yahoo.com                    |
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| Sunny Hansen           | Glyphologist                           | P.O. Bx. 290729         | Phelan             | California | 92329      | 760-868-5316 | 760-217-7555<br>sjhsn@verizon.net        |
| Emmett Harder          | Scotty                                 | 18201 Muriel Ave.       | San Bernardino     | California | 92407      | 909-887-3436 | 909-260-7189<br>echco@verizon.net        |
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| Charles & Mary Hughes  | Chas                                   | 1675 Highway 95 A2      | Bullhead City      | Arizona    | 86441      | 928-763-3927 | mhad2juno.com                            |
| Bob Jacoby             | Treasurer                              | 2245 Wellesley Ave.     | Los Angeles        | California | 90064      | 310-490-6873 | jacoby.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                     |
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| Neal Johns             | Chm. Emeritus, Aridologist, Asst. Ed.  | 406 Lytle Creek Road    | Lytle Creek        | California | 92358      | 909-887-1549 | aridneal@gmail.com                       |
| Jay Lawrence           | Quicksand Guy, Editor Emeritus         | 530 Ohio Ave.           | Long Beach         | California | 90814      | 562-439-5323 | solariscomm@earthlink.net                |
| Marilyn Martin         | Subscriptions & Newsletter Editor      | P.O. Box 291759         | Phelan             | California | 92329-1759 | 760-868-6606 | 760-641-1483<br>mjmartin@dslextrreme.com |
| Debbie Miller Marschke | Webchick/Roadrunner                    | 4904 Reynolds Rd.       | Torrance           | California | 90505      | 310-543-1862 | dmiller@guideone.com                     |
| Steve Marschke         | The Quiet Man                          | 4904 Reynolds Rd.       | Torrance           | California | 90505      | 310-543-1862 | 951-316-6545<br>samarschke@raytheon.com  |
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| Dan Messersmith        | M.O.E. Chief & Jeep Sleeper            | 2945 E, Leroy Avenue    | Kingman            | Arizona    | 86409      | 928-757-8953 | 928-715-0579<br>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<br>jppage@roadrunner.com    |
| Bob Peltzman           | Lost Again                             | 32014 Grenville Ct.     | Westlake Village   | California | 91361      | 818-865-8464 | bopeltzman@aol.com                       |
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| 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 Emeritus                     | P.O. Box 4689           | Cerritos           | California | 90703      | 562-404-1772 | 562-650-0461<br>dsearer@earthlink.net    |
| Anne Stoll             | Canologist                             | 143 Monterrey Drive     | Claremont          | California | 91711      | 909-621-7521 | 909-730-0137<br>annestoll@srircm.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                     |

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 a check for **\$20.00 made out to: Mojave River Valley Museum** 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 \_\_\_\_\_



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

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

Deadline for stuff for the Dec. Newsletter is Nov. 10th.  
Please!!! Send something...

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