

DESERT EXPLORERS

No. 167 FEB. 2010

4WD SECTION OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM



Rendezvous 2010

March 19-21

By Vicki Hill

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This March, our rendezvous will be held in Death Valley Junction at the historic Amargosa Hotel and Opera House.

This tiny town of 20 people, east of Death Valley National Park, sits at the intersection of state routes 190 & 127 in Inyo county.

Our usual fun field trips will be offered and the traditional Silent Auction will go on thanks to the offer by Nancy Dodds and Maybelle Lipking. So be sure to bring those auction items along!

There will be a potluck on Friday night, so bring your favorite dish along to share. Happy hour on Friday at 5:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Meet at the camping area to visit with old friends.

Gasoline is not available in town, so be sure to gas up in Baker or Shoshone on your way in.

On Saturday night we will have a wonderful catered, all-you-can-eat dinner of pasta, various sauces, salad, bread, drinks and a dessert of berry cobbler. Afterward, you can attend a show at the Opera House. It will be a live, choreographed performance with mime, music and a film of Marta Becket being interviewed. She is recovering from a broken hip and arm and will not be performing.

The hotel has 18 rooms available for \$67.20 per night. Be sure to say you are with the Desert Explorers. Call 760-852-4441 for reservations. Ask for Rich. Be sure to reserve your room early. First come - first served.

Camping will be available across the highway for \$5.00 per night. Porta-Potties, fresh water and RV dump will be available. No hookups.

The café is open for breakfast early with home-made pies and pastries.

More information on trips will be coming in the next newsletter. We need leaders!!! Think of a trip you might want to lead, including an in-bound on Friday.

Registration will be \$10.00 per vehicle. Dinner \$15.00 per adult, child 10 and up \$10.00, camping \$5.00 per day.

Tickets for Marta's performance will be available at \$15.00 each.

Put March 19-21 on your calendar now!

Death Valley Junction: Historic and Scenic Site of our

2010 Rondy

By Allan Wicker

What was once the borax mining town of Amargosa (now called Death Valley Junction) is the site of our 2010 Desert Explorers Rendezvous. The dates are March 19 to 21. Make plans now to attend. The registration form is located elsewhere in this newsletter.

Death Valley Junction's most famous resident is ballerina and artist Marta Becket, of whom every Desert Explorer has heard.



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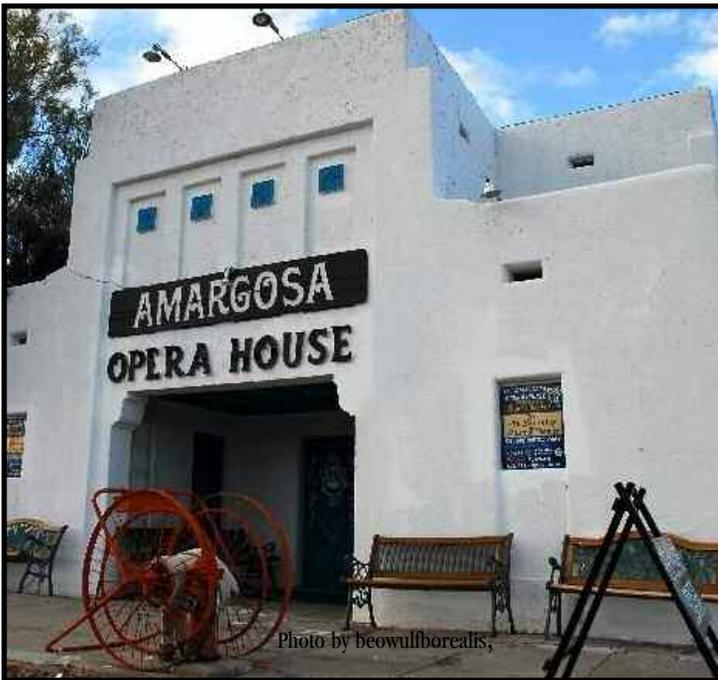


Photo by beowulfborealis,

Marta describes seeing an abandoned theater (now her Amargosa Opera House) in 1967 when she and her husband stopped in Amargosa to have a flat tire repaired:

“...I gazed down the long colonnade of what was known as the Amargosa Hotel... I stood in the noonday sun gazing at this long, beautiful colonnade...then I wandered down to where it turned a corner...suddenly my eyes fell on the largest structure in the row. It looked like a theater....I wandered around the back....

There was a hole in the back door, through which I tried to peer inside. A few sunbeams pierced the dark interior. Finally my eyes were able to make out a small stage with faded calico curtains hanging from a track. Debris was strewn

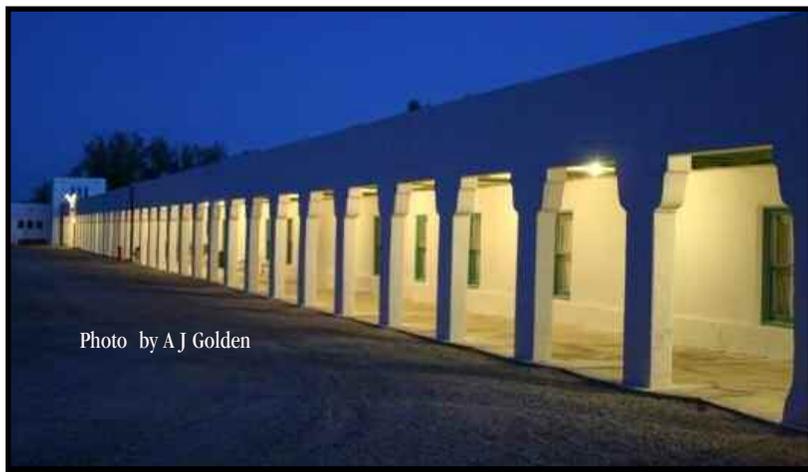


Photo by AJ Golden

Amargosa Hotel

all over the warped floor boards and several rows of wooden benches faced the stage....Pockets of dust and sand provided a backdrop for kangaroo rats and desert spiders. “

...As I peered through the tiny hole, I had the distinct feeling I was looking at the other half of my life. The building seemed to be saying, ‘Take me. Do something with

me. I offer you life.’ “
(*From To Dance on Sands: The Life And Art of Death Valley's Marta Becket, by Marta Becket, p. 283.*)

After 40 years dancing on that stage, octogenarian Becket now presents a weekly “Sitting Down Show.”

For more information on Becket and the Opera House, see these websites: <http://www.amargosa-opera-house.com/aboutmarta.htm> , and <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91845687>

Located near the Nevada border at the intersection of California Highways 127 and 190, Death Valley Junction is just outside Death Valley National Park. The town was built to house workers of the Pacific Coast Borax Company, which had its headquarters there from the 1920's to the 1940s.

Death Valley Junction and Ryan were the end points of the Death Valley Railroad that operated between 1914 and 1928.

A few

lucky rendezvous participants can stay in the historic Death Valley Junction Hotel, which bloggers variously describe as “fantastic,” “a magical spot, with magical people,” “nice, different, unusual- certainly not run-of-the-mill,” and “care-worn but quirky - well worth a look.” Of course there will also be camping opportunities.

Further details on the 2010 Rendezvous will appear in future issues. We will offer trips to historic, scenic and exotic sites. The silent auction will continue in tribute to its founder, our departed good buddy Alan Romspert. Plan now to come out to meet old friends and make new ones and go on interesting trips at our annual gathering.

Silent Auction

Nancy Dodds and MayBelle Lipking have volunteered to take charge of the Silent Auction. Start saving those usable or interesting items to donate.

Bring them with you to the rendezvous, or, if you are not coming, ask someone to bring them for you. E-mail Nancy for further information or to volunteer to give them a hand at: forthebirds_99@yahoo.com

Trip Reports

Joe Elliott Tree Memorial



Photo by Allan Wicker

Snowy Road to Elliott Tree

December 5, 2009
By Marian Johns

Our one day trip up the San Savaine Road was a leisurely drive which took us up, up and up into the clouds which were blowing quite rapidly

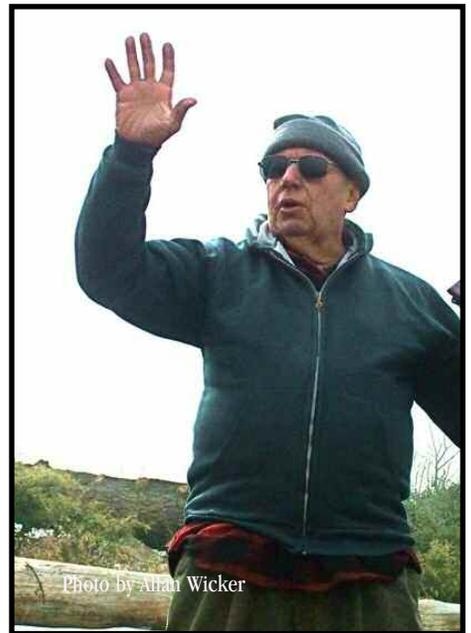


Photo by Allan Wicker

Emmett Expounding

across our trail – sometimes clearing for a minute or two to expose the steep, surrounding mountains. Even though it had snowed a week or so prior to this day, nine vehicles and 16 people braved the elements and cold weather. Our 16 participants included Ruth and Emmett Harder, Nan Savage and her friend Ed Correll, Dave and Pen Bullock, Nancy Gorham and her friend, Jean Paul Revel, Allan Wicker, Betty Wallin and Don Sweinhart, Ted Kalil, Leonard Friedman and yours truly, Marian Johns and current hubby, Neal. Luckily we found the snow mostly melted and the road firm, but just to be sure we kept our truck in 4 wheel drive.

Although the distance to the Joe Elliott Tree Memorial Campground is only 12.5 miles, it took over two hours to get there. We did make a short side trip to the microwave tower complex, but that only took about 30 minutes. Because of a massive rock slide, the campground is now the end of the road, but once it was possible to drive all the way across the moun-



Photo by Allan Wicker

Desert Explorers at Elliott Tree

tain face and down to Cucamonga Canyon, north of Upland and Alta Loma.

There at the campground Emmett Harder tried to tell the story of the Joe Elliott Tree's sad end, but he was frequently interrupted by a horde of busy wood cutters and their noisy chainsaws. Back in 2003, the Grand Prix fire destroyed nearly 60,000 acres, including the area around the campground. So the U.S. Forest Service has bulldozed many of the dead trees into trash piles and is now allowing wood cutters to haul out truck loads of fire wood.

Emmett Harder did, between chainsaw outbursts, eventually tell us how, back in the late '60's or early '70's, the Forest Service decided to take the old giant down. Seems the tree had been weakened by campers building campfires within the hollow base, and it was in danger of falling on its own. To avoid such an unpredictable event that might imperil visitors, the USFS hired Emmett, our very own explosives expert, to do the dirty work. Emmett set the charges in a groove that had been cut around the base of the trunk, and then, with a multitude of Forest Service personnel watching from a safe distance, he lit it off. The tree rocketed straight up and broke into two sections, before tumbling to the ground. A few minutes later, Emmett says, a motorcycle rider arrived and asked where the Joe Elliott Tree was as he had been waiting for years to see the largest tree in Southern California. "Well," Emmett explained, "You're about five minutes too late."

Since it was quite windy and chilly at the campground, we opted to have lunch back in a cleared area we had passed earlier. Unfortunately, we found that place windy and cold too, but since it was after lunchtime, we decided to forego friendly chatting and eating outside. Instead, we all munched on our sandwiches, etc., in the warmth and shelter of our vehicles.

A while back, on another Desert Explorer trip up to see the remains of the Joe Elliott Tree, we found a huge, mostly intact log, but now, because of the 2003 fire, it has been reduced to a blackened, charred hulk, that is just a small remnant of its former self. Yet, somewhere in Southern California there has to be another "largest" tree; I wonder where? When will it be found? And who will find

it?

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.

Temple Bar

(MOE)

Feb. 12 - 14

Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor

A double overnighter to Temple Bar. We'll stay in the campground at Temple Bar and establish a campsite. You may join us on Friday or come up for Saturday and/or Sunday for camping or just the day runs. We will do day runs into the areas between Temple Bar and Hoover Dam. The day runs will start at 8:30 a.m. from the parking lot of the local Temple Bar Cafe. If you are going to join us Friday or plan to come up and camp with us on Saturday night, contact us in advance. If you plan to join us for one or more of the day runs it would also be good to know who will be coming. Please RSVP via e-mail to Dan <dmess@ctaz.com> or Dick <dickandmouse@aol.com>

El Paso Mountains

A one or two day trip

Feb. 19, 20, 2010

Leaders: Johns & Hansens

CB: 13

Feb. 19 - We will meet in the little historic, semi-ghost town of Randsburg and leave there at 10:00 a.m. Randsburg is only a mile off Hwy. 395 at the very eastern edge of Kern County (See

AAA's Kern County map). Come early if you want to see a bit of this quaint town before our departure. The first stop will be the Terese rock art site; Sunny and Jean have been there and know the way. After Terese, we will take an easy (the Hansens say) 4x4 trail to Sheep Springs which is a scenic spot with water, trees and more petroglyphs. Goler Gulch is next; it's another scenic place with a challenging 4x4 spot called The Narrows. For those who would rather not attempt this, there is a longer, but easier way around. From there, we'll head over to the site of Colorado Camp and exit the El Pasos down Mesquite Canyon to the Red Rock-Randsburg Highway. For those who would like to make this a two day trip, we will continue to wander through the El Pasos. Saturday evening we'll just camp wherever we happen to be when it's time to stop.

Feb. 20 - Sunday morning, we'll leave camp about 9:00 a.m. and continue through the El Pasos. If you've never been here, you'll be amazed by the multicolored formations. It is truly a scenic area, so be sure to bring your cameras. If there are enough folks who have never been to Burro Schmidt's Tunnel, we can make a detour to see that and then make our way down the upper part of Last Chance Canyon and exit up an obscure, little-used side canyon that will take us out to Highway 14, Red Rock Canyon and on home - wherever that might be. 4x4 only; call or e-mail for details.

Rock Art of the Bighorns

A one or two day trip

March 6 - 7

Leaders: Hansens & Johns

CB: 13

The group will meet at the parking lot of the Burger King which is at the southwest corner of the I-15

and Main Street in Hesperia. Departure time

9:00 a.m. (If anyone is going to be late, please call Jean's cell phone (760) 217-7555). The latest we will wait is 9:15 a.m. unless you have called us to let us know you are on your way.

We will visit several scenic little canyons with petroglyphs on the north side of the Big Horns. We will also try to locate the site of Willy Boy's grave, using Bill Mann's book on Lucerne Valley. Sunday we'll see more petros, and if time allows, the Integretron.

High clearance 4X4 wheel drive is required. CB Channel 13. CB is a must on this trip and please make sure you have a full tank of gas.

Cal-Nev 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 Jaussauds' 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 and please copy Dan at: dmess@ctaz.com and Dick at: dickandmouse@aol.com

Grass Valley Wilderness

April 10, 2010

(Subject to change)

Leaders: Bob Dodds and Tug, shot gun, (Oh, Nancy too) and our new rear gunner Snickers.

CB: 21

We will meet at Kramer Junction (58 and 395) across the RR tracks, northeast corner at 8:30 a.m.

This trip will be thru the Grass Valley Wilderness; included stops at, Steam Well, Brown's Ranch site, Black Water Well, the motorcycle memorial site and others. Gas at Kramer, don't forget to bring the usual stuff for a day trip. See you then. Bob Dodds
<forthebirds_@yahoo.com>

Skull Valley, Prescott and Kirkland

(MOE)

June 12 & 13, 2010

Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor

Mostly 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



Photo by Allan Wicker

Chairs

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 or Dick at: dickandmouse@aol.com

Minutes

Allan & Ding Wicker's House

Sunday, December 13

By Jean Hansen

PRESENT:

Allan & Ding Wicker, Genmary Wentworth, David Wicker, Sunny & Jean Hansen, Neal & Marian Johns, Vicki Hill, Dave McFarland, Bob & Nancy Dodds, Maybelle Lipking, Bill & Gwenn Neill, Debbie Miller-Marschke, Steve Marschke, Nan Savage, Bob Jacoby, Ron Ross, Nancy McLean, Emmett & Ruth Harder, Marilyn Martin, Larry Boerio, Reda Anderson, John & Anna Page and Mary Jo Bartholomew.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Vicki Hill and Marian Johns.

REGRETS: Mal Roode, Dave Given, Joan McGovern-White and Allan Schoenherr.

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES:

There was one correction to the previous minutes; the Tibet trip to be led by Marian and Reda was listed as being led by Dragoman Tours. Marian stated that this is not the case.

REPORTS:

Membership:

Marilyn stated that we have 103 paid members, with 12 past due.

Newsletter:

Marilyn said that the newsletter will be in the mail on Wednesday, December 16 and that Joan is not having any problems with newsletter distribution.

Treasurer:

We have \$2,944 in the checking account as of November 30, 2009. Bob explained that the balance is lower due to two months' worth of mailing expenses. He expects a large deposit of new membership fees in December. Bob then passed around a financial statement for review.

Website:

Debbie said that she requested that the domain request for desertexplorers.org be changed from John Page to her name. She had to fill out a special form and have the Museum sign off on it. Regarding desertexplorers.com, Debbie is negotiating with the "pirates" who tried originally to sell it back to us for \$2,400. Debbie now has them down to \$500. She said that in March, they may relinquish .com and we can try again.

Museum:

1) Bob reported that placement of the little donated cabin from Big Bear is in progress. It will serve as a blacksmith shed and will be placed at the end of the old Drover Car.

2) There will be a wine tasting event sometime in February (TBD).

3) The Museum Annual Barbecue will be held on May 15, 2010.

Trips and other events:

Marian passed out Mal's trip list:

1) January 14-19 - Quartzsite, AZ - MOE

2) January 20-24 - Quartzsite, AZ - DE

3) January 30-31 - Black Mountains, AZ - Leaders-Bob Jacoby and Mary Hughes

4) February 12-14 - Temple Bar - MOE

5) February 19-20 - El Paso Mountains - Leaders - Neal & Marian Johns and Sunny & Jean Hansen

6) March 6-7 - Rock Art of the Big Horn Mountains - Leaders - Sunny & Jean Hansen and Neal & Marian Johns

7) March 19-21 - Rendezvous at Death Valley Junction DE

8) March 26-28 - Cal-Nev trip - MOE - Leaders-Bob & Sue Jaussaud and Dan Messersmith

9) April 10 - Yates Well - Leader Bob Dodds

10) April - last two weeks - international trip to Tibet - Leaders - Marian Johns & Reda Anderson

11) April/May (dates TBD) - Eastern Arizona and western New Mexico -MOE

12) April/May (dates TBD) - Arizona, Historic Route 66 - MOE

13) May 1-2 - Carrizo Plain/San Andreas Fault - Leader - Bob Jacoby

14) May 7-9 - Ghost town of Vanderbilt, w/camping at Goffs - Leaders - Debbie Miller-Marschke and Steve Marschke

15) May 21-23 - Panamint Range - east side - Leaders - Emmett & Ruth Harder and Reda Anderson

16) June (dates TBD) - Mammoth area

to Bodie, Hawthorne, NV and Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park. originally planned with Alan Romspert, 3 days and 2 nights - Leader - Allan Schoenherr

17) June 12-13 - Kirkland, Skull Valley and Prescott - MOE

18) July (dates TBD) - White Mountains - Leader - Jay Lawrence

19) July 31-August 8 - Colorado, San Juan Mountains - Leaders - Ted Kalil

20) September 4-11, Arizona Strip, northwest side - MOE

21) October (dates TBD) - Idyllwild - Leader - Vicki Hill

Tentatively Planned Trips:

1) San Bernardino Mountains - Arrowhead environs, Deep Creek

2) Tomo Kahn State Historic Park (Tehachapi area) and Burnham Canyon

3) Old Woman Mountains

4) Alaska - Drive Alcan Highway and return via Inside Passage on a ferry -

Directions to Wickers

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

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

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

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

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

**Send in your
Rondy Registration form!
Include a SASE**

Leaders- Marian Johns and Reda Anderson

5) Bob Jacoby would like to do a trip along the San Andreas Fault. This might involve several separate days/segments of the Fault: (1) Brawley to Desert Hot Springs east of the Salton Sea. (2) Desert Hot Springs to Cajon Pass. Bob needs a geologist along and Emmett volunteered to see if he could find one. Vicki commented that perhaps she could coordinate with Allan Schoenherr for a wildflower trip in April or May, which could be combined with this trip.

6) Bob Jacoby – June/July (TBD) back side of the White Mountains, Dead Horse Meadow, Cottonwood Creek

Trip Reports:

Marilyn requested trip descriptions from trip leaders for the following:

1) Emmett Harder –San Sevaine trip to the Joe Elliott Tree. Emmett stated that

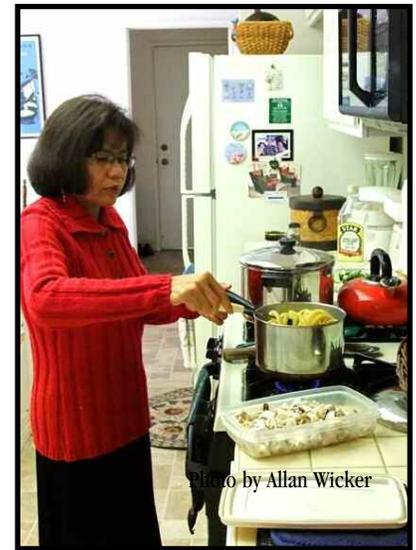
it was a nice trip, maximum elevation 6800-feet. They had 9 vehicles and no one froze. When they got to the campground, it was filled with pickups gathering firewood. The Joe Elliott tree had been 200-feet high when Emmett blew it up (at the request of the Forestry Service).

Rendezvous:

1) Nancy & Bob Dodds reported that there are plenty of tables and chairs at Amargosa and we will not need to bring any. Also, the room for the silent auction has locks, so we don't need to worry about it during times when we are away. MayBelle and Nancy will run the silent auction. Thank you, Maybelle and Nancy!

2) Performance – Saturday night. There will be a performance (Marta will be seated). Cost - \$15.00 and members need to make their own reservations

separate from the Rendezvous registrations. Vicki will send a memo of this to



Ding Preparing Xmas Goodies

CURRENT DESERT EXPLORERS WITH E-MAIL

Reda Anderson	redafllygal@aol.com	Robert J. Jacoby	jacoby.r@worldnet.att.net	Don Putnam	wegotoo@yahoo.com
Craig Baker	seahawk190@mail.com	Bob Jaussaud	joeso@lonepinetv.com	Fred Raab	fjr@fredraab.com
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Vicki Hill	vlanehill@verizon.net	Mel Patterson	pattermr@cox.net	Bob Wieting	bwieting@mac.com
Dean W. Hilleman	deanh707@msn.com	Robert Peltzman	bopeltzman@aol.com	Gordon Wilcher	flashg@iwisp.com
John Hoopes	jnhooops@sbcglobal.net	John Perko	jperko003@earthlink.net	Willie Young	byoung39@verizon.com
Charles Hughes	mhach@juno.com	Jim Proffitt	jproffitt@sbcglobal.net	Bob Younger	bobyounger@verizon.net

Marilyn for inclusion in the newsletter.

Rendezvous Trips:

1) Saturday/Sunday(?) Susan Sorrell will lead a history tour into Dublin

Christmas Party Candid

By Allan Wicker

Gulch. One of the highlights will be foot-

Message from Bob Peltzman

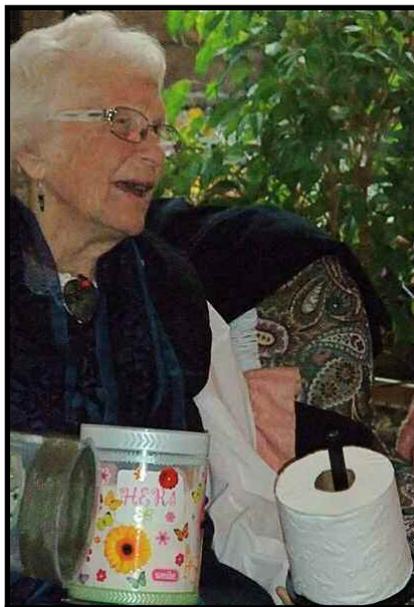
I want to thank all those who helped me get on the right track during the last 7 years. I hope you guys and gals have had as much fun figuring them out as I have had "getting lost". Bob (still lost) Peltzman

Here are the top scorers for the last 97 puzzles: Allan "The Champ" Schoenherr - 56, James Proffitt - 42, Mal Roode - 30, Joan Steiner - 25, Bob Thielle - 24, Leonard Friedman - 22, Bob Wieting - 14, Bill Dunlap - 13, Bob Younger - 12

prints of camels and prehistoric horses. This will be a 2-wheel

Send in your Rondy registration form. Don't forget to include a SASE

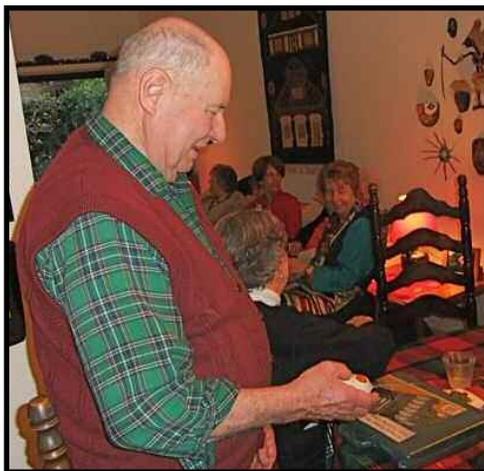
drive trip.



MayBelle



Nancy



Emmett



Anna & John Page



Gen

Where Am I?

Here are the winners for and Location for January: Mystery location: Camp Josefo, Santa Monica Mts. Near Pacific Palisades, Winners: Mal Roode, Allan Schoenherr, James Proffitt, Bob Wieting, Craig Baker, Bob Thille

New map right after the Rendezvous

Rendezvous Registration Form

March 19-21, 2010

All names in party

Address

Phone

E-Mail

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

Camping Fee \$5.00 (per day) 5.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Saturday Night Dinner

Number of meals for your party 15.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Children's (Under 10) meals 10.00 X _____

Grand Total (Registration, Camping, Meals) = \$ _____

Make check out to MRVM (Mojave River Valley Museum). Mail to Bob Jacoby, 2245 Wellesley Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90064 by March 12. No refunds. INCLUDE A SASE!!

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

Don't forget a dish to share for the Friday evening potluck and something for the Silent Auction.

Tickets for Marta's performance at the Opera House will be available at \$15.00 per person at Death Valley Junction.

Next Meeting

Saturday

February 6

11:00 a.m. Potluck

At the Wickers'

1430 Sitka

Claremont

(909) 445-0082

DESERT EXPLORERS

Newsletter

Editor: Marilyn Martin

Asst. Editors: Marian & Neal Johns

Desert Explorers Trip Schedule

Feb.12-14	Temple Bar	MOE
Feb. 19-20	El Paso Mts	Johns/Hansen
Mar.6, 7	Big Horn Mtns.	Hansen
Mar. 19-21	Rondy	DE
Mar. 26-28	Cal-Nev	MOE
April 10	Steam Well	Dodds
April 17-29	Tibet II	International
May 1 -2	Carrizo Plain	Jacoby
May 8-9	Vandervilt	Miller
May 14-16	Panamints	Harder
MAY 15	MRVM BBQ	Museum
May 21-23	Panamints	Harder
June 12-13	Skull Valley	MOE
July 31- Aug. 8	San Juans	Johns
Sept.4-11	AZ Strip	MOE

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.

February 12 - 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 and 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 \$20 for a subscription to Marilyn Martin, PO Box 291759, Phelan, CA 92329-1759. Make the check out to Mojave River Valley Museum (MRVM).

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: Malcolm Roodie. Send your trip proposals to Mal. Mal will resolve any time conflicts and may 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
Robert & Shirley Bolin	Distributors Emeritus	1066 Corsica Pl.	Costa Mesa	California	92626	714-549-4361	robertshirl@earthlink.net
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Sunny Hansen	Glyphologist	P.O. Bx. 290729	Phelan	California	92329	760-868-5316	760-217-7555 sjhsn@verizon.net
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Charles & Mary Hughes	Chas	1675 Highway 95 A2	Bullhead City	Arizona	86441	928-763-3927	mhsch2juno.com
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Sue Jaussaud	Chairchick Vieja	P. O. Box 789	Lone Pine	California	93545-0789	760-876-9227	joeso@lonepinetv.com
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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
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 dsearer@earthlink.net
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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.

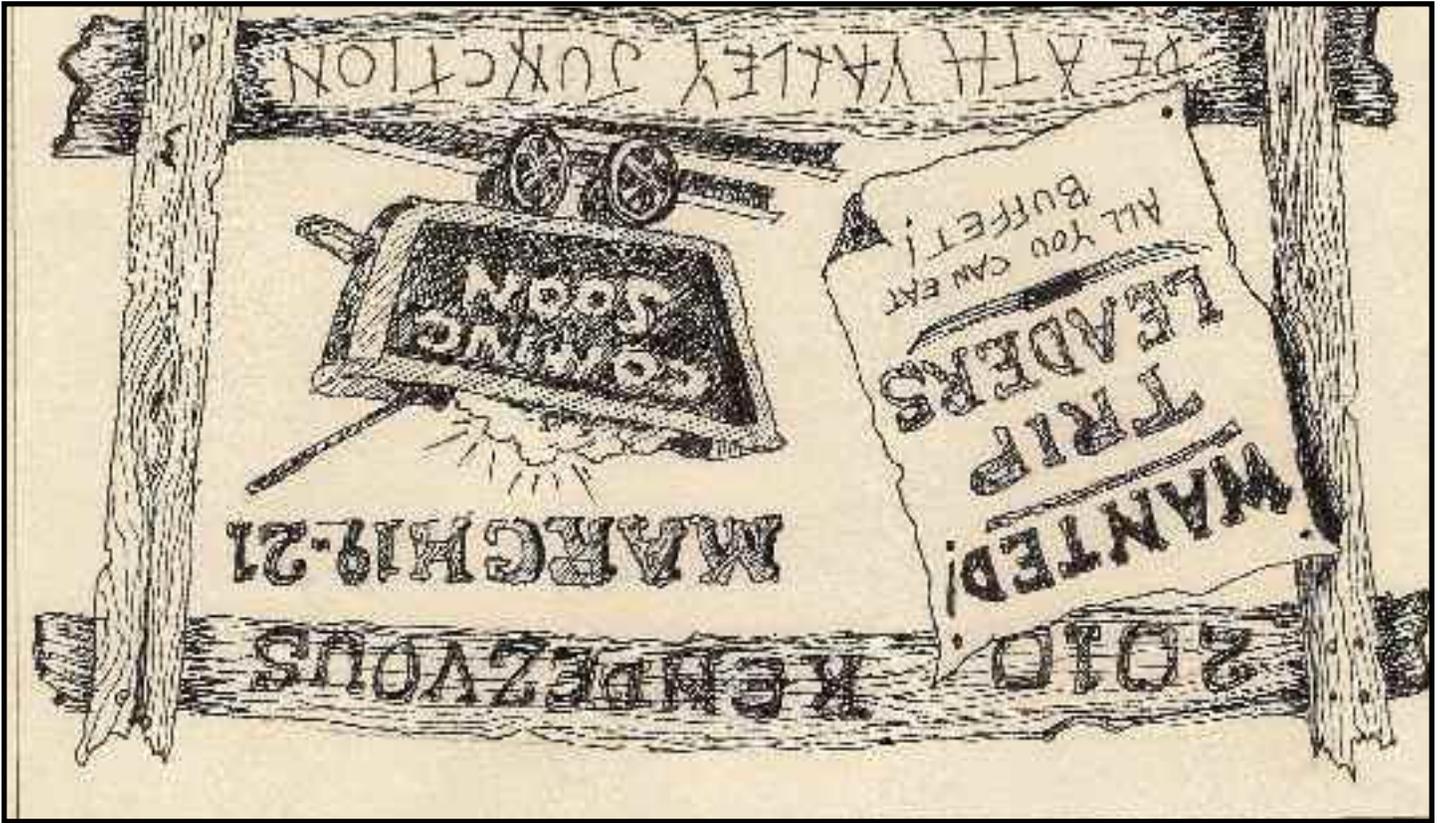
Individual - Annual -----\$20.00

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 Mar. Newsletter is Feb. 10th.
Please!!! Send something...

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