

DESERT EXPLORERS

No. 173 Aug. 2010

4WD SECTION OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM



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Trip Reports

Panamint Mountains Butte Valley

May 22-23, 2010
Leader, Emmett Harder
By Vicki Hill

After reading Emmett Harder's book, "These Canyon's are Full of Ghosts, the Last of the Death Valley Prospectors", last year, I couldn't wait to see the area's he described in the Striped Butte Valley. When he and his wife, Ruth, announced at a meeting, months ago, that they were offering a trip, I was the first to sign up. Being limited to 10 vehicles meant I had to act quickly!

Almost everyone camped in or moteled in Shoshone the night of the 21st. In the morning we lined up with nine trucks, all assorted Toyotas and Jeeps. Besides the Harder's, we had Dave McFarland and me, Bob and Sue Jaussaud, Bob and Nancy Dodds, Mal and Jean Roode, and son Scott, Ron Lipari and Mike Volberg, Bob Younger, and Glen Shaw - a fine group of traveling companions.

We left Shoshone promptly at the appointed time of 8:00 a.m. We caravanned down Jubilee Pass admiring the fabulous views of Death Valley ahead. Emmett kept up

a running commentary on the CB regarding people and places in and around the valley that he knew, including the searches for the unfortunate missing Germans whose remains were finally found after 13 years. He showed us the wash where they turned up and made the mistakes that cost them their lives.

Our first stop was at Ashford Mills for a rest stop and where we were joined at 9:00 by Desert Explorers members, Matt Thoma and Mirjam Leeman from Switzerland. They were driving their Nissan truck (our 10th vehicle) that they keep in storage nearby so they are ready to hit the trail as soon as possible on the many trips they make to our desert. They are very knowledgeable about our history and all things "dirt". With a short stop on lower Warm Springs Road to air down the tires and admire the Desert Five Spot blooming, we drove up to the Talc Mine Camp. Sitting in the shade next to the empty swimming pool, we enjoyed our lunch and more stories, including ones of Louise Grantham. She was the owner of the Talc mine and one of the few women involved in mining. She employed many men to extract the talc which was used for many things besides baby powder. It's an ingredient in paint, clay bodies and make-up. The mine operated for over 30 years until she sold it in the early 70's. The Talc Mine camp buildings are intact and used occasionally by those who want to get out of the weather. The pool is kept drained and the trees are trimmed. On a little rise between the camp and the road there was a stamp-mill, steam engine and an arrastre for crushing ore that was used by the gold miners in the area. Much of this machinery is still in place, rusting slowly away. The stones used to crush the ore are still sitting where they were left. Soon we left the area to get to the famous Striped Butte, which is a geologic monument sitting in the middle of the valley for all to see. Its tilted bands of colored sandstone (actually ancient ocean floor) are beautiful and awesome the first time you see them. Along the way



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we were treated to a display of sages that were blooming in profusion with rose, blue and lavender blooms. The cacti were starting to flower and many of the grasses. We were surrounded by color as the day started to fade and clouds came up.

With a stop at the Geologist's Cabin, we met a nice man who was very interested in Emmett and bought a copy of his book - autographed, of course. Then we traveled a short distance to the site of our camp. Hidden from view before you drive up the road, it was a surprise to see two cabins, trees, an outhouse and shed sitting there. This is called Greater View, which is also known as Mengel's Camp and later, Stella's Camp.

The cabins were open and some of us went in to explore while Emmett walked over a small hill to check out Russell's Camp, which was already occupied for the night.

The custom these days in the desert is to leave your cabin unlocked and when you arrive, if you want to stay, there is a flagpole to hoist up the flag of choice. Usually it is the American flag, but I've also seen the skull and crossbones flying at times.

A sign inside said to please stay no longer than 4 days and give others a chance. There was a nice wood stove, windows that opened and running water in the sink! We were in heaven. We set up camp quickly and started a fire in the stove during happy hour.

We had happy hour outside, just to watch Ron Lipari prepare the most wonderful pasta dish I've ever tasted. Apparently, he is a gourmet chef who loves to cook for a crowd. The smell of garlic and onions was driving us crazy. We set up our tables and chairs inside the cabin, which was toasty warm, and shared one of our famous pot luck dinners. This one was wonderful and had the distinction of being the first time it was all vegetarian. That will probably never happen again! There were a variety of salads, pasta and afterwards homemade desserts. It was so cozy no one wanted to leave, so we dragged out the party awhile and told stories, swapped gossip and shared wine. Ruth had 3 friends show up after dinner. What fun!

In the morning we awoke to a soft patter of rain, then suddenly we saw a snowflake or two. As we packed up,

everyone laughed about how strange it was, but it wouldn't amount to much. As we drove down Redlands Canyon towards the Harders' cabin, it started snowing harder. We strained to see the tops of the mountains in front of us where the gold mines were.

Soon we turned into a smaller, steep, short canyon where the cabin was. It is made out of aluminum and has some furniture, but is very small, and we all couldn't fit in at once. It began snowing in earnest while we heard about the researcher who stayed there for 3 weeks, a mountain lion coming through and looking in the window, and other stories. Outside was an old bus (which Emmett had used for a bunkhouse) burned and shot to pieces. Emmett said he had a devil of a time getting it up into Woods canyon. But over the years some misinformed individuals vandalized it, shot it up, and set it on fire thinking that the bus had belonged to Charles Manson.

By the time the snow was sticking to the cactus and covering all of the spider webs in the bushes, we set out to return to the Stone Cabin, which is another name for the Geologist's Cabin. The sun came out while we visited and we told the man staying there thanks for letting 3 other people know that Emmett was in "town". Sometime after dinner the night before, they had come into our camp looking for the Harders and had his book that they wanted him to sign. We decided that from now on we have to amend our trip descriptions to include "No paparazzi allowed". With Ruth's friends who dropped by, we already had 20 people in the cabin. I don't think we could have squeezed another person in.

Finally, with the day getting late, we set off for the 4-wheel part of our trip, Mengel's Pass. Several of our group were a little worried about the Pass, but after seeing another group go by and one of them get high centered right away, the concern level went up.

Our group got out and built up the road under his truck and the guy went on his way. We all went up and down safely and easily. It was rocky, and there were a couple of tight places. We stopped and added rocks to a steep drop off, and after choosing the line carefully, everyone got down without a problem.

There was quite a bit of water running in the canyon by then and by following it

down we came to Goler Wash, with its trees, abundant water, old mining areas and the site of the infamous Barker Ranch, which is also known as the Manson cabin.

We saw that the park service had done a lot of cleanup work and added an interpretive sign which described the accidental fire which destroyed the house in May of last year. Seven years ago I visited when it was still intact and had furniture inside. While we sat and ate our lunch, Emmett told stories of meeting and visiting with the Manson Family on several occasions when he was mining in the area

When it was time to go we said, "Goodbye" to Ruth's friends and headed down to Panamint Valley and the end of our trip in the ghost town of Ballarat.

We passed the gigantic gold mine which, until recently, was owned by Canyon Resources. It was originally a pick and shovel mine owned by Harry Briggs, a well-known miner and friend of the Harders. When he sold it, the buyers kept the name 'Briggs Mine'. Since it was Sunday, the machines and trucks were quiet, but during the week there are shifts constantly working and still getting gold ore out of the mountain. Reportedly there has been over \$200,000,000 taken out of the mine.

The sun was going down, so we hurriedly said our goodbyes at the Ballarat store where Rocky Novac greeted us. He stays there taking care of the store and campground. No one else lives there full time that I know of and the buildings are crumbling and melting away back into the desert.

If you want to hear great stories of the old days and mining, Emmett Harder is the man you want to see. He has mined gold, onyx and tungsten during his lifetime and has had incredible adventures all over the desert.

We couldn't thank him enough and wished all a good-bye as we turned north and went to dinner at Panamint Springs with the Jaussauds on our way to further adventures.

DESERT EXPLORERS

Newsletter

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Tibet II

May 3 - 17
By Marian Johns

Memory refresher note – Last October 12 DE's were scheduled for a trip to Tibet, but at the last minute we were told by our Chinese tour company that no Tibet Tourist Permits were being issued for the time of our trip which coincided with the 60th year celebration of the communist Peoples Republic of China. China was fearful of riots and protests in Tibet in response to this event - Tibetans are still chafing from China's 1951 invasion and takeover of Tibet. Then, we were told we could go after all if we were willing to join a larger group that already had its tourist permits and cut our trip from nine to five days. Six people opted to go then and six held out for nine days this spring.

Well, the six holdouts dwindled to just two - me and Paul Ferry (Neal refuses to go on foreign trips.) Despite the slightly awkward situation, (Neal evidently trusts me) Paul and I decided to go ahead and do the trip - and share a room. May was selected, and a good choice it was; the weather was lovely although generally cool to cold. Ana Romero, who went last October, was impressed with Bempa, their English-speaking Tibetan guide and suggested we deal with him directly; we did that. I'm not sure his prices were any better, but I preferred paying a Tibetan rather than the Chinese tour company.

The Yak Hotel in Lhasa was our abode for the first three days. We were in the new section – only three years old. The room was quite modern, with the latest bathroom fixtures and...a clear glass "wall" and gauzy curtain between the bedroom and bathroom. I kid you not! Paul and I had to look the other way frequently. The bathroom also had beautiful, but shiny, slick floor tile. The second morning there, I stepped out of the tub/shower onto the bath mat, and (you guessed it) the bath mat and I went zip-ping across the floor. I landed on my right foot at an awkward angle. I didn't think it was broken, but it sure was painful. My foot soon turned black and blue and I limped around the rest of the

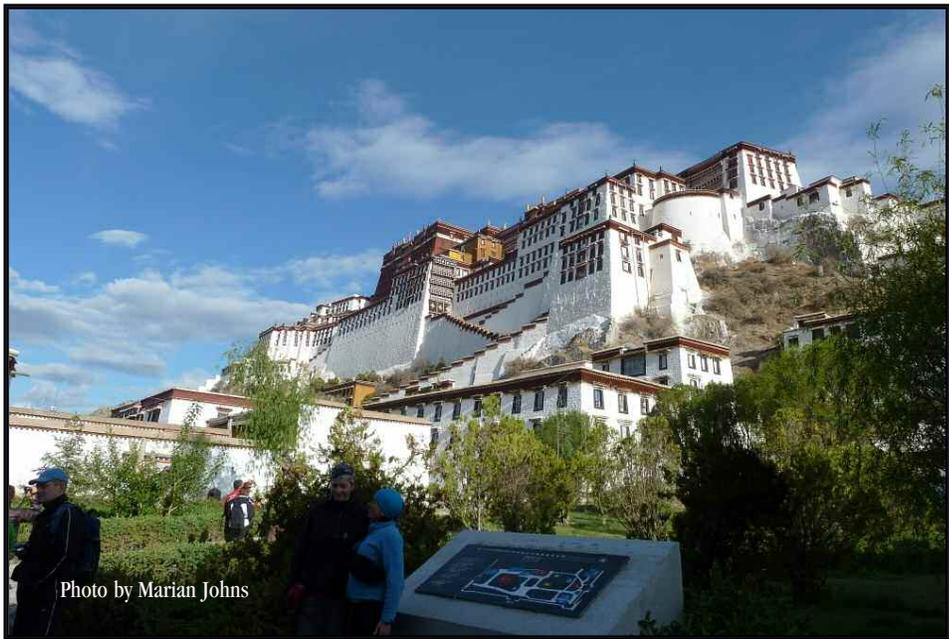


Photo by Marian Johns

Potala Palace - Lhasa, Tibet

trip.

The Yak is in an excellent location – we were able to walk (even with my sore foot) to the Jokhang Temple, Tibet's most revered religious structure and the Barkhor, Lhasa's pilgrimage circuit/lively market in the heart of the old town.

Of course, the highlight of Lhasa and perhaps of all Tibet is the Potala Palace, one of the wonders of great world architecture and home of the successive Dalai Lamas - except for the present, exiled Dalai Lama who now resides in India.

Another important stop on our tour was the Samye Monastery, Tibet's very first Buddhist Monastery. Although a highlight, it was a bit disappointing because it appeared to be somewhat neglected, with trash here and there and several ditches of stagnant, yucky water. It was there I observed a dramatic little incident when a puppy was run over by a tractor. He yelped, bolted away on three legs and then just collapsed. I was sure he was dead. Several concerned people tried to pick him up, but he just appeared to be a limp, dead dog. After 10 minutes or so they tried again, and this time he was able to stand, but otherwise didn't move. Next, they carried him over to a shady spot. About that time, Bempa came. When I told him what had happened, he took out his prayer beads, and we walked over together to see how badly he was injured – couldn't see any blood, so that at least,

was a good sign. The pup was alive, but obviously distressed and in pain. People brought him water and food; he touched neither. But after another 20 minutes or so he was able to walk by himself into the courtyard of the monastery. I don't know if Bempa's prayer beads helped, but I was impressed to see that Tibetans are kind to animals because, as Buddhists, they believe all life is evolving toward higher levels of consciousness. On the other hand, they do eat meat - yak, lamb, chicken - I'm not sure how they justify the killing of these animals for food.

We spent many hours and many miles in the Landcruiser, driving on roads which are engineering feats that have required extensive labor and \$\$ to build – many of them are paved and climb over high passes. The Chinese have made a considerable investment into the infrastructure of Tibet. One of the most impressive was the road to the Everest Base Camp. Although unpaved, the switchbacks are a marvel – seems like there must have been a hundred of them up one side of a pass and down the other. When we finally reached a view point, there, stretched out before us on the horizon, in a cloudless sky, were the mighty Himalayas - a line of white, glacier-covered peaks, including Mt. Everest, the largest and highest of all. What a memorable sight that was.

The base camp is 17,000 ft. elevation. I had been taking my high altitude med-

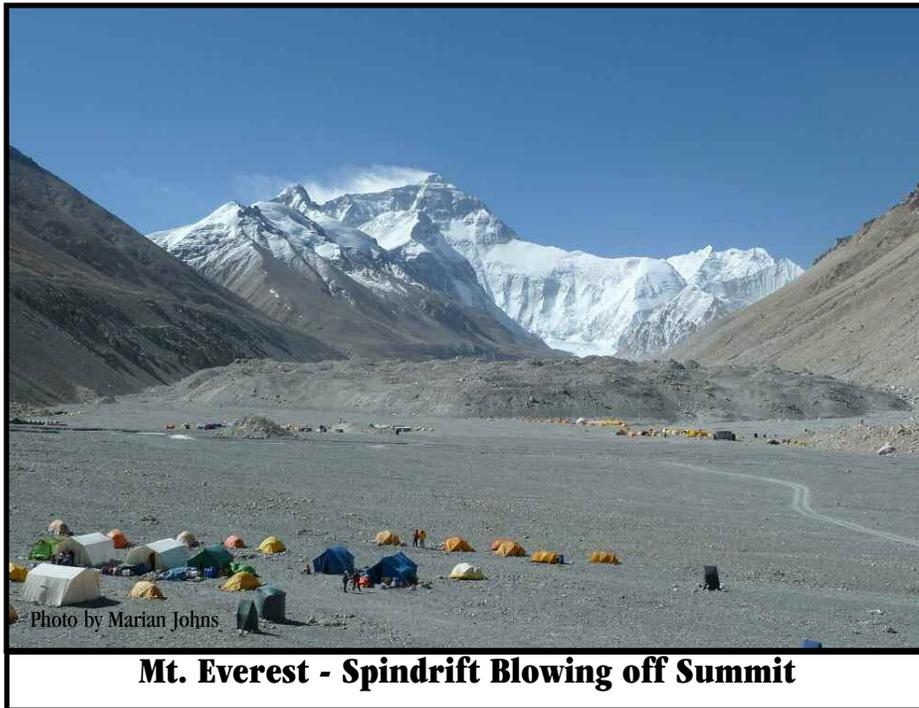


Photo by Marian Johns

Mt. Everest - Spindrift Blowing off Summit

ication and am happy to report no headaches or nausea even at that height. However, climbing a little hill for a better view left me breathless. Paul did fine even without medication and was able to walk right up that hill.

I don't know why, but the lakes we saw in Tibet are a beautiful blue-turquoise color. One of the most impressive and another highlight was Namtso Lake, the highest salt lake in the world which seemed to be entirely surrounded by white peaks.

On the way to the lake, we passed many black tents of nomads - and right next to the tent, we frequently saw a big truck. I have just learned how these people can afford such a luxury. It's all because of caterpillar fungus! Used as a traditional medicine, these caterpillars (which the fungus kills and then feeds off of) are collected in rural Tibet and are an important source of income, fetching from US \$3,000 to \$18,000 per kilo, depending on the quality.

Now, the tale about the last two day's train ride from Lhasa to Beijing. I had been looking forward for the chance to ride the world's highest train. Unfortunately, the train trip of a lifetime turned into two days of stress for me because Bempa purchased tickets for the 9:30 a.m. train. The train trip takes 48 hours (and travels about 2400 miles). I had read that the train left at 7:00 a.m. Turns out there are several trains leaving

Lhasa every morning. Since my plane from Beijing left at 11:55 a.m., that meant I would have far less time than I'd planned to make my flight. So instead of enjoying the trip, I spent those two days on the train worrying and fretting. Paul did the smart thing; he took the train only as far as Xining and then flew to Beijing and on home.

Despite my apprehension and anxiety, I was delighted to see some wildlife on the desolate high plains of Tibet and Qinghai Province - a couple of long-horned, antelope-type critters and several groups of wild goats and wild asses. They are certainly a hardy lot. Here it was the middle of May and snowing; we awoke to a pure white landscape the second morning.

The train arrived at the station in Beijing exactly at 9:30 a.m. Then it took half an hour standing in a queue with several hundred other people until I was able to get a taxi. Bempa had written me a note in Chinese saying "airport" and "hurry". My lady taxi driver did her best, but still it took nearly one and a half hours because the airport is far from the heart of Beijing and traffic was unbelievably congested; signals seemed to take an eternity to change from red to green. Bless my driver's heart - she did it - barely. I think I was the last one to check in and the last one to board the plane. What a relief it was to finally be on that plane, safely belted in and on my way

home.

X-rays taken when I got home showed a chipped bone in my right foot, but it hardly bothers me now.

Note: It was amazing to see how much Beijing has changed since I was there in 1984. Gone are the thousands and thousands of bicycles - replaced by thousands and thousands of cars. And the old blue, black and olive green Mao suits have fallen into disuse in favor of more colorful, western-style clothes.



Mono Basin and Ichthyosaur State Park

**June 18 - 20
By Allan Schoenherr**

Imagine the confusion!!! The meeting place for this trip, the rest stop on Highway 395, was closed for repairs. Some last minute e-mails succeeded in communicating a change for the Friday morning meeting to the intersection of Highway 395 and the Mammoth Lakes Scenic Loop (The earthquake escape route). An added frustration appeared on Thursday evening when it was discovered that the proposed campsite at Lower Deadman Campground was closed due to flooding. Undaunted, we selected a scenic spot in the forest along the Mammoth Lakes Scenic Loop.

Friday morning: Five cars left from the appointed meeting spot and traveled to the southernmost of the Mono Craters, which are aptly named Inyo Craters, as they lie in Inyo County, just off the Scenic Loop. Participants included Mignon Slentz, Glenn Shaw, George Gilster, Sally Kinsey, Robert Day, and Steve Miller. A short, but semi-steep hike, through a shady Jeffrey Pine forest, brought us to the two craters. These side-by-side craters, were caused by volcanic steam explosions about 600 years ago. What makes these twin craters especially interesting is that they have



Photo by Allan Schoenherr

View of Mono Lake from Camp

lakes in the bottom which are entirely different in color. One lake is a murky green and the other is a clear blue. Some references say the cause of the different colors is unknown, but a recent scientific paper explains that different chemistry is responsible for the colors. The clear lake has more of a forest margin which adds organic material to the water. Decomposition of the organic material makes the lake slightly acidic which causes precipitation of suspended material so that the water remains relatively clear and blue. The other lake with all its suspended material remains green and

cloudy. Experimental addition of sulphuric acid to the cloudy lake caused it to become temporarily clear.

Next stop was Obsidian Dome, a scenic jumble of huge obsidian boulders. A number of these domes, composed of obsidian or pumice, lie along a fault line that runs from Mammoth Mountain to Mono Lake. They are conspicuous from the air, but can be seen from Highway 395. We talked about how obsidian is formed, how to identify the different kinds of pine trees, and we stopped here for lunch.

After lunch, following a quick stop for fuel at the June Lake junction, we headed toward Mono Lake. Just south of Mono Lake there is a conspicuous row of volcanic hills known as Mono Craters. From an age of 10,000 to 2,000 years, these craters continued to erupt until about 600 years ago, which makes this arc of 27 craters the youngest mountain range in the United States. One of the northernmost of these craters is Panum Crater. This crater originally was formed by a gas explosion similarly to the Inyo Craters. However, a second eruption produced a large plug of picturesque obsidian in its center. A steep trail leads up to the plug and everyone in our group made it to the top in order to marvel at the spectacular views of the eastern Sierra Nevada, Mono Craters, and Mono Lake.

Next, we stopped at South Tufa on the shoreline of Mono Lake.

Mono Lake is a very concentrated saline lake, a consequence of its great age. The lake may have continuously held water for 2 million years, during which time the evaporation of water has left behind an accumulation of dissolved minerals. The picturesque tufa towers are pinacles of calcium carbonate which were produced by precipitation under water, a process caused by the bubbling of fresh water through the brine. In 1942 the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power began diverting the fresh water streams that fed Mono Lake southward into the LA Aqueduct. Ultimately, with reduced fresh water input, the lake level was lowered by 40 feet, exposing the tufa towers. The area is now classified as a National Scenic Area. During the period of lowest water an island in the center of the lake became connected to the shoreline. For thousands of years, this island has been one of the most important nesting areas for the California Gull. The lowered water level enabled coyotes to travel out to the island and prey upon the nests of the gulls, seriously threatening survival of the species. Today, in an attempt to bring back the lake level to a more normal height, the Department of Water and Power is required to allow a portion of the fresh water to continuously flow into the lake. The simple ecosystem of Mono Lake depends on high concentrations of Cyanobacteria (Blue-green Algae) that thrive in the hypersaline water. Brine Shrimp and Brine Flies eat the algae. The Brine Flies, conspicuous at the water's edge, lay their eggs along the shoreline. The birds eat the Brine Shrimp and the Brine Flies. Indians formerly ate all of them, including a food made from the Brine Fly eggs. During our visit, the wind was blowing the Brine Flies off the shore onto the water. We were able to watch the gulls, positioned into the wind, floating on the water while they gorged on the flies.

Friday night we set up camp in a grove of Pinyon and Jeffrey Pines on the south side of Mono Lake. We had a spectacular view of the lake as we enjoyed our traditional potluck. We were joined at that time by Leonard and Rebecca Friedman, and their daughter Hannah, who entertained us with word games in the evening as we sat around the campfire.



Photo by Bob Da...

Visiting Obsidan Butte

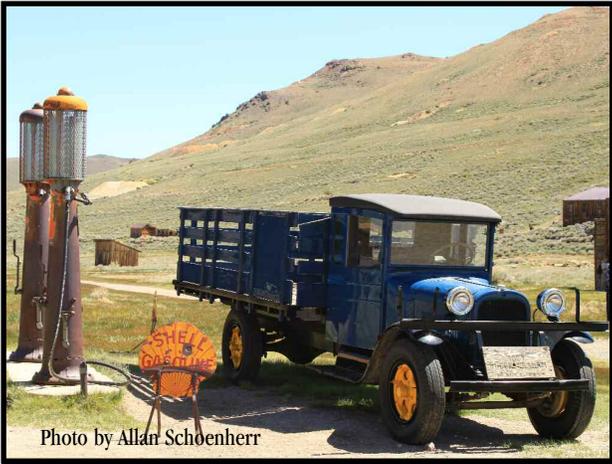


Photo by Allan Schoenherr

Bodie Gas Station

Saturday's activities began at the Mono Lake Visitor Center. Then our group of six autos traveled by dirt road up scenic Cottonwood Canyon to the famous ghost town of Bodie. We spent the morning looking around and photographing the interesting restored and preserved buildings. We ate lunch in a



Photo by Allan Schoenherr

DE's at Ichthyosaur State Park

day-use site just east of the town. After lunch, we ventured into unknown territory as we followed a dirt road eastward along Bodie Creek toward the ghost town of Aurora and ultimately Hawthorne, Nevada. We were warned the road would be rough, and it

was, but it did not phase the Desert Explorers. First stop was an old stamp mill, but we stopped many times as we enjoyed the canyon scenery and the wildflowers. We stopped for gas in Hawthorne and then moved on to the scenic campground amongst the Pinyon Pines at

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park. Park personnel were waiting for us with descriptive pamphlets and signs directing us to our reserved campsite. That evening we enjoyed another fine meal, a campfire, and group comraderie.

The next morning we convinced the park ranger to do an early tour of the Ichthyosaur site (the Nevada state fossil) and were treated to an enthusiastic explanation of the significance of this spectacular fossil site. These ancient extinct reptiles represented a life style now demonstrated by marine mammals such as dolphins and whales. In fact the Ichthyosaurs at this site were among the largest of their kind. Imagine 60-foot-long reptiles with mouths like crocodiles, living a lifestyle like a modern day Moby Dick (Sperm Whale). We had a group photo taken in front of a life-sized mural of an ichthyosaur. Not realizing we had an early tour, Bob and Sally already had left for home and unfortunately missed the photo. After our tour most of

Where am I?

Here are the location and winners for July. Location: Anza Borrego State Park. Winners: : James Proffitt, Mal Roode, Beverly and Gene Stoops, Leonard Friedman, Bob Thille.

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".



us wandered around the restored ghost town of Berlin before traveling for home. Thereafter, some folks went on to other destinations including the nearby ghost town of Ione. Tours of the Berlin mine itself had been temporarily discontinued because of budget cutbacks.

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

San Juan Mountains Colorado

August 16 - 21
Leader: Ted Kalil
CB: 13

Several have expressed interest in this trip to the Ouray and Silverton area. Though we originally planned this for July, I found that there would have been a conflict with a major event then. At least one person would like to dry camp, and there is a site near on the Animas Forks Trail near Silverton. There are also some campgrounds with hookups in the area as well as lots of hotel and motel accommodations - don't

expect bargain rates. Last year I stayed at the KOA in Ouray, a nice place convenient to many of the trails. We can make arrangements of when and where to meet later. Here are proposed runs:

1. Black Bear Pass, Imogene Pass
2. Corkscrew Pass, Hurricane Pass, California Pass, Animas Forks
3. Engineer Pass, Cinnamon Pass
4. Break day or unscheduled run, train ride, laundry, R&R, whatever
5. Yankee Boy Basin, Governor Basin
6. Stony Pass, Bear Town

Charles Wells' "Colorado Backroads and 4-Wheel Drive Trails" has good detailed info about all of these. Come for a day or the week. Let me know if you're interested, please. Home: 760-240-0406; Cell: 760-985-6307 or e-mail tskalil@msn.com

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Arizona Strip Northwest Side

(M.O.E.)

September 3 - 11

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. [THIS MAY CHANGE AS WOOD CUTTERS HAVE BEEN AT THE SITE.] 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. We will depart from the Kingman Regional Medical Center south parking lot (across from In-N-Out Burger) just north of I-40 exit 51 at 8:30 a.m. Those who want to come early for breakfast in the hospital cafe may do so. (It is Very Good.) Those coming from outside Kingman may make arrangements to meet us along the way in Mesquite, NV or St. George, UT.

If you intend to go on this trip, please RSVP via email to Dan: dmess@ctaz.com or Dick: dickandmouse@aol.com

8:00 a.m. in the gazebo area next to the parking lot of the Brawley post office at 401 Main St. in Brawley. (This is more or less where the fault begins.) We will then be tracing the fault toward the Salton Sea area and follow it up the east side of the Salton Sea.

Among the areas we will visit the first day are the Imperial Wildlife Refuge, Obsidian Butte, and Painted Canyon. There may be several short hikes along the route, time permitting. There will be opportunities for lodging and camping at the end of the day.

On Sunday we will follow the fault all the way to Blue Cut in Cajon Pass. During this interesting day, we will be visiting White Water Canyon, among other attractions

The majority of the roads both days will be rural, paved roads. However, there will be significant stretches of dirt trails that will require high clearance and four wheel drive. (Four wheel drive will be necessary, because of some sandy washes we will be traversing.)

The best news of all is that Joe de Kehoe has agreed to narrate the entire trip. Joe's knowledge of geology is outstanding and by the time the weekend is done we will all be a lot more knowledgeable on the fault. If you plan to go on this unique trip, please RSVP to Bob Jacoby via e-mail: jacobyr@att.net

just relax and watch the bird life in the surrounding trees.

Children and families are welcome on this trip, which does not require 4wheel drive. There will be several miles on the I-10 with great views on the north face of San Jacinto mountain.

Desert Explorer Ham List

Janet Austin - - - - -Diamond Bar - KF6FZE
 Pete Austin - - - - -Diamond Bar - KF6FZD
 Bill Baird - - - - - Yucaipa - KF7VE
 Trudy Baird - - - - - Yucaipa KD6NVY
 Craig Baker - - - - - Sylmar - KC6KKR
 Bruce Barnett - - - - - Brea - KD6BOY
 David Bullock - - - - - Los Angeles - N3CUE
 Jim Byrne - - - - - Chatsworth - KE6RFR
 Herb Clark - - - - - Mission Viejo - KF6EAU
 Joseph A. Daly - - - - - Saugus - KG6GCW
 Joe de Kehoe - - - - - Bakersfield - KJ6HKZ
 Barbara Gossett - - - - - Ridgecrest - KI6YLR
 Bill Gossett - - - - - Ridgecrest - KI6YLR
 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
 Ed Steiner - - - - - Irvine - AF6RE
 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

San Andreas Fault Part I

October 16-17

Leaders: Jacoby/Savage
CB 13

This is the first of potentially several trips to drive the entire San Andreas Fault or as close to it as we can possibly get. The goal is to be able to see and touch the fault as we travel in a generally southeast to northwest direction

We will meet on Saturday morning at

Rock Art Day Trip and Hike

Saturday, Oct. 23

Leader: Vicki Hill

Saturday morning we will be in Idyllwild to visit two pictograph sites featuring elements known as the San Luis Rey style of the Mountain Cahuilla in Riverside County. Then we will drive down from the pines to the palms and up Whitewater Canyon to visit the new Whitewater Preserve. There are trout ponds, picnic areas and many trails leading up the canyon. Those who want to can take a walk with me on a trail, or look for bighorn sheep, photograph the river or

Visit Desert Explorers on the Web!

See more pictures and in color!
<http://desertexplorers.org>

M.O.E. Trip Schedule

Sept. 3 - 11 AZ Strip

Fenner Valley Piute Mtns.

November 6 - 7

Leader: Joe de Kehoe
CB: 13

Limited to 10 cars total (including mine because of limited parking/turn around area at some stops) so please e-mail jdekehoe@bak.rr.com to reserve or verify your attendance. Please include your name, preferred e-mail address and cell phone number in your e-mail to me. A 4 x 4 vehicle is highly recommended because of the necessity of driving in several sandy washes, and a high clearance vehicle is essential. Except for the drive to the starting point at Old Danby, all of the trip is off road.

Preliminary Plan - subject to revision in the coming weeks: Meet at Roy's Cafe in Amboy at 8:00 a.m. and leave there at 8:30 sharp. For those of you arriving from the east, via Essex, you can wait for the group at Danby - our first stop after leaving Amboy. From Danby (on National Trails Highway) we will take Danby Road south to Old Danby, and take time to air down for those who wish to do so (me for instance).

I will have a more descriptive itinerary in a future newsletter, but in addition to the driving there will be a couple of short hikes on Saturday (optional: +/- 2 miles max round trip on relatively flat, sandy terrain), a visit to a stone cabin, visit some semi-historic sites in the area near Weaver's Well, and drive to Sunflower Spring where we will make camp amidst the boulders Saturday night. On Sunday backtrack a bit to the east and drive through the Piute Mtns. and arrive back on pavement at National Trails Highway a few miles east of Essex about 12:00 or 1:00 p.m.

Saturday night is a dry camp - bring everything - food, water, etc.

jdekehoe@bak.rr.com

(661) 331-3377

Minutes

**Ding & Allan Wicker's House
Saturday, June 5
By Nan Savage**

PRESENT:

Ding & Allan Wicker, Nancy & Bob Dodds, Marian Johns, Vicki Hill, Ruth & Emmett Harder, Bob Jacoby, Nan Savage, Glenda & Tommy Perasso,

Nelson Miller.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 12:12 p.m. by Marian Johns.

REGRETS:

Jean Hansen, Debbie Miller Marschke, Marilyn Martin.

MINUTES:

The minutes were approved as submitted.

REPORTS:

Membership:

We currently have 100 members.

Treasurer:

Our balance at the end of April was \$4,276.00. At the end of May our balance was \$4,218.28. Finances for the past two months have been normal, including receipts from new and renewed subscriptions to the newsletter minus expenses for maintaining the club.

Announcements:

Bob Jacoby officially announced that Nan Savage has recently successfully completed her Ph.D degree.

Marian Johns informed the group that she chipped a bone in her foot during her recent trip to Tibet with the Desert Explorers. As a result, Neal journeyed to Baja without her, but his truck broke down, and he has been delayed in returning. The truck evidently sustained quite severe damage.

Our contact, Rick, at the hotel in Death Valley Junction will receive a one year's subscription to the DE newsletter as a thank you for his help in facilitating this year's Rendezvous.

Potential Rendezvous sites for next year:

Pioneer Town was discussed as a possible site, also Twenty-nine Palms and Joshua Tree in the same vicinity. Panamint Springs was rejected due to no large building to house our dinner. Bob Jacoby agreed to contact Bob Oliver for ideas on locations for the Rendezvous in his home area.

Emmett Harder's trip to Death Valley was a great success. Our Swiss members met up with the group with no problem in connections. But just in case, Emmett took the DE satellite phone with him. One interesting occurrence came during the night, when a couple unexpectedly showed up looking for Emmett for the purpose of getting his autograph for his

Desert Explorers Trip Schedule

Sept. 3 - 11	AZ Strip	M.O.E.
Oct. 6 - 17	San Andreas Fault	Jacoby/Savage
Oct. 23	Rock Art	Hill
Nov. 6 - 7	Fenner	de Kehoe

book.

Trip Report:

Mal Roode passed out the latest trip report form, with DE trips scheduled for the months of June, July, and August.

In June (16-18) Allan Schoenherr will lead a trip from the Mammoth area to Bodie, Lucky Boy Pass to Hawthorne, Nevada; the group will stay over at the Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park.

In July Jay Lawrence will lead his annual trip to the White Mountains (dates to be determined).

In August (16-21) Ted Kalil will lead a DE trip in Colorado, which will visit the Ouray Pass and the Silverton area; Ted has planned a number of stops (see newsletter for details).

More trips are in the planning stages: an excursion to the Idyllwild area with Vick Hill in October; a jaunt to the San Bernadino Mountains; and a visit to the Tomo Kahni State Historic Park in the Tehachapi area.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on July 31 in the Lytle Creek area at Marian & Neal's newly purchased second home located at 13825 Lytle Grove Lane.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Member Doings

The Stolls

**A Fun Time in Laws
By Ann Stoll**

The Wandering Stolls and friend Carol Paquette are just back from a little jaunt through Nevada where we hunted petroglyphs in the rain (!) and soaked in a most delightful cattle trough at Spencer Hot Springs, among other adventures. But that's another story. This note is about the Laws Railroad Museum and Historical Site just outside of Bishop, CA. Yes, yes, you all know where Laws is and have been there a gazillion times already. If previous years are an indication, anyone going on Jay Lawrence's White Mountains trip will be encouraged to stop there on the way home. But perhaps you don't know there's a new exhibit there now. In addition to almost 11 acres of really well-done historical displays of everything from Chalfant's original print shop to a complete doctor's office and beyond, they've recently opened their Mining Display at the far end of the place, complete with ore carts, a stamp mill, dry washers, concentrating tables and all the bells and whistles. And the best part is, they've got most of it up and running! We were given an amazing tour and demonstration by volunteer Jay Smart, pictured above. We each dropped a lump of ore into the jaw crusher and watched it turn to dust. Then Jay fired up his "pet" 4-cycle 1912 gasoline engine while explaining the milling process. Very educational and lots of fun. And I should mention we showed up there an hour before opening time (10:00 a.m.) and they let us enter anyway. Nice people!



Photo by Ann Stoll

Jay Smart

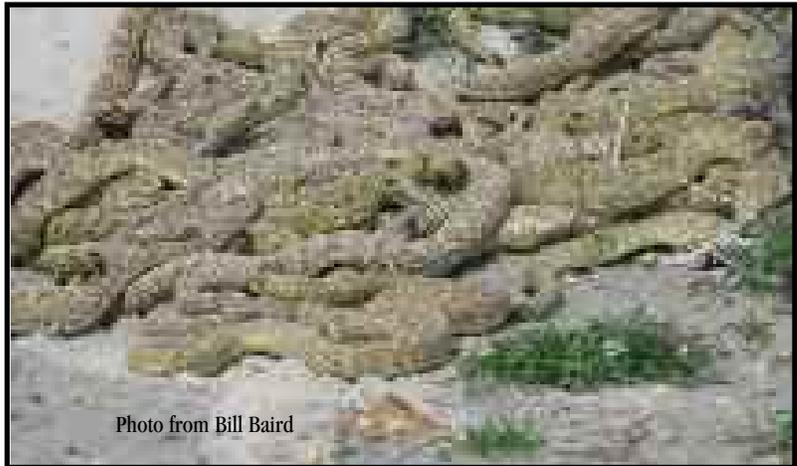


Photo from Bill Baird

Rattlesnake Nest Near Barstow 6/2010

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 \$20 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 seals 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 and Field Trip Leaders Richard and Lori Shapel 760-254-3897.

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 \$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 debris, 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 Rode. Send your trip proposals to Mal. Mal 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
Bill Gossett	Wild Bill	433 Valley St.	Ridgecrest	California	93555	760-375-6169	bandbgossett@verizon.net
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Sunny Hansen	Glyphologist	P.O. Bx. 290729	Phelan	California	92329	760-868-5316	760-217-7555
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Vicki Hill	Glyphartist, Co-chairperson	26111 Parmelee Ct.	Hemet	California	92544	951-927-6476	vlanehill@verizon.net
Charles & Mary Hughes	Chas	1675 Highway 95 A2	Bullhead City	Arizona	86441	928-763-3927	mhach2juno.com
Bob Jacoby	Treasurer	2245 Wellesley Ave.	Los Angeles	California	90064	310-490-6873	jacoby.r@worldnet.att.net
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Sue Jaussaud	Chairchick Vieja	P. O. Box 789	Lone Pine	California	93545-0789	760-876-9227	joeso@lonopinetc.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
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Marilyn Martin	Subscriptions & Newsletter Editor	P.O. Box 291759	Phelan	California	92329-1759	760-868-6606	760-641-1483
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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
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
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
Richard/Lori Shapel	Museum Trip Leaders	P. O. Box 412	Yermo	California	92398	760-254-3997	406-291-1448
Anne Stoll	Canologist	143 Monterrey Drive	Claremont	California	91711	909-621-7521	909-730-0137
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 Emeritus	1430 Sitka Ct.	Claremont	California	91711	909-445-0082	909-239-5786

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

Mojave River Valley Museum Association, Inc.
270 E. Virginia, Barstow, CA 92311 • 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 Sept. Newsletter is Aug. 10th.
Please!!! Send something...

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