

# DESERT EXPLORERS

No. 171 JUNE 2010

4WD SECTION OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM



## IN THIS ISSUE

• Rondy Recap	1.
• Rondy Trips Reports	2.
• Trip Reports	4.
• Future Trips	5.
• Where Am I?	6.
• E-Mail List	7.
• DE Hams	8.
• Welcome	8.
• Member Doings	8.
• Trip Schedule	9.
• Next Meeting	9.
• Fine Print	10.
• Leader List	11.
• Subscription Apps.	11.

## Rendezvous Recap

### Death Valley Junction

March 10 - 21  
By Bob Jacoby

The Annual Desert Explorers' Rendezvous was held on March 19-21 at Death Valley Junction. Death Valley Junction was formally the borax mining town of Amargosa and proved to be a unique and outstanding venue. A total of 64 members attended the Rendezvous and it appeared everyone had a great time.

The fun actually started on Friday morning in beautiful downtown Baker, California. Neal and Marian Johns led an outstanding inbound trip on portions of the old Mojave Heritage Trail through Kingston Wash and the Kingston Mountains. This was a very interesting and scenic trip that got folks in the mood for the fun packed weekend in store for them.

At Death Valley junction Friday evening a total of 64 participants arrived on the scene. The first order of business was a remarkable pot luck in the meeting room at the hotel. The food was varied and outstanding and may have out done any previous pot

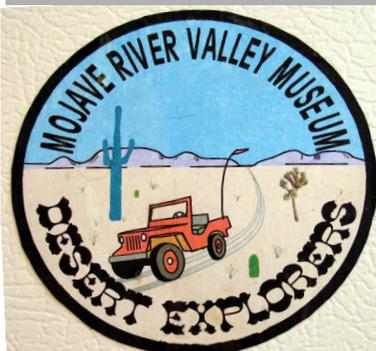
luck at a Rendezvous! Once everyone had a full stomach, the next order of business for many was to venture on over to the Opera House to view a film on Marta Becket. As everyone knows, Marta Becket has performed at the Opera House in Death Valley Junction for over 40 years. (She now performs once a week sitting down.) This outstanding and informative film covered the history of Marta's involvement at the Opera House and was enjoyed by all.

Also on Friday night the action began for the Silent Auction in Room No. 10 at the hotel. Bids were made early for what appeared to be a record number of items for sale. This very successful event which produced nearly \$700 in cash was organized by Nancy Dodds and Maybelle Lipking. We thank them both for a very successful auction!

Saturday morning, under clear and warm skies, folks were geared for some outstanding trips. Among those scheduled was a trip to the China Ranch Date Farm led by Mignon Stentz, a trip down Echo Canyon by lead by Neal and Marian Johns and Sunny and Jean Hansen, and a very rugged trip to Deadman Pass and Gold Valley led by Bob Dodds. There was something for everybody and it made for a great day in the Death Valley area.

After a day of historic and scenic trips, it was time for some more serious eating activity. The Saturday evening dinner was catered by Theresa Cantwell who is also the manager of the Amargosa Café. Theresa put together an outstanding dinner that everyone enjoyed. There were mass quantities of excellent food available and a hungry group of Desert Explorers took full advantage of that fact.

With their stomachs full, it was time for Rendezvous participants to take the short walk over to the Opera House to see the weekly mime show performed by ??????. This was a very entertaining show, interpreting with mime the various paintings by Marta Becket on the wall of the Opera House. Interspersed



Issue Number 171

throughout the show are film clips of a recent interview she had with Marta. This very fine performance gave everyone a better understanding of Marta's accomplishments throughout the years.

When Sunday morning rolled around, folks had an interesting choice. They could either head off with the Johns on a fun trip to Ash Meadows and Devil's Hole or they could tag along with yours truly, sitting in for Emmett Harder, on a short hop over to Pahrump to visit Sheri's Ranch, a very upscale brothel. This was a very difficult choice for some folks to make.

All in all, it was another very successful Rendezvous for the club. Everyone had a great time with a variety of outstanding activities, some great food and some excellent camaraderie. This is not to mention a successful, even financially, event for the Desert Explorers with the Silent Auction exceeding expectations. We are already looking forward to next year's event!

## Thank You

**By Co-chair, Marian Johns**

I hope everyone enjoyed this year's shindig at Death Valley Junction as much as I did. The memorable highlights included the day trips – we had a nice variety to choose from; the Friday night potluck had a wonderful choice of mouth-watering dishes (those stuffed jalapenos were out of this world – couldn't believe they were so mild), and Saturday night's catered dinner was one of the best ever. Although I did not see the Saturday night Opera House program, I heard that it was well worth the admission price. And to top it all off, Bob and Nancy Dodds and MayBelle Lipking continued the tradition of Alan Romspert's Silent Auction, and made a nice addition of \$701.00 to the D.E.'s treasury. We also owe this year's success to several other folks like Ruth Harder who was our contact with folks (namely Rich) at Death Valley Junction; the great cooks who prepared Saturday night's dinner; Vicky Hill who set up Susan Sorrell's walking tour of "Dublin" down in Shoshone; Emmett Harder who arranged for the tour of Sheri's in Pahrump; and Bob Jacoby who

took reservations and worried about numbers. I would also like to thank all the trip leaders - the trips, after all are what it's all about. Last but not least all of you who attended and made this Rendezvous a success.

# Rendezvous Trip Descriptions

## Ash Meadows and Devil's Hole

**March 21**

**Leader: Marian Johns**

One of Neal's favorite sayings is, "Woman, thy name is indecision". In this case it refers to the changes in our departure time for the Ash Meadows trip. First, our departure time was listed as 9:30 a.m., then 10:30 a.m., then back to 9:30 a.m. Somehow everyone showed up at 9:30 Sunday morning, except for Dave and Penelope Bullock and Leonard Friedman. Maybe Dave and Pen didn't get the word about the time change, but Rebecca and Hannah Friedman were there ready to go, but no Leonard. Turns out he went down to Shoshone for Susan Sorrell's hike and intended to be back in time to go to Ash Meadows. After waiting for 10 or 15 minutes, Rebecca said that they would try to catch up with us when Leonard came back.

So off we went with: Steve and Debbie Marschke, Ted, Joan, Emily, Katie and Mike Berger, Mel and Nette Patterson, Bob and Karen Monsen, Mignon Slentz, Alan and Karen Hodes, Rob Anderson, Ana Romero and Neal and Marian Johns. The Friedman's finally caught up with us at lunch time, making a total of 21 people in 10 vehicles.

Ash Meadows is a rare desert wetland with over 30 springs and seeps which are fed by "fossil water" – water which entered the ground water system thou-

sands of years ago. The springs are home to tiny pupfish which we were eager to see because we had heard the males were in their silvery blue splendor this time of year – the spawning season.

Initially, we by-passed the main entrance to the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and headed for the north entrance, intending to work our way south and eventually back to Death Valley Junction. Well, what's that old quote about "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men"? There at the northern entrance we found our way blocked by a closed gate which was well secured with a brand new padlock. This called for Plan B - return to the main entrance which we had just passed. That worked and we spent the next several hours driving from one spring to another. We visited Roger's Spring, Longstreet Spring, Crystal Spring, Devil's Hole, King's Pool, Point of Rocks and Jack Rabbit Spring.

Every spring we saw has beautiful clear, slightly warm water flowing out of the ground; all except Devil's Hole that is. Although Devil's Hole supports its own population of pupfish, the water does not flow up and out onto the surface. It entirely enclosed with protective fencing, with a viewing platform at one end where it is possible to look down into a deep pit. At the bottom is a small pool – the opening of a large subterranean, water-filled cavern.

My estimate of a two hours trip stretched into four since we couldn't resist checking out all the highlights on our official Refuge map. Most of the springs we saw have boardwalks which are quite nice since the ground tends to be soggy in places. At Longstreet Spring we saw Jack Longstreet's nicely restored rock cabin. And at the Refuge headquarters at Crystal Springs, we found clean restrooms and picnic tables which we put to good use since it just happened to be lunch time. And in several of the springs, especially at King's Pool, we did indeed see the blue flashes of male pupfish as they busily darted about chasing off competitors.

Our last stop was Jack Rabbit Spring and from there we headed back to Death Valley Junction. Neal and I dreaded the drive home because we knew we would get caught in the Sunday night traffic on I-15. So we tried something new – we stopped for a long, refreshing nap before

we reached Baker, then took our time having dinner there, and finally drove on home. By that time traffic had thinned and was much more tolerable.

### From: Mignon Slentz

Might be interesting to know the story of how some scientists killed most of the pup fish at Devil's Hole for those of you that were on Marian Johns' trip to Ash Meadows.

The story goes that a couple of years ago some scientists were using barrel-shaped fish traps to trap and count the pup fish at Devils Hole. When they were done with the job, they stacked the traps up on the rocks. A big storm blew through sometime later and blew all the traps back into the water. Nobody checked on the place for quite some time, and when they finally did, they found the traps full of dead pup fish. [mignonslentz@gmail.com](mailto:mignonslentz@gmail.com)

## Dublin Gulch & The Ash Beds

By Vicki Hill

Sunday morning Susan Sorrells met 14 Desert Explorers at 8:00 a.m. in Shoshone, near the cemetery that holds the remains of those who lived in Dublin Gulch. She kept us fascinated for 2 hours while she elaborated on how they lived, dug their homes out of the tuff, grew gardens and even made beer. They had a good old time back in the 1880's! Contrary to thought, these were not ne'er-do-wells living like the homeless in caves. Instead, they had made their fortunes in mining and decided to retire in beautiful Shoshone. They created 1-3 comfortable rooms that stayed cool in the summer and warm in the winter. The British lived on one side of the Gulch and even held high tea in the afternoons. It sounds like an idyllic place to live in retirement with friends on all sides. Susan has photos and stories of these tough men that she will share with us another time.

The second half of the morning was spent walking in the area behind the Gulch and discovering how important the entire area is to furthering our education. Because the Amargosa Basin is so rich in geologic features, it has become the place for scientists to come and study. Geologists, geobiologists, paleomagnetists, astrobiologists, to name a few have made Shoshone their home base. They have come to the area and formed a non-profit organization... Shoshone Education and Research, or SHEAR. Now, the area has become an international destination for those who study the volcanic ash, which has recorded the changes in the magnetic fields of the earth.

As we walked, we saw layers of ash that had been disturbed by ancient earthquakes, fossilized footprints of horses, camel, birds and other creatures. Susan calls this her "prehistoric zoo". School children come from the local schools regularly to see it. Education, conservation and ecotourism is the goal for the SHEAR center, which may help discover the unknown facts of our planet and the evolution of life. Who knew that this wonderful area might hold the key to discovering if there could be life on other planets? Every one of us came away from that walk with a sense of wonder and appreciation that we didn't have before Susan opened our eyes.

We want to thank Susan for her time, interest and dedication in making Shoshone known in the scientific world. It was a morning that was filled with surprises, information and history. We would all like to go back and learn more.

## Outbound Trip Sheri's Ranch

By Bob Jacoby

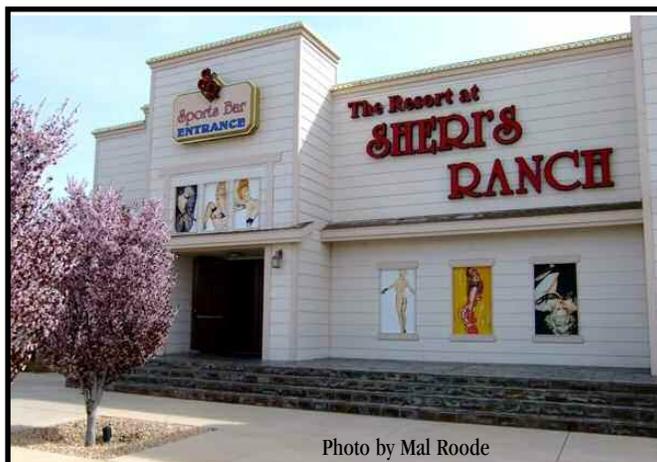


Photo by Mal Roode

### Sheri's Ranch

It is a tradition that all Desert Explorer Rondys have an outbound trip. Of course, the 2010 Rony was not an exception to that. Indeed, Emmett Harder was the original organizer for perhaps the ultimate outbound trip which was to Sheri's Ranch in Pahrump, Nevada.

For those of you who aren't familiar with this fine establishment, it is, in fact, a remnant of the Old West where prostitution was quite common. Sheri's advertises itself as an exclusive brothel, less than an hour from Las Vegas. We were able to verify that Sheri's does have an excellent selection of beautiful women, upscale bungalows and rooms, saunas, spas and quite a varied "menu" of options.

Emmett, after doing all of his exceptional planning, was unable to attend the Rony and called me to pinch hit as the leader. I normally like to do a "pre-run" any time I lead a trip, but that didn't prove to be practical for this one. In any event, a group of seven cars left Death Valley Junction on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. This included the following intrepid Desert Explorers in addition to your fearless leader: Larry Borrieo, Bob Younger and Mary Wheeler, Nan Savage, Glen Shaw, Mike and Donna Mumford, Willie and Faye Kalajian, Bert Eddins, Mal and Jean Roode, Bob and Shirley Bolin and Alan and Ding Wicker. Normally, high clearance, four wheel drive is a requirement for all Desert Explorer trips, but those terms didn't seem particularly applicable in this situation.

To get from Death Valley Junction to Sheri's we followed Stateline Road east out to Nevada 160 and followed that main road through Pahrump to Homestead

Road. We followed Homestead Road to the end and lo and behold, there was Sheri's next door to their low end competitor, the Chicken Ranch. During this drive we were very fortunate to receive information over the CB from Nan Savage regarding the role of prostitution historically in the Old West. As usual, Ms. Savage had done her homework and provided us with the academic approach we needed to survive this tour.

Upon arrival at Sheri's, our group divided up into three different subgroups, and we each received a guided tour of the facility. We found the tour leaders to be very well informed, and they provided us with an overview which very few people receive. Among other things, we toured the S&M room (that doesn't stand for "Sand and Mud") and the sauna room. We also learned that the women who work here are independent contractors and are not employees of Sheri's. The only issue we encountered was telling several of the ladies that Neal Johns didn't make the trip. They all asked about Neal, and we were sorry to disappoint them.

After the tour was complete, we partook of a buffet lunch which proved to be very good. It was now early afternoon and everyone was ready to head back home after an outstanding Rondy weekend. Someone mentioned that Sheri's might be a good place to hold next year's Rondy, but I don't believe that will happen.

# Trip Reports

## Grass Valley

April 10th

Leaders: Bob/Nancy Dodds

Joining us were; Joe Pizzitola, Brian Bennett, Glen Shaw, Jim Proffitt, Sunny and Jean Hansen, Gene and Beverly Stoops, Al Enos, Jim Briggs and family, Jim and Judy Clemens, Bob Jacoby, Alan Utter, and Nelson Miller and his friend Jaclyn Wildly (not sure of the spelling, couldn't read her writing).

Our group met at Kramer Junction. We

were ready to leave at 8:45 a.m. We went north on Hwy. 395 to the Trona turn off. At 1.3 miles was the marker for Grass Valley. Turning right our first stop was Steam Well (we thought)

WRONG!! The book I went by showed Steam Well at a different place than the Delorme Atlas. I now agree with those of us who decided we were at Skilling Well. We traveled on down Granite Well Rd where we found the BLM Box with a roster for Steam Well

Petroglyphs. We decided to make that another trip in the future. The next stop was Browns Ranch. A large flat barren area with concrete foundations and the land was cleared.

Our next stop was Blackwater Well. Thanks to Gene Stoops, we had a nice handout about the Mitchell Ranch. This was our lunch stop. Jim Proffitt's sweet daughter, Penny, made a beautiful cheese cake that Jim shared with all of us. Gene gave a talk on the ranch and the area. There's a lot still to explore there. All day we traveled through the Grass Valley Wilderness Area. We kept noticing signs of "Being Video Taped" though out the day. We saw several desert flowers which Beverly and Nancy identified in the flower books. The Desert Candle's were all over. About this time Bob Jacoby came on the CB and said he had lost his GPS. So they and Sunny and Jean back tracked and found it. GOOD JOB!

Our group finally made it to the Motorcycle Monument. What a change since we were there 13 years ago. There are several memorial plaques for fallen



Photo by Jim Proffitt

### On the Road



Photo by Jim Proffitt

### Motorcycle Memorial

Riders and Friends. It's nicely done and worth the trip to see. We proceeded down the canyon that was fun and came out at Hoffman Road. Joe was telling us about the Raptor jet crash last year so we had to investigate. Joe was there to set up a mobile tower so the investigation crew had satellite access. You could see where they removed a lot of dirt and replaced it, removing any wreckage and contaminated soil. There was an American Flag with a memorial to the pilot that died. Joe also led us to McDonald Ranch where there was a trough with natural fed spring and gold fish.

We ended our trip by going by the Solar Power Plant at Harper Dry Lake stopping at the old General Store at Garlock. We said our goodbyes. It was a long 8 hours but a whole lot of fun. Thanks to all who came out and to those with so much knowledge and experience of our desert.



# 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

## Day Trip Ash Creek Area of the Aquarius Mountains

(M.O.E.)

**June 19**

**Leader: Dan Messersmith**

We will do a day run over to the Aquarius Mountains to see if we can still find our way around. Indian shelter caves, great scenery, small water streams, and hopefully still some flowers will catch our eyes.

We'll meet for coffee at 7:30 a.m. at McDonalds on Andy Devine in Kingman, just north of I-40 exit 53. We will depart by 8:00 a.m. Bring lots to drink and lunch.

## Mono Basin and Ichthyosaur State Park

**June 18 - 20**

**Leader: Allan Schoenherr  
CB: 13**

Allan Schoenherr, minus his faithful companion Alan Romsper, will lead this trip to eastern California and southern Nevada. The plan is to meet at 9:00 a.m. on Friday morning at the roadside rest on Highway 395, just north of the Mammoth Lakes Scenic Loop. The roadside rest is on the west side of the highway about 5-6 miles north of the main turnoff to Mammoth (Highway 203). For those who want to camp on Thursday night we will gather at the Deadman Campground, about 3 miles west of Highway 395. The turnoff to the campground is a left turn off 395 on Deadman Creek Road about a mile north of the rest area.

This trip will be natural history oriented. We will visit geological wonders such as Obsidian Dome, Inyo Craters, Mono Craters (Panum Crater), Mono Lake, and Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, in Nevada. Giant fossils of these Ichthyosaurs represent the Nevada State Fossil. Also featured will be stops at various ghost towns such as Bodie, Berlin, and Ione. Of course, for those that are interested, we will talk about the trees, flowers, and animals we see along the way.

A tentative itinerary includes stops on Friday at Inyo Craters, Obsidian Dome, Panum Crater, and Mono Lake and a primitive campsite on Friday night in the pines with a panoramic view of Mono Lake. Saturday we will travel to Bodie and then take a dirt road toward Hawthorne, Nevada. Conditions on this road are unknown. We plan to stay at Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park on Saturday night, 23 miles east of Gabbs. The fee should be about \$16.00 per car. The campground is located in a Pinyon Pine woodland at 7,000 feet elevation in the Shoshone Mountains. Tours of the fossils and the ghost town of Berlin are available. The Diana Mine tours have been suspended for the time being. For more information you can go on line to the Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park web site.

(Due to economic hardships experienced by the Nevada State Parks system fees have been increased as follows: The reservation fee is \$15.00 for the group camp. The entrance fee is \$5.00 per car with an additional fee of \$2.00 for out of state vehicles. The camping fee for the

group camp is \$10.00 per vehicle. Tours cost \$3.00 per adult and \$2.00 per child.)

As usual we will have a potluck dinner on Friday night at the Mono Lake campsite. Well-mannered dogs are welcome. Four-wheel drive and a working CB are required (Channel 13). If you plan to attend or need more information contact Allan at his email: aschoenherr@fullcoll.edu or phone (949) 494-0675.

## Return to Utah

(M.O.E.)

**July 2 to 7**

**Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor**

Return trip to Utah around the US89 corridor. We will be making some visits to some of our favorite small towns in Utah for great food and hospitality. We will make time to take in 4th of July activities and fireworks in one of the towns. (We are currently looking at Torrey, UT for our 4th of July fun.) We will do a fair amount of running on top of and across the fabulous Wasatch Plateau.

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 treat.

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. Lots of details are being worked on and will be shared with those who sign up. If you intend to go on this trip, please RSVP via email to Dan dmess@ctaz.com or Dick dickandmouse@aol.com

# 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 couple 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

Of course any of these can be shuffled or substituted to suit those attending. All are suitable for four wheel drive with decent clearance. I didn't include Poughkeepsie Gulch since one section is more difficult. I needed to winch up and had to winch several others, but we can do it if there's interest.

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](mailto:tskalil@msn.com)

# Arizona Strip Northwest Side

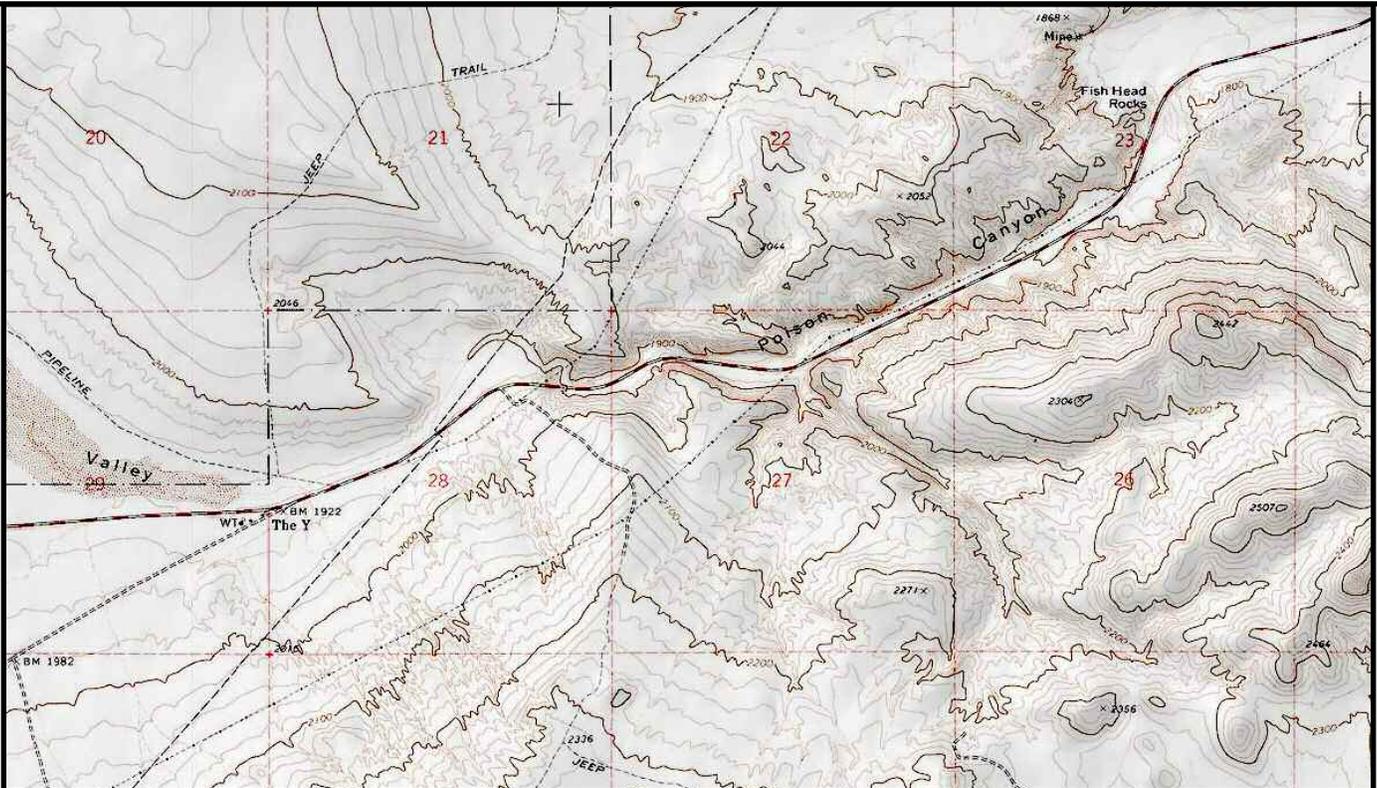
(M.O.E.)

**September 3 to 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

## Where am I?

Here are the location and winners for May: Jame's Proffitt, Mal Roode, Allan Schoenherr, Leonard Friedman, Beverly and Gene Stoops. 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](mailto: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".



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.

## Announcing the Shoshone Museum Website

<http://www.shoshonemuseum.org>

From Anne Stoll

Through a generous grant from the Desert Legacy Fund of the San Bernardino Community foundation, the Shoshone Museum now has a comprehensive website about our displays and resources. I have spent many many hours on this project. I hope that you have the time to review the site and let me know what you think. Like all new creations, it will have some flaws, errors and overlooked details. I am counting on your expertise to let me know what I can do to make it better. Please feel free to create a link to your own site, and let me know how to reciprocate. That will help more people find out what all of us are doing.

We are finding that for those of you who use Internet Explorer as your browser, some of the older versions do not place all the graphic elements in the

header as they should. All page elements should be flush left. If you feel that you are viewing fragmented or displaced images, please let me know. If there are significant problems, I can redesign the top portion to be more user-friendly.

Thanks, and I hope that you enjoy it  
Jennifer O. Viereck\_Administrative Manager:

Jennifer Viereck [mailto:shoshonemuseum@veawb.coop]

### CURRENT DESERT EXPLORERS WITH E-MAIL

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# Member Doings

## Just a Dog

By Neal Johns

You won't hear that phrase around your house. Our Huskies are an integral part of the family. Marian's boys grew up with a house full of assorted Northern breeds, and while it's debatable whether I have grown up during my 20 years in Lytle Creek, I certainly have lived with the assorted woofers.

One of the nicest was Blue. Not a very appropriate name for a red Husky, but that is the name she came with about four years ago. She was supplied with two big blue eyes and an always waggy tail carried high. We never met her former "parents", but they were a homeless lady with two children living in the Canyon. When Marian heard the mother had found a shelter that would take her and the children, she hurried over to rescue the Husky that would have to go to the dog pound. Blue tried to fit into our dog pack but shyness has its disadvantages. She ended up low dog in the pecking order no matter how hard she tried to please. Because of this, she got a little more attention from us. Well, maybe more than a little.

Most Huskies, when taken off lease, use their new freedom to immediately start running and disappear into the distance. A few will stay nearby with you (just like a real dog!). It took a while to find out that Blue was one of the rare ones. I suppose I could be a little prejudice, identifying with the low dog in the pack as was I in my formative years, but for whatever reason she became my favorite dog of the pack. It was reciprocal; she would sneak into the bedroom after we were asleep and settle in on the floor near my head.

On April 6th, in the middle of the

night, the patter of little feet and a cold nose let me know that she wanted out to pee, unusual, but not unheard of. When you gotta go, you gotta go. Not being able to go back to sleep, I stayed up until 6:30 a.m. to join Marian for a quick business trip to Carson and Los Angeles. Blue had vomited up her dinner around three a.m. but dogs do that sometimes. She appeared normal, but since it was rainy outside, we left her in the house. We got back about 1:30 p.m. and Blue was definitely sick. She had vomited up mucus in a half dozen places. A quick call to Northside Veterinarian (where they have an inch thick file on our family) and we had a quick appointment that afternoon. Blue had a temperature and was bloated. X-rays showed what might be something unusual in her intestines so they sent us to the Vet Emergency Clinic in Grand Terrace for overnight treatment. We were told they would give her an enema and maybe exploratory surgery and call us at home. Upon arrival, the telephone was blinking at us with a message to call the vet. They had found a blocked and infected intestine a few days old and Blue passed away from heart failure shortly after the corrective surgery was completed.

I miss her terribly and the keyboard is wet from my tears. Just a dog.



Photo by Neal Johns

**Blue**

### Welcome

**Nelson Miller Apple Valley**  
**Bert Eddins Scottsdale, AZ**

# Tools "Explained"

**D**rill Press: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

**Wire-Wheel:**

Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, "Oh, shit!"

**Skill Saw:**

A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

### 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
- Barbara Gossett - - - - - Ridgecrest - KI6YLR
- Bill Gossett - - - - - Ridgecrest - KI6YLQ
- 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

### Visit Desert Explorers on the Web!

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

**Pliers:**

Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

**Belt Sander:**

An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

**Hacksaw:**

One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle... It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

**Vise-Grips:**

Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

**Acetylene Torch:**

Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race.

**Table Saw:**

A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

**Hydraulic Floor Jack:**

Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

**Band Saw:**

A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good aluminum sheet into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash can after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

**Two Ton Engine Hoist:**

A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

**Phillips Screw Driver:**

Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old-style paper and tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

**Straight Screw Driver:**

A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes

used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws and butchering your palms.

.Also used to start your car after you lost your last set of keys.

**Pry Bar:**

A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50-cent part.

**Hose Cutter:**

A tool used to make hoses too short.

**Hammer:**

Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.

**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 and turn right.

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

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

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

**Utility Knife:**

Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use..

**Son of a Bitch Tool:**

Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling "Son of a bitch" at the top of your lungs. It is also, most often, the next tool that you will need.

June 19	Ash Creek Area	MOE
June 18-20	Mono/Ichthyosaur	Schoenherr
July 2 -7	Utah	MOE
Aug 18-21	San Juans	Kalil
Sept. 3 - 11	AZ Strip	M.O.E.

**Next Meeting**

**Sat. June 5**

**11:00 a.m. Potluck**

**At Alan & Ding Wicker's**

**1430 Sitka**

**Claremont, CA**

**Ph: 909-445-0082**

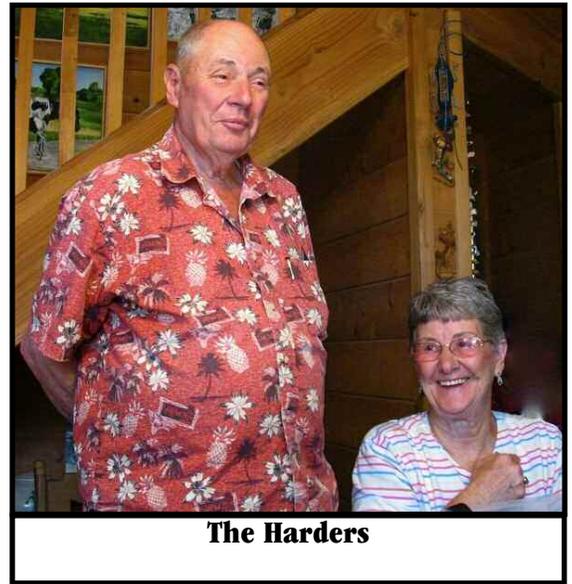
June 19	Ash Creek Area
July 2 - 7	Return trip to Utah
Sept. 3 - 11	AZ Strip

# More of the Folks who Made the Rendezvous Possible



**The Hansens**

There are more folks who worked behind the scenes, but there are no current photos. Thanks to all of you!!



**The Harders**



**Mignon Slentz**

Photos by Allan Wicker  
and  
Jim Proffitt

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



**MayBelle Lipking**

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

### General Trip Information

- The Mojave River Valley Museum has two sections (groups) that explore the desert environment (Museum membership required):
    - 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.
    - 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 and Field Trip Leaders Richard and Lori Shapel 760-254-3897.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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 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 air/ travel expenses, vehicle damage or personal injuries. Other extraordinary expenses must be authorized by the Executive Committee.

### Hot Tips for Leaders:

- 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.)
- 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.
- 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.
- Support your other leaders' trips (by attending) or the Trail Gods will get you.
- Maximum loss (vehicles or people) is 10% per trip.
- 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.

- Bringing a dog on a trip requires the ADVANCE PERMISSION of the Leader!
- Dogs will be leashed/confined during happy hour & mealtimes.
- People with dogs will be expected to clean up any poop in the campsite.
- 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
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Richard/Lori Shapel	Museum Trip Leaders	P. O. Box 412	Yermo	California	92398	760-254-3997	406-291-1448 lahapel@yahoo.com
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Donald Swinhart	Mr. Nice	P.O. Box 23061	Santa Ana	California	92711 3061		ecv1069@earthlink.net
Gary Thomas	Cranky	1039 W. Seventh	Upland	California	91786	909-981-5487	g.cranky@verizon.net
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 allan.wicker@verizon.net

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

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

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

Family - Annual ----- \$25.00  
*Entitles family to all privileges of membership (One vote per Annual Membership) including Museum Newsletter, ten per cent discount on publications sold by the Museum, participation in Association activities.*

Individual - Annual ----- \$20.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

## DESERT EXPLORERS NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

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 Ciity \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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**DESERT EXPLORERS  
OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM**

Marilyn Martin  
P. O. Box 291759  
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Deadline for stuff for the July Newsletter is June 10th.  
Please!!! Send something...

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