

DESERT EXPLORERS

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4WD SECTION OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM



Trip Reports

Desert Explorers in Sri Lanka

By Marian Johns

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Fifteen of us (seven were people I already knew from our Desert Explorers organization) were traveling with OAT – Overseas Adventure Travel. Our initial problems started because our Air India flight from NYC to Delhi, India was five hours late. This started a domino effect - consequently we missed our connecting “in transit” flight to Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka; there wasn’t another for 24 hours. Air India put us up in the Centaur Hotel for the night, but by doing so, we officially entered India. And India just happens to have a very inconvenient restriction – not more than one entry in less than two months. Oops! So, if we go to Sri Lanka first as for our scheduled week there – per our itinerary, how will we reenter India for the rest of our tour?

First of all, I want to say that this was a memorable trip that I am glad I took. I have no real regrets despite a multitude of problems, problems that hounded us from the first to the very last day of our tour.

The domino effect continued and we spent the first day in Sri Lanka chasing around with



Photo by Marian Johns

Sigiriya Rock Staircase - Sri Lanka



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Photo by Marian Johns

Sigiriya Rock - Sri Lanka

our guide trying to work out - with the Indian High Commissioner (embassy), how we could circumvent the reentry rule. Thus, we missed the first day's tour highlights and were late arriving at the elephant orphanage which had just closed. When we left Colombo, we also left our passports with the High Commissioner and crossed our fingers - hoping that when we returned to Colombo at the week's end we would have the proper documents and stamps in our passports making an exception to the "only one entry in two months" rule that would allow us to reenter India.

Sri Lanka, called Ceylon before 1972, is an exceptionally beautiful country. Even though it rained the first few days, I enjoyed traveling through the lush, tropical countryside, stopping a local markets and seeing wild elephants and water buffalo. Our tour took us up into the mountains where the hillsides are covered with tea plantations, and little streams, rivers and beautiful waterfalls abound.

For me, the highlights of Sri Lanka were the waterfalls and Sigiriya Rock. Sigiriya Rock, now a World Heritage Site, is a 600 ft. high monolith - the remains of an ancient volcanic plug. To reach the top, a strenuous climb up a rather scary stairway clinging to the vertical walls is required.. The climb is worth the effort because of the spectacular views and because here are the remains of a 5th century palace which once graced the summit. About half way up, it is possible to take a breather

and inspect frescoes, also from the 5th century, which were painted in protected alcoves

Next month: India!

We met at Essex at 8:30 a.m. where Bob Jaussaud pointed out an old building. He said that when it was open for business they sold pickled quail eggs among other things.

Our first stop was yet another old WW II desert training base. Bob Jaussaud found it years ago. There were rock alignments and some stakes but not much else.

Our second stop was at some hunting blinds on top of a hill that Glenn spotted. There were quite a few of them, and they look like they were possibly made by Native Americans. I have just heard from Joe de Kehoe that these hunting blinds are probably observation sites for war games that took place out there during WW II.

We slowly made our way through the Piute Mountains climbing up about 1,300 feet to about 3,600 feet. We stopped for lunch at some impressive boulders. Descending the other side we saw Ward Valley open up before us and we could see all the way to Lake Havasu. We stopped several more times at interesting looking places. At the last stop we walked around a short weathered red sandstone bluff. We found a few petroglyphs there.

We made it to our camp spot near Sunflower Springs at about 3:30 p.m. Tables were set up and happy hour and pot luck were under way with an assortment of delicious foods. Ron brought out

Piute Mountains

February 19 and 20
By Mal Roode

The weather for this trip was forecast to be cold, wet and windy. In spite of the weather, eleven people participated - Steve and Debbie Marshke, Glenn Shaw, Mignon Slentz, Ron Lipari, Bob Jaussaud, Nelson Miller, Ellen Miller, and Charles and Mary Hughes.



Photo by Mal Roode

Everyone



Photo by Mal Roode

Lunch Stop



Photo by Mal Roode

View from Painted Rock

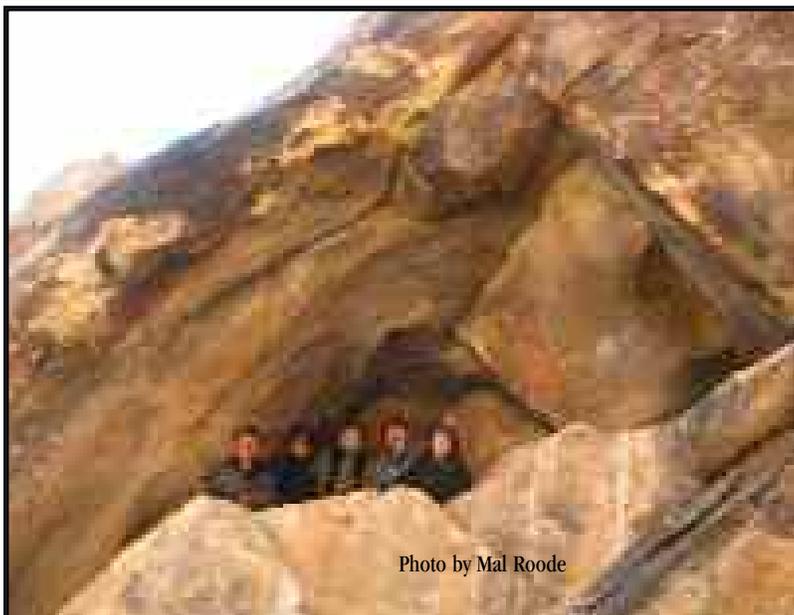


Photo by Mal Roode

Steve, Ron, Glenn and Debbie

his 45,000 Btu portable heater for those who wanted an alternative to a campfire. After dinner we were dazzled by light shows. There was a thunderstorm to the Northeast and we could see the lightning far away. As the moon rose slowly on the horizon it was a beautiful yellow orange. Then we started seeing strange lights to the East. At first we thought they were from a train or a car or maybe even fireworks. Steve got his binoculars out and verified they were indeed fireworks. We thought maybe they were from Lake Havasu.

During the night it rained a

little. Ron's heater was a popular spot as the temperature was 36 degrees Sunday morning. We got underway about 8:30 a.m. and soon found ourselves at Painted Rock. We found water, pictographs and petroglyphs and a cave we crawled through which led to an opening in the side of the rock where you could see the water far down below. This was an awesome site, and after about 2 hours of exploring, I left the group in the capable hands of Bob Jaussaud. I headed North to Essex then to home and work.

Thanks to everyone for attending and supporting me on my first trip. I hope you

**Rondy Recap
Starts this month
on page 5**

enjoyed it as much as I did!

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.

Utah

May 13-15

Leader: Emmett Harder

CB: 13

Meet on Friday at Best Western in Mesquite, Nevada.

Leave early Saturday; form up in Leeds Utah.

Go into the back country and explore the locations of Mountain Meadows and routes used by the participants.

Stay in Enterprise, Utah Saturday night and visit the massacre site Sunday.

Prescott Area

(M.O.E.)

5/19/11 - 5/23/11

Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor

Base Camp with a Bradshaw Mountains Exploration. We plan to camp in the Bradshaw Mountains in an established forest camp ground. RVs, Truck Campers, and Tent camping will work in this area. We will be exploring the back roads to the south and may reach all the way to Lake Pleasant. Lots of neat country to explore and for some it may be the first time in this area.

We will be leaving from the McDonald's on I-40 & Andy Devine in Kingman at 8:30 a.m. Thursday.

If you would like to go join us this trip, please RSVP via e-mail to Dan dmess@ctaz.com or Dick dickandmouse@aol.com

Mina, NV

June 10, 11, 12, 13

Leader: Bill Gossett

High clearance four wheel drive mandatory.

Based out of the Sunrise RV park in Mina, NV. We'll be visiting both historic and prehistoric sites as well as a wonderful rock collecting site if there is time. 10 vehicle limit. Email bandbgossett@verizon.net to sign up.

Old Fashioned 4th of July Parade in Torrey, UT

(M.O.E.)

6/28/11 - 7/3/11

Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor

This will be our second excursion to Torrey for their 4th of July celebration. Their 4th of July Parade (always held on the Saturday closest to the 4th) is worth the trip all by itself, but the backroads around this part of Utah's "Greatest Earth on Show" is a great reason to go. Our plan at this time is to leave Kingman on June 28th.

Those who wish to join our caravan, can meet us, at 1:00 p.m. at the Texaco gas station parking lot on the north side of UT-9 just east of Exit 16 (Hurricane/Zion NP Exit) on Utah I-15. From there we plan to camp at the Otter Creek State Park campground at Otter Creek Reservoir near Antimony, UT.

On Wednesday, we will make our way to Torrey and check into an RV park in town for our base camp. On Wednesday we will try to fit in a short visit to Capitol Reef National Park.

On Thursday and Friday we will do day trip excursions in the backcountry around Torrey.

On Saturday we will take in the full day of events including the fantastic town parade. That evening, if we have the energy, we might take in the town dance. Our return trip home would be on July 3rd. This is designed to be an RV trip. Those who wish to tent camp or motel camp could do that and join us.

If you would like to go on this trip, please RSVP via e-mail to Dan dmess@ctaz.com or Dick dickandmouse@aol.com

Kaibab Plateau High-Country Camp

(M.O.E.)

8/17/11 - 8/22/11

Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor

This trip to the high country will be to get some time in the cooler climates in August. There is lots of forest to see and some really nice overlooks to the Grand Canyon and its tributary canyons. A campsite has not been chosen yet but with all the National Forest area, we should be able to find a convenient site

for all types of campers and RVs. We'll get a spot located prior to the trip and let folks know. A good meeting spot for a caravan to camp will be the parking lot at the Mobil gas station at Pipe Springs National Monument on AZ389 on the 17th at 2:00 p.m. to allow for travel time for folks to get there. This is the same meeting point we have used in the past for trips out to our eastern base camp near Jensen Twin Tanks in the Arizona Strip.

If you would like to go on this trip, please RSVP via e-mail to Dan dmess@ctaz.com or Dick dickandmouse@aol.com

Arizona Strip Poverty Camp

(M.O.E.)

9/18/11 to 9/24/11

Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor

This will be a late-season base camp outing at one of our favorite sites. It is 60 miles of washboard roads to the site, so this may be one where you may want to do the truck camper or tent thing although we have had numerous RVs in there in the past. Dan will probably take in his little Field & Stream trailer rather than a tent. On the 18th, we will meet folks at the Wal-Mart parking lot near the Wal-Mart gas station at Exit 4 on Utah I-15 at noon to caravan out to the campsite.

This camp allows us to access a number of Grand Canyon over-look points such as Toroweap, Whitmore Canyon, Kelly and Twin.

Late Sept. is a prime time for rock cuts on tires, so make sure your tires and spare are in top shape for this trip. If you have and can bring an extra spare, it can't hurt.

If you would like to go on this trip, please RSVP via e-mail to Dan dmess@ctaz.com



Photo by Allan Wicker

Checking Out the Sound System



Here's a photo of the perpetually lost Bob Peltzman and his "champion" winners. Left to right: Bob Peltzman, Leonard Friedman, Mal Roode, Jim Proffitt and Allan Schoenherr

Rondy Recap

Silent Auction Results

By Steve Marschke

Thanks to everyone that made the silent auction a success. This year we tried a little bit of a twist - the "Buy it Now" feature. It was modeled after the eBay function of the same name. It was the option of the donor to choose to put a Buy It Now price on each item. The bidders had the opportunity to short circuit the bidding and buy the item directly without having competition. Of course this meant that the Buy It Now price should be about the fair market

value of the item. Bob and I thought this might be a good way to separate the fools from their money as in the past many items had only one bidder and sold for the minimum bid. It seemed to work, 30 items were sold through the Buy It Now feature.

Depending on how we counted, there were 163 items donated and 135 items purchased (Jim Proffitt's lightbulbs and Bill Neill's grapefruit presented a source of counting discrepancies as some were bought individually and some as sets.) The revenue from the auction was \$874. I believe that is a record high number! I thought it would be fun to have some awards:

First the awards for the donors: The Benefactor Award (for total revenue donated) goes to Ann Stoll: Her photocopied out-of-print books earned a whopping \$215! Honorable mention in the Benefactor category goes to Chuck and Kathy Mitchell for jewelry, clothing and Baja books. The Attic Prospector Award (for the most items donated) goes to Jim Proffitt for the donation of 62 compact fluorescent light bulbs, with Ann Stoll as runner up for her 51 photocopied books. The Gold Bar Award (for the item that fetched the highest price) was the handmade mirror frame from Mignon Slentz composed of treasures that she has found on various DE trips - it garnered \$55 dollars for the club. The Most Desirable Award (for the item that triggered a bidding war) was a malachite bracelet from Zimbabwe that Chuck and Kathy Mitchell donated - 5 different bidders made a total of 15 bids, eventually selling for \$30 (or 6 times the starting bid!)

Now the awards for the purchasers: The Big Spender Award (for total dollars spent) goes to Neal Johns, honorable mention to Jean Hanson. The Shopaholic Award (for the person that bought the most items) also goes to Neal Johns with Jean Hanson and Vicki Hill tied for runner up.

Thanks to everyone that donated and purchased items, this is our one and only fundraiser for the year and helps to pay for our donations to "worthy recipients", website, satellite phone and other operating expenses that you all enjoy.

Bob and I would like to add a special thanks to Joan McGovern for reviewing,

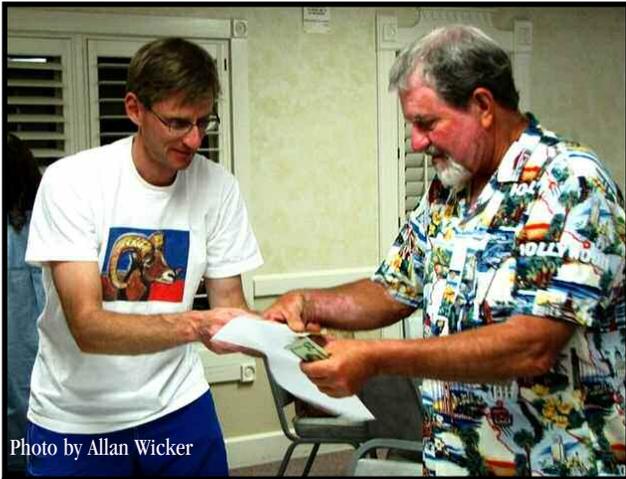


Photo by Allan Wicker

Steve Collecting from Glenn Shaw

ordering and numbering the Ann Stoll books and for helping us collect the money at the auction closing frenzy - people were literally trying to throw money at us. See you all next year.

Rondy Trip Report

Borrego Wildflowers

Leader: Allan Schoenherr

At 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning 15 cars lined up along Palm Canyon Road ready to search for wildflowers. As most of us knew the display was not as dramatic as it had been in other years, but as documented by Dave Bullock, the Proffitts' son-in-law, we ultimately saw at least 52 different species. In other words species diversity was quite good but total coverage of the landscape was missing.

We began our search by stopping along DiGiorgio Road where the pavement ends and the dirt road begins. The roadside there exhibited many showy flowers including Desert Dandelion, Desert Sunflower, Arizona Lupine, and Sand Verbena. The question arises, why are

flowers so abundant along roadsides, and why are the Creosote Bushes larger next to the road? The answer: Paved roads are higher in the center so water runs off to the sides which greatly increases available moisture for plants. Also, the pavement traps water underneath which makes it available to the roots of roadside shrubs. At this point we also talked about the abundance of non-native weeds, particularly African Mustard that out-competes native plants for water and when it dies fills in with flammable thatch the gaps between native shrubs. The dead mater-



Photo by Allan Schoenherr

Desert Dandelion/Chickory



Photo by Allan Schoenherr

Desert Iguana



Photo by Allan Schoenherr

Desert Five Spot

ial then becomes fuel which enables fire to carry from shrub to shrub, a situation which normally does not occur in desert landscapes.

Next, we moved farther into the mouth of Coyote Canyon and were greeted with blooming Ocotillo and Desert Brittlebush. We stopped at the trailhead for Alcoholic Pass and walked up the trail. This is a rocky region where most of the plants are either water-storing succulents or drought deciduous, dropping their leaves in the dry season. Here we observed Ocotillo with their red tubular flowers which are pollinated by hummingbirds. We talked about the fact that Ocotillo, in association with irregular precipitation, can gail and lose new leaves several times a year. They also can store water in their stems and carry on photosynthesis with chlorophyll in the

bark. We also observed beautiful drought deciduous shrubs such as Indigo Bush and Desert Lavender. We found three species of cactus in bloom; Beavertail, Silver Cholla, and Desert Barrels. We also learned how the stem-joints of Teddybear Cholla jump from a hiker's foot to the back of the other leg. Here, on the side of a hill, we saw a large number of Bigelow's Monkeyflowers, and some odoriferous Chias.

On our third stop we walked up a wash at the Desert Garden, a well known stop off point for Borrego lookey-loos. There were lots of flowers here including abundant Desert Dandelions, Pincushions, Popcorn Flowers, Phacelias, Star Flowers and an interesting member of the Carnation family known as Desert Frost or Frostmat. It's a good thing we had such nice weather,

because when the fearless leader scouted the location the day before, the temperature was 104 degrees. One of the highlights of this stop was pursuing a Desert Iguana, a desert lizard who is able to tolerate a body temperature of 114 degrees. It was approaching lunch time so we drove back to town and ate lunch at the picnic tables in Christmas Circle.

After lunch most of the participants traveled to Hawk Canyon, a scenic location marked on one side by uplifted colorful lake beds, and the other side by block-jointed granite boulders. This location is geologically interesting because the East and West Butte portions of Borrego Mountain are offset sideways, leaving different geological formations on each side of the Canyon. The east side of Hawk Canyon has been dragged nearly a mile farther north by strike-slip motion along

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the San Jacinto Fault. We saw different wildflowers here. There were two kinds of Poppy; Parish's Poppy and the tiny-flowered Little-gold Poppy. We also saw two kinds of Evening Primrose; Sun Cups and another tiny-flowered species, California Sun Cups. A highlight here, on a hillside of clay soil, were groups of Desert Five-spots and Blazing Stars. Out in the wash we observed Smoke Trees and Ironwoods, the seeds of which are carried along with sands and gravels during heavy thunderstorms typical of the Colorado Desert. This grinding action of the rocks cracks the seed coats, enabling water to enter and stimulate germination in the wet soil only when abundant water is present. After Hawk Canyon, a portion of the group went on to explore the Goat Trail. Some visited the nearby scenic slot

canyon, and others went of to view the metal sculptures. Everyone seemed to get back in good spirits in order to enjoy the evening festivities.

Member Doings

MayBelle Lipking

Hi - Guess it's time to let you know just where and how I am doing now. My little house is just right for one person and cozy and pretty. Kuma really likes it here as I take her for walks every morning and she gets all my

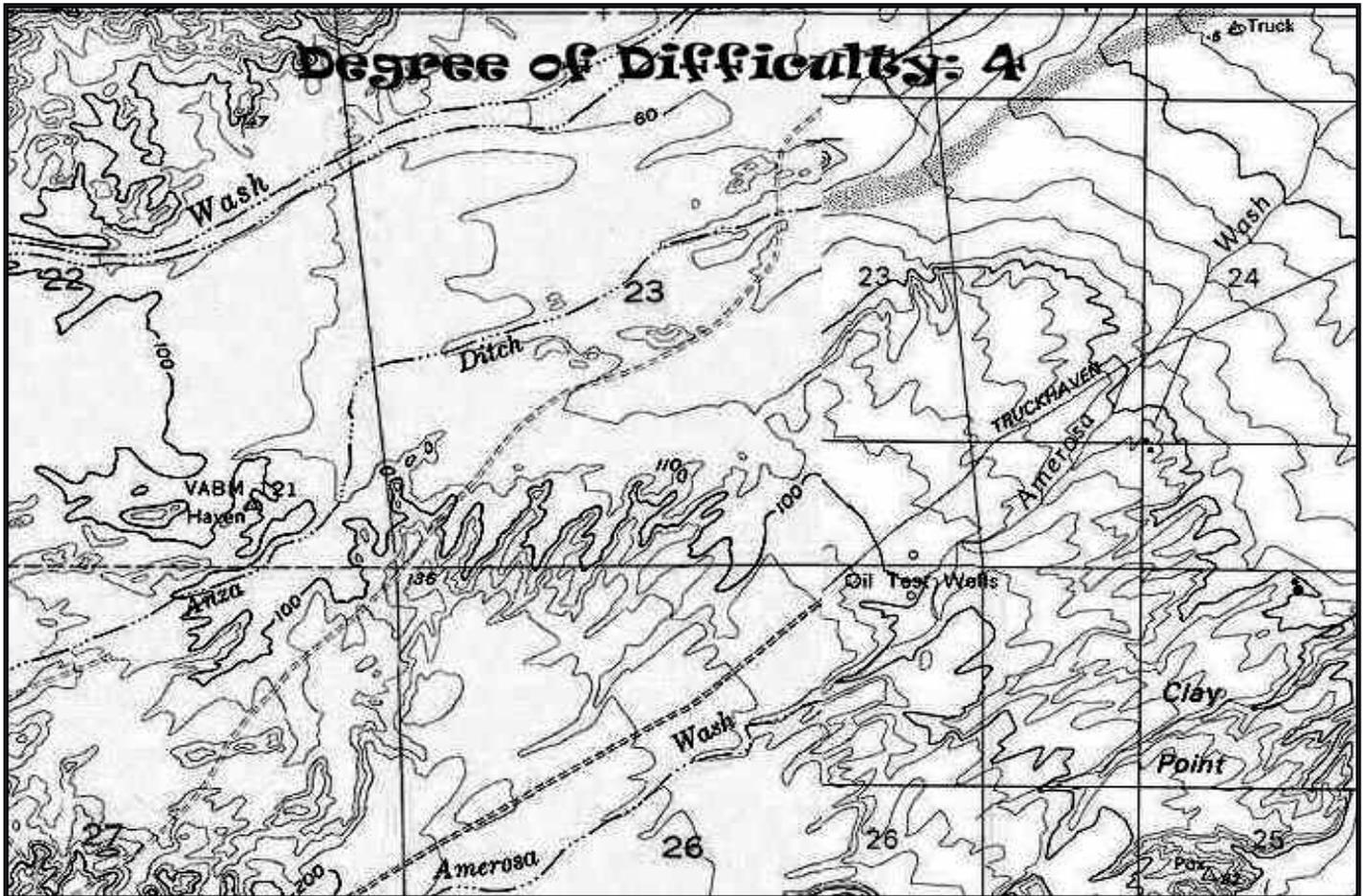
attention.

Did have an episode in the emergency hospital last year and found out it was a stomach ulcer. Didn't realize making the decision to sell my house and move up here was so stressful. I was so worried I couldn't sell my place and leaving it unattended was scary for me. But it did sell last month so can stop that activity.

Had a little problem with the weather at first but when I dressed in three layers of clothes and a warm coat got that licked. I do think spring might be on it's way up here as the rest of this week will be in the 70s. Melody and I go to the bank for Penny one day a week and do some shopping for Penny's store AND for ourselves. Yreka is 14 miles south of me and Ashland is 21 miles north with stores I like to shop in. It's great that I have a

Where am I?

Here are the Solution and winners for April: Location: Just North East of Death Valley Junction near State Line Rd..Winners: Mal Roode, James Proffitt. Beverly & Gene Stoops: Bob Peltzman is lost again. "Where am I" Bob went right when everyone else went left, and is completely lost. Send him 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 the people who correctly guess the location along with a different 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"



private taxi whenever I need personal appointments - doctors and/or dentists. I really do enjoy the mountains and seeing all the green that wasn't in Barstow. Although I do miss all my friends down there. BUT life does make changes for everyone.

I get the museum newsletter so it's nice to keep up on things going on down there. BUT my e-mail address is kayedrat@yahoo.com and I do have a land line here 513-475-3101 if you're at all interested in giving me any news that the newsletter doesn't include.

Thinking of ya 'al' and much love always,
MayBelle

The Lady In Red

By Sue Jaussaud

Off to my right somewhere I heard her stumble and fall, and then the scream. We all turned, running toward the sound. Barbara was struggling to right herself, blood streaming onto her hands and arms. In the chaos of the next few seconds, we realized that she'd hit her head when she fell, splitting open the corner of her forehead. The red stream down her face was formidable and especially terrifying out here, miles into a desert wilderness.

The day began innocently enough with a hike in the local mountains. Bob and I,

Charles and Mary Hughes, and Bill and Barbara Gossett four-wheeled to the trail head, and took off on foot to explore the area, marveling at the outstanding scenery and the many petroglyphs. Our route took us up a beautiful canyon, then cross country to a warm spring and down an abandoned road, heading back to our vehicles.

We scattered out a bit as the old road faded. Barbara was making her way though chunks of basalt when she stumbled and fell, head first, into them. Bob got the bleeding stopped with firm, direct pressure on the wound. We spoke in comforting, low voices to Barbara, encouraging the thought that she would be "just fine." I was quietly anxious about the possibility of her going into shock. We still had quite a distance to cover to reach the vehicles. Slowly, the "Lady in Red" told us what had happened, and soon enough her lively sense of humor was firmly back in place (Oh, happy day!). Bill produced bandages from his first aid kit, and, amazingly, Barbara was on her feet and ready to start for the trucks. After we reached them, there was still a long and bumpy ride back to the highway. We drove directly to the hospital, where Barbara was evaluated and released, with fetching new bandages and an overpowering desire for a shower.

We were very lucky on several counts- Barbara could have done a lot more damage had the impact been on her eye, nose, or mouth. A broken bone was a real possibility. We were fortunate-so fortunate-that Bill had the necessary supplies in his pack to securely bandage her head. And, most important, we "lucked out" that Barbara is a very tough lady who doesn't quit ...even bloodied (and later black-eyed), she's not beaten.

With the incident safely behind me, I've been reflecting on future trips. Luck is a some-time thing, not to be counted on. Bob and I will seriously re-

think and re-stock our first aid kits. None of us should be without the basics. And what about knowing the essentials of first aid? I've forgotten most of what I was taught, oh so many years ago. So I think I'll be checking out the latest in first aid supplies and consider taking a first aid class...the sooner, the better.

Marilyn Martin

I will miss being the editor of the Desert Explorers' Newsletter, but 6 years is a long time. Who ever thought after Bob's sudden demise Neal and I would be editing the newsletter and arguing about it for 6 years. After my recent computer crash - the nice people said perhaps they could restore my hard drive for about \$3,000 - it was time to face facts. Now I need to sell my truck.

I wasn't able to go on many of the trips but did enjoy reading about them and especially enjoyed seeing all the photos. Of course I will still receive

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 - - - - - Kingman - KE6RFR
 Herb Clark - - - - - Mission Viejo - KF6EAU
 Joseph A. Daly - - - - - Saugus - KG6GCW
 Joe de Kehoe - - - - - Bakersfield - KJ6HKZ
 Barbara Gossett - - - - - Ridgecrest - KI6YLR
 Bill Gossett - - - - - Ridgcrest - 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



Photo by Sue Jaussaud

Bob Jaussaud and Barbara Gossett

newsletters and maybe even make a meeting now and then. As MayBelle put it when she moved north "age is a consideration". Cajon Pass is another consideration. No way will I go up or down it if it's stormy.

I missed seeing everyone at the Rendezvous. I simply couldn't handle the heat. Naturally I had left the swamp cooler that works in the truck camper. at home. It was still cold here on the mountain.

You are lucky to have a new editor who is computer savvy. If it weren't for a very

patient and knowledgeable Jay Lawrence I would never have managed. Jay is now helping Jean get started.

My sincere thanks to all of you for putting up with my computer ignorance and helping me out for all these years.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Visit Desert Explorers on the Web.
See more pictures and in color!
<http://desertexplorers.org>

M.O.E. Trip Schedule		
May 19-23	Prescott	Messersmith/Taylor
Jun. 28 - July 3	Torrey UT	Messersmith/Taylor
Aug. 8-11	Kaibab	Messersmith/Taylor
Sept. 18 - 21	AZ Strip	Messersmith/Taylor

Desert Explorers Trip Schedule		
May 14	Museum BBQ	MRVM
May 13-15	Utah	Harder
June 10-13	Mina NV	Gossett

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

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.
 - 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. Its 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 Roode. 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:
- 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
Robert & Shirley Bolin	Distributors Emeritus	1066 Corsica Pl.	Costa Mesa	California	92626	714-549-4361	robertnshirl@earthlink.net
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Bill Gossett	Wild Bill	433 Valley St.	Ridgecrest	California	93555	760-375-6169	bandbgossett@verizon.net
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Bob Jaussaud	Sue's Husband & Chairman Viejo	P. O. Box 789	Lone Pine	California	93545-0789	818-585-6468	joeso@lonepinetv.com
Sue Jaussaud	Chairchick Vieja	P. O. Box 789	Lone Pine	California	93545-0789	760-876-9227	joeso@lonepinetv.com
Marian Johns	Co-Chairperson & Neal Keeper	13825 Lytle Grove Ln.	Lytle Creek	California	92358	909-887-1549	aridneal@gmail.com
Neal Johns	Chm. Emeritus, Aridologist, Asst. Ed.	13825 Lytle Grove Ln.	Lytle Creek	California	92358	909-887-1549	aridneal@gmail.com
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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 jppage@roadrunner.com
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Malcolm Roode	Trip Coordinator	7014 Mountain	Highland	California	92346	909-864-3525	malroode@gmail.com
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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 lahapel@yahoo.com
Anne Stoll	Canologist	143 Monterrey Drive	Claremont	California	91711	909-621-7521	909-730-0137 annestoll@verizon.net
George Stoll	Lens Cleaner	143 Monterrey Drive	Claremont	California	91711	909-621-7521	agstoll@csupomona.edu
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.

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
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Deadline for stuff for the Jun. Newsletter is May 10th.
Please!!! Send something...

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