

DESERT EXPLORERS

No. 157 APR. 2009

4WD SECTION OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM



Rendezvous 2009

By Allan Wicker

The 2009 Desert Explorers Rendezvous in Nipton was a resounding success. All of the key components, including cooperative weather, came together neatly to yield this result.

There were ample opportunities for par-

ticipants to meet and chat informally - and they did. Small groups formed and reformed around the Nipton town site when no events were scheduled.

The two-part keynote talk (on the Mojave Outback Explorers and on the history of Mojave County, Arizona and beyond) by Dan Messersmith was both entertaining and informative. His brave strategy of inviting the audience to ask questions about the County assured that he would be addressing topics that interested us, including Mormon settlements and practices, mining, treatment of the native Americans, and early days in Kingman, AZ. Many thanks, Dan.

Jerry Freeman's talk and slide presentation on the history of Nipton was very well received by a standing-room-only group in Freeman Hall. The event was a re-christening (perhaps

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Issue Number 157



Photo by Allan Wicker

Friday Potluck



Photo by Allan Wicker

Friday Potluck

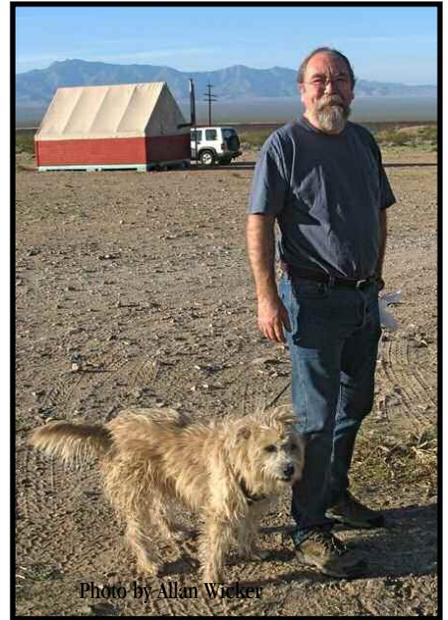


Photo by Allan Wicker

Jay Lawrence

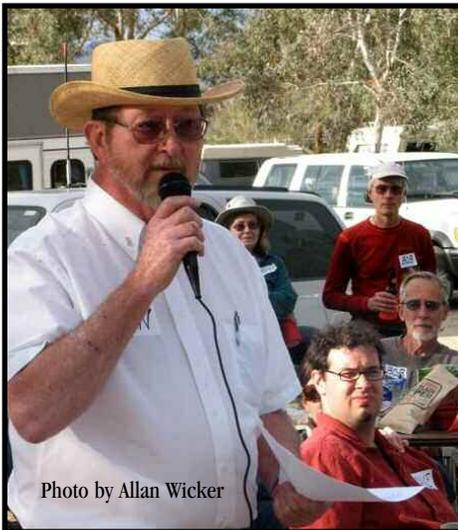


Photo by Allan Wicker

Dan Messersmith

Nipton through the years included several shots of silent film star Clara Bow and her beau, Rex Bell, frequent visitors to Nipton.

The silent auction, flawlessly run by Alan Romspert, gave everyone a chance to enhance their reputations as collectors, and yielded several hundred dollars we can use for worthy causes.

I heard nothing but favorable comments about the dinner catered by the Rib Company from Twentynine Palms. This was our second time to use Ron and Lisa's services, and I'm confident we will do so again.

The staff at the Nipton Trading Post pampered us in numerous ways. Fred, mounted on his "mule," led people to their rented tent cabin, RV site, or hotel parking place, and provided numerous other services. Bobbie handled requests in the office cheerfully and adeptly. So far as I am aware, everything that the Nipton facility promised was delivered - including newly installed toilet facilities in Freeman Hall.

Incoming trips led by Bob Jaussaud and Deb Miller and Steve Marschke were outstanding (based on my own experience and what I heard from others), as were the Saturday day trips led by Bob Dodds, Neal Johns, and Sunny

and Jean Hansen. Deb and Steve's outgoing trip gave people an opportunity to see the nearby Kokoweef Mine and the



Photo by Allan Wicker

Happy Birthday, Jim

delivery of some unpleasant weather (wind and hail) that had been forecast but that had held off until Sunday. Stay tuned for detailed reports on these trips.

The contributions of many people were needed for all of this to come about. None was more important than the Big Kahuna from Bullhead City, Mary Hughes, and her sidekick, Charles. Mary and Charles embraced this opportunity to give something back to the Desert Explorers, and they excelled in the effort.

A fuller list of the contributors and more on the Rondy will appear next month.



Photo by Allan Wicker

Big Kahuna @ Sat. Dinner

should say re-dedication) of the newly renovated old school house building. Jerry's carefully selected photos of

Trip Reports

Quartzsite #2

Thursday, January 22

By Dan Messersmith

Dick and Connie Taylor and I met at Calico's Restaurant for breakfast and to await any other travelers who might join us. We moved to the meeting point at the Museum parking lot and let Sassy and Buddy have a comfort break before we got on the road at 8:00 a.m. We had not had any other folks join us.

We took old Historic Route 66 to I-40 and had an uneventful trip down the freeway. We decided to go on over to California and take US 95 south to Blythe. We made a short stop in Blythe and then headed out to Quartzsite. There Dick picked up his motorhome (he and Connie had been down earlier in the week with Jim and Jeanne Jacobs). Jim and Jeanne were waiting for us, and we all moved over to the traditional DE camp site on the west side.

We found Ed and Maxine Manes' motorhome, Marilyn Martin's motorhome and her son Michael's motorhome in place at camp. They were not in camp. We picked out sites for the Taylor's and Jacobs' motorhomes and were settling in when Neal Johns pulled in. He and Marian had been shopping, and Marian was still out making the rounds.

About 1:30 p.m. we decided to take a short trail run. Neal helped Dick look it up on his new GPS/Google Earth system. We headed out to the Dome Rock interchange on I-10 and crossed over to the north side. Dick and Connie were in the lead; I was in the middle, and Jim and Jeanne were in the sweep vehicle. We found a road that headed into the mountain range past several mining claims. Further in we ran into folks out dry panning for gold. As the road worsened, we encountered another group of modern day miners, and they informed us our trail ahead was a dead end.

Dick turned us around, and we took another road that basically twisted us

around and back toward the area we just left. Dick took another tack and we encountered a group of Jeeps coming toward us. Dick spoke with them, and we headed out along another trail that was eventually blocked by a locked gate. We then turned our attention toward heading to Quartzsite via some back trails eventually coming into town near the Hi Jolly Monument.

We dubbed this our Christopher Columbus tour. We didn't quite know where we were going, nor where we were when we got there, nor where we had been when we got back. But we had a great time doing it and took credit for discovering a whole new part of Quartzsite.

Saturday, January 24

Again as the camp got going in the morning plans were made by different groups to do an assortment of things during the day. The Taylors, Noahs and I were going to do a short run down along the Colorado River.

We left about 9:30 a.m getting off the Interstate at Ehrenberg and headed south along the river. The river glistened in the winter sun with ducks swimming, fish making rings in the water's surface and a slight haze still lifting off the water. A little further down river there was what seemed to be a hundred vultures practicing their magnificent and graceful circles in the sky. Their beautiful aerial ballet almost makes one forget their place in the food chain.

Down river a bit more, Dick had us pull off onto one of the washes that runs into the river so that Sassy and Buddy could run and frolic a bit in the water. As this is one of their favorite things to do, they do it well.

A short while later, we continued our journey down river. At River Road we turned toward the small town of Cibola and the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge. We made a short stop at the visitor's center and then took the short driving tour into the Refuge. We were treated to flight after flight of Canadian Geese soaring overhead as they made their descent into the waters of the Refuge. It seemed like these flights would never end.

Continuing southerly we came to the area of dry lake of Cibola and found an old homestead that dated from 1910. It

had been built by C. Bishop and was called the Cibola Cabin. The mud packed log structure with a mud and thatch roof was actually a duplex with a covered breezeway between. We decided to have lunch at the site.

After lunch, we continued to follow a road to the south until we encountered a sign saying only authorized personnel were allow to proceed past it. We turned around just as a group of 4x4 vehicles arrived with all intent to ignore the sign. We retraced our earlier route looking for other routes to the south. Finding none, we headed for the Hart Mine Mill that we had passed along the way earlier. We made a short stop at the mill to look it over. Based on the mill leavings, it was a mystery as to what they might have been processing. We continued our journey heading up the hill to the Hart Mine.

When we got to the mine, with the Taylor and Noah vehicles ahead of me, I spotted four big horn sheep off to our right behind us. I was able to get the other vehicles turned around and back to where the sheep were spotted. The sheep put on a grand show for us. They had only gone across a small ravine by the time we got to them, and we watched as they traversed an almost vertical cliff face to move away from us. It was an awesome sight.

As we made our way down from the mine to the main road, we spotted a burro off to our left and watched him watch us for awhile before we moved on. We took another side road that took us up into the Trigo Wilderness area. We were following a nice little trail with great rock formations and beautiful little keyholes when we came to a sign that informed us that the "motorized trail would end in two miles." It did and we had to backtrack once more. The maps show the trail as a cherry stem that goes through the wilderness area.

We returned once more to the visitors center for a comfort break and then made a short stop at a unique sign post at Cibola for some pictures. Back on River Road we headed north to Blythe and stopped for supper at the Steak and Cake restaurant.

After supper, we returned to camp and enjoyed cocktails and a campfire with our other campers to finish out the evening.

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.

Anza-Borrego Desert

April 4-7, 2009
Leaders: Robb Anderson
Ana Marie Romero
CB: 13

Hopefully, we will hit Anza-Borrego during its wildflower peak. This is the week before Easter. Points of interest will include Coyote Canyon, Rodriguez Canyon, Devil's Drop-off, Fish Creek, and wherever the wildflowers are in abundance. If you are interested, please e-mail me at [aromero0418@sbc-global.net.]

29 Palms Weekend

April 18-19
Leaders: Savage/Jacoby

We will be leading two trips in the 29 Palms area during the weekend of April 18 and 19. You are welcome to join us for either one or both days. The spring colors should be incredible and the roads will be outstanding.

Saturday will be a moderately rugged trip that will take us through the Dale Mining District and up on an interesting road to the top of the Pinto Mountains where we will visit the Ivanhoe Mine. We will also visit the Virginia Dale Mine and the townsite of New Date. We will meet in downtown 29 Palms at 9:00 a.m. and

spend the entire day on some outstanding dirt roads with excellent scenery, including the distinct possibility of spring wildflowers and cactus blossoms. We should be back in 29 Palms by 4:30 p.m.

Sunday a loop trip will take us through Gold Valley, which is surrounded by the old mines of the 1890-1910 era. The return will be via beautiful Music Valley. In addition to all of the Gold Basin Mines we will stop at the very interesting Goat Basin mine as well. Once again the scenery will be beautiful.

This should be a great weekend so start planning by e-mailing either Bob or Nan, and we will save a spot for you. Low-range 4WD necessary. Limit 10 vehicles.

Bob Oliver has graciously invited us to camp on his property in 29 Palms Friday and/or Saturday nights. He has 30 acres with running water and bathroom facilities. We'll enjoy a group potluck at Bob's on Saturday evening. Directions to the camp/potluck will be forwarded to those who sign up for the trip.

Seligman to Williams Loop

(M.O.E.)
April 18 & 19
Leaders: Messersmith/Weiss

This is now a two-day trip with a dry camp on Saturday night in the Prescott National Forest. The trip will be lead by Tom Weiss from Prescott. Tom was with us on the Burro Creek run last year and has a great knowledge of the area we will be traveling.

We'll make a back road loop from Seligman to the Chino Valley area and then on to Perkinsville. Highlights along this first stretch will include some beautiful scenery, part of the historic Mohave and Prescott Toll Road, built in 1864, a couple of ghost town sites and a pioneer cemetery. Dan will do his best to provide some history along this stretch of the trip.

Tom writes, "...we will shortcut through to Chino Valley; taking the Perkinsville Road to Perkinsville, dry camping alongside the Verde River. I

expect to provide enough camp beer for all to enjoy with my complex recipe for Prescott Palace Cowboy beans. The following morning we will head into Sycamore Basin wilderness area for a short hike up to an ancient cliff dwelling that still has part of its original thatch roofing. Finally, we'll reach pavement going north to Williams. An easy relaxing run, mostly by county roads, no 4-wheel drive nor branch pruning expected."

We'll leave from Kingman at 6:30 a.m., have breakfast in Seligman at Lilo's West End Café, where we will be joined by Tom and any other folks that join him from the Prescott area. For those who do not want to do breakfast, we will do our best to depart Lilo's no later than 8:30 a.m. Those who wish to caravan from Kingman together, meet us at 6:15 a.m in the southwest corner of the Kingman K-Mart parking lot.

Dick Taylor dickandmouse@aol.com 928-692-5069 Dan dmess@ctaz.com 928-715-0579 Messersmith

Willis Wells

April 25
Leader: Bob Dodds

Meet at the Mojave River Museum at 8 a.m. Bring lunch, water, trash bags, rakes, shovels and gloves. We will be cleaning up the area and documenting the condition of the site. Bob Hilburn (president MRVM) was approached by the California Archaeological Conservancy to become stewards. Mildred Willis built several walls mainly to keep the cattle out of her garden. She had plans to build a Scotchish style home there in the 1920's. There are petroglyphs nearby, and Bob will give a history of the area. He will then send a report to the Conservancy. This will be a historical and fact finding

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 • THOUGHT FOR THE DAY •
 • A married man should forget his mistakes. There's no use in two people remembering the same thing! •
 •.....

adventure.

Arizona Strip East Side

(M.O.E.)

May 20-28

Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor

This is a return trip to the east side of the magnificent Arizona Strip. We will base-camp and re-visit many of the sites we have not seen for some years and look for some places or trails we have not run before. We will visit some of the great overlook points on the north rim of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River and make some great loop runs.

Our base camp will be near (but not at) Twin Tanks, south of Pipe Springs National Monument. It is motorhome and camping trailer accessible via 30 miles of dirt and gravel road, which is most likely to have some degree of wash-board conditions. Last gas and supplies will be available at the mini-mart and gas station at Pipe Springs. Please bring a box of firewood to use for our evening camp fires as wood is not readily available at our base-camp site.

Those NOT caravanning with us from Kingman, can meet us along the way at Mesquite, NV, or St. George, UT, The final meeting point will be the Mini-mart/Gas Station at Pipe Springs. Details and times will be provided to those who let us know they will be participating in the trip.

We require an email or phone RSVP for this trip. Please include your cell phone number with the RSVP.

Dan Messersmith [dmess@ctaz.xom]
928 -715-0579 or Dick Taylor[dickand-
mouse@aol.com] 928-692-5069



Lava River Cave

(M. O. E.)

June 13, 2009

Leader: Dan Messersmith

This will be a day trip to Williams and Flagstaff areas to visit Lava River Cave. On to Williams and north out of town to some forest roads that will take us over to Lava Cave north of Flagstaff. Those who wish to explore the

cave may do so and those who wish to stay above ground and relax and visit may do so.

Here is some detail from *99 Things To Do In Arizona*: "Lava River Cave is the largest refrigerator in northern Arizona - and a cool place to explore. Formed within a few hours when an ancient volcano erupted and lava that was flowing underground cooled. The cave is nearly three-quarters of a mile long and never gets above 45 degrees. In some spots the cave is barely as tall as a person, in others, the ceiling is 30 feet high. When you get to the cave, you are on your own - there are no guides and there is only one way in and one way out. The entrance to the cave is the coldest part at 35 degrees, so bring warm clothes, sturdy hiking shoes and at least three sources of light per person. Rangers also recommend a hard hat to protect you from bumping your head. Back-up batteries are also recommended."

We'll leave from Kingman at 6:30 a.m., have breakfast in Seligman at Lilo's West End Café and try to depart Lilo's no later than 8:30 a.m.

Please!!
Check your e-mail address. Send
corrections to
<mjmartin@dslextreme.com>
Thank You!



ECR Over Rough Country

Where In The World?

Leaders: Anderson/Johns

Everyone who has expressed an interest in one of the four proposed foreign trips we have mentioned in previous newsletters, has picked Tibet and the Sky Train from China as their choice. This probably won't happen until October as that's is one of the best times to see Mt. Everest. If anyone else is interested in going in October, let me know.

Interested in exploring the world? I'd like to make a list of people to contact if and when we are planning a trip. So e-mail Marian Johns your name and we'll let you know when we have something in the works. Or, if there is someplace specific you'd like to go, let us know.

Member Doings

Dirt History

By Neal Johns

These writing are usually travelogues, but lately I have been staying at home watching mud dry. Sigh.

I started to write about electronics but changed my mind after telling Marilyn I might write about C-MOS. She looked amazed and said she did not realize I knew anything about sea moss.



ECR Straight Across the Plains

Don't ask me to explain that esoteric joke, bug some other Electronics Engineer.

Deciding to write something I know little about gave me lots of subjects! I must write something or Marilyn or one of her enforcers will get me. The best defense is a good offense so I will write about History in-as-much-as some people think it is important. Therefore, I chose the subject: Dirt History.

The main thing about dirt you should remember is it very good for making trails for man and beast. One of these trails was started around 1700 to connect (by man and mule travel) the missions in the New World of Baja California together. The Jesuits, wishing to retain their heads firmly upon their shoulders, named the new trail The Kings Highway, or El Camino Real in Spanish (henceforth ECR). The Jesuits were from various European countries but their common language in Baja was Spanish as were their paychecks.

Starting in Loreto, Baja California, the ECR went all the way to San Francisco, Upper California, and were located approximately one day's foot journey apart. Being very well educated, the Jesuits were great road builders. Their "trails" were more like roads, being about eight feet wide and straight across the plains. No doubt you can guess who did the actual work, yep, the indigenous population. After the Jesuits were sent home in 1768, the later trails from Mission San Borja north followed Indian

paths and were rarely as imposing.

One of my hobbies is standing on an old trail, looking around, and thinking about what life was like in the era of that particular trail. First you have to find the trail, and then comes the urge to travel on it, and then to map it... In the good old USA, there are several trail groups you can join, but in Baja you are pretty much on your own. Over several decades, with the help of several people who have written books about the ECR, and more recently, thanks to Google Earth, the exact location of the trail is readily and frequently visible.

While I have taken historical groups trail hunting in Baja, a friend of mine has made knowledge about the El Camino Real in Baja much more accessible to people than I have. His name is David Kier, and he proudly claims the title of Baja Nut, and he spends hours a day helping people on <http://forums.bajanomad.com/today.php> one of the most active and best Baja

Desert Explorers Trip Schedule		
Anza Borrego	Apr. 4-7	Romero/Anderson
29 Palms	April 18-19	Savage/Jacoby
Seligman	Apr. 19	Messersmith
Willis Well	April 25	Dodds
Far Away Place	TBD	Johns/Anderson
AZ Strip	May 20-28	Messersmith/Taylor
Lava Cave	June 13	Messersmith

forums on the Internet. Recently, he put trail pictures from Google Earth on the BajaNomad website with the location of the pictures shown on a road map. Two of the Google Earth pictures are shown with this article. If you have any interest in the El Camino Real, check out www.vivabaja.com/ECR/ and the following links for more ECR information and the Google Earth pictures:

- <http://forums.bajanomad.com/viewthread.php?tid=37019>
- <http://forums.bajanomad.com/viewthread.php?tid=36002&page=1>
- <http://forums.bajanomad.com/viewthread.php?tid=36065>
- <http://forums.bajanomad.com/viewthread.php?tid=36578>
- <http://forums.bajanomad.com/viewthread.php?tid=37047>
- <http://forums.bajanomad.com/viewthread.php?tid=36976>
- <http://forums.bajanomad.com/viewthread.php?tid=37233>

Minutes

By Jean Hansen

Neal & Marian Johns' House
Saturday, February 7, 2009

PRESENT:

Neal & Marian Johns, Sunny & Jean Hansen, Emmett & Ruth Harder, Alan Romspert, Mal Roode, Nan Savage, Debbie Miller-Marschke, Steve Marschke, Tommy Perasso, Glenda Roach, Bob Dodds and Maybelle Lipking.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. by Debbie Miller-Marschke.

REGRETS:

- 1) Ken Sears.
- 2) Dave Givens.
- 3) Allan Wicker, who is currently in Japan.

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES:

There was one correction to the previous minutes: The trip to be led by Steve Marschke and Debbie Miller-Marschke is to the Kokoweef mine, not "War Room." Emmett Harder motioned to approve the revised minutes. Nan Savage seconded that motion; motion carried.

Newsletter:

We have 115 current paid subscribers, plus 9 who are past due.

Newsletter production

Debbie Miller-Marschke said that we need to coordinate trip descriptions with publishing dates for the newsletter, so that the trip descriptions can make it into the newsletter on time. She would like to see more lead-time on the trip descriptions.

Treasurer:

We have \$3200.00 in the treasury. Fees for the satellite telephone have increased to \$41.00 per month.

Website

Debbie Miller-Marschke reported that the website has no issues and is running well. It will be updated by Sunday, February 8.

Trips and other events:

1) Saturday, February 14 – Monday,

February 16 – Catalina Island Jeep trip– Leaders – Nan Savage and Bob Jacoby.

2) Friday, March 20 – Sunday, March 22 – Annual Rendezvous – Nipton, CA.

3) Sunday, March 22 – Wednesday, March 25 - MOE – Alamo Lake, AZ.

4) Saturday, April 4 – Tuesday, April 7 - Coyote Canyon in Anza Borrego – Leaders – Ana Romero and Rob Anderson.

5) Saturday, April 18– Sunday, April 19 – Twentynine Palms – Leaders – Nan

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Terry Hardwicke	thardwicke@charter.net	John Page	jppage@roadrunner.com	Bob Younger	bobyounger@verizon.net

Savage and Bob Jacoby.

6) Sunday, April 19 – Willow Beach Area – MOE.

7) Saturday, April 25 – Willis' Well, Museum clean-up day, one-day trip – Bob Dodds will coordinate.

8) Wednesday, May 20 – Thursday, May 28 – Arizona Strip – MOE.

9) Monday, June 15 – Day trip on Route 66 – MOE.

10) TBD – Communications tower behind Calico Ghost Town – Leader – Joe Pizzatola and Bob Dodds.

International Trip under consideration – to be led by Marian and Reda.

1) China to Tibet, possibly include travel to Mt. Everest base camp. This seems to be the one prospective participants prefer.

New Business:

1) Debbie Miller-Marschke suggested that Mal Roode contact trip leaders to

solicit future trips. Neal commented that Mal is doing an excellent job as trip coordinator.

2) Debbie Miller-Marschke also suggested giving custody of the satellite telephone to Nan Savage who will bring it to meetings. In this way, the telephone can be given directly to trip leaders and returned similarly. Nan will report to Ken Sears who has used the satellite telephone. Debbie Miller-Marschke called for a motion – motion passed. Emmett and Ruth Harder will be unable to attend the Rendezvous, so he brought the PA system to the meeting. Sunny & Jean Hansen will take custody of the PA system, make sure to take it to the Rendezvous and afterwards, get it back to Emmett and Ruth.

Rendezvous:

1) The first item of business was raised by Debbie Miller-Marschke: The I-15 will be subject to closures every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for blasting

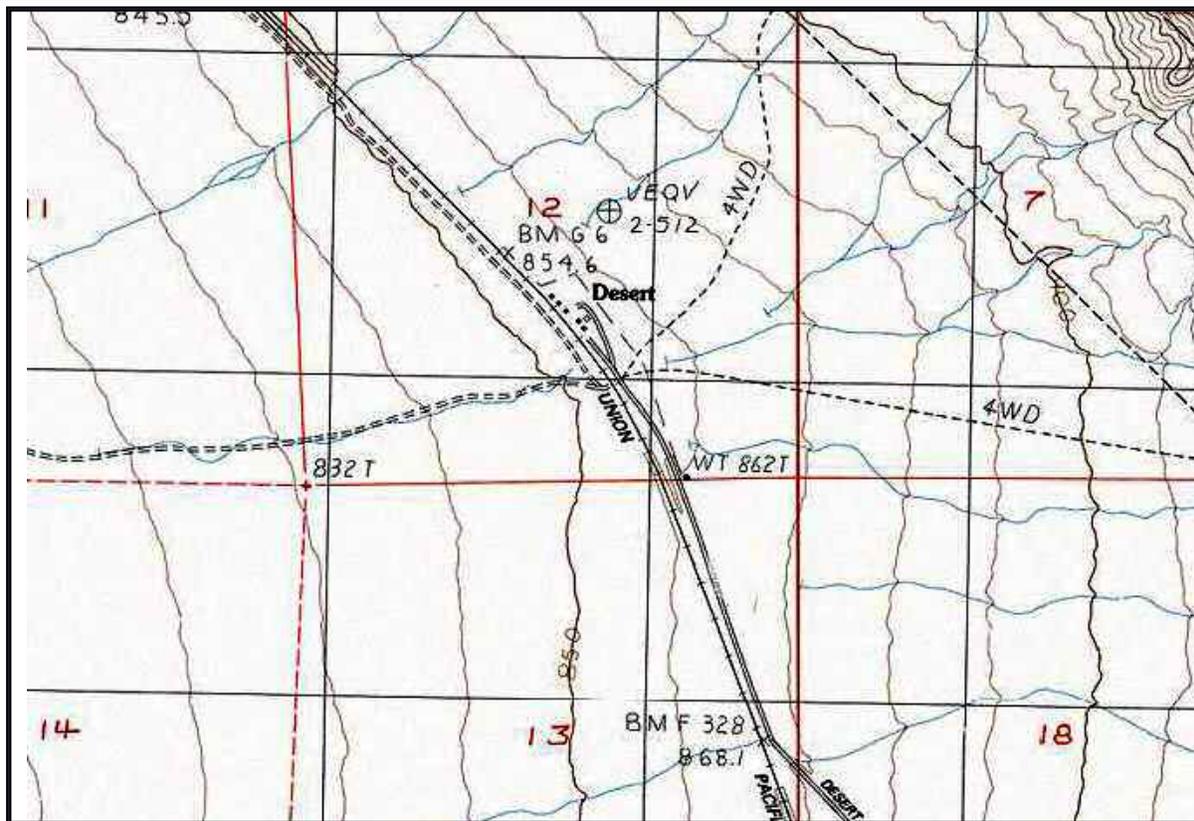
from now till May, due to construction of truck lanes on either side. The southbound on and off ramps for Nipton will be closed until May. Debbie Miller-Marschke said that we must think of a contingency plan, especially for trip leaders whose trips may involve travel utilizing those on/off ramps. Mal asked if we should put alternate routes in the newsletter. Neal said it was already being planned.

2) Debbie Miller-Marschke noted that Mary Hughes had submitted her final report. Mary reported that she met with Gerald Freeman for discussion of Rendezvous plans. He said that 50-60 Desert Explorers had registered for, the, hotel cabins and RV spaces already. All hotel rooms, tent cabins and most of the RV spaces, both north and south have been reserved. Mary forwarded numbers for Rendezvous sign-ups and meals from Nancy Dodds. According to Nancy, we have 40 people

Where am I?

Here are the location and winners for March: Location: Area with the 5 on the EAST, the 166 on the NORTH, the 126 on the SOUTH, and the 33 on the WEST. Winners: Mal Roode, Bob Younger, James Proffitt, Joan Steiner, Bil Cook and Leonard Friedman,

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."



signed up. March 15 is the cutoff date for Rendezvous registration, but Gerald Freeman wants to have final space registration numbers by February 15, as he has a gem and mineral group coming in and whatever spaces the DE does not fill, he will give to the gem and mineral group. Additionally, he specified that we must clean up the grounds and make sure trash is deposited in dumpsters.

3) Mary has invited Mr. And Mrs. Freeman to be the guests of the DE for the Saturday night banquet.

4) Debbie Miller-Marschke asked Neal to e-mail reminders of Nipton registration deadlines, as well as Rendezvous registration deadlines to all members. Neal agreed to do this.

5) The subject of tables and chairs was brought up and as in past years, members will need to bring their own tables and chairs. Additionally, Bob Dodds volunteered to bring some tables from the Mojave River Valley Museum. When he gets them to Nipton, he will need help in unloading and reloading. Extension cords will probably also be needed.

6) Debbie Miller-Marschke expressed concern about lighting for the caterer, due to the early date of the Rendezvous. Jean will contact Lisa Hill to find out if she and her crew provide lighting or if we should bring lights. Bob Dodds says the museum has

Desert Explorer Ham List	
Pete Austin	---Diamond Bar - KF6FZD
Janet Austin	-----Diamond Bar - KF6FZE
Craig Baker	-----Sylmar - KC6KKR
David Bullock	-----Los Angeles - N3CUE
Jim Byrne	-----Chatsworth - KE6RFR
Herb Clark	---Mission Viejo - KF6EAU
Joseph A. Daly	-----Saugus - KG6GCW
Axel Heller	Huntington Beach - KG6DII
Ted Kalil	----Apple Valley - KG6AIT
Chuch Lahmeyer	-----Calif. City - AF6GT
Jay Lawrence	-----Long Beach - 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
Ken Sears	-----Cerritos - KD6UHY
Bob Thille	-----West Hill -KF6OWH
Brad Thompson	-----Valencia - KA6UED
Betty Wallin	--Desert Hot Springs - KD6CY
Al Walter	-----San Diego - KG6SGM
Bob Younger	---Santa Barbara - N6VMN

Cow Springs petroglyphs and if time allows, Cottonwood Springs (2 miles round trip hike) high clearance 4WD required. – Leaders, Sunny & Jean Hansen. CB Channel 15

4) Saturday, March 21 – East Mojave Trail – Leaders, Neal and Marian Johns. CB Channel 13.

5) Saturday, March 21 – Rosalie Mine and roasting pits – Leaders, Bob & Nancy Dodds. CB Channel 30.

6) Sunday, March 22 – Outbound – Kokoweef Mine / Crystal Cave – Leaders, Steve Miller and Debbie Miller-Marschke. Debbie needs “Hold Harmless” waivers from trip participants PRIOR to the actual trip.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 11, at 11:00. at the home of Allan & Ding Wicker. This will be a potluck.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

portable lights and he can bring them along with the tables if lights are needed.

7) Clean-up committee: Neal has volunteered to coordinate this.

8) Mr. Freeman requested that the DE appoint a site coordinator to be there at all times (Alan Romspert volunteered for this duty).

9) Rendezvous Trips:

1) Thursday, March 19 – Friday, March 20 – Inbound, Needles to Nipton – Leaders, Bob & Sue Jaussaud.

2) Friday, March 20 – Inbound – Cow Cove petroglyphs – Leaders, Steve Marschke and Debbie Miller-Marschke. CB Channel 33.

3) Saturday, March 21 – Highland Springs,

DESERT EXPLORERS
Newsletter
Editor: Marilyn Martin

Asst. Editors: Marian & Neal Johns

Visit Desert Explorers on the Web!

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

Some Good Folks to Know

Mojave River Valley Museum
<http://www.mojaverivervalleymuseum.org>
Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the scientific, historical and cultural heritage of the Mojave Desert

Colorado River Historical Society and Museum
2201 Highway 68, Bullhead City, AZ
Located in historic 1940's Catholic Church
Exhibits: steamboats, early ranching, mining, Mojave Indians, Hardyville, gifts.

Friends of the Eastern California Museum
Independence, CA
Check them out! Open weekends. Old farm machinery, bookstore, reference library, great old photos and Owens Valley memorabilia. Nice folks, too.

Mohave Outback Explorations
2945 E. Leroy Ave. Kingman, AZ 86409,
dmess@ctaz.com
Motto: "The world isn't too bad if you can just get out in it."

Searles Valley Historical Society Museum
In Trona just off the main highway

Friends of the Mojave Road
37198 Lanfair Rd.G-15 Essex, CA 92332
(760) 733-4482 <http://www.mdhca.org/>
Historian Dennis Casebier writes desert guidebooks, leads trips, builds museums(!) and has other odd habits. Newsletter subscription is \$20.

Shoshone Museum Association
118 Hwy. 127 P. O. Box 38 Shoshone, CA
<http://www.discoverbaja.com>
Great newsletter, spectacular insurance prices, weather and road reports, etc.

**A successful man
is one who makes more
money
than his wife can spend.
A successful woman
is one who can find such a
man.**

Welcome Back

Herb Clark Mission Viejo
Bob Jacoby Los Angeles

Welcome

Roger Deranian North Hollywood
Richard Shapel Yermo
Jeanne Murrin Inyokern

**Next Meeting
Sat. April 11
11:00 a.m. potluck
at the
Wickers' 1430 Sitka
Claremont, CA
Ph: 909-445-0082**

**Directions to
Wickers**

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

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

From the I-210 westbound get off at Baseline and go west on Baseline to Indian Hill Blvd. Turn left (south), Approach the northern-most gate at the entrance. Stop there, and at the 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.

M.O.E. Trip Schedule

All of the following are in the planning stages and may have changes in dates or destinations. You may calendar them in pencil, but wait for their final listing on the front of the MOE newsletter before making any firm plans to join one of these.

April 19: We'll take some backroads to the Willow Beach area and perhaps do the original old trail built in during the building of Hoover Dam.

May 21 - 29: A trip to the Arizona Strip, east side. Base camp and revisit many of the sites we have not seen for some years. Motorhome and camping trailer accessible via wash-board gravel roads.

June 13 Lava River Cave.

June 15: Day trip on Route 66 to Seligman and dirt roads to either Prescott or Bagdad.

We have set this schedule to provide a base of trips for MOE folks to enjoy according to your schedule.

Ed. note: Usually we do not publish any trip schedules other than the D.E. trip schedule, but M.O.E. has so many planned (some not firmed up as yet) it seemed wise to pass the information on to all Desert Explorers. You're always invited on M.O.E. trips.

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 \$18 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 Gene Stoops (760) 253-2419.
 - 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 \$18 for a subscription to Marilyn Martin, PO Box 291759, Phelan, CA 92329-1759. Make the check out to Desert Explorers.
- Communications: CB is required and is the normal mode of communications between vehicles on a trip. Channel 13 is the Desert Explorers' channel. It's a good idea to monitor it whenever you are driving so that other members can contact you should they spot your vehicle on the road.
- Weekend Trips: There is normally one major trip each month. This will be the trip on which you can look around and find old friends, new friends, collect debts, flirt with other wives/husbands and lie about other trips. There may be another trip during the month for people who have time for it or can't make the main trip. The purpose of all this is to generate more coherence as a group and get everybody to know everybody. We stole this idea from the Mojave River Explorers. Don't forget their fixed-camp trips on the first weekend of the month.
- Trip Coordinator: John Page. Send your trip proposals to John. John will resolve any time conflicts and maybe bug you if you are late with a promised trip write-up. He will also coordinate private trips for subscribers upon request (see below).
- Non Museum sponsored trip Point of Contact: We publish reports of subscribers' non museum sponsored trips in order to fill the pages, encourage you to get out into The Great American Desert, and to amuse and entertain you. Some trips, because of time or limited number of people, are not suitable for official museum trip status. Our Trip Coordinator is

the point of contact for Subscribers having or wanting to go on a non museum sponsored trip.

Potluck: There will be a Potluck on Saturday night of our weekend trips unless otherwise noted by the Leader. Trip Details: Participants may be required to send a SASE to the trip leader to receive information on trip meeting place and other details. A SASE is a self addressed stamped envelope.

Finances: The cost of preparing and mailing the Desert Explorers newsletter is covered by the annual subscription fee as are extraordinary out-of-pocket expenses by Trip Leaders or members, which are incurred as a result of Desert Explorers activities. These expenses include costs of telephone calls, office supplies and postage but do not include any travel expenses, vehicle damage or personal injuries. Other extraordinary expenses must be authorized by the Executive Committee.

Hot Tips for Leaders:

- 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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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	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 _____

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

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 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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 Cell Phone (____) _____ Ham Call Sign _____

You MUST be a Mojave River Valley Museum member to go on field trips... See above.



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

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

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