

# DESERT EXPLORERS

No. 161 Aug. 2009

4WD SECTION OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM



## Vicki Hill

## Meet Our New Chairs

Vicki is a teacher, artist, photographer, rock art enthusiast and a friend to many.

She was a charter member of the Desert Explorers and before that, the Backroad Explorers for many years. For two years she was Chair of the Soboba group of the San Geronimo chapter of the Sierra Club.

She started spending time in the desert in the 1960's and today the terrain of the desert feels like home. Her favorite pastime is to sit out there, enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the desert and try to capture it in paint.

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Everyone knew Allan's shoes would be hard to fill. When the votes were in it was decided the privilege of being the Desert Explorers' new chair would be shared by the two top runners. Here they are in alphabetical order:



Marian Johns

## Marian Johns

Marian's 68 years reduced to one paragraph:

Although I'm originally from Washington State, I've lived most of my life in California, and for the past 30 years, I've made my home



Vicki Hill



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in Lytle Creek. Where else can you live on a year-round creek in Southern California? Although I majored in art and art history in college (UCLA - Go Bruins, Go!) I became a teacher (now retired). I can thank my parents for passing on their passion for camping and traveling. Camping and traveling naturally led to an interest in exploring with a 4x4 vehicle, and I've owned one kind or another since 1965. Then, back in 1987 I found the fledgling Backroad Explorers which eventually became the Desert Explorers - and that led to Mr. Johns - and a Mrs. Johns.

I have two adult sons - one got married in July - Hallelujah!

# Trip Reports

## Catalina Trip

**June 6-7, 2009**  
**By Nan Savage**

**R**escheduled from last February due to rain, the DE Catalina trip was threatened again by seasonally unusual rainfall in June in Southern California, but we pressed forward undaunted, and the rain did not materialize; we had fine weather for the trip. Assembling on Saturday morning at the



**Trip Leaders, Bob and Nan**

Catalina Conservancy office in "downtown" Avalon, the group included Barb and Bill Gossett, Jim and Kristen Proffitt, Bob Jacoby, and Nan Savage. Barb, Bill, Bob and Nan had traveled over on the same ship Friday afternoon

from the mainland. Barb, who had never been on the ocean before, enjoyed the voyage as the modern catamaran gives a surprisingly fast and smooth ride.

In 1887 Avalon was called "Tim's Landing," but the more romantic name, Avalon, from the myth of King Arthur, caught on later. Just up the street from the Catalina Conservancy office are a number of modest bungalows built for vacationers

in the 1920's. They sold at the time for \$450 each, and my father's parents bought one. As a youth, my father spent his summers there. He developed his first entrepreneurial skills on the island, when, with his four brothers, he delivered Western Union telegraphs on his bicycle. His service was more modern than the previous carrier pigeons which had relayed messages in their beaks for the price of 50 cents per message. Subsequently, my father and mother



Photo by Jim Proffitt

**Avalon Harbor**

honeymooned on the island in 1931, at the height of its prominence and popularity, so overall this visit was particularly special for me.

Most people think the island was owned by the Wrigley family of Wrigley's chewing gum fame. This is true to a point. Actually, as an astute businessman, Wrigley held the island in the corporate title of the Catalina Island Company, so his personal name never appeared on the deed. Our guide, Fred, took seven hours to stretch out this intricate story, teasing us with snippets and clues along the way. Today the Catalina Conservancy controls 88% of the island; 11% is still retained by the Wrigley family under the title Catalina Island Company,



Photo by Barbara Gossett

**Our Guide, Fred**



Photo by Barbara Gossett

**Airport in the Sky**



Photo by Jim Proffitt

### **Picnic Lunch**



Photo by Barbara Gossett

### **Cactus Growing in Tree Crotch**



Photo by Barbara Gossett

### **Old Stage Station**

and the final 1% comprises the city of Avalon. The only place on the island where one can own private land is Avalon, but we were looking forward to leaving the tourist center behind, no matter how charming it is, to venture into the outback of the island.

Fred Freeman was our 4WD guide. Having lived on the island for over forty years, owning one of only two of the island markets, and having a winning and entertaining personality, we knew we were in for a good trip. Fred told many clever stories, jokes, and gave us fascinating facts about the island and its history. For example, from 1921-1951 the

Chicago Cubs held their spring training on Catalina because Wrigley owned that baseball franchise. The Wrigleys built a field on Catalina imitating the exact dimensions of their home field in Chicago.

Catalina Island is one of eight Channel Islands off the coast of California. These islands are essentially soaring mountains that rise out of the sea. On Catalina the highest peak is Mount Orizaba at 2202 feet, but when measured from the bottom of the sea, it actually rises a dramatic 8,000 feet. Catalina is the third largest island in the chain of Channel Islands.

Many endemic plants, that is, plants found only on Catalina, can be seen in the back country. We saw, for example, St. Catherine's lace and the California tree poppy, which blossoms with a myriad of small flowers every single day of the

year. From many points we looked from one side of the island to the other, seeing the vibrant colors of the blue Pacific Ocean on both sides of our view.

We travelled the ridge route along the crest of the island and then ventured in

and out of several of the canyons, including Coffee Pot Canyon, on challenging dirt roads. We were treated to a very good box lunch along the trail. Fred kept us amused with his never-ending array of jokes and insults. We saw a huge display of prickly pear cacti at the height of their bloom with their marvelous fan of yellow flowers. At one point, Fred showed us a California scrub oak with a prickly pear cactus growing out of its "crotch," as he called it, a sight none of us had ever seen before.

Several hundred American bison (buffalo) populate the interior of the island. They are left over from a handful brought over in the 1930's to make a film from the Zane Grey novel, *The Vanishing American*. However, the bison were cut from the film in the editing room, so they appear now only in the flesh on Catalina Island. The herd is cut periodically, with the extras shipped to Indian reservations to replenish their stock. We were privileged to see a number of buffalo calves, still only one to two weeks old.

We learned that bald eagles used to populate the island, but years of release of DDT from the mainland at the Montrose Chemical Company in Torrance compromised their young eggs, causing them to hatch too soon in order to survive. After fifty years, a project to reintroduce the bald eagle and to ensure that their eggs hatch properly has been a success. By removing the weak eggs from the bald eagles' nests, substituting fake eggs to fool the mother, then hatching the real eggs in incubators, and finally returning the broken shell and the baby eagle to its mother in the wild, the population has replenished itself. At the Conservancy office, we saw live cam photographs of baby bald eagles in their nests, and those of us who went on the rigid hull inflatable boat trip on the coastline Sunday actually saw the bald eagles nesting along the shore of Catalina.

All of the Channel Islands had military installations during World War II. We visited the site of Catalina's U.S. World War II military camp in the interior. Bill Gossett caused our guide a fright by walking out on one of the collapsed buildings, which had gone down just a year ago. But Bill was unharmed. Then we visited the original stage coach stop used as the noon rest point during the late 19th century when

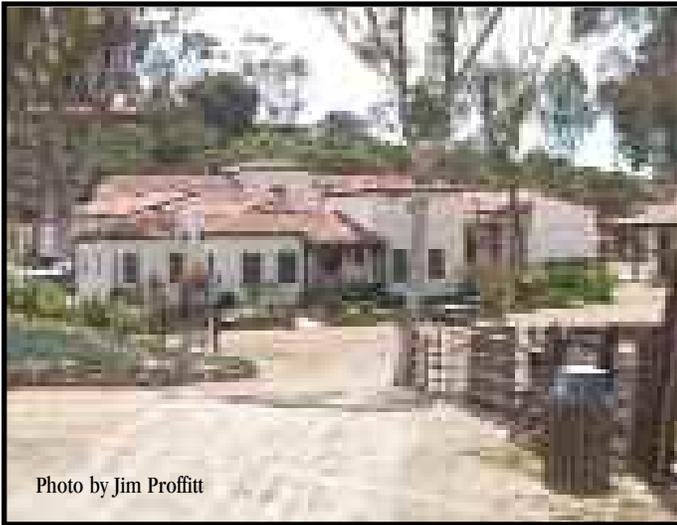


Photo by Jim Proffitt

### Ranch



Photo by Barbara Gossett

### Ruins, Camp Cactus



Photo by Barbara Gossett

### Native American Bowl Making Site



Photo by Barbara Gossett

### Camp Cactus

the stage connected passengers between Avalon and the Isthmus. We also saw Rancho Escondido, the private ranch of the Wrigley family, where award-winning Arabian horses were bred. We also stopped at the Airport in the Sky, the air-

port for the island, which consists of a rather treacherous runway perched on a mountain peak with major drop-offs on either side. As Fred pointed out, whether rising or falling, you will be in the air when you leave that runway. Fred is actually a private pilot who flies his airplane to the mainland to visit his grown children now scattered about the country. He showed us his plane and told us the story of how one day he took off to discover that his plane's single propeller had stopped working cold. He radioed the control tower to report the emergency, and the response was a calm, "Well, keep us informed..." He did keep them informed, calling again after he had crash-landed. The airport terminal, as well as many of the historic buildings around Avalon, are decorated with Catalina tiles, the distinctive and colorful decorative tiles manufactured on the island between 1927-1937, now very desirable collective items.

After a most enjoyable day, we returned

to Avalon. Jim Proffitt noticed that he was missing his wallet, which had evidently fallen behind the seat in the jeep, but he was able to track our driver, Fred, down because everyone in Avalon knows Fred. Then we spent a nice evening dining at the Villa Portofina, an Italian restaurant, where we exchanged stories of the many interesting roads we have traveled in the Western states. The evening was capped off with the showing of a vintage Zane Grey movie from 1935, a Hollywood version of one of the novels by the popular Western writer.

Ed. note: Both Barbara and Jim sent me so many great photos I may have mixed up the credits. If so, I apologize. Wish I could have used them all.



## Lava Cave

By Dick Taylor

The following folks and their dogs made this three-day two-night outing. Pete Mallet and his son Chase, Joe and Julie Stevens, Jim Proffitt, Linda Grundy and her dog Georgie, Dan Messersmith and his dog Buddy and Dick and Connie Taylor and their dog Sassy.

Our starting place was K-Mart parking lot at 7:00 a.m. Friday morning June 12, where we met with Linda and her dog Georgie and then Jim pulled in followed by Connie and our dog Sassy. Dan had

agreed to meet us in Seligman as he had a Rotary Meeting that same morning. With the introductions completed our party of four rigs were on the road by the 7:00 a.m. starting time.

Once under way our CB chatter turned up the fact that Linda had worked at a clinic in Peach Springs when she first arrived in Kingman and she traveled this road back and forth to work for about 5 years. She had many good tales to share of her adventures making these trips.

We made a brief stop in Peach Springs for a short break and a radio adjustment. We were soon on the road again and as we approached Seligman we could hear Dan on the CB. He was over on Interstate 40 and he let us know that he would get into Seligman at about the same time as we would. We agreed to meet at Westside Lilo's Cafe for a rest stop and coffee.

Our next stop would be Kaibab Camp ground just north of Williams. We took the old Crookton Road until we had to get on the interstate just shy of Ash Fork. This is a great piece of the old Route 66 and you can see where some of the older alignments were located. It was freeway from here on into Williams where we took exit 165 North towards the Grand Canyon. Kaibab Lake Campground is just a couple miles north of the freeway.

Our next task was to find our campsite, which had been worked out by Pete and his son Chase as they had come in Thursday night to secure the sites. We were to look for a small military trailer that was parked on Pete's site and we could occupy the sites across from them. With a bit of noodling around we found the trailer and made our camps. Pete and son soon arrived from some morning exploring and let us know that Joe and Julie would not be in until tonight due to work schedules. With camp made and all folks accounted for we started out on our road trip for the day.

Today's trip is to take us to a couple of viewpoints into the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness and a ride through the beautiful pine forest. Our first stop was in Williams for fuel, then we headed out forest roads 141 & 12 toward White Horse Lake and the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness. A lunch stop was called as we found a nice two-track road to take us to a shady open area just meant for lunch. After lunch and just before reach-

ing the lake we stopped at the trailhead to Sycamore Falls. This is a rather spectacular dry waterfall that helped carve the canyon in past eons. With a short hike we reached the falls which are very narrow at this point and drop straight down what looked like something over 300 feet to the canyon floor. To see water going over the falls one must be here when the spring-melt is taking place. The only water we could see was the large pool in the depression at the base of the falls.

We were treated with the opportunity to see a rock climber scale the face of a sheer wall and go up and over the top. He had some partners still at the bottom and we could see the ropes that had been used to repel down and hear the discussion as to what was the best route up and out.

As we continued down the trail, the canyon began to get wider and landscape turned to trees and lush greenery. With more to see ahead of us we returned to our rigs for the next leg of our ride.

This took us out past White Horse Lake and on to forest road 110 to the canyon's viewpoint. Here we were treated to more spectacular vistas of this vast canyon. It was easy to see that this is truly a wilderness area. There are no roads into this canyon only trails that can be hiked or traveled by horseback.

After taking all that the mind could absorb, we got back on the road again and traveled more forest service roads back to a point where we intersected paved road 173 back to Williams. Some folks stopped for ice and other supplies in town prior to returning to camp.

Back in camp happy hour and dinner were well under way when Joe and Julie arrived. As darkness overtook the group folks turned in for the night.

Saturday June 13

Morning found us cleaning up breakfast things and working on the day's outings. Today would be a two track outing with Pete, Chase, Joe and Julie going south to see an Indian cliff dwelling found on a prior trip and Linda, Jim, Dan, Connie and Dick going in to Williams and picking up Wayne Irwin who had come out for the day to join us on the Lava Cave trip. The first group made the long trip out and on their way back were able to show Joe and Julie a couple places that

they missed yesterday.

The rest of us made our way north over another batch of beautiful forest roads with just a couple of navigation corrections. Just west of the Kendrick Mountain Wilderness we passed through a section of forest that had recently been burned. It is amazing the destruction a forest fire causes and even more amazing that small pockets of the forest survive the fire and become the starting places for the forest to renew itself. This part of the forest was working very hard on its come back. There were lots of new growth and a wide variety of plant life coming into its own.

We reached the Lava Cave turn off around 11:00 a.m. and were surprised at the amount of people that had come out to see this attraction. The parking area was almost full and lots of folks were coming and going to the cave. Those that were doing the cave were getting their gear together and we all made the short hike to the entrance.

Now one would think that a lava cave would be like an open tunnel going down slow into the ground, Wrong! This cave was a round hole in the ground going almost straight down before it flattened out and became a tunnel. The underground hike was about a mile and the folks that took it were gone about an hour.

With everyone out and back to their rigs we called for a lunch stop and left the parking area in search of a quieter spot. Not far down the road we found another two-track and made our way off the main road to an open area and enjoyed lunch. After lunch we exited out of the forest to pick up old route 66 next to Interstate 40.

The trip back to camp took us along Old 66 all the way into a little community called Parks. We stopped at a place that used to be an old gas station and store, serving Route 66 before the interstate. The little store had just recently been reopened and we were glad they had ice cream treats in the freezer.

After having our ice cream, we said farewell to Wayne who had to return to Kingman and started our last leg back to camp. Now anybody could have taken the freeway back to Williams and been back in camp in about a half hour. But we are not just anybody, so our leader took us

back to camp through a maze of forest service roads that took us just under a couple hours. Now, it wasn't all his fault as we were misguided by an improperly marked gas-line service road. We were clipping along just great looking for forest road 72 when we blew past the pipeline road. Knowing we had missed our forest road turn we made a u-turn and carefully looked for a road marked 72. Arriving back at the gas line road we saw the 72 marker right next to the gate on the gas line road. We all piled through the gate with the backdoor guy closing it and were on our way. The map was showing a hard left turn in about a mile or so and we proceeded up the road. We came upon a big herd of sheep grazing on our left and saw a little two-track leading in their direction so we continued forward looking for our hard left turn. After going a couple more miles and finding no hard right, we stopped to noodle out what the map and the GPS were telling us. The conclusion was we were not on the right road, Jim decided to take the gas line road as it was heading in the direction of camp, and the rest of us turned around still looking for our forest road. Jim made it back way before the rest of us but he missed the thrill of victory as we followed the two-track through the sheep and found the forest road 72 and successfully made our way though the balance of the maze back to old 66 and then to forest road 71 back to camp. A great little run in its own right.

Back at camp, Linda made up a big batch of Sloppy Joes and working with Connie, provided a great dinner for our group of day-trippers. Great job Linda and Connie!

Pete and company got in late and did a big dinner at their camp. We had a campfire tonight as we had gathered up wood along our trail today. All turned in fairly early after the two days of activity.

## Member Doings

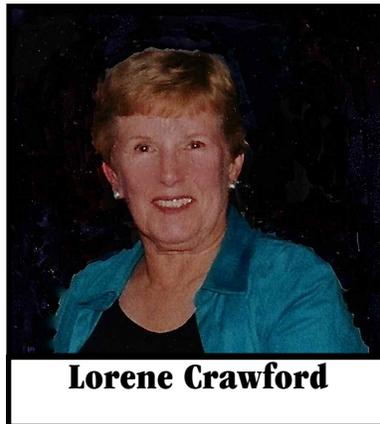
### John Page

Neal and Marian visited John Page before their Red Desert trip and found him in good health but a bit bored with not getting out four wheeling. He celebrated his 80th birthday at the July meeting with a birthday cake.



## Lorene Crawford

Sadly we have lost a much-loved long-time Desert Explorer. While her family was busily preparing a celebration of her upcoming birthday Lorene was admitted to the hospital with pneumonia. Lung cancer coupled with pneumonia



Lorene Crawford

took her life. Her ever-present infectious smile will be greatly missed.



## Allan Wicker

### Health progress report and outgoing chair's valedictory comments

By Allan Wicker

I'm pleased to report that my recovery from the June 9 open-heart surgery is proceeding well. I'm now walking for 20 minutes several times a day, and can do minor chores around the house. Ding has of course been a guardian angel during this period. She returned to work full

time on June 29.

Of course it is something of a shock to go from a largely symptomless and active state to an initial complete dependency on strangers and monitoring equipment. But I'm told that I should be able to return to all my previous activities in due course, probably by August/September. I am fortunate that the coronary artery blockages were found and by-passed before any catastrophe or damage occurred.

Many thanks to those who e-mailed, telephoned, sent cards, and kept me in their thoughts over the past weeks.

The Desert Explorers are a special group, and left to their own devices they show considerable ingenuity. The latest example is the creative selection of co-chairs Vicki Hill and Marian Johns to lead the organization. I've told them I'll be happy to assist with any transitional matters that might arise. Thanks, Vicki and Marian for stepping up to take the reins.

I would also like to thank the membership for their personal support and good will during my four years as chair, and to acknowledge the considerable contributions of officers Marilyn Martin, Joan McGovern-White, Deb Miller, Jean Hansen, Mal Roode, and Ken Sears. Thanks also to Bob Jacoby for assuming the treasurer's duties, giving Ken a well-deserved respite, to all trip leaders, and to everyone who worked to make our Rendezvous in recent years so successful. Finally, in spite of his being a grouch and a tease, Neal Johns deserves recognition for numerous, sustained, and mostly behind-the-scenes contributions to our group.



## Sue Turbovtz

Sue Turbovtz is a member of Desert Explorers. Her partner Susan and she have started a volunteer effort called CALIFORNIA OFF-ROAD FIELD VOLUNTEERS

Basically they attend clean-up events, say thank you to other volunteers and encourage them to attend more events. They have a web-site where they post stories and pictures of the wonderful efforts

of people "making a difference out in the dirt". They welcome stories and clean-up schedules from all areas and all types of off-roaders.

Their hopes are that people will recognize the importance of being a volunteer and would like to share their web-site with everyone: Take a look, hope you enjoy:

www.outinthedirt.com

Sue's phone is: (714) 624-5542

Sue's e-mail is [tacomasuz@verizon.com](mailto:tacomasuz@verizon.com) or [catcher4x4@yahoo.com](mailto:catcher4x4@yahoo.com) on the Desert Explorers email list. She can be reached at either e-mail.



# Chuck Lahmeyer

By Chuck & Lois Lahmeyer

We want to send our best wishes and a fond farewell to the Desert Explorers as Lois and I have relocated to Missouri. This was my childhood home and I have lots of family here. We have a nice place in the country with two acres and a mess of chickens.

Four wheelin' may be tough to find here in the midwest as mud crawlin' doesn't impress me much.

We enjoyed our time with you guys so much and went on many pleasant outings, 4 or 5 Rendezvous. We got our start with Bob Martin on our first two

outings and will always remember his friendly ways. Great times!

We had tried hard to swing by this year's Rendezvous in Nipton. We would have been enroute with a load of furniture but had tried to make it by to say farewell, we just couldn't get organized in time. I'm sure you guys had a good time.

We will miss all of you and keep you in our thoughts.

# Future Trips

**All trips require a four wheel drive vehicle and a working CB unless otherwise specified by the**

## CURRENT DESERT EXPLORERS WITH E-MAIL

Reda Anderson	<a href="mailto:redaflg@aol.com">redaflg@aol.com</a>	Charles Hughes	<a href="mailto:mhach@juno.com">mhach@juno.com</a>	Jim Proffitt	<a href="mailto:jproffitt@sbcglobal.net">jproffitt@sbcglobal.net</a>
Craig Baker	<a href="mailto:seahawk190@mail.com">seahawk190@mail.com</a>	Robert J. Jacoby	<a href="mailto:jacoby.r@worldnet.att.net">jacoby.r@worldnet.att.net</a>	Don Putnam	<a href="mailto:wegotoo@yahoo.com">wegotoo@yahoo.com</a>
H. S. Barsam	<a href="mailto:barsam67@earthlink.net">barsam67@earthlink.net</a>	Bob Jaussaud	<a href="mailto:joeso@lonepinetv.com">joeso@lonepinetv.com</a>	Fred Raab	<a href="mailto:fjr@fredraab.com">fjr@fredraab.com</a>
Boerio	<a href="mailto:larrybemail@yahoo.com">larrybemail@yahoo.com</a>	Neal Johns	<a href="mailto:aridneal@gmail.com">aridneal@gmail.com</a>	Wm. A. Ramsden	<a href="mailto:alquoc@aol.com">alquoc@aol.com</a>
Ted Berger	<a href="mailto:berger200@comcast.net">berger200@comcast.net</a>	George Johnston	<a href="mailto:johnst24@cebridge.com">johnst24@cebridge.com</a>	Bob Rodemeyer	<a href="mailto:chiefrodey@ca.rr.com">chiefrodey@ca.rr.com</a>
Robert Bolin	<a href="mailto:robertnshirl@earthlink.net">robertnshirl@earthlink.net</a>	Willie Kalajian	<a href="mailto:williesoffroad@hughes.net">williesoffroad@hughes.net</a>	Ana Romero	<a href="mailto:aromero0418@sbcglobal.net">aromero0418@sbcglobal.net</a>
June Box	<a href="mailto:foxieboxie@msn.com">foxieboxie@msn.com</a>	Ted Kalil	<a href="mailto:tskalil@msn.com">tskalil@msn.com</a>	Alan Romspert	<a href="mailto:aromspert@fullerton.edu">aromspert@fullerton.edu</a>
David Bullock	<a href="mailto:eecue@eecue.com">eecue@eecue.com</a>	Jim Kay	<a href="mailto:jimkay33@verizon.net">jimkay33@verizon.net</a>	Malcolm Roode	<a href="mailto:malroode@gmail.com">malroode@gmail.com</a>
Steve Burks	<a href="mailto:soburks@pacbell.net">soburks@pacbell.net</a>	Richard Keyyey	<a href="mailto:kennyr@sbcglobal.net">kennyr@sbcglobal.net</a>	Ron Ross	<a href="mailto:rgrossjr@jpl.nasa.gov">rgrossjr@jpl.nasa.gov</a>
Jim Byrne	<a href="mailto:jim_byrne@sbcglobal.net">jim_byrne@sbcglobal.net</a>	Jerry Koplowitz	<a href="mailto:jkopnv@aol.com">jkopnv@aol.com</a>	Dario Sanchez	<a href="mailto:dsanmntnat@aol.com">dsanmntnat@aol.com</a>
Herb Clark	<a href="mailto:herbclark@cox.net">herbclark@cox.net</a>	John Kuzma	<a href="mailto:jk4wlow@pacbell.net">jk4wlow@pacbell.net</a>	Cyrus Sarange	<a href="mailto:csarange@semprautilities.com">csarange@semprautilities.com</a>
Chuck Classen	<a href="mailto:cclassen@adelanto.ca.us">cclassen@adelanto.ca.us</a>	Chuck Lahmeyer	<a href="mailto:clahmeyer@earthlink.net">clahmeyer@earthlink.net</a>	Nan Savage	<a href="mailto:nansavage@sbcglobal.net">nansavage@sbcglobal.net</a>
Bill Cook	<a href="mailto:oldyloco@aol.com">oldyloco@aol.com</a>	Jay Lawrence	<a href="mailto:solariscomm@earthlink.net">solariscomm@earthlink.net</a>	Sherry Schmidt	<a href="mailto:sierranv21@aol.com">sierranv21@aol.com</a>
Graham Cooper	<a href="mailto:coop@coopcoyote.com">coop@coopcoyote.com</a>	Ron Lewis	<a href="mailto:lrgmrgaz@yahoo.com">lrgmrgaz@yahoo.com</a>	Allan Schoenherr	<a href="mailto:aschoenherr@fullcoll.edu">aschoenherr@fullcoll.edu</a>
Lorene Crawford	<a href="mailto:lrcrcw2@verizon.net">lrcrcw2@verizon.net</a>	Ron Lipari	<a href="mailto:rlipari@exchange.conejo.k12.ca.us">rlipari@exchange.conejo.k12.ca.us</a>	Ken Sears	<a href="mailto:dsearer@earthlink.net">dsearer@earthlink.net</a>
Bruce Dart	<a href="mailto:brucedart@yahoo.com">brucedart@yahoo.com</a>	Steve Marschke	<a href="mailto:samarschke@raytheon.com">samarschke@raytheon.com</a>	Richard Shapel	<a href="mailto:lshapel@yahoo.com">lshapel@yahoo.com</a>
Robert J. Day	<a href="mailto:kd22@cox.net">kd22@cox.net</a>	Marilyn Martin	<a href="mailto:mjmartin@dslextrime.com">mjmartin@dslextrime.com</a>	Stan Sholik	<a href="mailto:ssholik@pacbell.net">ssholik@pacbell.net</a>
Herb Deeks	<a href="mailto:h.deeks@sbcglobal.net">h.deeks@sbcglobal.net</a>	Catherine Mayfield	<a href="mailto:rogcproductions@yahoo.com">rogcproductions@yahoo.com</a>	Julian Singer	<a href="mailto:singer@ucla.ed">singer@ucla.ed</a>
Marten DeGroot	<a href="mailto:martendegroot@yahoo.com">martendegroot@yahoo.com</a>	Dave McFarland	<a href="mailto:jd_mcfarland@att.net">jd_mcfarland@att.net</a>	Glen Shaw	<a href="mailto:desertwanderer@hotmail.com">desertwanderer@hotmail.com</a>
Joe de Kehoe	<a href="mailto:dekehoej@hotmail.com">dekehoej@hotmail.com</a>	Joan McGovern-White	<a href="mailto:jmcgw@verizon.net">jmcgw@verizon.net</a>	Mignon Slentz	<a href="mailto:mignonslentz@gmail.com">mignonslentz@gmail.com</a>
Robert DeWolf	<a href="mailto:bobs5@lafn.org">bobs5@lafn.org</a>	Homer Meek	<a href="mailto:hmeek@socal.rr.com">hmeek@socal.rr.com</a>	Ed Steiner	<a href="mailto:joansteiner@cox.net">joansteiner@cox.net</a>
Robert Dodds	<a href="mailto:forthebirds_99@yahoo.com">forthebirds_99@yahoo.com</a>	Dan Messersmith	<a href="mailto:dmess@ctaz.com">dmess@ctaz.com</a>	Anne Stoll	<a href="mailto:annestoll@verizon.net">annestoll@verizon.net</a>
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John Hoopes	<a href="mailto:jnhoopes@sbcglobal.net">jnhoopes@sbcglobal.net</a>	John Perko	<a href="mailto:jperko003@earthlink.net">jperko003@earthlink.net</a>	Bob Younger	<a href="mailto:bobyounger@verizon.net">bobyounger@verizon.net</a>

# Area

trip leader. Non-complying vehicles will not be allowed on trips. Leaders may authorize a variance at their discretion.

**October 17 – 18, 2009**  
**Leader: Joe de Kehoe**

## Hualapai Mountains

(M.O.E.)

**August 9, 2009**

**Leader: Dan Messersmith**

A day trip up to the Lodge in the much cooler Hualapai Mountains for a Sunday brunch followed by a back trail out of the mountains to finish the day. Maybe Wheeler Wash. Maybe Antelope Wash. An easy run for family fun. Meet at the Hualapai Mtn. Lodge at 10:00 a.m. for brunch.

This 2-day trip will focus on the area along old Route 66 between Ludlow and Danby, and south into the Old Woman Mountains. A detailed itinerary has not yet been finalized, but will be published in the newsletter several weeks before the trip. This will be a tour focused mainly on the history of towns, railroad sidings and roadside businesses on this stretch of old Route 66, most of which have been long abandoned, and in the process we will visit places of special geologic interest – Siberia, Dish Hill Volcano, Trojan, Amboy Crater, etc.

The trip will begin Saturday morning in Ludlow and end Sunday afternoon, about noon, back on pavement at the railroad siding at Cadiz. Most of Saturday will be highway driving with minor detours on to side roads. Saturday afternoon we will head off road to camp somewhere in the

vicinity of the Ship Mtns. or Old Woman Mtns. via Skeleton Pass Road. On Sunday visit Chubbuck and Archer on the way back to Cadiz. The off-highway portion of the trip is dirt and gravel road, some washboard, and high clearance is a must.

Details and times will be provided nearer the time of the trip.

Joe de Kehoe ; jdekehoe@bak.rr.com  
(661) 331-3377

## Dolan Springs

(M.O.E.)

**October 10, 2009**

**Leader: Sue Baughman**

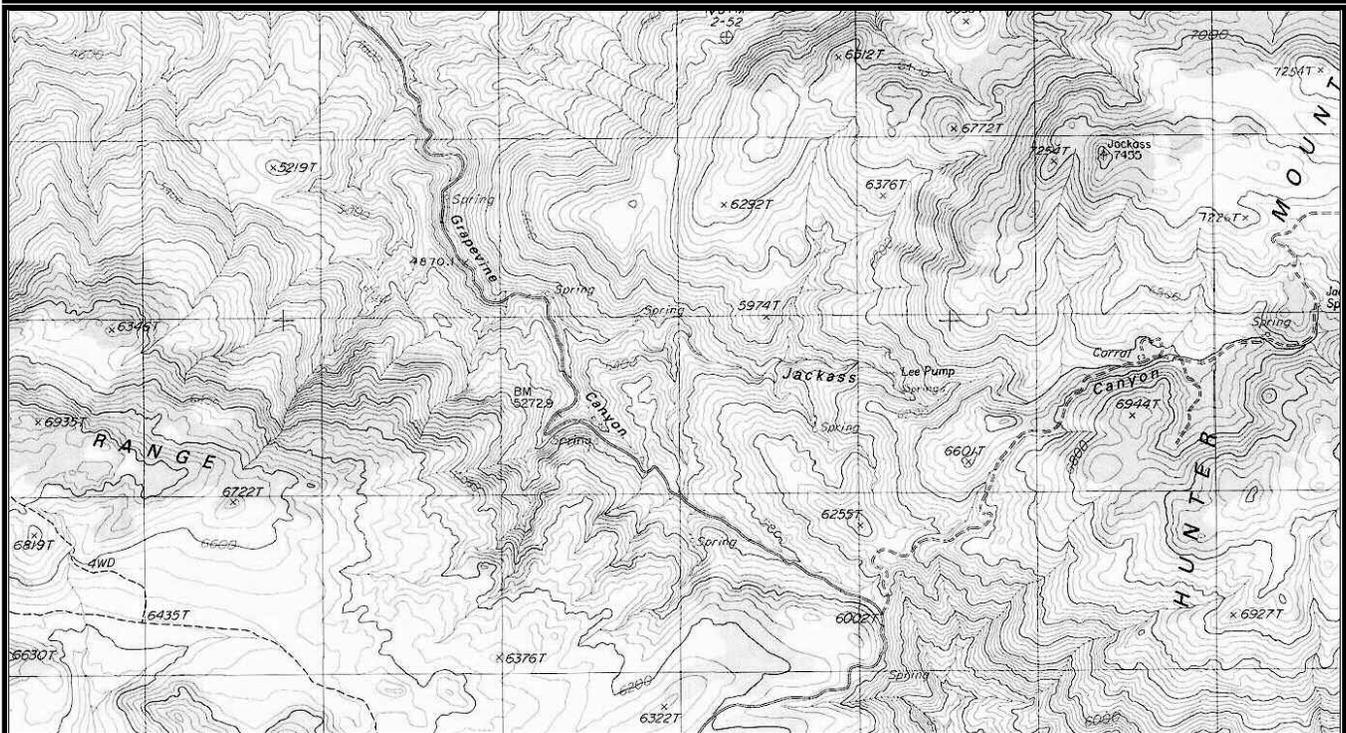
Sue Baughman has provided the following information in conjunction with Dolan Springs, AZ Open Space 5th Annual National Trails Day. This event will be an open multi-use event, hiking, biking, ATV, 4x4 and equestrian. All are invited to come out for the festivities.

## Bristol Dry Lake

### Where am I?

Here are the location and winners for July: Location: Joshua Tree Geology Tour Road. Winners: Malcolm Roode, Allan Schoenherr, Bob Younger 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](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."



On the 10th, there will be:  
 An ATV run to Taylor Mountain.  
 An easy 4x4 run to a dry waterfall and then loop out to White Hills.  
 A horseback trail ride.  
 A hike on a newly established hiking trail.  
 A mountain bike ride.

This is also a fundraising event for the Open Space group. Tickets are available for a raffle. There is a pancake breakfast at 7:00 a.m. A swap meet will be held. There will be displays by BLM and AZ Game & Fish and others. All activities will take place at the Ranch Club/Rodeo Grounds in downtown Dolan Springs. The runs will take off from that point at 9:00 a.m. and return about 12 noon. Tickets for the raffle may be obtained from Sue Baughman by calling (928) 716-3362. Questions about this event, please call or e-mail Sue. itchyft2005@yahoo.com

## Banning Museum and Drum Barracks

**Saturday, August 22, 2009**  
**Leader: Deb Miller Marschke**

Come beat the summer heat with a really interesting day trip that will complete your education about the Mojave Road and California history. We will

tour two museums that are located within blocks of each other: the Banning Museum and Drum Barracks (near San Pedro). The Phineas Banning residence is a wonderfully preserved 23 room Victorian mansion built in 1864. Mr. Banning was instrumental in creating the Port of Los Angeles which is a story laced in politics, rivalry, and intrigue. The house tour and museum is a wonderful wealth of information not to be missed. Mr. Banning essentially donated the land to the military to build Drum Barracks at a location nearby. Drum Barracks was the dispatch point for all the soldiers who marched across, posted, and protected the Mojave Road, including the legendary camels! Each museum charges a \$5.00 fee per adult. We will meet directly in front of the Banning Museum entrance, 401 East M Street, Wilmington, on the sidewalk. Look for the white picket fence. Parking is free on the street or in the parking lot on the east side. Meet at 11:00 a.m. for a potluck picnic lunch on the lawn: bring a dish to share, your own utensils & beverage, and chairs. Our tour of the residence begins at 12:00 noon and will last an hour. Then the group will travel 3 blocks to the Drum Barracks Museum for a 1:30 tour which will last an hour. I have made reservations for 20 people, so please

### Desert Explorers Trip Schedule

Haulapi Mt. Aug. 8	M.O. E.
Banning Museum Aug 22	
Miller/Marschke	
Bristol Dry Lake Oct. 17 - 20	de Kehoe
Dolan Springs Oct. 18	M/O.E.
Tibet Early Oct.	Johns/Anderson

sign up in advance ASAP. Check the DE website for possible updates. (Note, this is near Ports'O'Call if you want to make additional plans). Directions to the Banning Museum: Take the 110 freeway south. Exit on Pacific Coast Highway, turn left (east). You will encounter 5 stop lights until reaching Avalon Blvd. Turn right on Avalon Blvd. Turn left on M Street and travel 3 residential blocks.

## Tibet October

**Leaders: Johns/Anderson**

It's been settled; we're going to Tibet! So far we have 9 "pretty-sure-to-go" participants.

The dates have not been cast in stone, it looks like it will be in early October. October is the best time to see Mt.

### Next Meeting

11:00 a.m. Potluck  
 Sept. 26, Saturday  
 At the Wickers'  
 1430 Sitka, Claremont, CA  
 Ph. (909) 445-0082

Everest. Here are some details:

Fly to Beijing and on to Lhasa, 9 day 4x4 tour which will include Mt. Everest base camp.

Take the new Skytrain (highest in the world) from Lhasa to Beijing. (2 days).

Fly from Beijing home.

## 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.

9 day tour \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000  
 Round trip LA/Beijing/LA \_\_\_\_\_ 800  
 Flight from Beijing to Lhasa \_\_\_\_\_ 385  
 Skytrain \_\_\_\_\_ 165  
 Total \_\_\_\_\_ \$2350

There will be pre-trip expenses for a China visa (\$130) and a Tibet travel permit (~\$10). Tips and other personal expenses not included

So bring your spirt of adventure and join us!

Contact Marian Johns for more information.

### 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 - KG6GCV  
 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 - KD6GY  
 Al Walter - - - - -San Diego - KG6SGM  
 Bob Younger - - - - -Santa Barbara - N6VMN

## 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.

Welcome Basck

Stan Sholik

Laguna Beach

Visit Desert Explorers on the Web

See more pictures and in color!

<http://desertexplorers.org>

## M.O.E. Trip Schedule

Wait for their final listing on the front of the MOE newsletter before making any firm plans to join one of these.

Aug. 9 - Day trip to the Lodge

Oct. 10 - Dolan Springs Open Space National Trails Day

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.

## DESERT EXPLORERS Newsletter

Editor: Marilyn Martin

Asst. Editors: Marian & Neal Johns

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

### General Trip Information

1. The Mojave River Valley Museum has two sections (groups) that explore the desert environment (Museum membership required):

a. The Desert Explorers, who use 4WD vehicles and cover the Southwestern states and Mexico/Baja, camping out wherever nightfall catches them. The trips are led by numerous experienced Desert Explorers subscribers. The Desert Explorers newsletter is available for \$18 a year.

b. The Mojave River Explorers, who establish a base camp in the Mojave desert, usually with motorhomes and trailers, and make daily 4WD/2WD sorties, attempting to find seats for those without 4WD vehicles, returning to camp each night. The trips are led by experienced Museum members who, collectively, have spent decades learning the hidden wonders of the Mojave. Their newsletter is available for \$7/year from editor Gene Stoops (760) 253-2419.

2. You MUST be a member of the Mojave River Valley Museum to attend a trip. Membership applications are included in every newsletter on the back of the last page.

3. When you join a trip, you agree to abide by the decisions and directives of the leader throughout the trip or until such time as you inform the leader that you are leaving the group to proceed on your own. The leader may, if his decisions or directives are not followed, inform a participant that his participation in the trip is terminated.

4. The Desert Explorers is a family oriented 4WD organization. Spouses and kids are welcome. Friendly dogs are OK as specified below. Trips will meet and depart from somewhere near the trip route, usually not from the Museum.

5. 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.

Pottluck: There will be a Pottluck on Saturday night of our weekend trips unless otherwise noted by the Leader.

Trip Details: Participants may be required to send a SASE to the trip leader to receive information on trip meeting place and other details. A SASE is a self addressed stamped envelope.

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

### Hot Tips for Leaders:

1. The leader is responsible for sending the trip announcement and trip report to the newsletter editor. The write-ups should be detailed enough so the participants will know what to expect and, if possible, have enough information in it so that a SASE is not necessary. (See the ones in this issue for examples.)

2. Try not to schedule trips on the first weekend of the month. This weekend is used regularly by the Mojave River Explorers for their outings.

3. Try not to use a reservation system or vehicle limits unless absolutely necessary. This will save paperwork for everyone. Request a SASE if necessary for sending out further trip details, meeting place, time, etc.

4. Support your other leaders' trips (by attending) or the Trail Gods will get you.

5. Maximum loss (vehicles or people) is 10% per trip.

6. Leaders, please put your CB channel 13 (or other channel if circumstances prevent using Desert Explorers' channel 13) in your trip write-up.

### Dog Policy:

Dogs can become a problem in camp mainly because of the large number of them and the sometimes blind eye of their humans. Therefore, and forevermore we will have a Dog Policy so that shy leaders will not have to make ad hoc policy.

1. Bringing a dog on a trip requires the ADVANCE PERMISSION of the Leader!

2. Dogs will be leashed/confined during happy hour & mealtimes.

3. People with dogs will be expected to clean up any poop in the campsite.

4. Dogs that fight, harass wildlife, eat small children etc., will be confined and banned from future trips.

# • OUR FEARFUL LEADERS •

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Ken Sears	Money Man Emeritus	P.O. Box 4689	Cerritos	California	90703	562-404-1772	562-650-0461 dsearer@earthlink.net
Anne Stoll	Canologist	143 Monterrey Drive	Claremont	California	91711	909-621-7521	909-730-0137 annestoll@srircm.com
George Stoll	Lens Cleaner	143 Monterrey Drive	Claremont	California	91711	909-621-7521	agstoll@csupomona.edu
Donald Swinhart	Mr. Nice	P.O. Box 23061	Santa Ana	California	92711	3061	ecv1069@earthlink.net
Gary Thomas	Cranky	1039 W. Seventh	Upland	California	91786	909-981-5487	g.cranky@verizon.net
Betty Wallin	Blender Queen	P. O. Box 1214	Desert Hot Springs	California	92240	760-329-2403	wingit@ix.netcom.com

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