

# DESERT EXPLORERS

No. 163 OCT. 2009

4WD SECTION OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM

## ALAN ROMSPERT (ROMS) WAS A FRIEND OF MINE

By Allan Schoenherr

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ing treatment for that problem, but the shortness of breath continued, and in recent months he lacked energy. It didn't stop him. He continued his activities including his now famous roll-over on the road to Cataviña in 2008, and in his "newest" Nissan he accompanied the Desert Explorers on the Neal Johns trip to Baja in May 2009. In fact, Roms went fishing on Friday, August 14, two days before his long-time girl friend, Linda Harris, took him to the hospital for the last time. Once in the hospital he deteriorated rapidly. Associated with his weak heart and pressure, blood supply to vital organs became diminished, ultimately leading to kidney failure and reduced liver function. Life support was removed about noon on Wednesday, and he was gone by 12:15 p.m.

I first met Roms in the early 70's when we both took a class in Desert Biology at Cal-State

Alan Romsper (Flower Child) passed away on Wednesday, August 19. I will miss him dearly. He and I traveled and camped together for years. We collected plants, went backpacking in the mountains, went fishing, and explored the southwest deserts. When I was still teaching at Fullerton College, I would stay at his house about once a week. We would sit on his front porch, drink whiskey, and solve the world's problems. He would smoke a cigar. It was kind of like Alan Shore (James Spader) and Denny Crane (William Shatner) of the television show "Boston Legal." We, of course, carried this ritual to campfires on our many camping trips.

It was in May of 2007 when the specter of cancer reared its ugly head. Roms and I were sitting around a campfire in Cataviña. We were on our way back from Cabo San Lucas, traveling in his black Nissan. Roms asked me about a lump under his left ear that was covered by his beard. It turned out to be non-Hodgkins lymphoma. He was treated with chemotherapy and radiation and subsequently was cleared of any cancer, but apparently the chemotherapy had taken a toll on his heart. He began to experience shortness of breath and congestive heart failure was diagnosed. He had been receiv-

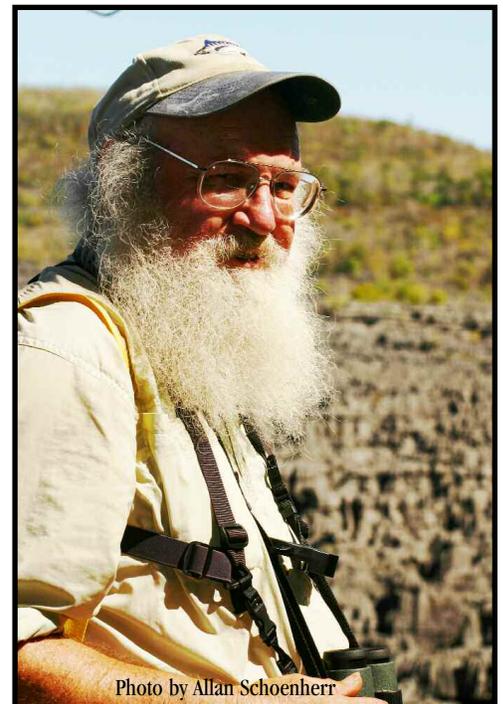


Photo by Allan Schoenherr

Alan Romsper

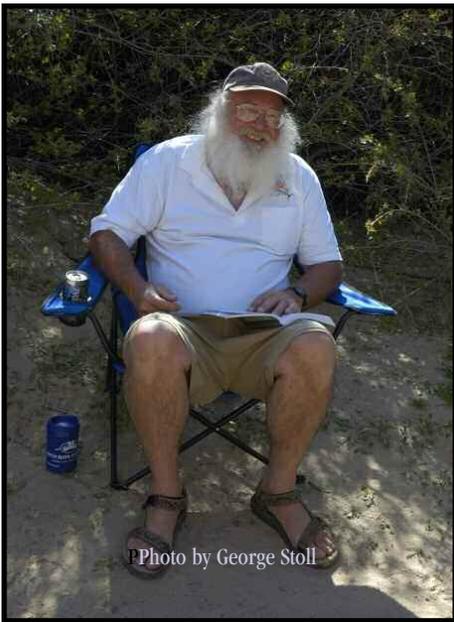


Photo by George Stoll

### Alan

Fullerton. He was freshly back from Viet Nam. He went on to get his Bachelor and Master degrees from that institution. Even though we most often thought of Romsper as a Botanist, he did his early research on the physiology of Amphibians, and he has two scientific papers published on water relations in Amphibians. He also published a paper on the plants of the Algodones Dunes in Imperial County.

In 1976, when the program started, he began a 23 year stint with the Desert Studies Center at Zzyzx in the Mojave Desert near Baker. His contributions to the Desert Studies Center are immeasur-

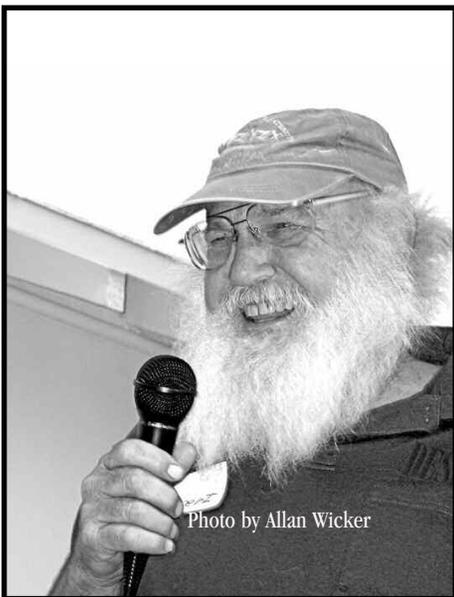


Photo by Allan Wicker

### Emcee Extrodinaire

able. Not only was he instrumental in all aspects of building the physical facilities, but through his botanical collecting he produced for the Center the best herbarium in the Mojave Desert. He collected extensively in the Panamint Mountains with the idea in mind that ultimately he would publish a flora of that mountain range. His extensive plant collection from the Panamints is now housed at the Herbarium of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. He also taught numerous courses that were offered at the Desert Studies Center and sponsored through various universities. I shared teaching duties with him numerous times, including recent years when he and I co-taught the "Flora of Joshua Tree National Park," offered as an extension course through the University of California, Riverside.

Among the groups to which he belonged he always was a leader. His role in Desert Explorers is well known to us. He led trips, often teaming up with yours truly, in which natural history was always a component, and he organized the highly successful Silent Auction at the Desert Explorer Rendezvous. He was the treasurer of the Southern California Botanists, and over the many years during which he belonged to that organization, he held every office except secretary. Without the effort Roms put in to organizing and set up, the highly successful yearly symposium of the Southern California Botanists would never have continued into its 34th year. He was also an active member of The Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus (the Clampers), a service group that establishes and builds historical monuments throughout the state.

We shall be telling Romsper stories for years. He was a skinflint and a collector. He collected bottles of hot sauce, and he had a huge stamp collection. I don't think he threw anything away. He saved everything including bottle caps. He clipped coupons from the "Penny Saver," and dutifully submitted receipts and rebate coupons. On desert trips he picked up discarded bottles and aluminum cans which he turned in for refunds.

Many of us remember his "thrifty" ways. He would drive out of his way to save a few pennies on gasoline. One of the great stories goes back a number of years when Roms was part of a group that was camping in the Avawatz Mountains at Sheep Creek Springs. He had left a pair of

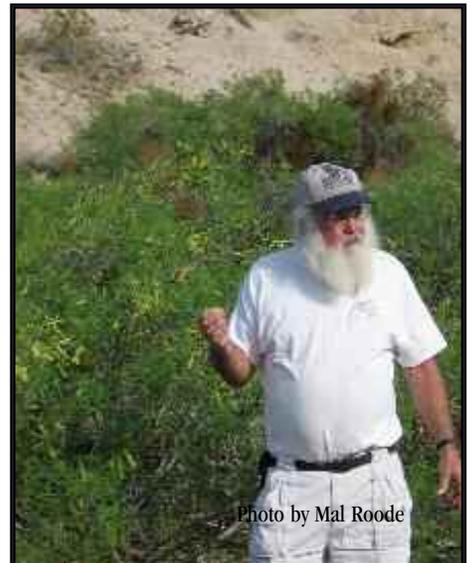


Photo by Mal Roode

### Flower Lecture

his shoes at a microwave tower on the south road to Death Valley. He talked the group into piling into a single vehicle and driving back to retrieve his shoes. It was farther than anyone thought, but he kept reassuring them it was just a little bit farther. As it turns out it was many miles away and took about a half day of driving to retrieve his pair of nearly worn out "flip-flops." That experience, among his friends, led to a new unit of measurement known as a "Roms." It referred to an unknown distance that was probably farther than you think. "How far is it to Grinderswitch Spring?" "I'm not sure, I'd say about three Roms!!"

In spite of his apparent thriftiness and gruff exterior he was a caring and generous person. He would loan money to a hapless friend, never expecting to be repaid. He would buy something, usually at a swap meet, and then give it to a friend he thought could use it. One time, knowing I was building a new deck, he bought for me 15 gallons of the old oil-based formula for Thompson's Water Seal, and never would tell me how much it cost.

We also remember his famous salsa. About once a year he would purchase flats of tomatoes, onions, and chiles and spend two days cooking and canning. While Dave McClanahan most often helped with the process, I will never forget the tear-streaked hours of crying, while I chopped onions. Traditionally, at Christmas, he distributed jars of salsa to anyone who would take them. Nearly

everyone did. In his honor, I may never open my last jar of salsa.

I shall never forget Alan Romspert, one of the best friends I or anyone could ever have.

# Trip Reports

## The Red Desert of Wyoming

June-July 2009  
By Neal Johns

This trip was led by an attractive young blond named Marian, who graciously let me come along in her vehicle. She had several DE'ers sign up, but just before the start, they all chickened out except Reda Anderson. You know Reda, she will go anywhere for any reason. Perhaps the chickens found out I was going along? Feliz, Marian's fuzzy

we started the trip immediately after Lorene Crawford's funeral. We drove until 9:00 p.m. and camped off I-15 near Mountain Pass.

The next morning found us headed toward northwest region of Zion National Park, the first of many "shortcuts" on the way to the Red Desert. A great floral display was enjoyed by all. Reda had a flat, but we gave her another chance to straighten up and allowed her to continue with us. We camped on a side road in the boonies amongst wildflowers.

In Cedar City, Reda got her flat fixed and Marian led her astray into a nearby pawn shop. To my horror, this was the first of many pawn shop and thrift store stops. Have you noticed that Husbands are a dying breed? Probably because of things like this. Afterwards, we continued on to Cedar Breaks (which should be renamed Dead Spruce because of what the Englemann Spruce Beetle has done).

Off to Paragonah Lake and then to the Parowan Gap petroglyph site which has hundreds of petros alongside the highway. Camped in the boonies up Beaver Canyon.

Spent the day fixing Reda. Reda has problems; a little black cloud hangs over her head. Bought a new CB because hers squealed all

the time; went to the Verizon store where a nice lady spent hours (seemed like) teaching her how to use her new Blackberry. The list goes on endlessly. :-)

The one I like best was when she forgot how to shift out of four wheel drive. Sigh. She got even with me though; there was a little, very little, cover plate alongside the shift lever that said "Shift

Unlock", and she asked me what it was. I muttered something like "DiLithium Crystal Calibrator" and asked her for the operator's manual. She had it in the glove compartment and it said: Using a screwdriver, pry up this cover, then insert the screwdriver and push downward to release the shift lever if it will not move



Photo by Marian Johns

### Petroglyphs

out of Park when the battery has died. Huh? Never heard of such a thing but I didn't tell Reda.

Drove to Bridal Veil Falls (lots of water) and then Hwy. 189. Many scenic spots like Spring Cascades which has several large, steep, rapids. Went down a dirt road following a creek with many beaver dams to a beautiful (and free) campground alongside the creek for the night.

Important! The next stop was Savers Thrift Store in Orem. Sigh. I can't remember all the little towns' thrift stores we stopped in. Next was the Deseret Thrift Store. I remember this one because a nice Tamale Lady was peddling tamales in the parking lot. Outstanding! Went back for more

Rock Springs! We made it to the jumping off place for exploring the Red Desert! Rock Springs is a nice little town with a history of mining and ranching. After getting a bit of information at the local BLM office, we drove to the White Mountain Petroglyph site. Not great petros, but not bad. A short hike got our blood flowing. A lot of elk were depicted and several anthropomorphs. Next, we headed for the Boar's Tusk, a solitary volcanic plug sticking up from the plains. My GPS showed several two tracks going to the Tusk and naturally I picked one that shortly proved



Photo by Marian Johns

### "Boonie" Camp

"child" is, like Reda, always ready to go, so residing on the dog shelf behind the seats, she drooled on my neck the whole trip.

Why the Red Desert; because Reda suggested it and Marian had never heard of it nor had she been there. A Desert Explorer needs no better reason! Sadly,



Photo by Marian Johns

### Boar's Tusk

impassible. Another one got us there and after circling around it, we had lunch nearby. We then headed north toward the visible dunes. They were rather low and not very spectacular to our jaded California eyes. Lots of power was required to get through the blow sand that occasionally covered the road.

Our goal was an alleged natural wonder called The Pinnacles. They were somewhere north, and on the way we saw three of the elusive Desert Elk we'd read about. They are the largest elk. Strange, because desert creatures are usually smaller. Lots of Pronghorn Antelope tried

we found a very faint two track that pointed near them. Taking it was great fun; no one had used it for years. There was one go-around to cross a washed out arroyo that got our attention but proved to be no problem. Then we came to a spot where we could look off to where the famous, pre-

sumably stately, tall, spires stood. Nothing but low mounds of mud. Could these be? Yep, we were looking at The Pinnacles. My theory is: They were married and that naturally wore them down. "Ouch! That hurt, Marian!" We camped by an old barn, and it rained and blew all night.

Leaving the area for Rock Springs, the occasionally graded road was muddy and slippery. We barely kept out of the ditches alongside the road. This ended the official Red Desert trip, but we kept going (with Reda) to Thermopolis where we saw the hot springs, the adjoining bison park, the nearby petroglyph site, and the local museum.

Continuing to Cody, our timing was off to see the big Stampede Rodeo. Camped near the city dump.

Onward we went to Red Lodge and Billings where we married off Marian's youngest son, Jon and picked up Reda's 15 year old granddaughter, Melody. Then we went to Riggins, Idaho for my family reunion,

and finally, after three and a half weeks, home. Well, there were a few shortcuts.

Got a message from Reda's Blackberry; she has locked herself inside the car. Sigh.

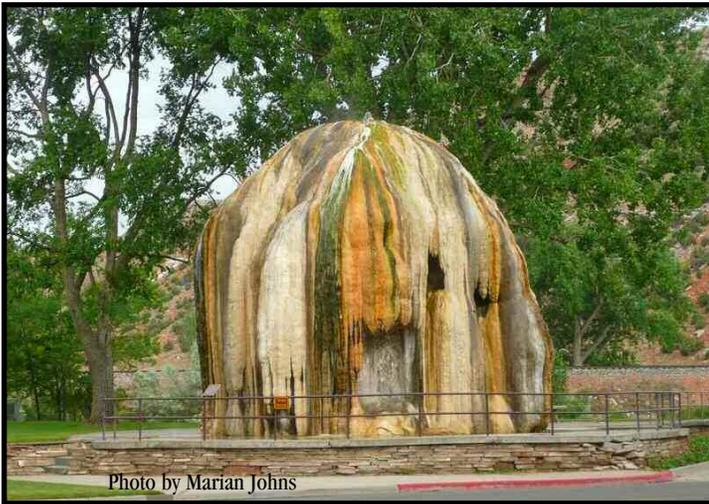


Photo by Marian Johns

### Thermopolis

to outrun our vehicles.

We could find no roads on the maps or GPS that went to the Pinnacles so we took the closest road, and it turned out to be a poor two track. Nearby low hills precluded seeing the Pinnacles, but finally

# Hualapai Mountain Lodge Brunch Outing

Sunday, August 9, 2009  
By Dan W. Messersmith

At 10:30 a.m. the assembled cast of participants descended upon the Hualapai Mountain Lodge for a Sunday brunch. Those in attendance were Dick & Connie Taylor; Dan & Jan Messersmith; Daniel & Jen Messersmith with their two children, Liv and Jaden; Sandra Messersmith with Jet Cummings and Matt Messersmith with Candace Hardy and their daughter Tyla. If it seems like there were a lot of Messersmiths, you are paying attention as my entire family of children and grandchildren were there. There was even one more there who is still on the way as Reese William Messersmith (Matt and Candace's son) is due next month.

Dick and Connie weathered the mini-Messersmith family reunion in stride and we all enjoyed a great Sunday breakfast buffet.

After breakfast, we took some pictures at the lodge and piled into our vehicles to exit the mountains via the back roads rather than the paved road. Dick & Connie took the lead.

As we passed the old American Flag Mine, Dick pointed it out for all to see.

We continued on toward Wild Cow Campground and stopped to enjoy the facilities and shade in the little canyon where the campground is located. More pictures were taken and a large yellow and black butterfly was spotted. We exited the campground and headed for Antelope Wash Road to drop down out of the mountains. At a hairpin turn, Matt got one of his truck front tires in a hole, which put his opposite rear tire in the air. With no traction, we had a minor delay as Dick worked his way back to the truck and with a small tug on a tow strap had Matt's truck back on all four wheels and ready to go.

Continuing down the Antelope Wash road, we passed the old Democrat Mine and we enjoyed the scenery both near and far.

Reaching Blake Ranch Road, we headed back toward I-40. At the Yellow Pine Ranch (old Laughlin Ranch and even older Odle Ranch) we noted that the small lake on the property was getting low and had dropped about 6 feet since we had passed there last month.

When we got near I-40, Daniel & family and Matt & family headed for the highway and home. Dick & Connie and Jan & I with Sandra & Jet continued our trip a bit by running the old portion of old Highway 93 between Blake Ranch Road and DW Ranch Road.

Reaching DW Ranch Road, we made our way over to I-40 and home. It had been a nice short day out into the mountains for a great breakfast and a wonderful short run on some back roads to finish it out. I believe all had a great time.

Perhaps next year we will do something similar but instead do an old fashioned family-style picnic in the mountains followed by another short run down the hill on the back roads.

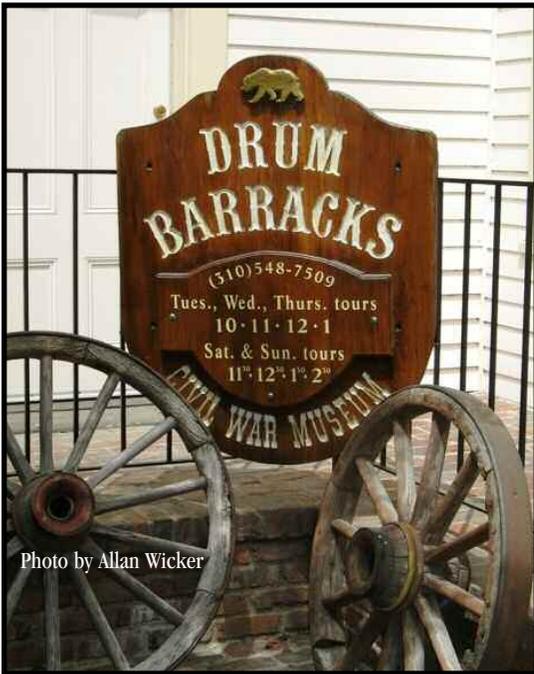


Photo by Allan Wicker

## California History Discovered!

By Debbie Miller Marschke

It was a mild Saturday morning when the group all met in the park in front of the Banning Mansion on August 22, 2009. Naturally, the traditional DE potluck spread was delicious and there was WAY more food than we needed. Our group consisted of myself, Steve Marshcke, my parents Pete & Marlys Carusone, Allan & Ding Wicker, Jim Proffit, Larry Boreio, Roger Deranian, Jonell Hart, Dave & Penelope Bullock, and Bob & Shirley Bolin. The most common comment of the day was, "I can't believe I've lived so close and never knew about this place".

Our tour of the Banning Residence started a little late due to some miscommunication between the museum docents. That delay was further exacerbated by the availability of only one toilet for the entire site, which was not marked or open until after the docents got it together. While we were waiting, we were allowed to explore the historic barn which contained numerous interesting artifacts and carriages. Everything there seemed to be very well maintained and preserved, so the delay was to our advantage as we had time to get a good look at things.

Our group was split in half, each half lead by a site docent. I was disappointed that the

museum basement was under renovation and closed at the time of our tour (I was not informed of that). The basement area contained an impressive collection of historic photos pertaining to the creation of the Los Angeles Harbor. Larry Boreio had also seen this exhibit and agreed that the photo display alone was worth a follow up trip to the museum. We walked around the residence which was surrounded by an unusual wrought iron fence, depicted with cornstalks on pumpkins, wrapped in morning glories. There are only three fences like it in the world, and the other two are in New Orleans. It's pretty neat!



Drum Barracks



Photo by Debbie Miller Marschke

DE's in the Coach House

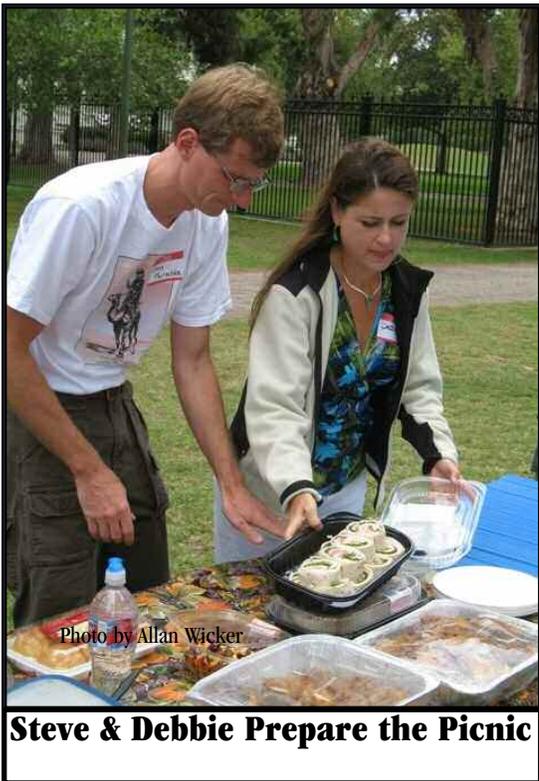


Photo by Allan Wicker

### Steve & Debbie Prepare the Picnic

The house was built in 1864 by a young Phineas Banning. The city of Los Angeles was known as “El Pueblo” at the time, young and unimpressive. El Pueblo, as did all other California towns of that day, was subservient to San Francisco for all transactions of business and commerce. Banning had a passionate vision for the area where he constructed the 23 room Victorian mansion, and through his lifetime he connected with other magnates to build our present San Pedro harbor and attract the railroads down from the established San Francisco artery. The house remains on 20 conserved original acres, and is impeccably furnished with Victorian era pieces that would be the envy of any collector. Essentially, it is a walk through yesterday and is historically correct right down to the paint shades, carpeting, draperies, and artwork. Each main room contained a special temporary display of a period Victorian gown. A few pieces of furniture were original to the house. The docents did a good job of explaining what it would have been like to live in the mansion with the Banning Family.

We spent so much time at the Banning Mansion, we had to hustle to travel three blocks to the Drum Barracks Museum for our tour there. Phineas Banning sold a section of his property to the U.S. Government for one dollar so that Camp

Drum could be constructed in 1861. It was his intention to have the facility close to his home and arranged that the camp would revert back into his name when it was abandoned. Banning was a steadfast supporter of the Union Army, and was politically involved. Believe it or not, California was in danger of being commanded by Confederate supporters, so the Civil War brought military operations into the Los Angeles area. Troops were bivouacked near present-day downtown LA and also Culver City. Camp Drum was established with 60 acres of land, permanent structures, and was the main staging area for the military operations of the Southwest. It's namesake is Lt. Colonel Richard Drum of the Ninth Infantry. It's estimated cost was a million dollars, and provided vital supplies and instrumentality for California's 17,000 volunteer sol-

diers! There were many attempts to have the location's name changed from Camp Drum to Fort Drum, but because the facility was used in a manner of dispatch rather than defense, it was never elevated to “Fort” and retains the unglamorous name “Drum Barracks”.

Only two structures remain, and the museum is housed within the former junior officers quarters. Nevertheless, it is packed with interesting artifacts and displays. Our young tour guide, Britton, was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic. He lead us on a walk through history and enlightened our group about the life of a California Civil War soldier.

I decided to lead this trip because it satisfied a question in my head every time I traveled the famous Mojave Road – where were these soldiers dispatched from, and where did they go? History told me of a place called “Drum Barracks” in Wilmington, CA, so Steve and I decided to look for the place. We were very pleasantly surprised that Los Angeles's progress did not forget this slice of history. After our first visit, we both read the book “The Beat of the Drum” by Don McDowell, which is fascinating (available at the museum store). Having been a California girl my entire life, I was amazed at what I learned about my state's history (and equally ashamed that it was not taught in our schools). It seems that

today's kids are doused with the California Missions and the Gold Rush, and short changed on what happened here after that!

I enjoyed leading this trip, and having a chance to enjoy these museums a second time. If you were interested in the trip but just could not make the schedule, I urge you to strike out on your own. It really is a part of California history that should not be skipped !

## 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.***

### 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.

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

# Bristol Dry Lake Area

**October 17 – 18, 2009**  
**Leader: Joe de Kehoe**  
**CB: 13**



*Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.*

This weekend trip will focus on the area along old Route 66 between Ludlow and Danby, and south into the Old Woman Mountains. Total trip distance is about 120 miles; 75 miles on Saturday and 45 miles on Sunday. This will be a trip focused mainly on visiting (abandoned) settlements, railroad sidings, roadside businesses and mines on and near this stretch of old Route 66. In

the process we will visit places of special geologic interest and mineral collection sites for salt, olivine, garnet and epidote Siberia, Dish Hill, Trojan, Bagdad, Amboy Crater, Salt mining etc. I will bring along a collection of photo enlargements and maps that I have collected to illustrate what these places once looked like in their heyday.

Please plan to meet Saturday morning, October 17th at 8:00 a.m. in Ludlow at the paved truck park, south of I-40, about 100 yards east of the Ludlow Cafe that is, the Chevron side of the freeway, NOT the Union 76 side of the Freeway. Look for my red Jeep Wrangler.

I will probably be staying in Barstow on Friday night; the drive from Barstow to Ludlow is 45 minutes. There is a motel in Ludlow, clean but Spartan and subject to truck noise. Phone Ludlow Chevron for reservations (760) 733-4338. For those

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Dean W. Hilleman	deanh707@msn.com	Mel Patterson	pattermr@cox.net	Gordon Wilcher	flashg@iwisp.com
John Hoopes	jnhooops@sbcglobal.net	Robert Peltzman	bopeltzman@aol.com	Willie Young	byoung39@verizon.com
Charles Hughes	mhach@juno.com	John Perko	jperko003@earthlink.net	Bob Younger	bobyounger@verizon.net

planning to camp out Friday night, the best sites close to Ludlow would be near Swede Hill and Ragtown, 4 miles south of Ludlow on the road south from Ludlow toward the Bagdad Chase Mine.

The plan is to leave the parking area promptly at 8:30 beginning with a brief drive through Ludlow and then east on old Route 66. Most of the day Saturday will be highway driving with minor detours on to side roads with lunch in Amboy. On Saturday afternoon, visit Chambless, Cadiz Summit and Danby and head off road to camp in Skeleton Pass. New moon that weekend, so the night-time sky will be fabulous. On Sunday visit Rice-1 well, Brown's Wash and the Old Woman Meteorite site, Chubbuck and Archer on the way back to Cadiz. The off-highway portion of the trip is dirt and gravel road, some washboard. We are

unlikely to ever need 4WD, but a high clearance vehicle would be prudent to have. There is (expensive) gas in Ludlow and in Amboy; the Ludlow Cafe opens for breakfast at 6:00 a.m.

If you plan to join the trip, please let me know in advance by sending me your e-mail address and cell phone number so I don't inadvertently run off and leave someone. Joe de Kehoe at [jdekehoe@bak.rr.com](mailto:jdekehoe@bak.rr.com) or Cell: (661) 331-3377



# Gold Butte, NV

(MOE)

**Nov. 13-15**

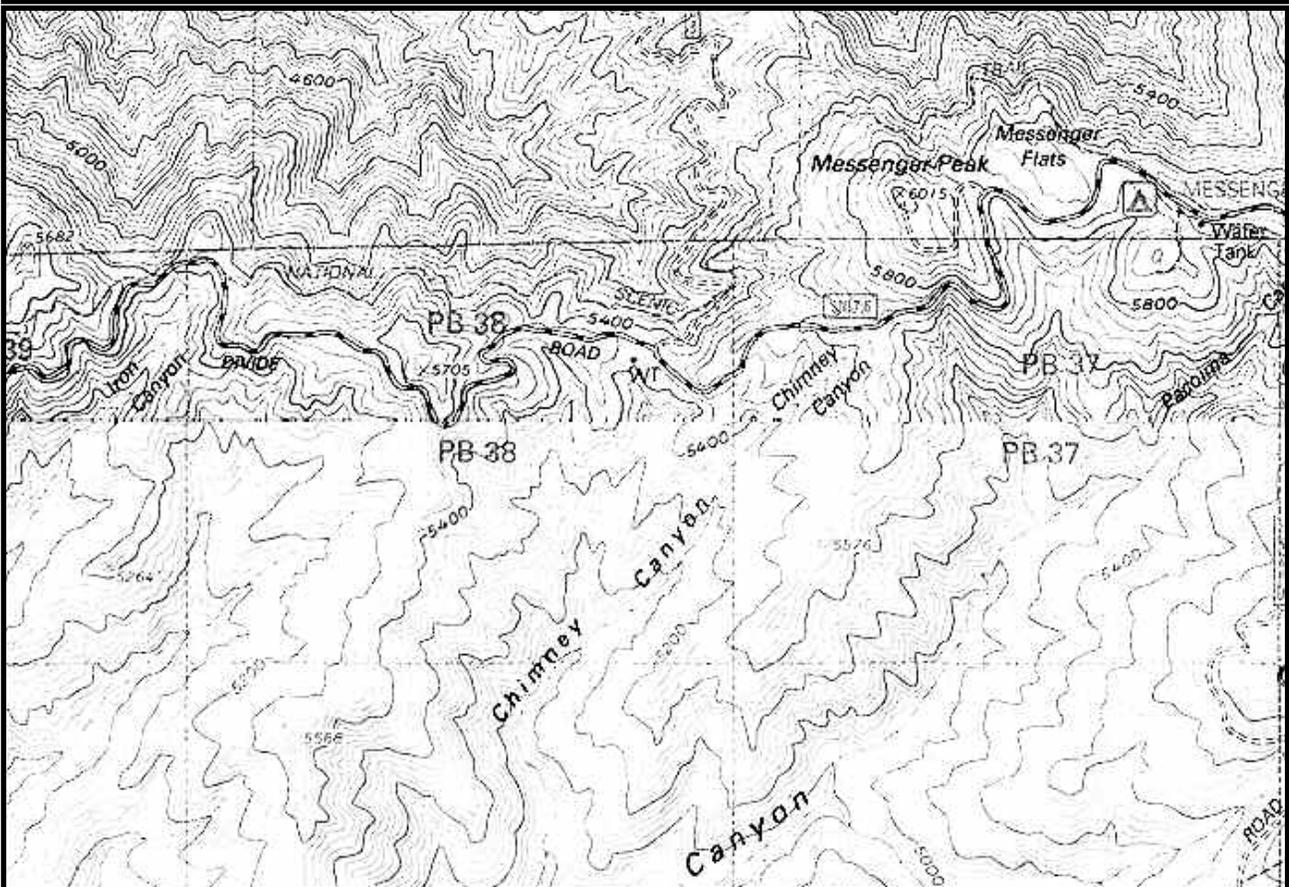
**Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor**

This will be a moving camp run for two nights in the Nevada area east of the Virgin River and south of I-15. We call it the Nevada Strip. We plan to depart at 8:30 a.m. from the south side parking lot along Beverly Ave. of Kingman Regional Medical Center located at I-40 and Stockton Hill Road in Kingman. Those who wish to show up earlier for breakfast and/or coffee at the hospital cafe may do so. (The food is excellent and inexpensive,) At Overton, NV we will do a lunch stop and get last gas and supplies,

## Where am I?

Here are the location and winners for Sept : West of the Haulapai Mountains, South of Kingman. Malcolm Roode, James Proffitt, Allan Schoenherr, 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."



then take a cross-country back-road that will allow us to not have to drive I-15. Both camp nights are scheduled to be on the shores of Lake Meade or as close as we can come in the low water conditions. If you intend to go on this trip, please RSVP via e-mail to Dan at dmess@cdtaz.com or Dick at: dickandmouse@aol.com

famous Desert Bar on Saturday, then head for a campsite on or near the Bill Williams River. On Sunday we will visit Swansea and then make a run for a crossing on the Bill Williams and return home via the trails of southern Mojave County. We'll meet at Calico's in Kingman for coffee and breakfast at 7:15 a.m. and depart for Parker at 8:00 a.m. If you intend to go on this trip, please RSVP via e-mail to Dick at dickand mouse@aol.com or Dan at dmess@ctqz.com

reservations around Yuma and Parker, AZ where his father was an Agent. He really enjoyed the association with the Desert Explorers, and all the people familiar with the western desert.

Jim worked his entire career in education, and retired as Dean of Admissions at Los Angeles City College.

He and Homer were always a welcome sight around the campfire.

## Desert Bar, Swansea, Bill Williams River

(MOE)

**Dec. 5 & 6**  
**Leaders:**  
**Messersmith/Taylor**

This will be an overnight run with a camp out as near the Bill Williams River as possible. We hope to have Carl and Nancy Noah lead the first part of the trip and treat us to a visit to the

### DESERT EXPLORERS

Newsletter

Editor: Marilyn Martin

Asst. Editors: Marian & Neal  
Johns

# Member Doings

## Jim Cox

Homer Meek's brother in law Jim Cox passed away recently after a very long fight with cancer. Homer's sister decided on no service.

Jim was born and raised on Indian

### Desert Explorers Trip Schedule

Oct. 17 - 20	Bristol Dry Lake	de Kehoe
Oct. 17 - 20	Dolan Springs	MOE
Nov. 14	Randsburg RR	Savage/Jacoby
Nov. 14 - 15	Gold Butte	MOE.
Dec. 5 - 6	Swansea	MOE

### Think you know everything?

*Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds. Dogs only have about 10.*

### Please!!

**Check your e-mail address. Send corrections to [mjmartin@dslex-treme.com](mailto:mjmartin@dslex-treme.com)**  
**Thank You!**

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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.

October 10: Dolan Springs

November: Mojave Road Loop.

This could be an overnight run. Date(s) and details to follow.

November 13-15: Gold Butte, NV

December 5 & 6: Bill Williams, Swansea, Desert Bar and Parker. This could be an overnight run.

January 2010: Quartzsite run, with more 4x4 trips than shopping trips. This may or may not be timed with the annual DE excursion. Jim & Jeanne Jacobs will organize this one for MOE.

February 13 & 14: An overnighter to Temple Bar.

March: Bob and Sue Jaussaud will take us on a loop road from Needles into the California and Nevada deserts. We may start this with breakfast in Needles end this with a BBQ & Potluck at Bob and Sue's place on the river.

April: Eastern Arizona and Western New Mexico as we tour Canyon de Chelly and other ancient Indian sites. Haul and Mary Reddick are working on this trip. This will be a multiple day trip.

May: A multi-day run across Arizona to trace and drive as much of the various tracks of Historic Route 66 we

can find. Not just the ones you find in the tour guides. We have found, by accident, that there is more left out there than most folks know about or can be found on the modern maps. We intend to do our best to find out just what is left. 4x4 will be required as we may encounter some really old pieces that require some "go around noodling."

June: A day run or perhaps overnight run back to Kirkland and Skull Valley to investigate the historic and culinary offerings of the area with a possible overnight in Prescott. Planning dates are 6/11/10 and/or 6/12/10.

July: Return trip to Utah around the US 89 corridor. We will be making some visits to some of our favorite small towns in Utah for great food and hospitality. This is a running camp and motel trip. We will try and build in an overnight stay at the Rockin' R Ranch and Lodge in Antimony which would be a great little treat.

August: Nothing in planning yet  
September: Return trip to the northwest side of the Arizona Strip, Base camp approximately 30 miles in from St. George and 4 miles west of Wolf Hole area on BLM Route 1004. Current planning dates are Saturday 9/11/10 to Saturday 9/18/10.

Visit Desert Explorers on the Web

See more pictures and in color!

<http://desertexplorers.org>

### 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 - K16KAV  
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

## 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.

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

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

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

### Hot Tips for Leaders:

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Dog Policy:

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

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

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

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

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

# • OUR FEARFUL LEADERS •

NAME	KNOWN AS	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	HOME PHONE	CELL PHONE
Robb Anderson	Rawbananarob	1161 W. Duarte Rd. #4	Arcadia	California	91007	626-572-6015	avsoulfly@aol.com
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Charles & Mary Hughes	Chas	1675 Highway 95 A2	Bullhead City	Arizona	86441	928-763-3927	mhad2juno.com
Bob Jacoby	Treasurer	2245 Wellesley Ave.	Los Angeles	California	90064	310-490-6873	jacoby.r@worldnet.att.net
Bob Jaussaud	Sue's Husband & Chairman Viejo	P. O. Box 789	Lone Pine	California	93545-0789	818-585-6468	joeso@lonepinetv.com
Sue Jaussaud	Toby Feeder & Chairchick Vieja	P. O. Box 789	Lone Pine	California	93545-0789	760-876-9227	joeso@lonepinetv.com
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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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Ana M. Romero	RawbananaAna	1161 W. Duarte Rd. #4	Arcadia	California	91007	626-821-0044	626-483-6540 anamarie418@yahoo.com
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Donald Swinhart	Mr. Nice	P.O. Box 23061	Santa Ana	California	92711	3061	ecv1069@earthlink.net
Gary Thomas	Cranky	1039 W. Seventh	Upland	California	91786	909-981-5487	g.cranky@verizon.net
Betty Wallin	Blender Queen	P. O. Box 1214	Desert Hot Springs	California	92240	760-329-2403	wingit@ix.netcom.com

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

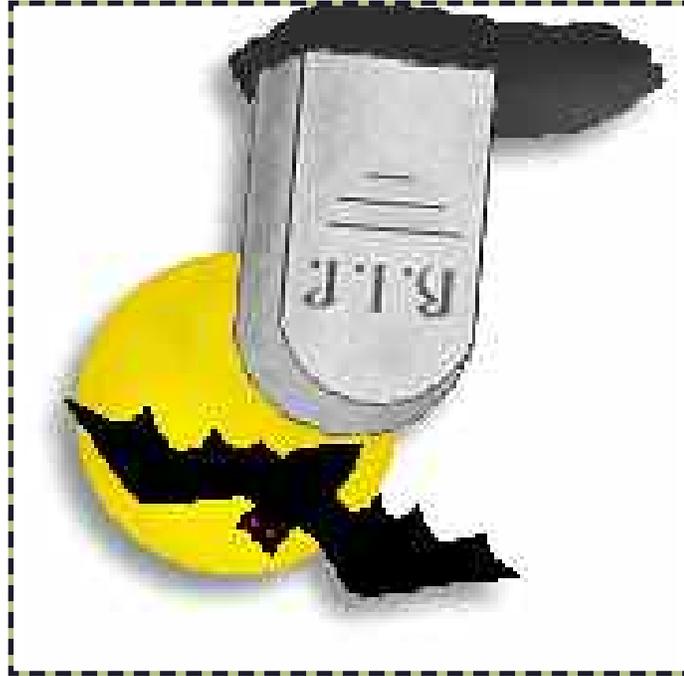
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
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Have a Scary Halloween



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

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

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