

# DESERT EXPLORERS

NO. 154 JANUARY 2009

4WD SECTION OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM



## Rendezvous 2009

### Lodging, Caterer, Speaker

By Mary Hughes  
2009 Big Kahuna

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are included. The individual will make his/her own reservation.

#### Lodging Information:

Five available rooms in the Nipton Hotel: \$70.79 each night Friday and Saturday for 1 or 2 persons.

Five available tented cabins: \$61.16 each night Friday and Saturday for 1 or 2 persons. Each tented cabin sleeps up to 6 people; for each additional person over 2 there will be a slight additional charge. Four tented cabins have 2 full size beds and a full size futon, will sleep 4-6. One tented cabin has 1 full and 1 twin bed. Cots can be put in the tent to sleep 4-6.

For all tented cabins you need to bring sleeping bags, etc. No linens of any kind are supplied.

Four available RV spaces on south side of Nipton Road (nearer the center of activities): \$31.50 each night Friday and Saturday; include sewer, water, and electricity hookups

Ten available RV spaces on north side of Nipton Road: \$22.50 each night Friday and Saturday; include sewer, water, and electricity hookups.

Twenty available dry camp/tent spaces on south side of Nipton Road: \$22.50 each night Friday and Saturday.

If anyone plans on staying over Sunday night, a little less will be calculated on rates, on all sites.

The person to contact to make your reservation is:

Bobbi at the Nipton Store, Tel. 760-856-2335. **Be sure to mention that you are with the Desert Explorers group.**

The upcoming March 20-22, 2009 Rendezvous in Nipton, CA is going to be just great. There will be trips, good food, wonderful lodging and of course getting together with friends. Mr. Jerry Freeman has been most courteous to the Desert Explorers in giving our membership a discount on rooms, tented cabins, RV spaces and the campground. The following rates are in place for our membership. All rates have the discount applied and taxes



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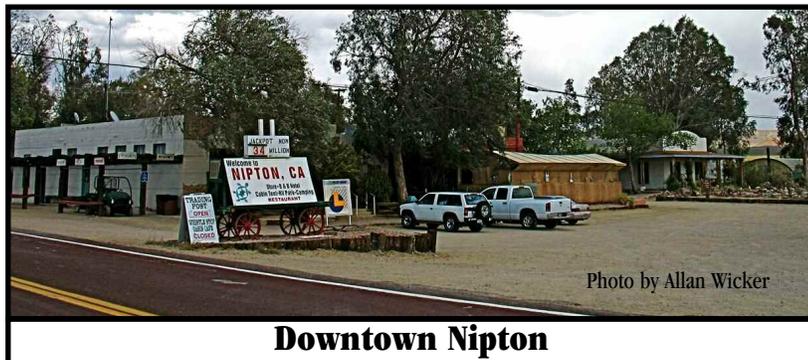
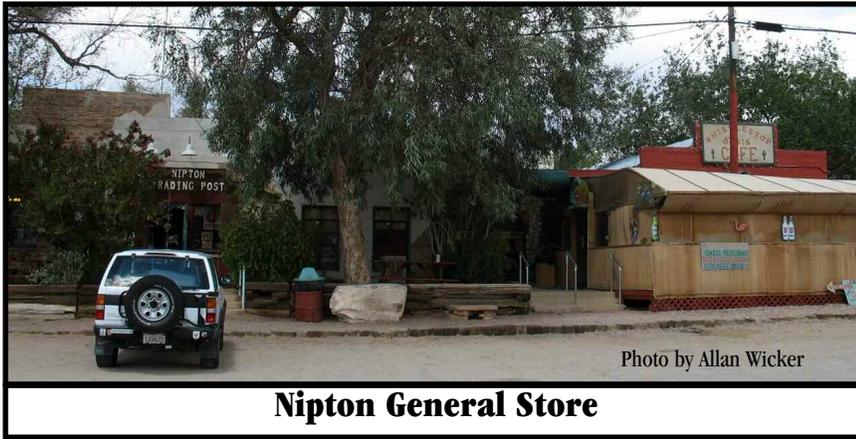


Photo by Allan Wicker

Downtown Nipton



**Nipton General Store**

Photo by Allan Wicker

Mr. Freeman has given the DE's a window of time in which to reserve all the spaces. He requests that the hotel rooms, tented cabins and the RV spaces south of Nipton Road be reserved for both Friday and Saturday night when you make your reservation

The committee encourages you to make your reservations ASAP, as spaces are limited, and booking is on a first come, first served basis. Bobbi is in the Nipton store every day.

Caterer Information:

The Rib Company, Yucca Valley, CA will be our caterer. The Rib Company is the same caterer we had at Amboy. We are fortunate that they are willing to come to Nipton. As in the past, the menu looks to be delicious, and the prices are right.

Three selections are offered: Vegetarian: veggie skewers; 1/4 rack beef ribs, or 1/4 BBQ chicken. All meals will come with vegetarian beans, coleslaw, rolls, butter, choice of 2 beverages; selection will include coke, diet coke, sprite, and water.

The cost: \$20.00 per adult or child 10 and over, \$15.00 per child under 10. Portions are expected to be ample so save March 20 - 22 for the 2009 Rendezvous.

Given the travel distance of the caterer, food service will begin promptly at 5:00 p.m.

Speaker:

We are fortunate to have as our Saturday evening speaker, Dan Messersmith, Historian of Mohave County, Arizona. Dan is the founder of the Mohave Outback Explorers, (MOE). He will talk about the MOE organization and also make a presentation on the area history relating to Nipton and surrounding towns.

## Rendezvous in Nipton, California

By Allan Wicker

There is a little piece of Heaven located in the Southern California desert, on the Northeastern edge of the Mojave National Preserve. Nipton, California is one of those little seldom-seen towns. Situated on Nipton Road, a narrow two-lane desert road in the middle of nowhere, Nipton is more of a wide spot on the side of the road than a town. The town consists of a 1940's general store, a restaurant and a 5-room hotel built back in 1905. You could probably drive through Nipton and not even notice there's Life there. But if you do pass Nipton by, you'll be missing one of the best-kept 'Get away from it all' secrets the Southwest U.S. has to offer. Although Nipton is easily traveled to, it is located in a very remote and isolated desert valley" quoting Chris Marshman, motorcycle traveler and Internet blogger.

Although remote, Nipton is easily accessible. From I-15 to Las Vegas, just take the Nipton Road exit and go east about 10 miles. The town is near the California-Nevada border, and about an hour from Las Vegas.

There are a lot of good reasons for making plans now to attend our 2009 Rendezvous in Nipton on March 20-22.

A range of overnight options is available in the town, including hotel rooms, tent cabins, RV sites with hookups, dry camping for tents and campers. Prices are indicated in Mary Hughes' article in this Newsletter, and more details of the facilities are available at the Nipton website: <http://www.nipton.com/>.

Chris Marshman described the hotel this way:

"The quaint hotel exterior leads into a beautifully restored interior. The lobby, for a lack of a better description, is a wonderfully warm and inviting place where guests can sit, relax, read a good book or just chat. It is decorated with period furniture, antiques and photos showing the history of the Nipton area. Hotel guests share common bathroom facilities located at the rear of the hotel. The bathroom was decorated nicely with new fixtures and everything worked well."

If you choose to stay in the hotel, you are likely to find yourself torn between the lobby's ambience and the activities just outside. Day trips to various locations will be starting from the parking lot, numerous items offered at the silent auction will be on display, fellow Desert Explorers camping nearby will be sharing coffee and chatting about past and future trips, evening happy hours and meals will attract you, and you will want to hear our congenial Saturday night speaker spin tales of the past and present. Staying overnight in Nipton will assure that you have ready access to these and other attractions.

We hope and expect the weather to be pleasant. In late March, highs are generally in the mid 60's and lows in the mid-40's. Bring a jacket or blanket. Chances of rain are slight, and with a little luck there will be wildflowers in the area.

The Nipton Trading Post, which sells books, maps, gifts, Native American jewelry, snacks, and soft drinks, and the adjoining Whistle Stop Restaurant will be open for business during the Rendezvous.

The first scheduled Rendezvous event in Nipton will be a potluck dinner starting around 5:30 on Friday night. It will be held in Freeman Hall (the old Nipton schoolhouse), a few steps across Nipton Road from the main facilities (Trading Post, Restaurant, Hotel).

Our Saturday night speaker is Dan

Messersmith, the historian of Mohave County, Arizona. Dan is also the leader of the Mojave Outback Explorers, our sister organization based in Kingman. Anyone who has taken a backcountry trip with Dan knows his infectious enthusiasm for the history of the places he visits (not to mention his addiction to hearty breakfasts). Dan will be offering us a double opportunity at the Rondy. Besides his talk on Saturday night, Dan will be leading a 4-day trip to Alamo Lake near Wenden, Arizona, about 3 hours' drive from Nipton, that begins on Sunday. Rendezvous participants can join his base camp near the Lake on Sunday or Monday. See his trip description in this Newsletter for more details.

Speaking of Saturday night, the Rib Company, which catered our 2007 Rendezvous in Amboy, has again been engaged to serve us their delicious and ample barbeque ribs, chicken, and vegetarian meals. Owing to the distance that the caterers will be coming the dinner will begin at 5:00 p.m. at Freeman Hall.

A number of members have already volunteered to lead day trips to various sites in the vicinity of Nipton. Details will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter. If have an idea for a trip and are willing to lead one, please contact Mal Roode, Trip Coordinator, right away. His contact information is in the leader section of the Newsletter.

We will of course be running the silent auction again, under the able direction of Alan Romspert. Please start thinking now about what treasures you are willing to contribute to the auction. Each one of us should be able to find some spare items we can do without but could be appealing to others. This activity is an important source of funds for our organization; it allows us to contribute to worthy desert museums and other organizations.

Members of the Desert Explorers are invited to bring their artwork or crafts for display and sale to the Rondy, provided they have their own display facilities (racks, canopies, tables).

Here are a few reminders and other details:

Please promptly complete and mail the registration form elsewhere in this issue to indicate your meal preferences. March is not so far away. (Please note that registration and meal fees are non-refundable).

If you want to stay in the hotel or in tent cabins or to be assured of having an RV site with hookups, please reserve now, as those spaces are limited. A credit card number will be requested to secure your place. Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the Desert Explorers as we have exclusive access to these facilities for the weekend. See Mary Hughes' article in this issue for how to reserve. Business hours at Nipton are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Telephone is (760) 856-2335, and e-mail is hotel@nipton.com.

Please remember to bring a dish for the Friday night potluck, and to pack tables and chairs for your own use for the Friday and Saturday night meals.

The silent auction welcomes your contribution(s).

We look forward to seeing you there!



along the way to see what was there. All-in-all, we covered approximately 1,200 miles of Utah trails and roads.

Our group was small, just Dick Taylor, Bob Younger and me (with Buddy) - probably a good thing as we were able to cover a large area and scout out some great territory

Dick and I left Kingman on Friday the 12th and went up to Overton to look at a possible future site for us to visit during our November excursion. We found the site "Double Negative" after some noodling in the desert. This "artwork" was along a cliff and small side canyon overlooking the Virgin River and Virgin River Valley. That overlook was its only saving grace. The man-made bulldozer cut in the earth left much to be desired as artwork. It dates from the late 1960's or early 1970's. Dick may have a different view as to its value as art, so you need to

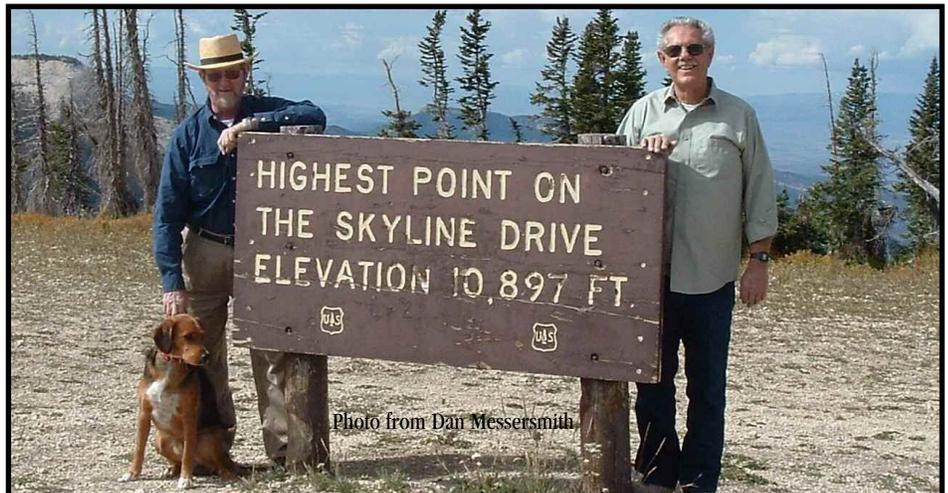


Photo from Dan Messersmith

**Dan, Dick and Buddy**

# Trip Reports

## Return to Utah - Loop # 2 (abridged)

By Dan W. Messersmith

We had such a great time in Utah May that we went back. This loop was longer and got farther north, all on the east side of I-15. As an exploratory trip, we diverted our path

request his opinion to have a fully rounded evaluation.

We noodled our way back to Overton and had a great dinner at Sugar's Café. After dinner, we proceeded toward Mesquite and camped on the mesa that is located a mile or so off of I-15 and prior to dropping down into the Virgin River Valley. The views were great, the stars were bright in the jet-black sky, and we enjoyed our short stay there.

Saturday, September 13:

Got up early and walked Buddy. Returning to camp, Dick was up. We had coffee and proceeded into Mesquite for gas and breakfast.

After breakfast we decided to use the beautiful day to work our way to St.

George via Lime Kiln Canyon through the Arizona Strip. We took our time and enjoyed the views along the way. Stopped at several places that Dick had not yet seen. Before working our way over to Main Street we stopped at our base camp site on the west side of the Strip. This was the last MOE campsite where Bill Ott had been with us. In his honor, a small mound of rocks marks his tent site. Dick and I made sure the marker was maintained then headed down the road to Quail Hill into St. George. We had lunch and picked up supplies for the BBQ that evening at the Hamblin home in Kanab. We got to Robin and Carolyn Hamblin's home in Kanab at about 4:00 p.m. and set up to take advantage of their hospitality to camp on their property that evening. We had a grand tour of the large garden with its abundant pumpkin patch and overflowing tomato crop. I don't think there is anything much better than sweet, fresh, right off the vine, cherry tomatoes. Joining us for dinner were LeGrand and Susan Hammon from Colorado City and the Hamblin's neighbors, Eldon and Carol Lee. LeGrand was our cook for the evening, and he expertly prepared our grilled to order steaks, salmon and chicken. Fresh corn on the cob from the Hamblin garden and side dishes provided by all capped of a grand meal. We had just sat down to dinner when Bob Younger arrived. He had already eaten dinner as he was not sure if he would get there in time for the BBQ, but quickly joined us at the table and took part in the robust conversation and story-telling that ensued both during and after dinner. We all enjoyed the great bull round-up story provided by LeGrand. Dinner over, we said our farewells to all and retired to our campsite.

Sunday, September 14:

We were up early and made coffee to get us on the road by about 7:30 a.m. After topping off our gas tanks we headed east out of Kanab on US 89 to Johnson Canyon where we turned north. Eventually leaving the pavement, we made our way up along the east side of Bryce Canyon National Park toward Escalante. We had noticed the smoke of a forest fire the night before in this vicinity and had been told there had been quite a thunderstorm with lots of lightning. The smoke from the fire was still with us this morning, and there was quite a bit of

haze in the air for quite some distance north. Along the way, we stopped at a dramatic slot canyon we had seen during the May trip. Continuing on, we went up UT12 through Cannonville to Tropic and had lunch. Back on UT 12, we went back through Cannonville, Henrieville and on to Escalante. There we stopped at the US Forest Service Visitors Center. One of the ladies on duty talked to us a bit; and hearing our intended direction, suggested we take a scenic road up and across the Hell's Backbone somewhere just north of Box-Death Hollow. We followed her suggestion, and after a long run through lots of tall pines had just about given up on ever seeing anything but trees when we finally came out to a dramatic and spectacular view and a narrow bridge that crossed Hell's Backbone. We stopped and admired the bridge and the sites and noted that this current bridge appeared to be built on top of an older wooden bridge. That older bridge would have taken some nerve to cross.

Continuing on, we went to Boulder and took in the great views from the narrow road that was built by the CCC in the 1930's along UT12. We continued northward to several other viewpoints as we made our way over the Boulder Mountains toward Grover and our next campsite.

We were returning to a wonderful little campsite just south of Grover that we had found during last May's trip. The entrance to it is marked by a large white rock formation that is quite distinctive along the road. The campsite is tucked in the forest with a wonderful little stream that flows by and provides a soothing quality to a long day on the trail. We were looking forward to a cocktail hour and dinner in a wonderful, relaxing environment. That was until I got a 3 inch side-wall cut in my front right tire coming into the campsite. That put a damper on the evening as we fought to get the tire

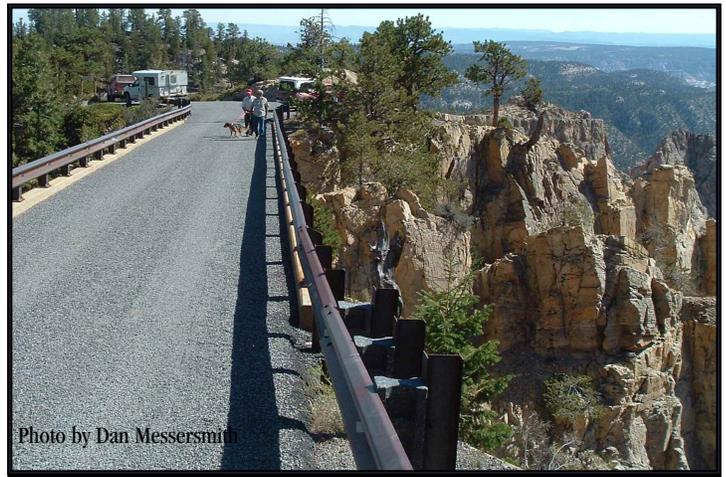


Photo by Dan Messersmith

### Bridge - Hell's Backbone

changed using poor stock equipment provided with the vehicle. Finally completed, I ventured back to see where I got the cut and found that a washed out culvert I had to negotiate on the way in had some angle iron sticking up on it. Based on my tracks, I narrowly missed hitting the angle iron with my rear tire also. That over with, we enjoyed a small campfire, and Dick cooked us up a great dish he called "fortified beef stew" which we used to chase down a couple of cocktails.

Monday, September 15:

We were up early, had coffee, packed up and were on our way by 7:30 a.m. We stopped at the tire-cutting culvert on the way out and buried it with rocks. Then were on our way to have breakfast and look for a new tire for my truck.

We got gas then had a great breakfast at the Sunridge Inn & Restaurant in Torrey. We asked about tire shops and were told that there was a good shop in Bicknell a few miles up the road. We drove to Bicknell and found the combination auto parts and Goodyear tire shop. They did not have the size I needed and phoned another shop in the next town of Loa. That shop did not have the correct size either but said there was a NAPA store in Loa that handled tires, but they did not have their phone number. We thanked them for their efforts and headed for the NAPA in Loa.

We found the little NAPA store, and the fellow searched his inventory but did not have the correct size for my truck. He said we would need to go to Richfield. He gave us directions on the best way to get into Richfield without going all the way to US 89 and sent us on our way.

In Richfield we located a large Big O store, and they had the appropriate BF Goodrich replacement for my truck. Dick used the time to track down a Radio Shack to get a phone charger as the one he brought with him had quit working. Bob made a quick run to a grocery store to get a few supplies. About 30 minutes later, we were ready to roll. Continuing our journey, we drove up through Venice, Sigurd, Vermillion, Aurora, Salina and Redmond to search for the ghost town site of Clarion. We found the small site and looked around at what ruins were left.

We then made our way over to Centerfield where we took a lunch break in the shade of a nice ramada in the park next to the local LDS church. Just as we were packing up the local Cub Scout troop was making its appearance to have a Dutch oven cookout and their pack meeting.

The next town we visited was Mayfield where we got a long distance view of a mountain peak called "Mary's Nipple" for obvious reasons. Mayfield was interesting in that it had several prior names that intrigued us enough to want to visit the town. At various times it had been called: Arrapene (for a local Indian chief), New London because a local fellow had married a girl from London, England and Order, when the Mormon United Order was practiced. Cobblehaven, Skinny, Skunk and Frog Hollow followed, but explanations were not provided in the history of the town. The current name was said to have come from the beautiful flowers that appear along the hillsides in the early spring each year.

From Mayfield we continued our journey north through Sterling and on to Manti, a LDS Temple site. The magnificent temple sits atop a hill that makes it visible from any place in town and from a good distance from most points leading up to the town. We stopped and enjoyed the views there and then headed up the road to Ephraim (home of Snow College) and on to Mt. Pleasant where we went in search of a campsite and found none. We decided that, as it was getting late, we would just motel it for the night. There turned out to be only one motel in Mt. Pleasant, and although they were almost empty, they wanted \$80 for a single and \$105 from me to allow Buddy in the

room. We headed back toward Ephraim and found the Iron Horse Motel that was much more customer friendly. Bob decided to have supper in his camper and Dick and I went to the City Café down the street. After dinner, we got together for a drink in my room before heading for bed.

Tuesday, September 16:

We all went to breakfast at the City Café then were on our way to take UT 29 over the Wasatch Plateau. We had difficulty finding the route out of town, but with the help of a local, got going in short order.

The road up the plateau was a nicely graded gravel road, and the views were spectacular with lots of color forming in the trees at every twist and turn. Our ascent took us up to over 9,000 feet literally to the top of the Wasatch Plateau. On top, trails twisted off of the main road in all directions. As our goal today was to get to the east side of the plateau, we could only imagine where those trails led. We did encounter a side trail along the way that we could not pass by. Its sign said, "Ephraim Tunnel .5 miles." We were on top of the world, so what the heck was the Ephraim Tunnel? A short half-mile down the trail we found out. It was part of a water works project that used a tunnel through a portion of the plateau to get water from the plateau down to Ephraim.

We continued our journey eastward winding through the ever-changing views. At one narrow portion of the trail we encountered a small waterfall and took time to look it over and take some pictures. Continuing on we began our descent off of the plateau into a mountain valley that contained a reservoir. The feature was named Joe's Valley Reservoir.

We checked out the National Forest campground on the west side of the reservoir. It had far too many "No" signs for our taste. We moved on and found a nice shady spot along the reservoir on the east side to have lunch.

Moving off of the plateau we first came to the little community of Orangeville with its sister city Castle Dale. Castle Dale had a large coal-fired power plant and we tried to get a close up look at it, but could not get to it. Returning to Castle Dale proper, we located the pioneer museum in the second story of City

Hall. We took a leisurely tour and found lots of information about coal mining in the area and pictures of John Wayne who was an investor in several of the mining properties.

We continued up UT 10 to Huntington and stopped for gas and supplies. I was in search of some fried chicken for dinner. The local market had a deli and had fried chicken. My search was in vain as they only did legs and thighs on this day, and they already looked a couple of days old. Dick did find that they had soft serve ice cream and got a cone to go.

As it was getting to be close to time to find a campsite, we headed back into the plateau and up a canyon that followed Huntington Creek. We passed another large coal-fired power plant and worked our up the road.

Along the way we sighted a sign to a coal mine and Dick requested we swing in to take a look. When we got to the site, we saw lots of surface metal structures but no obvious mine. It was most likely a shaft entrance mine that was not obvious to us. Going back in search of a campsite, we spotted Bear Creek Campground, a county operated facility at a point where Bear Creek entered Huntington Creek. We found spots for each of us and went to check in. What we found was that the camp host was not there, but there were more "NO" signs than had existed at the National Forest camp ground. We decided to look elsewhere.

Continuing up the canyon we soon came to a small camping area off the road along Huntington Creek. It was wonderful. We pulled in, set up our vehicles for sleeping and set about making a campfire, having a cocktail hour and dinner. I made up a bean dip with added onions, green chiles and salsa. Dick and I made a meal of it, and supper was done. Bob had fended for himself and had a proper supper, although I can't attest it was better than our simple fare.

Wednesday, September 17:

The next morning I was up early, and Buddy and I did our normal early morning walk. When we returned, we got coffee going, and the camp slowly came to life. We were on the road again (UT 31) by 7:30 a. m. We worked our way up to the top of the plateau again viewing a number of small lakes, lots of color in the trees and three deer. Just on the other side of the plateau was the small com-

munity of Fairview, and we made for it to have breakfast. Coming into town I saw a sign for free puppies and tried to talk Dick into picking one up. He had made the trip without his beloved Sassy and was in bad need of a four-legged companion. He was strong, and we drove past some solid black, cute, mix-breed puppies.

We found a small place called the Home Plate Café. The food was good, but the service was the worst we experienced on the whole trip.

Up on top of the plateau, we took UT 264 toward Scofield. We wound our way down the plateau through ever-beautiful scenery and eventually got to Scofield where we stopped to view a significant historical marker that mostly talked about the mine explosion at a location called Winter Quarters. More than 200 miners were killed, 109 women were made widows, and well over 250 children were orphaned in the tragedy.

We continued our journey along UT 96 to Colton and US 6. From there we turned southerly to Helper. At Helper we discovered and visited the grand four story Mining and Railroad Museum. This converted hotel was one of the best museums I have encountered. It contains so much that it would take several days to take it all in properly. We did our best and continued on to Price for gas, supplies and to find a campsite for the evening.

Our search took us to Wellington looking for the correct route south and to what we hoped would be a good desert campground for the evening. After some sketchy instructions from a local we were able to find our way out toward our goal. It was a vastly open desert area with little that looked like it would be suitable for a campsite. We kept moving southward and in the distance could see some elevation changes with what looked to be cedar trees. Those small hills did prove to be what we needed, and we found a suitable and nice campsite for the night.

We had a nice little fire and cocktails to help clear the dust out of our throats. Buddy curled up on his blanket nearby and Dick, Bob and I chatted well into dark.

Thursday, September 18:

Buddy got me up at and we went for our early morning walk. Returning to camp, I got the coffee cooked and made up some hash browned potatoes with

diced ham for breakfast for Dick and me.

We broke camp and headed down the trail to find some remnants of the old Spanish Trail as we worked our way toward Castle Dale and on to Price. We did not find the trail, but did find a BLM marker that told us we were in the vicinity of the old trail. Working our way westward we stopped at an overlook that allowed us to look back toward the area we had just traveled. It was interesting terrain, and we wish it could have been properly captured by pictures, but like so many areas we visit, the camera cannot capture the essence of what we see.

On to Castle Dale and on to UT 10 to Price where we got gas and supplies and a replacement part for Dick's flip top camper.

Our main goal today was to go to the northern most point of the Wasatch Plateau and run its complete length of 90 miles from north to south along what the map called Skyline Drive Scenic Backway. We needed to find a little town called Tucker along US 6.

Our first attempt failed as we drove until we were sure we had missed it. No sign nor town marker of any sort was seen. We retraced our route, and based on the map and odometer, we came to a rest stop that was in the location of the town. Again there was no indication that the rest stop was Tucker. A little nosing around indicated that when you drove through the rest stop, there was an unmarked road leading out of it to the south. We took the road and soon found it to be the route we wanted. It wound its way up the seemingly unending plateau grade through thick forest. Near the top we encountered a large Aspen forest and large numbers of domestic sheep.

The Skyline Drive is as incredible here as it had been in the early parts where we had crossed the plateau. We took our time and enjoyed the scenery and spectacular views.

When all was said and done for the day, we had traveled less than half of the distance and found ourselves only as far south as Ephraim Canyon. Being familiar terrain, we decided it would be too cold to stay up on top of the plateau and headed to Ephraim and the Iron Horse Motel once again.

After a short cocktail hour at the motel, we decided to have dinner at the "Malt Shop" just down the street. This appeared

to be a popular spot for the kids at Snow College.

Returning to the motel we retired to our rooms and had a good night's rest. Friday, September 19:

We got our gear packed and headed for the City Café for breakfast. We had not noticed the sign on the front of the café during our early visits. But there it was in all its glory. "The Satisfied Ewe" appears to be the original name of the café and the faded painted sign still hangs there for all to see.

After breakfast, we made our way back up through Ephraim Canyon to the top of the plateau to continue our journey to the south.

The road seems to go on forever. Along the way we were treated to mountain lakes, views in all directions, traffic from logging trucks and challenges in following the trail as the Forest Service was very spotty in using the appropriate signage at intersections.

We soon found that a better marked ATV trail followed our path, and we were able to use those signs along the way to figure out our way.

We also encountered the highest point on the trail, 10,897 feet. We estimated the plateau averaged an elevation of better than 9,000 feet along its top for most of its 90-mile length. We also encountered along the way several areas where snow is permanently located in shady areas of the plateau, and we had to traverse a shaded area of the trail that was wet and muddy for several miles.

Eventually we came to the final descent and left the plateau winding our way down through more sheep country and into a lower area that would take us over to I-70. Rain was threatening our journey, and it seemed to be growing darker in the direction of our travel. For all its bluster, we did not encounter much rain until later on and then it was never a severe storm.

At I-70 we headed east to Fremont Junction that looks like a town on the map but is only a junction of I-70 and UT 72. We headed south along UT 72 through vast grass lands and rolling hills toward Fremont. On through Fremont and on to Loa where we stopped for lunch at the Country Café. The Country Café was one of those spots that you might not try from the external look of it, but the inside was clean and well deco-

rated and full of both locals and travelers. What was a delight was the food. This was first class, large portion, country cooking at its best. The three of us left absolutely no scraps.

Tearing ourselves away from the café, we headed up UT 24 to UT 62 and south into Burrville, Koosharem and Greenwich where we encountered some rain. But as it was all paved roads, there was no concern over rain. At the junction of UT 62 and UT 22 we turned onto UT 22 to go over to Antimony. We stopped at the Antimony Café and General Store and had some homemade apple pie to round out the afternoon.

We then began our search for a campsite for the night. As we did not know what to expect up the road, we retraced our steps back up UT 22 to Otter Creek State Park's very nice campground on the shores of Otter Creek Reservoir. Dick's flip up camper attracted the attention of several other campers. We also met a young man who was the manager of the Rockin' R Guest Ranch back in Antimony. He invited us to check it out and take part in a breakfast buffet they featured. We had cocktails, discussion and snacks and called it a day.

Saturday, September 20:

As day broke, we were up and getting ready for departure and breakfast at the Rockin' R. Bob decided to head directly for home today rather than take the route we planned as he had a long drive ahead of him.

We said our farewells and got Bob on his way, then Dick and I got on our way over to the ranch for breakfast. We got there about 7:00 a.m. We found the manager, J.R. Anderson, and he got us set up for breakfast.

The fare was good; the company was a mixture of guests, mostly foreign, and staff. We had the pleasure of sharing a table with one of the working cowboys on the ranch and learned a lot about the its operation.

After breakfast we looked the large guest lodge over and were amazed at the variety of things available to the guests. We inquired with JR about the rates and found them to be very reasonable in the late fall months. It could make an interesting stopping point for a return trip.

Our route today would take us south out of Antimony down UT 22 through

sites the map referred to as Osiris and Widtsoe. Just south of Antimony we passed through a small canyon, Black Canyon on the map, that paralleled the East Fork of the Sevier River. Toward the far end of the canyon we encountered an old mill site and a couple of buildings we believe were the remnants of Osiris. Exiting the canyon, the terrain opened up along the road as we moved through John's Valley. At the point we should have encountered Widtsoe, nothing was seen. A few miles more and we were overlooking the junction of UT 22 and UT 12 at Ruby's Inn at the gateway to Bryce Canyon National Park.

We turned west on UT 12 and enjoyed the sites, especially Red Canyon. We got to the junction of UT 12 and US 89 and took a turn to the north to visit Panguitch.

From Panguitch, we took UT 143 which wound its way along and past Panguitch Lake. We were sharing the road with bicycle racers for most of the time we were on UT 143. At the junction with UT148 we turned south along Cedar Breaks National Monument. At the junction with UT 14 we turned west and followed it into Cedar City.

We made good progress down I-15 to St. George, our last gas for the trip home. We again took the Overton, NV route and stopped at Sugar's in Overton for lunch. After lunch, we made one more stop for Buddy to get in some fish chasing time at Roger's Spring then got on our way to Hoover Dam and Kingman.

This had been a fantastic journey through country that needs to be traveled again. We may replace the next year's Colorado trip with another run through this fascinating Utah country.

## 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.**

## Quartzsite

Jan 23-25, 2009

Leaders: Martin/Johns

CB: 33

Shop 'til you drop. We'll be going to Quartzsite one more time. All venues will be open that weekend.

We'll camp at our usual spot: Exit at Dome Rock Rd. Go about 3 miles east. At the power lines going left, north, look for a dirt track leading towards the freeway. Camp is on the edge of the wash on the right, east, of the power line. If we can find it, there will be a flashing yellow or blue light at night. There will be show and tell and happy hour every afternoon, but no potlucks.

## Weekend Getaway

Catalina Island

4-Wheel Drive

Valentine's Day 2009

Leaders: Savage/ Jacoby

No, not in your own vehicle. That is not allowed on Catalina. In fact the waiting time to bring a vehicle onto the island is twenty years. However, we have the second best thing. The DE will team with the Catalina Island Conservancy to take a full-day 4WD excursion into the interior of Catalina. The Conservancy stewards 42,000 acres of the island's undeveloped lands—88 % of its total area—including 50 miles of rugged coastline and 200 miles of roads and trails. Each Conservancy Jeep is driven by an experienced volunteer who acts as a guide, giving an extensive and hilarious narrative on all aspect of the island—its fascinating history, remarkable beauty, unusual animals, endemic plants and, of course, stunning scenery. I have taken this tour and it is remarkable. We will be away from the paved roads that carry the tourist buses, seeing parts

of the island accessible only by dirt roads. In consultation with the guide, we decide where we want to go. The excursion lasts 7 hours and includes lunch, beverages, plus incomparable vistas. The cost is \$132.50 per person for a full jeep (under-filled Jeeps cost more per person as the Catalina Conservancy charges per vehicle). Departure is at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 14th from the city of Avalon on the island of Catalina. Information about transportation to Catalina will be provided when you express your interest to the leaders. Some of us plan to stay over night in Avalon on Friday and/or Saturday evenings. For those folks, there will be an optional DE dinner at a local restaurant. Due to the limited capacity of Conservancy Jeeps, this trip will accommodate a maximum of 12 people. If interested, please e-mail Bob Jacoby at [jacoby.r@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jacoby.r@worldnet.att.net) or Nan Savage at [nansavage@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nansavage@sbcglobal.net) for com-

plete particulars and sign-up information. Hope you will join us.

## Anza-Borrego Desert

April 4-7, 2009

Leaders: Robb Anderson

Ana Marie Romero

CB 13

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

## Where In The World?

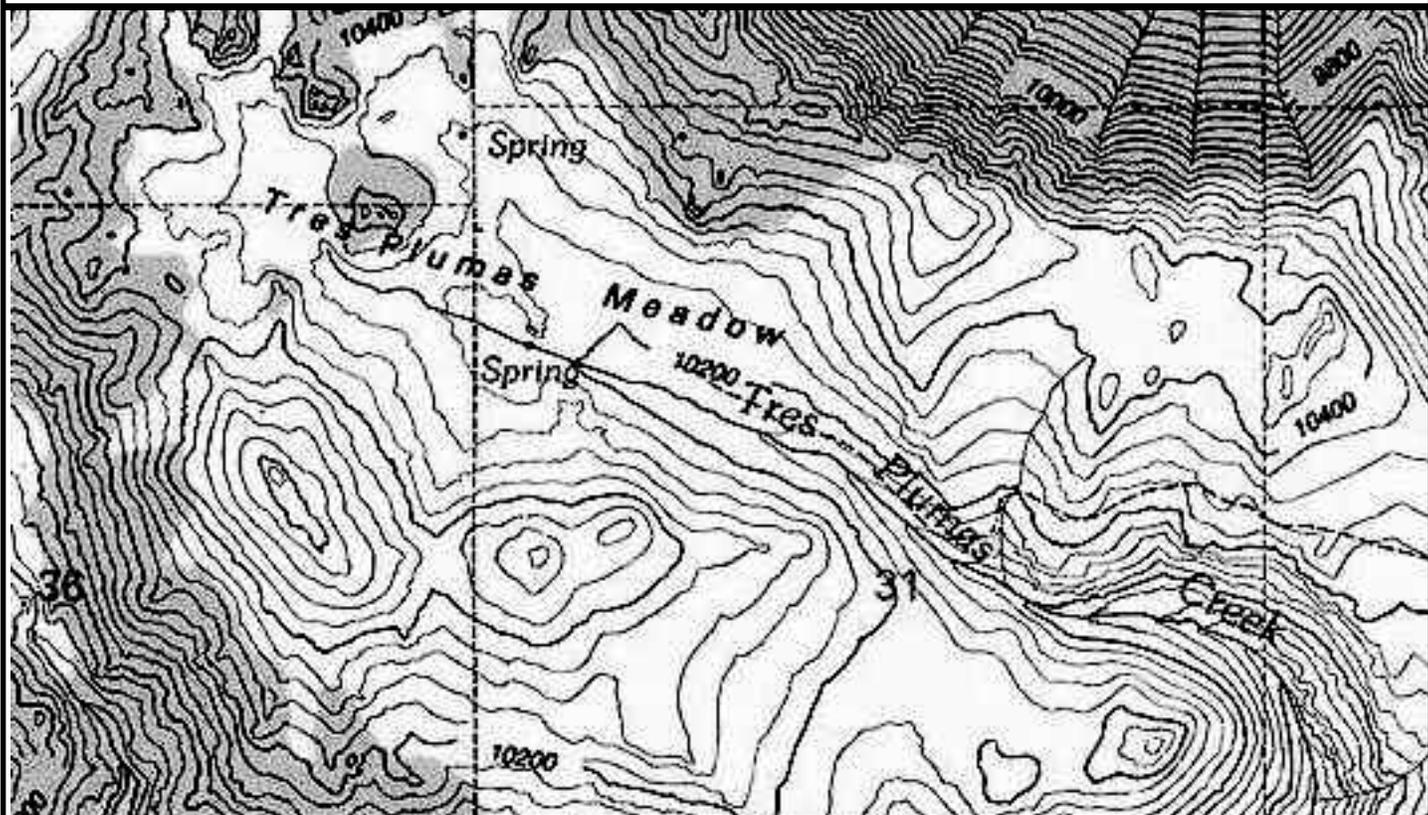
Leaders: Anderson/Johns

After doing Vietnam, Cambodia, and Myanmar this past February, Reda and I are again thinking about where in this big, wide wonderful world we should go next. We're considering a more adventuresome-type travel - a couple of these trips are with the Dragoman outfit that does overland expeditions using big 4x4 trucks. Their trips are much more basic - family-run hotels and/or camping out. They're also more economical than regular tour companies. Below are some possible trips - prices do not include airfares, visas, tips, insur-

### Where am I

Here are the location and winners for Dec.: Butler Peak Fire Lookout, located in the San Bernadino National Forest between Green Valley Lake and Big Bear, CA.. Winners were: Joan Steiner, Allan Schoenherr, Mal Roode, Bill Cook, Leonard Friedman, Bob Wieting, Bob Thille, Don Sweinhart and Betty Wallin.

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."



# Rendezvous Registration Form

## March 20-22, 2009

All names in party

---

---

Address

---

Phone

E-mail

---

Registration Fee (per vehicle) \$10.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Night Dinner:**

**Please indicate the number of meals for your party:**

Beef ribs \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_ meals X \$20 per meal = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\$15 for children under 10; no charge  
if you share your meal with them.)

Grand Total (Registration, Meals) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check out to Desert Explorers; INCLUDE SASE.**

**Send to Nancy Dodds 20035 Hodge Rd., Bartow, CA 92311 by March 10, 2009. No refunds.**

**You must be a member of MRVM to go on any trip.**

**Please bring your own tables and chairs for Friday's potluck and Saturday's catered dinner.**

ance. If you are interested in joining us on any of these trips below (page 10), contact me - Marian Johns.

(Where in the World continued)

1. Africa - South Africa (Cape Town), Namibia (world's tallest sand dunes, wildlife, Fish River Canyon), Botswana (Okavango Delta), Zimbabwe (Victoria Falls) - 21 days \$2300 (a Dragoman trip).

2. Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Egypt - (Istanbul, Ephesus, Cappadocia, Palmyra, Damascus, Petra, Wadi Rum, Cairo) 27 days \$2500 (a Dragoman trip).

3. North Africa - Libya (Tripoli, Roman ruins, Sahara Desert, cave art) 12 days \$1800 (not a Dragoman trip).

4. Tibet, Nepal (new train - world's highest - from Beijing to Lhasa, overland around Tibet, Mt. Everest base camp, (Katmandu) 13 days \$1300 (not a Dragoman trip).

## Welcome Back

**Bill Dunlap**      **West Hills**  
**Matt Westlake**   **Santa Clarita**  
**Larry Boerio**      **Long Beach**

## Welcome

**Willie Kalajian**  
**Newberry Springs**

## Visit Desert Explorers on the

**Web!**

**See more pictures and in color!**

**<http://desertexplorers.org>**

## M.O.E. Trip Schedule

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

January and February: Depending upon the Quartzsite and DE schedule, we'll do Quartzsite one month and Day trip to the bottom of Diamond Creek on the Hualapai Reservation in the other.

March 22 - 26: Four day three night exploration of the Alamo Lake region. We'll base-camp on this journey.

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

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

June 15: Day trip on Route 66 to Seligman and dirt roads to either Prescott or Bagdad. We have set this schedule to provide a base of trips for MOE folks to enjoy according to your schedule.

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

## Desert Explorers Trip Schedule

Quartzsite Jan. 23-25, 2009	Martin/Johns
Catalina Feb. 14	Savage/Jacoby
Rendezvous 3/20-22,	DE
Anza Borrego Apr. 4-7	Romero/Anderson
Far Away Place TBD 2009	Johns/Anderson

## 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 •

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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Lorene Crawford	The Smile	128 Anita Court	Redlands	California	92373	909-793-1004	lmcw2verizon.net
Robert & Nancy Dodds	Rock Bucket/No More Rocks	20035 Hodge Rd.	Barstow	California	92311	760-253-7506	forthebirds_99@yahoo.com
David Given	Tire-Some Fellow :-)	12871 Gifford Way	Victorville	California	92392	760-956-7675	daveg1_2000@yahoo.com
Bill Gossett	Wild Bill	433 Valley St.	Ridgecrest	California	93555	760-375-6169	bandbgossett@verizon.net
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Sunny Hansen	Glyphologist	P.O. Box 290729	Phelan	California	92329	760-868-5316	760-217-7555
Emmett Harder	Scotty	18201 Muriel Ave.	San Bernardino	California	92407	909-887-3436	909-260-7189
Vicki Hill	Glyphartist	26111 Parmelee Ct.	Hemet	California	92544	951-927-6476	vlanehill@verizon.net
Charles & Mary Hughes	Chas	1675 Highway 95 A2	Bullhead City	Arizona	86441	928-763-3927	mhach2juno.com
Bob Jacoby	Brewmeister	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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Neal Johns	Chm. Emeritus, Aridologist, Asst. Ed.	406 Lytle Creek Road	Lytle Creek	California	92358	909-887-1549	aridneal@gmail.com
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Marilyn Martin	Subscriptions & Newsletter Editor	P.O. Box 291759	Phelan	California	92329-1759	760-868-6606	760-641-1483
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Steve Marschke	The Quiet Man	4904 Reynolds Rd.	Torrance	California	90505	310-543-1862	951-316-6545
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Dan Messersmith	M.O.E. Chief & Jeep Sleeper	2945 E, Leroy Avenue	Kingman	Arizona	86409	928-757-8953	928-715-0579
Bill Neill	Tamarisk Eradicator	6623 Craner Ave.	North Hollywood	California	91606-2022	818-769-0678	bgneill@earthlink.net
John Page	Trip Coordinator Emeritus, Aridologist	3675 Gingerwood Ct.	Thousand Oaks	California	91360	805-493-1128	805-660-1218
Bob Peltzman	Lost Again	32014 Greenville Ct.	Westlake Village	California	91361	818-865-8464	bopeltzman@aol.com
Ana M. Romero	RawbananaAna	1161 W. Duarte Rd. #4	Arcadia	California	91007	626-821-0044	626-483-6540
Alan Romspert	Flower Child	605 No. Pomona Ave.	Fullerton	California	92832	714-870-0946	aromspert@fullerton.edu
Malcolm Roode	Trip Coordinator	7014 Mountain	Highland	California	92346	909-864-3525	malroode@gmail.com
Allan Schoenherr	The Good Allan	414 Bluebird Canyon Dr.	Laguna Beach	California	92651	949-494-0675	aschoenherr@fullcoll.edu
Ken Sears	Money Man	P.O. Box 4689	Cerritos	California	90703	562-404-1772	562-650-0461
Anne Stoll	Canologist	143 Monterrey Drive	Claremont	California	91711	909-621-7521	909-730-0137
George Stoll	Lens Cleaner	143 Monterrey Drive	Claremont	California	91711	909-621-7521	agstoll@csupomona.edu
Donald Sweinhart	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 \_\_\_\_\_

## DESERT EXPLORERS NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E--mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Ham Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

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

Happy New Year!



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

Marilyn Martin  
P. O. Box 291759  
Phelan • California • 92329-1759

Deadline for stuff for the Feb Newsletter is Jan. 10th.  
Please!!! Send something...

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