

DESERT EXPLORERS

No. 155 FEB. 2009

4WD SECTION OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM



that dessert is not included in Saturday's catered dinner. Please bring a dessert to share.

See the minutes for rendezvous trips that are being planned.

Rendezvous 2009 Updated

Lodging, Caterer, Speaker

By Mary Hughes
2009 Big Kahuna

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Rendezvous**
- Future Trips
- Minutes
- Xmas Party
- Member Doings
- E-Mail List
- Where am I?
- **Rendezvous Registration Form**
- Fine Print
- Trip Schedule
- Next Meeting
- Welcome/Welcome Back
- Leader List
- Subscription Apps.

- 1.
- 3.
- 5.
- 6.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 10.
- 10.
- 11.
- 11.

"No gas in Nipton"

Dave Given has reminded us that there is no gasoline available in Nipton.

Mary Hughes wants to remind everyone

The upcoming March 20-22, 2009 Rendezvous in Nipton, CA is going to be just great. There will be trips, good food,

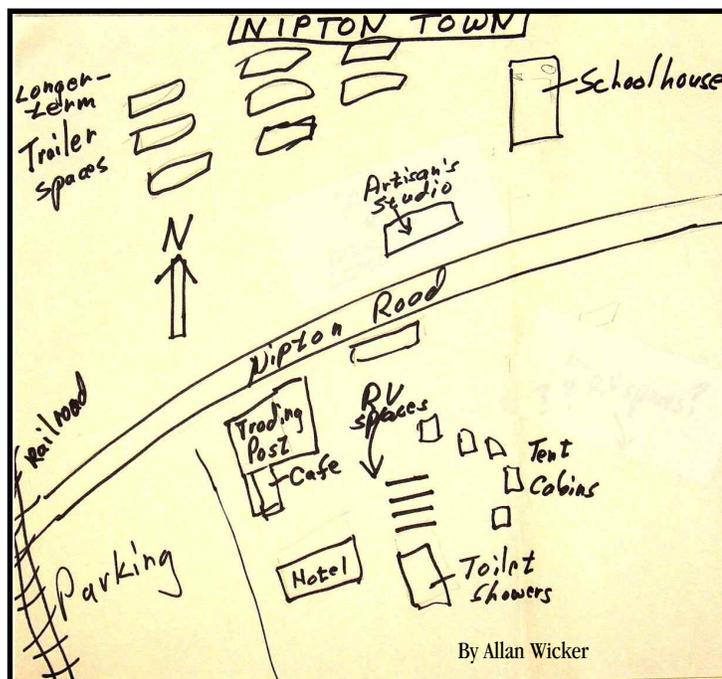
wonderful lodging and of course getting together with friends. Mr. Jerry Freeman has been most courteous to the Desert Explorers in giving our membership a discount on

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 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



By Allan Wicker

Nipton Map



Issue Number 155



Photo by Allan Wicker

Downtown Nipton

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.**

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.

Silent Auction

By Alan Romspert
Silent Auction Jefe

It's time to get ready for the silent auction at our annual rendezvous, this year at Nipton March 20-22. We use the money raised at these auctions to make donations to museums or other organizations, as well as giving our members a chance to clean out some of those items that they no longer have a use for

and think they could be used by others.

Please bring your items to the rendezvous or contact someone who will be attending to bring them for you. If you are not going and cannot contact someone who will be going, contact me at [aromspert@fullerton.edu] or (714) 870-0946 so we can arrange a pickup to get these items to the auction.

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 break-

fasts). 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-refund-

able).

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!

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.

Weekend Getaway

**Catalina Island
4-Wheel Drive**

February 14, 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

Please!!

Check your e-mail address. Send

Corrections to

<mjmartin@dslextreme.com>

Thank You!

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 or Nan Savage at nansavage@sbcglobal.net for complete particulars and sign-up information. Hope you will join us.

Alamo Road/McCracken Mine/Signal Loops

(M.O.E.)

March 22-25

Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor

This will be a four-day three-night exploration of the Alamo Road, McCracken Mine, Signal region. We'll base camp on this journey near the old Auxiliary Army Air Field, which is located at the intersection of Alamo and Signal Roads. We have changed the dates to coincide with the Desert Explorer's

Rendezvous in Nipton, CA from March 20 – 22 so that some of the DE folks can join us if they want. I will speak at the Rendezvous about MOE, what we do and what we are all about. I might sneak in a little local history if they don't nod off. The base camp will be accessible to motorhomes and camping trailers via 30 miles of dirt & gravel road, which is most likely to have some degree of washboard conditions. More details will follow as we approach this trip.

Ed. note: This trip will now take place right after the rendezvous.

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.

29 Palms Weekend

April 18-19

Leaders: Savage/Jacoby

We will be leading two trips in the 29 Palms area during the weekend of April 18 and 19. You are welcome to join us for either one or both. The spring colors should be incredible and the roads will be outstanding. For those who wish, there will be an ample supply of camping spots nearby as well as a number of motels and bed and break-

fasts in 29 Palms on Saturday evening. We are planning to have a group dinner at a restaurant in 29 Palms on Saturday evening. This should be a great weekend so start planning by e-mailing either Bob or Nan, and we will save a spot for you. There will be a limit of 10 vehicles.

Saturday will be a moderately rugged trip that will take us through the Dale Mining District and up on an interesting road to the top of the Pinto Mountains where we will visit the Ivanhoe Mine. We will also visit the Virginia Dale Mine and the townsite of New Dale. We will meet in downtown 29 Palms at 9:00 a.m. and spend the entire day on some outstanding dirt roads with excellent scenery, including the distinct possibility of spring wildflowers and cactus blooms. We should be back in 29 Palms by 4:30 p.m. High clearance and 4WD will be necessary.

Sunday a loop trip will take us through Gold Valley, which is surrounded by the old mines of the 1890-1910 era. The return will be via beautiful Music Valley. In addition to all of the Gold Basin Mines we will stop at the very interesting Goat Basin mine as well. Once again the scenery will be beautiful. We should be back in 29 Palms by 2:30 p.m. High clearance and 4WD will be necessary.

Arizona Strip – East Side

(M.O.E.)

May 20-28

Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor

This is a return trip to the Arizona Strip, east side. We will base camp and re-visit many of the sites we have not seen for some years; look for some places or trails we have not run before. Our base camp will be near Twin Tanks, south of Pipe Springs National Monument. It is motorhome and camping trailer accessible via 30 miles of dirt and gravel road, which is most likely to have some degree of washboard conditions. We will visit some points on the north rim of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River and make some great loop runs that will give people a feel for

the vastness and diversity of the terrain. More details will follow as we approach this trip.

Dick Taylor [dickandmouse@aol.com]
Dan Messersmith [dmess@ctaz.com]

Minutes

December 13, 2008

By Nan Savage

Present:

Christmas revelers included Gary and Merle Thomas, Ken and Diane Sears, Ding and Allan Wicker, Gen Wentworth, Mary Jo Bartholomew, John and Anna Page, Bob Jacoby, Alan Romspert, Nan Savage, Nancy and Bob Dodds, MayBelle Lipking, Marilyn Martin, Reda Anderson, George and Anne Stoll, Neal and Marian Johns, Ron Ross and Nancy MacLean, Mal and Jean Roode, Jay Lawrence, Ana Marie Romero and Robb Anderson, Steve Marschke and Debbie Miller, Bob and Sue Jaussaud, Tommy Perasso and Glenda Roach and Catherine Mayfield.

Regrets:

Joan McGovern; Dave Given; Sunny and Jean Hansen; Alan Schoenherr, who is off on a semester at sea; Jim Watson, who is working in San Francisco; and Charles and Mary Hughes, who are taking a trip.

Minutes:

Marilyn Martin and Alan Romspert moved that the minutes of the last meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Announcement:

President Allan Wicker announced he will be out of the country this Jan. 7- Feb. 21 on an academic assignment in Japan.

DE Rendezvous 2009:

Allan suggested that we suspend our regular order of business to talk about the Rendezvous, March 20 - 22, 2009. Mary Hughes is our contact with the folks in Nipton. She submitted a thorough three-page report which Allan summarized. Allan also showed the group a map of the town site marking the facilities available for our use. See full details in this (Feb.) newsletter. The group suggested that we inform the restaurant that members need to catch early morning trips; therefore, a simple and quick breakfast is in order, at least coffee, if possible starting at 7.00 a.m. The dinner caterer will be the popular Rib Company who fed us at the Amboy Rendezvous. Members should bring their own tables and chairs for the dinner and program. Alan Romspert will again Chair the Silent Auction and Nancy Dodds will

be in charge of Registration while Dan Messersmith of the MOE will be the featured speaker.

We discussed Rony trips: Bob Jaussaud will lead an incoming trip from Needles to Nipton; Sunny and Jean Hansen will lead a trip to the Castle Mountains petroglyph site; Debbie Miller has an inbound trip to a petroglyph site including a short one mile hike; Dave Given will visit the War Room Mine site; Marian and Neal Johns will lead the portion of the First Section of the Heritage Trail from Searchlight to Nipton; and Bob Dodd's trip is yet to be finalized. In addition, there will be a multi-day post-Rendezvous trip led by Dan Messersmith to the Alamo Lake area.

Reports:

Treasurer: Ken Sears reports that we have \$3000 in our account after paying Rony deposits, including \$100 toward the meals and \$700 toward the Nipton facilities.

Trips: Mal Roode passed out the latest trip schedule, which includes DE trips planned for the months of December, January, February, March (the Rony), and April 2009. Reda Anderson volunteered to lead an additional one-day trip to the site of the Manson hide-out.

Newsletter: Marilyn Martin reports 119 current subscribers to the newsletter with 10 past due. She is glad her computer is working again!

Website: Debbie Miller reports the site is in good order.

Next Meeting: Since Allan Wicker will be away, Debbie Miller volunteered to preside over our next meeting, Feb. 7, at the Johns' home in Lytle Creek, 11:00 a.m. with potluck.

Adjournment:

There being no further club business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. so that we could get on to the important "business" of PARTYING!!!



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 compa-

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• "Travel is fatal to bigotry,
• prejudice and a narrow mind."
•
• Mark Twain
•

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nies. Below are some possible trips - prices do not include air fares, visas, tips, or insurance. If you are interested in joining us on any of these trips below, contact me - Marian Johns.

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).

Christmas Party Memories

This was one of our most unusual Christmas parties. Just as we were getting ready to eat, the power went

off. Ever resourceful, Allan and Ding brought out a supply of candles and lanterns and we had dinner by candlelight. The power stayed off and the gift exchange was rife with flashlights checking around to see what gift to steal or open. A good time filled with much laughter was enjoyed.

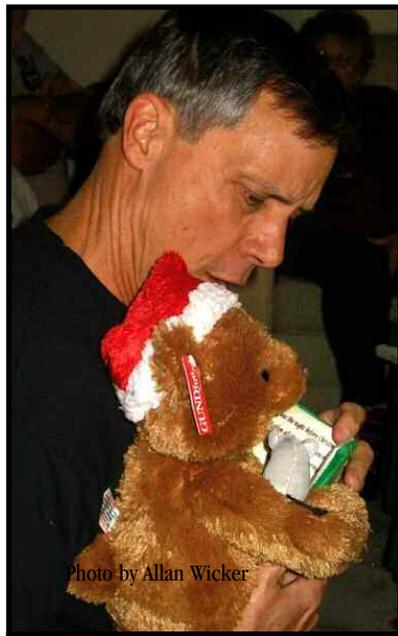


Photo by Allan Wicker

Ken Sears



Photo by Allan Wicker

John Page & Jay Lawrence

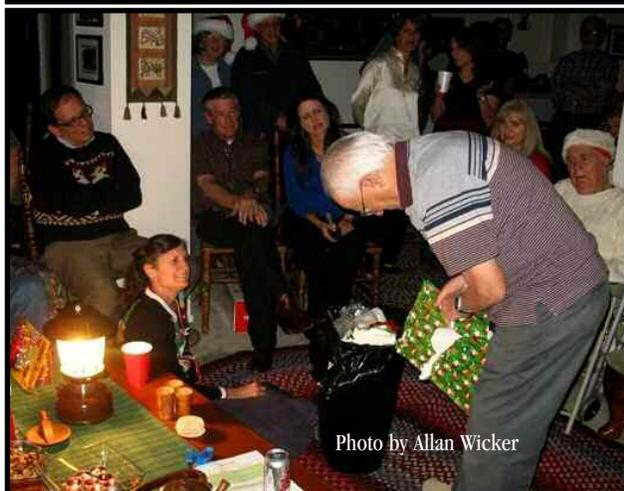


Photo by Allan Wicker

Candlelight Gift Exchange

fact that this was a priority to make our dream come true. We knew this goal was not simple. Coyote Buttes is contained within BLM land 5.5 miles from the parking area with no marked trail to the formation. The BLM does not publicly publish directions to Coyote Buttes and The Wave. The web has plenty of photos, but no definitive resources concerning the route you can rely on. What's more, there is restricted access to the area with a complicated lottery of permits that allows a maximum of 20 persons per day. That's 10 persons arranged in advance, and 10 persons issued walk up permits.. The lottery for the permit is chosen four months in advance. We paid the \$5 non-refundable lottery fee and selected three potential hike dates in March of 2008. The competition was fierce; the preferred

Member Doings Adventure Hike to Coyote Buttes

By Debbie Miller Marschke

I have an ever-growing list of things I must see before I die. Last year, I was camping with my husband Steve and Gary Thomas. We talked about each other's "lists" and, to my pleasant surprise, I discovered that Gary had some similar goals. Coyote Buttes, Utah, was near the top of both of our lists. There is an astonishing formation there called "The Wave" that is unmatched anywhere in the world. I had first seen a photo of it on a calendar many years ago and I posted the photo up as a reminder – this place was a "top of the list" entry. It is a dramatic twisted fold of sandstone with swirls of color and texture. Gary and I made a

dates we had determined that all three of us could carry out our mission had up to 170 other applicants vying for 10 slots. The odds did not look promising and we waited for the results of the December 1, 2007 lottery. The day I received the email from the BLM that my top choice date, March 29, 2008, was awarded to us literally made me jump for joy!

We had another stroke of great luck: DE member Ron Ross had been to Coyote Buttes and was willing to prepare for us a top-notch trail guide, complete with land-marking photos and GPS coordinates. Ron generously took the time to prepare this trail guide for us, which is now posted on the DE website. Ron's information about the hike was the best single source we had, with plenty of details, and was simply awesome. Thanks, Ron!

The BLM provided us with our permit and their version of the trail guide, complete with color photos of landmarks. Between Ron's guide and the BLM's, we could not fail. Steve pre-programmed his GPS, and I almost memorized the trail

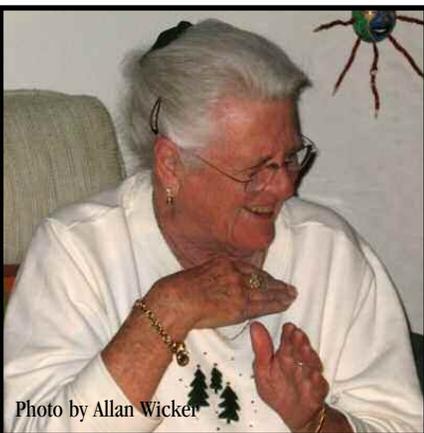


Photo by Allan Wicker

Marilyn Martin



Photo by Allan Wicker

Catherine Mayfield

guides. This hike was all about finding “the black crack” or “black notch” ; this was the feature that would lead us to The Wave. We camped near the Wire Pass trailhead, the same trailhead used for access to Paria Canyon and Buckskin Gulch. The designated campground was small and disappointing; what’s more, it was full. We made a primitive camp near the access road and rested up for our big day. We started our hike at around 8 a.m. The weather was clear with a slight

breeze, and the high temp was expected to be around 65 degrees. That was a perfect condition for this hike. The first mile followed a dry wash and was the shared route for those hiking to Paria and Buckskin. Then the route split up and we descended on the sandstone and across the formations for most of the hike. This made excellent footing as the sandstone was like walking on sandpaper, without much risk of slipping or losing one’s footing. However, the bare

hard sandstone was like marching across a frying pan. The rock retains and radiates heat. Even in the mid-sixty degree temperature, we worked up a sweat. Anything hotter would have been brutal. We hiked at a leisurely pace and took frequent breaks to gape at the scenery. It was truly spectacular and sublimely magnificent! It was hard to fathom that we could do any better than this! We also checked our coordinates and directions frequently. After cross country hiking with

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no trail to mark our way for several miles, we felt vulnerable of making a directional error. Between the three of us, we made good choices and made decent time. After hiking about ¾ of the distance, we passed behind the landmark called Twin Buttes. The famous “Black Crack” formation could clearly be seen in the distance and we knew we were going to find The Wave.

We thought we knew what to expect when we arrived, but we were all wrong. Each of us was virtually speechless and astonished. The Wave formation was unlike anything we had ever seen or imagined. We felt that we had been blessed with a gift from nature, the art of God. It was not simply a feast for the eyes as the formation is ridged in a twisted relief pattern that begs to be touched. Take a few steps and turn about – the formation appears different depending on the direction you are facing and the lighting. It is so wonderful that it defies description. All three of us were so awed that we kept stammering dumbly “ I can’t

believe it” and “ This is so neat”. You can walk on the edges or amble across the bottom, The Wave is large and has several twists. Bring an extra memory card for your camera!

We spent many more hours just hanging around the area, visiting the many other notable formations and revisiting The Wave. We budgeted our time intending to spend the entire day exploring the area, and we were never disappointed. We did account for all 20 permit holders for that day, but the hikers were not all present at the same time so it was not crowded. We found out from the walk-in permit holders that there were 90 people competing for the 10

walk-in permits that day, having arrived and waited for those the previous morning. One gentleman had applied for and competed in the lottery for a walk-in permit for 5 days before he got lucky. There are no guarantees for a walk-in permit, and every morning there is a new lottery (you don’t get credit for any prior days

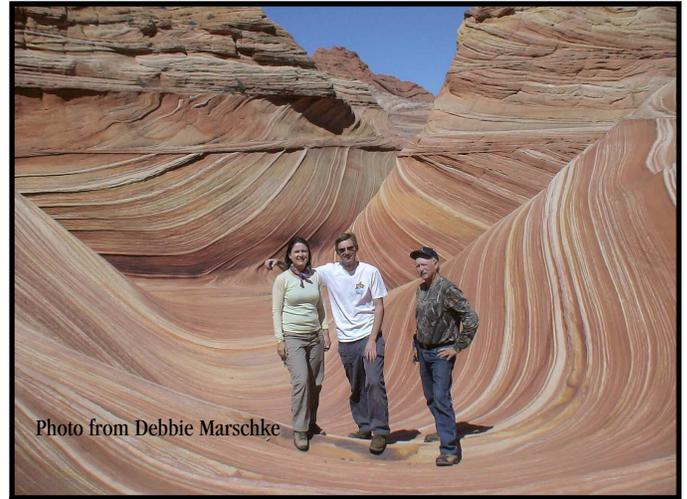


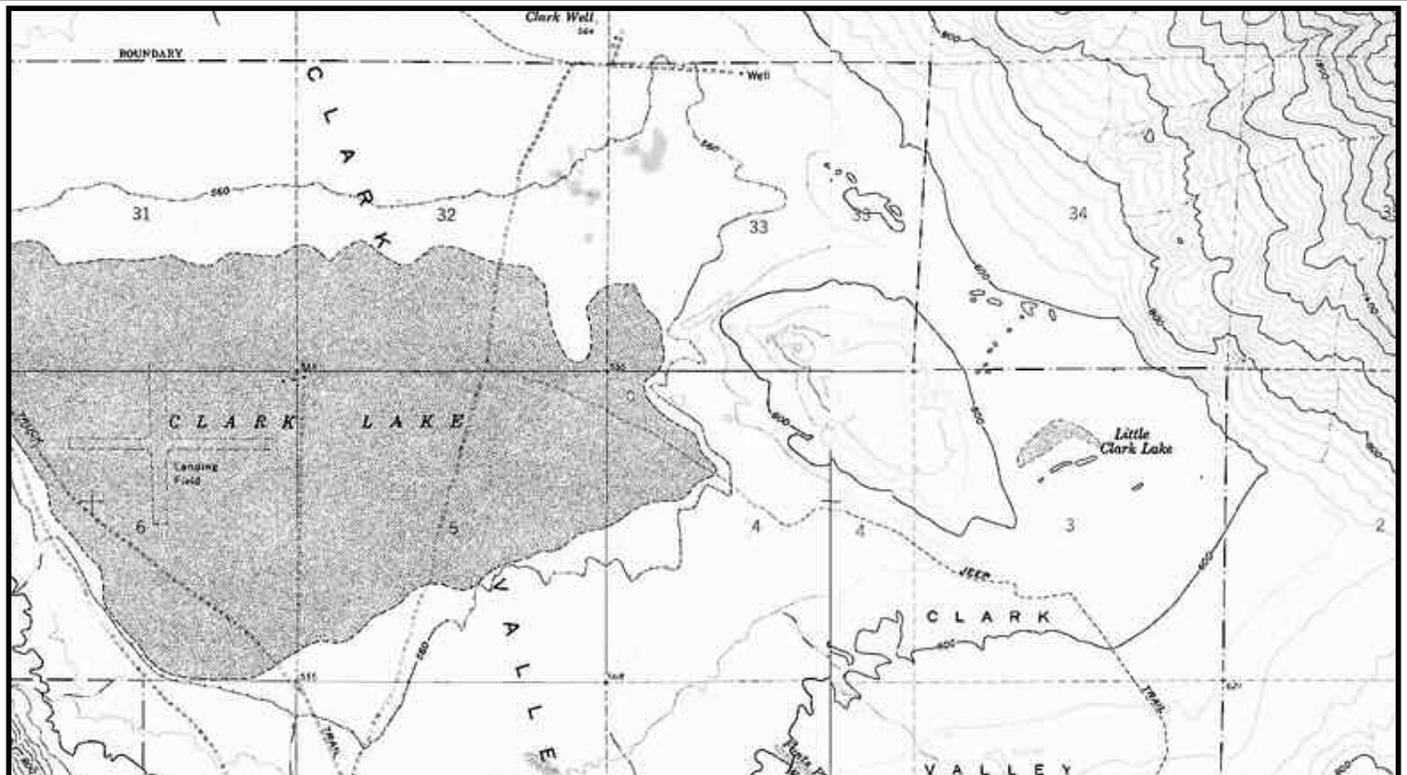
Photo from Debbie Marschke

Debbie, Steve and Gary

Where am I

Here are the location and winners for January 2009. It’s the area N. of Westgard Pass in the White Mountains of California. Winners were James Proffitt, Bob Thille, Leonard Friedman, Bill Cook and Joan Steiner.

Bob Peltzman is lost again. “Where am I? Bob went right, when everyone else went left, and is completely lost. Send your guess as to where he is to Bob at bopeltzman@aol.com (with the word lost in the subject), and he will send me the names of people who correctly guess the location along with a different lost map to publish in another newsletter. Your answer to Bob should let him know what area he is in such as “The southern part of Death Valley near the Devil’s Golf Course.”



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., Barstow, 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.

you applied and failed). Gary, Steve, and I felt extremely lucky. We had criticized the lottery system as being too oppressive and difficult before we launched upon the hike. However, after having completed the hike we were all in agreement that the system needed to be in place to protect the formation from being loved to death. We did not see a Ranger that day, but we were told by another hiker that the Rangers do show up at the formation regularly.

Please go to the DE website [www.desertexplorers.org] to see our spectacular photos. Black and white prints in this article undersell this awesome beauty. The hike is not difficult if you are adequately prepared. This hike was one of the most exciting and rewarding adventure hikes I have ever done. Of course, I will return!

Joe Daly

Der Joe Daly had a bad fall on Dec. 16, 2008 and wound up in the hospital. Sadly he lost his battle to stay alive due to complications from Leukemia. Our sympathy goes to his family. He will be missed.

Desert Explorers Trip Schedule

Catalina Feb. 14	Savage/Jacoby
Rendezvous 3/20-22,	DE
Anza Borrego Apr. 4-7	Romero/Anderson
29 Palms April 18-19	Savage/Jacoby
Far Away Place TBD	Johns/Anderson

Welcome Back

Mary Jo Bartholomew Lytle Creek

Directions to the Johns'
From I -15 get off at Sierra.
Go north about 6 miles. Look
for 406 on the west (left) side
of the street.

Next Meeting
Sat. Feb. 7
11:00 a.m. potluck at the
Johns', 406 Lytle Creek
Rd. Lytle Creek CA, Phone
909-887-1549

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.

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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David Given	Tire-Some Fellow :-)	12871 Gifford Way	Victorville	California	92392	760-956-7675	davegl_2000@yahoo.com
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Bill Neill	Tamarisk Eradicator	6623 Craner Ave.	North Hollywood	California	91606-2022	818-769-0678	bgneill@earthlink.net
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Donald Sweinhart	Mr. Nice	P.O. Box 23061	Santa Ana	California	92711 3061		ecv1069@earthlink.net
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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.

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

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



DESERT EXPLORERS OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM

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

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

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