

# DESERT EXPLORERS

No. 165 DEC. 2009

4WD SECTION OF THE MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSEUM



## Trip Reports Tibet

By Ana Romero

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Trip Reports 1.
- Future Trips 7.
- E-Mail List 7.
- Where am I? 8.
- Trip Schedule 10.
- Next Meeting 10.
- Fine Print 10.
- Leader List 11.
- Subscription Apps. 11.

and the last 123 miles to Everest is a wash-board road. Catherine and I bloated up like balloons. Loose clothing became tight on us, although the others didn't seem to have the same problem.

We were really glad that we didn't have a bunch of monasteries to visit. The interiors are not that pleasant to be in. They are dark, crowded, dirty and smell of the ever-burning yak butter used as candle wax. The Potala Palace was indeed interesting. Over 1000 rooms, but we, of course, only saw probably a couple of dozen. Many steps to climb to get to the Palace. Catherine and I had to stop often to catch our breaths. Chuck and Kathy didn't go to the Palace.

The food was okay, although you kinda get tired of Tibetan or Chinese food for all three meals.

The toilets are disgusting! with little or no toilet paper available. There was an occasional "western style" toilet, but even that was not pleasant. Sometimes they flushed and sometimes they didn't. All toilets smelled really bad. In all honesty, we prayed for constipation, and thank goodness, we usually were.

This is not a trip for anyone with any kind of health issues. The lowest elevation is Lhasa at 11,863 ft going up to a high of 17,000. Everyone got varying degrees of high altitude sickness. We suffered neverending headaches, lightheadedness, confusion, vomiting, out-of-breath with any kind of exertion, and tiring easily. Catherine got heart palpitations and for a while thought she might have to request oxygen or even leave. The roads are poor,



Issue Number 165



Photo by Catherine Mayfield

**Chomolunga AKA Mt Everest**



Photo by Catherine Mayfield

### Toilet Facility

The hotels varied. Interesting was that the lobbies of the hotels we stayed at were pretty nice, but that was just a facade. The rooms themselves were what we would probably call one-star hotels. Not even close to 3 or 4-star hotels. There is no such thing as a 5-star hotel in Tibet. We were amused that every hotel lacked some amenity that if we could only get

linen were clean! Although soap was provided in the hotels, restaurants did not provide hand soap nor paper towels. Paper products in general, like toilet paper, napkins, paper towels are scarce or non-existent. Tissues are non-existent.

Smoking is prevalent in Tibet. Smoking is allowed everywhere including restaurants. If you are squeamish about

cleanliness in restaurants, you won't be too happy about eating in Tibet. Especially, given that there is no soap and sometimes no water to wash your hands after going to the so-called toilet (pit toilets which were usually filthy and smelly). They don't have laws about washing your hands after going to the toilet in Tibet.



Photo by Catherine Mayfield

### Bed with Bug Hut

everything at the same hotel, we might actually have a 3-star hotel! Some hotels, lacked toilet paper and/or hot water. They all had filthy carpeting, We found dried up bed bug larvae husks, but no bed bugs! Black mold was growing in some bathrooms. Bed and bath

However, none of us got sick.

Okay, now for the good stuff. Our guide, Bempa, was great! He was knowledgeable, knew people wherever we went. The high point of our trip was, of course, seeing Mt. Everest! We were so very fortunate in getting to see Everest

with no cloud cover whatsoever! It was magnificent! Met others who never got to see it due to cloud cover. As expected, it was really really cold at Everest. We slept in tents of Tibetans who were camping near the base camp because the new guesthouse rooms at Rongbuk Monastery were full. The old guesthouse rooms were unacceptable to us. We feel that our travel agent was not quite honest with us about our accommodations near the base camp. As it turned out, my daughters and I were quite happy with our stay with a Tibetan family in their tent which was heated with a stove in the middle of the tent that burned yak dung! Our hosts were warm and gracious. I'm not sure the others were as pleased. They slept in a different tent than my daughters and I. The Tibetan people are wonderful! The lakes are a deep turquoise-color and very beautiful! We saw a few wild yaks, but mostly herds of domesticated yaks. We didn't see too many birds at those altitudes; mostly what looked to me like minah birds, crows, and sparrows that looked an awful lot like our English sparrows. There were the cutest dogs all over the place. We asked our guide if dogs were eaten in Tibet and he told us that no one would eat a dog since they are considered "good luck" to have around. Although we saw many unkempt dogs, none seemed to be starving. As expected, there is much poverty, and we ran into our fair share of begging children and the occasional adult beggar.

Lhasa is an armed camp! There are about a dozen Chinese soldiers on every block in riot gear carrying shields and rifles. Over the Barkor Market area, there are snipers stationed on the roofs with machine guns. Of course, you don't take pictures of them nor do you say anything that might be unwelcome. We were told that spies abound among the city crowds. There is a palpable tension among the Chinese and Tibetan people. The city of Lhasa is divided into the Chinese area and the Tibetan areas. Both areas are under heavy military supervision.

Most of our time was spent sitting in a vehicle. Everest is almost 500 miles away from Lhasa.

Undoubtedly, we suffered more from high altitude sickness because we had to be in and out of Tibet in just 5 days. We didn't have time to acclimate to the high

altitude. However, what do you do with the extra time except visit monasteries of which there are hundreds, most of which are reconstructed due to being destroyed during the Cultural Revolution. We visited four monasteries, and felt that was plenty. That was one too many for Chuck and Kathy who opted out of visiting the Potala Palace due to the number of stairs and opted to rest instead.

Fortunately, the company was excellent. I think that helped all of us to bear up under what were sometimes challenging conditions. Actually, I think that if one were trekking and camping out in Tibet, one would have a better experience, that's of course, if you don't get high altitude sickness.

All in all, we're glad we went, but, once is enough.



Photo by Catherine Mayfield

**"Climbing" The Great Wall**

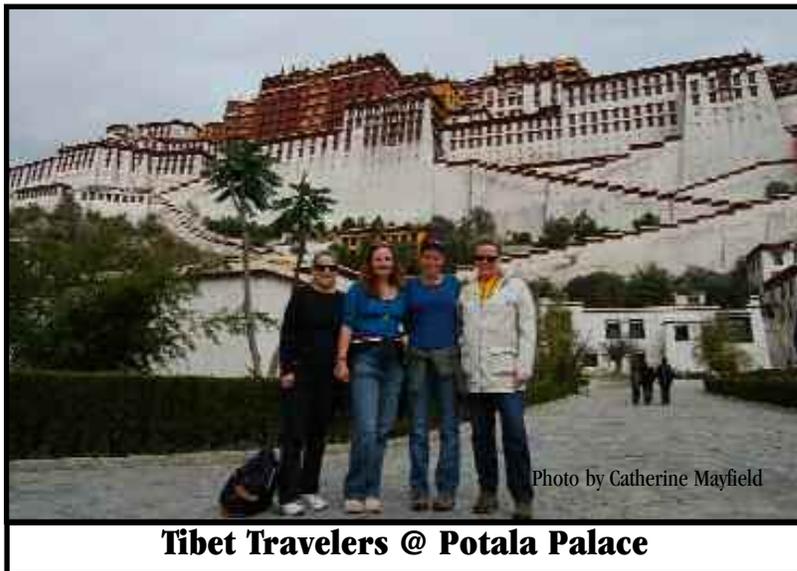


Photo by Catherine Mayfield

**Tibet Travelers @ Potala Palace**

## Tibet Trip Another View

**By Chuck Mitchell**

Since the Tibet trip reports seem to focus on "substandard toilets and mold in the bathrooms", I thought I might add my comments. Overall the trip was great. We saw a lot of countryside, visited more monasteries than I can

remember, ate new food and met new people. We frequently had to be up very early and breakfast before dawn because of the distances to travel. Some had trouble sleeping because Chinese mattress come in two grades...Hard, and Concrete. While allowed a 10% loss, we all survived with no loss of appendages nor intestinal disturbances.

Our six did, in fact, join with a larger tour group who traveled in a bus. However we saw them only occasionally

at checkpoints or sometimes at meals. We traveled independently in our Land Cruisers with three to a vehicle. There were frequent stops at checkpoints and our travel permit (which included our names) compared with our passports. We were told that in the past there had been fatal crashes due to driving at unsafe speeds on the roads, and in an effort to control speed, the government allowed a specific amount of time to travel between checkpoints. If you arrived at the next checkpoint "early"....you must have been speeding. This sometimes resulted in parking by the side of the road within sight of the next checkpoint to "run out the clock". This reason may or may not be true, but in any case, the location of visitors is monitored constantly. I should also add that at the Beijing airport and at the Beijing hotels there are video cameras and temperature sensors setup at the entrances...you may have to extend your "stay" if you have a high temperature.

Tibet looks a bit like Baja California without any vegetation. As expected the days were warm and the nights very cold. Leave the sweaters home and bring a warm coat and hat. The paved roads are generally in good condition, but like Baja they are shared with bicycles, farm vehicles, trucks and buses. The dirt roads are sometimes rough. I used to think the 75 mile graded road between Vizcaino and Bahia Tortugas was the longest and most miserable, but it has to be moved to a distant 2nd place by the road to Everest Base Camp with hundreds of switchbacks.

Travel by train: Bring soft luggage. The only place to store your bags is above the door on a shelf that is about 15 inches high and is only accessible by climbing onto the upper bunks. We were able to fit 3 bags above but the 4th relegated to the floor which occupied floor space which was minimal. There were 4 persons per cabin so during the day everyone was seated on the lower bunks or perhaps on jump seats in the hall. Train was fast and smooth. Snacks and box lunches were available from cart vendors in the halls, and good food in the dining car. The dining car was generally open for use only during meal times.

Paper must be very limited. Almost universally toilet paper, napkins, and paper towels were not supplied outside of the hotels. TP is on very small rolls and is



Photo by Catherine Mayfield

### Rock Vendor

very durable...it's almost impossible to tear...don't forget your pocket knife or scissors.

Farm houses in the country are similar in design to Shaker farm houses in the US more than a century ago. The houses are made of handmade mud brick or stone, and most are two stories with livestock housed on the ground floor and the families living on the 2nd floor. This keeps the upper floor warmer in the winter, and provides easy access to the livestock. Livestock is yak, cattle, goat, and sheep along with a trusty "Tibet mastiff" to keep them in line. Yak dung is routinely collected, mixed and reformed into small pizza sized disks, then applied (stuck) on to the house or perimeter wall until it is dry. After drying the dung disk is stacked for use as fuel for cooking and heating.

We had yak meat in a number of dishes and it was always tough and tasteless...perhaps we frequented the wrong places. Dried cheese blocks threaded on string was equally non-impressive. Vegetables and fruit were always excellent. Lots of chicken and pork (no, you don't get swine flu from eating pork) and some freshwater fish (carp and tilapia). If you tired of Chinese food, there were always McDonalds and KFC. Coffee as we know it did not exist. An "instant coffee" was available but it was very sad. Tea was served everywhere and was good...with the exception of the locally preferred "buttered tea" which was tea with a table-

spoon of rancid yak butter added and whipped to a froth. I drank some by mistake and it was awful. I don't think it will make the menu at Starbuck's.

Travel by car. From posted signs and painted lines on the street surfaces it did appear that there were perhaps traffic regulations. However there was no evidence that they are ever complied with or enforced. Without exception we routinely drove through red lights and stop signs with relaxed abandon by the driver and guide, and loud inhalations by the passengers. Driving is done in relaxed deliberate fashion with communication between all vehicles in the immediate vicinity accomplished by horn signals. On a 2 lane road you close on the slow moving farm truck in the right lane, you honk and move into the left lane which is about to be occupied by the

oncoming truck, he honks, you honk, and then you all pass, three vehicles wide. This is all done at a leisurely pace. In the city 4 lane streets morph into 5 and 6 lanes or more. Traffic from side streets simply drive into the arterial flow and are entrained somehow without mishap.

Tour guides are "encouraged" to use government listed (health inspected) facilities for lodging and dining for foreign tourist. All of our meals were pre-paid and we seldom had the opportunity to select from a menu we couldn't read. This was fine since everything was generally good. Chinese beer totally lacks any character and the Great Wall wine is undrinkable.

Almost all of the tourist sites have a Theme Park like atmosphere. To view, you must first pass through the gift shop, tea shop, silk shop, basket shop, prayer wheel shop, pottery shop, etc. While visiting the Shao Lin Temple (dubbed Shaolinland) you can even buy "Shao Lin balm" for you sore legs from a bald saffron robed monk. To visit the Great Wall you have to run the gauntlet of vendors to get to the aerial tram taking you from the base of the hill to the Wall. Your

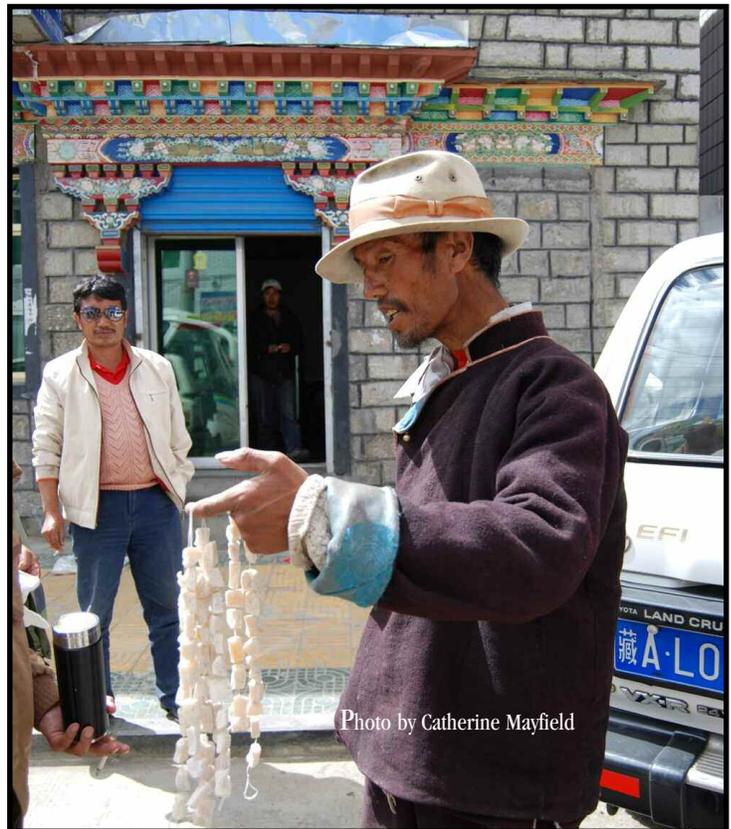


Photo by Catherine Mayfield

### Dried Cheese on a Rope

return can be on the tram or the sled ride...like a water slide but without water. You are now back with the vendors in a flash and can buy a "I Climbed the Great Wall" T shirt.

Speaking of vendors....during our overnight at Everest Base Camp I had placed my temperature recording watch on a table to monitor the night. At 0300 hrs the temperature was 32F, but at dawn the watch was dead, frozen to death. Two days later at the markets in Lhasa I was in the market for a cheap watch. Glancing at a tray of watches, I noticed a Breitling Navitimer (\$6,000 US at the Mall). The vendor pounced and offered it for 450 yuan (\$68), 30 seconds of intense negotiations and I was the owner for 100 yuan (\$15). The first part fell off within a couple of hours, but it snapped back on, and the sharp edges on wrist band have only scratched my skin a few times.

❦

## Bristol Dry Lake "He said, She Said"

**October 17 – 18, 2009**  
**By Joe de Kehoe and**  
**Debbie Miller-Marschke**

He said: Our group on this trip could not have been a more likeable bunch of people – what a treat - and included a 12-vehicle convoy of Vicki Hill, Dave McFarland, Marilyn Martin and her son Kevin, Mary and Charles Hughes, Brett Henrich, Glenn Shaw, Steve and Deb Marschke, Mignon Slentz and her friend Jenny, Bob Rodemeyer, Bob Jacoby, Nan Savage, Daniel Dick and Bobbie Sanchez, Bob and Sue Jaussaud and Joe de Kehoe.

We met in the parking area in Ludlow on Saturday morning under a cloudless sky and after a round of saying hi to old friends we headed out on old Route 66 after taking a spin through Ludlow's former Main Street, past Murphy's store, the site of the old post office on Main Street,

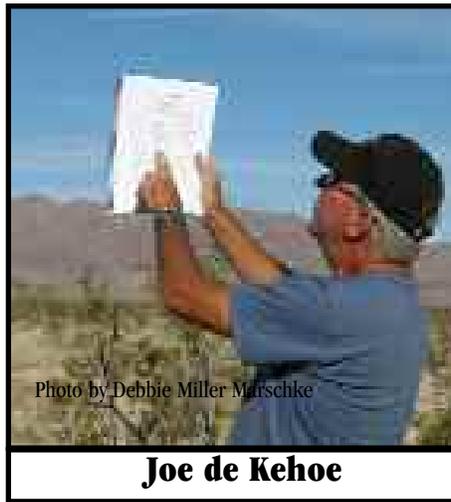


Photo by Debbie Miller Marschke

**Joe de Kehoe**

Lee Yim's General Store, and the 2-block area of rubble that was once the town's business district.

She said: Joe surprised us right off the bat when he passed out bound folders containing photographs and supplementary educational materials detailing our trip. Every vehicle got a copy to take home and enjoy! This was really awesome, and I continue to look back over Joe's materials now that the trip is completed. Thanks Joe, you really do it with style!

He said: For the remainder of the morning we made stops at Siberia, both the service station and the depot, Dish Hill volcano, Bagdad, the calcium chloride mine on Bristol Dry Lake and arrived in Amboy for lunch about 12:30. At woman exclaim "Oh, look, it's JOE!". The side door flew open and out poured 5 spunky retired gals who quickly surrounded Joe with admiration and ardor,



Photo by Debbie Miller Marschke

**De Kehoe's Ladies**

much to his delight AND horror (yes, both of these, I am not making this up). He had met the 5 sisters the day before at the Route 66 Museum in Barstow, and they had bought Joe's book. The ladies were very fashionably dressed, and all of them included bright lime green in their ensembles. As they continued their journey cross county to Minnesota, they were reading Joe's book and spotted our group. This scene was absolutely hilarious, and Joe insisted that he was NOT a chick magnet! Further down the road, we were all interested to learn that those turquoise blue pools on Bristol Dry Lake were not just brine ponds, but a "pickle

juice farm". Del Monte uses the liquid for their food products.

He said: After having lunch under the shade trees at Amboy we backtracked slightly to drive through Amboy on the dirt road that was once Route 66, past Mary Benjamin's cottage and over to the church to see the mural on the back wall that was painted by Paul Salopeck about 50 years ago.

She said: After the group had all entered the Amboy church to admire the mural, we enjoyed a real enchanting



Photo y Marilyn Martin

**Salt Works**

treat. Marilyn Martin stood at the rear of the church and sang Amazing Grace. The excellent acoustics a n d Marilyn's



Photo by Marilyn Martin

**Amboy Church Mural**

wonderful voice made us all pause in wonder. It is magical moments like these on our DE trips that I will carry with me for my lifetime – absolutely priceless.

He said: We drove out of Amboy on one of the early alignments of Route 66, past the Amboy Cemetery, and rejoined National Trails Highway at Saltus Road and stayed on the highway to about the Roadrunner Café where we detoured north to get back on the earlier (pre-1918?) alignment of Route 66. We popped out at ‘North Chambless’ at what

was once Mac McConnell’s Eight Ball Ranch. When Mac retired from working for Santa Fe at Cadiz he build the Eight Ball Ranch out of railroad ties and stone cobbles, and his grounds included a grape arbor, plants of all kinds, citrus trees and a swimming pool in the shape of a figure eight. The group enjoyed scroung-

ing through the rubble in the yard for a while before we pushed on east, through Chambless, to Cadiz Summit, a brief stop at the roadside Kiosk and then to Danby.

She said: The flagpole at the Amboy cemetery had fallen over. Unacceptable! Steve, Jaussaud, and Charles immediately repaired the flagpole, refortifying it. At the Eight Ball Ranch, there was so much interesting stuff that it seemed likely our group would never move along. The house was lovingly built with decorative flair using logs, local minerals, and bottles in the walls. A charming place, indeed.

He said: We left pavement at this point as we turned south on Danby Road and headed for Old Danby. There are only two of the original wooden miner’s shacks remaining in Old Danby, and one of them is very close to collapse – several of the beams supporting the roof are badly cracked and are unlikely to survive the next big wind storm. From Old Danby we headed south toward Skeleton Pass and made camp in the pass on a large patch of desert pavement the west side of the road. For a while it looked like Deb might win her own contest to see who could remove the most mylar balloons from the desert, but it seems Sue and Bob Jaussaud get the prize for having retrieved 5 of them!

She said: Yes, it is a pet peeve of mine when I see those mylar balloons defacing our desert. I have decided that, though I can’t pick up all the trash I see, I can pick up all the balloons I see. The most I have picked up in a weekend trip is 13!

He said: On Sunday morning we were on the road by 8:30. The first stop was at the Rice-1 well, adjacent to Skeleton Pass Road. From there we went to the Black Metal Mine and, from a distance, viewed the site of where the Old Woman Meteorite was found. Time was running short so we elected to bypass the Udsogn Mine and headed for Chubbuck. We toured the town site for a bit and then drove to the mine where we had lunch amidst the outcrops of white marble.

She said: Again, Joe produced samples of the gemstone Epidote that he had taken from the Udsogn Mine and passed them to us. What fun! It was particularly interesting to stand below the impact site of the famous Old Woman Meteorite while Joe described how the Marines removed it with a helicopter. You can



Photo by Bob Jaussaud

**Steve Repairing Cemetery Fence**

read that story 100 times, but it really comes to life on location. It did not take Joe long to convince us that the impact canyon is more work than it’s worth to climb up.

He said: From Chubbuck we headed



Happy Holidays



Photo by Bob Jaussaud

**Marilyn & Solace  
Amboy Church Plaque**

north on Cadiz Road, stopped briefly at Archer, and arrived at Cadiz at about 2:00 p.m. Cadiz road is in the worst shape any of us can remember. A recent rain in the Ship Mountains has turned sections of the road into a cobblestone wash. The tour ended with farewells in Cadiz, everyone promising to see one another again on future trips.

She said: We didn't want this trip to end! Congratulations, Joe, you educated and amazed us with your knowledge of this area. No wonder you wrote a book on it!

# 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.**

## Desert Bar, Swansea, Bill Williams River

(M.O.E.)

**December 5 & 6  
Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor**

**T**his will be an overnight run with a camp out as near the Bill Williams River as possible. We hope to have

### CURRENT DESERT EXPLORERS WITH E-MAIL

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

**PLEASE!!**

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

Reda Anderson	redaflygal@aol.com	Robert J. Jacoby	jacoby.r@worldnet.att.net	Jim Proffitt	jproffitt@sbcglobal.net
Craig Baker	seahawk190@mail.com	Bob Jaussaud	joeso@lonepinetv.com	Don Putnam	wegotoo@yahoo.com
H. S. Barsam	barsam67@earthlink.net	Neal Johns	aridneal@gmail.com	Fred Raab	fjr@fredraab.com
Boerio	larrybemail@yahoo.com	George Johnston	johnst24@cebridge.com	Wm. A. Ramsden	alquoc@aol.com
Ted Berger	berger200@comcast.net	Willie Kalajian	williesoffroad@hughes.net	Bob Rodemeyer	chiefrodey@ca.rr.com
Robert Bolin	robertnshirl@earthlink.net	Ted Kalil	tskalil@msn.com	Ana Romero	aromero0418@sbcglobal.net
June Box	foxieboxie@msn.com	Jim Kay	jimkay33@verizon.net	Malcolm Roode	malroode@gmail.com
David Bullock	eeecue@eeecue.com	Richard Kenney	kenneyrc@sbcglobal.net	Ron Ross	rgrossjr@jpl.nasa.gov
Steve Burks	soburks@pacbell.net	Jerry Koplowitz	jkopnv@aol.com	Dario Sanchez	dsanmtnat@aol.com
Jim Byrne	jim_byrne@sbcglobal.net	John Kuzma	jk4wlow@pacbell.net	Cyrus Sarange	csarange@semprautilities.com
Herb Clark	herbclark@cox.net	Chuck Lahmeyer	clahmeyer@earthlink.net	Nan Savage	nansavage@sbcglobal.net
Bill Cook	oldyloco@aol.com	Jay Lawrence	solariscomm@earthlink.net	Sherry Schmidt	sierranv21@aol.com
Graham Cooper	coop@coopcoyote.com	Ron Lewis	lrgmrgaz@yahoo.com	Allan Schoenherr	aschoenherr@fullcoll.edu
Bruce Dart	brucedart@yahoo.com	Ron Lipari	rlipari@conejo.k12ca.us	Ken Sears	dsearer@earthlink.net
Robert J. Day	kd22@cox.net	Steve Marschke	samarschke@raytheon.com	Richard Shapel	lshapel@yahoo.com
Herb Deeks	h.deeks@sbcglobal.net	Marilyn Martin	mjmartin@dslex-treme.com	Glen Shaw	desert.wanderer@hotmail.com
Marten DeGroot	martendegroot@yahoo.com	Catherine Mayfield	rogcproductions@yahoo.com	Stan Sholik	ssholik@pacbell.net
Joe de Kehoe	dekehoej@hotmail.com	Dave McFarland	jd_mcfarland@att.net	Julian Singer	singer@ucla.ed
Robert DeWolf	bobs5@lafn.org	Joan McGovern-White	jmcgw@verizon.net	Mignon Slentz	mignonslentz@gmail.com
Robert Dodds	forthebirds_99@yahoo.com	Homer Meek	hmeek@social.rr.com	Ed Steiner	joansteiner@cox.net
Bill Dunlap	wdunlap@lausd.k12.ca.us	Dan Messersmith	dmess@ctaz.com	Anne Stoll	annestoll@verizon.net
Paul Ferry	pbferry@hotmail.com	Ronald Midlikoski	midlikoski@verizon.net	George Stoll	agstoll@csupomona.edu
Valerie Finstad	mojaveval@yahoo.com	Debbie Miller	dmiller@guideone.com	Gene Stoops	genebevs@msn.com
Leonard Friedman	l.friedman@att.net	Chuck Mitchell	cmitchellmbc@att.net	Donald Sweinhart	ecv1069@earthlink.net
Ann Fulton	jfult@aol.com	Robert M. Monsen	monsensgu@infowest.com	Richard Taylor	dickandmouse@aol.com
George Gilster	carol10040@msn.com	David Mott	compass_dave@webtv.net	Bob Thille	grthille@yahoo.com
David P. Given	daveg1_2000@yahoo.com	Emily Murphy	patandem@everizon.net	Gary Thomas	g.cranky@verizon.net
Pauline A. Goss	pgss@qnet.com	Jeanne Murrin	rockchaser@peoplepc.com	Tom Thompson	tom@tins.com
Bill Gossett	bandbgossett@verizon.net	Robert M. Myers	rmyersjeep@sbcglobal.net	Sue Trubovitz	catcher4x4@yahoo.com
Scott Hanenkrat	kratcrew@sbcglobal.net	Deborah Nakamoto	sky-horse@att.net	Loren Upton	patricia@outbackofbeyond.com
Sunny Hansen	sjhsn@verizon.net	Bill Neill	bgneill@earthlink.net	Don Vollmert	mvollmert@conejo.k12.ca.us
Jerry Harada	jkh357.sbcglobal.net	Stuart Nicol	stu.nicol@att.net	Cliff Walker	cjwalker@mindspring.com
Emmett Harder	echco@verizon.net	Carl Noah	ncnoah2@yahoo.com	Betty Wallin	wingit@ix.netcom.com
Terry Hardwicke	thardwicke@charter.net	Doug Nunn	rdn@gotmsk.com	James Watson	jwatson444@yahoo.com
Axel Heller	axel43@earthlink.net	Terry Ogden	togden@cox.net	Matt Westlake	ifollowtheson@hotmail.com
Brett Henrich	bhenrichj@gmail.com	Bob Oliver	mexntex2@yahoo.com	Allan Wicker	allan.wicker@verizon.net
Vicki Hill	vlanehill@verizon.net	John Page	jppage@roadrunner.com	Bob Wieting	bwieting@mac.com
Dean W. Hilleman	deanh707@msn.com	Mel Patterson	pattermr@cox.net	Gordon Wilcher	flashg@iwisp.com
John Hoopes	jnhooops@sbcglobal.net	Robert Peltzman	bopeltzman@aol.com	Willie Young	byoung39@verizon.com
Charles Hughes	mhach@juno.com	John Perko	jperko003@earthlink.net	Bob Younger	bobyounger@verizon.net

at dmess@ctaz.com

## Bullhead City Area

**January 30-31**  
**Leader: Bob Jacoby**

This two day trip will focus on the area north of Bullhead City, Arizona. On Day 1 we will be taking the picturesque trail to the historic Moss Mine. In addition we will traverse the Mossback Wash Trail which will provide great scenery in the Black Mountains as well potential views of wild burros and bighorn sheep. We also will be visiting the Silver City Ruins. On Day 2 we will be following the Thumb Butte Trail through the other side of the Black Mountains with a chance to view a lot of old mine

remains. We will also visit Fig Springs. We will likely be camping somewhere in the Black Mountains..

Details and times will be provided nearer the time of the trip. High clearance and four wheel drive are a must.

For more information contact [Jacoby.R@worldnet.att.net](mailto:Jacoby.R@worldnet.att.net), or (310) 490-6873.



## Cal-Nev Trip

(MOE)

**March 26-28, 2010**  
**Leaders: The Jaussauds**

Bob and Sue will lead and start this excursion by hosting a barbeque chicken dinner and camp at their

place on the Colorado River Friday March 26. (Directions to Jaussaud's will be sent to those who RSVP for the event.)

Saturday morning we will leave from the Needles, CA Denney's Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. (CA and AZ should be on the same time by then). Weather permitting we'll camp out in a pretty wash Saturday night and enjoy a traditional potluck dinner after happy hour. Sunday we will end the trip mid-afternoon just south of Searchlight. There will be easy highway access Saturday evening for those who can only be with us one day or in case we need to head for shelter due to weather.

During the trip we will noodle on back roads from Needles to Searchlight, experiencing lots of Route 66, railroad, military, mining, Indian, ranching and surveying history along with some beautiful country. As always, 4-wheel drive is

### Where am I?

Here are the location and winners for Nov. Location was: Red Mountain near Hwy. 395. Winners were: Allan Schoenherr, Malcolm Roode, James Proffitt, Gene Stoops, Bob Younger, Bob Thille, Leonard Friedman, Bob Wieting.

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".



mandatory with a working CB. There is one tail-dragger to go down on the Sunday trip. Come prepared to share a dish at the potluck on Saturday night and bringing along a little firewood would be helpful. Please send your RSVP to attend to Bob at: [joeso@lonepinetv.com](mailto:joeso@lonepinetv.com) and please copy Dan at: [dmess@ctaz.com](mailto:dmess@ctaz.com) and Dick at: [dickandmouse@aol.com](mailto:dickandmouse@aol.com)

## Skull Valley, Prescott and Kirkland

(MOE)

**June 12 & 13, 2010**  
**Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor**

Mostly paved overnight run to Kirkland and Skull Valley areas to investigate the historic and culinary offerings of the area with a overnight camp near or motel stay in the Prescott area. While in Prescott on Sunday, we'll take in some of the historic sites. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. for coffee and breakfast at The Crookery Restaurant at Flying J Truck Stop on Andy Devine in Kingman and depart for the Kirkland area at 8:00 a.m. If you intend to go on this trip, please RSVP via email to Dick at: [dickandmouse@aol.com](mailto:dickandmouse@aol.com) or Dan at: [dmess@ctaz.com](mailto:dmess@ctaz.com)

## Arizona Strip Northwest Side

(MOE)

**September 4-11, 2010**  
**Leaders: Messersmith/Taylor**

This is a return trip to the northwest side of the Arizona Strip, Base camp approximately 30 miles in from St. George and 4 miles west of the Wolf Hole area on BLM Route 1004. While we will not do any Grand Canyon overlooks on this trip, we will take in great scenery, views and great 4x4 trails while traversing the tops of Black Rock Mountain, Seegmiller Mountain, Wolf Hole Mountain and Hidden Rim. Also included may be runs through the canyons of Hidden, Hole-in-Wall, Jump, St. George and Tombstone. More details will follow, as we get closer to the trip. If you intend to go on this trip, please RSVP via email to Dan at: [dmess@ctaz.com](mailto:dmess@ctaz.com) or Dick at:

### Christmas Party December 13 1:00 p.m.

The Wickers have once again offered to host the Desert Explorers' annual Christmas party. Come and join the holiday festivities. We will, as always, have a fine time swapping gifts and dining - our Desert Explorers' cooks will whip up some marvelous culinary creations. Bring a potluck dish and a wrapped gift (\$15 limit) to exchange - labeled "for man", "for woman" or "for unisex/either".

## Directions to Wickers

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

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

From the I-210 westbound get off at Baseline and go west on Baseline to Indian Hill Blvd. Turn left (south), approach the northern-most gate at the entrance. Stop there, and at the keyboard punch 037. (There is a directory) That will ring Allan's phone, and he will answer and open the gate from his phone.

Once the gate opens, pass through it turning right immediately. Then follow the street until the first left opportunity. Turn left and again left at the next opportunity. Park in any available parking area - not along the curb. The 1430 on the side of the house should be visible from the street.

Walk up the driveway, and follow the sidewalk to the house entrance. Desperation calls for assistance (909) 445-0082.

## Some Good Folks to Know

### Mojave River Valley Museum

<http://www.mojaverivervalleymuseum.org>

Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the scientific, historical and cultural heritage of the Mojave Desert.

### Colorado River Historical Society and Museum

2201 Highway 68, Bullhead City, AZ

Located in historic 1940's Catholic Church

Exhibits: steamboats, early ranching, mining, Mojave Indians, Hardyville, gifts.

### Friends of the Eastern California Museum

Independence, CA

Check them out! Open weekends. Old farm machinery, bookstore, reference library, great old photos and Owens Valley memorabilia. Nice folks, too.

### Mohave Outback Explorations

2945 E. Leroy Ave. Kingman, AZ 86409,

[dmess@ctaz.com](mailto:dmess@ctaz.com)

Motto: "The world isn't too bad if you can just get out in it."

### Searles Valley Historical Society Museum

In Trona just off the main highway.

### Friends of the Mojave Road

37198 Lanfair Rd.G-15 Essex, CA 92332

(760) 733-4482 <http://www.mdhca.org/>

Historian Dennis Casebier writes desert guidebooks, leads trips, builds museums(!) and has other odd habits. Newsletter subscription is \$20.

### Shoshone Museum Association

118 Hwy. 127 P. O. Box 38 Shoshone, CA

<http://www.discoverbaja.com>

Great newsletter, spectacular insurance prices, weather and road reports, etc.

## DESERT EXPLORERS

Newsletter

Editor: Marilyn Martin

Asst. Editors: Marian & Neal  
Johns

dickandmouse@aol.com

### Next Meeting

1:00 p.m.

Christmas Party/Potluck

Sunday Dec. 13

At the Wickers'  
(909) 445-0082

### Desert Explorers Trip Schedule

Dec. 5 - 6	Swansea	MOE
Dec. 13	Xmas Party	DE
Jan. 22-24, 2010	Quartzsite	Johns
Jan. 30-31	Bullhead City	Jacoby
Mar 19-21	<b>Rondy</b>	DE
Mar. 26-28	Cal-Nev	MOE
June 12-13	Skull Valley	MOE
Sept. 4-11	Ariz. Strip	MOE

### 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 buy 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.

### M.O.E. Trip Schedule

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

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

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

February 13 & 14: An overnighter to Temple Bar.

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

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

May: A multi-day run across Arizona to trace and drive as much of the various tracks of Historic Route 66 we can find. Not just the ones you find in the tour guides. We have found, by accident, that there is more left out there than most folks know about or

can be found on the modern maps. We intend to do our best to find out just what is left. 4x4 will be required as we may encounter some really old pieces that require some "go around noodling."

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

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

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

### Visit Desert Explorers on the Web

See more pictures and in color!

<http://desertexplorers.org>

# • 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
Robert & Shirley Bolin	Distributors Emeritus	1066 Corsica Pl.	Costa Mesa	California	92626	714-549-4361	robertshirl@earthlink.net
Joe de Kehoe	Easy Writer	9213 McInnes Blvd.	Bakersfield	California	93311	661-665-1230	661-331-3377 jdekehoe@bak.rr.com
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	760-956-1776	daveg1_2000@yahoo.com
Bill Gossett	Wild Bill	433 Valley St.	Ridgecrest	California	93555	760-375-6169	bandbgossett@verizon.net
Jean Hansen	Sure Foot	P.O. Bx. 290729	Phelan	California	92329	760-868-5316	sjhsn@verizon.net
Sunny Hansen	Glyphologist	P.O. Bx. 290729	Phelan	California	92329	760-868-5316	760-217-7555 sjhsn@verizon.net
Emmett Harder	Scotty	18201 Muriel Ave.	San Bernardino	California	92407	909-887-3436	909-260-7189 echco@verizon.net
Vicki Hill	Glyphartist, Co-chairperson	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	mhs2juno.com
Bob Jacoby	Treasurer	2245 Wellesley Ave.	Los Angeles	California	90064	310-490-6873	jacoby.r@worldnet.att.net
Bob Jaussaud	Sue's Husband & Chairman Viejo	P. O. Box 789	Lone Pine	California	93545-0789	818-585-6468	joeso@lonepinetv.com
Sue Jaussaud	Toby Feeder & Chairchick Vieja	P. O. Box 789	Lone Pine	California	93545-0789	760-876-9227	joeso@lonepinetv.com
Marian Johns	Co-Chairperson & Neal Keeper	406 Lytle Creek Road	Lytle Creek	California	92358	909-887-1549	aridneal@gmail.com
Neal Johns	Chm. Emeritus, Aridologist, Asst. Ed.	406 Lytle Creek Road	Lytle Creek	California	92358	909-887-1549	aridneal@gmail.com
Jay Lawrence	Quicksand Guy, Editor Emeritus	530 Ohio Ave.	Long Beach	California	90814	562-439-5323	solariscomm@earthlink.net
Marilyn Martin	Subscriptions & Newsletter Editor	P.O. Box 291759	Phelan	California	92329-1759	760-868-6606	760-641-1483 mjmartin@dslextre.com
Debbie Miller Marschke	Webchick/Roadrunner	4904 Reynolds Rd.	Torrance	California	90505	310-543-1862	dmiller@guideone.com
Steve Marschke	The Quiet Man	4904 Reynolds Rd.	Torrance	California	90505	310-543-1862	951-316-6545 samarschke@raytheon.com
Joan McGovern-White	Newsletter Distributor	33624A Winston Way	Temecula	California	92592	951-303-3021	jmcgw@verizon.net
Dan Messersmith	M.O.E. Chief & Jeep Sleeper	2945 E, Leroy Avenue	Kingman	Arizona	86409	928-757-8953	928-715-0579 dmess@ctaz.com
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 jppage@roadrunner.com
Bob Peltzman	Lost Again	32014 Grenville 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 anamarie418@yahoo.com
Malcolm Roode	Trip Coordinator	7014 Mountain	Highland	California	92346	909-864-3525	malroode@gmail.com
Nan Savage	Xterra Terror & Sat Chick	12354 Sarah St.	Studio City	California	91604	818-766-0401	nansavage@sbcglobal.net
Allan Schoenherr	The Good Allan	414 Bluebird Canyon Dr.	Laguna Beach	California	92651	949-494-0675	aschoenherr@fullcoll.edu
Ken Sears	Money Man Emeritus	P.O. Box 4689	Cerritos	California	90703	562-404-1772	562-650-0461 dsearer@earthlink.net
Anne Stoll	Canologist	143 Monterrey Drive	Claremont	California	91711	909-621-7521	909-730-0137 annestoll@srircm.com
George Stoll	Lens Cleaner	143 Monterrey Drive	Claremont	California	91711	909-621-7521	agstoll@csupomona.edu
Donald Swinhart	Mr. Nice	P.O. Box 23061	Santa Ana	California	92711	3061	ecv1069@earthlink.net
Gary Thomas	Cranky	1039 W. Seventh	Upland	California	91786	909-981-5487	g.cranky@verizon.net
Betty Wallin	Blender Queen	P. O. Box 1214	Desert Hot Springs	California	92240	760-329-2403	wingit@ix.netcom.com

Museum Membership Application - *Send a separate envelope to and a check made out to:*

**Mojave River Valley Museum Association, Inc.**

PO Box 1282, Barstow, CA 92312-1282 • Phone: (760) 256-5452

Family - Annual -----\$25.00  
*Entitles family to all privileges of membership (One vote per Annual Membership) including Museum Newsletter, ten per cent discount on publications sold by the Museum, participation in Association activities.*

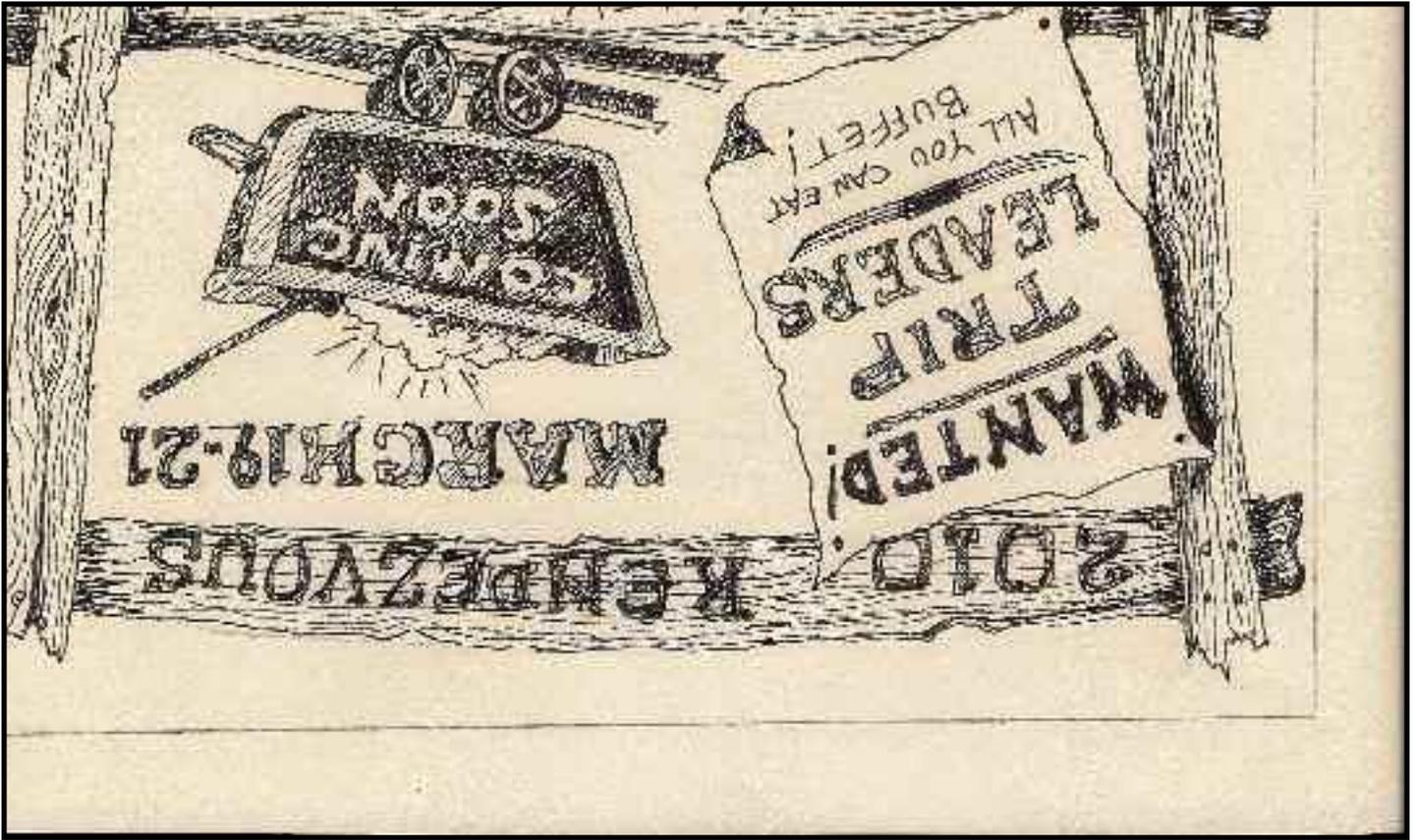
Individual - Annual -----\$20.00

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

## 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 a check for **\$20.00 made out to: Mojave River Valley Museum** 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 \_\_\_\_\_



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

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

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

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