



The Rig Runner Gazette

Newsletter of the Hi-Desert Rig Runners, a WIT Chapter
Website: <http://www.hi-desertrigrunners.com>



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Fun Below Sea Level Death Valley February 14 - 17

Our February outing took us far from home to Death Valley where we dry camped at Furnace Creek Campground. Our group was mighty with

four coaches of chapter members (Sansones, Gorges, Kojders and Mortons),



prospective members Lorraine and Larry Tesler, Immediate Past CalWit Presidents Sandy and Art Schipper and WIT 365 members Noreen and Horace Searcie from Tennessee, Uwarda and Bob Smellie from Utah, and Diane and Jerry Johnston from Idaho.

By mid-afternoon on Monday everyone had arrived and set up. We sat around and caught



up and had tours of the Morton's brand new Meridian until leaving for the Furnace Creek Ranch where we had dinner. The service was speedy, the food good as well as abundant and the company wonderful. We returned to camp and had our first campfire - prepared of course by Horace. We were entertained around the fire by Al and his uke.



Bright and early Tuesday morning we caravanned first through 20-Mule Team Canyon, a 2.7-mile road that winds through

otherworldly badlands. From there we headed to Dante's View for a breathtaking view of the valley floor some 5000-feet below. After lunch back at camp we headed to



the Furnace Creek Inn where we were had a great tour by Alex, the manager. Rooms at the Inn rent for about \$350 a night while we're only paying

\$9 for our campsites just down the road! After the tour we were on our own with some of us heading to Artist's Drive, a scenic loop drive through multi-hued volcanic and sedimentary hills, and others to Badwater



and Devil's Golf Course. Dinner Tuesday night was walking tacos provided by the wagonmasters.



It was fun hearing comments from walking taco first timers! Another great fire tonight handled by Horace. One laugh for everyone but Judi - the grackle that chose her hand as its target!



Wednesday morning found us out early for a visit to Scotty's Castle, an elaborate Spanish-

style mansion built in the 1920's by Albert Johnson as a vacation home. Following our tour, some of us stayed for the Underground Tour of the Castle while others headed out for Ubehebe Crater, a 600-foot deep crater that formed more than 300 years ago when the desert silence

was shattered by a massive explosion caused by the violent release of underground steam pressure. The wind was so strong here at the top of the crater it seemed like we would be blown away!



From there we went to Salt Creek, a stream of salty water that is home to a rare pupfish. It was fun watching these tiny fish swimming around in the



desert. A quick stop at the Harmony Borax Works and it was time to head back to camp to prepare for dinner.

Our last evening together we enjoyed a BBQ potluck. As always, the food was delicious and the company incredible. The only thing missing was another campfire - high winds prevented that. It seems such a shame to have to say goodbye to everyone but as we've said before all good things must come to an end. We left Death Valley with many wonderful memories and great new friends who we hope to see down the road sometime.



Minutes of the February Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 P.M. by President Augie Sansone. The following members were present: Augie and Judi Sansone, Al and Tryna Morton, Bob and Paula Gorges and Frank and Deanna Kojder. The following guests were present: Art and Sandy Schipper(Chardonnay Travelers, Larry and Lorraine Tesler, prospective members (Riverside), Horace and Noreen Searcie(365 club/Tennessee), Bob and Uwarda Smellie (365 club/Utah) and Jerry and Diane Johnston (365 Club/Idaho).

After the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions a motion was made and passed to accept the minutes of the January meeting as published in the Gazette.

Treasurers Report: Paula presented the report which was then filed for audit.

Sunshine Report: Clare has had her surgery and is up on her feet and doing therapy.

Correspondence: A thank you note was received from Child Help thanking the club for the holiday gifts that were given to the children.

Old Business: None

New Business: A motion was made and passed to send \$25 to support the youth program at GNR for 2011. The treasurer will send.

The idea of establishing a fee for guest meals was addressed. The discussion was tabled until next month.

Deanna & Frank Kojder who with the Justs were to be wagonmasters of the May 2011 meeting, announced that they will not be able to handle the May meeting as they will be in Tennessee for their grandson's graduation.

Paula Gorges requested that all who are attending the March 2011 meeting in Borrego Springs give her the size of their motor home for the resort.

Tryna layed out the agenda for tomorrow and asked for any info for the newsletter be sent to her ASAP.

Art Schipper mentioned the SWRR in Pahrump in March and the April State meeting in French Camp.

Submitted by Deanna Kojder, Acting Secretary



2011 Outing Schedule

March 17-20	Borrego Springs WM: Gilbertson & Gorges
March 31-April 3:	SWRR, Pahrump, NV
April 28-May1	State Meeting French Camp, CA
May 19-22	Place TBA WM: Just
June-September	Dark
July 17-22	GNR, Forest City, Iowa
Sept 28-Oct 2	State: Bakersfield
Nov 17-20	Lone Wolf Colony WM: Brockway, Morrison, Peterson
Dec 5 - 8 (Mon - Thurs)	Banning KOA WM: Executive Board



Welcome Back

The Hi-Desert Rig Runners and WIT would like to welcome Carl Nelson back as our newest Honorary Member. Carl was a member of our chapter for many years who held numerous offices and added much to our group. He felt it necessary a few years ago to give up the RV life and we have missed him immensely. Welcome back Carl!



Note from the President

WOW what a week we had at Death Valley!

I would like to thank Deanna for filling in for Orin taking minutes at the meeting, Judi and I would like to thank our co-wagon masters Al and Tryna for all the work and time spent on preparing and setting up for the outing - it made the difference from it being an OK outing to an outstanding outing. Also to Paula for the treasures report off the top of her head - I called the meeting early, she could not get back to her coach for the report so she did it from memory! I would never be able to do that. The only thing that would have made this outing better is if the rest of our group was there. We really missed everyone that couldn't make it to Death Valley.

It was the first time since I joined the chapter where we had so many WIT members from other chapters from all over the country join us on an outing, I found this to be a learning experience and got a lot of information how others plan and structure their outings, meetings, and other good info.

Can't wait to see every one at our next outing. And at that time, you can meet Lorraine and Larry Tesler, our prospective new members. Last but certainly not least, Clare glad to hear your recovery is coming along and that you're up and moving again.

"HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU 'TIL WE MEET AGAIN"



Recipe Corner

Chile Relleno Souffle
Lorraine Brockway

2-7 oz cans diced chiles
1 lb grated cheddar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb grated jack cheese
13 oz can evaporated milk
2 tbs flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
4 eggs

Spread layer of chiles on bottom of greased 9 X 13 pan
Sprinkle cheese on top
Continue alternating chiles and cheese ending with cheese on top
Mix flour with milk very slowly.
Add salt and eggs to flour and milk.
Pour over cheese.
Bake 350 for 35 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean in center.



Wildlife Sightings

Coyote
Roadrunner
Raven
Lizards
Pupfish
Ring neck doves
Grackles (you remember those Judi)



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