

HOLIDAY RAMBLER RV CLUB
CHAPTER 309
VALLEY OF THE SUN
NOVEMBER, 2009

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CAMPOUT SCHEDULE 2009/2010

2009:

December 8-11	Camp Verde (Christmas Party) Distant Drums RV Park	Chapter Officers
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2010:

January 18-21	Quartzsite	Lenthall/Laursen Wyman
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February 2-5	Western Sunshine Rally Tucson/ Pima County Fairgrounds	Reg. VII/VII Directors
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March	TBA	
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April	TBA	Page/Lake Powell	Firlein/Roberts
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Oct. 25-29	AZ State Rally, Mesa, AZ Valle Del Oro RV Park	State Mgr. Carlson
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PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU NOTIFY THE WAGONMASTERS FOR CAMPOUTS YOU PLAN TO ATTEND. THEY HAVE TO RESERVE CAMPSITES WHETHER THEY ARE IN A RV PARK OR DRY CAMPING IN A PUBLIC PARK

LEE BORDEN sent this article about their campout at Dead Horse State Park the first part of October. It sounds as though there was a great deal to see and do there.

Hopefully a good time was had by all at our Dead Horse Ranch State Park Camp-out! There were 8 couples from the 309 and 3 SOBs!

Chapter 309 Members were the Zeeks, Westerhausens, Kollocks, Jarrells, James, Fosters, Melone/Borden, and the Burbridges.

Unfortunately, our co-hosts (LeVeques and Scheweppes) both canceled out as their RVs were in the shop! So Ed and I went "solo"!!

Welcome dinner was prepared by us (Ed Melone and Lee Borden). It was true Italian fare highlighted by Ed's own sauce cooked over several days. Pasta was accompanied by salad, Italian bread sticks, fresh bread, and for dessert we had fresh grape clusters with biscotti and Italian chocolates.

Wednesday, after early morning breakfast in the camp ground, a small group walked Cottonwood's River Walk, The Jail Trail. Others visited Clemenceau Museum to see the fabulous Verde Valley railroad diorama. Many chose to relax and enjoy the peace and quiet. Tuesday evening, we all went into Old Cottonwood to The Tavern Grille for dinner. Evenings were so brisk; we forfeited fires the first two evenings.

Thursday morning, we served another breakfast. Later that morning, 8 of us headed to the vineyards in Cornville. Our destination was the Javelina Leap Vineyard and Winery. Sipped some new wines, then we had a glorious picnic in the fields adjacent to the vineyard. Others explored the wonderful antique shops in Old Cottonwood and went to Tuzigoot. Pot-luck dinner took place Thursday night. We had farewell coffee and scones Friday morning. Weather over all was gorgeous. Cool mornings and evenings - warm middays. Good times - good people! Safe travels and see you in Benson.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS: Lee is happy to report that Chapter 309 collected \$30.00 at the October campout at Dead Horse Ranch campout for the HRRVC Scholarship fund, and the money has already been sent to National headquarters.

IN REGARD TO SOBs at our events, Region VII Director RAY NICHOLS explains the present-day procedures as follows:

You can invite a non HR friend to go on a Caravan or Adventure. Specifically, these are the trips to Alaska, Puerto Penasco, Calgary Stampede and those that are registration controlled by HR office. It does NOT include any rally event nor does it mean that campouts are open at this time. Future, we'll see but no promises and nothing on the radar screen right now.

This information should answer any questions we might have about this subject. I'm sure we will be notified if there are changes in the future.

AZ. STATE RALLY, NOVEMBER 2-6: If you missed this rally, you missed a really good time. State Managers Russ and Betty Carlson with help from Mike and Mairiene Miranda, as well as from many other volunteers put on a great rally. Beginning on October 29, attendees began to arrive at Cochise Terrace RV Park in Benson, and by November 1st, the official arrival day, sixty-two RVs were parked and ready for the Official Opening Ceremony. The rally was declared open at 8:30 the morning of Nov.2nd, and shortly after that sixteen first timers attended a meeting conducted by Region VII Director Nichols. It was good to see new people at the rally.

Later, we listened to a lecture given by Gary Dillard, a native of Cochise County, AZ, where Benson is located. Mr. Dillard is a journalist and history buff, especially of Cochise County, which is named for an Indian chief. From his lecture, we learned that this is a diverse county with a pre-history that began 11,000 years ago when the Clovis Man hunted mammoths and other ancient animals. It is felt that the early Cochise Man descended from these early inhabitants.

The attractions in Southeastern Arizona consisting of historic towns, national monuments, museums, army forts both early and present, bird sanctuaries, and so forth, are too many to list here, but you are encouraged to explore them yourselves.

This same morning, Larry Laursen moderated a round table discussion among owners about maintenance or problems that they had arise.

Continuing on this first day—a very busy day for all—Director Nichols held a question and answer period regarding the status of HRRVC. Subjects included the whys and wherefores of the increase in national dues, Monaco's status in production of new models, warranties on previously purchased models, and their monetary support of HRRVC. The system for reimbursing volunteers was explained also. These subjects, and others, will be discussed further at the Western Sunshine Rally in February at the Pima County Fairgrounds.

Later in the day, Chapter 309 met for a business meeting. Minutes of this meeting will appear in the December newsletter.

After a baked potato dinner served by the RV park, we were entertained by the Southwest Volksband, of which our own, very busy Ray Nichols was a part. Songs from different countries were played and sung, as were popular songs from earlier eras and patriotic songs, most in which the audience participated. Yours truly was serenaded, too, with "Happy Birthday" for which I am most appreciative. The very busy day was concluded with a rousing version "God Bless America."

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Tuesday, Nov. third, started the day with morning hospitality by Chapter 71, as it did each day. After that a carpool was formed to go to the Desert Mountain Alpaca Ranch in Hereford, AZ., which was both interesting and informational.

In the afternoon, State Manager Russ and Mary Alice Carlson introduced us to the first of three "It" games. Participants formed two lines facing each other and tossed water balloons back and forth with the person across from them. With each toss, the people in the designated line had to take one step backward. If the balloon was not caught, but fell and popped instead, that pair was eliminated. Needless to say, there was a great deal of frivolity and laughter with winners, Gale Casteel and Don Lange, receiving a bottle of wine each.

A dinner of hot dogs and beans was served by Chapter 309, followed by birthday cake to celebrate our own Steve James's birthday, we had a rousing game of card bingo.

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Wednesday we had a free day: Some of us took in sight seeing, visited historic sites and towns, did laundry, or just plain loafed. Eight persons played a round of golf, but no scores were kept, hence no winners.

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Thursday, the fifth, we had a bazaar, with jewelry, books, doggy coats, and all sorts of items set up on tables. There even was a table for signing up for the Western Sunshine Rally in February and the Puerto Penasco, Mexico Getaway in March manned by Erwin Peake, and Ray Nichols, past and present Region VII directors.

In the early afternoon, we had Root Beer floats served by the Arizona State Officers, followed by "It-#2" involving competing teams of six tossing softballs into buckets of differing point values. Again the winning team members took home a bottle of wine. After that your hard-working, ever-faithful #309 chapter officers decided to forego happy hour to plan for the Christmas party at Camp Verde December 8-11.

Dinner that evening was very good spaghetti, salad, and garlic bread followed by ice cream with chocolate sauce prepared by the Cochise Terrace staff. Following that magician Rod and wife Kim Hawley gave us a delightfully entertaining magic show.

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Friday morning the Cactus Wrens, Chapter 407 Yuma, served a good breakfast of pancakes, sausages and Juice. They did a nice job and the food was very good, according to the foodie that lives at our house.

After announcements the council meeting was held, and later the final game of "It" was played. We had to identify a celebrity by looking at drawings on a sheet of paper: Think of a well, a boy and an oar, or a wiener, the letter "n", and a container of beer. In these two examples, the first celebrity was Orson Welles, and the second was Frankenstein.

There were craft sessions almost every day. Participants came away with decorated hurricane lamps, jewelry containers that looked like roses, and lovely jewelry (pendants) made with silver and dichroic (sp?) glass.

Closing Ceremony followed Happy Hour, during which State Manager Russ Carlson introduced the new Assistant State Manager---our very own Tiffany James. Congratulations, Tiffany; we look forward to having you in your new office

Later a tasty ham and turkey dinner was served by the RV Park and enjoyed by everyone. Dinner was followed by a duo named the Green Velvet, who with their songs and patter had their audience up and dancing. There were quite a few who did line dancing, in addition to those who danced both to slow songs and to fast songs. Those of us who didn't get up to dance enjoyed watching those who did.

It was a great finale to a really great rally. We were all saying goodbye to one another when the evening was over, and on Saturday morning the rumble of diesel engines preceded the parade of RVs leaving the park. Cochise Terrace RV Park knocked themselves out making sure we had a good time, as did the rally planners and the volunteers who helped in so many ways.

NEW MEMBERS: New members Dewey and Paulette David and Tom and Barbara Feit were introduced. The Davids joined us at the State Rally. The Feits are already in the current roster, but please add the following to it:

Summer: Dewey and Paulette David #10585
P.O. Box 1102
Goldendale, WA 98620
Phone: 509-773-5896

Winter: PO Box 30
Salome, AZ 85348

Cell: 503-701-9966 and 503-962-0633
e-mail: dpdavid2@aol.com

Welcome to Chapter #309. We are so pleased you joined us.

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that I must inform you of Joan Tisot's very sudden death the Fourth of November. Joan and her husband John were long time, and very active, members of Chapter 309. Their service to the chapter included the presidency, as well as their willingness to help in any way they could. Health issues for both Joan and John prompted their reluctant withdrawal from the chapter two years ago and they truly were missed. Joan will be remembered, too, for the beautiful cross stitch and needlework art she created. She is to be cremated with a memorial planned for a later date.

JUDY PARKER had a mild heart attack on Sunday, Nov. 1, and required two stents put into her heart. She will, however, be able to travel to Arizona the week on November 9. It is a relief to know that her recovery has gone so well.

LIFESPAN OF RV APPLIANCES (excerpted from Escapees magazine, November/December 2008... "RV refrigerators, if operated conscientiously, can last 10 to 12 years without problems. [editor's note: that is, if there hasn't been a recall-V.Phipps] Most refrigerators die from clogged cooling systems or from corrosion eating holes in the cooling system. While there's not a lot you can do to prevent the corrosion from happening, you make a huge difference in the life span of your refrigerator by never operating it significantly off level. Even for a half hour. When a refrigerator is allowed to run when it is way off level, the bottom of the boiler can be left dry and the heat from the flame will cause crystals and scale to form. These deposits can break loose and float around in the cooling system, eventually clogging it. When that happens, it's a goner!

Water Pumps should last 10 to 15 years, no sweat, and you can buy a pump head rebuild kit for them if they wear out. Converters usually last the life of the rig barring electrical surges or other external problems. Both furnaces and water heaters should last 6 to 10 years. You can extend the life of your water heater by flushing it out annually and replacing the anode rod (if so equipped) when it becomes significantly eroded. In some cases, you may have to replace a circuit board if one fails, but the basic appliance should remain serviceable at least that long." [editor's note: this information may not apply to some models, but it is still good to have for others. vrp]

LEE BORDEN submitted the closure for this month. Thanks, Lee. It's a good one.

-WOMEN

> WHO KNOW

> THEIR PLACE

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> Barbara Walters, of 20/20, did a story on gender roles in Kabul, Afghanistan, several years before the Afghan conflict. She noted that women customarily walked > five paces behind their husbands.

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> She recently returned to Kabul and observed that women still walk behind their husbands.

> Despite the overthrow of the oppressive Taliban regime, the women now seem to, and are happy to maintain the old custom.. Ms.Walters approached one of the Afghani women and

- > asked, 'Why do you now seem happy with an old custom that you once tried so
 - > desperately to change?'
 - >
 - > The woman looked Ms. Walters straight in the eyes, and without hesitation said, 'Land Mines.'

 - > Moral of the story is:
 - > BEHIND EVERY MAN, THERE'S A SMART WOMAN
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I know this is a very long, and perhaps tedious, newsletter, but there were just so many things to tell you about. May you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, and we are looking forward to seeing you at the Christmas party in December at Distant Drums. That is always a great rally. After that it is New Year's Eve. WOO HOO!

Best to all, Virginia

LATE NEWS: RAY AND GIDGET ZEEK had a tire blow out on their way home to Prescott just as they entered Black Canyon. They were lucky in that there were no injuries to them, nor was their motorhome damaged. They certainly had an angel looking over them. VRP