



The Boondocker Chatter

Senator Wash's Newsletter

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Thanks for a Great Winter (Anonymous)

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Dates to Remember

- April 15—last day

As our desert winter comes to a close, it is time to say thanks:

To our CSC, Christian Service Center, for serving us all

To our Boondocker Chatter editor SchoolTeacher Sue & all her helpers

To all our Emergency Response Team members who monitor CH 12 all day & night, who are willing to jump at a mo-

ment's notice to get help to someone

To our liberry caretaker, Angel Joyce & all her liberrians for their dedicated work in our community liberry.

To Linda who bags up all the recycled plastic bottles & aluminum cans.

To our liberry committee who totes our recyclables to a recycling center. And

the root beer floats they serve once a month after a music in the gravel pit jam session

To all our musicians who keep us entertained on Sunday afternoons at the ramada

To all the Christmas Light Parade participants

To our boondocking family, hope to see you this fall

THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE WANTS YOU!

Become a Campground Host in the Beautiful, Cool, Sierra Nevadas!

- Up to \$40 per day per diem, avg. 4 hours a day, 5 days a week
- Beautiful Campsites for Hosts, some with full-hookups.
- May 1st to November 31st. *Varies by campground and weather, many have shorter seasons.

Stay Cool, Stay for Free and Make a few bucks while making a difference in one of YOUR National Forests.

If you think you're right for one of the hosting positions, please send an email outlining your qualifications and any requirements you may have to: hosts@rvhobo.net.

Join your team, become a host with the U.S. Forest Service, and get paid!

Again, applicants please write hosts@rvhobo.net. We WILL get back to you.

*Note: that campsites, hours, per diem and days worked vary by campground.

**The RVHobo Network will be forwarding all applications to the various U.S. National Forests that we know are looking for Hosts. The decision as to which Hosts get selected is at the sole discretion of the U.S. Forest Service.

The RVHobo Network is on your side.

WHEN IT'S AN EMERGENCY(Lyn/Desert Rain)

When the worst happens. When your loved one needs help and you need to act fast, will you know what to do? It's easy to say, "Have a plan, Think ahead, Take control." These are certainly good ideas, but what does it all mean? Here are some tips to keep you centered and moving in the right direction when disaster strikes to throw you off balance.

Know what medicines your loved one takes and know where to locate them. As we get older, it's a good idea for partners to take their meds and vitamins when they're together, at the same time of the day,

during a meal, as an example. There's a better chance of not forgetting. Remember to monitor for special conditions such as blood sugar and blood pressure and know how to use the equipment. Remind your loved one of the importance of working together. Don't hesitate to say, "I need to learn this. It might save your life one day." Don't take the attitude that this is their medical stuff, and there's no need for you to get involved.

As trained emergency responders, we see spouses that don't have a clue about what conditions and meds their loved ones are dealing

with. Don't be clueless, be ready to help.

Here in the desert it's essential to know the signs of dehydration and monitor our partners. Watch how much fluid your spouse is taking in and be ready with a cool drink and electrolyte. One of the first signs of dehydration is feeling anxious or agitated, not having fun anymore, and not sure why. Could you detect this in your loved one?

Diet is one of the most powerful tools we have to take control of our own health. Feed your partner healthy foods. Base your diet around real foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, whole

grains, lean meats and low fat dairy products.

Be pro-active in your own and your partner's medical care. If your partner is reluctant to make that doctor or dental appointment, take charge, make it happen, don't give up, be strong.

If you believe, as I do, that everything happens for a reason, and your loved one has a medical crisis in your presence, the reason you're present is to help. Life is so precious. If you're lucky enough to have your partner by your side, thank God, and enjoy the days you have left.

Take care of each other, have a great summer and I'll see you next sea-

Take a Vet to Lunch (Big Guy and Happy Cooker)

First I would like to say that previous pot-lucks were not well attended and extra work for me and I was not going to do it again. Then, this year so many people asked me and offered to help so I agreed to try one more time.

Wow. When we arrived at 11:am the tables had already been delivered and were set up. Karen did the serving tables. Somebody has connected

with my brain and pushed the delete key so I do not know all the names of the volunteers. Judy and Lynn were busy putting on the table clothes. School Teacher had prepared the flyers that were posted. I don't remember who delivered the tables but he may belong to Angel. He also returned them to the Liberry in his shiny truck. Angel provided the table covers. My

friend Ray gave the prayer and Merle provided the chili. Rebecca supplied the Desert Pickers. They were GREAT. Nancy provided and set up the mic. Several Sunday guitar pickers were present as well as several Veterans and non veterans to say Thank You. I was told there were 60 people attending. All I had to do was eat too much good food and run my mouth at the

mic. I'm pretty good at that. I hope I didn't miss anyone. Oh yes, Roland handed out the custom dog tags.

Thank all of you so very much for all your help. Next year lets try for 100.

Angels Angles (Joyce—Angel)

Angels Angles April. It sure seems as if our seasons pass by so quickly! As you're traveling around this summer, please keep a lookout for paperback books you might bring as donations this fall. Remember

we don't accept hardbacks, unless they're large print. Also we don't accept religious nor travel books or brochures or magazines. Our shelves were very sparse on westerns, mysteries and inspirational ro-

mance at the end of the season, it seems that more books went out than came in, so we welcome those as well as our other genres. As you travel down life's highway, May your day be filled

with blessings like the sun that lights the sky & may you always have the courage to spread your wings and fly.

The Final Season for 2 LTVAers

Tom Crittenden AKA Bayou Peddler, was born on Nov 2nd, 1944. He is survived by his wife Diane AKA Mulkeskinner, granddaughter Leila (9) & grandson Zack (5), son in law Emil, & a sister. Tom started our computer center @ the Christian Service Center, Tom taught 1st aid, CPR, & AED training to many desert friends, Tom was also a ham radio operator & involved each year in the Yuma hamfest as well as teaching & helping others get their ham radio licenses, Tom was a faithful choir member & involved with our Christian Service Center church.

Tom/Bayou Peddler, was such a gift to our desert community near Yuma. We may have a remembrance time tonight after our roll

call on the CB radio. Tom will live on in our computer center, on our Emergency Response Team, in our Christian Service Center choir/church, ham radio operator, so many activities.. A special memory is Tom thanking everyone @ our church, the Christian Service Center, after Suzanne died, what faith, what courage, what calmness. Goodbye KF7TBC, we are all better people because we knew you, thank you.

From Mayflower: Just to inform you too that Motor Cycle Bob (Robert Thomas) went home to the Lord last Dec. 27, 2015 due to a fall. We had a Church Me-

morial Service for him last Feb. 20th, supposedly his 92nd birthday. His Military Service will be on the first week of May, no definite date yet. To God be the Glory, he is no longer in pain and no more suffering! Some day we shall meet him again when our time comes! That's our blessed hope! Tita Thomas (Mayflower)

The Key to Longevity Is Kindness, World's Oldest Person Said...By Hey Jude

The Key to Longevity Is Kindness,
World's Oldest Person Said...

By Hey Jude

One of the world's longest living people said the secret to her long life was kindness: "Treat people right, the way you want them to treat you." (Gertrude Weaver from Arkansas, passed away last year at the age of 116)

Now, the world's oldest living person is Michigan woman Jeralean Talley (age 115), and she says to "stay active and live by the Golden Rule"

A common thread running through the lives of these two ladies, wouldn't you say?

Now let's hear from some of the folks who have been coming to Senator Wash for many years. This article is not so much about the age of these folks but is more about the length of time they have been coming to the desert.



An obvious place to start was the Contact Station

as I heard that the couple who volunteer there on Monday and Tuesday had been coming to the "Wash" for over 25 years. Sure enough, I met with Norma & Art, who started coming here in 1990.

Back then however, they were Norma and Hu (yes, that is the correct spelling) & Dorothy and Art (CB handles Granny & Papa Who and Susie Q & Roadrunner). Although the four of them never met back then, they have since found

out they were on many group "Desert Jaunts" together.

Art lost his dear Dorothy in 2000 and Norma lost Hu in 2006. Art started coming here alone (from Yakima, WA) and Norma ((from Morgantown, WV) started coming with her daughter, Becky, (CB handle Barefoot Girl) in 2009. Norma began to volunteer at the Contact Station that year and ended up working as a team, with Art. They started dating and were married in 2010. He will be 90 this year and she is 80 and they attribute their longevity to eating healthy, walking, staying actively involved in volunteer work and overall, just loving people in general. They now reside in Yuma and can't wait to make the trek out to the desert two days a week to be with their "extended family", which is all of us.

Moving on to Don (CB handle Taurus), who has



been at the "Wash" for 35 years, he is a wealth of information and knows practically everybody. When he started coming here in 1982, from Dayton, Ohio, there was no water, no dump station, no buildings of any kind except for a little wooden outhouse (which has since burned down). The LTVA (long term visitor area) fee at that time was \$25 for 7 months.

He has been a lone, full-timer all those years, spending the winter season here and the summers hosting at White Spar Campground in Prescott National Forest. This is a volunteer position in exchange for free rent and use of facilities. He

oversees 60 campsites and logs in about 2000 visitors per season. He used to volunteer here at the contact station for a few years so had good references to work at the park in Prescott.

He has kept busy over the years helping other RV'ers repair things, especially the more elderly ones. "Now that I'm 83, some of the younger ones help me, so it all comes out in the wash" (no pun intended)

He asked me if I knew where Herman's Horse Path was, to which I replied, "that's where we are located so I know it well". His response was "well Herman was a friend of mine and was parked way over at the west side of the path and every morning, Herman would walk his old, lame horse and his dog over to the reservoir known as Senator Wash, to let his horse get a drink of water (the wash, at that time, was half way up the banks of the reservoir).

When asked what he attributes his longevity to, he simply says "the outdoor life" (off grid living as he refers to it), hiking, walking, outdoor cooking in his solar oven and more recently, running around in his quad. His passion though is radio controlled "toys" which include planes, drones, helicopters tanks & boats and boy, does he



have a collection! this desert area for many more years.

Bob & Doris (CB handles Mr. & Mrs. Clean) have been coming to

The Key to Longevity Is Kindness, World's Oldest Person Said...By Hey Jude—continued

the “Wash” for 25 years. When they lived in Sacramento, they heard about this desert stuff from neighbors. Now they reside in Twin Falls, Idaho. They were up on the Mesa for several years (since 1990) but moved to Ocotillo Flats (near the Oasis Solar Center) when the lagoon was under construction. When I asked why the CB handles, Bob said he was a trucker and when he was at the loading docks (waitin’ for the loads), the guys would all be standing around doing nothing and he would be cleaning and sweeping and would tell the guys they should do the same, thus he was dubbed Mr. Clean and if you could see how spotless their RV is, you would know why Doris is Mrs. Clean. There are too many memories of their time in the desert for this article, but one funny one was the afternoon they were having happy hour at their place and the burros were hangin’ out close by. The next thing they know, one of the burros is resting its head on the shoulder of one of the guests (wish someone had a camera to capture that memory).

They’ve had their marriage vows renewed twice in the 68 years they have been married (yes, you heard me right, 68 years!)

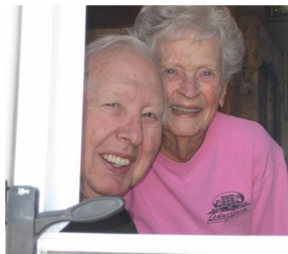
Wow, can you believe that! I asked Doris if she had been a child bride to which she re-

sponded that she had been 18 and Bob was 20 when they tied the knot. I asked them what the secret of their successful marriage was and they said, “they put up with each other” and also, “our 3 kids and 6 grandkids would kill us if we ever parted”. Kidding aside, they too have always lived by the Golden Rule and keeping fit and healthy.

Before they were married, they were only apart a couple of years, 1944 & 1945, when Bob was just shy of 18 yrs. Old when he served aboard the USS St. Paul during the WW2.

At ages 88 & 86, they hope to continue coming here for some time yet, but they will see how things go.

Mary & Ken (CB handles Hush



Puppy & Red Dog) have been coming to the “Wash” since 2001 and have always stayed on Quail Hill. They reside in Northern California (Red Bluff) about 150 miles S. of the Oregon border. She was a medical records transcriber for almost 30 years, and he was a certified picture framer.

Ken was called to serve for a couple of years in the 1957 Beirut crisis and unloaded ships at sea (where there were no docks). They would load sup-

plies & equipment onto “ducks”. He was then sent home and spent awhile in the reserve. In 1962 he was called again to serve in the army in the Berlin Crisis but ended up not having to go, as it was settled.

When I ended my little visit with these two wonderful people, Mary admitted to me that she was 93 and my jaw dropped. This lovely lady looks nowhere near her age (neither of them do) and once again asked my favorite question, which is “what is the secret to your longevity”, and like most folks I’ve talked to, it is to live by the good old Golden Rule, staying fit and staying active. They too have many memories to share about their time here at the “wash”, but Mary was sick and I did not want to keep her/them talking too long (she has since come down with pneumonia and Ken is catching it) so let’s all think of them in our prayers for wellness.

Getting to know LTVAers

OLD TIMERS

From Pistol Pete & Kookiuke:
Where are you from? We are from Buffalo Point Manitoba Canada.
How many yrs have you been coming now? This year will be our 19th year on the desert.
How did you find Senator Wash for your winter home? Our neighbor Yogi Bear and the internet
Are you retired? A full time RVer? Yes we are retired and we live in a RV 12 months of the year.
What did you both do before coming to Senator Wash? Linda was accounts payable and I was a automatic vending technician.
Where did you park the 1st time? Why? We parked in Coyote Ridge because of Yogi Bear.
Are you still parked there? We are not on Coyote Ridge any more we moved to Herman's Horse Path.
What is the best thing about Senator Wash? We came to Senators Wash because of the weather and stayed because of the people.

Any other comments? Senators Wash is a great place to spend the winter because there are lots of activities, lots of great people and friends and the weather lets you keep active.

NEWBIES

From Northwind & Desert Rain:
We are newcomers. This winter ('15 - '16) will be our 3rd full winter in Senator Wash. Our names are Doug & Lyn Minor, our handles are Northwind & Desert Rain. We're from Discovery Bay, California--that's about 40 miles East of San Francisco. We first heard of Senator Wash about 20 years ago from Doug's parents, Al & Joyce Minor, who were camp hosts at Squaw Lake for a few years. We always knew that some day, when our kids were gone, when we were both retired, and the house was paid off, we would buy that big RV and leave the SF winter cold and fog behind. We



fell in love with the desert in '12 during a 3 week stay that started at Pilot Knob and wound up in Senator Wash. We first camped

on the point of Herman's Horse Path overlooking the water and we have returned to that spot every year. We relish the warm days, cool nights, dry air (we just feel healthier in the warm dry environment), and wearing shorts all winter is a big deal to us. Doug is a retired deputy sheriff and I'm a retired nurse. I worked in a big, busy county hospital and although I love nursing, it feels good now to relax and enjoy the quiet times. Our favorite activity on the desert? That's easy: We love the 4WD roads in our Jeep. The thing that keeps bringing us back to the desert? That's even easier: The people. We have the nicest, kindest, liveliest crowd of desert friends you can imagine. Favorite memories?

That's a hard one, there are so many: My first Christmas Cantata in the choir, Driving over Hand Brake Hill myself (yes, Doug lets me drive the Jeep sometimes),

Waiting for the wildflower bloom (beaver tail are our favorite), The camel hunt and all the fun we had speculating on the possibility of finding feral camels in the desert, descendants of General Patton's experimental herd. (I still think maybe another search in the right place....) Helping an old man with low blood sugar who probably wouldn't have made it without our team's help (his wife thanked us in a letter read during roll call on the CB). Thanks for this opportunity to share our story.

We have so many good memories and we're just newcomers starting out. Would love to hear from the old timers.

To help us keep the cost of printing The Boondocker Chatter please consider receiving this newsletter by email. Just send us your email address and we will add it to our list. We use Bcc so that the addresses do not show.

Update on former LTVAsers

For those of you that know Fred, Broadcaster and Carol, Bluebird, Ross here is an update and contact information. I am one of their daughters that used to visit them on the desert and have many happy memories there with them and many of you.

It been a long road since January 18 of this year.

Dad was placed in the hospital in CDA Idaho for intense kidney infection that went blood born. He was released after roughly a week and a half and is at home with Missy their loving Dog.

The same day Mom suffered two strokes, fortunately she was at the hospital already.

Dad had surgery on March 7th to blast and/or remove the 12 & 13 centimeter kidney stones in hopes that He can pass them through.

Mom is at Good Sam in Silverton, Idaho and is making progress. She has gained some movement in her left arm and hand. She gets upset with herself because she is unable to get up on her own to use the walker. We are along way from her doing this and walking,

however we believe her determination and stubbornness will win ☐

Got her moved to a window bed and she really enjoys that as she can watch the turkeys. They have these HUGE turkeys that they feed and they wander the grounds. Of course Mom has made several friends, ya know she has never met a stranger.

I am going to drive over, as I live in Oregon, on March 26th and spend Easter with them, Dad and I will spend the day with Mom at Good Sam. I will spend a couple more days trying to shore some other items up and then make the long drive back home.

I print the boon docker monthly news letter to share with them which they enjoy reading the happenings and wish they were able to join in all the fun activities.

Mom has a difficult time remembering how to use her cell phone but you can always try to call it

208-512-2563 or you can call Good Sam at

208-556-1147 room 302 or just ask for Carol Ross they, of course, know her.

Home phone, where Dad is, 208-753-6541.

Unfortunately neither of them use a computer but if you want to send cards the home address is

P. O. Box 2066
Osburn, Idaho and

Mom's address is:

Carol Ross c/o Good Sam
405 West 7th street room 302
Silverton, Idaho 83867-0358
I can be reached at benthalo.l@comcast.net or 503-528-4521.

MANY years ago I was given the CB handle of benthalo, by hide out Bob on the desert, and it has stuck all the years.

Feel free to share this information regarding their status and contact information.

Sending much love to all the desert friends ☐

Thank you,

Shelley Henderson

"Rest in Peace Iggy" by Hey Jude

Iggy's passing has been noted by many. The funeral directors were Daisy Mae & Hula Hoop; the headstone was designed by Daisy Mae; the grave diggers were Lil Abner & War Hoop; the Iggy singing eulogy was written by Hey Jude; the social media consultant was Montana Chickadee; the pall bearers were Sand Storm & Storm Claw; and the funeral procession to the grave was accompanied by a Native American flute played by Pink Foot. There were about 30 mourners to say goodbye to Iggy. He is probably the most famous of all the desert iguana lizards in Skunk Hollow.



Iggy Eulogy performed by Hey Jude, Hula Nani & Desert Rain (The Hermanizers from Herman's Horsepath)

Way down in Skunk Hollow
We found him one day
And thought he was sleeping
So still he did lay

He was found in the bushes
Lying cold in the sand
When up walked a stranger
And held out his hand

Yep, here in Skunk Hollow
He met his demise
A real handsome fellow
And quite a good size

We don't know what happened
No little note was found
Just him lyin' still there
All alone on the ground

What were his last wishes
We'll just never know
It's so very sad that
We couldn't watch him grow

We made him a tombstone
Says "Iggy Lies Here"
Our little desert lizard
He was such a dear

At all the fun races
That occur here each year
He'll watch over all them
For the winner he'll cheer

He will be our mascot
And watch us have fun
Right here in Skunk Hollow
As we bask in the sun

On Feb. twenty-seventh,
Of Twenty Sixteen,
Our dear little Iggy
Will n'er again be seen

