



# The Boondocker Chatter

## Senator Wash's Newsletter

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### Peanuts & Nutcracker's Christmas Light Parade By Pistol Pete & Kookie Uke

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Every December people on the desert enjoy a light parade. People decorate their cars with lights and drive around the LTVA. The first time we saw the parade of lights was in December of 1997. We were impressed that out here in the desert something so beautiful could make it feel more like Christmas and we owe it all to one man: Peanuts (Mortimer Ross) and also to his wife Nutcracker (Lucille Ross) who went with him on the parade. The light parade was started in 1980 by Peanuts (Mortimer Ross). The first year Peanuts, dressed in a Santa suit, stood on the corner below Quail Hill where Senator Wash Road and Ferguson Road meet and handed out candy canes. Not

sure when Peanuts, dressed as Santa, started driving around the desert on a little scooter giving out candy canes. Later on Peanuts advanced to a small car and traveled around the LTVA giving out candy canes. At one point in time Nutcracker (Lucille Ross), Peanuts' wife drove a half ton truck with Peanuts in the back. That was how the parade got started. As the years went by Peanuts started to decorate his vehicle with lights. He would always dress in a Santa suit and give out candy canes to children that were visiting their grand parents on the desert. In years that followed more people decorated their vehicles and followed Peanuts and Nutcracker through the desert spreading Christ-

mas cheer. As Peanuts got older it was harder for him to lead the parade at night so he got someone else to lead it and he would be second in line. The last year Peanuts was in the Parade was 2005. It was the longest parade ever, there were 16 cars all decorated for Christmas. It was a spectacular light show. Although Peanuts & Nutcracker are no longer with us, we will keep the light parade going and always remember that he started something that brings the Christmas spirit to us all, when we are far away from our home and family. The light parade runs for 5 days starting on Dec.20 to Dec.24 weather permitting.

#### Dates to Remember

- Dec 6 Ukuleles and Root beer floats @ the Jam
- Dec. 18-19 Christmas concert
- Dec. 20-24 Light Parade
- Dec. 26 Dogburn

#### Thanksgiving Potluck @ the Gravel Pit (Marty & Sue/Big Rig & Schoolteacher)

We had a great time at the Annual Thanksgiving potluck this year. There were 4 turkeys (and hardly any left), mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy and so many other dishes that I couldn't list them even

if I knew what they all were.

There were around 100 guests and no one went home hungry!

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Todd

(Newbie2) who won \$110 and donated some of his winnings back.

Our part of this feast has always been as helper, so THANK YOU to all who helped to make it happen.

## Health Tip of the month: The Disease of Busyness (Lyn/Desert Rain)

Recently a good friend said to me, "I can't lead our Tuesday morning walks anymore. I just need that day to rest by myself." Well, I was miffed. I had really enjoyed our amble and gossip time together. But then, after thinking about it, I realized this friend was making a wise choice. We all need to slow down a little when life gets hectic. There is such a thing as being too busy.

The frontal lobe is the largest lobe in the brain and is our higher learning center. It is responsible for thinking, reasoning,

judgment, decision making and aids memory. This is the area of the brain that demands we reach out, try new things, learn new skills, take on new commitments, help others. We tell ourselves this is progress, this is good for us. The frontal lobe has a way of prioritizing the important stuff and placing the rest on a back shelf. This works to our benefit when we multitask--take on two or three things at one time, as we make conscious decisions and act upon them in an efficient and timely manor. But, often the whole system overloads, crashes, and we

end up in dire straits. This happened to me over the summer: I tucked my new iPhone 6 into my swim suit so I could use both hands, multitasking, getting the grandkids ready for a picnic at Mom & Dad's pool. Well, of course I jumped in with the kids and ended up drowning my phone. But did I learn anything? This exact scene happened twice within two months. My phone insurance dropped me and I still can't believe that this conservative, retired nurse is now high-risk uninsurable!

Here on the desert with

endless days of quiet and sunshine, it's hard to say no to friends who want our time. After all, we're retired. All we have is time. But try not to over-commit. Yes, we want to help others, but we need to take time for ourselves. Don't ever be afraid to say, "no, sorry, I just can't right now." Try not to fall victim to the disease of busyness, think of the frontal lobe trying so hard to keep everything straight. And above all, never, ever, take three little kids and two teenagers on a spur-of-the-moment swim picnic with just your 86 year old Mom to help you out.

### Thanksgiving thoughts Daniel Thornburg

Facing east, the mountains behind light up even before dawn breaks the foothills in front, and, later, given intermittent cloud coverage and the low angle of the setting sun, sometimes, the eastern ridges and gullies of the badlands brighten briefly before dusk--proving that at any time, we have to be extremely grateful--at any rate, that's what it meant to us, celebrating Thanksgiving together at Senator Wash in 2015.



### Perry (Jack of Diamonds) McCormack

Nov. 11, 2015 the desert family lost Perry McCormack/Jack of Diamonds.

He lost his battle with cancer, but had lived a long life and enjoyed it to the fullest.

He loved to ride his motorcycle and he was always the "official counter" at the many get-togethers here on the LTVA.

He was also the first to ask for a pie run, or a DQ run. So Hey Jaws when are we going?

# Angels Angles (Joyce—Angel)

Can you believe it's already almost the end of the year?! We're so busy in our retired lives, we sure don't know how we ever had time to work! October through December is sometimes just a big blur.

The Halloween party was a big success, I think there were about

60 in attendance. Lost Canuck and Cocker Spaniel won Best Couples Contest as Mr. Popcorn and Mz. Toothpaste/Floss; Newby Sharon, Most Original as a Regressive Senior; Dan aka Sparky, as a Viking complete with horned headdress and long fur coat won funni-

est; and A Couple Unknown won Scariest with their facemasks which didn't come off even to eat! So we're not really sure who were behind the masks! For pictures look on our Facebook page, Our Liberry.

As we give thanks, be sure to check out the

"Community Happenings" board in Our Liberry and note down what you're thankful for on the tags. The board will be updated each month and season. As for this Angel, I'm thankful for my many Liberry Friends, and my special family.

## Solar Oven Recipes

### Baked Spaghetti by General Lee

2 cups canned diced tomatoes

1 1/2 teaspoons seasoning salt  
2 cups tomato sauce

1 1/2 teaspoons sugar  
1 cup water or (chicken broth)

2 small bay leaves  
1/2 cup diced onion

1 cup diced bell peppers

2 cloves garlic, chopped

3 cups grated Sharp cheddar

1/4 Cup. chopped fresh parsley leaves

1 1/2 teaspoons Italian seasoning

8 oz. uncooked angel hair pasta  
1 1/2 lbs cooked ground beef (or 3 C.s cooked cube chicken)  
1 1/2 teaspoons House Seasoning, recipe follows:

House Seasoning:  
1 cup salt

1/4 cup black pepper

1/4 cup garlic powder  
Preheat the solar oven to 300 degrees F. Combine all ingredients (except 1 cup of cheese).

Cook covered in solar oven for 2 to 3 hour. Top the casserole with the remaining cheese, return it to the solar oven, and continue to cook until the cheese is melted and bubbly. Cut into squares before serving.

### Maple Nut Loaf by Landline/Betty

Sift together:

2 1/2 c flour

1 c sugar

3 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp salt

1 well beaten egg

1 c milk

3/4 tsp maple flavoring

Mix only until dry ingredients are moistened

Stir in 1 c coarsely chopped nuts  
Pour into well greased 9" X 5" loaf pan

Let stand 20 min before baking

Bake 1 hr @ 350'

### Cola Ham by General Lee

1 (18-pound) cured ham

2 (12-ounce) cans cola

Preheat the solar oven to 300 degrees F. Place ham in a shallow roasting pan. Baste the ham with cola. Bake for 20 minutes per pound of ham, or until the ham reaches an internal temperature of 140 degrees F. Baste with cola about every 30 minutes during cooking.

### Orange Nut Bread by Landline/Betty

Mix thoroughly:

3/4 c sugar

2 tbsp soft shortening

1 egg

Stir in:

3/4 c milk

3/4 c orange juice

4 tsp grated orange rind

Sift together & stir in:

3 c sifted flour

3 1/2 tsp baking powder

1 tsp salt

Blend in:

3/4 c chopped nuts

Pour into a well greased loaf pan

Let stand 20 min before baking

Bake @ 350' about 70 minutes

Bake until a toothpick stuck in the center comes out clean.  
(Crack in the top is characteristic)

# Getting to know LTVAers

## Old Timers

Taurus/Don Phillips:

Guess you can call me an oldtimer, I was born in Dayton, Ohio on May 13th, 1933, thus the CB handle of Taurus. In 1982, I was traveling in a school bus I had converted into a motorhome. While traveling, I was on the CB, & someone told me to go south on #95, & turn at the guns. I asked "What guns?", & I was told you will see them. I worked for the USAF as a computer technician, & I semi retired in 1982. I parked in the front by the host station at first. Now I am parked on the south rim overlooking Senator Wash Reservoir, same spot for 20 yrs.

The best thing about Senator Wash are my friends, now as I approach 83 yrs old, I get lots of help. Special moments were the very first light parade, I helped Peanuts/Santa get the generator to run & put it on his trail bike. And just meeting people from all over the country & the world, all so friendly. Planning to be there for my 33rd yr., guess I am an old-timer.



## Newbies

From Trapper & Dakota:

Where are you from? Colorado Springs, Co How many yrs have you been coming now? 3 yrs How did you find Senator Wash for your winter home? 3rd generation to be here Are you retired? A full time RVer? Retired and full timers

What did you both do before coming to Senator Wash? USPS Letter Carrier. Office manager Where did you park the 1st time? Why? Lower Beehive-family Are you still parked there? Yes What is the best thing about Senator

Wash? Activities/Community atmosphere. Any other comments? Appreciate the volunteer response team. The evening roll calls/swap shop. The "secret" undisclosed location Dog Burns. Cadillac Ride. RC car races. We could go on and on.



## Credo for living:

There comes a time in your life when you walk away from all the drama & the people who create it.

You surround yourself with people who make you laugh.

Forget the bad & focus on the good.

Love the people who treat you right, pray for the ones who don't.

Life is to be nothing but happy (all the time).

Falling down is part of life, getting back up is living.

## Man's Best Friend (Lyn/Desert Rain)

Our dogs are special companions, friends, and confidants. They are simple souls placed here to travel life's pathways with us for a decade or so. My dog, Ringo, just loves to travel with us in the motor home. He gets so excited when we're packing to go on a trip, he brings his toys out to the rig and stashes them under the table. He especially loves the desert and loves returning to our same camping spot here in Senator Wash. The first thing we do each morning is go for a walk through the wash.

Just want to take time here to mention a few of the dogs that have passed away over the summer. Seems there have been quite a few, and it's important for us to remember the good beasts and the good times. Uncle Monkey & Barefoot Girl lost 'Princess' Slobberjaws & Vixen lost 'Studley' Porch Pup & Roadrunner lost 'Digit'

Rick O' Shay & Rick's Lady lost 'Buffy'  
Sharon McInnis Rogers lost 'Burney'  
My sister & brother-in-law, Jamie & Steve lost 'Max'

Suffering the grief of a beloved pet, like a family member, takes time and there's no right or wrong way to grieve. Keep all the happy, fun memories tucked away in your heart and try to let the rest go.

Now for some rules: When you own a dog always walk him on a leash & always pick up after him. Some people say there's so much burro poop out here, who cares about a little dog poop? Well, we care. Dog poop is disgusting! Also it can spread disease to other dogs and to native wildlife. And what about all the coyote poop? It's just like dog poop, isn't it? No, it isn't! Some of us enjoy examining the scat of *Canis latrans* to see what kinds of berries and stuff they've eaten, while stumbling upon the excrement of *Canis familiaris* can ruin a morning walk.

Another problem is the barking disturbance. Last year we were continually awakened at night by a barking dog. So we walked over to meet these new camping neighbors and investigate the problem. The guy told us his dog, "barks at the coyotes and that's his job." Not a good answer. Some of us love the howl of the coyote weaving through our dreams at night, while barking dogs are just a nuisance.

BLM regulations state, "Pets must be kept on a leash at all times. Unattended pets may become prey to desert predators. You are responsible for the clean-up and sanitary disposal of your pet's waste. All animal fecal matter must be bagged and removed from the camp site and all other areas daily. Bags must be tied and placed into trash collection bins."

There's nothing better than the companionship of a good dog. Enjoy your dog here on the desert. It's for good reason he is called man's best friend.

## Letters from Absent Desert Friends

Dear special friends on the desert, first we want to thank all for your heartfelt prayers, kind words, thoughts & for all the lovely cards! Very much appreciated! A note to tell you that our daughter Garalene starting radiation treatments tomorrow the 19th of November, there will be 10 of those, then, as far as we know @ this time, when those are over, they will go back to the chemo treatments ( she

had four mths of those previous ) It is a long journey we are on & we are very positive @ all times! Garalene is doing quite well considering all that she has been through!! Please continue to say prayers for her & think positive thoughts! It's not very warm here this morning it was 11 degrees F, & we have about 8 inches of snow on the ground!!! Love to you all, miss you our special friends!!! Stray goose & Nanagoose ( Garry & Darlene Pearce) & our

special daughter Garalene!!!

Wishing every one a very happy thanksgiving & wish we were there. All is well here & I am enjoying the 2 below f. weather, even if Nana Goose isn't. I got into the storage room & found my skidoo suit, boots & muskrat hat, so all is well. Well once again, Happy Thanksgiving to all & have a great day. Please pass this on to everyone. Stray Goose & Nana Goose

## **Thursday Hikes—Dated Rock (Damaris & Tom Bartlett)**

As newbies to Senator Wash, we felt welcomed by Brian, "Lost Canuck," our leader, and Steve, Marsha and Dennis as we got to know each other, along our pleasant hike.

Brian was a lot of fun, making jokes and attempting to convince us of the authenticity of writing on a rock dating back to the seventeen hundreds. Good try, Brian!

After climbing several hills, we followed various burro trails to our final destination with beautiful vistas and mountains in the background. On this day we

had perfect weather-sunny, mid-seventies with a gentle breeze. After sharing stories and a snack break, Brian decided to take us on a different route to our cars which made the trip more interesting and a little more challenging. We followed the wash down and around several more hills until we got to the cars.

It was an easy two and a half mile hike and we were back to our cars by 11:30.



## **Christian Service Center Choir (Gordon Hunt/Desert Boater)**

The Christian Center has a long history here on the desert. Over 40 years ago this ministry began through the work of Jim and Katie Fish. Most of that history is well documented.

Music has always been a strong part of worship at CSC and, in fact, choirs were active until the late 80s. In the mid 90s, Sally and Gordon Hunt were singing in the YPG chapel choir and occasionally visiting CSC

In 2005 they became a part of the Center and almost immedi-

ately a choir sprang to life. At first, the ensemble could be called an octet rather than a full choir.

But soon enthusiasm for singing took hold and rehearsals are now held twice a week (on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6PM)

It wasn't long before the special Christmas concert and singalong became a staple of the music year. Now the choir works hard at presenting a musical cantata that outlines the Christmas story in words and music.

As in years past, the choir will

offer a daytime concert with refreshments to follow and a night time cantata with finger food following.

This year's 2015 cantata can be heard Friday, Dec. 18 at 2PM and the following night Saturday, Dec. 19 at 6PM. Come join us for a wonderful Christmas musical experience!



## **Thoughts from Veterans Day (Daniel Thornburg)**

Wee, it whistled through the cracks, beneath the doors, under the windows, rattling the blinds and galley utensils--with a droning, lower woo, as it whipped around the corner and made the wires thrum--along with the steady whoosh and occasional gusty whump--didn't the wind find everything as it should on that Veterans' Day at Senator Wash in 2015?

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## **ATV Rides on the Desert (Sue/Schoolteacher)**

On Wednesdays at the same time as the four-wheel drives line up to go on Jaws' Jaunts, there is another lineup going on at Hurricane Ridge.

Larry, both Jims, Marty and Burt wait for the rest of us to show up.

"Where are we going this week?" "You'll see."

When everyone has assembled we take off with Hurricane Ridge guys interspersed (in case of trouble) and Burt bringing up the rear (so no one gets lost).

We have been to Martinez Lake, The Squeeze and the Names, The Ridge Run (the gun range), the Potholes,

the Lion's Head and so many more places.

So pack a lunch, water, and make sure that you have enough gas, we'll be lining up Wednesday @ 9am.



Do we have your birthday? Your anniversary? Your email address? When we email, we use BCC (Blind Carbon Copy) so no one sees your email address. You can email me @ [maryvixen1944@gmail.com](mailto:maryvixen1944@gmail.com) or come & visit @ the north end of Skunk Hollow.

Vixen



**“December”**



- 1st: Porch Pup/Roadrunner Big  
Guy Ed/Sharon Greene
- 3rd: Jalopy
- 4th: Cousin Ebb Half Pint Crab
- 6th: Redneck & Angel
- 7th: Flyfisher Beehive Bus Ron/Jean
- 8th: Driller Oregon Jon Ladyfingers
- 9th: Candyman
- 10th: Curly/Trailer Trash Gecko Desert Rain
- 11th: Gizmo/Tigger NW Tank Linda
- 12th: Plumbob Sawbucks Cooler Phil/Debbie
- 13th: Liberty Ax Handle CSC Jim/Rebecca
- 14th: Red Apple
- 15th: Echo
- 16th: Gold Miner
- 17th: Thing 1
- 18th: Farmer Boy Starchaser Sour Dough/Gold Nugget
- 19th: Tweedie Pie Whiplash/Slowpoke Blue-  
bird Quarter Horse
- 20th: Beach Bum Sawdust/Rockhound Squaw Lake Dave
- 21st: Ed/Leone S. (BC, CA) Splash
- 22nd: Exodus Sherbear
- 23rd: CSC Dagnie Montana Tom/Montana Kathy Washing-  
ton Connie Twigpig/Geonerd
- 24th: The Beauty/The Beast CSC Faye H.
- 25th: Hulahoop
- 27th: Dennis/Jean Hill Dead Fish
- 28th: Alberta Roadrunner Antaras
- 29th: Lost Canuck/Cocker Spaniel Flag Lady
- 30th: Fishbait CSC Howie CSC Peter/Gwen Sharon Greene