



The Boondocker Chatter

Senator Wash's Newsletter

newsletterforsenatorwash@gmail.com

February 1, 2016

Volume 2, Issue #2

Annual Cookie Drive for the YPG (Sue/Schoolteacher)

Inside this issue:

Health Tip	2
Angel's Angles	3
Computer Tip	3
Music Row Interviews	4-6
Imperial Dam Directory History	7
Birthdays & Anniversaries	8

Living out here on the desert is wonderful, there is plenty of space and solitude, but what happens if you have a medical emergency? At home you would dial 911 and give your address...but what is your address out here? Does the ambulance know where Murphy Flats, or Skunk Hollow is?

The easiest thing to do is to get on your CB (or if you don't have one, then find a neighbor with one) and tune to Chanel 12 call EMERGENCY 3 times; someone WILL answer. Our rescue squad will come out and help until the Yuma Proving Ground Rescue Squad shows up. While our Rescue Squad does a great job, without the assistance

of the YPG the job would be much more difficult. They respond any time we call them with a full squad and take care of everything. This care is all for free. Since we can't pay them, one way we thank them for their efforts is to give them cookies.

Every year we hold a cookie drive. The beginning of the drive has faded into the mists of history, but we know who had it before Boomer & Cookie—Bee Hive Mesa. According to Darlene (Nana Goose) we do know everyone on Bee Hive worked at it for many years. We recall some of the challenges we had, like the lady's wouldn't let us eat any that weren't broken & for a couple of years

we had a Cooky Napster (Driller) that would sneak in & steal cookies, he did only steal the burned ones & after we put a bounty on his head, he went into hiding & eventually moved to town. A Big loss for the desert!!

Cookie and Boomer are hosting the Drive this year. The dates are Feb. 9, 10, 11 from 9-noon. The cookies will be delivered to the YPG Rescue Squad shortly after noon on the 11th. They are located just past 5-corners off the Wye Rd (the cutoff road to Ferguson Lake Rd) on Dolly Lane. There will be signs to help you find it. Thank you so much for your donations

Dates to Remember

- Feb 9-11 Cookie Drive (9-noon)
- Tentative dates
- Feb 22 Dog Burn
- Mar. 22 Dog Burn

For those people who go to the base and would like to know if they have propane, or someone to pump the propane, here is the number for the Express Shopette 928 343-1132.

Phone Numbers & Things

Found a good radio guy in the Foothills, CB radio or ham radio.

Gary J. Austin 11878 S. Hunter Ave. Yuma, AZ 85367 928-210-0557

G6NYH & K6NYH
G6NYH@AOL.COM

Another good place to buy CBs and equipment is (don't laugh he runs both places): Mist Car Wash Supplies and Service; 928-750-0418; 195 W. 24th Street, Yuma, AZ 85364 Call before, to make sure he is open.

Health Tip of the Month: Benefits of Poor Posture (Lyn/Desert Rain)

Diet is one of the most powerful tools we have to take control of our own health. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services have just this month issued new guidelines reflecting the latest science-based evidence about what we should be eating.

There is a recommendation to eat less red meat and processed meat and to eat more lean meat, chicken and fish. Eating an abundance of red and processed meats has been linked to an increase in both heart disease and cancer. The American meat industry has downplayed this evidence and US Congress lobbyists would rather not have this information widespread.

For the first time the guidelines have tackled added sugar, recommending they make up less than 10% of American diets. These do not include naturally occurring sugars like those in fruits or milk. It means we should limit the junk food sugars like cookies, candy, cakes, and almost all packaged goods.

It recommends a low salt diet. (no more than 2,300 mg sodium). Almost 90% of Americans eat more than the recommended amount of salt.

Here's a change from past guidelines. Eggs are good for us. They're now included among the good recommended protein food. Other good sources of protein include seafood, poultry, lean meats, legumes (beans & peas), soy

products, & low or non-fat dairy foods.

And there's good news if you love coffee. Drinking a moderate amount is beneficial.

For the first time guidelines do not restrict how much fat we can eat. Research shows the benefits of eating unsaturated fats such as olive oil and nuts. Just limit the saturated fats like butter, whole milk, meats that are not lean, and tropical oils such as coconut or palm oil.

These recommended guidelines for healthy eating should have made front page news. Heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and immune diseases can now be linked to diet. The problem is the food industry, backed by billion dollar corporations, controls much of the

US Congress legislation through lobbyists by using political contributions and favors. This food industry has continued to pressure and tempt us to eat a diet of burgers, pizzas, burritos, cookies, doughnuts, sodas, foods loaded with white flour and sugar, red and processed meats, salt and saturated fats.

Take charge of your own health and incorporate the guidelines into your diet. Refuse to be manipulated by the greed of the food industry. These new guidelines urge us to focus on eating a variety of vegetables (dark green, red, and orange), whole fruits and whole grains. We can all make choices to better our health, extend our years, prevent diseases, and increase our quality of life.

Angels Angles (Joyce—Angel)

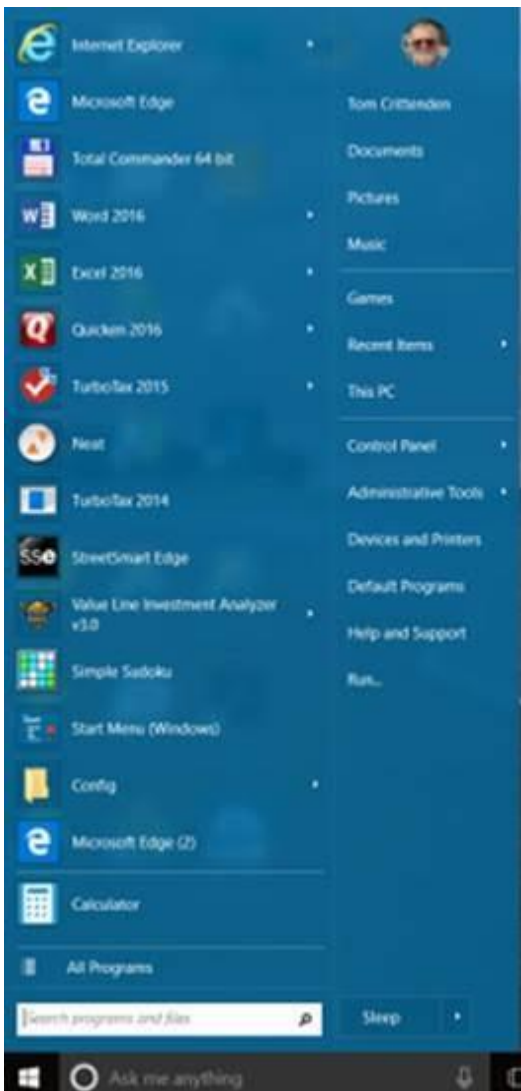
As we go into the final two months of our season, I've been asked to clarify what the funds collected from recycling are used for. All the monies go right back into our community. We use a portion for upkeep on our two trailers of course, such as the

remodel, tire up-keep, window and door repairs etc., and trash bags for the recycling; we fund the monthly Boondocker Chatter (printing, etc.). We also support the Emergency Response Team with their weekly coffee

and treats and hats, etc. Our pot lucks also benefit from these funds; the turkeys and hams at Thanksgiving, sausage and kraut in March, paper products, water and coffee for these events, etc. , and the root beer and ice cream

for root beer floats after the music jams on Sundays. We appreciate your continued donations of plastic bottles with the CA CRV designation, and aluminum cans. Keep up the great work. Til next time, I remain your Angel.

Computer tip from Tom/Bayou Peddler



A lot of the frustration some folks are having with Windows 10 is the new Start menu. While Microsoft did make significant improvements with Windows 10 vs. the hated Windows 8 Start menu, it's still not what you may be used to with Windows 7.

If you have this frustration, take a look at Classic Shell (<http://www.classicshell.net/>). This is a free program, although they request donations if you like the product. Below is a screenshot of my installation, and as you can see it is a very good likeness to Windows 7 start. It is also highly customizable as was the Windows 7 start menu, so you can control what is displayed. Take a look and see if this doesn't lower your blood pressure without any medications! Oh, and as you can see there's also

a shortcut to the Windows 10 Start menu (labeled Start Menu (Windows)), so you have the best of both worlds.

Music on the Desert (Jude Pennett/Hey Jude)

Being “newbies” to the desert, and after spending about five years at Hidden Shores, with full hook ups, golf course, swimming pool, hot tub, restaurant and every other amenity known to man, why are we in the desert I ask myself? Well, my husband, Wayne, wanted to move to the desert from day one but I insisted that I need all these amenities. Well, unbeknownst to me, he had been quietly collecting all kinds of desert stuff and hiding it in our toy hauler, but did I know any of this? NOT!!!

Anyway, this year, I caved and said OK, let’s try it and here we are...AND we love it!

I read the first Boondocker Chatter in Dec. and when the editor, Sue, requested input from anyone in that first issue I read, I approached her and said I would be happy to contribute. Loving music and playing/singing at the Sunday music jams at the gravel pit periodically, I said I would interview the folks in Music Row to find out what they are all about and she said that would be great.

So, the following is what I found out and what I have written about and photographed...



From the outset, I thought it may be a daunting task...OMG, all these great musicians, who enter-

tain us all, here in the desert every Sunday...who was I, to ask them for an interview and find out a little about them? As I have found out over the past couple of weeks, these folks are the kindest, sincerest, most wonderful people you will ever meet. They not only encourage each other in their musical endeavors, but they encourage and mentor anyone who is the slightest bit interested in learning to play an instrument. WOW, I was blown away with their encouragement and their passion for music! They all know that there are many other gifted musicians (or wannabes) here in the desert, and they encourage you to come forward, to meet and talk to them and you can obtain helpful advice from them. You will experience die hard country, rock& roll, rhythm & blues, bluegrass, honkytonk and everything in between. They all blend into a melting pot of wonderful sound and respect each other in such a way that is heartwarming. You will find these folks gathered at one RV or another, on many an afternoon, just hangin’ out, playin’ their various instruments and singin’, and it’s great to witness.

First off, Jim & Virginia Tague, and they hail from Galatin, Missouri and have been coming here long

term since 1982 off and on until 1992. Over 1600 miles they travel to be with us. Jim started playing guitar and singing in public in his 40’s and has never put the guitar down since. They saw the expansion of the gravel pit and wit-



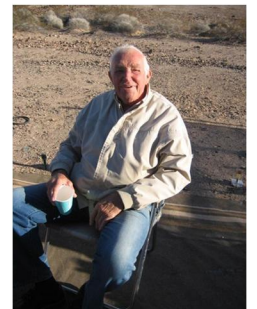
nessed the construction of the lagoon. They were in Skunk Hollow but the lagoon (smell of it) drove them to what is now known as Music Row (East Florida Flats) in about 2000. When they moved to “the Row” there were a couple of other musicians but many that are no longer here, for one reason or another. However, it was one of them that painted the now famous sign which appears annually at the entrance to Music Row. Virginia played keyboard and guitar over the years and then moved on to the Dobro guitar three or four years ago. Jim’s passion is old country and he loves the likes of George Jones, Hank Sr., etc. He’s known as the best sad singer around and makes no bones about not liking rock & roll.



Marjorie Hill hails from Wenatchee, WA and travels about 1400 miles to be with us. She’s been singing all

her life but just started playing the Dobro guitar about three years ago. She moved to Music Row because of her brother Lee, (Lee Swatman whose bio is later) and is very involved with the goings on in the “Row”. She is the one who hauls all the equipment to the Sunday jams that are stored in Buster’s little travel trailer...wonderful lady.

And then there’s our Buster (he won’t tell us his real name) but his last name is Post.



Music on the Desert—(continued)

He moved in from the Rim, here at Senators Wash, to Music Row about the year 2000, and he hails from Siren, Wisconsin and travels over 1800 miles to get here. He started playing and singing rock & roll when he was 25 until he was about 40 and stopped for a while to raise his family of six kids, but picked it up again when he moved to the "Wash". He was influenced by certain country singers here at the Wash and since then has learned to play more of that type of music but still loves to swing back to good old R&R.



Randy, his son, started coming down and joining him around 2007 and usually arrives close to Christmas. He is actually here to keep an

eye on Buster, who can be a real "case" sometimes (ha). Randy is a welcome and talented addition to the jams.

Buster's middle name is "encouragement", for all those who love music, to pick up an instrument and learn to play. He has coached countless musicians both here and at home and continues to be one of the best coaches in the desert.

Lee Swatman, and wife, Elsie, hail from Potlatch, North Idaho and travel about 1500 miles to get here. Lee started playing har-



monica about the age of 10, as a hobby, and quit for many years but picked it up again at the "Wash". He now owns about 10 harmonicas. Why 10? I asked him, (proving my lack of musical knowledge), and his response was, because each harmonica is in a different key. Did you all know that? Lee also proudly tells me that he is the one who installed the sign "Music Row" in its' current location atop the rock crop. For more on this fellow, be sure and read Leonard & Val's little bio below as there is an interesting story between these two.

Leonard & Val Wilson hail from Wilder, Idaho and travel about 1,000 miles to their winter home



on Music Row. Leonard started playing acoustic guitar in the mid 80's but Val has been playing keyboard since she was a child. They have been on the "Row" for five years and Leonard makes no bones about what a huge influence Buster and others here have had on him. I mentioned above in Lee Swatman's little bio that there was a story between these two...well here goes. Five years ago, Lee was about 400 miles from home when his motor home broke down on a steep hill. Where you ask? In Wilder, Idaho.

Leonard & Val were driving to church and wondered about a big rig being parked on such a steep hill. On their way

home from church, it was still there so they stopped to see if they could help. They got it towed to Leonard's home and spent the evening with each other and Lee was telling Leonard all about Music Row. Well, as they say, the rest is history.



And then there is Jerry Pennington and his lovely wife Sandy, who both play guitar and they hail from Prescott, AZ and only travel about 200 miles to be here (gosh, they can go

home for lunch). They started out on Music Row about six years ago, but with their two doggies, and Music Row becoming more populated, they thought it was

time to move across the street (Music Row has expanded across the street). In 1966, when Jerry came back from fighting in the Vietnam war,



his Mom and Dad bought him a Sears Roebuck, \$39 guitar (which he still has today) and that was the beginning of his love for playing and music. He plays acoustic and electric guitar. Sandy started playing piano at the age of 5 and also played a little guitar but stopped her musical inclinations when she began raising her family. Then, when they moved to the "Wash" and she met Buster, he offered to teach her bass guitar and she was off and running. She plays at the jams but I asked her why she did not sing...she is a little shy, but is getting up the courage, so watch out...you may see she and Jerry sing-

Music on the Desert—(continued)

ing together very soon.

Roland & Arlette Arsenault hail from Magog, Quebec (Canada eh?)



which is just north of the Vermont border and about an hour east of Montreal. They travel 3400 miles (one way) to be with us and this is their 10th year here in the

“Wash”. They discovered the existence of Music Row during their second year here and immediately moved over. Roland came from a musical family and he and his siblings sang together all the time. He picked up the guitar when he was about twenty, is pretty much self-taught and leaned more toward folk music at that time. However, since being here, he has caught up with the country musicians and now plays/sings a whole mix of music.

Buster & others have been a real influence on him. Plus, his lovely wife Arlette has recently taken up guitar and is a fast learner. You will see both of them at the Sunday jams singing and playing together.

Frank Rodrigues and wife Molly hail from Chino Valley, AZ (N. of Prescott) and, like their friends the Penningtons (see earlier bio), they are only a couple of hundred miles from home.

Here for the first time with encouragement from their friends, they are only staying a few weeks but plan to winter here next year. Frank is a cowboy through and through as is his music. AND, he is cowboy poet, singer/songwriter and has travelled throughout most of the U.S. western



states regaling audiences with his poetry. We will have to get him to recite some for us at next season’s Sunday jams. He started playing a cheap little dime store guitar before the age of five and has never stopped since...and he has many CD’s to his credit. His whole family is musical and they play a variety of instruments. Although he has always played acoustic guitar, he is now learning to play lead guitar (again, Buster is coaching him while he is here)



Steve “Big 88” Adkison along with wife Madelynn, hail from Jameson, Missouri, some 1600 miles from here. I nicknamed him Big 88 as he can always be recog-

nized wearing his coveralls (referred to as big 88 as they are 88% cotton). Anyway, Steve’s dad, Lawrence, who used to come to the “Wash” (stayed in Skunk Hollow), taught Steve guitar in his early 20’s and he has never stopped since. He plays acoustic guitar and loves old country music. His dad played the fiddle and the cute part of Steve’s learning guitar is that he would play along with his dad on the fiddle and each time there was a chord change, his dad would tap him lightly on the head with his bow...and that’s how Steve learned to play. They only live a couple of miles from the Tagues (see Jim & Virginia Tague’s bio above) and the families literally grew up together and that’s how Steve & Madelynn came to be here 9 years ago.



Von Glasgow, along with wife Kris, hail from Heber Utah and travel about 750 miles to be here. They started com-

ing to the “Wash” eleven years ago and always to Music Row. His dad played lead guitar and came to the desert during the 70’s & 80’s so it was just a natural progression for Von & Kris to follow suit some yeas later. Von has played lead guitar most of his life and move onto a lap steel guitar and played both for awhile. Then he added into the mix, a pedal steel guitar, and if you have not attended a Sunday jam to hear this guy play, you are really missing out on something special! He did set his musical instruments aside for quite a few years due to time limitations of owning his own business. Back in his teens he played a little rock n’ roll, but his love for country music swayed him. Some of his favorite country artists include Merle Haggard, George Jones, & Waylon Jennings.

An interesting side bar about these two is that they met when Kris was 11 and Von was 14 at the wedding of her sister and his uncle. They have now been married 52 years

This quote was overheard while waiting in line at the second bathroom. "Do you know what beats a full house? A quick flush!"

"Imperial Dam LTVA CB/Snowbird Directory History (Linda/Kookieuke)

The directory formally began in 1991, although its genesis goes back to the early "Dam Nation" days when Rusty Belle would keep a running list of campers and where they were from. In the winter of '91-'92, Wes "Silver Bullet" Andrews thought it would be a good idea to put together a more formal directory. That first book was all of 9 pages long (including the cover) with 142 campers listed. Only one side of each sheet of paper was used. The information for period between '93-97' is a bit scarce. A directory was put out in '95' which had 28 pages printed on both sides. There was also an addition of 7 pages (printed only on one side) with corrections and new people added in. I believe the directory in '97' was done by Boyd "Kra-Z-Ate" Barton with the help of his wife Avlys "Kra-Z-Lady" and also Roy "R V L" Locey and his wife Nancy "Nine Patch". I believe prior to 1999 the book was typed. At the back of these books a listing by last name was done as a cross-reference.

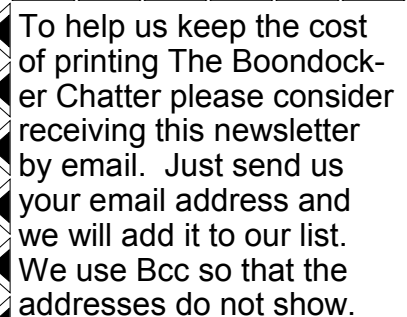
In 1999 headed by Boyd "Kra-Z-Ate" Barton a new committee was formed to produce the CB Directory, as it

was called then. Linda "Kookieuke" Hendershot along with her husband Peter "Pistol Pete" were assigned to do the computer work for the directory. After weeks of struggling with learning a new computer program the directory evolved into what it is today. In 1999 we added "Silent Campers", people who had camped here and were in the book that have gone to the big campground in heaven. The 1999 edition listed the CB Handles with names and address first. It was then cross-reference by last name and then by state/province. There were three ways to find someone. In 2003 the CB story, emergency procedures and email were added. In 2013 the story about the Christian Service Center was added. In this addition a picture of Katie and Jim Fish appeared on the cover.

Many people drew pictures for the cover of the CB Directory. Phyllis "RockBit" Thornton, John "Woodcarver" Buonauro and Karen "Paintbrush" Martin are a few I can remember. In 2005 Linda "Kookieuke" started doing

the cover with computer graphics as a few of the artists were no longer available. The helpers with getting the information are numerous over the years. A few that I can remember are. I will try and list them and hopefully I will not miss anyone. Pineapple & Barefoot Boy, Desert Cowgirl & Desert Cowgirl, Jarhead & Lady Bee, Kilowatt & Killin Time, Friendly Frog & Pollywog, Broadcaster & Bluebird, Chimo & Wild Rose, Echo & Shadow.

The directory is put out every two years. The Last one was in 2015. As the CB use has declined over the years this book changed its name from the Imperial Dam LTVA Snowbird CBDirectory to the Imperial Dam Snowbird Directory. The CB part was dropped.



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.

Getting to know LTVAers

OLD TIMERS

Uncle Monkey (Monty Montague)

- 1). Where you from: Montague, CA
 - 2). How many years: 18 yrs
 - 3). How did you find Senator's Wash: Quartzsite people
 - 4). Are you retired: yes
 - 5). Full-time RV'r : yes and no; live in our 5th wheel on BLM land at Senator's Wash year round. Helping wife with her Contracts.
 - 6). What did you do before coming to Senator's Wash: sold house in Montague, CA and traveled to Tucson, Wellton and Quartzsite. Was full-time RV'R.
 - 7). Where did you park the first time: Ocotillo Flatts.
- Why: close to CSC to get mail
- 8). Are you still parked there: no
 - 9). What is the best thing

about Senator's Wash: love the desert, friendly people

- 10). Comments: good off-roading

Barefootgirl (Becky Montague)

- 1). Where are you from: Morgantown, WV
- 2). How many years: 8 yrs
- 3). How did you find Senator's Wash for your winter home: my mother, Granny
- 4). Are you retired: no. Caretaker at Senator's Wash
- 5). Full-time RV'r: yes and no. Live in 5th wheel on BLM land year round at Senator's Wash working Contracts
- 6). What did you do before coming to Senator's Wash: had business back in WV. And worked as live-in caregiver.

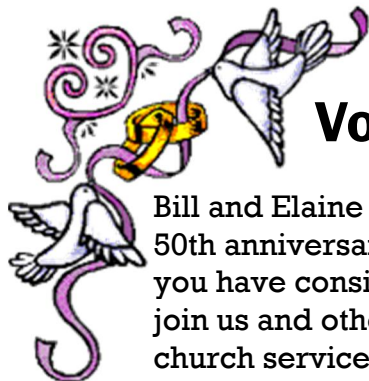


- 7). Where did you park first time: North West Rim
- Why: water view
- 8). Are you still parked there: no

NEWBIES

Kelvin and Marilyn Burns

Their home is in Louisville, Kentucky. Kelvin is from Danville, Kentucky and Marilyn is from Campbellsville, Kentucky. This is their first year out here on Senator Wash. Kelvin found it on the internet and they were interested. Kelvin retired from the US Army and Retired Federal Government. Marilyn retired from Kroger's as Assistant Manager of the Deli Department. They first parked on South Mesa and they are still parked there. They choose that spot because of the view,



Vow Renewals

Bill and Elaine Johnson (CSC) will be celebrating their 50th anniversary by renewing their marriage vows. If you have considered renewing your vows, come and join us and others on February 21, 2016 during the church service at the CSC. Contact Preacherman or Tinkerbell at the church or Solar Shack in advance. A potluck will follow the service, so bring your favorite dish.

Sears Point (Peggy/Snickers)

On Friday January 22 Porch Pup and Roadrunner led an "Off the Porch" ride to **Sears Point**. For thousands of years, Native Americans and historic peoples were drawn to this isolated area of black mesas along what was the Gila River. On the mesas, among rocks blazed black by the desert sun, these peoples left their marks here at Sears Point, depicting life as it once was. Sears Point is a very special area that lies at a crossroad of historical events and cultures. It embraces a wide array of archaeological sites, including rock alignments, cleared areas, intaglios, petroglyphs, and aborigi-



nal foot trails. This fragile evidence of human history spans thousands of years with some dating to the Archaic Period. The prehistoric cultures which are believed to have utilized this archaeological district between 10,000 Before Present (BP) and 1450 CE include the Desert Archaic, Patayan, and Hohokan. There were 7 vehicles and 16 people. We traveled about



70 miles east on I-8 than 8 miles on dirt road. A GREAT DAY was had by all.



FU-GARWE CHIEF who had lost his way

RV Count

	2014/15	2015/16
11-25	382	316
1-1	415	421
1-31	506	????

The Icteridae Male

The icteridae male is often larger, brighter, and differently colored than the female. With rather powerful bills, they build depending nests that are entered from above--in this case,

below the palm fronds in Pygmy Grove--these particular birds whistled and chattered, rattled and trilled, moving slowly through the tallest desert treetops, searching for insects and the tiny fruit above.... Your orange cap

and feathers below, your black bib and white wing bars, your long black tail--all identify the hooded oriole as this morning's inspiration,

according to The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds that I referred to later--which also expressly mentions you fall victim your cousin, the parasitic cowbird, who leaves an egg, an aggressive changeling, to push your nestlings to the side, abrogating the love and care you meant for your

own tender offspring.... Well, thanks for another warning far too late that it's

a cuckoo world.

-Daniel Thornburg January 4, 2016



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 or come & visit @ the north end of Skunk Hollow.

Vixen



“February”



1st: Sidekick Ruth

2nd: House Mouse Daisy Mae Smilin Jack

3rd: Sponge Bob

4th: Skunk Hollow Patrick

5th: Farmer Boy/Barbwire Hurricane Ridge Tim

6th: Grumpy/Snow White Summer/Larry

7th: Trailer Trash North Wind Adgitator Music Row Dave

9th: Gator Spearchucker Chicken Soup

10th: Lil Abner Jan Jackson

11th: Gator/Geiko General Lee

12th: BC Lana

13th: Rocky Knoll Jerry

14th: Alberta Road Runner/Shadow Rider Prairie Oyster Diesel Man/Lollipop Da Yupper

15th: Cogitator Grizzly Gus/Happy

16th: Big Hauss

17th: Crosscut

18th: Little John

19th: Lighthouse Lady Gypsy Richard Jammin Jer Lebo/One Way

20th: Tweedie Bird Roadrunner/Granny Spud 2/Tator Tots

21st: Bluegil Bluegil/White Perch

22nd: Dusty Blue

24th: Bad Wrench CSC John H.

25th: Phil A. Scorpion Hunter

26th: Spanky Reo CSC Bill/Elaine J North Wind/Desert Rain

27th: Stray Goose Beans

28th: Zimmerman

29th: Catherine Rose