



# The Boondocker Chatter

## Senator Wash's Newsletter

January 1, 2015

Volume 1, Issue 1

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### Dates to Remember

- Jan. 5 Memorial Dogburn @ The Names
- Jan. 13 Auction for the Liberry and Boondocker Chatter @ 10am
- Jan. 31 Salvation Mountain Ride @9am
- Feb. 3-5 Cookie Drive

## Scavenger Hunts

Last December and January 3 scavenger hunts were held out here on the desert. Bomber D and Big Rig had a great time figuring out where to put the treasure and putting out the clues.

Every evening, a clue was given to the person running the radio check at 7pm. They would read that day's clue and all the previous clues. For those people not using a CB, clues were posted at that time on the bulletin board by the 2nd restroom.

The first hunt was a straight forward scavenger hunt each clue starting at the point where the last clue ended. The other 2 gave clues to where letters were hidden. When you had gath-

ered all the letters, you had to unscramble them to spell the name of the place the treasure was hidden.

This season's scavenger hunts will begin in January. It will be advertised on the CB and on the bulletin boards the week prior to its start. The clues will be given just as they were last year both on the radio and at the 2nd restroom.

The final clue is your ticket to collect the treasure. You must bring that clue to ei-

ther Bomber D (Craig Dorman) Northwest Territory 3rd Mesa living in a maroon and gray motorhome, or Big Rig (Marty Anderson) East Florida Flats living in a Montana fifth-wheel with a maroon and gray semi parked somewhere around the area.

Last year three different couples won the 3 different hunts. Blade and Bandaid (Harold & Judy Swank ) won the first hunt. Pistol Pete and Kookieuke (Pete & Linda Hendershot ) won the second hunt. Lastly, North Wind and Desert Rain (Doug and Lynn Minor—Pictured) won the final hunt.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in this activity, but beware of a certain red jeep which tends to run in "stealth mode" at night.



## COOKIE DRIVE

The annual cookie drive to support the YPG Fire and Emergency Personnel will be held from Tuesday through Thursday, February 3-5 from 9 a.m. to noon.

This is the Senator Wash LTVA'S way of thanking the YPG personnel who come to help us in an emergency.

Home baked or good quality purchased cookies will be collected at Boomer and Cookie's Rig on East Flor-

ida Flats, starting on February 3, 2015.

Let's see who can **bake** the most cookies this year. There is a rumor circulating that there might be a prize awarded to the couple who bakes the most cookies.

## Health tip of the month: D E H Y D R A T I O N

Being senior citizens and living in the desert, we need to talk about what happens when we become dehydrated. The first sign of beginning dehydration is the feeling of thirst.

Sometimes we are too busy to notice we're thirsty and we miss this first sign.

Maybe we're having too much fun and forget to stop for water. If we don't drink, that feeling of thirst will go away as the body passes into a state of mild dehydration. We might notice a dampened mood, tiredness, or the beginning of a headache or stomachache. Sometimes it's that feeling

that you're just not having fun anymore and you're not sure why.

The next signs of dehydration include a rapid heart rate that doesn't return to normal when we rest and low urine output, unusual fatigue, weakness, nausea, anxiety or depression. At this point, if we are not taking in fluids, we're in trouble. Emergency medical help is needed. The body can rapidly progress into organ failure, coma, and death. The best way to be safe is to **drink before** we're thirsty. Some of us don't like to drink water. That's fine,

just find something you like. Keep in mind that caffeinated and highly sugared drinks can have their side effects. And alcoholic drinks can increase the effects of dehydration.

Some of the new electrolyte drinks are great. Read labels and decide what's right for you. The important point is be aware of the amount of fluid consumed during the day, and to remind those around us to drink plentiful and often.

Urine color should be straw yellow and output should be every few hours. Play safe and enjoy these beautiful winters in the desert.

**“One summer they put me in a storage RV and towed me to the CSC. Man was it hot in there...”**

### Teddy, the traveling teddy bear

Hi, my name is Teddy, I think I arrived out here on Senator Wash AKA the desert about 2009. I like to visit as many snowbirds as possible, everyone is so interesting, & they really treat me well. I spend a week visiting, then I sneak into the next RV site. The heat & the wind don't bother me, but please keep me out of the rain. One of the 1st places I visited gave me a journal, then someone gave me my very own pet, a cat named Boonie. Now I have a backpack to keep my stuff in, I got lots of stuff.

One of the best parts of my traveling is waiting for the owners to wake up or come home & see their surprise when they see me sitting in one of their chairs. They read my sign

& realize I am no threat, I just enjoy making people smile. People have taken me to Mexico, to church, shopping at Walmart, hiking, over to the YPG bowling alley, lots of happy hours too, wow, lots of new experiences for me. One summer, they put me in a storage RV & towed it to the CSC. Man was it hot in there, finally the snowbirds starting coming back. Boonie & I waited patiently to hear someone hook onto the storage RV, but nobody came all season, we were stuck in there for over a year. A search party found us the next fall, it was so good to be back out in the fresh air. I was on Quail Hill for awhile... mosquitoes are bad there, then in Skunk Hollow..... oh the smell, up on the mesa..... just sit

around & watch the turd taxis go by.....then up on Ferguson Road....sure gets windy up there. Then up to Northwest Territories in early December, it's windy up there too. And I met this RVer, he said he was going to teach me how to work, he said I'd been sitting around doing nothing for a long time. Sure glad to move on from there, I tried to explain to him that my job was to make people smile....sometimes that is hard....but most of these RVers are old & retired & enjoying life & they smile a lot.

So if Boonie & I come to visit you, please write in my journal & smile, Teddy & Boonie

## Memorial Dogburn

At Senators Wash there has been a long tradition of night time off road rides for weenie roasts. First the Volkswagen folks then later the Jeeps. Regular street vehicles were not included. Usually these events were in out of the way secluded places where only off road cars could go. About this time, for fun, Nine Patch and her scheming night riders invented the lost tribe. It seemed appropriate to call the Weenie Roasts -- Dog Burns.

As time went on, more folks wanted to join the fun

but didn't have the proper vehicles. So the group decided to find an easier place to have the "Burns" and include everyone. Hence the secret undisclosed location was announced. Any street legal car can go. We have a lot of silly fun just like the old timers did.

However another trail tradition was maintained all the while. Our off road friends had started to put the names of departed friends on the ground in a remote place that we knew of called the "Names". Now

we visit that place every January Dogburn to remember our departed friends. It is also called the "Valley of Names".

Dogburns are held on or near the full Moon. Any ordinary street vehicle can make it to the names. No low riders or sports cars please. The next Dogburn will be Jan 5th leaving the dump station at 5:00 PM. Everyone is invited. CB Ch 12 is your place for more information 7:00 PM every night.

Jaws

“As time went on, more wanted to join the fun but didn't have the proper vehicles...hence the secret undisclosed location...”

## "Camels in the Desert"

Rumors abound on Senator Wash.....a camel foot print in the desert.....a pile of camel dung sighted in the desert.....could it be true ?? Legends abound about the camels used in the 1880's at Fort Yuma.

There is the "Red Camel with a Dead Rider" legend, a reluctant soldier was tied to the camel, the soldier died, & the camel still wanders the desert trying to get rid of the corpse. There is the "Red Ghost Legend", a pioneer woman was killed, all they found were tufts of red hair & camel tracks.....the conclusion was a red haired camel must have killed the pioneer woman. Then the "Gold Miner who

Used Camels", struck it rich and said too much in town. The miner and the camel are still wandering the desert, minus the gold.

The Army did experiment with camels for a short time but the camels spooked the horses, mules & soldiers. There is a monument to "Hi Jolly" AKA Hadji Ali up in Quartzsite. He and "Greek George" AKA Yiorgos Caralambo were among the men hired as camel drivers. Legend says that when the Army no longer wanted the camels, the Army released them into the desert. More legends say that Hi Jolly & Greek

George didn't know what to do with them, so they released them into the desert. Legends abound, take your pick ;)

There is a rumor that there will be a camel expedition in Feb of 2015, led by Slobberjaws and/or McGyver. This expedition will be equipped with motion sensitive cameras, some camel food, and some worthy explorers. Will they find any camels ?? Truth or fiction will be told around many campfires in Feb. of 2015. A camel potluck ?? A camel playing music at the Sunday afternoon jam ?? A camel camper on our Senator Wash ??

## LTVA Emergency Policy

The Imperial Dam LTVA Emergency Team monitors CB Channel 12, 24 hours a day, and is very familiar with the area, so they can lead the emergency vehicles to your location at any time, day or night (approximately 7-10 minutes response time). If you do not have a CB radio, check with your neighbors and ask if you can call on them to radio in an emergency for you, should you need help. It is important to know your location, i.e. *Quail Hill, Murphy Flats, etc.* see map for location names that we use. In the event you have an emergency, simply get on Channel 12

and say: "Emergency, emergency, emergency!" You will be answered by an Emergency Team member. They will need to know the nature of the emergency (i.e. heart attack, not breathing, etc.). Tell them your location and turn on as many lights as possible (i.e. interior, exterior lights, headlights, hazard lights, etc.) If you do not have a CB and your vehicle or tow vehicle has alarms, hit your remote panic button to set off the lights and alarm, and then get your neighbor to call in via their CB. A member of the Emergency Team will call the

Yuma Proving Grounds (YPG) Emergency Center. Runners will then be dispatched to S24 to escort the emergency vehicles to the location of the emergency. YPG will dispatch their emergency response vehicles, at the same time, an emergency vehicle from Rural/Metro in Yuma may be dispatched. These vehicles are in radio contact with each other. Should it be necessary to transport a patient to Yuma Regional Medical Center (YRMC), a transfer will be made to the Rural/Metro ambulance from the YPG emergency vehicle. During an emer-

gency, Channel 12 should not be used except by the Emergency Team, except if another emergency arises. At the conclusion of the emergency, the channel will be cleared for normal use by the Emergency Team Radio Coordinator Rural

Metro Ambulance insurance is available at a very reasonable rate, \$139.84 for a 12 month calendar year (August-the following July, December-the following November, etc.). The Rural Metro office is located on 2029 S. Arizona Ave in Yuma, & their phone # is [928-726-7737](tel:928-726-7737)

"It is estimated that he used over 100,000 gallons of paint on this monument."

## "SALVATION MOUNTAIN"

On Saturday, Jan 31st, 2015, there will be a Cadillac ride leaving the Christian Service Center @ 9 AM. Bring a lunch & a chair, we should arrive @ Salvation Mountain AKA the Painted Mountain by noon. It is a 3 story man made monument built by Leonard Knight, & dedicated to

his love & faith in the Bible & Jesus Christ. Leonard was born in 1931 in Vermont, was a veteran, & he died earlier this year. It is estimated he used over 100,000 gallons of paint on this monument. It is open daily from dawn-dusk, & there is a group of people dedicated to carrying on

Leonard's work.

It is only about 100 miles away, so we should be back to the Christian Service Center by 3-4 PM. A CB radio would be helpful, but is not necessary. All are welcome.

by Slobberjaws

## The Auction

The auction is coming up fast, right around the corner...set for Tuesday, January 13th, 10 AM, down @ the gravel pit ramada. All proceeds will go to our Liberry fund & the new Senator Wash newsletter equally. Although the newslet-

ter will be emailed to many, there will also be copies made for distribution. There will be baked goodies for sale, maybe even a big homemade pie or two.....and a sloppy-joe lunch available.....and 50/50 tickets and ?????? Please donate auction

items to Skunk Hollow, there is a flat bed trailer there for large items, & Slobberjaws & Vixen will store smaller auction items. Hope to see you there :) Listen on CB Channel 12 or check the bulletin boards for updates.

## Art Classes

Art Classes return to the desert. JeanAnn is back and classes will begin meeting @ 1:30 Tuesdays at the church picnic area. Orientation Dec. 30. Instruction starts Jan.6. Call JeanAnn at [308 360 1293](tel:3083601293) for more info.

# The Desert Pickers

During the 2011/2012 camping season, Gordon Hunt, the music director for the Christian Service Center made an announcement at a Sunday Jam session at the Gravel Pit for anyone who would be interested in joining a ukulele club. There were 6-8 interested people who turned out for the first meeting at the original church location. Gordon introduced a sheet of music and explained the various aspects of the not value and the basic chords on the uke. A few of the folks had their own ukuleles, but Gordon had bought

some ukes in anticipation that some students would come without one.

At the very first session Gordon had us playing a tune called "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands". Then we decided that we would practice on Mondays and to try to recruit new members. The



membership grew slowly. Gordon kept introducing new music with new chords. It was also agreed upon by the group to call ourselves The Desert Pickers.

In the 2nd year Gordon asked if we would play at the Gravel Pit and we did to a standing ovation. Next he had us play at a church service. Gordon continued to introduce new music and new chords. He also introduced the picking technique which means that the person picks the strings that produce the melody of a song. This is differ-

ent that the strumming technique where a person strums their fingers across all 4 strings to create a chord sound.

In the last couple of years, Gordon had to return home to Canada early and Rebecca has filled in for him.

she has a musical background and has enabled the group to continue and learn new music and chords. The

Desert Pickers has now grown to the point where Gordon has considered moving our Monday practice sessions to the church where we would have ore room and better acoustics.

## Angels Angles

Your Liberrians have been hard at work sorting and putting away the many books donated by you all. We reorganize from time to time, to accommodate the changing titles, so you may have to look for your favorite section. Once a book is well worn, or perhaps a duplicate, we box it up and

take it one of three places; the Christian Service Center, the Base Library, or the homeless mission in town, which they really appreciate. Thanks also for your plastic bottles (remember They MUST have the CA-CRV5 designation on them), and for your aluminum cans. All proceeds

from the redemption of these go right back into our community, so again, thank you. Remember you can stay in touch all year on Facebook, at Our Liberry, or email at [our-liberry@yahoo.com](mailto:our-liberry@yahoo.com). Angel

**"There were 6-8 interested people who turned out for the first meeting..."**

## RC Planes, Helicopters

Hi the Senator Wash Aerodrome RC flying field is active again this year.. We have some new planes ,such as a twin engine large electric plane with retracts flies very well, also a nice size 4 blade drone with camera....plus several large aerobatic gas engine planes ..Then for a change we fly helicopters ,wind permitting .Look

for us due west of 5 corners toward the mountains about 1 mile....If interested in flying come see us we will give you a test flight to see how you like it ,we have several good flight instructors .....Then we could advise you on a good starter plane or helicopter.....Everyone welcome lets go flying.....Don Phillips (Taurus)

## One Liners

Many of our grandchildren do not know what it is like to be old. I suggest that they "put cotton in their ears, pebbles in their shoes and pull on rubber gloves". "Smear Vaseline over their glasses and there you have it "INSTANT OLD AGE!!"

**INSIDE EVERY OLDER PERSON IS A YOUNGER PERSON WONDERING-----WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED**

# Geocaching

Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. There are over 2 million caches hidden and over 6 million geocachers in 270 countries. The only necessities are a GPS device or a GPS-enabled mobile phone so that you can navigate to the cache. It is common for geocachers to hide caches in locations that are important to them, reflecting a special interest or skill of the cache owner. These locations can be quite diverse. They may be at your

local park, at the end of a long hike, underwater or on the side of a city street. If you take something from the geocache (or "cache"), leave something of equal or greater value. Write about your find in the cache logbook and your experience at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

There are currently over a dozen "cache types" in geocaching, with each cache type being a different variation of the game. The most popular cache is a container with a log book and if the container is large enough there may also be items to trade. Other types are multi caches where a cacher would find a set of coordinates

at the first location that would lead them to another location. Puzzle or mysteries caches are also popular.

Geo Art is another type that is gaining popularity. This is where caches are set out in art form and usually a cacher has to hike to them. We had done several of these in the past year, the latest art consisted of 166 in the form of a Fire Dancer, the symbol for Dave Matthews Band.

Geocaching has gone through many changes since its conception in 2000. There are far more Power Trails now, where caches are hidden 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile apart on a trail or a road, the

containers are small containing only a log sheet. One area of Nevada has over 2000 caches within 100 miles of road.

There is a very active group of geocachers in Yuma, S\*W\*A\*G, South-West Arizona Geocachers. They have monthly breakfast meetings and each February they organize an Event that has many events over a 3 day period. Last year there were over 600 geocachers from all over the United States and Canada.

If anyone is interested in pursuing this activity or needs more information we can be contacted on Fishtail Flats or by calling 928-210-7888 or by e-mail at [dyerlk@hotmail.com](mailto:dyerlk@hotmail.com).

## Cadillac ride...a day to remember

On Friday, December 12, 12 vehicles left Skunk Hollow at 8:30 AM with Jaws leading and North Wind serving as Tailfeathers.

We drove west on I-8 to Ogleby Road which led us north to I-10. We stopped briefly at Gold Rock Ranch...a store and small RV park.

When we resumed the drive, we detoured again to climb Black Mountain...the location of 200 plus towers and a magnificent view of

the valley below. Elevation 2148...28 Kelly bumps to ease over on a rough one way gravel road. We lost communication with our leader

when his CB antenna

broke and fell off. Repairs were made when we reached the top.

We had lunch in our vehicles at the Patton Museum as it was cool and sprinkling a bit, then went in for a good tour which included a short movie. We next headed west on I-10 and after a few miles, turned to go towards Salton Sea....a body of land locked water created in 1901 when an

attempt was made to

divert a small amount of water for irrigation purposes from the Colorado River failed.

A visit to Slab City and Salvation Mountain including a large rainbow and a beautiful sunset concluded our sightseeing and we arrived back at

Senator Wash at 8PM....11 1/2 hours...361 miles!

Thank you so much Jaws and thank you for the free turnaround lessons.

Red Dog and Hush-puppy



**"A visit to Slab City and Salvation Mountain including a large rainbow and a beautiful sunset concluded our sightseeing..."**

## CB Story

Submitted by Linda  
"Kookieuke" Hendershot

Originally this story was done by Fred "Broadcaster" Ross for the CB Directory. I have shortened the story for the news letter.

For a long time, CB Channel 12 has been a very important part of life here on this part of the Sonoran desert.

Initially the "Imperial Dam Nation" CB club got things going. In those early years, use of channel 12 was really a club activity...with regular meetings and even dues. Winter visitors would stay along or just off the Colorado River in places like "Little Hollywood", "Quail Hill" and "Camp Two"...some of which were locations of construction camps dating from the time Imperial Dam was built.

In 1977 with enlargement of the camping

area to include what we know today as Senator Wash and beyond, Chet "Lit'l Scamp" Wenke led an effort to make CB communication a way of staying alive in case of emergencies. Wenke decided to initiate an evening roll call to be sure every camper's CB was working so that if an emergency arose, the affected camper(s) could quickly get in contact with someone who could send help. And if you didn't own a CB, "Lit'l Scamp" would see that you got one or at least had the opportunity to be part of this communications system.

When Wenke no longer was able to carry on his mission, he passed the microphone on to Ilabelle "Rusty Belle" Bobbitt. For many years, Bertie "Happy" Coogole was the voice of CH. 12 from her place near 5 corners. In suc-

ceeding years, Shirley "Sugar Annie" Bowman, Robert & Louise "Bob-A-Lou" Kammerer and June "Lady Twister" Gill would come on the air nightly at 7 o'clock carrying on the tradition of "Lit'l Scamp's" roll call.

In more recent years, Donna "Lady Bug" Miller, Fred "Broadcaster" Ross and Jerry "Lady Bee" Bragole have called the roll. Marcie "Sage Hen" Moore, Walt "Skippedo" Loose, Bob "Slobberjaws" Dossett, Robert "Fly Fisher" Keator and Bob "Jarhead" Bragole, James "Second Chance" Bain, Becky "Barefoot Girl" Montague, Ron "Mcgyver" DeMarco have also taken turns as early evening roll-callers. More recent evening roll call is done by Mary "Vixen" Dossett, Tom "Bayou Peddler" Crittenden, and Lyn "Desert Rain" Minor

and sometimes Linda "Kookieuke" Hendershot. Sorry if I have missed anyone.

Because of what happened in 1991, we can hear Jim & Katie from the Christian Service Center. Don "Davey Crocket" Davey organized a fund raising effort that brought in enough money to buy several powerful radios, antennas, cable...even a 35-foot tower...with which the center can now "talk" to anyone, just about anywhere out here.

Because of cell phones the center does not call out many messages over the CB radio.

Another feature that makes our channel 12 unique is that at 7 P.M. roll call is held for everyone to check their radios. to make sure they work. And after the people call in announcements are given for events and activities going on in the desert. But the most important aspect of channel 12 is that it is used for emergencies.

## Peanuts & Nutcracker's Christmas Light Parade

For new people who will be seeing the light parade for the first time and want to know how it got started, here is the story as it has been told to me:

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 Christmas 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 & Nut Cracker are no longer with us, we will keep the light parade going and always remember that they started something that brings the Christmas spirit to us all, when we are far away from our home and family.

Kookie Uke

Shortly after I arrived in Skunk Hollow in the fall of 2005, I started jotting down birthdays & anniversaries & email addresses. Slobberjaws had been collecting email addresses for awhile so he could send out his "ketchup" emails to all his desert friends when he was back in Illinois. That is where the "desert friends" term came from. 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 @ [vixenmary1944@yahoo.com](mailto:vixenmary1944@yahoo.com) or come & visit @ the north end of Skunk Hollow. Vixen



## “JANUARY”



1st: Ladybee	Chicken Lit-
tle Eejay/Bluejay	Marcos/Imelda
2nd: Poppie	
3rd: Capt Bligh/Little Beaver	
4th: Diesel Man	
7th: Jarhead	Stagecoach/No Name Flatliner
8th: Bandaid	
10th: Broken Wheel	
11th: Stitches	Lost Canuck Starlet
12th: Imelda	
13th: CSC Ed V.	CSC Slim
14th: Macky	
15th: Uncle Monkey/Barefoot Girl	
16th: Curly	
19th: Baxter Gal	
20th: Pathfinder/Troublemaker	Lady Sagebrush
21st: Hurricane Ridge Leona	Gold Miner/Crevicer
23rd: Ice Pickle/Raven	Normando
24th: Bovine Man	Gunsmoke CSC Judy
25th: Fun Mover	
26th: Aunt Mama	Warhoop Happy Nomad General Lee/Lulubelle Quail
Hill Judy	
27th: Paintbrush	Poor Pensioner/Happy Nomad
30th: Jack Spratt	