

The Boondocker Chatter

Senator Wash's Newsletter

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Inside this issue:

Health Tip	2
Sauerkraut & Sausage	2
Health Tip (cont)	3
R.V. Count	3
Thanks, EH	4
Camel Hunting Background	4
Camel Hunt Update	5
Sunday Music Jams	6
Silent Camper	7
Illness update	7
Birthdays & Anniversaries	8

Dates to Remember

- Mar. 1—Rootbeer floats at the Sunday Music Jam
- Mar. 6 Dog Burn
- Mar. 14 Skunk Holler Racing
- Mar. 17 Sauerkraut & Sausage Potluck

2015 COOKIE DRIVE

Thank You to all on the LTVA who made the 2015 Cookie Drive a big success. We could not have done it without all 70 of you who donated the 556 dozen cookies that we delivered to the Emergency



Services Personnel on the YPG

Army base Thursday afternoon, after the drive was over. 228 of the 556 dozen cookies were home baked. The winner of the Home



Baked Cookie Contest was Milk Maid, who baked 34 dozen cookies. Congratulations Milk Maid. We hope you enjoy your dinner for two at Denny's



Cookie, Boomer, Schoolteacher, and Big Rig

"Before You leave"

Before you leave, please pick up & clean up your campsite & nearby area. Especially the washes near you,

they seem to collect the most flying trash. Tie all garbage bags securely. Safe travels home, hope to see

you next season. Have a great summer.

Health Tip of the Month: Alzheimer Disease (Lyn—Desert Rain)

Alzheimer disease is the most common form of dementia and the prevalence is on the rise. It affects 5.4 million people in the US, and that number is projected to reach 15 million by 2050. It is an incurable disease with a long and progressive course. In Alzheimer disease, plaques develop in the cerebral cortex and the hippocampus (a structure deep in the brain that encodes memories). Whether the plaques themselves cause AD or whether they are a by-product of the AD process is still unknown.

Here are some of the risk

factors for Alzheimer disease: Advancing age, Family history, Obesity, Hypertension, Traumatic brain injury.

Although there is no medicine or treatment that will prevent Alzheimer disease, there are now new drugs that can help slow (not reverse) the progress. The most common, Donepezil (Aricept) works by stopping the enzyme responsible for the destruction of acetylcholine, an important neurotransmitter. It would be good to discuss these new drug interventions with your doctor if you or loved ones notice early signs of AD. But the question is:

How do we pin down these early signs and could it be just the normal forgetfulness of aging?

A person with beginning AD will appear completely normal physically and mentally. The specific regions of the brain probably begin to be affected 10-20 years before any visible symptoms appear.

Signs of mild AD can include the following:
Memory loss
Confusion about the location of familiar places
Taking longer to accomplish normal, daily tasks
Trouble handling money or paying bills

Compromised judgement, often leading to bad decisions
Mood and personality changes; increased anxiety
Loss of spontaneity and sense of initiative

Signs of moderate AD:
Increasing memory loss and confusion
Shortened attention span
Problems recognizing friends and family members
Difficulty organizing thoughts, language, reading, working with numbers
Inability to learn new things or cope with unexpected situations
Restlessness, agitation, anxiety, tearfulness, wan-

Sauerkraut & Sausage History (Mary—Vixen)

The first dates in the liberry books was 1997-1998, the books were kept by Nitro AKA Nyla Dossett. She kept the books until her sudden death on 1-15-2003, Slobber Jaws AKA Bob Dossett has been the bookkeeper since then.

The 1st trailer purchase was for \$400.00 in the 1997-1998 season. This liberry trailer was used for some books & lots of storage of tables, legs, coffeepots, speakers, etc.. In 1998-1999, there was another auction, the books record \$894.28 raised. On 2-16-2000, there is a notation for another auction, the total raised was \$1,653.00. The Airstream Trailer was purchased on 12-06-2001 for \$1,000.00. The 1st liberry trailer was sold on 12-17-2001 for \$400.00 which was the purchase price 4 yrs earlier. It was sold to Friendly Frog & Poliwog, who then sold it to Alberta

Roadrunner & Shadow Rider, who then sold it to Angel & Redneck a year ago, who then sold it back to the liberry this year to use as a storage trailer freeing up the Airstream trailer to be used only as a liberry. All of the tables, legs, coffeepots, speakers, recycling barrels, etc., etc. are now being stored in this very "old" liberry storage trailer. So the 1st liberry has now completed the circle back to the newly remodeled Airstream liberry trailer, both to serve the community. There was also an auction on 1-11-2003, the total raised was \$1,414.50. The next auction was 2-22-2007, the total raised was \$1,711.47. The next auction was early in 2010, raising over \$1,500.00, all monies donated to Orb Weaver for the publication of our newsletters. The last auction was on 1-13-2015, the total raised was \$1,448.50. The liberry is now being

renovated, remodeled, rejuvenated, redone, & rehabbed. There are also funds from the "recycling" of plastics & aluminum cans, thank you everyone. So stop by & see the "NEW" Airstream liberry trailer.

The liberry funds are used for many community activities such as the needs of our Emergency Response Team, buying hams, turkeys, sauerkraut, sausage, etc. for our monthly potlucks, funding the printing of our monthly Boondocker Chatter newsletter, wood for our monthly dogburns, upkeep & maintenance on our liberry trailer & our storage trailer & other community minded projects.

The first sauerkraut purchase we could find in the liberry books was 2-16-2000. Over the last few years, we usually have the sauerkraut/sausage potluck on St. Patrick's Day. This year, will

be our 15th sauerkraut feed with Slobberjaw's special recipe, on Tuesday, March 17th @ 1 PM @ the gravel pit ramada. Bring a chair, a drink, your table service, a hat & a potluck dish to share. There might be a special surprise this year.

Friday, March 6th: Our last dogburn, meet @ the dump station @ 5:30 PM, Slobberjaws will lead you to a secret undisclosed location for our doggie roast.

Health Tip of the Month: Alzheimer Disease (cont.)

dering, especially in late afternoon and night. Hallucinations, delusions, paranoia, irritability, anger

Patients with severe AD cannot recognize loved ones and cannot communicate in any way. They are completely dependent on others for their care, and all sense of self seems to vanish.

They may be in bed much or all of the time. Death is often the result of other illnesses, often pneumonia.

The cause of Alzheimer disease is unknown. Investigators believe that converging environmental and genetic risk factors trigger a cascade that, over decades leads to AD.

There are no proven methods for preventing AD, but research suggests that the following healthy lifestyles can reduce the risk:

Physical activity: stay active, exercise, create new pathways in the brain involving space, time and movement. Take up a new sport, learn a new dance, take a hike to a new area.

Mental activity: challenge those brain cells with puzzles, learn new skills, a musical instrument, a new class, sing a new song, recite a new poem, read, write, create.

Cardiovascular fitness: (Yes, it always comes back to this)

1. Blood pressure for those over 60 without diabetes or

kidney disease should be below

140/90. Stop by the Christian Service Center Mondays 10 to 11 for a check.

2. Cholesterol level total should be below 200.

3. Avoid obesity/overweight. This is very difficult and we'll talk more about this later.

4. Eat a healthy diet centered on fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain foods. Include fish, nuts, beans and seeds. Restrict sugary foods, high salt and saturated fats.

Enjoying the winters here in the desert affords great opportunities to create new brain pathways.

Example: A Jeep ride on a

beautiful sunny day. After a good lunch with close friends we head out over new, unfamiliar terrain. We realize there are several ways we can go. (You're never lost 'till you run out of gas.) From a high point we can see Picacho Peak behind us, and the Colorado River to the left, and we know home is just ahead, over that range. It's a glorious puzzle challenge as we all work together to figure out the best route home. This is creating new neural pathways of the highest level.

Enjoy our winter desert and stay safe.

R.V. Count on the LTVA (Jo—Rick's Lady)

First of all, thanks to Rockcrusher (Lee Swatman) and Betty Boop (Betty Swatman) for doing an actual count of R.V.s for many years. After Betty Boop passed away, he continued doing it. Now he has help from Sis, his sister.

Our chart at the Contact Station goes back to the 2001-2002 season. That year we had 750 on January 1st 2002. (We remember when there were over 2000 rigs in 1997-1998!)

This year the count on Nov. 25th was 302; down from 307 in 2013-2014.

The count in 2012-13 was 285 and 408 in 2011-12.

The January 1st count this year was 419 which is down from 2012-13 season which was 462.

On January 31st this year it was 506; 2013-2014 it was 500; 2012-2013 it was 542 and in 2011-2012 it was 640.

There are more figures at the Contact Station if anyone wants to see them. This just kind of touches the high spots so

you can see how our numbers have mostly dropped.

Once again thanks Rockcrusher and Sis, you are greatly appreciated!

Tuesday, March 17th: Our last (??) potluck of this season, a sauerkraut/sausage feed @ 1 PM @ the Gravel Pit Ramada. Bring a chair, your table service, your drink, a hat, & a potluck dish to share. Might be a surprise there.

Thanks, Eh (Ruth—Red Apple)

There are many things that Americans say about Canadians. One person recently told me that she could tell I was a Canadian because I spoke in complete sentences. Well, I was a grammar teacher for over 40 years so I should hope so, eh!

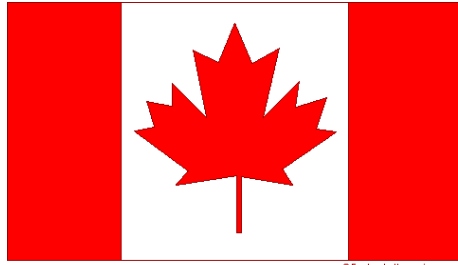
Another thing I've heard Americans say about Canadians is that we are always apologizing. If we've offended you by doing that, we are really sorry, eh.

"Compromising" is also an adjective I've heard used to describe Canadians. We think we are pretty firm in our own beliefs, eh, but if you don't agree, that's okay. We can

meet you half way and admit that sometimes we do compromise.

One final thing that Americans call us is "very polite," so would you please accept our thanks, eh, especially those of us who boondock out here at Senator Wash. We want to say a heartfelt "Thank you," to you, our American hosts, for being so gracious in allowing us to spend our winters here. We love hiking on the trails, watching the desert flowers bloom, admiring the gorgeous vistas, and bask-

ing in the sun away from the ice and snow. We are also thankful for the Liberry, Jaw's Jaunts, the Christian Service Center, the Emergency Response Team, and so many activities that bring people together.



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So, we Canucks are a little different than you Americans, but then you already knew that, eh?

(The meaning of "eh" varies with the punctuation that follows it.)

eh! is a show of indignation

eh? asks/ insists that the listener agrees with our statement

eh, means one of three things:

1. We have just stated an obvious fact that you might or might not have known before.
2. Something like "uh" or "er"
3. We are holding our place at the microphone in case we think of something else to say.)

Camel Hunting Background (Doug—North Wind)

Last season a group of us went out through the KOFA heading to Camp Hyder on a jeep expedition. The group consisted of Jaws and Lil Abner in Jaws red jeep, McGyver and SlipKnot in McGyver's red Geo Tracker and Northwind and DesertRain with Ringo in our green jeep.

After a night at the HooDoo Hilton we went east to Clanton Well.

We took a slightly different route out of the KOFA, which was fine except for a couple of problems with Macgyver's vehicle. He broke an air shock line and the the shock spring resulting in a real roller coaster ride for the last several miles. We all had a good laugh watch-

ing Macgyver and Slipknot bouncing along the road, even getting air borne on a few occasions.

We arrived at Clanton Well and Jaws gave us all a history lesson on the site and its previous owners. We were wandering about on foot when we came upon some unusual tracks in the sand and some rather odd shaped/size 'droppings'. At this point Jaws related that the tracks and stuff were, according to his prized sources, from camels. The army started training with a herd of camels for use on the front lines in North Africa during WW2, but the war ended before the animals were ever placed

into service. The story goes that the camels were release or escaped out into the Arizona desert.

The story has since taken on a new life and now we are preparing for another trip out to find these elusive camels and settle the discussion once and for all, well maybe. This time we are going out a few days ahead to set up a game camera to capture images of whatever is

leaving the unusual tracks in the sand. Then a 3 day, 2 night trip is planned to recover the camera and the elusive camel images.

So now you all know how this great "camel hunt" came to be. Sounds nutty, but hey, nobody said we are all sane out here in the heat!



Camel Hunt Update (C.R.A.P. team)

On Friday, Feb 13th (please note the day & date), there were 2 cars that went out & took camel food, a bucket of water & a motion detector camera to the last sighting area, an all day trip. They returned on Friday evening, dreaming of camel recordings. On Tuesday, Feb 17th, the camel hunt camping trip was launched with SlobberJaws Bob, Grumpy Scott, Poodoo Raeann, Preacherman, Tinkerbelle, North Wind, Desert Rain, Bomber D, Lil Abner, McGyver & Plumbob. They returned on Thurs., Feb 19th, about 4 PM, knowing there were lots of camel questions awaiting them. And they were fully prepared with their "camel report" for inquiring minds. Thus the fol-

lowing report was given:

The team has returned from their 3 day/2 night camel expedition:

The "Camel Reconnaissance Attribution Project": The pilot project is complete. Data analysis continuing. Primary objective verified. Physical evidence warrants further research. Motion detecting technology confirms presence of large quadruped. They will be applying for grant funding for the next phase of this study.

Crazy at that sounds, it just might possibly be, but probably isn't, true. We had a great time. Figures are in for mileage as follows:

Total miles for the primary group = 243.51

Total miles for the tow team = 311.56

Total miles Preacherman spent on tow rope = 40.98 about 6.25hrs

Photo analysts indicates many small critters, mice I think, rabbits, quail, 2 different bucks, one unknown gentleman inspecting camera, 3 vehicles and lastly one large rump of unknown mammal seen from the top (must have been right under the camera). Could the mammal be our elusive camel?

Additional research needed, but we need more cameras to enlarge our field of view. Looking forward to next years field trip.

**Wednesday, March 18th:
The last "Jaw's Jaunts" 4X4 ride led by Slobberjaws for this season.**

The creepy crawlies are out of their dens now... please be careful. For an injured pet →

For yourself, call our Emergency Rescue Squad on CB Channel 12 .

**Desert Vet Clinic
Open 24/7**

**Phone:
928-783-5010**

**Address:
5th Ave. between 8th
St. & 10th Street.**

Sunday Music Jams: a brief history (Roland—Landsailor)

Sunday afternoon in the desert. Folks gather at the Gravel Pit where a bunch of musically-challenged individuals have set up their guitars, banjos, amplifiers, keyboards, microphones, fiddles, ukuleles and various other toys. Spirits hover over the gathering and chuckle down affectionately at the efforts of the jammers. The spirits of Hank Williams, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, George Jones, Merle Haggard, Tom T. Hall and Johnny Cash, among others.



The Sunday music jam has murky origins and the lack of written documents forces us to rely on the memory of the few witnesses who are still around to attempt the reconstruction of a precise timeline. The writer therefore apologizes for any historical errors or omissions and would welcome any com-



ments that might shed more light on the subject.

The traditional Sunday music jam at the Gravel Pit was apparently born over thirty years ago when Toby Jack led the weekly event using sound

equipment owned by the late A. B. Cooper from Wyoming (Toby Jack, from Washington, is still camp host at the Boat Ramp with his wife Sonny Gun). Back then, the Gravel Pit Ramada was roughly one-third of its present size.



When Toby Jack stopped leading the jams, A. B. Cooper, then in his eighties, took over. Shortly thereafter, the BLM undertook construction work to expand and equip the Gravel Pit Ramada as we

know it today. The BLM also began issuing a seasonal permit to hold the weekly amplified music event. The permit remains a requirement to this day and must be applied for and renewed

on a yearly basis.

After about three years, A. B. Cooper asked Jim Tague to lead the Sunday jams. Jim and Virginia (Wild Canary and Little Dove) were regular jam participants and had been coming down from Missouri since the mid-eighties, setting up their camp in Skunk Hollow and later moving to Music Row.

Jim « emcee'd » the event for about two years using A. B. Cooper's sound equipment until, approaching ninety years old, A. B. finally had to quit.

Jim Tague then purchased a full array of sound gear, obtained the required annual permits and

took over the operation for several years.

In 2009, at Jim's request, the organization of the Sunday music jams was transferred to Landsailor, a regular jammer from Quebec who first came to the desert in 2006.

Today, the success of the event is due to the dedicated contribution of an entire team. The sound gear is provided by Nancy (New York) and Shirley (Alberta) who stay at Hidden Shores and who

purchased the equipment from Jim. The gear is kept on Music Row in a storage trailer owned by Buster (Wisconsin) which in the off-season is stored free of charge at the Christian Center, compliments of the Preacher Man.

Each Sunday, the sound equipment is set up at the Gravel Pit by Shirley, Nancy, Buster and his son Randy (the bass-man from Iowa) with the kind help of Dusty Shoes and Landline. Maria (from Alaska, now living in the Foothills) kindly assists in ensuring the efficient and fair sequence of the jammers' performances. She also moves and adjusts the microphones as required before each song.

The writer, Landsailor, obtains the yearly permits and has the pleasure of overseeing the operation, providing guidance and coordination and « emceeing » the event each Sunday.

(A new tradition now appears to be gaining traction under the impulse of Vixen and the venerable Slobber Jaws. Roughly once a month, the jam is immediately followed by free root-beer and ice-cream floats!)

Sincere thanks to all who help us in any way and to those who come out every Sunday and make us feel like we actually know what we're doing.



Silent Camper—Desert Nanny (Sent by Becky—Barefoot Girl & Granny)

Opal Pauline Bailey



March 23, 1921 - Jan. 26, 2015

Opal Pauline Bailey, age 93, of Alvin, Texas passed away Monday, January 26, 2015 at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital, Houston, Texas. Opal was born on March 23,

1921 in Morgantown, West Virginia and was a resident of Alvin for over 30 years. She was a member of the Methodist faith. Opal was preceded in death by her husband, Albert Bailey, Sr.; parents, John and Leafy Constable; and son, Albert Bailey, Jr.

Opal is survived by her daughters: Alice Flowers and husband, Henry, and Kathryn Smith; sons: Charles Bailey and wife, Vickie, and William Bailey and wife, Gail; sister, Norma Neil and husband, Paul; brother, Kenneth Constable and wife, Janet; 11 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Desert Nanny spent her last couple of years staying with Becky (Barefoot Girl). Becky was her niece and Granny was her sister. She will be missed here on the desert.

Update on Idaho Flattop—Ken Kinder & Idaho Curly Top—Ida Kinder

(Ray—Bovine Man & Ida—Curlytop)

Long time campers at Senator Wash (21 years), Flattop and Curlytop were a little late this year. They are normally here in Oct. or Nov. but this year, because of some obligations at home, they showed up the 11th of January. They were in the process of setting up their rig when Ken stumbled on a rock and fell and broke his left hip and left wrist.

Through our Emergency system, Y.P.G. was called and also Rural Metro, who transported him to Yuma Hospital. After his hip was repaired and broken wrist reset, he was transported to Yuma Rehabilitation Hospital.

After several weeks, he is now in Life Care Center of Yuma for a few more weeks of therapy.

For the first few days, Grumpy and Kitten (Ed and Julie Wineland) shuttled Curlytop around until Little John (John Legore) moved their R.V. to a park close to the hospital.

Flattop can't put any weight on his hip and with a broken wrist it is hard to use a walker. They are in the process of renting a park model that is at ground level.

Flattop is doing well and looking forward to getting out the last of Feb.

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



“March”



1st: Rocky

2nd: Porch Pup Tim/Judy (Quail Hill)

3rd: Lady Tracker Bifocal Viking Colonel Sanders/Mrs Sanders White Perch

5th: Grumpy Slobberjaws/Vixen CSC Cathy

6th: Shotgun (Paula) Granny Badger Sunshine

7th: Pathfinder Lollipop

8th: Lefty Tuff Diamondback/Raddler

9th: Cat Lover CSC Judy & Wayne Spud 2

10th: Roman Sandal John/Faye H.

13th: Pork/Beans (?)

14th: Kookieuke

15th: Stagecoach

16th: Scorpion Hunter

17th: Three Fingers & Mary Ann

18th: Lebo Coffeemug/Teacup

19th: Barbwire Portagee Beehive Bus Ron

20th: Yellow Bird Rainmaker Chuck Lang

21st: Rock Crusher

23rd: R/V Express Heather (Murphy Flats) Pea Stacker Diesel Rig

24th: Zimmerwoman Bo Peep

25th: Desert Rat Katydid Professor

27th: Toby Jack/Sunny Gun

28th: Dit Dot CSC Gwen

29th: Chimo Dreamcatcher

30th: Mr Zookeeper Cinnamon

31st: Pistol Pete/Kookieuke Banshee/The Angel Little Dutch Girl