

# *Cactus Patch Dispatch*

## Newsletter for NMHRRVC Chapter 81

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Web site  
Nmhrrvc.com

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### Your Officers

President: Ed Spivak  
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### D-Square Hitch in Columbus, New Mexico.

Pat and I had the privilege of talking with Gene McCall of D-Square Hitch fame when we were in the Columbus area late in February. He reported that he had been in the hospital in Albuquerque for over a month with Valley Fever just at the tail end of last year. He had no idea where he was or what was happening. Five days after he was taken to the hospital, he said he opened his eyes to see two doctors and a priest standing there over his bed. They were talking about how to resuscitate him. He surprised them by telling them not to worry about resuscitating him. Furthermore, he said, "Don't ever think of resuscitating me! Once I'm gone, I want to stay gone!"

Many of you may recall Gene and his wife, Pat, hosting their famous Customer Appreciation Days when he was still in business. Many of us who participated were feted by the McCall's to several days of meals and entertainment at their shop in Columbus during those annual events. But Gene says that he closed up his shop. "Oh, he says, if you have a small problem and I'm over at the

shop, stop in and we'll see what we can do about it."

### March Campout

The March campout at Usery Mountain Regional Park near Mesa, Arizona was a hit! Wagonmasters Bob and Betty Luikens had it right when they said that the event would be less of a camp out than "a chance to enjoy nature". How true!

Those of us who participated had a beautiful setting smack dab in the middle of a huge field of saguaros and at least a dozen other types of cactus. The county has equipped this campground with water, 50 amp electric, and a dump station. Each site is separated from the others by enough distance to be almost hidden from each other. Yet, trails connected each site with others and with the community bathrooms and showers (should you want to use them).

Much of the time was spent out in the sun and fresh air, always starting out with coffee and goodies for brunch and ending with cocktails and too much to eat in the evening.

But the highlight had to be a dinner at the Organ Stop Pizza house! The group got there close to 4:00 P.M., early enough to get a good seat where we could have a clear view of the giant organ that kept us entertained as we ate great pizza and other Italian food.

This report wouldn't be complete, however, if we didn't mention Monica and Dick Pavlick,

brand new members of HRRVC. Rossanna and Bill were parked next to them in the overflow area and invited them to join our group. Very new to Holiday Rambler ownership, they knew nothing about the Club. Not only did they join us for the camp out, they decided to join us for the caravan to the Sunshine Rally in Las Vegas and for the rally too! Our state managers even managed to get them signed up with the office at national, got them registered for the Western Sunshine Rally, and for them to have the honor of being named the newest members of the Club when they arrived in Las Vegas.

Way to go, Rossanna and Bill!

### **About the Members**

Erwin and Marilyn Peak, our illustrious regional “leading couple” put on the miles and lots of smiles as they joined the Nichols’ and Miranda’s on the Holiday Rambler trip to Rocky Point. We know that they’re enjoying their last few months before Erwin retires as Regional Director. Just tell us, Erwin, are those smiles ‘cause you’re having fun or ‘cause you’re just about through with your term of office.

Diana and Konrad Scheel, as you may know, live on a nice piece of property about ten miles southeast of Deming. During the past few years, they have built a beautiful retirement home with an attached workshop for Konrad and a sewing room for Diana. And their computer room is filled with computers and all sorts of modern day gadgets. But the open spaced kitchen/dining room/ living room makes it a perfect Southwestern style home! One can sit in any of the rooms and see great mountain scenery in any direction.

Konrad and Diana opened their home to several Rockhound State Park Holiday Rambler campers during February for food and fun. Thanks for being such great hosts!

Rusty and Jim Mason will be staying at Happy Trails in Surprise, Arizona until “around May first”, according to Rusty. While Jim finds lots to do in the carpentry shop, Rusty keeps herself busy with all sorts of projects. If Happy Trails were a pond of water, we know we’d find a duck named Rusty!

Don Geurin says that he looks like a rooster who got into a cock fight these last few months! He has been going to the doctor in El Paso almost every week to have skin cancers removed. One session required a pretty hefty skin graft while the other procedures were painful and looked bad during the healing process. Otherwise, he says, he’s feeling great (and looking much better, says Barbara)!

The Hamlets wrote an e-mail, quoted below: “Dear HRRVC friends: The Hamlets drove to Usury Park after the Rock Hound campout. We had visited and enjoyed the hospitality of the Geurins and Scheels along the way. We arrived at Usury on February 13. We had hoped to stay there until the NM HRRVC members arrived for the March campout. Unfortunately we were not able to stay as Pat had a problem with her heart so we returned to Albuquerque. After we arrived home, Pat had another bout with atrial fibrillation (the third event she has had in 20 days). I took her to the Kaseman ER and she was subsequently transferred to the Heart Hospital. She has now been released with new medications and will be consulting with her heart doctor. We will not be traveling for some undetermined time. Our Motorhome is again in storage awaiting Pat's recovery, and JB is in storage as well.”  
The Hamlets

Bill and Adele Tucker called to tell the secretary that they no longer will be members of Chapter 81 because they belong to two other camping groups and find themselves too busy to remain members of chapter 81. Please remove Bill and Adele Tucker from your roster.

Rossanna Hays wrote, on 22 March 09:

“Bill and I had a delightful Saturday with the Pavlicks. We said goodbye at fun fifties' Peggy Sue's Restaurant on I-15 near Barstow (We also ran into several Holiday Ramblers including our neighbors at the Rally). Just before we left I told them they would be meeting fellow HR people along the way from now on. Then we went our separate ways.

Bill and I are now with friends in Huntington Beach, CA. Yesterday our friends took us to see the Nethercutt Collection/Museum, a treasure trove of prize-winning automobiles and mechanical musical instruments collected by the founders of Merle Norman Cosmetics.

We were walking down one of the many aisles and I looked in the distance and my mind went into a time warp for there were Dick and Monica with son and daughter in law. I screamed "Monica" and she screamed back "Rossanna." In this huge L.A. metropolitan area we managed to be in the same place at the same time. It was uncanny. Now, there is something for your newsletter. We still can't believe it. More later. Rossanna

The above comments from Rossanna Hays may make more sense given the context from which it is written. Remember, Dick and Monica were parked next to Bill and Rossanna in the overflow area at Usery Mountain Regional Park in Mesa.

### **Tales from the Trail (formerly Interesting Incidents from on the Road)**

This one is about Hal Peer! When he and Louann first told us about it, the group just howled! Of course, it helped that both Hal and Louann were feeding off each other as it was being told.

Hal noticed that Don Geurin had his dish antenna up when they were at a camp out in the high mountains and tall trees of southern New Mexico. Hal knocked on the Geurin's door and asked if Don was watching television. Don said that he was and that he was getting a good picture. Well, Hal went back to his motor home and cranked up the dish antenna. He said that he “worked for

hours” as he tried to get his dish to receive a signal. He was just itchin' to get in some good television because there wasn't much else to do. He kept at it even after dark when he was sure that everyone else was sound asleep. Hal was so desperate, Louann said, that he even went out *in his underwear* to study how Don Geurin had his antenna set, sighting the precise angle and the exact direction. He'd then climb back into his motor home to try again and again.

It wasn't until two weeks later that Don Geurin told Hal that Don and Barbara were watching a DVD instead of getting a satellite signal!

### **Western Sunshine Rally**

All of the members of Chapter 81 who participated in the camp out at Usery Mountain Regional Park traveled to and parked together at the Western Sunshine Rally, located at the Las Vegas Speedway. There were over a hundred units registered with the weather being near perfect! All the spaces were on hard surface with 50 amp electric, water, and sewer. Some of the group went for rides on the speedway (ask Barbara Geurin about that exciting trip!), others got lucky at the gambling tables (ask Louann Peer how she did that!), while others participated in a tour or two (ask Pat and Don about their tour to Pahrump!).

Know, too, that our very own Director, Erwin Peake, played a key role in the rally, keeping everything on track and moving as it should. He did say that he wasn't sure if there would be a Western Sunshine Rally next year. “That decision has not yet been made,” he said. Keep your fingers crossed!

**The April Campout** is scheduled to be held at the Thunderbird Lodge near Mimbres, New Mexico. That campout officially begins on Thursday, 23 April with the departure scheduled for Sunday, 26 April. Chapter 433 is sponsoring the campout with Chapter 81

from New Mexico and Chapter 71 from the Tucson area invited to participate. Please give Don and Barbara Geurin a call at their home number, 575-682-2275 or on their cell phone, 575-430-1718. They'll need a count so that they can be sure to have enough food on hand for all those attending.

Remember to bring along some steak for the annual steak cook out! It is always a big affair so we sure don't want you to miss out! Plan on exercising heavily before and after because you're sure to gain some weight at this campout!

**The May Campout** is to be held at the Cochiti Corps of Engineers RV park at Cochiti Dam. Although you can arrive earlier, the official arrival date is Friday, 1 May with a departure date scheduled for Sunday, 3 May.

You are being given an early "heads up" so that you can make reservations in the electric site area. You can go to [Recreation.gov](http://Recreation.gov) and click on Cochiti Lake, Albuquerque District. Under the picture, scroll down to Cochiti Area (NM) for a selection of sites. List the date you plan on arriving and the number of days you're planning on staying. Or, you can use the telephone and call the National Recreation Reservation Service at 1.877.444.6777.

The listed cost per night for an electric site is \$12.00 but you can provide your "Golden Age Passport" number and get the site for half price.

Pat and Don Lange will be the wagonmasters. They have made reservations for site #34, very near the drive way into the electric sites. They have not yet made a detailed campout plan but are leaning toward at least one cook out over the grill, an evening with heavy finger foods, and maybe a pot luck dinner.

Breakfasts will include pancakes and/or bacon and eggs or something similar. Lunches most likely will be on your own. Bring your fishing pole or your canoe; bring your golf clubs for a day of golfing at the Cochiti Golf Club. We may also try to get over to La Cienega Living

Museum and into the Valle Grande or up to Los Alamos to visit the museum.

Please call Pat and Don at 505.350.5261 if you plan to attend.

### **Trifecta Adventure**

The Colorado State Managers, Bernie and Joyce Clements are inviting us to join them for an adventure that looks like it will be fun. He writes:

"The 2009 Colorado State rally will be held in Colorado Springs, CO at the Fountain KOA arriving on July 11 and departing on July 14<sup>th</sup> for Branson, MO. COST: \$145.00

"We will travel via route 50 from Pueblo, CO spending the night in Wichita. We will arrive in Branson, MO on the 15<sup>th</sup> and will stay at the ABC Campground. COST: 535.00

"Depart Branson on the 19<sup>th</sup> for Sedalia, MO and the 45<sup>th</sup> HRRVC International. The cost will be \$680.00 for the Colorado State and Branson segments which includes eight nights parking, 10 meals and five shows in Branson.

"The cost of the International is paid to HRRVC. You may attend one rally or all.

"For more information contact: Bernie or Joyce Clements 719-649-3523; Mel or Donna Braun 303-886-0046 or Jim or Rusty Mason 505-250-6682.

"We are adding a trip up to Pikes Peak, by rail, which is not included in the Colorado rally. The cost is \$29.00 per person."

### **April Birthdays**

7 April	Don Lange
12 April	Jim Wood
20 April	Erwin Peake
22 April	Rossanna Hays

*Don't forget your britches when you're outside, looking for the correct azimuth in setting up your satellite! You may be the cause of some one's heart attack!*