

If you recently purchased something from Enchantment we suggest you check and make

# *Cactus Patch Dispatch*

## Newsletter for NMHRRVC Chapter 81

March 2009

Web site  
Nmhrrvc.com

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sure all the paper work is in order. The Western Sunshine Rally will be March 17-20 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, see the Jan/Feb

### **Your Officers**

President: Ed Spivak  
Vice President: Bob Luikens  
Secretary: Open  
Treasurer: Pat Lange  
Board of Directors: Bill Candelaria  
Ursula Candelaria  
Jim Dow

### **From Your President**

Ed Spivak

Greeting to all!

Scott Noland from Rocky Mountain RV & Marine, the Peake's, Hays' and Spivak's met for the Chapter Breakfast this morning. (2 Feb 09)

Happy Birthday to Jim Mason and Marilyn Peake, our February Birthday people.

Hays' reported that they have produced a banner and brochure for display at Rocky Mountain RV & Marine and other RV serving facilities. The purpose of the brochure is to attract members to all the NM chapters. Scot said that he would ask all his salesmen to put the brochures on their desks. Next time you visit Rocky Mountain look for the HRRVC wall banner.

Scot also reported that credit criteria appear to be loosening, which will make RV financing available to more people.

Also, Enchantment RV has gone out of business.

'09 Ramblings on Page 32 for more information.

Hays' were going to be the Wagon Masters for the May Campout, but must now be in California for the birth of a grandbaby. Contact them if you would like to be the Wagon Master.

Also, Don Lange is our interim Chapter Secretary, and would like a Chapter Member to step forward and perform this function. Won't you please consider becoming the Chapter Secretary? Contact Don or me for more info.

Hope you are enjoying your travels and will look forward to seeing you at a future meeting/campout/rally.

### **Rock Hound State Park Campout**

By Pat Hamlet

Holiday Ramblers from NM Chapters 81 and 433 met east of Deming at one of New Mexico's most visually exciting campgrounds. The stars at night are brighter than usual because the air is so clear. Looking down into the valley, the lights of Deming stretch from north to southern horizons. During the day, jagged peaks break the view. Don and Pat Lange filled in as wagon masters for Bill and Rossanna Hays who had to cancel at the last moment. Ralph and Sally Graves, new members of 433, JB and Pat Hamlet, Hal and Louann Peer and Konrad and Diana Scheel met Friday afternoon at the Lange's campsite

high on the hillside. Despite the wind, we enjoyed chips, dips, drinks and lively conversation. Later Pat Lange served salad and chili as we watched the sun set. Saturday morning we met again at the Lange's campsite. Don was already busy frying bacon while Pat prepared pancake dough. Smells of frying bacon and sagebrush reminded us of the many wonderful camping trips we've been on with the Holiday Ramblers. Later that morning the group drove to Spring Canyon for a picnic lunch. The views from this high site are astonishing.

DINNER IN THE DESERT. That evening Konrad and Diana led us into the wilderness, far from the nearest inhabitants, to the ADOBE DELI. What a shock to find this amazing saloon (actually an old elementary school site) far from Deming. Inside are antiques from every era (that have never been dusted!) from the schools library books to old televisions, telephones, boots, unusual signs, cattle ranching equipment, whatever. In the main dining room, a HUGE screen shows commercials and movies. Tables are lit by kerosene lamps that give off just enough light to barely see your food. But oh what food! Some of us had delicious 1½-inch thick PORTERHOUSE steaks, others had KEBOB'S or a RACK OF RIBS presented on a sword (no kidding!). For a place so far from civilization, their menu offers just about anything you could ask for. What a treat to find such a special place in the desert.

Sunday morning we all met again at the invitation of Diana and Konrad at their home not far from Rock Hound State Park. That morning dawned warm and sunny but within 10 minutes, a COLD wind came up. We moved tables, chairs, coffee and Pat Lange's sticky buns into the Scheel's garage where we were out of the wind but could still enjoy views of the Florida Mountains.

### **From Bottomless Lakes State Park**

By Pat Hamlet

For our first trip of 2009 JB and I are heading for Carlsbad Caverns with a stop along the way at Bottomless Lakes State Park (200 miles from Albuquerque) and Roswell. We are pleasantly surprised at the very large campsites at Lea Lake with nine pull-throughs and twenty back-in sites, all with electric and water. Three additional sites (two occupied by hosts) have electric, water and sewer hookups. Several campsites can be reserved, the rest are first come, first served. Stays are limited to 21 days. A dump is provided. Located on the shore of Lea Lake (and available in summer) is a bathhouse, swimming beach, paddle boat rentals and concessionaire, all within a short walking distance of the campground. At this time of the year (January), there were only five other campers here plus the two hosts. I was told most summer weekends are crowded with swimming in the clear, cool waters of Lea Lake VERY popular, but campsites are often available in the middle of the week.

The road into the Park loops around a series of small lakes, a staffed Visitor Center and finally to Lea Lake. There are a few developed campsites at some of the other lakes with vault toilets and centralized fresh water (no hookups). The large group shelter at Lea Lake surrounded by a stone fence has 6 tables with seating for 8-10 people at each table, a screened firebox for cool nights, a long table for pot luck fixin's and a BBQ spit. Reservations for the shelter should be made directly with the Bottomless Lakes ranger – 505 624-6058. A ranger can also provide talks on the geography of the region and many other subjects.

Bottomless Lakes is the first area set aside within New Mexico to be a State Park. An interpretive trail from Lea Lake to the next lake should be complete by May this year. A wetlands area is being developed in cooperation with the Army Corps of Engineers and may be open next year for hikes and bird watching.

Roswell is about 15 miles from Bottomless Lakes, has many familiar and popular restaurants and fast food locations, five major museums, historical district, the NM Military Institute, a zoo, a very informative Visitor/Convention Center, Bitter Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and, of course, the International UFO Museum and Research Center. I was also surprised to discover the largest WalMart Supercenter in New Mexico is located in Roswell with little green men and a space ship painted on its outside walls. We visited the Roswell Museum and Art Center that houses Goddard's workshop, history and several of his experimental rockets. Those of you who are believers will be delighted with the UFO Museum – I have no comment on that museum!

### **About the Members**

Jim and Vera Wood got back to New Mexico during the last week of January. Vera wrote that it really felt good to be home in New Mexico. She also said that Jim did drive the motor home but that he still has some aches and pains.

Francis Honey emanates such a powerfully positive attitude! As you may remember, Francis was in the hospital and rehab in Albuquerque for quite some time. He's now in Los Alamos where he continues to take lots of medicine for congestive heart failure. He cites a dog that used to hike with him as a positive role model. His chihuahua accompanied him on many hikes and even after the dog was diagnosed and treated for congestive heart failure, he continued climbing Wheeler's Peak another four times with his master. Now, Francis says, his hikes are mainly around the house. He also says that he likes getting telephone calls, and especially those that ask: "Are you still there?" Know that when you do talk with him by phone, the conversation will be sprinkled with many of his chuckles and uses of humor.

Lisa Dow says that she continues to "herd her first graders like a flock of little chicks" as she laughs about how she's doing these days as a teacher with the Albuquerque Public Schools. And Jim is working hard, currently painting for a client, while they wait for their motor home to be repaired. Apparently it will still be quite some time before they'll be back on the road. They're doing their part to keep the economy afloat!

Karlene and Ed Spivak. Karlene is in the midst of ski season and will spend about 30 ski days in Colorado this season. Once ski season ends then she will make a smooth and rapid transition to golf. Ed is currently administering a Federal Grant to boost math and science education in the schools. He is working with Bernalillo, Rio Rancho, Manzano, Belen and Socorro High Schools to enhance their programs. He is also working on organizing a scientific conference (in collaboration with Sandia National Labs, NASA and Air Force Research Labs) for mid-June which should attract about 150 scientists and engineers from across the USA. He has also been elected board secretary for NM MESA. MESA is a math and science extra curricular program that offers courses in 115 NM schools. He has also been elected President of the NM Optics Industry Association. (Editorial comment: Whew! He's busy!)

Their target is to wrap all this up by mid June and then RV to Canada for a couple of months.

Don and Barbara Geurin keep prayin' for more snow! Don has his snow mobiles (four, or is it five of them?) all primed and ready to go. Just last week, they were up in Chama, New Mexico enjoying the hills and vales astride those snow monsters. They do plan on being in their RV, though, when it's time to head out to Las Vegas and Mimbres

Jim and Betty Koch are still enjoying the activities in the Members Association at their RV Park near Waco and plan on staying there until about the middle of March. Betty said that the weather has been great but hope that the tornadoes do not come their way. In April they plan on being back in Albuquerque for some doctor appointments and when the weather should be better. It'll be good to see them again after their long winter away!

#### State Manager Activities and Caravan Plans

Bill and Rossanna Hays have had a heavy introduction to the New Year 2009. After Bill recuperated from the yucky flu, they made an emergency trip to Lubbock, TX to the bedside of their Godson, David MacDowell who had brain surgery to correct a subdural hematoma. They are happy to report, David is recuperating very well. No sooner than arriving back home they received notification that Bill's nephew, Marc Hays, had died at age 53 of natural causes. Because Marc died in Albuquerque and no age eligible family lived in Albuquerque, Bill and Rossanna were suddenly found in the position of arranging two memorial services and all that entails. They had a sorrowful and busy two weeks. Unfortunately, all of this prevented the Hays from being the Wagon Master of the scheduled campout at Rockhound State Park. Gratefully, their position was filled by Don and Pat Lang who performed their usual dedicated duty for Holiday Rambler outings.

Finally, Bill and Rossanna are in Deming where they are preparing for the October, 2009 New Mexico State Rally. While in church on their first day in the area, they received word another nephew had been injured in a hit and run accident by a drunk driver. If things really come in three's, they should have a rest from such things.

Our State Managers and others will head for Usery Park, AZ Campout to be held March 10th under the able leadership of Bob and Betty Luikens.

After this anticipated campout, a New Mexican Caravan will head for the Western Sunshine Rally in Las Vegas"

#### Super Bowl

By Pat and Don Lange

Pat and I watched the Super Bowl game with about ten or twelve other people in the La Hacienda RV Park clubhouse. Wow! What a game! It was disappointing to all of us in the audience except for two people who were from the East Coast and were rooting for the Steelers. Oh well!

But it was fun for another reason! We were sitting there with a pretty big guy who was large enough to be a football player. It turns out that he was not only a football player but played for the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl number IV! Some of you may remember those famous Purple People Eaters!

Lonnie Warwick was a middle linebacker who played for Coach Bud Grant with the likes of Carl Eller and Allen Paige. He commented some as the game went on and sat to talk with many of us during the several days that followed the game. He and his wife are very gracious and lots of fun.

I talked with members of my family who live in Minnesota. My brother, James, said about him, "Man! He was great!"

#### Interesting Incidents on the Road

Jim Stewart, a member several years ago, was at Christmas on the Pecos, camping in the parking lot next to the river. Several men had strung our water hoses together so that Jim could fill his water tank from a faucet quite a distance away. We were standing around outside, cups of coffee in hand and telling tales that not many of us believed anyway. After a while, Jim's wife, Shirley yelled: "Jim, Jim! Come here!" He must have sensed something from the sound of her voice because he turned around immediately with a look of chagrin and said "Oh \_\_\_\_! I hooked the hose up to the black water tank flusher!"

(Instead of to the fresh water fill!) He and Shirley spent a lot of time for the rest of that day, cleaning the floors and heating ducts of their motor home, where the flow had backed into the coach!

### **March Campout**

The March campout is going to be held at Utery Mountain Regional Park in Mesa, AZ and is scheduled for 10, 11, and 12 March 2009. Bob and Betty Luikens are the wagon masters and request that you give them a call on their cell phone, 505-235-5532 if you plan on attending. Most participants plan on arriving at least a day or two earlier than the official beginning of the camp out.

The park is located on Ellsworth Rd., almost at the top of the hill going toward the north from Superstition Highway, US 60. It provides an excellent night view of the city below while you listen to the coyotes howling in the distance. Bob Luikens said that this is less of a campout than “an opportunity to experience some great desert camping!”

Be prepared, however, to spend a night or two in the campground parking lot at the entrance while you wait for a space to become available in the campground. The usual practice is to drive up to the entrance and then, if there are no spaces available, to park in the overflow lot for your overnight stay. Early the next morning, then, on a first come, first served basis, you stand in line at the office to pay for your site and then to move in. If a site is not available, the process is repeated the next morning. Cost of a site with electricity and water is \$20.00 per night.

The Luikens' have developed a tentative schedule for this Arizona campout.

March 10: Happy Hour, BYOB and snack  
Host will provide the meal

March 11: 10:00 a.m. for coffee & donuts  
Discuss day's activities  
Lunch on your own  
Happy Hour and Potluck

March 12: 10:00 a.m. for coffee & donuts  
Free day (something will be suggested by someone!)

Organ Pipe Pizza for dinner

March 13: Depart or Extended Stay.

### **Caravan to Las Vegas**

Our State Managers, Bill and Rossanna Hays are planning on leading a caravan over to the Western Sunshine Rally in Las Vegas, Nevada right after the campout at Utery Mountain Park. You may want to give them a call on their cell phone if you plan on going with the group and parking together at the Rally. Their cell number is: 505-463-7476.

Here is what they wrote:

#### **"Crusin' the Colorado River"**

After a day's rest on March 13th (who wants to travel on Friday the 13th!!) The New Mexican rigs will drive to Parker, AZ on the 14th where a night will be spent at Parker's Indian Casino. On Sunday the 15th the Caravan will follow the Colorado River to Bullhead City/Laughlin where several campground choices can be made. Since several of our group are involved with the Western Sunshine Rally, a morning drive on the 16th will be made into Las Vegas for early parking. For those who have not had the pleasure of "Crusin the Colorado River," it will be a pleasant and interesting trip as well as a pleasure for the returnees. We hope to see you on our Caravan!

### **March Birthdays:**

March 14: Karlene Spivik

March 19: Vera Woods

### **April Events**

April 6: Breakfast at Shoney's, ABQ

April 23-27: Campout, Thunderbird Lodge,

Mimbres, New Mexico and  
hosted by Chapter 433.

*Be sure to look twice when you hook up your  
water hose!*