



The Oasis

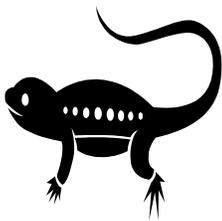
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Volume 6, Issue 4

April 2005

NEXT MONTH:

Brian Kovalsky, President, Wildness-Within, will speak at our May 3, 2005 general meeting. His interest include kayaking, hiking, touring, backpacking, camping and skiing. Mr. Kovalsky's video-slide presentation will focus on the hiking trails, wildlife and natural habitat unique to this area.



Special Hike: We have arranged for **Cameron Burrows, Director of the Coachella Valley Preserve**, to lead us on a 2 hour hike through the protected dunes area of the Coachella Valley Preserve in search of the **Fringe-Toed Lizards**, an endangered species here in the desert. This outing will take place at 9 AM on Sunday, April 17, 2005. Space is limited to 25 participants. There are only 2 slots available left for this "by reservation only" hike. Call **Doug Quigley** at 760-202-4936 for a reservation.

First come, first served basis. We will not meet at Hunter's. Instead we will meet at the Coachella Valley Preserve at 9 AM and carpool from there.

Address: 29-200 Thousand Palms Canyon Road, Thousand Palms.

Wildlife Refuge Walkabout

Great Outdoors will be visiting our fine feathered friends. Some have gotten sick or just lost their way in migration. **Linda York** at the Wild Bird Sanctuary in Indio, has offered us a personal guided tour and lecture of the sanctuary and wetlands that she and her husband have created.

Come and get close up and personal with **Rodney the Roadrunner, Barn Owls, Pelicans, Hawks** and much more. Meeting place: Out front of **Hunter's Video Bar** on Arenas at 7:00 AM on Saturday, April 2nd. Donations requested at the sanctuary only.



Please call **Dar** to sign up. 760-328-6916.

Bring your binoculars and bird watcher book. Many birds stop at the wetlands for afternoon tea, just like Great Outdoors.

**MINIATURE GOLF
WILL REPLACE
BOWLING
THIS MONTH**

SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS



Welcome New Members

As of 03/21/05

Gerald L. Begy
Joe Ferraro
John McClure
Todd Sand
Alan Syslo

Patrick Carr
Robert Hull
Darrel Nystrom
Colin Sowa
Primitivo Trujillo



The General Meeting is at Desert Pride Center, Palm Springs 760 327-2313. The meeting is the first Tuesday of the month, April 5, from 7:30-8:00 PM for social hour, and member's meeting from 8:00-9:00 PM. The Core Group meets from 6:30-7:30 PM. The Center's address is 611 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Unit A., Palms Springs, CA.



ATTENTION UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Most hikes meet in front of HUNTER'S Video Bar on Arenas Rd. unless otherwise specified. Bring plenty of water and a snack or lunch.

Non-Members

We will add you to our newsletter mailing list free of charge for 3 months. Please note, however, that a two dollar fee will be charged on day hikes, 4x4 outings, and moonlight hikes effective Oct. 1, 2004.

Wildlife Refuge Walkabout, Saturday, April 2 at 7AM

See page 1 for details

Black Mountain, Sunday, April 3, 2005 at 9:00 AM

This hike ascends the northern most peak in the San Jacinto Range, where there is an old fire tower offering spectacular views of San Geronio and the LA basin. The trail ascends high country (over 7,000 ft.) and is easily accessed off the Banning-Idyllwild Road.

Note: In the book "**100 Great Hikes in and near Palm Springs**" by Philip Ferranti, this hike #72 is on page 171 of the 2003 edition.

Length: 7 miles
Hiking Time: 4 hours
Elevation: Gain/ Loss 2,000 feet
Difficulty: Strenuous
Return : Approx. 4:00 PM

Hike Leader: **Ehrick Wright @ 760-328-9989**
Note: Bring water, lunch and snacks

Bump and Grind Trail, Palm Desert, Tuesday, April 5, 2005 at 9:00 AM

Hike to the top over looking Palm Desert and Eastern part of the Coachella Valley and North to Joshua Tree National Park.

Bring plenty of water as there is no shade on this hike.

Note: We will meet in front of Hunters on Arenas and can carpool to the trailhead in Palm Desert.

Length: 5 miles round trip
Hiking Time: 3 Hours
Elevation Gain: 800 feet
Difficulty: Easy/Moderate
Return: 1:00 PM

Hike Leader: **Monte Willcoxon @ 760-416-1530**

West Fork Trail to Andreas Canyon, Sunday, April 10 at 9:00 AM

This trail begins in the Palm Canyon section of the Indian Canyons. The trail climbs steeply through rock formations and typical desert vegetation before crossing a stream and ascending to the 3,200 ft level. Eventually the trail descends into Murray Canyon and crosses several streams before ending in Andreas Canyon. This hike is a workout, but well worth it.

Length: 10 Miles
Hiking Time: 6 Hours
Elevation Gain: 2,500 feet
Difficulty: Moderate/Strenuous
Return: 4:30 PM

Hike Leader: **Doug Quigley @ 760-202-4936**
Note: There is a \$6.00 admission fee to Indian Canyons. Senior rate available

Ramona Trail to Box Springs, Saturday, April, 16 at 9:00 AM

Meet in front of Hunters on Arenas. Carpool to Garner Valley on Hwy. 74. Turn left along Hwy. 74 at Ramona Trail parking lot which is before Lake Hemet. A **Forest Adventure Pass is required.** Craig the trip leader will have one for his car and another vehicle. **Passes may be purchased for \$5.00 at Big 5 in P.S. or P.D.** As we climb we will have greater views of Garner Valley, San Jacinto, Santa Rosa and Thomas Mountains. We will take a lunch break just past Box Springs before heading back.

Length: 8 Miles
Hiking Time: 4 Hours
Elevation Gain: 1,400 feet
Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous
Return: 2:00 PM

Trip Leader: **Craig Courtright @ 760-318-8957**

Panorama Loop Trail, Tuesday, April 19, 2005 at 9:00 AM

This hike is located in the Black Rock Canyon area of Joshua Tree National Park. The trail follows a sandy wash slowly uphill before reaching a magnificent vista point at 5,100 feet. There will be geology and plant life to explore along the way.

Length: 6 miles
Hiking Time: 5 hours
Elevation Gain: 1300 ft:
Difficulty: Moderate
Return at: 4:00 PM

Hike Leader: **Bruce Maughn @ 760-327-1789**

Moonlight Hike, Sunday, April 24, 2005 at 7:00 PM

(See page 7 for details)



Great Outdoors, Inc. Presents
Whitewater Rafting Trip
 A wet and wild weekend
 May 6-8, 2005

Contact: Kendallrl@yahoo.com or 951-274-0782



The river is calling...Do you have what it takes to answer?

Join us for a weekend of shooting the rapids on the **Kings River**. This outing, sponsored by Great Outdoors Corporate Board, is a great way to spend a weekend, camping along the river's edge, enjoying great food and having lots of fun. This promises to be a great day!

The **Kings River** offers class III and IV rapids which will challenge the beginner and entertain the intermediate rafters. Space is limited so get your deposit in early.

Where: Kings River, just outside of Fresno, CA—about 3 hours north of L.A.
Who: This is an All Chapter Event sponsored by Great Outdoors Corporate Board
When: May 6, 7 and 8, 2005
What to bring: A list of equipment will be provided upon registration.

The Staff and Crew of **Zephyr Whitewater Rafting** are there to provide a safe, fun and exciting experience for all who attend. There will be catered meals , quiet camp sites and fun for all. The experienced staff of **Zephyr** have years of experience and are also **easy on the eyes**.

Here's what you 'll get for your money:

Breakfast Saturday morning, a full day of rafting with a river-side catered lunch, tea served at camp, and dinner prepared especially for us. Sunday morning breakfast is served before another trip down the river. **Zephyr** provides all necessary equipment such as life preservers, wetsuits in cold water times, 4 all-gay staffed state of the art rafts, instruction and above all wild, wet fun.

Join us for what promises to be a great adventure.

Please note that there will be limited space available for this trip. There will be a **\$75.00 non-refundable deposit required**.

Hope to see you there!

Contact Information: G.O. Trip Leader, **Kendall Rabun** at Kendallrl@yahoo.com or 951-274-0782
 Co-leader, **Dar Bjork**

Send trip fee (check payable to Great Outdoors) and completed registration from to: **Kendall Rabun,**
 5268 Avondale Way
 Riverside, CA 92506



GREAT OUTDOORS/PALM SPRINGS

Members' SPRING

Appreciation POOL PARTY

Sunday, May 15, 2005



Time: 3:00 to 5:00 PM Social/pool
 5:00 to 7:00 PM BBQ

Cost: Free to members
 \$5:00 non-members

Where: Ed Emond and Gardner Pond's
 at 30480 Keith Ave. Cathedral City

Telephone 760-202-7413

Bring: Swimwear, towel, Sunscreen, folding chair

Drawing Raffle: After the barbeque we will have 2 drawings for free 1 yr GreatOutdoors memberships. In addition there will be a raffle give away.

R.S.V.P.: Bruce Maughn @ 760-327-1789
brmaughn@dc.rr.com

And to volunteer with shopping, cooking , clean-up .

**4x4 News
by Anonymous**



NEXT 4X4 EXCURSION
CHUCKWALLA & AUGUSTINE PASS
Saturday, April 23, 2005

Description: Join the **Great Outdoors** for another 4x4 (4 wheel drive) off road adventure. We will drive down I-10 for approximately 72 miles and exit at **Corn Springs Road**. From there we'll go another 8 miles and then start our off road trip on the **Graham Pass Road**. We stay on the Graham Pass Road until we reach the **Chuckwalla Springs Road** which will lead us up into an old mine site with some abandoned equipment.

We'll then proceed to the **Augustine Pass trail (in the Chuckwalla Mountains)** and follow it all the way up and over a ridge and then decide which trail to take back to I-10 as we skirt alongside a bombing and gunnery range in the **Chocolate Mountains**. The trail over Alpine Pass is rated "**Easy/Moderate**" in one of our books...there is a substantial climb over large rocks; however, nothing that will require you to run out and buy a winch. If you're concerned about keeping your vehicle in pristine condition bring along some clippers for the occasional roadside shrubbery that is often on 4x4 back country trails.

We will assign only 3 people total for each of the Jeep vehicles. This will leave room for carrying backpacks and supplies in the rear of the smaller vehicles. Also, in case a vehicle has to drop out at the last minute (which has happened), the extra space will prevent someone from being turned away on the day of the event.



Meeting Information

Trip Notes



Ed Emond

Date: Sat, April 23, 2005
Time: 9 AM/ Return: Approx. 4-5 PM
Place: Arranged By Phone/E-Mail
Contact: Ed Emond at (760) 202-7413
Ed@dc.rr.com

Length: Approx. 58 miles on trails
Driving Time: 5-6 hours on trails
Elevation Range: Unknown
Difficulty: Moderate

Note: Bring water, lunch, and snacks.

Tentative Trip:
Interest List Now Being Taken!

Extended 4x4 Road Trip and Camp-Out
Sometime in Late May or Early June

We would depart the Palm Springs area on a Friday afternoon and return on Sunday afternoon.

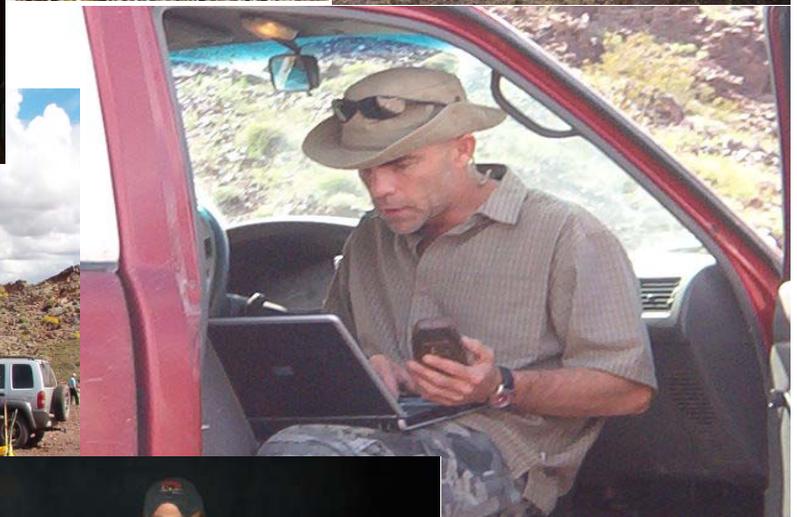
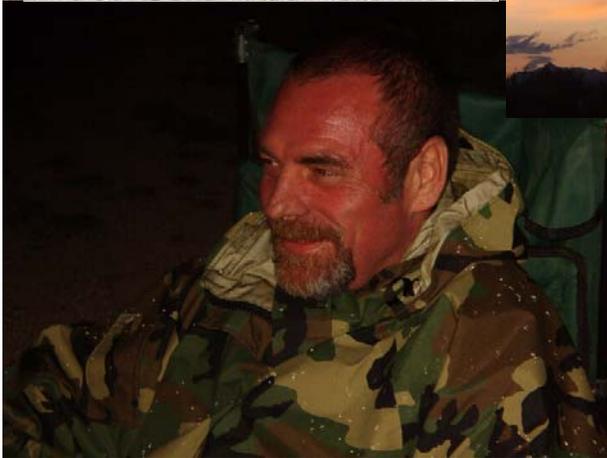
Contact: Cliff @ 760-365-3677 or E-Mail: cliffiboy@aol.com

Anonymous will have more information in the May Newsletter.....I Hope!



PHOTOS OF LAST MONTH'S **MULE MOUNTAIN**
CAMPING-ROCKHOUND HUNT
MARCH 4-6, 2005

Pictures submitted by Craig Jones



BILL'S NOTES



BILL COOKSLEY

On Tuesday, March 1, 2005 over 30 members and guests of **GO/PS** heard **Ms. Wanda Raschkow**, an **archeologist** with the **Bureau of Land Management** (BLM), discuss the history and pre-history of our local hiking trails. Ms. Raschkow explained that "history" is anything 50 years or older- - -some members felt very "historical" with that information. Pre-history was defined as anything that happened before anyone wrote about it.

Our desert environment contains both historical and pre-historical aspects.

Patton's Desert Training Center, a desert camp to train soldiers to fight in the African desert, was part of the history discussed. The center was active in 1942-43 and is located about an hour from Indio. There are still tank tracks that can be seen as well as spent and active shells left over from the simulated battles. Camouflaged foxholes abound on this training ground.

The area discussed includes many springs areas, including **Corn Springs**, **McCoy Springs**, and **Warm Springs**. These are areas where the California Gold Rush of 1862 brought many hopeful pioneers, interrupting the life of the Indians. In fact, many Indians died during this time because of the diseases brought by white settlers to the **Cahuilla Indian Lands**. Ms. Raschkow also noted that many mines were active in the **Red Cloud Mining District** just southwest of Desert Center during 1898-1900 and 1932-40. This later date was due primarily to the depression. One is to use caution when visiting the mines because of nails, unstable surfaces, toxic gasses, and unsafe structures once used to house them.

The impact of the Native populations are also found in this area: native implements, pottery and art, including 300 year old petroglyphs and the **Blythe Intaglios**, human-like figures that may have represented Mastan-the creator of all living things.

Ms Raschkow emphasized that there are many do's and don'ts when exploring the desert. Don't touch, don't move or remove, don't make graffiti, don't dump. But DO learn more about the desert, DO report noted vandalism, and DO take photographs.



Ms. Raschkow will be leading a hike to **McCoy Springs** on **Saturday, April 9**, for those interested in learning more about this "open museum". One should call **Wanda at 760 -251-4824** if interested in participating in this event. **Four-wheel drive vehicles are required.** Bring plenty of water and food for the 12 mile hike. Call Wanda for more specifics.

The Great Outdoors of Palm Springs is certainly fortunate to have available so many knowledgeable resources to help us learn more about our beautiful desert.

"Bill's Notes" will appear periodically in the "The Oasis" at the whim of Mr. Cooksley.



The Star Map April Evening Skies, enclosed with this newsletter, closely represents the local sky on Saturday April 2 at 9:00 PST. Remember that daylight saving time begins overnight, so if you look again Sunday evening, use the map around 10 p.m. PDT. Thereafter use the map about one-half hour earlier each week: April 10 at 9:30 p.m. PDT; April 17 at 9:00 p.m.; and April 25 at 8:30 p.m.

Note the names of the compass directions just within the edge of the circular map. When you are facing east, turn the map in front of you so the word east is at the bottom of the circle. In the sky directly ahead of you, at the appropriate time, you'll find the star **Arcturus** about one third of the way from horizon to overhead. High in the northeast, find the curved handle of the **Big Dipper** leading downward to **Arcturus**: "Follow the arc to **Arcturus**."

In the southeast, to the right of **Arcturus** and much brighter, you will spot **Jupiter**, brightest "star" in the current evening sky, and below it, the star **Spica**. **Jupiter**, visible all night in early April, shines with a steady light, but the stars twinkle noticeably, an effect of the Earth's atmosphere.

Hold the west horizon of the chart at the bottom of the circle, find high in the west, about two-thirds of the way from horizon to overhead, the **Gemini "twin" stars Pollux and Castor**, with bright steady **Saturn** just to their lower left. Much farther to their lower left, in the south find **Procyon**, the **Lesser Dog Star**, and **Sirius**, the **Dog Star**, brightest star in the night sky (though not as bright as the planet **Jupiter**).

Check the **Sky Calendar** for illustrations of these April highlights: On Monday, April 11, binoculars give spectacular views of crescent Moon, earth lit on its dark side, with the **Pleiades** star cluster in the same field to Moon's lower right. Best time to look: 8:15 p.m.-8:45 p.m. on Fri. April 15, watch for the close gathering of **Moon, Saturn, Pollux, and Castor** in west nightfall. On April 21 and 22 at nightfall, Moon shifts from upper right of **Jupiter** on Thursday evening to its lower left on Friday. We hope you enjoy these beautiful clear desert skies with your special friends!

Great Outdoors/ Palm Springs would like to thank Bob Victor for the Star Maps and the accompanying article on them.



MOONLIGHT HIKE

Sunday, April 24 at 7:00 PM

Meet at Starbucks, Hwy. 111, the Target Shopping Center, Cathedral City. This will be a very short hike up the side of Bighorn Overlook. Bighorn Sheep are sighted in few cities in the nation and Rancho Mirage is proud to serve as a summer oasis for these magnificent animals. This switchback nature trail begins on the pad behind Rancho Mirage City Hall at the base of the Santa Rosas and leads visitors to an observation area where Bighorn on the 1,200 acre nature preserve may be observed, so bring your night vision goggles if you want to observe them as they come down to the watering hole.

Length: 1400 feet
Hiking time: 30 minutes
Elevation Gain: 100 feet
Return: 8:30 PM
Note: Bring a flashlight!
Contact: Tim Carey @ 760-416-3102

GAME NIGHT Wednesday April 13, 2005

6:00 to 9:00 PM

Hosted by Dennis Hayden and David Prunty
2002 E. Paseo Roseta, Palm Springs
760-320-7741

Bring a potluck dish to share, and any games you might want to play, plus your beverage.

Directions: Tahquitz to Cerritos (between Sunrise and Sunset) South on Cerritos 1 block, left onto Paseo Roseta House is third on right.

HOSTS NEEDED FOR GAME NIGHTS, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER. Call Rick Opler @ 760-325-8666

Miniature Golf Monday, April 25, 2005

1 PM



Location: Boomers
67-700 East Palm Canyon
Cathedral City
Cost: \$7.00 per person
Contact: Doug Quigley @ 760-202-4936

Palm Springs Chapter Events April 2005

2	Wildlife Refuge	7:00 AM
3	Black Mountain	9:00 AM
5	Bump and Grind Trail	9:00 AM
5	General Meeting	8:00 PM
10	West Fork Loop	9:00 AM
13	Game Night	6:00 PM
16	Ramona Trail to Box Springs	9:00 AM
17	Special Hike (page 1)	9:00 AM
19	Panorama Loop	9:00 AM
23	4x4 Excursion	9:00 AM
24	Moonlight Hike	7:00 PM
25	Miniature Golf	1:00 PM

Palm Springs Core Group

<http://greatoutdoors.org/ps>

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Great Outdoors Palm Springs
PO BOX 361
Palm Springs, CA 92263
April, 2005
Address Correction Requested



Great Outdoors wants you!

How do I join?

- Simply fill out this form and send it in.
- Yes. I want to join Great Outdoors. Please enter my membership in the category checked below.
 - I am not ready to join Great Outdoors but would like additional information.
 - Renewal
- MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES
- \$25 Regular
 - \$20 Senior (60 years or older)
 - \$45 Couple (**\$40 2 Seniors**)

I do/do not want my name/address on the roster to be shared with members of group. (**Circle** the appropriate answer.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

By joining Great Outdoors and/or attending the club's events, I acknowledge that in order for Great Outdoors to assume full legal responsibility it would have to charge higher fees than it does now. I waive the right to ever lay claim for injuries I might suffer before, during or after any Great Outdoors event. My guests will agree to these principles in writing before attending events.

Signature _____ Date _____

Send this form and check made payable to:

GREAT OUTDOORS

P.O. Box 361

Palm Springs CA 92263

QUESTIONS? Write us at: Billbulger@aol.com

Phone: 760-202-0457