

November 2009

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**THOSE OLDER WESTERN FILMS . . .**

*when the “good guys” really were good guys.*

by Chuck Kleber

In today’s Hollywood, where both the good guys and the bad guys are commonly ultra-violent social misfits, it’s hard to believe there was a time when the Western hero stood for truth and justice, was courageous, didn’t curse, respected women, loved his horse, defended law and order and was, in short, an admirable man. He was a straight-shooter. So . . . “Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear. The Lone Ranger rides again!” Of course, it wasn’t just the Lone Ranger, but that opening to the long-running radio show said it all. Those “thrilling days” of the Old West have captured and held a special fascination for Americans. There was a full stable of cowboy heroes in films almost from the beginning. Many of them had real links to Western life; they weren’t just celluloid heroes. William S. Hart was one; he grew up near a Sioux reservation and lived a cowboy’s life in early years. Hart became both a successful director and actor, bringing new

vistas of reality and symbolism to the Western as in the 1916 classic, *Hell’s Hinges*. When Hart died in 1946 as a wealthy man, he left behind more than countless Westerns; he gave the cowboy character and principle that reflected his own life and inspired a code of conduct for those who followed.



William S. Hart

The legendary Tom Mix succeeded Hart in popularity. He was a true adventurer and the first to have a horse that almost became as famous as his master. “Tony” was a wonder horse. Tom Mix was a showman with a background of action and adventure few experience, including the Spanish-American War and the Boxer Rebellion in Peking. Cowpuncher and rodeo performer, Mix had all the trappings for Western films, and when he met filmmaker William Selig, his career began. But it was under the Fox banner that Tom Mix became truly famous. By 1925 he was earning \$17,000 a week in films that were a departure from Hart’s realism. His films were lighter and more cheerful with stunts like a fight on top of a moving train. Mix favored magnificent on-site Western locations, remarking “I want as many people as possible to

know what wonderful possessions they own . . .” He also ushered in a new vogue in Westerns; flamboyant Western clothes. Although his personal lifestyle was equally flamboyant, he was out of the true Western hero mold—“It isn’t my quarrel, but I get into trouble doing the right thing for somebody else.” On October 12, 1940, his very fast Cord 812 suddenly came upon a gully at Florence, Arizona where a bridge had washed away following a storm. Mix could not stop in time and was killed instantly. A marker with a riderless horse was erected at the spot.

The birth of talkies shook Hollywood to its core. Careers were ruined when the voice didn’t match the look. Some circles felt the Western itself was finished. *Photoplay* magazine declared in 1929 that “Lindbergh has put the cowboy into discard as a type of national hero. Tom Mix, Hoot Gibson and Ken Maynard must swap horses for aeroplanes or go into the old actors’ home.” How wrong can you get! The Western actually stormed ahead and it is with us today. A short list since WWII includes notable films like *Duel in the Sun*, *Red River*, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *Dances With Wolves*, *Shane*, *The Searchers* and *True Grit*.

The 1930’s and 1940’s saw a string of memorable names in the low-budget “B” Westerns — Buck Rogers, Tim McCoy, “Wild Bill” Elliott, Bob Steele,

**Western Films, continued on page 6**

## Our Best Friend

Humans have been in the dog training business for a long time. A study conducted in 2002 by Peter Savolainen and a team from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm Sweden compared the genetic sequences in the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) of 654 dogs representing the gamut of the world's breeds. The data, at that time, revealed that virtually all dogs could trace their maternal lineages to three wolf females that lived between 15,000 and 40,000 years ago somewhere in East Asia. The team speculated that these prehistoric individuals belonged to a wolf pack that was in the process of learning to live among people.

An updated study published by the same team in the September 1, 2009 issue of the journal, *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, confirms that modern dogs evolved in China somewhere south of the Yangtze River less than 16,300 years ago. The team analyzed the entire mitochondrial genomes for 169 dogs and compared them to data obtained for 1,543 dogs across the Old World to determine geographical diversity. The evidence indicates that the dog has a single origin in time and space.

Savolainen believes the small number of canine progenitors suggests that domestication probably occurred just once for dogs. Trade and human migration with dogs spread them to the rest of the world in just a few thousand years.

A separate DNA study was also conducted by geneticist Jennifer Leonard of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. in 2002 with fossils of more than 50 dogs found in Alaska, Latin America and South America. Leonard confirmed that domestic dogs came to the New World across the Bering land

bridge with early settlers some time before 9,000 years ago. These dogs were much more closely related to Old World dogs than to New World wolves, meaning that they had not been independently domesticated from indigenous packs by early Native Americans.

At the molecular level, the DNA makeup of wolves and dogs is almost identical. So why are dogs so different from wolves? Wolf kin that hung around Stone Age camp sites likely benefited from scavenging garbage heaps, probably bagging a few rodents at the same time. According to biologist Raymond Coopinger, "All that was selected for was that one trait—the ability to eat in proximity to people."



*Ancient Roman dog mosaic in the British Museum*

Dogs, more than any other animal, have earned a special place in man's history, not only because they were likely the first domesticated animal, but because they evolved in the company of humans and cannot exist without them. That relationship has become so intimate that dogs are viewed as creatures apart, writes biologist James Serpell. "The domestic dog exists precariously in the no-man's-land between the human and nonhuman . . . neither person nor beast."

Extensive research with dogs and other animals has shown that dogs have

individual personalities. As with humans, these traits differ as much among dogs and dog breeds as they do among people. People may even choose a breed to reflect their own personalities or to broadcast how they would like to be viewed. For example, selecting a Rottweiler over a toy poodle might be one way of saying, "I'm a tough guy."

In fact many human emotions, such as anger, anxiety, surprise, embarrassment, pride and shame are also expressed in dogs as well as other animals. A 2006 study of 1,000 dogs in England revealed that even emotions such as jealousy and animosity also afflict our canines, especially in a "love triangle" situation with another human

or animal. In dogs, unlike humans, the emotions are momentary and disappear after the "situation" causing the emotion is removed. Blind tests with dogs and their owners have shown that dogs read human cues and gestures, something most dog owners already knew. They are tuned in to where our eyes are looking, where we're pointing and even what we're saying. In tests conducted in 2002 at the Max Planck Institute in Germany with dogs, wolves and chimpanzees, dogs consistently outperformed both chimps

and their closest relatives, the wolves, in determining which box had food in it after watching cues from owners. So far, similar tests with kennel-raised dogs with little experience of humans have produced the same results.

This very trait may have been what separated the earliest wolf-dogs from their wild kin. The research concluded that dogs don't learn social and communication skills from people. They acquired them as they evolved in the process of domestication.

The interaction between wolf-dog and humans may have "created" the

dog—guard, helper, hunter, playmate and companion; but the dog, in turn, has profoundly affected the humans who invented him. About 12,000 years ago, hunter-gatherers in what is now Israel placed a body in a grave with its hand cradling a pup. Whether wolf or dog is not known, but it illustrates the beginning of a unique friendship that in some way has come to define both species. Dogs have recently been elevated by the scientific community to the status of “sentient beings.” Most dog owners would agree.

Samuel Butler may have said it best when he said, “The greatest pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him, and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself, too.” — *Barbara Wolin*

## Friends’ New Executive Director

**F**riends of Red Rock Canyon recently selected Mr. JD Fripp, from a number of candidates, to become the new Executive Director of the organization.

JD grew up in Harlem, New York. After graduating from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, he continued his education at The Evergreen State College, in Olympia, Washington, receiving a Masters degree in Education. He is also a decorated veteran of the United States Army and served our country in the Gulf War.

JD has lead start-up organizations and merger entities through his broad business acumen, strategic initiatives and solid financial stewardship. Utilizing diverse community-based boards, he has lead agencies and organizations to pinnacles of success. He has been involved with long-range strategic planning, partnership collaboration, quality program development and delivery, and has written and edited publicity pieces and informational items.

Additionally, he has testified before government sub-committees and is a

skilled legislative advocate. He is very familiar with building revenue sources through creative development efforts and grant-writing.

A people-oriented person, he believes that instilling efficacy and enthusiasm for client services is a key to his management style. JD is always looking for ways to protect, conserve, and improve the areas in which he lives in order for his wife, Vanida, and three sons, Brenden, Dekota, and Nevarren, to experience the best life has to offer. In addition, he enjoys team-building and has a deep appreciation for developing partnerships and the delight they bring!

We welcome JD to the Friends family and look forward to working with him!

## Desert Safety Series

by *Aaron Leifheit*

### Finding your way:

Now that you’re ready to hike, finding your way is very important. It can be hard to keep track of location when hiking with a large group, just like it’s hard to remember where you have driven if you are the passenger in a car, but easier if you are the driver.

However in order to avoid getting lost, it’s important to make conscious notes on where you are heading. Start by observing big landmarks: this mountain is on my right side, the yellow sandstone is in front of me, Turtlehead Peak is behind me. By finding a few huge landmarks—one every mile or so—you can keep track of your position over fairly large distances. Every once in a while, turn around and make sure you can still see your last landmark. The next step is to fill in the smaller landmarks. When the trail curves or forks, or the landscape changes, note something interesting nearby that will help you remember that junction. The Calico Hills are a good place to practice this way-finding

method. It may sound strange, but hike leaders follow paths by recognizing individual cacti, trees or stones.

It is also important to know more formal techniques, like how to read a topographical map, use a compass, or recognize directions. It’s easy to practice directions in Las Vegas because the city is laid out like a grid. Mt. Charleston is north, Red Rock is west, Lake Mead is east, and Henderson is south. Learning directions in the city will come in handy out on the trail.



Finally . . . remember that it is pretty hard to get seriously lost at Red Rock. The west and north sides of the area is capped by peaks, so walking the easiest direction downhill will usually take you to a road. By simply following the washes, you can travel all the way to Lake Mead. **However the most important thing about keeping your way is making sure someone else knows where you will be, and what time you will be back!**

### This Plate’s for You!

There are only two months left to ensure that we meet our goal of 1,000 license plates sold to keep the plate as a fundraising tool. The Red Rock Canyon license plate is the perfect holiday gift for Nevada friends and relatives. If you haven’t gotten your own license plate yet, this is a great time to treat yourself to a holiday gift that gives back to Red Rock Canyon.

Thank you for your consideration. — *Norman Wolin, License Plate Chairman*

# NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

## for RED ROCK CANYON

To provide quality programs, we limit the number of participants. Program times vary. Meet at the Visitor Center unless otherwise specified. **To make a reservation, please call 702-515-5367**, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If unable to attend a program, your cancellation is appreciated. **Parents must accompany children on all programs.** Please note: the Conservation Area is a Federal Fee Area. All entry or recreation fees apply. Visit [www.redrockcanyonlv.org](http://www.redrockcanyonlv.org) for hike information. Want to help with programs? Call Kate at 515-5350.

### YOUTH PROGRAMS – *Limited space!*

**Fri. 6, “Let’s Learn about the Antelope Ground Squirrel” (Ages 2-6)** – Join Missy with the youngsters for a great program where they’ll learn the difference between a chipmunk and the Antelope Ground Squirrel, then participate in a craft and an activity.

**Sat. 7, “Let’s Go Green Together” (Ages 5-10)** – Come with the kids for a fun and interactive program with Missy all about the importance of recycling. Kids will learn different and simple ways to save our planet with hands-on activities, a craft and so much more. Let’s become Earth friendly!

**Wed. 11, “Step into the Past” (Ages 7+)** – Join Claire on a family hike through Pine Creek. We’ll learn about the people who lived in the Pine Creek area long before Las Vegas came to be. Parents must accompany children. Easy, 1.5 mi. *Limited space.*

**Fri. 13, “Desert Holes” (Ages 2-6)** – This interactive and fun program will teach kids about all the different holes animals make in the Mojave Desert. They’ll learn how to identify what type of animal lives in certain holes and participate in a fun activity and craft.

**Sat. 14, “Simply Spiders” (Ages 3-10)** – Bring the kids for a fun and interactive program about spiders with Missy. They’ll learn interesting facts, engage in a craft and discover how amazing spiders really are.

**Fri. 20, “Torts for Tots (Ages 2-6)** –

This fun and interactive program with Missy about the desert tortoise will show the kids how amazing Nevada’s state reptile really is.

**Sat. 21, “Jr. Naturalists” (Ages 2-8)** – Since Thanksgiving is just around the corner, join Jen and celebrate the fall character of Red Rock Canyon, from its autumn colors to the cooler temperatures. We’ll make new discoveries through activities, stories and a take-home craft.

**Fri. 27, “Flying High with the Birds” (Ages 4-10)** – Kids will learn interesting facts all about birds with Missy, participate in an activity and discover how spectacular birds really are.

**Sat. 28, “Cactus Kids” (Ages 2-10)** – Join Missy for a new program about the different types of cactus found in Red Rock Canyon. Kids will participate in a scavenger hunt and learn how cool cacti really are.

### FAMILY PROGRAMS

**Mon. 2, “Mondays at the Rock”** – Join Jen for a classic must-do hike at Red Rock! We’ll hike along the White Rock Loop trail for exercise, great views and plentiful plants. Moderately **strenuous**; 6 mi.

**Tues. 3, “Euro-cultural Impacts of Red Rock Canyon” (1-4 p.m., Visitor Center)** – Join Ranger Jim for a 25-minute PowerPoint presentation and discussion of the history of Red Rock Canyon. This program will run 4 or 5 times during the afternoon. No sign-up is required.

**Tues. 3, “North Peak”** – Join Chris and hike up Rocky Gap Road to the Red Rock Summit, then on the designated trail to the limestone peak on a ridge above Ice Box Canyon. This hike has some amazing views, including the northern sandstone peaks on the escarpment and Arizona in the distance. **Very strenuous.** 2800 ft. Elev. gain; 12 mi. *Limited space.*

**Wed. 4, “Calico Tanks” (Ages 12+)** – Trek up approximately 500 ft. to the Tanks in the afternoon with Claire. See why some folks call this the “stair master hike.” At the

top, we’ll take in an incredible view of the Las Vegas Valley. Mod.

**Thurs. 5, “Moapa Planting”** – Join the Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association Staff and help plant some native plants in the Moapa Wildlife Refuge.

**Fri. 6, “Echo Canyon” (Ages 12+)** – Join Claire for a 3.5 mile hike through Echo Canyon and up to Fossil Ridge. We’ll look for evidence of ancient sea life throughout the hike and take in the incredible views of various mountain ranges and colorful sandstone formations from the top of the ridge. Moderate with *some scrambling.*

**Fri. 6, “Birding with the Ranger” (Ages 15+)** – Join Ranger Jim on a fascinating excursion into the world of bird watching. We’ll brave the ornithological primeval world of nature, and observe the real life of birds. Easy; 1 mi. *Limited space.*

**Sat. 7, “Ash Meadows Road Trip” (Ages 12+)** – Join Aaron and Jen on this day-long road trip to Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Just past Pahrump, this oasis in the desert contains springs, streams, and life found nowhere else in the world. With the help of the Refuge staff, we will see the endangered pupfish, visit two springs, take a short hike and learn about why we should protect endangered species. Moderately easy; *Limited space.*

**Sat. 7, “First Creek” (Ages 10+)** – Come with Pat on this gorgeous hike and look for fall colors of the changing desert. We’ll find out if there is water in the creek bed and the waterfall. Mod; 3-4 mi.

**Sun. 8 & Fri. 20, “Corn Creek Spring Walk”** – Corn Creek Spring feeds three ponds at this headquarters of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. It is a major bird watching area and is prime habitat for aquatic and land plants and animals. Join Bob during the morning to observe all these creatures in a surprising setting and learn about the history and future of the area. Easy; ½ mi.

**Mon. 9, “Mondays at the Rock” (Ages 8+)** – If you don’t think there is water in the

desert, you will be amazed at what we'll find at the end of the Calico Tank trail. Starting at Sandstone Quarry and through a canyon, we'll encounter some *rock scrambling* and an interesting perspective on Red Rock and Las Vegas. Elevation gain 450-ft; Moderate; 2.5 mi.

**Tues. 10, "Geology of Southern Nevada" (Visitor Center; 1-4 p.m.; twice an hour)** – Join Ranger Jim for a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation and discussion on the geology of Red Rock Canyon. No sign-up is required.

**Tues. 10, "Turtlehead"** – Join Chris for a hike to this signature peak in Red Rock overlooking Sandstone Quarry. It requires a lot of effort to get to the intermediate saddle and to the top. From there, you look down on Las Vegas and surrounding areas.

**Wed. 11, "Step into the Past" (Ages 7+)** – Join Claire on a family hike through Pine Creek. We'll learn about the people who lived in the Pine Creek area long before Las Vegas came to be. Parents must accompany children. Easy, 1.5 mi. *Limited space.*

**Fri. 13, "White Rock Loop" (Ages 14+)** – Start Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> on a good note with Claire as we hike the White Rock Loop. This hike will be sure to offer us beautiful scenery, varying terrains, and interesting plant life. Mod; 6 mi. *Limited space.*

**Fri. 13, "Pine Creek-North Fork Hike"** – Join Bob for a hike along the unusually low elevation ponderosa pines. We'll explore the area's geology and wildlife and visit an old homestead site; then hike along the North Fork, keeping an eye out for bighorn sheep and ferns. Mod; 3 mi; *Limited space.*

**Sat. 14, "Oak Creek" (Ages 10+)** – Join Pat on a spectacular hike to Oak Creek which should be full of fall colors. Along the way we'll be looking for any signs of water. Mod; 2 mi; *Limited space.*

**Mon. 16, "Mondays at the Rock" (Ages 10+)** – Hike with Jen in the Fossil Ridge area to a naturally formed cave that has nine different levels. We'll explore for evidence of our desert's oceanic past and how this cave came to be. Mod; 3-4 mi.

**Mon. 16, "Introduction to Red Rock" (On-going; Visitor Center, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)** – Join Ranger Gina for a 20-minute PowerPoint talk about the geology, plants and wildlife at Red Rock Canyon.

**Tues. 17, "Art Naturally" (Ages 15+) –**

Come and try painting with Jen. Bring a love for nature as we create a masterpiece worth showing off. This is a "no pressure," all-fun art class. No experience is necessary and all supplies are included. *Limited space.*

**Tues. 17, "Ash Canyon" – Scramble** with Chris through the boulders of the picturesque Ash Canyon and into equally beautiful lower Gateway Canyon, with its colorful sandstone formations. This loop hike passes the climbing boulders south of Krafft Mountain. 6-7 mi; **Strenuous.**

**Tues. 17, "Night Wings" (On-going; Visitor Center; 1-4 p.m.)** – Ranger Jim will give a 30-minute PowerPoint program 4 or 5 times during the afternoon about the nocturnal, primeval world of owls.

**Wed. 18, "Southern Calico Hills Loop" (Ages 10+)** – Join Claire in the afternoon for a hike to and around the base of the Calico Hills to Calico 1, then back to the Visitor Center. We'll see some interesting rock formations carved out of the sandstone along the way. Mod; *Limited space.*

**Fri. 20, "La Madre Springs" (Ages 16+)** – Join Claire and explore the history of those who lived in this beautiful area between the White Rock Hills and the La Madre Mountains. We'll be crossing over spring-fed waterfalls as we hike up to the cabin. Moderately **strenuous**; 5 mi.

**Sat. 21, "Fossil Ridge" (Ages 10+)** – Join Pat for a beautiful hike that loops around the Ridge. We'll be on the lookout for fossils and enjoy the view. Mod; 2.5 mi. *Limited space.*

**Sat. 21, "Geology Booth" (9:00 -11:30 a.m.)** – Join Ranger Gina at the Visitor Center and learn about the geology of Red Rock Canyon. No sign-up is required.

**Sat. 21, "Bats in Our Belfry" (On-going; Visitor Center)** – Go batty with Ranger Jim and learn about the mammal man has tried to emulate. This is a 20-minute program which runs twice an hour. No sign-up is required.

**Mon. 23, "Mondays at the Rock"** – La Madre springs is a beautiful, uphill hike that rewards its hikers with spectacular views, continually flowing spring water and an old stone cabin. Mod; 4-5 mi.

**Tues. 24, "Red Cap"** – Join Chris on a hike that starts from an alternate trailhead offering more opportunities for *scrambling*. It features some of the best terrain and scenery

in the Calico Hills. We'll check out the upper natural tanks for water. 4-5 mi.

**Wed. 25, "Pine Creek Canyon" (Ages 12+)** – Join Claire on this afternoon hike and learn about the Wilson family who lived in this scenic canyon over 70 years ago. We'll look for wildflowers and watch for bighorn sheep and other wildlife along the ridges overlooking the trail. Mod; 3 mi.

**Fri. 27, "Red Rock Canyon Animals" (Visitor Center; 10 a.m. – noon)** – Join Bob for a display of living and preserved specimens, along with discussion, of some of the interesting animals found in the Conservation Area. No sign-up is required.

**Mon. 30, "Mondays at the Rock" (Ages 12+)** – Join Jen for a hike that starts from Sandstone Quarry and ends up at Turtlehead Peak. Along the way, we'll encounter *scrambling* obstacles and rocky trails. This hike takes some work, but it's all worth it once you get to the top. 4 mi.

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## Answers to quiz

You got eight or better. Even "M" will be pleased, installing new gadget-gets on your Aston Martin DB5. Five to seven gets a week with all expenses at the Carlton in Cannes. Four and under . . . remember what Goldfinger was going to do to 007 with that laser? It was nothing compared to what the Desert Trumpet has in store for you.

## REWARDS AND PENALTIES

1. Thunderball
2. Even. Both starred in seven films
3. Live and Let Die
4. From Russia with Love
5. Jill St. John
6. Sunbeam Alpine
7. Richard Kiel
8. A compressed air pellet (stuffed in his mouth)
9. Goldfinger
10. Telly Savalas as Ernst Stavros Blofeld

# November

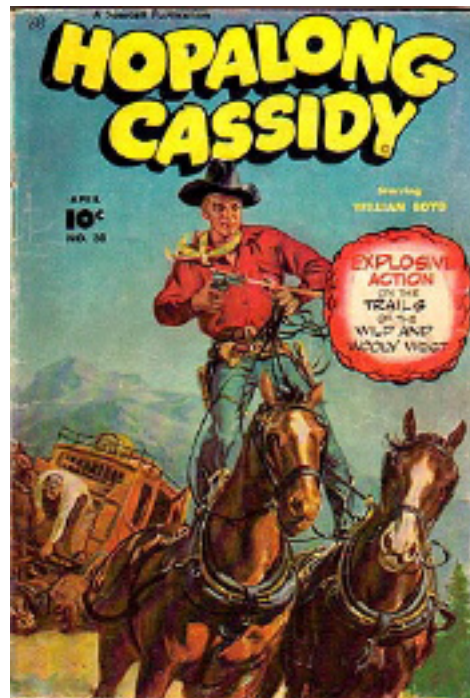
## Desk Schedule

Sun/1	OPEN	C. McArthur
Mon/2	B. Jackson	OPEN
Tues/3	M. Slagle	V. Sperry
	H. Weldon	
Wed/4	G. Fazio	L. Arthur
	P. Herman	B. Soto
Thur/5	G. Wojciechowski	J. Barrett
	R. Rossnagel	F. Davis
Fri/6	P. Glovin	OPEN
Sat/7	W. Barbuck	W. Barbuck
Sun/8	OPEN	OPEN
Mon/9	B. Jackson	S./S. Stenzel
Tues/10	M. Slagle	D. Schoengold
	H. Weldon	P. Kepner
Wed/11	G. Fazio	D. Schoengold
	P. Herman	L. Coleman
Thur/12	G. Wojciechowski	J. Barrett
	R. Rossnagel	F. Davis
Fri/13	P. Glovin	P. Boghossian
		R. Porche
Sat/14	P. VanDooremaal	K. Nelson
Sun/15	D. Langdon	L./M. Utah
	R. Barnette	
Mon/16	W. Townsend	J. Ponder
Tues/17	M. Slagle	V. Sperry
	H. Weldon	P. Kepner
Wed/18	G. Fazio	B. Soto
	P. Herman	C. Camburn
Thur/19	G. Wojciechowski	J. Barrett
	R. Rossnagel	F. Davis
Fri/20	P. Glovin	R. Porche
Sat/21	J. Kisosondi	K. Nelson
Sun/22	A. Lewis	L./M. Utah
Mon/23	S./S. Stenzel	G./J. Das
Tues/24	M. Slagle	V. Sperry
	H. Weldon	
Wed/25	G. Fazio	B. Soto
	P. Herman	
Thur/26	G. Wojciechowski	J. Barrett
	R. Rossnagel	F. Davis
Fri/27	P. Glovin	P. Boghossian
		R. Porche
Sat/28	OPEN	P. Kepner
Sun/29	OPEN	L.M. Utah
Mon/30	OPEN	J. Ponder
		L. Arthur

Changes? Call Sarah at 515-5366  
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### Western Films, continued from p. 1

Tex Ritter, Dick Foran, Rex Bell, Tim Holt, Charles Starrett, William Boyd as "Hopalong Cassidy," Johnny Mack Brown and many more. One of those "B" Western heroes leaped to lasting fame in the great Western, *Stagecoach*. His name: John Wayne. Some major stars who appeared in a variety of roles also starred in big-budget Westerns, like Gary Cooper in *The Westerner* and Joel McCrea in *Union Pacific*. But the real core of the period was the "B" Western, carrying titles such as *Death Rides the*



*Range, The Lost Trail, Marshall of Gun-smoke, Sagebrush Law and the Devil's Trail*. Along with feature films, the 12 to 15-part serial became a mainstay of the Saturday morning matinee. Each one ended with the hero in a clutch situation from which escape seemed impossible. Surely, this was the end for Johnny Mack Brown in *Flaming Frontiers*, but somehow he survived for the next part. American boys couldn't wait for next Saturday.

The Western hero was not alone. The sidekick became a feature, providing comedy. George "Gabby" Hayes,

grizzled and toothless, was perhaps the best known. Actually, Hayes was a well-educated and cultured man, far-removed from his favorite expression, "Yer dern tootin'!" The affable and overweight Smiley Burnett was Gene Autry's sidekick in 81 films. Leo Carillo was particularly colorful, riding with Duncan Renaldo who played the Cisco Kid. Renaldo said Carillo's exaggerated accent was so thick that ". . . no one in the cast or crew could talk normal English anymore." And everyone is familiar with Tonto, the Lone Ranger's faithful Indian companion. How about the women? They were as virtuous and decent as the heroes. No cussing, no displays of cleavage . . . she was the girl next door who looked great in Western garb, whether riding or next to her man at the corral. Yes, they did kiss in many films, despite humor about the cowboy kissing his horse but not the girl.

It was also the era of the singing cowboy. In many cases, they copied the ornamented Western garb favored by Tom Mix. The genre got its real start in 1935 at Republic Pictures, with Gene Autry, who had achieved considerable fame on the radio. He was billed as "The Singing Cowboy" and became extremely popular. These films left viewers with a good feeling; the action was always accompanied by Western music and they had a happy ending as the good guys won. Autry even established a code of conduct with guidelines like "a cowboy never goes back on his word." Incredibly, they had a shot at turning the Duke himself, John Wayne, into a singing cowboy . . . with a dubbed voice, of course. They tried it just once. There was no problem with Roy Rogers who came on the scene when Gene Autry went into the army in 1942. Rogers became as popular as Autry, a wholesome American with all of the cowboy virtues. With him, he had the Sons of the Pioneers, a singing group he founded in 1933. They became famous in their own right with classics like "Cool Water" and "Happy Trails." Also, it didn't hurt to have a great cowgirl love (his wife),

Dale Evans. The list of cowgirls is as long as the cowboys. Most of the names are forgotten now, but a small number went on to fame. One was Rita Cansino, better known as Rita Hayworth. Cowboys featured their horses so well that they became famous, too. Roy Rogers rode the supremely intelligent Trigger, Gene Autry had Champion, Hopalong Cassidy (William Boyd) rode from the Bar-20 on Topper and who doesn't

know about the great horse, Silver, that carried the Lone Ranger. Tonto's horse was Scout. Champion had his hoof prints preserved in concrete in front of Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. So did Tom Mix's wonder horse, Tony.

Westerns made a hugely successful transition to television after the war. But, as they say, that's another story. Feature film or TV, the Western appears to be with us for good. That's good. □

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## James Bond Quiz *by Chuck Kleber*

*LIKE DIAMONDS, JAMES BOND IS FOREVER AS 007.*

Complete this quiz with a high score and your James Bond fantasies will last forever. Do poorly and you'll face a particularly cruel penalty . . . even by *Desert Trumpet* standards!

1. What was the highest grossing Bond movie?
2. Who starred in the most 007 films, Sean Connery or Roger Moore?
3. What was Roger Moore's first film in the series?
4. Matt Monro sang the theme song for which Bond film?
5. What actress played the role of Tiffany Case?
6. In the first film, *Dr. No*, James Bond drove what make of car?
7. The name of the actor who played "Jaws" is . . .
8. How did James Bond dispose of the evil Dr. Kananga?
9. What 007 film made the Aston Martin DB5 famous?
10. Who was the villain in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*?

Answers on page 5

*Desert Trumpet*

**Editor**

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The *Desert Trumpet* is published monthly by and for FORRC members. Statements, opinions and points of view expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of FORRC. Please submit all articles, photos and artwork NLT the 15th of each month by calling 515-5350. If you are interested in becoming part of the *Desert Trumpet* staff or in submitting an article, contact Editor at 256-8043 or [forrcnews@cox.net](mailto:forrcnews@cox.net)

FORRC is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated solely to the welfare of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. FORRC provides volunteers and funding for projects including environmental education, teacher workshops, natural resource protection, cultural resource monitoring, hike programs and other services. Annual individual membership is \$25.00. General meetings are held four times a year; Board meetings are held on third Friday of each month, time/location announced in the Bulletin Board. Messages may be left at 515-5360. Visit our website at [www.friendsofredrockcanyon.org](http://www.friendsofredrockcanyon.org)



**Get it now before it's gone!!!**

# November Bulletin Board

For information concerning any event, call the Visitor Center at 515-5350

Event	Date	Time	Place	Comments
<i>Ash Meadows Road Trip</i>	11/7	TBD	Ash Meadows	All day trip-must register
<i>Annual Volunteer Appreciation &amp; 25th Anniversary Banquet</i>	11/14	7 p.m.	Hilton hotel	By invitation only
<i>Board Meeting</i>	11/20	9 a.m.	REI	Boca Park, SC
<i>Red Rock Geology</i>	11/21	9-11:30	Visitor Center	No sign-up required
<i>Natural Resources Work Day</i>	11/21	TBD	Red Rock	Call to sign-up
<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	11/26	Happy Thanksgiving to All!!!		

“Friends of Red Rock Canyon is dedicated to the protection and enrichment of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.”

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