



October 2009

## In This Issue!

### ► Featured Articles

The Guns That Won The West.....1

### ► Special

Desert Safety Series.....3

### ► Departments

News & Notes.....2

Programs & Hikes.....4

Desk Schedule.....6

Bulletin Board.....8

## THE GUNS THAT WON THE WEST

*Along with his horse, the gun was a Westerner's most valued possession.*

*by Chuck Kleber*

The West and the gun can almost be considered a marriage. They were intertwined in their own unique way. Wagon trains, the quest for game to provide food, Indian-cavalry battles, a fight over a dancehall girl, the Johnson County range war . . . in nearly every aspect of the Western story, guns played a vital role. And if there was law and order or next-to-none, it often came from the muzzle of a rifle or revolver. The famed Winchester 73 lever-action rifle and the Colt .45 "Peacemaker" revolver are often described as the guns that "Won the West," but it is far more correct to give that credit to the development of repeating firearms and the development of the self-contained cartridge. Their superiority over the single shot weapon and the time-consuming process of muzzle loading changed everything.

A highly significant instance of repeating firearms in action occurred, fittingly, in Texas. Samuel Colt had been working hard on the development of a reliable revolver, and he found it in his five-shot Paterson, patented in 1836. For the first time, several shots

could be fired without reloading. And if one carried a spare cylinder, ten shots were readily available. On June 8, 1844, a group of 14 Texas Rangers under Captain Jack Coffee Hays were returning from a patrol when they were attacked by a Comanche war party of about 80 braves on horseback near



*Samuel Colt - 19th century engraving*

the Pedernales River. The Comanches were noted for their incredible horsemanship and have been described as the "best light cavalry in the world." They should have overwhelmed the Rangers, but to their dismay, the

Texas kept firing without reloading. Hays called out, "Don't shoot 'till you can touch 'em, boys." It was good advice; these revolvers were meant for close combat. The Comanche broke off the engagement when nearly half their number had been killed. Only 2,850 Paterson's were made, but they ushered in the era of repeating firearms. However, the revolver's chambers still had to be loaded individually with powder and ball and a percussion cap fitted on each cylinder for ignition. Regardless, it was an enormous step forward, and more advanced guns of this type were used in the Civil War which saw, among its many innovations, the beginning of cartridge firearms. No need to measure powder; thrust a ball down a barrel or chamber and fix a percussion cap; it was all in the self-contained cartridge. Some Union troops were equipped with the innovative, cartridge-fed Henry Repeating Rifle. This lever-action was a shock to Confederates who complained about "that damned Yankee rifle that they load on Sunday and shoot all week." Fortunately for the Confederacy, production was very limited and peak production in 1864 was still only 290 Henrys a month. Captured Henry rifles were carried by the personal bodyguards of President

**The Guns, continued on page 6**

# News & Notes

## Asteroids, Comets and Earth

Early on the morning of July 30, 1908, a massive explosion rocked central Siberia, leveling a 2,150-square-kilometer segment of forest. When researchers finally reached the area two decades after the incident, they saw most of the 80 million trees lying in a radial pattern. What they didn't find was a crater.

Witnesses described a fireball streaking from the southeast, exploding in the sky above the forest. Some were knocked off their feet as far as 70 miles away. Seismic instruments in the area recorded ground motions as strong as a magnitude-5 Earthquake. The shock wave was recorded around the world.

More than 100 years later, scientists are still debating the cause of the Tunguska blast. The most likely answer is the mid-air explosion of a small comet or asteroid, many now believe.

The funnel-like shape of Lake Cheko and samples from its sedimentary deposits suggest that it is the result of a fragment thrown into the ground from the explosion, leaving the long, trench-like depression that wasn't obvious a hundred years ago. Further digging into the lake bottom may reveal more fragments.

At least 100 tons of asteroid debris rains down on us daily, most of it burning up in the atmosphere. Comets and asteroids, remnants of rocky or icy bodies left over from the formation of the solar system, reside in a

belt between Jupiter and Mars. Some in near-Earth orbit can hold considerable danger for the Earth. Our past is peppered with the scars of impacts and, although most have been erased by weathering and erosion, over 200 suspected impact sites have been recorded. One hundred-fifty or more have been proven.

The Chicxulub basin, buried beneath Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula, is approximately 190 miles in diameter and is the largest known impact crater on the planet. It is widely believed to have been made by the asteroid that contributed to the demise of the dino-



Artist's concept of Dawn with Vesta (left) & Ceres (right)

saurus 65 million years ago. Evidence suggested that the asteroid was part of a shower of fragments resulting from a collision between two such bodies somewhere beyond the orbit of Mars. Another fragment from that collision is thought to have hit the moon about 110 million years ago, creating the Tycho Crater.

The Sudbury Crater in Ontario, Canada is roughly the same size as Chicxulub, but dates to about 1.85 million years ago. Canada's Manicouagan Crater is one of the oldest known, dating to between 206 and 214 million years old. These worn craters

are obvious, however, only in imaging from orbit.

The Barringer Crater in Winslow, Ariz. is 1/8 of a mile wide and 570 ft deep, the result of a nickel-iron meteorite impact about 50,000 years ago. The rim rises 150 ft above the level of the surrounding plain. The impact destroyed most of the object and excavated a portion of Earth's crust. When first discovered, the areas around the crater within 8 to 10 miles were strewn with over 30 tons of meteoric iron chunks.

In 1991, Congress charged the *National Aeronautics and Space Administration* (NASA) to develop and implement a plan to protect Earth against asteroid and comet impacts. The resulting *Spaceguard Program* was designed to track 90% of near Earth objects (NEOs) which include large space junk from defunct satellites and rocket stages, as well as Earth-crossing asteroids and short-period comets (NEA's) larger than 1 km

in diameter.

In 2008, the *Jet Propulsion Laboratory* was asked by the *B612 Foundation* to study the feasibility of developing a Gravity Tractor to mitigate the threat of potentially dangerous bodies in near Earth orbit. The Foundation's goal is to significantly alter the orbit of an asteroid by 2015.

A *Planetary Defense Conference* to review current capabilities in detection of NEA's was held this year in Granada, Spain, April 27-30 by the *International Academy of Aeronautics*. The conference addressed (1) Discovery, Tracking and Characterization

of NEAs (2) Mission and Campaign Design, (3) Deflection Technologies and Simulations, (4) Impacts and Consequences, (5) Policy, Preparedness and Deciding to Act.

A number of teams in the U.S., Italy, Germany, Australia, and Japan are dedicated solely to tracking near Earth objects and their estimated impact dates, based upon current orbit data. The nearest estimated impact date for an asteroid is now 2029, but the probability of impact is not guaranteed.

On July 30, 2009, exactly 15 years after the impact of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9, the planet Jupiter was hit again by a massive object (tentatively deemed a comet) estimated at a half-kilometer to a kilometer in size. This incident has added urgency to the need for more resources in detecting and deflecting potential threats to Earth.

The largest residents in the asteroid belt are 606-mile-wide *Ceres* and 578-mile-wide *Vesta*. In 2008, *Ceres* was dubbed a dwarf planet that looks “remarkably Pluto-like,” probably a refugee from the solar system’s fringe. *Vesta*, the brightest asteroid in the solar system, is covered with frozen lava. It, too, has an iron core, like Earth. Its south pole holds a huge impact crater from which over 1% of its mass was ejected into space, ranging from mountain size chunks to sand. The debris is believed to be the source of about 5% of the meteorites found on Earth.

The *Dawn* spacecraft is planned to visit *Vesta* in 2011 and *Ceres* in 2015. — *Barbara Wolin*

## Friends Quarterly Meeting

The last quarterly meeting of the fiscal year was held at the Red Spring Picnic Area on the evening of September 19. President Pat Williams introduced various Committee Leaders as well as Bureau of Land Management personnel. Treasurer

Rosie Porche gave a financial summary through August reflecting total expenses of \$113,301.54 with net income at (\$3941.87). Projected income/expenses for the 2009-2010 fiscal year is \$212,700. The 2010 Budget was voted upon and unanimously approved.

Election for three open board positions was held. The following directors were unanimously elected: Norm Kresge - Secretary; Rosie Porche – Treasurer; Mark Beauchamp – Director.

This year marks our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an organization dedicated to the protection and enrichment of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. By the end of our fiscal year on September 30, we expect to have logged 20,000 volunteer service hours since our incorporation.

Our Annual Appreciation Banquet will be held at the Las Vegas Hilton on the evening of November 14. Volunteers with 40 hours or more of volunteer service for 2009 will be hosted at no charge. The dinner price for all other volunteers and their guests will be \$45 per person. Raffle tickets for two Southwest Airline tickets and for some custom artwork will be sold at the event. Rooms will be available at the Hilton for the night at a special **Friends rate** of \$55 plus tax. Local, call 732-5111 or toll free 1-888-732-7117 for out-of-town.

Over the past year, Friends has introduced team build events with corporations; improved our website and added a “store front” where members and the public may purchase logo items; started e-blasts to improve communication at short notice, including new store products and event reminders; created a Facebook.com site; added Youth and Junior Memberships; and purchased new LCD TV’s for both the temporary and new Visitor Centers.

In other announcements, REI has

awarded Friends a \$10,000 grant to underwrite costs for volunteer events, training and the Youth and Junior membership projects; a \$6,000 grant was received from the National Landscape Conservation System for the purpose of board training and business plan development.

Our excellent National Conservation Corps intern, Sarah Valentine, has also decided to stay on with Friends for another year.

A highlight of the meeting was the introduction Tim Wakefield. He has been assigned as the new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Manager for Red Rock and Sloan Canyons, replacing Bob Taylor. Tim expressed his anticipation of a productive partnership with Friends in the coming months. He noted that Friends is BLM’s largest (and best) volunteer group. Kevin Routsong, BLM liaison for Red Rock Canyon, added that volunteers are indispensable to the job.

The new Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center is scheduled to open on October 9, with everything expected to be complete by December 31.

## Desert Safety Series

by *Aaron Leifheit*

### Being physically prepared: The essentials

Having an open and alert mind is very important to experiencing nature (see last month’s article), but being prepared physically is just as important. After all, no amount of Zen-like thoughts will fill up your water bottle! There are certain items you should bring on every hike, especially here in the hot, dry desert.

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**News and Notes**, continued on page 5

# OCTOBER 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. 2, “Desert Holes” (Ages 2-6)* – Bring the kids for a fun and interactive program with Missy about the different types of holes that animals make in the Mojave Desert. They’ll discover how to identify what type of animal lives in certain holes and participate in a fun activity and a craft.

*Sat. 3, “Jr. Naturalists” (Ages 2-8)* – Join Jen on a journey to learn of the first explorers that came to Red Rock Canyon and what they might have found. We’ll make new discoveries through activities, stories, trail exploration and a take-home craft.

*Sun. 4, “Children’s Reptile Program” (Ages 3-8)* - Join Ranger Gina and learn about some of Red Rock Canyon’s amazing reptiles. There will be crafts and various activities.

*Fri. 9, “I See a Desert Track” (Ages 5-10)* – This program with Missy is all about the tracks of desert animals. We’ll learn how to identify a desert animal’s footprint and see what type of wildlife we can find around the Canyon.

*Fri. 16, “Desert Smarts” (Ages 5-10)* - A fun and interactive program with Missy all about desert survival skills. Kids will learn different simple survival skills with hands-on activities, a craft and so much more.

*Sat. 17, “Desert Babies of the Mojave” (Ages 2-6)* – Join Missy for an exciting and interactive program where kids will learn how the baby animals grow up and survive in the Mojave Desert. We’ll do a craft, read a story and so much more.

*Fri. 23, “Kids and the Kit Fox” (Ages 2-6)* – Join Missy and learn how the kit fox has adapted to the Mojave Desert. Kids will participate in an activity, learn cool facts about this amazing animal and more.

*Sat. 31, “Let’s Celebrate Nevada Day” (Ages 2-10)* – Bring the kids out and join Missy for a celebration of Nevada Day. We’ll have crafts, games, snacks and stories about the history of Nevada’s people and events. Feel free to have children dress up in appropriate western clothing.

### FAMILY PROGRAMS

*Fri. 2, “Telephone Pole Canyon” (Ages 12+)* – Hike downhill about 1,000 ft with Claire through Telephone Pole Canyon, a scenic, partially shaded trail. Watch as the plant life changes with elevation. Mod; 4 mi. *Limited space.*



*Sat. 3, & Fri. 16, “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.

*Sun 4, & 18, “Mountain Bike Madness” (Ages 10+ Beginner-Intermediate)* - No experience is necessary for this introductory mountain bike ride with Jen and John starting from the Late Night parking lot. The **6-mile** single track will be a great way to start new to the sport or dust off an old frame. **(Helmets are required. Limited space.)**

*Mon. 5, “Mondays at the Rock” (Ages 12+)* – Head down the Pine Creek Trail with Jen, then off to the north side of Mescalito Peak. There is some *scrambling* involved, but it is worth it to get to Fern Canyon. Mod; 4 mi.

*Thurs. 8, & 29, “Canyon Clean-up”* – Join Janis and help clean up a trailhead at Red Rock. Make new friends, enjoy the outdoors and help keep Red Rock beautiful.

*Fri. 9, “Mary Jane Falls” (Ages 12+)* – Join Claire and take in the beauty of fall in the upper part of Kyle Canyon on Mt. Charleston. Enjoy the golden leaves of the aspen trees along the way. Mod;/ **Strenuous**; 3 mi. *Limited space.*

*Sat. 10, “Inscription Hill” (Ages 8+)* – Join Bob and see why Inscription Hill gets this unofficial name and view some interesting landscapes/formations near the southern escarpment. Along the way, there will be “new” views of the Conservation Area and several permanent springs. There’s a good chance of seeing wildlife and birds. Mod; 4.5 mi. *Limited space.*

*Mon. 12, “Mondays at the Rock” (Ages 10+)* – Hike with Jen up to the Muffins to get up close to some interesting rock formations and great views overlooking the bustling city off in the distance. Mod; 3-4 mi.

*Fri. 16, “Calico Hills” (Ages 10+)* – Join Claire for this **3-mile** hike to-and-around the

base of the Calico Hills to Calico II, returning on the Moenkopi Trail back to the Visitor Center. We'll get up close to the famous red rock of the Canyon and then check out the construction progress of the new Visitor Center. *Limited space.*

**Sun. 18, "Cathedral Gorge Road Trip"** – Join Aaron on a day-long road trip to one of Nevada's most beautiful state parks, Cathedral Gorge. We'll explore the numerous "caves" tucked into the cliffs and take a moderate, 4-mile hike through the sculpted heart of the park. Approximately 2 hours of driving each way, returning around 4 p.m. Entrance fee is \$4.00 per vehicle.

**Mon. 19, "Mondays at the Rock" (Ages 10+)** – Join Jen for a hike around Ice Box Canyon, a perfect trail for those who want to kick up trail walking a bit and do a moderate amount of *rock scrambling* through the canyon and back. We'll look for a seasonal waterfall at our halfway point. 3.5 mi; Mod.

**Wed. 21, "La Madre Spring" (Ages 10+)** – Join Claire for an afternoon hike up to a natural spring. We'll enjoy scenic views of the La Madre Mountains and the White Rock hills. We'll also learn about the various groups of people who lived and played in this beautiful area. This hike does not go up to the miner's cabin. 3.5 mi; *Limited space.*

**Fri. 23, "Keystone Thrust" (Ages 12+)** – What's a "thrust" and why should we care?

Join Claire for a hike to an interesting land formation where we'll see the old and the new come together. We'll *scramble* down a dry waterfall and see the affects of water on sandstone. Mod; 3 mi; *Limited space.*

**Mon. 26, "Mondays at the Rock" (Ages 10+)** – Starting from the Visitor Center, join Jen and hike out to Red Spring and *scramble* up onto a saddle over Calico Hills. From here, we'll drop down into Calico Hills and head

courtesy Norm Kresge



Cathedral Gorge formation

back to the Visitor Center. This will be a lot of fun with a lot to see. **Moderately strenuous**; 6 mi.

**Tues. 27, "Art . . . Naturally" (Ages 15+)** – Come try painting with Jen at Red Rock. Bring yourself and 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.*

**Wed. 28, "Arnright-Knoll Loop" (Ages 10+)** – Join Claire and take in the beauty of Red Rock along the 3.5-mile Arnright-Knoll Loop in the afternoon. We'll see a variety of plant life and possibly some wildlife along this scenic trail at the base of the escarpment. Mod; *Limited space.*

**Fri. 30, "Step into the Past" (Ages 7+)** – Join Claire on a family hike through Pine Creek. We'll learn all about the people who lived in the Pine Creek area long before Las Vegas came to be. Parents must accompany children. Mod; 3 mi. *Limited space.*

**Fri. 30, "Lost Creek Family Hike" (Ages 6+)** – Join Claire on this afternoon family hike, exploring some of the artifacts left behind by the Native Americans who once lived in this canyon. If we are lucky, we may see some bighorn sheep climbing on the hills overhead. Parents must accompany children. Easy, 1 mi. *Limited space.*

**Fri. 30, "Red Spring Full Moon Hike" (Ages 12+)** – Join Aaron on this nearly full moon night hike from Red Spring to Echo Canyon, Ash Springs and back. Along the way, we will climb a little for some views of the desert evening sky. **Flashlights are required.** Mod; 3 mi.

**Sat. 31, "Oak Creek Canyon" (Ages 6+)** – Join Bob and enjoy a scenic and invigorating fall hike to Oak Creek and escarpment areas. We'll hike along the Knoll-Arnright and Oak Creek Canyon trails and hope to see many birds and animals.

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## News and Notes, continued from p. 3

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The first thing you should always have is lots of **cool clear water**. Bring more than you will drink. You may need this extra on hot days or if you get delayed. Either way carrying it around is good exercise. Second, make sure you have some **food** with you. Bring a lunch if you need it, but always keep something that stays in your pack, such as a granola bar, some sugary candy, or perhaps an electrolyte packet. Third, make sure you have a well stocked **first aid kit**. You never know what can happen outside, and in the very least, prickly things are everywhere.

These are the most common items hikers think of, but every pack should carry these as well:

- **Sunscreen**, which now comes in small, easy to carry bottles;
- A **flashlight** (LED headlights work great), and a **lighter AND matches**;
- A small foil **space blanket** is also a good investment if you have to spend the night somewhere;
- Make sure you have a **compass**, so you can walk back to civilization the next morning;
- A **Leatherman** or **Swiss army knife** is also indispensable. I used one a few days ago to pull some thorns out of my hand;
- **Don't depend upon devices** such

as GPS's or cell phones. They may not work and anyway, they don't teach any lessons about self reliance in nature.

- Last but not least, it's wise to **bring some toilet paper** with you when you hike. You never know when nature calls!



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News and Notes, continued on page 7

# October

## Desk Schedule

Thur/1	G. Wojciechowski R. Rossnagel	J. Barrett F. Davis
Fri/2	L. Fox P. Glovin	R. Porche
Sat/ 3	W. Barbuck D. Baker	W. Barbuck
Sun/4	R. Erickson	OPEN
Mon/5	S./S. Stenzel	C. Camburn
Tues/6	H. Weldon M. Slagle	C. McArthur
Wed/7	G. Fazio P. Herman	L. Arthur
Thur/8	G. Wojciechowski R. Rossnagel	J. Barrett F. Davis
Fri/9	L. Fox P. Glovin	R. Porche P. Boghossian
Sat/10	P. VanDooremaal	K. Nelson
Sun/11	D. Langdon	C. McArthur
Mon/12	V./D. Wray	V./D. Wray
Tues/13	H. Weldon M. Slagle	OPEN
Wed/14	G. Fazio P. Herman	OPEN
Thur/15	G. Wojciechowski R. Rossnagel	J. Barrett F. Davis
Fri/16	L. Fox P. Glovin	R. Porche
Sat/17	J. Kisosondi	OPEN
Sun/18	A. Lewis R. Barnette	L./M. Utah
Mon/19	S./S. Stenzel	C. Camburn
Tues/20	H. Weldon M. Slagle	OPEN
Wed/21	G. Fazio P. Herman	L. Arthur
Thur/22	G. Wojciechowski R. Rossnagel	J. Barrett F. Davis
Fri/23	L. Fox P. Glovin	P. Boghossian
Sat/24	B. Jackson	R. Conductor
Sun/25	D. Langdon	L./M. Utah
Mon/26	B. Jackson	G./J. Das
Tues/27	H. Weldon M. Slagle	C. McArthur
Wed/28	G. Fazio P. Herman	R. Erickson
Thur/29	G. Wojciechowski R. Rossnagel	J. Barrett F. Davis
Fri/30	L. Fox P. Glovin	R. Porche
Sat/31	K. Nelson	A. Lewis

Changes? Call Sarah at 515-5366

### The Guns, continued from p. 1

Jefferson Davis and Kevin Costner carried a Henry in the Academy Award winning film, *Dances With Wolves*.

The year 1873 was very special. It saw the birth of two guns that are probably most identified with the Old West, the Winchester 73 and the Colt Single Action Army (CSAA) revolver. James Stewart starred in the 1950 western, *Winchester 73*, about this most famous of all Winchesters. A lever-action repeater, it was built in many calibers, from the powerful 44-40 down to a .22 cal version in 1884. Production ran from 1873 through 1919, and during that 47-year period, over 720,000 were sold. No wonder, it did everything that could be expected of a rifle . . . and it was beautiful as well, with its long, sleek design. William F. Cody ("Buffalo Bill") wrote to Winchester from Fort McPherson, Nebraska, "I have tried and used nearly every kind of gun make in the United States . . . I pronounce your Winchester the boss." That lesson was not lost on the Indians. One historic photo from 1886 shows Geronimo and three members of his family. Two are carrying Winchester 73s. Winchester made the gun in special editions. The 1875 Winchester catalog announced that gun barrels of exceptional accuracy would be made into rifles with extra-high quality finish and engraving. They were described as "One of One Thousand," but only 133 were made. To a collector, owning one of these is good fortune almost beyond words. Just \$100 would buy one when first issued. At a recent auction in Lewiston, Montana, one of these rifles sold for \$93,000.

The Colt Single Action Army carried six cartridges, hence the "Six-Gun" legend. It's the gun carried by lawmen

and outlaws, cavalrymen, cowboys on the cattle drives, gamblers and gun-slingers and in nearly every Western movie you've ever seen. It, too, came in various calibers, the most common being .45 Colt and .44-40 in the early days. Wyatt Earp carried one. So did John Wayne. It was also carried by the troopers with George Armstrong Custer, who led the 7th Cavalry to the epic defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in June, 1876. Significantly, the troopers also carried the Springfield Model 1873 single shot rifle. It fired the very powerful .45-70 cartridge (still made), but the lack of repeating rifles was calamitous for the soldiers. Significant numbers of the attacking Indians had repeating rifles, including Winchester 73's, and in the wild and close combat, they gave the Sioux and their allied tribes an enormous



2nd Generation Colt Single Action Army revolver

advantage to go with overwhelming numbers. As Custer and a handful of troopers retreated to "Last Stand Hill," their final shots must have come from the Colt revolvers. Then . . . it was all over. But the legend of this epic battle lives on, and so does the legend of the Colt. Call it a six-gun, Peacemaker or other names; it has an incredibly enduring popularity. It was produced from 1873 right up to 1940 when production ceased. But interest was so great, Colt brought it back in 1956 and it is being produced to this day by Colt and other gun makers. That interest is so

great, a first-generation Colt Single Action Army that was expected to fetch around \$70,000 at the high end went for \$143,750 at auction. And you'll need really deep pockets to buy a Paterson Colt. One of them, factory-cased with accessories brought \$299,000 in 2006.

*That old trunk in the attic that has been in the family for generations—have a look. If you find one of those guns that “Won the West,” you may have hit it far bigger than any win you’ll ever experience while gambling in Nevada.*

**News and Notes, continued from p. 5**

## Support the Canyon with a Red Rock License Plate!

**G**et your Red Rock Canyon License Plate and be entered into the monthly drawing for \$100. Go to [www.friendsofredrockcanyon.org](http://www.friendsofredrockcanyon.org) for details.

The Red Rock Canyon license plate helps support Canyon programs and Friends projects. You can have this beautiful plate, your “piece of the



Rock” by going to [any Nevada DMV](#). Just turn in your old plate and for a cost of only \$61.00, plus a \$5.00 transfer fee, this colorful plate will grace your car and remind other Nevada residents that the Canyon is a jewel worth protecting. Because it is a charitable licence plate, **\$25 of the cost is tax deductible**. A partial tax deduction is built into the cost of **all charitable license plates**. No need to wait for your plate to expire. Through August, we have sold 930 plates. We need to reach 1,000 plates sold by the end of the year to keep the plate and its revenue coming in.

## Red Rock Dedication Walkway

**W**e have been notified that the Red Rock Canyon Dedication Walkway will

be reinstalled by the end of December 2009. While unforeseen circumstances could delay the completion of this part of the new Visitor Center construction, the General Contractor is confident of this date at the present time. Friends of Red Rock Canyon will continue to accept new applications for dedication tiles at this time. These new tiles will be installed along with the existing tiles. We do not have a cut-off date for accepting applications, but assume it will be in the mid-November timeframe. Walkway applications can be downloaded from our website: [friendsofredrockcanyon.org](http://friendsofredrockcanyon.org) or by calling 702-515-5350 and asking that an application be mailed or faxed to you. —Chuck Williams, Walkway Coordinator.

## Information Session for Hike Leaders

**I**f you are currently a **Hike Leader or Assistant** or you are considering becoming one, please note that there will be an Information Session given by the *Southern Nevada Area Partnership Team (SNAP)* covering basic information such as Radio Use; What to do in case of a hike accident; Leave no Trace, etc. The Session will be held on **Saturday, October 10**.

Please contact Interpretive Park Ranger Kate Sorom, Red Rock Canyon NCA, 702-515-5350 **Wednesday through Friday** for time, place and additional information.

If you are not currently a hike leader or assistant, but are considering it, please advise Kate so that she can get information to you.

### Desert Trumpet

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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)



# October Bulletin Board

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

Event	Date	Time	Place	Comments
<i>PLANT Workday</i>	10/3	8:00 a.m.	Oliver Ranch	Contact Kate, 702-515-5350
<i>Photo Contest Entries</i>	10/3 & 10/4	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Visitor Center	Only time and place; fees apply
<i>Evening Astronomy Program</i>	10/10	at dark	Visitor Center	Call for gate closure time
<i>Make a Difference Day</i>	10/24	8 a.m. - noon	Visitor Center	Online registration opens 10/5
<i>Photo Contest Entry Pick-up</i>	10/24 & 25	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Visitor Center	Only time for non-winning entries

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

[www.friendsofredrockcanyon.org](http://www.friendsofredrockcanyon.org)

Blue Diamond, NV 89004

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