



September 2009

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THE GREAT CALIFORNIA RANCHOS ...*beauty, romance and hospitality from another era.*

by Chuck Kleber

They might be called a far-Western civilization akin to the Old South, a civilization “gone with the wind.” The great California ranchos were a legacy of Spain’s colonization of California, following establishment of the first missions along the El Camino Real (the King’s Highway) that eventually ran from San Diego to San Francisco. Spain decided to give large land grants to individuals who had performed some special service, usually military. They were fortunate indeed, for as historian Robert Glass Cleland put it in his book, *Day of the Dons*, “It was the era of the private ranchos, the idyllic interlude during which a people of simple wants, untroubled either by poverty or the ambition for great wealth, gave themselves over, wholeheartedly and successfully, to the grand and primary business of the enjoyment of life.” Understandable. California, with an ideal climate and supreme natural beauty, was an unspoiled paradise.

The first land grant was to a Spanish soldier, Juan Jose Dominguez, who was part of a military contingent that guarded the founder of California’s missions, Padre Junipero Serra, and

his Franciscan missionaries as they journeyed north to establish the beautiful missions that still charm visitors. When Dominguez retired in 1782 after thirty years of loyal service, the Spanish governor of California rewarded him with the very first of several land grants, called “ranchos.” It was enormous at just over 70,000



acres, and extended west from the San Gabriel River to a broad area along the Pacific Ocean, including what is now Redondo Beach. He named it Rancho San Pedro. The center of life there was Dominguez Rancho, built in 1826 by his nephew. The structure still stands in the town of Carson. The biggest of the early grants, a massive 300,000 acres

to Manuel Nieto became the Rancho de Nieto, encompassing what is now the southern part of Los Angeles County. All of these grants occurred when there were no private property claims. Grants were recorded on a map, with boundaries noted by features such as large rocks and streams. It was haphazard at best.

A relatively small number of land grants were made by Spain, around 30, nearly all of them in southern California. After Mexico won its independence in 1823, after three centuries of Spanish rule, a “Golden Age” began where the number of land grants vaulted to well over 500 and spread to northern California. Mexico honored the Spanish land grants. As for the post-Spanish grants, Mexico established certain requirements. The recipient had to be a Mexican citizen, certify that the land was not occupied by another rancho, agree to build a home, stock it with cattle and horses and plant trees. For these early-day Californians, the grants were based on extremely generous parcels of a square league, approximately 4,600 acres. The main complaint from the Mexican government . . . there weren’t enough applicants. Regardless, for those who established ranchos, they found themselves owners of huge areas and became known as “Californios.” And

Ranchos, continued on page 6

News & Notes

Tim Wakefield, Field Manager, Red Rock and Sloan Canyon

First, I want to convey my excitement at the opportunity to work with all of you—the professionals at the Red Rock/Sloan Field Office, the Southern Nevada District Office, and the Nevada BLM family as a whole. I know that for us to be successful as a team I will need to draw on your knowledge of the region's natural resources and the constituents who have high expectations of us. I value partnerships and understand that cooperation, internally and with our stakeholders, is the path to success.

I will come to Las Vegas with my wife, Cindy, and our two dogs. We were sorry to leave behind our adopted BLM burro, Burley, but were happy that we found a good family to care for him. Cindy and I enjoy outdoor activities (even in the heat) and play a little guitar music once in a while. We like to travel, and that is a good thing because our children are spread across the country from Vacaville and Susanville, Calif. to Fort Collins and Durango, Colo. I was born and raised in Northern California, with a Middle American background: Eagle Scout, high school athlete, and rock star hopeful. After graduation I did a four-year tour in the Marine Corps.

I earned a B.S. Degree in natural resource recreation and tourism (emphasis on wilderness and parks and protected area management) from Colorado State University (CSU). Fort Collins. My formal education culminated in a M.S. Degree in recreation resources, also from Colorado State.

While at Colorado State I worked as a volunteer coordinator for the CSU Environmental Learning Center. I was one of the founding members of the CSU Chapter of the National Association of Interpretation.

I also developed and helped direct a program for at-risk junior high school students (Northern Colorado Youth Naturally). CSU, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado State Parks, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife cooperated in the program. During my Masters' program I did a recreation resource inventory on the Green River in Wyoming. I spent spring semesters as the field manager and program development director for American Universities International Programs in Belize, where I taught environmental education and interpretation along with tourism and community planning.

I started my federal career as an outdoor recreation planner for the Bureau of Reclamation at Lake Berryessa in Northern California. I later worked as an interdisciplinary program coordinator, tasked with coordinating a visitor services plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A difficult issue involved removal of more than 1,300 mobile homes from public lands leases, some of which had been used by families for generations, to facilitate improved access to public lands.

After the EIS was completed, I joined the BLM in Susanville, Calif. as a supervisory resource management specialist. I worked with a variety of land use areas including recreation, water rights, grazing, wild horses and burros, forestry, wilderness, fire, and wildlife issues, just to name a few.

Moving to Southern Nevada, I look forward to the rewards and challenges of working in a field office that has a successful history of managing nationally significant natural resources and high visitor expectations. I am proud to become part of your team, looking forward to meeting you all, and anxious to get started.

Tim Wakefield will be replacing Bob Taylor as Field Manager.

National Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Day – September 26

Approximately 33,000 wild horses have been removed from the range over the last several years. These animals have been placed in short and long term government holding facilities, with 18,000 young horses **awaiting adoption**. More than half of the horses have come from Nevada ranges.

A **Wild Horse and Burro National Adoption Day** has been declared in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and recognizes that creating a **successful model** for wild horse and burro adoption is consistent with the **1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act**. The **1971 Act** decrees that these animals “shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment,



or death; and to accomplish this they are to be considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands.” Wild horse ranges are to be “principally but not necessarily exclusively to their welfare in keeping with the multiple-use management concept for the public lands”

Nevada Senator Harry Reid has introduced a **resolution** into the U.S.

Senate in July of this year, co-sponsored by Senators Diane Feinstein (CA) and John Ensign (NV), expressing support for the First Annual National Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Day on September 26. It is hoped that the event will be renewed annually.

The resolution underscores continued support for the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burros Act and the responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and their agencies for the humane capture, removal, and adoption of wild horses and burros. Private organizations are to be encouraged to participate in the adoption efforts in conjunction with the Adoption Day.

Additional legislation, **H.R. 1018 - Restore Our American Mustangs Act**, designated "To amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to improve the management and long-term health of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and for other purposes" passed the House on July 17, 2009. The Amendment was sponsored by Nick Rahall, D-WV and co-sponsored by Madeleine Bordallo, D-GU; Sam Farr, D-CA; Raul Grijalva, D-AZ; Dennis Kucinich, D-OH; Carolyn Maloney, D-NY; George Miller D-CA; and Henry Waxman D-CA.

The bill was received and read in the Senate and was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Several additional bills are pending, including **H.R. 305, the Horse Transportation Safety Act of 2009** and **H.R. 503, the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009**.

Note: On June 29, 2009, BLM announced a plan to zero out 11 Herd Management Areas from the Ely, Nev. District which represent 1,386,992 acres and are home to approximately 620 wild horses. The Herd Management areas are reportedly slated to host other grazing animals. The Caliente District ranges are also reportedly to be cleared of wild horses for similar uses.

Please Take Note . . .

❖ **The Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area remains open until 8:00 p.m.** through September 30. Visitors **MUST be driving out** of the Conservation Area at 8:00 p.m.

❖ **Friends Annual Meeting and Election and Dog Days of Summer Barbeque** will take place on Saturday, **September 12**, from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Red Spring Picnic Area. **Bring your favorite homemade cake** to share. You are welcome to bring your own coolers. The election will be for the board positions of **Treasurer, Secretary, and Director**. Members will also **vote on the 2010 Budget**. There will be **updates** on the new Visitor Center, Administration Building, the Mojave Discovery Center, and Contact Station Complex; Also hear about plans for the **25th Anniversary Celebration**.

❖ **Non-Friends BLM Volunteers** must **renew their Volunteer Agreement Forms** before September. You may *sign and update the current form on file or fill out a new form* at the BLM Office at the Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center.—Ranger

Kate Sorom

❖ **Want to connect with Friends of Red Rock Canyon?** Just sign up at **Facebook.com** and search the *Friends* pages to get all the **latest information on events** and doings at Red Rock Canyon. Add your photos, reports, and join in on discussions. **Check out what other members are doing** on the Friends of Red Rock Canyon pages.

Desert Safety Series

by Aaron Leifheit

Aaron Leifheit is a naturalist and hike leader with the Red rock Canyon Interpretive Association. Each month, he'll give some good advice on how to stay safe while enjoying the great trails and activities in the Mojave Desert. Here's the first in the series.

Being mentally prepared: The Rock is not the City

When I drove out to Red Rock Canyon this morning, I measured only 10 miles between the last house and the Visitor Center. We may be relatively close to the city, but it is in practice a world away.

Las Vegas and all human places are built for our comfort. The city is meant to move us, feed us, sit us, and entertain us in the most comfortable



way possible. As we spend day after day in this type of environment, we become very used to it. The problem is, of course, that Red Rock Canyon does not exist for our comfort! There are no chair-contoured rocks here, no uphill escalators.

When we draw from the knowledge patterns we have learned in the

News and Notes, continued on page 7

SEPTEMBER 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 for hike information. . Want to help with programs? Call Kate at 515-5350.

YOUTH PROGRAMS – Limited space!

Fri. 4, “Jumping Jackrabbits” (Ages 2-6) - Come out with the little ones and join Missy for a wonderful program all about the jackrabbit. Children will learn why they are so important to the Mojave Desert, participate in a craft, and go on a small hike. Easy; 1/2 mile.

Sat. 5, “Petroglyphs for Kids” (Ages 5-10) - Join Missy at Red Rock Canyon for a program all about the petroglyphs at Red Spring. Children will search for petroglyphs, learn about their history, and participate in a craft.

Fri. 11, “Let’s Learn about the Antelope Ground Squirrel” (Ages 2-6) - Join Missy at Red Rock where children will learn the difference between a chipmunk and an Antelope Ground Squirrel. They’ll participate in a craft and activity.

Sat. 12, “Let’s Go Green Together” (Ages 5-10) – Here’s a fun and interactive program with Missy all about the importance of recycling. Children will learn different simple ways to save our planet with hands-on activities, a craft and so much more. Let’s become earth friendly!

Tues. 15, “Stories from the Stones” - Join Jen and hear a few of the many stories from Native American culture about why things are the way they are. Fun for all ages;

bring the kids out with you to participate in simple crafts and games from past times. *Limited space.*

Fri. 18, “Calling All Coyotes” (Ages 2-6) – Join Missy at Red Rock with the kids for a fun and interactive program about coyotes. They’ll learn interesting facts, participate in an activity and a craft. We’ll discover how amazing coyotes really are!

Sat. 19, “Jr. Naturalists” (Ages 2-5) – Bring the children out to Red Rock where they’ll learn about the reptiles of the Mojave Desert. Participants will learn cool facts, hear a story and get to complete a special art projects.

Fri. 25, “Red Spring Walk” (Ages 2-10) – Come to Red Rock for a fun and interactive program with Missy all about Red Spring. Kids will learn about the history of



Red Spring and how important it is to Red Rock Canyon. We’ll read a story, participate in a craft and so much more.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Fri. 4, “Cathedral Rock” (Ages 12+) – Take in the spectacular view of Kyle Canyon

and beyond with Claire. As we hike up 950 ft, we’ll walk through an aspen forest to the top of Cathedral Rock. *Limited space.* Mod; 3 mi.

Sat. 5, “Cultural Resources” – Join Ranger Gina on a walk to Lost Creek/Willow Springs to view examples of cultural artifacts left by ancient cultures. We’ll see an agave roasting pit and some pictographs. Easy, 1.5 mi.

Sun 6, & 20, “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. 7, “Monday on the Mount” – Join Jen on one of the easier hikes of Mount Charleston where we’ll head up the Stanley B. Springs trail. We’ll have great views of Mummy Mountain and Cockscomb Ridge, as well as distant views across the valley. Mod; 4 mi.

Thurs. 10, & 24, “Canyon Clean-up” – Join Janis and help keep Red Rock clean by coming out and participating in a morning clean-up. Meet new people and help keep our conservation area beautiful. Easy.

Fri. 11, “Rain Tree” (Ages 15+) – Come with Claire and visit one of the oldest treasures on Mount

Charleston—a bristlecone pine tree that is approximately 3,000 years old. **This strenuous hike is a 6-mile out-and-back hike that takes on about 1500 ft of elevation.** *Limited space.*

Sat. 12, “Red Spring Hike” – Join Ranger Gina on this short hike on the wood-

en boardwalk and enjoy the plants, animals and cultural artifacts of the area.

Sun. 13, "Astronomy Program" (6:30 – 10:30 p.m.) – The Las Vegas Astronomical Society will have member telescopes to view objects in our night sky at the Visitor Center. **Gates close for admittance at 8:00 p.m.**

Sun 13, "Fall Wildflowers and Springs" – Join Bob and visit several of Red Rock's springs as we look for fall wildflowers. This is also a good hike to see burros, birds and aquatic creatures. Mod; 2.5 mi. *Limited space.*

Mon. 14, "Monday on the Mount" – Join Jen at Mount Charleston for a hike around the Rainbow trail area. We'll explore well used trails through rock formations, snaking through water features. We'll be on the lookout for Spring Mountain wildlife. Moderate; 4 mi.

Tues. 15, "Krafft Mountain Loop" – Join Chris and circle around Krafft Mountain just north of Calico Basin using Gateway Canyon, where you'll encounter some of the best sandstone color in the Red Rock area. **Rock scrambling** is involved. **Moderately strenuous**; 5 mi. *Limited space.*

Tues. 15, "Stories from the Stones" – Join Jen and hear a few of the many stories from Native American culture about why things are the way they are. Fun for all ages; bring the kids out with you to participate in simple crafts and games from past times. *Limited space.*

Fri. 18, "Fletcher Canyon" (Ages 12+) – Join Claire on Mount Charleston for a hike into a scenic canyon with steep limestone walls. We'll see some of what nature can do while we **scramble** back to Obstacle Rock in the lower part of the canyon. Elev. gain 480 ft; *Limited space.*

Sat. 19, "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; 1/2 mi.

Sat. 19, "North Loop Meadow Star Hike" (Ages 12+) – Join Aaron to experience

the beauty of a desert starry night. This short hike offers expansive views of the Mojave Desert sky and an opportunity to watch the sun set and the stars come into view. **Flashlights are required.** Mod; 3 mi.

Mon. 21, "Monday on the Mount" (Ages 12+) – Join Jen and head uphill for most of the Trail Canyon hike, but the end will pay off with incredible views of the Mount Charleston area. We'll be on the lookout for wildlife and possibly a spring at the high point of our Journey. **Moderately strenuous**; 4 mi.

Tues. 22, "Art Naturally" (Ages 12+) – Come and 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.

Tues. 22, "Hollow Rock Peak" – Join Chris on a hike with sensational views along the ridge going out to this peak on the south end of the escarpment. You'll also see Grapevine Springs Canyon directly below and Arizona in the distance. We'll also see the amazing transition from limestone to sandstone and do some **serious rock scrambling** near the top of the mountain. **1000-ft elevation gain; Strenuous**; 5 mi.

Fri. 25, "Bristlecone Loop" (Ages 15+) – Hike with Claire and breathe in the fresh mountain air of Mount Charleston while hiking through a picturesque forest of white fir, quaking aspen and ancient bristlecone

pine trees. Elev. gain 750 ft; Mod; 6-mile loop. *Limited space.*

Sat. 26, "Lost Creek" – Join Ranger Gina on a beautiful hike you can enjoy with the whole family. There are a variety of plants, animals and cultural artifacts to view. Easy, about 3/4 mi.

Mon. 28, "Monday on the Mount" – Hike with Jen to Cathedral Rock, a "must" for anyone interested in great views of the Spring Mountains. We'll go uphill to the "summit," but it's well worth the effort. Mod; 3 mi.

Tues. 29, "Fossil Canyon Night Hike" (Ages 12+) – Join Aaron for this evening adventure around Fossil Ridge. With the sun setting and giving way to the moon, we'll loop our way up a scenic wash and then travel back on top of the canyon. This is a great chance to see a wide variety of environments: the closeness of the wash, the views of the canyon top, and of course, the changing night sky. **Flashlights are required. Some rock scrambling**; Mod; 2.5 mi. *Limited space.*

Tues. 29, "Windy Peak" – Hike with Chris through the high desert on the limestone ridges from Mountain Spring Summit to reach the red sandstone cap of this escarpment peak with fantastic views of the entire area. Elevation gain 1200 ft; **rock scrambling; strenuous**, 5 mi.

Volunteer Help Needed at Oliver Ranch

Volunteer hours, exercise, fresh air, sunshine, lessons in brush removal and litter collection, and camaraderie with like-minded people—all are available at Oliver Ranch, **September 19, 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.**, along with snacks and lunch beverages. PLEASE call Clara, 702-643-1296.

I need to know who accepts our invitation so everyone can have a whole donut hole!—Clara Hatz

September

Desk Schedule

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

Changes? Call Sarah at 515-5366
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Ranchos, continued from p. 1

this included Americans who married into the Spanish-Mexican families. Many of those family names endure in the names of California towns—like Yorba Linda and Vallejo.

Each rancho was self-sustaining. Cattle and cattle products were a major key to rancho life. The herds were vast and roamed southern California, tended by the legendary vaqueros, the Spanish/Mexican cowboys whose ability as riders was second to none. Luxuries were relatively few, and obtained mainly from ships that occasionally called along the coast, ready to trade goods for the plentiful hides. Cowhides were almost like gold; so valuable that Californios sometimes referred to them as California Banknotes. The massive Rancho Cañon de Santa Ana in 1850 was run by Don Bernardo Yorba from the Hacienda de las Yorbas which had thirty rooms, around which tradesmen of all types maintained rancho life. The need for bakers, plasterers, hide tanners, wool combers, cooks, gardeners, washer women, carpenters, dressmakers, schoolmasters, winemakers—all of these and more could be found in the household of the rancho. The Indian peons lived by themselves, nearby. They performed a wide variety of chores, such as gathering fruit from the orchards. It was a beautiful life of leisure on these ranchos for the owners and their families. Indians did most of the hard work, but Vaqueros worked hard, too, as did many non-Indians involved in rancho life. Regardless,

they all lived in beautiful surroundings, a superb climate and food was plentiful.

There was an overriding aura of genteel conduct among the ranchos, the owners welcoming guests in every way possible. It wasn't just that a visitor might bring news about what was happening elsewhere, there was an unwritten code of hospitality, built on honor and respect. A request was instantly rewarded. Sir George Simpson, a British visitor to Mariano Vallejo asked to see how vaqueros used the reata, Spanish for lasso. General Vallejo obliged, and called out several of them for a demonstra-



Mission Santa Barbara chapel

tion. Riding was one of the major pastimes of rancho life, and nearly all rancho residents became experts. It was truthfully said that a traveler could go from rancho to rancho without ever paying for lodging or food. The ranchos were without fences. Horses that didn't belong to the vaqueros had a reata tied to their necks and roamed free. If someone needed a horse, he simply took it and rode to wherever he was going and then set it free. A steer could be killed for food without any request, but it was expected that the hide would be left.

It was a system of honor that was rarely violated.

Fiesta! Admittedly, this Spanish and Mexican event has been romanticized, but it is based on truth. Richard Henry Dana, in his epic *Two Years Before the Mast*, wrote of his 1835 visit to California aboard a trading vessel. There was “. . . prodigal hospitality in the entertainment of strangers, and singing and dancing were passions with Californians.” He was very impressed with Monterey where Mexico had established a customs house — “The red tiles on the roofs contrasted well with the white sides and the extreme greenness of the lawn. The Mexican flag was flying from the little square presidio, and the drums and trumpets of the soldiers who were out on parade sounded over the water.”

Significantly, following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 that ended the war between the United States and Mexico, the State of California and the U.S. honored the existing land grants of the ranchos. Article VIII of the treaty stated,

“In the said territories, property of every kind, now belonging to Mexicans shall be inviolably respected. The present owners, the heirs and all Mexicans who may hereafter acquire said property by contract shall enjoy ample as if the same belonged to citizens of the United States.” There were procedures, legalities and disputes, but in the main the grants were sustained by a Board of Land Commissioners that adjourned in 1856 after five years of review. They confirmed 604 claims, rejected 190 and the rest were withdrawn.

The days of the great ranchos effectively ended in the 1860s, but much lives on. Santa Barbara, for example, holds an annual “Old Spanish Days Fiesta” over five days each August. They’ve been doing it for 85 years. It is a celebration of traditions handed down from Spain and Mexico. The songs and dances, Fiesta Pequeña, Noches de Ronda, the traditional foods from the mercados, riding competitions and more . . . *la vida es buena.* □

News and Notes, continued from p. 3

city, we find that they often do not apply to nature. A two mile walk to the grocery store is not the same as two miles into Ice Box Canyon. Clouds over the city are not the same as clouds over Mt. Charleston. The Calico Hills can be just as fun, but much more dangerous than climbing a playground.

Therefore, one of the most important ways to increase your safety in the desert is to try to leave those old assumptions behind. In other words, be here now. Make decisions based on what you see now, not on

what you learned elsewhere. Be observant of the weather, the tem-



perature, the wind, your location, your supplies, and how those things are changing. Even if you have a

Desert Trumpet

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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

bulletproof plan for the day, don't be afraid to change it if the conditions present now warrant it.

Unfortunately, many injuries are caused by (1) relying on inaccurate assumptions, and (2) an unwillingness to change plans. So before you hike, get your mind ready to hike! Come with a clear, open mind, make decisions based on what you experience, and stay safe. □

September Bulletin Board

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

Event	Date	Time	Place	Comments
<i>Canyon Clean-up</i>	9-10 & 9-24	9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Red Rock	call 515-5367
<i>Friends Annual Meeting</i>	9-12	4:30 p.m.	Red Springs	
<i>Astronomy Program</i>	9-13	6:30 - 10:30 p.m.	Red Rock	Gate will close at 8:00 p.m.
<i>Volunteer Help Oliver Ranch</i>	9-19	8 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Oliver Ranch	call Clara 643-1296
<i>National Wild Horse Adoption Day</i>	9-26			See page 2

“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

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