

Are you hitched up and ready for Encampment?

Each year the list of favorite events looks similar to previous years. While there are always a few additions and subtractions, I am sure this Encampment will not disappoint. Ted Faye will be back with his popular documentary programs. We have added a chuck wagon demonstration with dutch oven cooking and blacksmithing. The Encampment entertainment line up on the Fiddlers' Stage is Dave Stamey, Old West Trio, and the Messick Family. In addition, two musical offerings will be available beginning mid-October. In the tradition of Ray Parish, Steve Hohstadt (Sunset Campground) and David Ciccone (Sunset Campground Overflow) will be welcoming folks to their song circles. Susan and Kenn of Live Oak Belgians will bring back their four Belgians and a wagon or two for your riding pleasure. Chuck Knight will lead you to a few new destinations in your 4x4. Steve Hale has a new twist to this year's historical character that you will want to see. The events are too numerous to detail in full here. Just start packing, because this Encampment promises to be a good one!

See ya in Death Valley in November!

Woody Adams, Encampment Program Co-Coordinator

NPS Park Liaison

Scholarship Endowment Chairperson

President's Corner



Dear Fellow '49ers:

Welcome to the 69th Encampment of the Death Valley '49ers. It has been my pleasure to serve a second term as president of this fine organization, one that began with the California Centennial Celebration in 1949. Even with the current challenges that we face, I have found serving the '49ers to be very enjoyable.

It is my sincere pleasure to dedicate the 2018 Encampment in memory of past president "Lee" Crosby, who also served as president twice, first in 1994 and again in 1998. He was a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy and a career army officer in the Corp of Engineers. Lee was a dedicated 49er and I could always call on him for advice.

Our Board of Directors has worked hard to plan the 2018 Encampment. With Xanterra just finishing the remodel and the construction of new buildings, we had to find different locations for some of our events. Despite the challenges, we will still have our traditional events as well as offering up some new ones. Thanks to the staff of the National Park Service for their assistance and also to "Shep" at Xanterra for her continued support. We look forward to the completion and dedication of the new facilities.

Most importantly, thank you for your membership. It is very important for the continuation of this marvelous event. Even if you are unable to attend one year, please continue your membership in support of our mission. I hope you enjoy this year's Encampment.

Robert Whipple, President

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Death Valley '49ers Incorporated as a non-profit organization is to promote understanding and appreciation of Death Valley and its history.

Thanks to our sponsors!

These organizations and an army of volunteers help make our mission possible. Our event sponsors make it possible to maintain the quality of the Encampment while keeping membership prices affordable. Thank you!

Please visit our sponsors' websites:

www.oasisatdeathvalley.com

www.theothersideofcalifornia.com

www.calif.aaa.com

www.sentinelairmedicalalliance.com



Grab your pick, there's pay dirt!

This year's Encampment is rich with history programs.

The History Committee has organized 10 programs to be held in the Furnace Creek Visitor Center Auditorium. Each program focuses on Death Valley and the surrounding region. Be sure and schedule your time to attend these informative and fascinating presentations. For up-to-date information, drop by the Membership Booth at the Encampment.

TED FAYE



We are pleased to welcome back desert historian and documentary film producer, Ted Faye. Ted holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Theater, Film and Television from UCLA. His work has been aired on PBS stations throughout the West. Ted is scheduled to present five programs, including some of his popular “Weird Tales” and “History to Go” stories.

Chasing the Rainbow: Adventures of the Desert Prospector

What was it like to spend your life looking for gold in Death Valley? Who were these men with burros seeing their fortune in America’s most remote and desolate desert? Did any of them really get wealthy? Find out in *Chasing Rainbows*. Friday, Nov. 9 at noon.

Weird Tales IV – The Ghosts of Death Valley Junction

In 2017 the famed dancer of the desert, Marta Becket, passed away. Produced eight years before her passing, this film features interviews with Marta, employees, and a full-on ghost hunt of the Junction. It’s a weird ride as we pursue the *Ghosts of Death Valley Junction*. Friday, Nov. 9 at 3:00 p.m.

Death Valley Memories

Join Ted as he shows his very first documentary he produced on Death Valley. Interviewing those who remembered Death Valley’s early days, it is a warm, entertaining and engaging look at Death Valley before it became *civilized*! First-hand accounts from those who knew Death Valley Scotty and other celebrities of the Death Valley region. With an introduction by President Ronald Reagan and narrated by Edie Albert, the film premiered at the Death Valley Encampment in 1994 and was sponsored by the Death Valley ‘49ers, Rio Tinto Borates, Dial Soap, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It has since aired on PBS stations nationwide. Saturday, Nov. 10 at 9:00 a.m.

History to Go – The Fight of the Century, the Joe Gans Story (Goldfield, Nev.) and Mr. Cook's Bank

Gold Creek Films began producing a web series titled “History to Go” featuring intriguing stories from the Mojave Desert. These two episodes feature Goldfield, Nevada, and the famous fight of 1906 which elevated Joe Gans as the first African-American boxing champion in history. Mr. Cook’s bank tells the story of one of the most successful bankers of that boomtown and how the bank with his name became an iconic image of the American West. Saturday, Nov. 10 at noon.

The Hidden Trail

The Hidden Trail, 60 miles of the 165 mile trail of the famed 20 Mule Team Borax wagons goes through what is now China Lake Naval Air Station. Ted was invited on a rear field trip to survey the route that has been closed to the public for more than 70 years. The tracks from the original wagons and remains from the camp still remain. Ted will also provide information on the replica Borax Wagons that appeared in the 2017 Rose Parade and are now housed in the Laws Museum in Bishop, California. Saturday, Nov. 10 at 1:00 p.m.

DAVID WOODRUFF

Joining us once again is author David Woodruff. David lived and worked in Death Valley Nat'l Park for over 18 years where, among other duties, he was the historian for the Furnace Creek Resort. He is a history columnist for the *Inyo Register* as well as a contributor to the visitor guides for Death Valley and Inyo County. David has extensively researched the history of the '49ers Encampments and authored four books on Eastern California history. His programs will delve into the history of the 1849 wagon train and the development of tourism in Death Valley.

A Nice Place To Visit: The History of Tourism In Death Valley

How did a mining company become involved in trying to convince tourists that they should visit a place known for laundry soap, mules and mortality? Using rare photographs and documents, David shares the unique and fascinating history of promoting Death Valley. Thursday, Nov. 8 at 11:00 a.m.

Into the Jaws of Hell

How did Death Valley get its name? David delves into the incredible story of the forlorn Argonauts whose desperate plight cumulated in the naming of this place we celebrate today. It is the story of the 1849 Death Valley Wagon Train and the endurance and bravery of those pioneers. Thursday, Nov. 8 at 2:00 p.m.

STAN PAHER

Stan Paher returns to present an outstanding program on ghost towns of Southern California and Nevada, with all new material from his large collection of photographs and maps. The author of 21 books, Stan's most recent work, *Nevadans – The Spirit of the Silver State*, celebrates the 150 years of Nevada Statehood. His *Nevada Ghost Towns & Desert Atlas* is in its 7th edition and is considered a must-have for those that enjoy desert and mountain exploring.

Southern California and Nevada Ghost Towns

Stan has assembled, from his vast photographic collection, some never seen photos of South California Ghost Towns. Were you aware of the number of Ghost Towns that exist in that region?

Along with it Stan will show some interesting photos of Nevada Ghost Towns that he has not shown us before. Friday, Nov. 9 at 11:00 a.m.



MARV JENSEN presents Death Valley Days



Past president Marv Jensen will be presenting two episodes of the television series *Death Valley Days* starring Ronald Reagan. Beginning on radio in 1930 and switching to television in 1952, *Death Valley Days* became the longest running serial in radio and television history when it aired its last episode in 1970.

All *Death Valley Days* episodes were based on true stories. In 1965 and 1966, Ronald Reagan was the program's host and also starred in eight episodes. Mr. Reagan's last acting performance was in a *Death Valley Days* episode after which he left the show to enter into politics.

Death Valley Days was conceived by the Pacific Coast Borax Company, now Rio Tinto. Rio Tinto owns the rights to the programs and has recently released re-mastered episodes on DVD.

The Battle of San Francisco Bay

This is the story of Capt. David Farragut (later Admiral Farragut) and a lawless mob on the Barbary Coast calling themselves the Vigilante Committee. Capt. Farragut was given orders to quell the uprising. He puts down the uprising without firing a shot. Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 2:00 p.m.

The Raid on the San Francisco Mint

This is an episode concerning San Francisco banker William Ralston, owner of the Bank of California. There was a run on the bank by depositors as they thought the bank was running out of money. Ralston's use of the San Francisco Mint solves the problem. Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 11:30 a.m.

Watch out! It's an ambush!

Steve Hale to portray Bill Keys in an all-new program.

On Tuesday, Nov. 6 and Thursday, Nov. 8 at 3:00 p.m., you're invited to join in the fun while discovering more about the historic characters who helped shape the American West in Death Valley. The presentations will take place at the wagon campsite at the west end of the Fiddlers' Campground.

Steve Hale, a reenactor of historic characters, will make his fifth appearance at the Encampment with this year's portrayal of desert gold miner, Bill Keys. Keys left his Nebraska home at age 15 to work the mines, mills, and cattle ranches of the desert southwest. Soon he was prospecting in Death Valley and crossed paths with Death Valley's infamous con man Walter Scott, a.k.a. Death Valley Scotty. Keys is perhaps best known for the role he played in Scott's "Battle of Wingate Pass" fiasco, the 1906 staged ambush directed by Scott himself. This November, you'll hear about the ambush from Bill's point of view as he and his companions hid among the rocks at Wingate Pass.

In past Encampments, Steve has reenacted John "Snowshoe" Thompson - Mailman of the Sierra, John C. Fremont - Western Trailblazer, Stephen T. Mather - First Director of the National Park Service, and Albert M. Johnson - builder of Scotty's Castle, all to the delight of our audiences. Background about these characters and Steve's upcoming performances can be found at www.ComstockCharacters.weebly.com.



Courtesy NPS. Photos L to R: Frances & Bill Keys; Bill Keys; Albert Johnson and Walter Scott

Encampment gets some real horse power! Live Oak Belgians set to return to Death Valley.

Fresh off of their successful showing at the Draft Horse Classic, which garnered them two first-place wins, Kenn and Susan McCarty of Live Oak Belgians will provide hitching demonstrations and wagon rides at the Encampment. Traveling to Death Valley for this outfit is no small undertaking as there are so many variables to deal with including horse health, truck and trailer health, and people health. As you may remember at last year's Encampment, Kenn was sporting a broken leg. After the Encampment, he was sternly reprimanded by his doctor as he was wheeled back into surgery.

Wagon rides will be offered daily (except for Friday) from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Most days will start at 9:00 a.m. with a horse harnessing and hitching demonstration. Check the master event calendar at the Membership Booth for schedules and locations. Come see your favorite behemoth Belgian horses. Jimmy, Chief, Big Baloo, and Mr. Max all look forward to greeting you. For their services, they gratefully accept tips for carrots. As always, Daisy, the famous wagon dog, will be there to greet you as she oversees her people and horses.





Ranch Revitalization

On Wednesday, Nov. 7, meet at the Borax Museum at 10:00 a.m. to learn about all the exciting changes at the historic Ranch at Death Valley (formerly Furnace Creek Ranch). Construction will be wrapping up during Encampment, with a completely new Town Square that replaces the former resort center.



Meet the Superintendent

On Thursday, Nov. 8, meet Mike Reynolds, the Superintendent of Death Valley National Park. Supt. Reynolds will provide updates on the happenings within the park and answer your questions. At the Furnace Creek Visitor Center Patio, 10 a.m.



Ranger Talks and Walks

In May 2018, the Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue entered into an agreement with the National Park Service to rescue and remove up to 2,500 wild donkeys from Death Valley National Park and the Mojave National Preserve as part of the Wild Burro Project. Learn about this new program on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 8:00 a.m. at the Visitor Center Auditorium.

Also on Nov. 7 and again on Nov. 8, Ranger Abby Wines will provide updates on the recovery effort at Scotty's Castle. At the Visitor Center Auditorium, 1:00 p.m.

Additionally, the National Park Service is offering geology talks with Dr. Marli Miller in the Visitor Center Auditorium. Ranger Alexandra "Alex" Rothermel will be leading walks through the Harmony Borax Works and Golden Canyon as well as hosting an evening campfire program. Check the Membership Booth master schedule for details.



Residents of Death Valley for a Millennium

The Timbisha Shoshone Tribe represents the original inhabitants of Death Valley. Western Shoshone and Paiute people once occupied several villages scattered throughout the region, but today only the village of Timbisha at Furnace Creek remains within what is now Death Valley National Park. Come hear from and meet representatives of the Tiimbisha Shoshone Tribe at the Furnace Creek Visitor Center Patio on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 10:00 a.m.

Gather together. Give thanks. Eat!

During the Encampment, fixed-menu breakfasts and dinners are available weekdays at the Timbisha Community Center. Breakfast is served from 7:30am until 9:00am. Dinner is served from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Friday's traditional **Encampment Hootenanny Breakfast** (\$11 per person) includes biscuits and gravy, country-fried potatoes, eggs, french toast, sausage links or bacon, toast, fresh fruit, yogurt, and beverages. That's a reason to put on your best bib and tucker and get on over there! The dinner menu looks equally delicious with offerings such as tri-tip, baked chicken, and barbecued ribs. A complete breakfast and dinner menu will be posted at the Membership Booth.

Sunset Campground Music New approach to a favorite event.

Call it a jam or song circle, your choice. This year Steve Hohstadt will be organizing music at Sunset Campground in the traditional location that Ray Parish used for years. Steve and his wife Kristi were in the mix of musicians joining in with Ray in the past. If you would like to have a chance to sing a song or two, stop by his camp and visit with him during the day so he can see where you might fit in. Whether a novice or professional, Steve just asks that you be able to accompany yourself or have someone with you who can. As always, he will be setting up when the campground opens in mid-October and will be playing some fun music nightly through Tuesday of Encampment week. So, come on over and try out your act. That way you'll be ready for the Coyote Howl at the Fiddlers' Stage on Wednesday.

Additionally, David Ciccone and friends will be sharing music in the Sunset Campground Overflow. They will revisit the country and gospel mix in the spirit of Ray and Jo Parish. Selections will include country and western, 50s during the week, and more gospel on Sunday evening. Come enjoy the fellowship.





4x4 Treks - The adventure begins with YOU!

Chuck Knight and Jim Hoke lead you off the beaten path.

The '49ers are pleased to have Chuck Knight and Jim Hoke back with us to lead some 4x4 treks. There is so much more of Death Valley to see away from the main highway. To join in these treks, you must be a Death Valley '49ers member and attend the **mandatory planning meeting on Sunday, Nov. 4 at 1:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the Sunset Campground next to the handicap accessible restroom facilities.

At the planning meeting, Chuck and Jim will discuss some very important information about the treks. All treks meet on the shoulder of State Route 190 across from the Furnace Creek Visitor Center. Each trek is limited to 12 vehicles by NPS regulations.

Monday, Nov. 5 – Meet at 8:00 a.m.

Cerro Gordo,* the Salt Tram, and Turtleback

Led by Chuck Knight

*Because of new owners, we are uncertain if we can enter Cerro Gordo but it is worth the try. The Salt Tram is an historical wooden structure from the days when it transported salt to Swansea. Turtleback is one of the scenic areas of Saline Valley.

Tuesday, Nov. 6 – Meet at 9:00 a.m.

Titus Canyon Trek

Led by Jim Hoke

Jim Hoke has been leading the annual Titus Canyon Trek for many years and is very knowledgeable about all the areas you will cover. The Titus Canyon trek is a very scenic and popular trek.

Wednesday, Nov. 7 – Meet at 8:00 a.m.
Striped Butte and the Geologist Cabin
Led by Chuck Knight

Striped Butte is in a beautiful and unique area of Death Valley. The stone cabin, known as the “Geologist Cabin,” is also unique. Be sure and bring your camera as both of these areas are worthy of your best shot.

Coyote Howl at Fiddlers' Stage **Howl with the best of 'em.**

Come one, come all to the fabulous Coyote Howl Variety Show where you can share your talent, skill, and showmanship as a musician, magician, juggler, or singer. Just about any family-friendly talent is welcome. It’s a night full of fun, laughter, and good times. Sign-ups will be on Wednesday at the Fiddlers' stage around noon. The show is on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 6:00 p.m.



Featured Encampment Entertainers

For specific dates, times, and locations, check the Membership Booth.

DAVE STAMEY

We are very pleased and fortunate to have singer-songwriter Dave Stamey back with us. Dave is an Encampment favorite and the newest member of the **Western Music Hall of Fame**. *Cowboys and Indians Magazine* has called Dave Stamey “**the Charles Russell of Western Music**.” *Western Horseman Magazine* has declared his “**Vaquero Song**” to be one of the greatest Western songs of all time. Dave has been a cowboy, a mule packer, a dude wrangler, and now is one of the most popular Western entertainers working today. He has been voted seven times “**Entertainer of the Year**” and five times “**Songwriter of the Year**” by the Western Music Association, and received the Will Rodgers Award from the Academy of Western Artists. He’s delighted audiences in twenty three states and finds that he prefers this to being stomped by angry horses.



OLD WEST TRIO

Since their first Encampment performance in 2013, we knew we had a group that that played and sang the songs that the '49ers enjoy. Fresh off a summer tour that included appearances at the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana, they look forward to their sixth year entertaining at the Encampment. For over two decades the Old West Trio has performed tunes from the American Cowboy and Silver Screen songbooks. With harmony like the Sons of the Pioneers and humor reminiscent of the Smothers Brothers, the trio is true to the craft of folk music and family entertainment. Will Rogers award recipients for Best Western Duo/Group of the Year, the members are Steve Ide (the big yodelator on rhythm guitar), Leslie Ide (upright bassist and de facto mother hen), and Steve Johnson (sporting an award winning mustache and playing lead guitar).



MESSICK FAMILY SINGERS

We are pleased to have back for the fourth year, the Messick Family Singers. A multi-generational sound of the Old West. Hailing from Chimney Peak Ranch in the Eastern Sierra, the Messick Family Singers celebrate more than half century of making music together as a family. With appearances at Western gatherings and roundups throughout California, the family continues a tradition of music spanning four generations. John Patriarch and Matriarch Wayne and Gail as they and their four children Virginia, Steve, Stacey and Scott blend harmonies as only family can. Their music puts a tap in your foot and a smile on your face as you share with them the warmth of family and the musical grandeur of life in the majestic Sierra Nevada.



Vendor Show to be held at NPS Day Use Area



This year, the Southwest Craft and Vendor Show will take place in the NPS Day Use Area. The show opens Monday, Nov. 5 and runs daily from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., closing on Sunday, the final day of Encampment.

The Vendor Show is your opportunity for some early holiday shopping. There will be about two dozen vendors, including jewelry, handmade items, and Hopi Indian crafts. Additionally, there will be a couple of authors on hand selling their books.

The Death Valley '49ers merchandise booth will be selling t-shirts, hats, and spare tire decals. There will also be keepsakes for sale at reasonable prices.

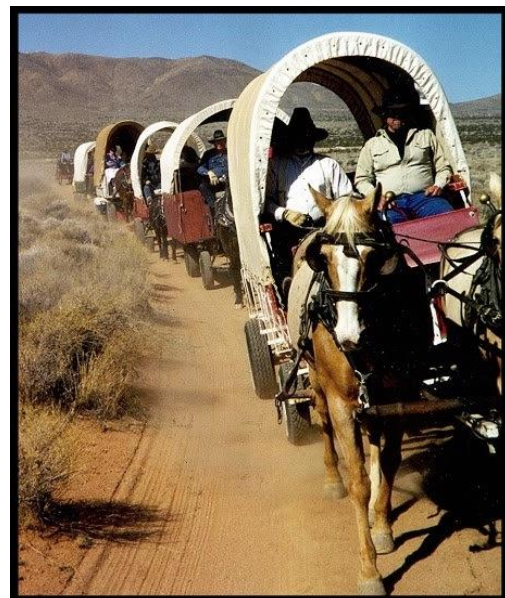
'49ers Food Booth

The '49ers will be organizing a food booth at the NPS Day Use Area in conjunction with the Vendor Show. Food is available from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and the menu features scrumptious hamburgers and hot dogs with chips and a drink at a very reasonable price. This is a place to sit and relax and enjoy great food in the company of your fellow '49ers.

Wagons Ho! Are we there yet?

Dave Stamey will be entertaining and welcoming the wagon train as it arrives at the historic entrance to the Ranch at Death Valley (formerly Furnace Creek Ranch). Join in on Friday, Nov. 9 at 1:00 p.m. Raise your voices to the singing of the National Anthem led by Stacey (Messick) Roueche. As always, it is exciting to see these "pioneers" as they arrive after an arduous journey following the path of the original '49ers.

The wagon train will be led into the Encampment by the Color Guard from the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow. We are truly honored to have this team join us, representing the men and women who daily put their lives on the line for our freedom and the security of our nation.



Contests aren't just for kids

This year's Encampment offers many participation events and contests. As always, the '49ers Membership Booth will provide all the details on the scheduling, location, and how to join in. The booth opens on Sunday, Nov. 4 at 9:00 a.m. Some of the current offerings are:

- Pampered Pet Parade
- Wheelbarrow Race
- Gold Panning
- Pioneer Costume Contest
- Joe Doctor's Liars Contest
- Golf Tournament, Two-Person Scramble



But wait! There's more...

If all of these offerings aren't quite enough, you can look forward to enjoying even more activities:

- Flintknapping Demonstrations
- Art Show and Auction
- Paint Out and Quick Draw
- Cowboy Poetry
- Yodeling Lessons
- Banjo Extravaganza
- Encampment Parade
- Horse Riders' Arrival
- Veterans Tribute
- Wagon Interpretive Walk

As you can tell, we are excited about this year's Encampment and hope you are, too. As always, up-to-date information, program descriptions, and schedules will be available at the Death Valley '49ers Membership Booth. As a reminder, **please bring cash or check for your membership renewal**. Due to the unreliable Internet connection at Death Valley, we cannot accept credit cards.

The Membership Booth opens on Sunday, Nov. 4 at 9:00 a.m. Make it your first stop when you arrive at the Encampment. Safe travels and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Newsletter editor changes

Huge thanks to Karen Goodman for her past service on editing and publishing the newsletter. Karen's work now demands more of her time and she found it necessary to step down. Leslie Ide has taken up the reins. Best of luck to both ladies. Giddy up!