



NEWSLETTER ~ March 2013

HRRVC CHAPTER 309 VALLEY OF THE SUN

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Chapter 309 HRRVC SCHEDULE 2013

April 15 th – 18 th	Chapter 309 Lake Roosevelt, AZ – Grapevine Group Site (Goose Loop) (Joy & Westerhausen wagonmasters)
April 2 nd – 5 th	HRRVC Western Sunshine Rally – Tucson, AZ (Region VII Director & Assistants)
May 3 rd – 8 th	Chapter 419 Maintenance Session Ramblin' Pushers – Elkhart Co. 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen, IN
May 16 th – 20 th	International HRRVC Rally – Goshen, IN Elkhart Co. 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen, IN
Aug. 24 th – 27 th	Region VII Rally – Creede, CO ~ Mountain Views at Rivers Edge RV Park
Oct. 29 th – Nov 1 st	AZ Three Chapter Gathering, Mesa Spirit RV Park – Mesa, AZ
Dec. 10 th – 13 th	Christmas Campout 2014 Community Center Wickenburg, AZ

Monthly breakfast meetings have ended for this "season" and shall return in November 2013.

Coco's Bakery & Restaurant 2026 N. 7th St. Phoenix, AZ 85006 (602) 2258-3821

A Grand time in Florence / Coolidge AZ

Kicking the dust at the Casa Grande Ruins, learning of the ancients who lived in that area, taking note of the Germans and Italians who were held in the WWII Prisoner of War Camps just outside of Florence and learning about the man who created the AZ State Park system, became just some of the highlights of this most recent Chapter 309 Campout.

Our campout began with food. Would you expect any less? After setting up in our dry camp area just to the side of the local Elks club, the group car pooled into Florence for an evening meal at the L&B Mexican Restaurant. Sitting outside, under a grape arbor and listening to cascading water from a corner fountain became a great way to relax from the day's chores. Good Mexican food, enhanced by an iced tea or margarita took us from late afternoon into evening. Upon return to our campsite, wagonmasters George and Brigitte Robinson prepared a campfire. Our group was augmented by members Darrell & Jody Burtis who drove up from Casa Grande for the evening.

The next morning we journeyed into Florence for a visit to the McFarland State Historic Park. Grant and Nancy Joy drove down to join the tour. The main building as the first Pinal county courthouse held the sheriff's office, the courtroom, the judge's chambers, and the jail on the first floor. Later the building served as the county hospital for almost 50 years. There is also a display of photos and documents tracing the history of the World War II prisoner of war camp that was located just north of Florence. Of course there are also much information concerning "Mac" McFarland and his lengthy list of accomplishments during his service to Arizona; US Senator, Governor, AZ Supreme Court Judge – father of the G.I. Bill of Rights and the AZ State Park System. Quite a gentleman.

The afternoon leads some to the Greek Monastery, a local winery, or shopping at the Florence Ace Hardware Store – well worth the trip just to browse in this "real" hardware store. Of course the evening was capped with another campfire.

Our final day was the trip to the nearby Casa Grande Ruins. The Casa Grande ("Great House") and its surrounding compound is noted as one of the largest prehistoric structures ever built in North America, its purpose remains a mystery.

Archeologists have discovered evidence that the ancient Sonoran Desert people who built the Casa Grande also developed wide-scale irrigation farming and extensive trade connections which lasted over a thousand years until about 1450. The NPS Volunteer Guide wove a wonderful fabric of history, culture and the daily life of those ancients who lived in this area.

Our final meal was held in the Elks dining room, enjoying their local fish fry. After dinner, it was back to our campsite and a sing-a-long lead by our wagon master, Brigitte. Morning brought colder weather and heavy rain as we began our individual treks home.

Chapter 309 Business Meeting

With no issues for chapter consideration, the meeting was postponed until the late Oct. rally.

Forward Looking

With the Western Sunshine Rally just around the corner in April, and our Chapter 309 final campout this season in mid-April, we bring a close to the activities of this Nov – April season of camping. By the way – there is still time to take part in either of the above events.

Region VII Rally

Some of us are planning to join the Region VII outing in late August at Creed, CO. For those still here in the valley, this would be a great way to escape some heat and head north.

Three Chapter AZ Rally

Coming in October we of Chapter 309 shall join with those from Tucson and Yuma in a three chapter campout. The location will be the Mesa Spirit RV Park; dates are Oct. 29th – Nov. 1st. We will be responsible for one of the morning breakfasts for the members.

We are also making contact with the Bashas' Art Museum for a tour. The collection, free and open to the public, is the Zelma Basha Salmeri Gallery of Western American and Native American Art. At 3,000 pieces of art and growing, it's one of the most extensive such collections in the world. It includes work in oil, acrylics, pastels, charcoal and watercolor. There are Apache and Pima baskets, silver and ceramic bowls, Hopi kachinas and Navajo and Zuni jewelry in addition to sculptures in wood, marble, bronze and granite. Another outing might be to lead a car caravan up the Apache Trail to Tortilla Flat for a famous hamburger or chili. If you have other ideas for outings or programs, please contact either Tiffany James or myself.

Next season's campouts

Possible campouts and wagon masters for 2014-2015 season. Upon a return of many in October to begin the next season, we are seeking ideas for the outings for the chapter members. To date we have a Christmas outing in December and the January Quartzsite. Looking for suggestions for the remainder of months, contact me: thomfeit@gmail.com

Safe Travels

I wish you all to have safe travels. Let us know some stories of your summer journey for sharing with others in later Chapter 309 newsletters.