

Born Free Pahrump Balloon Rally 2016



Rally Summary



Thursday, 2/25

All in attendance have been on previous rallies. Before the heavy appetizer dinner, time was spent catching up and dog walking. At 6 p.m. we gathered at the Clubhouse, bringing our heavy appetizers. Bev welcomed everyone and relayed Jim and Phyllis' regrets at not being able to be with us. Chamber of Commerce bags were distributed. Table by table of 6 were lottery selected to the "food line". The eating and chatting began with vigor. After dinner Bev and Greg entertained with joke telling, followed by a briefing about the next day's activities.

Friday, 2/26

Tom and Helga left very early in the morning to checkout and assist with the launching of the balloons. Back at Wine Ridge, dogs were being walked. Then our group descended on the Park's Clubhouse for a waffle breakfast. Bev gave a detailed review of the schedule. Ken helped organize the "Lion Safari Shuttle Service" (coaches and cars willing to drive others) to various activities. Everyone prepared to meet at 11:15 am for the winery tour and tasting before lunch. Tasting was done at the 5 luncheon tables on the glassed-in porch followed by a delicious midday meal and wonderful service. Gretchen, one of the owners, led the winery tour which included seeing the vines and the barrel room. At 3 pm a spirited game of Left/Right/Center was enjoyed by part of our group in the Clubhouse. Later some of our group went to the Karaoke event. Stellar performances were given by Don, Shari, and Helga among others.



Saturday, 2/27

It was an early morning wake up call for all attending the balloon ascension and Lions Club breakfast. Lion Safari vehicles lined up on Desert Blush Road. We parked at Petrack Park. All went



out to the balloon field. After the Star Spangled Banner, the balloons began to be rolled out, inflated, and launched all around us. It was exciting to be so close to the action. After the launching, we headed to the Lions Club breakfast of beverage, eggs, sausage, and pancakes. Then we headed to the booths and car show. We returned to Wine Ridge to check on the dogs and collect our sandwiches and went to the Sanders Family Winery. We sat at tables (as shown in the third photo) and tasted many wines. The owner, Jack Sanders, was our host and kept us entertained while educating us about the wine business and his experience in it. We sipped our way down the tasting list while eating our sandwiches and listening to Jack's continuous comedic and informative presentation. Afterwards, we were treated to a refreshing drink of either cream sherry or port mixed with a squeeze of lime and ginger ale over ice while we shopped. Back at Wine Ridge, serious relaxing took place and various combinations of people made various dinner plans. Some, shown below, used the picnic area by the Clubhouse for an informal potluck. Some went out to dinner and others attended the Balloon Glow.

Sunday, 2/28

A slow paced morning was followed by the Lion Safari Shuttle Service heading off to the Pahrump Valley Museum. We were met by Marilyn who talked to us about the history of Pahrump and led us through the main museum. She took us to a separate wing dedicated to Pahrump's nuclear neighbors--Yucca Mountain and the Nevada Test Site. Then we went outside to see the various historical buildings and equipment that have been moved to the museum grounds from their original Pahrump locations. Back at Wine Ridge, the dog owners gathered for a photo of the 12 dogs in attendance. At 5 p.m. the closing Rally Potluck began with summarizing by Bev and talk about future rallies and gatherings. Before eating, all 26 of us posed for the traditional group photo. We enjoyed an evening with great friends, great food, and many stories and jokes--entertainment worthy of an Academy Award!



Monday, 2/29--Thursday, 3/3

Larry and Connie left first for Death Valley as they planned to drive through without spending the night. Later, Ken and Beth, Don and Bev, and Shari and LaVerna and half of the Rally dogs began their 6 hour pilgrimage to Death Valley. For the reasons their journey took 6 hours instead of the usual 1 hour, you will have to ask one of the six of us at the next rally or gathering! We had a dusk to darkness drive to Death Valley, a dinner at the 49er Cafe, and found sites together at Sunset Campground.



We awoke to views of the surrounding fields of desert gold wildflowers. The day's activities included a walking tour of the Furnace Creek Visitor's Center and Furnace Creek Ranch areas. Had lunch at the 19th Hole and ice cream at the General Store. Toured the Borax Museum. Randy and Glenda dropped by for a visit. The day ended with a potluck which began at sunset and ended under the stars.



In the late morning, our three coaches lined up and took off for a daylong driving tour. First stop was Zabriski Point where we all walked to the overlook area, viewing fantastic rock formations and colors. Next stop was on the Bad Water road to enjoy fields of desert gold and other wild flowers. We drove to Mormon Point and brought our lunches to enjoy together in Shari's RV. The day's touring ended at Salt Creek where we were treated to sightings of the rare pupfish as we walked along the boardwalk trail. Back at camp, another delicious and fun potluck dinner was enjoyed by all.



