

**FREE!**

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**AMARGOSA NEWS**

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- Grand Tour of Central Nevada
- The History of the Buddy Poppy
- **Delights Copa Cabana**
- **Cowboys in Ash Meadows**

***YOUR GUIDE TO THE  
DEATH VALLEY AREA***

# *Interesting Places You've Never Been To!*

## The "Grand Tour" - Part IV or Escape from Ely!

*by The Intrepid Explorer*

Last time, we left you stranded in Ely, but ready to hit the road again. So, off we go! The first part of this day's journey wasn't terribly exciting as we had already been this way twice before in the last couple of days, both coming and going. We were seeing it again as we were going. It was nice country. Mountains to the left, and mountains to the right. Quite a bit of green and even some marsh once we got down the road a bit. Just a little different from the Mojave Desert we had left a few days earlier, and would return to again later that day, if all went well.

The first 100 miles was pretty much all the same. Mountains on all sides. Mostly in the distance, but every now and then one would be near the highway. Except for the road, no sign of civilization except for one small ranch that straddle the road. There were roads off in the distance, but it was impossible to



tell what might have been out there. The vegetation changed too. It was very green up north. Junipers and the like. They slowly disappeared on the way south and it started to look more desert like.

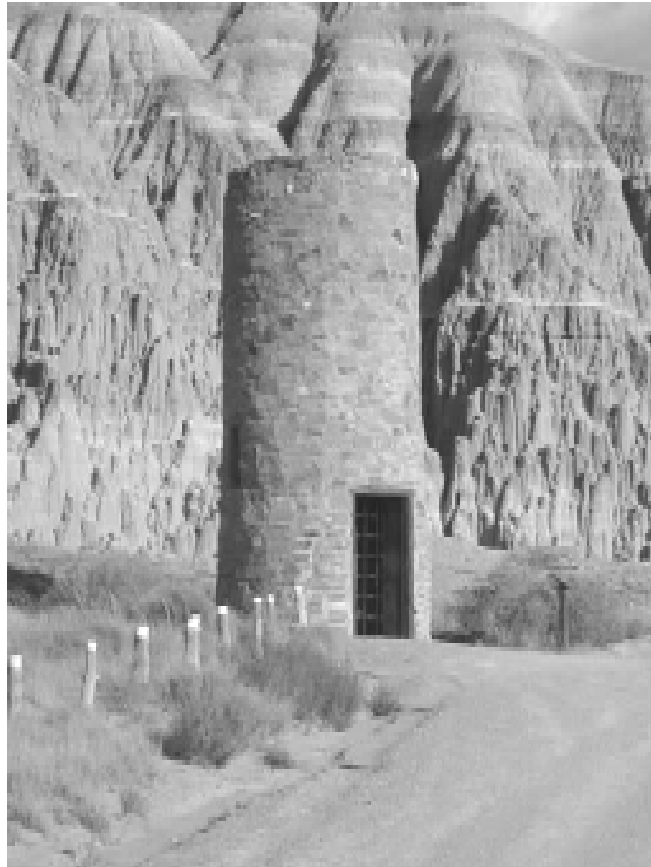
The first real sign that there was some life was when we approached Pioche. A low mountain of sorts is on the west side of the highway. There are some signs of digging. And a tramway that goes across the road and heads toward some sort of large building on the east side of the road. A mining camp. A check of the history tells that the town started at the end of the Civil War, and was a mining town. No mention of what was mined. Off in the distance there are large green patches. Clearly there is some farming/ranching going on there now.

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The road to Echo Canyon State Recreation Area is to the east as well as Spring Valley State Park. It looks like they mine tourists now, which is a whole lot less work than busting up rocks.

A few more miles down the road and we came to the second highlight of the trip after Great Basin. Cathedral Gorge. I saw something about this on KLVX some years ago on a program called Outdoor Nevada. It looked very interesting in the brief clip they aired. And it is. But be prepared. There's a lot to see. The first place you come to as you head south is something of a "scenic overlook" onto a deep chasm that's been carved into the ground over the centuries. This alone would be worth the stop, but it's just a preview of what is to come.

Now that your appetite has been whetted, you should stop at the Visitor's Center. It's a fancy new building not too far from the vista point. It's well landscaped with all kinds of indigenous plants which are all clearly labeled. If you're an amateur botanist you could probably spend an hour just wandering around looking at the plant collection before ever making it inside. Once inside, there was a door leading to some sort of auditorium. Apparently there are slide shows and ranger talks. As it was now mid afternoon and there was a long way yet to go, we passed on that. The one thing we did do is get a map. As I said, there's a



lot to see and it's a good idea to know what it is you are looking at.

It's more than just a place to come and gawk. As we drove around we saw some nice campsites, both individual and group types. There were hiking trails. And picnic places. A lot more than we could see in an hour. This was meant to be a recon patrol. We did a good job of that, but, like Red Rock Canyon or Valley of Fire, it deserves to be seen again when there is more time.

Those who have spent some time in the Tecopa area have some idea of what is to be expected. Or if you've been to Yellowstone and seen the formations around the hot springs or seen the tufa at Mono Lake. That's what you'll find, but on a much larger scale. The pictures

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## The Grand Tour....

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don't quite do it justice, but hopefully will give you some idea of what it's like. In places there are slot canyons with marvelously sculpted walls on either side. There is a nice covered picnic area at the location of the main formations. It has a rather interesting stone build-



like Great Basin or Cedar City. For those who are late to the dance, Cathedral Gorge is on Highway 93 about three hours drive north of Las Vegas. Be prepared! Cathedral Gorge is only a little bit further north than Goldfield, so it's going to be toasty in the summer time.

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ing. It turns out that it is the restroom facilities. It was built during the Depression by the CCC. Not far away is something that looks like part of a castle. It, too, was built by the CCC and was actually a water tower that has since been replaced by modern water pipes.

It's a really nice park. The parts that are old were literally built like the brick outhouse. And the rest appears to be quite new. It would be a great place to go camping for a weekend or while on the way to somewhere else,



# Cowboy Colloquialisms with Translations

1. The engine's runnin' but ain't nobody driving = Not overly-intelligent
2. As welcome as a skunk at a lawn party (self-explanatory)
3. Tighter than bark on a tree = Not very generous
4. Big hat, no cattle = All talk and no action
5. We've howdied but we ain't shook yet = We've made a brief acquaintance, but not been formally introduced
6. He thinks the sun come up just to hear himself crow = He has a pretty high opinion of himself
7. She's got tongue enough for 10 rows of teeth = That woman can talk
8. It's so dry the trees are bribin' the dogs = We really could use a little rain around here.
9. Just because a chicken has wings doesn't mean it can fly = Appearances can be deceptive
10. This ain't my first rodeo = I've been around awhile.
11. He looks like the dog's been keepin' him under the porch = Not the most handsome of men
12. They ate supper before they said grace = Living in sin
13. Time to paint your rear white and run with the antelope = Stop arguing and do as you're told
14. As full of wind as a corn-eating horse = Rather prone to boasting
15. You can put your boots in the oven, but that doesn't make them biscuits = You can say whatever you want about something, but that doesn't change what it is.

## The Grand Tour....

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*That's All Folks!*



# The Getaway

By Mickey Stringer

Spring is here, and we all get the urge to shake off the stagnation of winter and go “do something”. It doesn’t have to be much. After all, the kids are still in school, so it isn’t the time to execute the yearly weeklong family vacation. However, it might be time to explore the optional short version located closer to

Tecopa has a serious reputation among serious rock hounds. The Kingston Mountains are just east of town, and the amethyst crystals can be found hiding in the crevices of the rocks. Petrified wood “hard enough to polish” is the claim to fame for Sperry Wash, and a jeweler will tell you, finding petrified wood of this quality is rare. The old Amargosa Borax Works is popular too. They say...if you get away from the depleted beds near the road, and prospect a little further into the hills, there are opals...beautiful, iridescent opals, and those too, can be gemstone quality.

Hiking can be as leisurely or as strenuous as you like. As you travel along Rt. 127, stop at the mud flats outside of Shoshone and take an up close look at how the Native Americans in this area lived. There is one dwelling very close to the road providing the curious a first hand feel for what it might be like to live underground. The dwellings a little further on, resemble condos carved from the ancient silt deposited by an ancient river. There are other short hikes too. Visit China Ranch Date Farm, located a few miles south of town. The hiking trails are easily accessible and vary in length. There are even guided hikes on the weekends, but you need to check for availability and times. For the real exercise enthusiasts.... just look around and decide exactly how much exercise you want. The op-



home. If so, you can start packing, we have a suggestion.

Just over the hill and not so far away lies another of Nevada’s resources that we, as “locals” tend to overlook, but visitors deem worthy of a substantial trip to seemingly “nowhere”. The destination is Tecopa, and the possibilities are varied enough to plan quite an enjoyable getaway. The length of your stay can range from spending only half of a day (better start early), to spending a day...or two...or three. It doesn’t matter if you are looking for solitude, or a family outing, there is something for everyone.

Do you like the out of doors? Are you a rock hound? Is hiking your thing? Maybe you like photography. Are you up for a day of it...a good meal, lots of outdoor activity, some eclectic shopping, seeing a show and finding a place to stay? Does a round of golf better fit your requirements? How about a relaxing soak in the numerous natural healing springs after those 3 days of working in the yard? In this article, you will find some useful information to help you get off of the couch and out of the door.



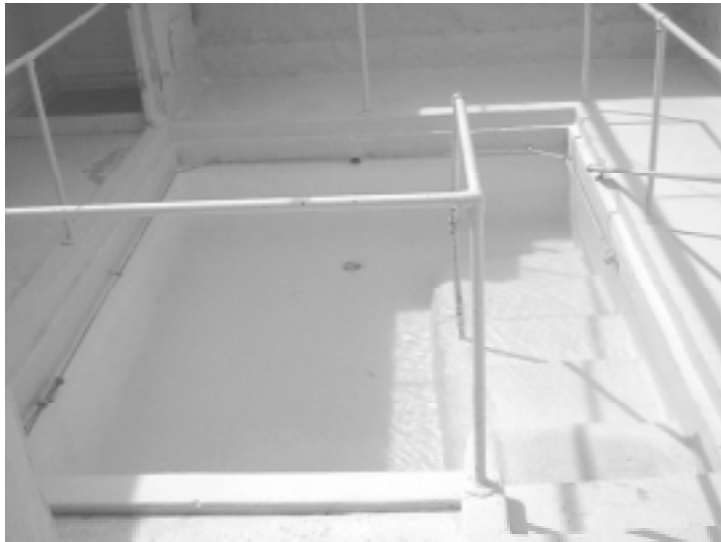
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## The Getaway

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tions are all there and include a round of golf in the Amargosa Valley at Longstreet Inn.

If you want to take it easy, and simply enjoy not being at home, try visiting some of the local attractions. We've mentioned China Ranch Date Farm for hiking, but we didn't mention the wonderful little store on the property. In it, you will find a myriad of things. Maps and pictures, books and a small case of jewelry are tucked away in the corners of the store, but the main business is everywhere. Dates...dates in sampling cases, and in the homemade date bread, in their fresh baked cookies and for sale in the refrigerated case along one wall. They will even make you a date shake with yummy flavors like cinnamon and chocolate and so thick it requires a spoon. In nearby Shoshone there is a mining museum with samples of the very rocks, which bore the weight of the economy as far back as the mid 1800's. A little out of place, but enlightening nonetheless, are the long ago bones of a mammoth, still intact and still half covered with the earth surrounding its resting place. Over time, and in-



side of a glass case, the curators gently remove the ancient soil to reveal the mammoth in its entirety. Traveling just a little further down the road brings you to the Amargosa Opera House & Hotel, where you can marvel over the one-woman efforts of Martha Beckett as she immortalized past history in murals on the walls and ceilings. There are shows too. From October to May, the Opera House opens its doors and performs for the public. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for children. A phone call will answer questions about dates, times and what performance is being staged.

To assuage hunger pangs at most any hour of the day or

night, there are several excellent choices. In Shoshone, The Crowbar Café & Saloon is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Breakfast consists of the usual fare, but the rest of the menu accommodates tastes from hamburgers and southwestern cuisine, to trout and steaks. Cocktails are available should you care for one. Open on Saturdays and Sundays, and also located in Shoshone is Cie Cie Bon. This wonderful Shoppe serves a range of coffees from breakfast varieties, espresso, and cappuccino, to rich and flavorful latte. The Longstreet Inn and Casino caters to standard American food in both the restaurant and the lounge, and on Thursday...get in line early for the sumptuous Prime Rib Special!!! A variety of entertainment is available on weekends in the lounge, and you will need to call for shows and times.

Accommodations range from a slightly pampered feeling, to sleeping in a tent or housed only by the expanse of twinkling stars. In Tecopa proper, try Delights Tecopa Cabaña (formerly Delights Hot Spa), where you can stay in a comfortably furnished cabin with its own small kitchen facility, or rent one of the trailers in the onsite trailer park. The Spa is under new ownership and they have exciting plans to upgrade the existing cabins and renovate the recreational areas. Plans for the addition of more cabins and mineral baths are in the works.

Construction is unobtrusive and the minor upgrades and renovations are due to be completed by mid April. The rates are reasonable and reservations are necessary.

Another option for consideration is bringing your camper. There are several campgrounds in the area and spaces rent by the day, week, month, and for the season. Full service hook-ups are available in the Desert Palms Campground, and electrical hook-ups only in the Tecopa Hot Springs Park, which is

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## The Getaway

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owned by the County of Inyo. The County facility has a community center with a library and a television room. Regularly scheduled activities like various exercise and dance classes, potluck dinners and craft classes etc., are held in the multi-purpose room. Some are free and some require a small fee. Just 3 blocks away, Tecopa Hot Springs Resort is again open to the public after having been closed for a number of years. The new owners, under the direction of Amy Noel have started extensive renovations to the old motel and two of the three mineral baths. "Dry" camping sites and those with full hookups are both available. In March of this year, the historic Rosenberg Rail Tie House became available to rent also, and will accommodate a small family, a group of friends or an artist looking for quiet contemplation. The general store serves as a local post office for the long-term residents, and that facility too is undergoing some changes. If you plan on staying for a while, Rick will tell you about the grocery ordering service provided by a traveling vendor. The stocked items and pricing catalog are available at the store.

Outside of the immediate Tecopa area are other, more pampered choices. The Shoshone Inn has 16 rooms, and an RV park with tent sites available. The guests of both the Inn and the Campground are invited to use the continuous flow pool. Like the rest of the baths in the area, the water in the pool is about 95+ degrees and full of healing minerals. The Amargosa Hotel at the Opera House is open year round, and the 14 rooms are rustic and quiet with no television and no phones. If you require those things, then the Longstreet Inn and Casino is just a few miles away.

The one thing that you don't want to forget while getting away, is that thing for which Tecopa is most famous...the water. Travelers from all over the world come to soak in the healing

waters, hoping to alleviate the misery of rheumatism and arthritis. Others believe the healing extends to restoration of eyesight, organ function and other numerous ailments. In the area, water temperatures range from around 90 degrees to 107 degrees and have varying mineral compositions. Most of the bathhouses and private baths are strict about two things, showering before you get in, for obvious reasons, and not wearing swimwear in the pools, because of the fabric dyes. The public pools in the center of town are split into the men's pool and the women's pool. Soaking here is free to the general public. Delights Tecopa Cabana has 4 pools at present. All are private, uni-sex, and have a 20-minute limit. To the guests, the pools are free, and for the general public, the cost is \$12. Guests at



the Tecopa Hot Springs Resort have the unlimited use of one public bathhouse, which is available now, and is soon to be joined, by two more private baths in the motel. There is no public access to the pool at the Shoshone Inn.

You know what is available, and only your own imagination limits the possibilities. Opportunity for a romantic getaway, a hike and a picnic, the search for gemstone treasures or just quietly resting with a good book are right over the hill. Contact numbers for reservations, and web site addresses for information are included for the sake of convenience. Get busy...make plans to take a break...and when you get there, tell them the Amargosa News sent You!!!

China Ranch Date Farm - 760/852-4415  
[www.chinaranch.com](http://www.chinaranch.com)

Amargosa Opera House and Motel - 760/852-4441  
[www.amargosa-opera-house.com](http://www.amargosa-opera-house.com) Shoshone Inn - 760/852-4335  
Shoshone RV Park - 760/852-4569 Longstreet Inn & Casino - 775/372-1777  
Delights Tecopa Cabana - 760/852-4343 Tecopa Hot Springs Resort - 760/852-4420  
[www.tecopahotsprings.org](http://www.tecopahotsprings.org) Tecopa Hot Springs Park - 760/852-4264  
[www.395.com/generalinfo/tecopa.shtml](http://www.395.com/generalinfo/tecopa.shtml)



# Living It Up Cowboy Style: Forty Acres of Heaven in Ash Meadows

*By Mickey Stringer*

Ah the old west....cowboys and cowgirls, good food cooked out in the open, a cozy campfire, strains of music from a guitar mixed with the sound of laughter and conversation. Kind of reminds you of days gone by doesn't it? Well, not exactly....at least not when you go to a Full Moon party at Ron Metheny's Pioneer Cow Camp. True, there are cowboys. They look like cowboys anyway. And yes, there is food, lots of it. The campfire is even blazing and you can hear the music too. But there, the similarities end because when you go to Ron's, you go to PARTY!! On the first Saturday night of every month from May to November, you will find a group of wonderful happy-go-lucky types having a blast on Ron's forty acres of heaven



in Ash Meadows. Go early and see the sights. There is fishing to be had in Petersen reservoir and hiking trails. There is also fishing and swimming at Crystal Reservoir. If you are into horses, you might want to trailer them, park in the large parking area and go on a nice ride. Water is not a problem. There is water everywhere. If

you don't have a horse, take your car and visit the many beautiful springs in the Ash Meadows Wildlife Refuge. There are maps available at the entrances to the refuge and at the ranger office. When you get hungry, head back to the camp where you will find Ron himself cooking your dinner. He does a wonderful job of ribs and barbequed chicken with all the fixings, and his camp beans are legendary. Then relax around the campfire or kick back in one of the cozy seating areas arranged for you inside the compound. You might even get a real surprise. Look around to see if there are any "shady" looking characters about...ones with guns, and spurs. Don't worry. They are all members of "The Desert Drifters", a Pahrump based gunfighter's club, and when you least expect it, are likely to start "trouble" that ends in a shootout. The entertainment starts around six or so. It varies, and ranges from a live band to karaoke. Regardless, the music will help you start working off that huge meal when you take to the dance floor. It too is outside and surrounded by a split rail fence and twinkling lights. When you get thirsty just step into the saloon and get a cold one. They have water, juice, Gatorade, soda, beer and a number of bottles for the people

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## Living It Up ...

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who want cocktails. The saloon is open as long as you are drinking!!! The trading post is open, but is a work in progress as are most of the things you will see. There is a telegraph office façade and a jail that houses “the last person who complained about the food”, or so Ron says with a smile. If you want to stay the night, feel free to reserve either a rustic bunkhouse or one of the newer “deluxe” bunkhouses. There are somewhere between seven and twelve completed, with more to be



available...sometime! Some sleep two in one bed while others sleep two in two beds. All are comfy and clean and with the babbling of the brook right outside the door, you will sleep like a rock. Bring the camper or self-contained motorhome. They will find a good spot for you to park in the newly added RV sites. You can also pitch a tent under the stars in the soft green grassy area just behind the “kitchen”. It gets cool, so bring plenty of blankets for the family or a nice warm sleeping bag. The next morning will bring the hollow sound of a big bell announcing a chuck wagon style breakfast fit for a king. Rumor has it that Ron gets up at 3:00 a.m. just to make the dough for the



biscuits. He fixes them in a Dutch oven. For the uninitiated, a Dutch oven is a cast iron pot with stubby legs that is set over live coals. The biscuits are placed inside and covered with the matching lid. Live coals are then sprinkled on top of the lid



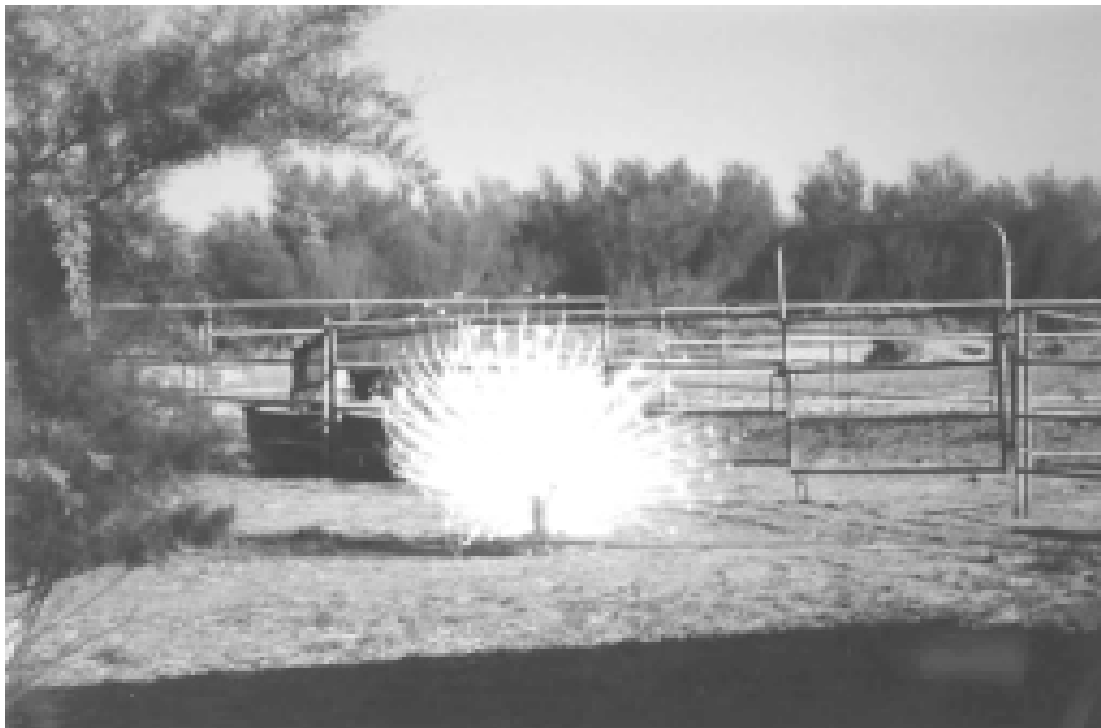
forming an “oven” of sorts, and slowly cooking Ron’s renowned biscuits to golden brown, melt-in-your-mouth perfection. Fluffy

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## Living It Up...

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eggs fixed ranchero style, fried “taters”, bacon, sausage or sausage gravy, fresh fruit, juice and coffee are some of the delights you might find to start your day. You can bring the kids too. There are lots of animals to see and they can get a first hand look at all of them by going with Velma and Ron to “feed”. There are goats and guineas, two emus (last known to be “sitting” on nine eggs) and an albino peacock. Plus rabbits, draft horses, burros, a cow, pigs, momma sheep with new lambs and heaven only knows what else to be fed. So now that you know.... go, and have a good time. Meet some interesting and very friendly people from all walks of life. Above all, be aware that you are welcome.... and tell them the Amargosa News sent you!!!! Party Dates May 4th, June 1st, July 6th, August to be announced, September 7th, October 5th and weather permitting...November 2nd. All dates are subject to cancellation. For reservations and to obtain more information please call 702/241-5384 where you can leave a message. Cost The rates vary according to the activities you choose: Dinner is \$12.00 Overnight accommodations in a bunkhouse range from \$20.00 to \$35.00 per bunkhouse. Chuck wagon breakfast is \$5.00 The drinks run from \$1.00 to \$4.50, depending on your choice of beverage. And the music and hospitality are free! Please note! Some things you might want to remember should you decide to go. Take a jacket because it gets cool in the evenings, a flashlight, long pants, and comfy shoes. Don't forget the bug repellent. Although we here in Pahrump don't have biting bugs like mosquitoes and those pesky gray flies, water draws them and there is lots of water. Directions From Pahrump: Take Hwy



160 N to Bell Vista. Left on Bell Vista and go approximately 22 miles to the Ash Meadows entrance. Follow the signs leading to the ranger office. At the turn into the ranger office, continue going straight ahead. Take the right turn that takes you to Petersen Reservoir. When you get to the Reservoir turnoff (it is a left), continue going straight. The road ends at the Cow Camp.