

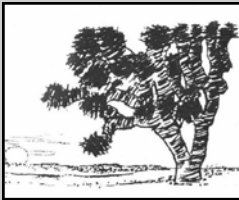
# Desert Waves

Volume 5 Issue 1

Jan.-March 2009

This is a publication of the Friends of El Mirage.

**Desert Waves** is published quarterly and any articles or announcements for publication should be submitted to the webmaster, **Roy Smith** at [roy@destinationdirt.com](mailto:roy@destinationdirt.com)



We meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 9:00 am at the El Mirage Visitor Center. All are welcome!

### Inside this issue:

New Visitor Center at El Mirage	1
WOW Visits El Mirage	1
New Visitor Center at El Mirage (cont.)	2
Visitor Resources	2
WOW Visits El Mirage (cont.)	2 & 3
SCTA Report	3
Upcoming Projects	4

## New Visitor Center for El Mirage by Ed Waldheim

October 25, 2008 will go down in history as the most memorable date for the El Mirage Cooperative OHV Area with the grand opening of the new 2 million dollar Visitor Center. For all our visitors—this makes it possible for you to come into the center to visit with the **Friends of El Mirage** and **BLM** staff. We are ready to answer your questions on all facets of recreation in El Mirage.

The **Friends of El Mirage** operate a gift shop and vending machines in the visitor center 7 days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We have books for all ages, maps for locations throughout the state, a variety of gift items, snacks and drinks. There is a large screen TV with videos available to view of the different areas to ride. Soon we will have displays of the different recreation

vehicles that are used out at El Mirage along with interpretive information on the plants, animals, geology and history of the area. We want to make sure that you, the recreationist, visitor and public feel welcome in the El Mirage Recreation area,

maintenance is possible through the collection of fees.

All of the fees collected at El Mirage must be used at El Mirage. Our goal is to enhance the quality of your recreation experience. We are now able to have better presence of law enforcement, maintenance staff and visitor contact services.

The **Friends of El Mirage** have their regular meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. at the visitor center. We have the membership applications available on our web site at [www.elmirage.org](http://www.elmirage.org). You can also purchase books and merchandise on-line.

We hope to have our newsletter on-line and via e-mail soon, so please make sure you give us your e-mail address so that it can

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Ed Waldheim, President of Friends of El Mirage, presents an appreciation plaque to Mike Pool, BLM State Director for California.*

and have a safe and enjoyable visit.

The El Mirage Visitor Center was made possible through "Green Sticker" grants and the ongoing operations and

## WOW Visits El Mirage by Rose Beardshear

On Saturday, December 6, 2008 the El Mirage Visitor Center hosted its first group of visiting students. The group came from a Los Angeles based organization called **WOW—Wonderful Out-**

**door World.** The **WOW** program is an experience designed to expose urban youth to the great outdoors.

About 30 students ages 8-13 had a hands-on outdoor experience as they visited

the **Desert Discovery Center (DDC)** in Barstow and then the El Mirage Visitor Center. The group was hosted by **Rosa Yriarte**, the education director at the **DDC**, and **Art**

*(Continued on page 2)*

## A Message from the President by Ed Waldheim

(Continued from page 1)

**Basulto**, a BLM Park Ranger. Assisting **Art** was his entire family who often accompany him on his educational outings. Below is a letter that was sent by a supervisor that accompanied the group:

"I want to thank everyone involved in making the **WOW** event on Sat-



urday, Dec. 6 a great day. The **WOW** campers had a wonderful time. From the time they stepped on the bus until they were greeted by their parents at the end, they were always engaged. Even though they were a bit disappointed about the blow carts (due to the lack of wind, the blow carts were cancelled), all

(Continued on page 3)

## New Visitor Center at El Mirage by Ed Waldheim (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

be used to communicate with you on regular basis. For example, if the lake is closed, we can send you a message immediately.

What does the future hold for us? We continue to develop the Visitor Center with educational materials. We have submitted grants to build an ATV & 4-wheel drive riding/training course, additional campground areas, restrooms, and lakebed bypass road improvements. All these are grants we have applied for so it will take time

to get this done.

Our next event is El Mirage Days and will take place on May 2 & 3, 2009 so please put this on your calendar and plan on attending. We will host a cleanup of the area on the 2nd and a poker run on the 3rd. The staging will take place at the new visitor center.

Remember be responsible when recreating at El Mirage. Do not ride your off road vehicle on the pavement or shoulders of the pavement, and please pack it in and pack it

out. We do not have trash dumpster at El Mirage. In closing, thank you for visiting El Mirage. If you have suggestions or ideas please do not hesitate to convey them to our staff or e-mail me at [edwaldheim@aol.com](mailto:edwaldheim@aol.com).



## Visitor Resources by Rose Beardshear

Now that the visitor center is open we have quite a few people that have wandered in looking for various supplies and services. Our wonderful camp ground host, **Kathy Reeves**, and faithful volunteer, **Peggy Hazel** have graciously compiled a list of businesses in the area to accommodate these requests:

You can find propane, wood, water, ice, cameras, gloves, oil, and gasoline at the **El Mirage Market**—(760) 388-4608. To get there exit the main entrance road and turn right. You will find the market a few miles down the road on the right hand side. For any auto and off-road repairs call **Sanco Auto** at (760) 388-4815. **In & Out Tire** can help you with all your tire needs. They

are located at 11719 Bartlette Ave. in Adelanto, CA. Call them at (760) 530-0088.

For RV services you can contact Adelanto RV Park at (760) 246-7775. They are located at 11301 Air Expressway St. just off of Hwy. 395. They have a dump station, propane, water, and trash receptacles.

Of course, one of the greatest resources available to you are our volunteers. **Kathy Reeves** is our campground host and is very familiar with the local services. **Peggy** and **Crysta Hazel** live in the El Mirage community so they are a wealth of information as well. Be sure to stop by the visitor center and say hello to them. You can also find our volun-

teer "outdoor specialist" **Joe Grzechowski** policing the area for trash. These volunteers have provided a tremendous amount of support to the BLM mission in the El Mirage Cooperative Management Area and we greatly appreciate their efforts.



*Peggy & Crysta Hazel (back row) and Joe & Kathy (front row).*

## A Message from the President by Ed Waldheim

*(Continued from page 2)*

the kids had a really good time. Thank you to **Rosa** at the Desert Center—the children loved making rocks. And, FYI, on the way home they still remembered the difference between igneous and metamorphic rocks.



**Ranger Art** and his family at the visitor center really brought the desert alive to **WOW** campers. The campers loved the walk to the lake bed, but mostly they loved the reptiles.

**Ranger Art** and his son did an excellent job, they kept the kids' attention and all the campers fell in love with the baby tortoises!

Thanks again for all your support for this event. I can't wait to do this again next year!"

**Robin Smith**

Supervisor

Camping Section—City of Los Angeles  
Department of Recreation and Parks



*Lucas Basulto, Park Ranger Art's son, loves to educate students on Mojave Desert wildlife.*

## SCTA Report by Jim Dunn

This will be a brief report on the season final SCTA 2 day meet at El Mirage. I arrived around 8 AM on Friday greeted by an absolutely gorgeous morning, unloaded my truck and hooked up with fellow inspector Bruce Vaughn in the inspection area. A few cars are starting to line up already so we started inspecting about 9:30. No inspection trailer yet but we had some forms and knew there would be a lot of entries because of the 2 day meet so better get started. Judy Sights is there to give us a hand with the driving gear. The wind is now starting up and would continue thru the day. This would be the weather pattern all 3 days. We inspected non stop until the course walk at 4 PM.

Saturday morning Steve and I arrive for the 7:15 drivers meeting then head for our pit to prep the truck. We are number 40 in the line up. There are already some wind delays by the time we run. I took the first ride into

the wind and got a time of 155+ MPH against our June record of 161. The wind holds were numerous and we shut down shortly after 2 PM, moved the course and did another course walk.



*Steve, myself and truck—note the pumpkin face on the hood of the truck.*

Sunday morning is pretty chilly and required some starting fluid to fire the truck's diesel engine for warm up. We still have to wait to finish the first round of runs left over from Saturday. The wind is not cooperating at all and

it is around noon before the second round begins only calling 10 vehicles at a time (normally 25). We get lucky and are finally called to staging. Steve will take the second run and attempt at the record. Things are not looking too good with a lot of runs on the course making it pretty loose plus a strong head wind. The result was an almost identical 155 run with the truck moving around quite a bit and the tach indicating 3200 RPM at the finish line. The dream wheel shows 180 which calculates to 25 MPH of wheel spin thru the lights. Because of the wind delays the second round of runs was not completed. A big thanks goes to Carole and Terry Wallace for their assistance in running the truck this weekend.

A great deal of planning and effort is required to put these events on and it is all accomplished by a very dedicated group of SCTA volunteers for which we are extremely grateful.

## FRIENDS OF EL MIRAGE

75 Colusa Rd.  
El Mirage, CA 92301

For information about El Mirage, call the  
visitor center at (760) 388-4411



*We're on the web at  
[www.elmirage.org](http://www.elmirage.org)*

PUT MAILING LABEL HERE

## UPCOMING PROJECTS

### • Calico Mountain Cleanup

The Calico Cleanup usually takes place on the Saturday of President's Day weekend but with that being Valentine's Day I am not too sure. Please check their website for updated information at:

[www.calicocleanup.com](http://www.calicocleanup.com)

### • Dumont Dunes Cleanup

The Friends of Dumont Dunes host an annual cleanup in March. Please check their website for updated information at:

[www.friendsofdumontdunes.org](http://www.friendsofdumontdunes.org)

If you are interested in becoming a BLM volunteer please contact **Rose Beardshear** at (760) 252-6011.

### El Mirage Days (Cleanup & Poker Run) Sat. 5/2/09 & Sun. 5/3/09

Please join us for our 10th Annual El Mirage Days. We will be hosting a clean up on Sat. 5/2 and a Poker Run on Sun. 5/3. There will be a variety of work projects on and around the El Mirage Dry Lake bed.

- Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. sharp at the new visitor center on Mt. View Road.
- Work projects begin at 8:30 a.m. sharp.
- Free BBQ lunch at 1:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center
- Raffle drawings and 50/50 drawing at 1:30 p.m.
- Come early for a pancake breakfast (\$3.00 donation)

### El Mirage Fall Cleanup Saturday, October 24, 2009

Join us for our 5th Annual Fall Cleanup. Work will consist of lakebed & Joshua tree maintenance, and a general clean up of the El Mirage Cooperative Management Area. There will be a free barbecue lunch and a pancake breakfast for a \$3.00 donation for all volunteers that help on the clean up.

- Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. sharp at the new visitor center on Mt. View Rd.
- Work begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:30 p.m.
- BBQ lunch at 1:00 p.m. at the visitor center
- Come early for a pancake breakfast (\$3.00 donation)