



# SOLOS NEWSLETTER

## DEATH VALLEY 2022

Hello fellow Solos,

Thanks for your patience in waiting for the newsletter. Now that the holidays are pretty much over, I finally have time to put this together and send it out.

Death Valley provided some real adventures this year, with everything from cold rain, high winds and snow in the mountains to spectacular sunsets and a dessert potluck with the '49ers. No, that's not a typo, it was a dessert potluck in the desert. While the weather presented some challenges it certainly didn't interfere with our having fun, we just buckled down and weathered the storm. A number of us gathered in neighbor's RV's for games and good visits, while some of us braved rain and 39 degrees for a special tour of Scotty's Castle. Some photos of that tour are printed below.

We had a good turnout with many first timers and a number of new Solos. It's always good to see the excitement as the new travelers discover what our group has to offer.



## 2022 Board of Directors

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This year I decided to ask some of the new members to tell us about their experiences in Death Valley, and I wanted to include a particularly enjoyable response from Umsy (Joan Smith). She and her friend Bev Dessert drove all the way from Niagara Falls to Death Valley to join us. Here's what she had to say:

I didn't have any idea of what to expect when I got to Death Valley on 10/30/2022. It was such an astounding place and the people I met were amazing. Having joined the Solos only 3 days prior to this gathering I knew we'd have a good time but nothing I imagined equaled the reality.

The colors so vivid and the varied terrain was incredible. From the desert floor to the mountain peaks with all the canyons and historical sites boggled the mind.

Who were these '49ers I'd never heard of? Well after meeting the people re-enacting the harrowing trip and listening to many of the talks about the main characters and events I was completely enthralled. We got the opportunity to participate in a potluck dessert night with the 49ers and sat around their campfire listening to their tales and live music performed by some of them. I even got the chance to groom one of the outriders' horses. What a treat!

The art exhibit provided another opportunity that I couldn't pass up. I painted a picture of a mule. It turned out a bit amateurish but was so much fun.

The daily Hugs & Mugs and Happy Hour gave us all time to really connect with other Solos and form or renew lasting friendships.

As a last minute impulse four of us decided to go horseback riding on the last day. What fun was that and for me the memories of my youth came flashing forward.

It was unforgettable 14 days in DV and I certainly hope it's not the last time I get to participate in this annual event.

Umsy Smith  
#162142





Since all of us are members of the '49ers, we were able to take a special tour of Scotty's Castle that was open only to that group. The Castle is still undergoing repairs to deal with some significant damage done from a flood in 2015 and even though it was raining and in the 30's, it was well worth the effort to see the progress being made.





Bev Dessert mentioned that Beatty Days, the Rhyolite Ghost Town, and the Artist's Palette, along with Ash Meadows were all not to be missed destinations. One of my favorites this year was the drive through 20 Mule Team Canyon. It's a beautiful drive and is just jaw dropping awesome. There were many days with sunshine and warmth of course, it is Death Valley after all, and many folks took advantage of good weather to hike and bike and generally hang out. From beautiful sunny days to spectacular sunsets, from starry nights to rain and wind filled days, from rainbows to snow capped mountains, we had it all this year. The new friendships that were made and old ones that were renewed will last a lifetime. There were great memories for everyone!

---Milly Paulson  
Paul Drinkwater, photographer  
James Forsythe, editor  
Ann Palmer, webmaster





