

SPRING AND SUMMER 2024

DESERT SURVIVORS TRIPS AND EVENTS

May 10–12, 2024 (Fri – Sun)

LEE FLAT & CONGLOMERATE MESA CAR CAMP (M/S) Inyo County

We will tour the Mojave Desert on the east side of the southern Inyo Mountains. The trip begins in Lone Pine, CA, then we head out in our vehicles. Some carpooling will be available. Along the way, we may make short stops at Owens Lake, the gravesite of pioneer children, or perhaps a shrine to the rock & roll band U2. Friday's destination will be the magnificent Joshua Tree forest at Lee Flat. The scenery is beautiful and hike is over easy terrain. The same cannot be said for Saturday when we will huff and puff our way to the top of Conglomerate Mesa (7724' elevation). The trail is only a bit over a mile long, but with 800 ft of elevation gain! On top we will see expansive views of multiple mountain ranges and desert valleys and look for rare plant species. Our camp for both nights will be at the base of Conglomerate Mesa. Limit 16. Trip leader: Nick Blake. Contact co-leader Kurt Staib at kstaib@pacbell.net to sign up for this trip.

May 31 - June 3, 2024 (Fri-Mon)

THE MCDERMITT CALDERA LITHIUM ADVENTURE (M/S), Nevada

What may be the largest known lithium deposit in the world lies in the sediments of the McDermitt Caldera on the Nevada-Oregon border, originally formed by an ancient volcanic eruption of the Yellowstone Hot Spot. The Thacker Pass mine, now under construction, may only be the first of many large-scale open pit mines in an area that is currently empty, lonely, and remote, but sacred to Native American tribes and critical for sage grouse. We'll do an exploratory loop drive and backcountry car camp through the mountains that ring the edges of the caldera as well as the meadows and creeks in its interior. Hikes will explore the Montana Mountains which have the highest known density of sage grouse, and a scramble up Disaster Peak which will give us a spectacular view of an area that may never be the same again. We will carpool in high clearance 4WD vehicles that have a low gear. Limit: 6 vehicles. Leader: Dave Oline. Contact co-leader Kurt Staib: kstaib@pacbell.net (530) 632-5605

June 1, 2024 - 1:00PM (Sat)

THE FOSTER MUSEUM TOUR (E) Palo Alto, CA

Join us for a tour at the Foster Museum in Palo Alto to view a collection of watercolors done by Tony Foster, a *plein air* artist from Cornwall, United Kingdom. The focus of our tour will be on the exhibition, *Sacred Places: Watercolour Diaries from the American Southwest*. We will learn about the artist's unique approach to painting that includes accompanying notes and symbolic objects based on his research and travel to the Four Corners area. Tour begins at 1:00 pm. Donations to the museum accepted. Limit: 20. Contact: Marisa Seaman at seaman@desert-survivors.org or (510) 872-5341

July 13, 2024 – 7:00PM (Sat)

SUPER NOVA! PICNIC AND STAR GAZING, Walnut Creek, CA (E)

Desert Survivors joins the Mt. Diablo Astronomical Society for a night of stargazing from Mt. Diablo. We'll enter the park before sundown and gather at the parking lot just below the peak. There we'll enjoy a potluck dinner and watch the sunset from our lofty perch. The night's presentation is *Super Nova! Why do some stars explode? Which star is next? We will get answers, followed by the chance to observe the night sky through many different telescopes. You'll see stars and planets with amazing clarity and enjoy conversation with friendly astronomy enthusiasts. Vehicle entrance fee: \$10. Contact: Michelle Bashin at bashin@desert-survivors.org*

July 22-25, 2024 (Mon-Thur)

SOUTH WARNER WILDERNESS BACKPACK (S) Northeastern, CA

The Warner Mountains rise from a volcanic tableland in the northeast corner of California, and form a rib-like ridge separating the Modoc Plateau from the Basin and Range Province. This type of topography is well-known for its diversified landscape of high-desert basins, forested mountain peaks and a myriad of streams and lakes in assorted sizes. Get out of the summer heat on this 4-day backpack that will range in elevation from 5,600-9,400, with 11k feet of elevation gained over those 4 days. Limit 6. Contact trip-leader: Stacy Goss at stacy.goss@comcast.net

July 20 – 22, 2024 (Sat – Mon)

SOUTH WARNER MOUNTAINS CARCAMP (E-M), Modoc County CA

The Warners are the westernmost mountains in the Basin and Range province. The trip will begin in Cedarville, CA, where food, fuel and lodging are available. We will be camping for two nights in the group campground at Blue Lake. Planned activities include a hike around Blue Lake (3 miles), and an out-and-back day hike on the Summit Trail, which will offer extraordinary views of the surrounding terrain. The area is notable for birding opportunities. On the drive out Monday morning, we will visit Mill Creek Falls before following the South Fork Pit River to Likely, CA on US 395. Limit 15. A camping fee of \$140 will be divided by the number of participants, plus a recommended trip donation of \$35 per person. The roads are in good condition.

Contact Leader: Michael Wells 530.367.4372 - michaelevan@sebastiancorp.net

July 27, 2024 1:00- 7:00PM (Sat)

DESERT SURVIVORS SUMMER PICNIC, Castro Valley, CA

We return to celebrate summer at Marta Perry's beautiful 250-acres family ranch in the Castro Valley hills. It features a swimming pool with a hot tub surrounded by a deck and lawn area as well as a covered outdoor kitchen with a barbecue. Bring a swimsuit, towel, camp chair, a potluck dish to share, and perhaps something to grill. BYOB. After your swim and socializing, enjoy an afternoon hike to the ridge for sweeping views of the bay. Participants can camp overnight at the picnic site.

Contact: Marisa Seaman at seaman@desert-survivors.org or (510) 872-5341

July 28, 2024 (Sun)

TRIP LEADERS BRUNCH AND MEETING (E) Oakland, CA

All trip leaders and those interested in becoming trip leaders are encouraged to attend the meeting after brunch to discuss ideas, issues, and future activities. Your input will be appreciated. Contact: Marisa Seaman at seaman@desert-survivors.org or (510) 872-5341

SAVE THE DATE

Aug 16 – Aug 19, 2024 (Fri to Mon)

RETURN TO CROOKED CREEK FIELD STATION (E-S) White Mts., CA

Mark your calendars! Following a one-year absence, Desert Survivors is returning to the Crooked Creek Field Station for three nights this summer. The facility sits at 10,000 feet elevation in the White Mountains, ten miles north of the Schulman Grove of Bristlecone pines. Accommodations consist of a bed in the station dorm or rooms, if available (bring sheets/sleeping bag). Other options include tent or car camping adjacent to the facility. All meals are included. Activities include lounging, hiking, Bristlecone groves and stargazing. Desert Survivor membership is required. **Information on costs and how to sign up, will be forthcoming in a future email.** Leader: Michael Wells

Aug 17-18, 2024 (Sat-Sun)

SIERRA CLUB DESERT COMMITTEE MEETING (E) White Mts., CA

The Sierra Club Desert Committee holds their annual summer meeting high in the White Mountains, at the Nelson Group Campground off of highway 168. See presentations on a wide-variety of desert conservation issues. The meeting is open to everyone, and camping is available both Friday and Saturday nights. Contact: Stacy Goss at stacy.goss@comcast.net

SAVE THE DATE

Sept. 26-29, 2024 (Thu-Sun)

DESERT SURVIVORS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RETREAT (E-M)

This year we will have Annual General Meeting (AGM) retreat at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park in Sonoma County, near Kenwood, CA. Activities will include hiking in Valley of the Moon and in the dunes of Dillon Beach; a tour of Jack London's estate; wine tasting nearby; and relaxation in the lovely campground bordered by the Sonoma Creek and hillside forest. Much more information to come. Family and friends are welcome.

MORE DESERT SURVIVORS TRIPS MAY BE IN THE OFFING

We will announce new trips and events by email, and at our website: desert-survivors.org