



March~May, 2011 Newsletter

TOW ...is gay & gay friendly, a casual, no fuss, social & non-profit RV group that each year publishes four newsletters as a tool to link members up to organized, individually hosted campouts.

TOW ...is owned by no one.

Please submit your articles & photos concerning any RV rallies or gatherings, RV & camping information, & any other news of interest to Doug Martin at cochisecountydoug@yahoo.com

UPCOMING RALLIES & GATHERINGS **



Sharp Creek Campout May 5, 6 & 7

Join us for a weekend on the high Mogollon Rim of Central Arizona. The campout begins on Thursday & we'll depart on Sunday. If you can only make it up for Friday & Saturday, that's OK. This event is high in the pines & offers scenery, hiking, & fishing. Expect temps from 70 to 85 degrees & cool in the evening.

This is dry camping on pavement, a ramada with tables & National Park style restrooms. We'll have happy hours on Friday & Saturday, & a pot luck on Saturday evening. Bring a bundle of firewood or two to feed the firepit.

Let us know early if you are coming because we are restricted by the Forest Service on numbers. For directions, to reserve or for more information contact Jeff at:

jeffkanis@yahoo.com



TOW reserved 20 sites for this event at Golden Shores RV park in Long Beach, for the long weekend of May 20/21/22. These sites went early, so if you missed out this year (or aren't able to book an empty site directly thru Golden Shores), we'd love to see you there next year.

**see more upcoming rally info on page 4

Quartzite Desert Skies Campout 2011

Jeff Kanis

This year Quartzite blessed us with great weather & loads of fun. The mild temperatures in the evenings made our time around the campfire a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends. Many of us arrived on Thursday afternoon this year, with most folks pulling in during the day on Friday. Our cocktail hour &



appetizers on Friday evening were a hit as usual. Since it was Jeff's birthday, we capped off the evening with birthday cake & some tribal dancing to Erasure in front of Dennis & Rodney's coach. You can see this spectacle for yourself at TOW on Facebook or on You Tube. Saturday was filled with shopping under the big tent. My goodness, some of the gadgets I bought. The Martini Party on Saturday evening elevated everyone's mood which led into another food fest & more soothing time around the campfire.

AGRA Roadrunner Regional Rodeo @ Rawhide Western Town

Jeff Kanis & Greg Weiss

This is an annual Rodeo and they offer RV spaces on a first come, first served basis. A few TOW folks were there early enough to get space on the green beside the event pavilion. Those of us who braved the weather had a great time watching



the rodeo events, country dancing & huddling with our fellow TOW campers in one rig or another. The pavilion provided shelter from the rain, as did Bart & Jeff's coach which was party central. This year the Roadrunner rodeo was almost rained out, but with just a few breaks in the clouds the rodeo events went on as usual. Only 12 hearty campers of our TOW Group attended. On Saturday afternoon, Bart & Jeff hosted a cocktail party & snacks in their coach that lasted until everyone headed out for dinner. Next year we look forward to a dryer AGRA Roadrunner Rodeo. With any luck, the weather will cooperate and we can get a bigger crowd together.

March 2011

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				Anza Borrego		
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March is American Red Cross Month

March 7th - Telephone Patented 1876 to Alexander Graham Bell

March 8th - Mardi Gras

March 9th - Ash Wednesday

March 10th - First Paper Money Issued Issued this day in 1862

March 17th - First Rubber Band Patented, 1845

March 17th - St. Patrick's Day

March 18th - 1st Walk in Space, 1965

April is International Guitar Month

April 1st - April Fool's Day

April 4th - 1st Home Phone Installed In 1877

April 6th - North Pole Discovered In 1898



April 14th - Titanic Struck The Iceberg

April 24th - Easter

April 30th - George Washington inaugurated as 1st US president in 1789

April 2011

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May 2011

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May Is American Bike Month

May 1st - May Day

May 5th - Cinco de Mayo

May 9th - First Newspaper Cartoon In the USA in 1754

May 10th - Mother's Day

May 14th - Beginning of Lewis and Clark Expedition In 1804

May 18th - Mount St. Helens Erupted In 1980

May 24th - First Morse Code Message from DC to Baltimore in 1844

May 30th - Memorial Day



St. Patrick's at The Oasis



Some TOW members will be spending the week surrounding St. Patrick's Day at David's Oasis, a gay-owned membership RV park 8 miles east of Bisbee, AZ. There will be a free corned beef and cabbage dinner on Saturday, March 19th. David's boasts their own bar and clubhouse, pool & spa, plus many acres of hiking property. For more information or to make reservations (and we've heard they're filling up fast), go online to azgaycamping.com

Don't get pinched (unless you want to).



Please join us at Userly Mountain Regional Park Arizona, for a relaxing St. Patrick's weekend and lots o'drinking. Jeremy Johnson is hosting this event. We will do an Irish potluck Saturday night and Happy Hour Friday night. If you are interested, on Saturday afternoon, we'll go to the nearby Userly Mountain Shooting Range for a little target practice. The setting at Userly is awesome! A huge rock cliff towers above the camp area. Userly is a gorgeous desert park with pristine foliage. The park has fantastic hiking trails that lead you from one incredible view to the next. This is dry camping but the park has a dump and fresh water to fill up. At the guard shack, tell them you are with the TOW group. They will direct you to our reserved group camp area.

Set your GPS to: 3939 N Userly Pass Rd, Mesa, AZ 85207. Contact the park at: (480) 984-0032 See you there!



Arizona Gay Pride in June



This upcoming month has two pride celebrations in Arizona on the same weekend of June 18th, in Flagstaff & in Bisbee. Further information will be forthcoming via the Yahoo group emails and also in the next newsletter. In Flagstaff the folks stay at Flagstaff KOA, where a number of gay RV groups join together. In Bisbee, there's the Queen Mine RV park in the center of town, or out at David's Oasis, a gay membership RV park. Wherever you choose to celebrate and whichever spot you choose to stay in, be sure to show your pride in being who and what you are.

Valentines Campout At Canyon Lake, Arizona

Rodney Muehlfeld



Love was in the air Valentine's Day weekend as nine Arizona couples traveled to Canyon Lake Marina & Campground for the February campout, hosted by Jeremy & Brandon. By Friday afternoon, everyone had arrived & a fantastic happy hour with heavy hors d'oeuvre kicked off. Surrounded by the glowing canyon walls illuminated by the setting sun, winter wear emerged as the sun tucked behind the mountains. By dark, a roaring campfire was warming hearts & faces of those present.

Saturday morning brought a fantastic breakfast spread complete with biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, hash brown casserole, freshly baked muffins, yogurt with granola & other delicious treats. Breakfast bowls were a hit, mixing all the goodness of breakfast into one heap of nourishment. Breakfast cocktails rounded off the buffet & for dessert: bacon.



Mid-morning, a Jeep tour was planned into the Superstition Wilderness. After a quick drive through Tortilla Flat Campground, we headed up the hill to the trailhead. Miles & miles of picturesque desert beckoned the group into the wilderness. Three Jeeps & a Ram Charger headed deep into the canyon, far away from civilization. Arriving at what appeared to be the foundation remains of an old ranch, several members took to shooting targets while others socialized & snacked while enjoying the beautiful weather & sunshine. Once back at camp, preparations were underway for the Asian Themed potluck that was planned for the final evening that the whole group would be present. Complete with paper lanterns & Asian designed plates, the potluck included different varieties

of orange chicken, beef & broccoli, fried rice, spring rolls, & Korean BBQ. Strawberries hand-dipped in chocolate & cherry chip cupcakes gave everyone a sweet ending. Another grand campfire finished off the amazing weekend full of friendship, adventure, love & great food.

With a checkout time of 1pm, Sunday departures occurred much later than usual. Those of us fortunate enough to stay until Monday enjoyed a quiet, windy, overcast day Sunday complete with Wii games & a cozy outside dinner under the stars. Some retired early while others got together for one last evening of laughter & fellowship.

Another successful TOW Campout in Arizona!

ANZA BORREGO IN MARCH

Bud and I will be doing some dry camping in the Anza Borrego Park, March 24-28. Come sit out



under the stars with us and, with any luck, the wildflowers should be blooming.



Give us a call to find out where in the desert we will be.
310.490.8669

Brian



JUNE RALLY IN THE SIERRA NEVADAS

BE ON THE LOOKOUT IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER, FOR THE UPDATED INFO ON THE *GLASS CREEK ~ JUNE LAKES OUTING* IN THE SIERRAS, DURING THE WEEK OF THE SUMMER SOLSTICE IN JUNE. THIS EVENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN LOOSELY ARRANGED, WITH FOLKS ARRIVING AS EARLY AS YOU WANT, & STAYING AS LATE AS YOU CAN. THIS IS DRY CAMPING & FREE CAMPING, TOO (AS OF LAST YEAR)! YOU CAN GET WATER CLOSE BY & THERE IS A FREE SEWER DUMP IN MAMMOTH. BRING YOUR FISHING POLE & LICENSE IF YOU LIKE TO FISH. SUMMER SOLSTICE IS ON JUNE 21, 10:16 A.M. PACIFIC TIME, SO HELP US BRING IN SUMMER! LOOK ONLINE OR EMAIL US FOR MORE INFO.



YOUR TOW VOLUNTEERS

- Don Coats
(310) 874-8235
- Bob Seifert
towrainbowguy@hotmail.com
(559) 246-0664
- Vern Isakson - Treasurer
isamp@c-zone.net
- Doug Martin - Newsletter
cochisecountydoug@yahoo.com
- Mark Springer - Yahoo website
marksbilly@msn.com



Send new memberships to:
Vern Isakson
1599 Newhall Ave
Cambria CA 93428-5503
 Membership are \$10 annually & run from February to January

March - May, 2011

TOW YEAR END REPORT 2010		(thru 1-7-2011)
INCOME FROM DONATIONS		
Donations	150.00	(beyond \$10 annual)
Membership	830.00	
Total income	980.00	
EXPENSES		
Park deposits	<950.00>	
net refund from 2010 year not used		
Golden Shores Long beach	1160.00	Deposit for 2011 event.
Newsletter	200.00	
Web site costs	100.00	
Event costs		
Quartzsite 2010	150.00	
Expenses 2010	660.00	
Balance as of reporting date		3285.09

Wood's Canyon Lake

July 28 to Monday August 1, 2011.

Woods Canyon Lake is one of the most scenic lakes in Arizona. The lake is tucked among pine trees and rock cliffs along the edge of the scenic Mogollon Rim. The landscape is gorgeous and at an elevation of about 7,500 feet, you can expect very pleasant temperatures in Summer months. The dry camping (with pit toilets) at Woods Canyon Lake have been sell outs every time we have one. The lake is located about 30 miles east of Payson, Arizona and is very close to its sister-lake, Willow Springs Lake. Look for full info in the June-August newsletter.