



NEWSLETTER

of the

FRIENDS OF ROCKHOUND STATE PARK

July, August, September 2011



A GLIMPSE OF HISTORY: Celebrating our Unique State Park

CONSTRUCTION OF THE VISITOR CENTER

Text of the speech by Park Architect concerning the design for Rockhound State Park Visitor Center.

There is an awesome beauty to this area, sometimes stark, always breathtaking, with subtleties that change by the minute. There is nothing perhaps so beautiful as the Floridas capped in snow at sunset. There is also this overpowering sky, as much a feature of the park as the rocks and the almost secretive plants and animals.

This is not a standardized design. In each project undertaken, we pay attention to the individual character that each park has to offer. A park like Rockhound, without a building history to give direction, presents a unique question for an Architect with regard to design. With essentially a clean slate, it is the land itself that must answer the question of building form.

The architectural muse, to whom we learn to listen, suggested that the Visitor Center and compound should reflect a design that melded into this spectacular landscape. It spoke of its majesty and its timelessness, of a building created of natural materials assembled in a traditional way that acknowledged the intense clarity of the land that it would be placed upon and the massive sky that it would be placed under.

To do this, I reached not only into New Mexico's history but also into adobe's history, seeking inspiration of other stark lands whose histories are lost in time; North Africa, the Middle East, central Asia. There is a direct connection that threads back from the Spanish/ Native American fusion that we call New Mexico

Architecture to these traditions. The problems that dry windy climates with a bright sun present have been solved over and over again, refined throughout history.

The complex is set on a north south axis like ancient buildings to better orient the user to his place in the cosmos. A causeway, centered on the main east/west axis of the exhibit hall, leads to our observatory, a level round platform out away from the building complete with electricity to run the latest type of telescope.

Taking from ancient Arabian desert concepts, the courtyard is designed to offer protection from the wind and the sun for daytime visitors, and to offer an after-hours place to gather for star parties like we will be putting on tonight. It includes the ability for the offices and exhibits to be closed while still offering restroom facilities for these afterhour activities.

The Visitor Center and surrounding walls are constructed of adobe as much for their aesthetic appeal and tradition as for their ability to even out the spikes

in temperature between day and night. This is the first adobe State Parks building since the late 1930's, built with an eye toward the great Civilian Conservation Corps projects like the National Parks building in Santa Fe and the Visitor Center at White Sands National Monument. The main exhibit hall is as high as modern codes will allow for a single story using a standard 10 x 14 adobe block. The tower represents two-story adobe construction, the first story having walls 14" thick with the second story brick turned to ten inches.

Lastly, I included the walled maintenance yard and shop in the complex to create a more dramatic structural form on the landscape. Walled compounds, once common in New Mexico, can still be seen in Morocco, Iran, and Kazakhstan. What better place to hide these more utilitarian structures than in plain site? . . .

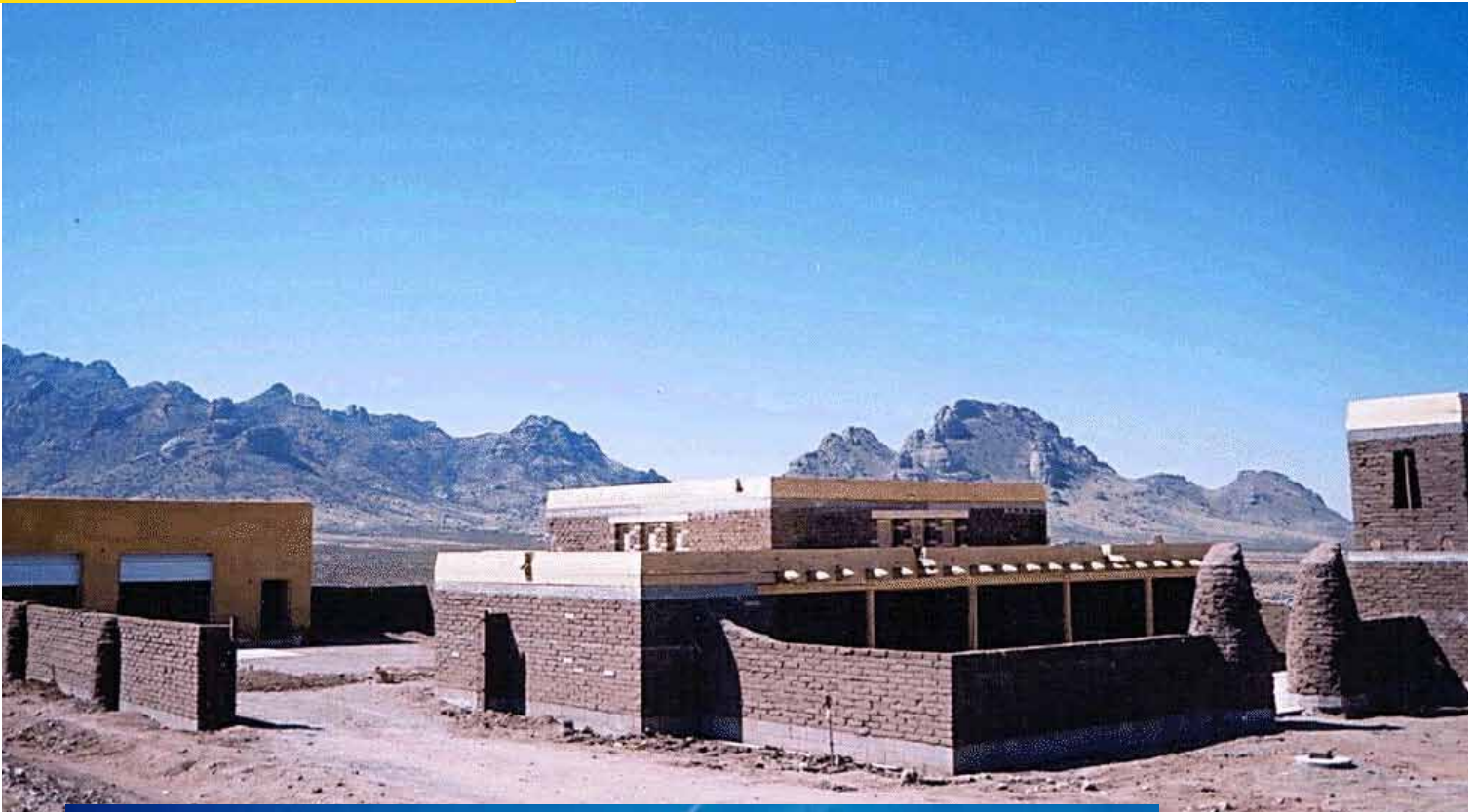
Rob Love
15 June 2001



The visitor's center was dedicated just 10 years ago on June 15, 2001.



It welcomes visitors to our park and is also the center of many Friends of Rockhound activities.



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PICNIC JULY 27



The picnic was delightful! Our Angel Wing Ladies, Cheryl and Jackie, provided delicious appetizers of Angel wing chips, salsa and Mexican seafood cocktail. Next was their wonderful Southwest chicken taco salad with Killer cornbread muffins that were oh so yummy. Nancy drove in with ice, sodas, tea, beer, wine, and lemonade with which to wash it all down. Shelley and Deb had their aprons on and were Helpers Extraordinaire.

Veronika was our All-Around Gal making sure everyone was comfortable and taken care of. Donna rounded up the Board for the short meeting and Art lead the way. Gene & Betty took pictures for the Newsletter. Robert, Art and Carlos took care of logistics and had the tables all ready, as well as bringing up some of the supplies and putting things away afterwards, and Robert's wife, Jodie, out-did herself on that scrumptious cake! We had a total of about 55 people there.

¡Muy delicioso!

A GLIMPSE OF PICNIC HISTORY

This was FOR's seventh annual "Thank-you" Picnic. In 2005, the board decided to show their appreciation to the Park Staff and volunteers with a picnic. That year Jim & MaryKay Brady and the board members did it all... organizing, grilling, making potato salads and appetizers, etc. A tradition was started. Each year a similar event has been held--sometimes in Spring Canyon--more often in the group shelter. Often Nancy Grinnell manned the grill with a team of helpers slicing, serving, frying and flipping. A couple of years we've given ourselves a break by serving catered food, but it is always great!

FACES AT THE PICNIC





Where's MaryKay?



AUGUST 31

ROBERT'S REPORT

1. Update on water well. Current well isn't deep enough for the low aquifer level. Current well sits on land being leased by Gary May. Drilling of a new well (also on said leased land) 10 feet from current one, is out to bid.

2. A drawing for new camping area restrooms and storage building was presented. Project should begin sometime in 2012. Current shed behind visitor center to eventually become strictly classroom/meeting space, with garage/shop to be in new storage building.

NEW BUSINESS

Mary Galbraith, Executive Director of the Deming-Luna Chamber (and Board Member of NM Tourism Dept, Region 2), came to speak to the Board.

1. Offered Chamber property for future plant sales.

2. Asked Friends' support (non-monetary) of "NM Tourism Dept Cooperative Marketing Grant Program." A grant of \$750,000 for the promotion of Region 2 (the largest region in the state, including the counties of Luna, Grant, Catron, Dona Ana, Sierra), will be used in part for buying regional television air time. A promo film is in the works.

Mary asked about Friends' willingness to conduct special tours, and to generally provide support in garnering tourism interest in our area. MaryKay offered to provide an official letter from Friends to be included in promotion packets, and a letter to the Dept of Tourism, indicating Friends' non-profit status. Ms. Galbraith feels the potential for much greater tourism to Deming is exciting, but our market has to be targeted, and interest stimulated through advertising and promotion.

* * *

The meeting was followed by a presentation by Friends member and Botanist

Gene Jercinovic. Gene's presentation of Desert Curiosities and Adaptations was well-received by the audience. His PowerPoint presentation cleverly illustrated leaf, root and reproduction strategies in desert plants. We also learned that the recent orange glow on the southern bajada was not the famous gold poppies (*Eschscholtzia californica*) that we see in the spring and early summer, but a massive crop of what are called Arizona "poppies" (*Kallstroemia grandiflora*). *Kallstroemia* is in the Caltop family and is actually related to our dreaded goat-head and African rue!



SEPTEMBER 28

The members and visitors who attended our Friends' monthly meeting in September were treated to a delightful morning learning about a colorful local character who lives in Hillsboro. His name is Sonny Hale, Jr.

Sonny is a former hard rock miner, motor grader operator, and a dozer man who was introduced to rock art, known as petroglyphs, when he was in his forties. Ten years later, he went back to the petroglyph site to share the viewing with several friends. Sadly, the site had been desecrated and the rock art was gone. Right then and there, Sonny made a vow to attempt to photograph every beloved petroglyph in New Mexico that he could before they were destroyed or stolen. He has been doing so ever since.

Along with his trusty dog, Daisy the Husky, they ride in his sturdy Jeep Cherokee all over this Land of Enchantment.



Sonny & Daisy

Sonny has taken over 800 photographs of Southwestern Indian petroglyph rock art that he considers, "A gift from them to us, and a beautiful, priceless heritage." His goal: to put the spirit of the petroglyphs

on photographic paper. He says, "It's a grind, and sometimes tough, but the memories are worth it."



You may view and purchase some of Sonny's photos at his website, <http://petroglyphhunter.com>. At the website is the added opportunity to buy the documentary about him, 'In Place, Out of Time.' You may also visit Sonny & Daisy at his gallery in Hillsboro, behind the General Store. Call first as he may be out hunting petroglyphs!

MEMORABLE EVENTS



Music in the Park 2011

Music in the Park performances were both a **huge** success!

July 16 Concert: Mike Moutoux, "The Enchanting Cowboy," once again delighted the audience with his music and cowboy poetry--much of it self-composed. Through word and song, Mike has a way of touching our hearts, and reminding us how very fortunate we are to be living in this very special--and enchanting--part of the country. He graciously donated half the proceeds of his CD sales to Friends of Rockhound. We had 106 folks sign in for the Music in the Park with Mike. Thank you, Mike!

Visit Mike at: www.enchantingcowboy.com

August 20 Concert: July McClure, bass guitarist extraordinaire, with friends Fred Williams and Gary Hart on acoustic guitars--vocalists all--entertained the audience with a variety of music, ranging from country to rock to mountain. A special treat was when July brought out her "omnichord"--a fascinating electronic instrument that's shaped flat like a zither, but plays like a chord organ, with rhythm and electronic harp. Really cool! It was a fun concert, with a receptive audience of about 75.



« Omnichord 🎵

WHAT IS FOR?

The Friends of Rockhound (FOR) is a non-profit volunteer organization whose purpose is to assist the New Mexico Parks Department to enhance, preserve, and promote the use of Rockhound State Park. FOR helps in many ways with interpretive programs, educational programs and special events. The Park has a new Visitor Center with many displays and a Native Plant Demonstration Garden dedicated to the interpretation of the Chihuahuan Desert.

All of our activities and money raised are used to benefit Rockhound State Park and its visitors.

Friends of Rockhound State Park, Inc. meets on the last Wednesday of the month.
Board Meeting 9:00 AM
General Meeting 10:00 AM
Program 10:15 AM

Programs are free to the public

MARIACHI PERFORMANCE

SEPTEMBER 17

We had a turn out of 189 folks for the Maariachi program of 2011. Sadly, the mariachi's were delayed in arrival and set up as they had done a program earlier in Silver City.

It was just past 6:30 when they began. They played with all the skill and enthusiasm we have enjoyed the last 7 years (yes, it is seven years that we have been enjoying this September event).

The dancers with their colorful costumes, swishing skirts and huge sombreros were a great counter point to the evening.

The weather cooperated with a slight breeze and pleasant temperatures. Some folks even donned sweaters towards the end of the evening.

Robert Apodaca and his staff and volunteers did their usual outstanding job with getting everything set up, tent, stage, chairs.

Our special thank you to First New Mexico Bank and the Deming Lions Club, our most generous sponsors.

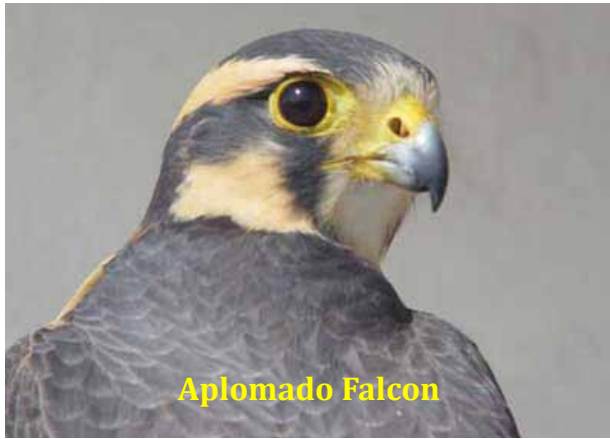
A GLIMPSE OF MUSIC IN THE PARK HISTORY

Jim Brady scheduled our very first Music in the Park with Floyd Utterback performing on August 20, 2005. That year also marked the beginning of the now traditional Mariachi performance in September. **Marie Cardenas** took over the scheduling in 2006 for our first real series (May-September) of concerts. Our own **Veronika Barnes** and her accordion initiated the series with a performance on May 13, 2006. **Greg Scarpella** scheduled performances for 2007-2009 and also occasionally grabbed his guitar, used his stage moniker of "Guitar Greg" and became a great part of the series! Veronika took over the scheduling in 2010 and continues to plan enjoyable Music in the Park performances for Rockhound Friends and visitors!

PROGRAMS FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

October 26: Paul Juergens *Aplomado Falcon Restoration*

Paul Juergens is a field biologist for The Peregrine Fund, a non-profit group dedicated to saving birds of prey from extinction. Throughout the world, birds of prey are threatened by shooting, poisoning, and loss of habitat. Saving these birds is an effective means of conserving the rich diversity of life that is critical to the future health of our planet and the well-being of generations to come.



Aplomado Falcon

<http://blogs.peregrinefund.org/author/48>

November 30: H. Henrietta Stockel *History & Culture of Geronimo's People*

Henrietta Stockel is the author of 11 books, mainly about Chiricahua Apache history and culture, including events affecting Cochise and Geronimo. The 12th book is in press—interviews with contemporary Apaches about their lives on and off the reservation. She lives among the Apache people in south-central NM.

Don't miss her presentation -- her experiences are fascinating!

For a complete description of Ms. Stockel's books go to:
<http://www.amazon.com>

Did you know ?

We have a very small (tiny) lending library in the Visitor Center. The collection has books relating to flora, fauna, geology and cultural history of this area. The Visitor Center lending library has two titles by Ms. Stockel:

Shame and Endurance
Women of the Apache Nation

December 7: Luminarias

There is no regular meeting in December but we will be making luminarias on Wednesday, December 7 at 10:00 for the Holiday Lights program on Saturday December 10th. We need volunteers for both events.



Holiday Luminaria Display

Why 1,152 Luminarias?

In 2006 when **Jim Brady** was checking prices, shipping changed at 97 dozen by weight---so 1,152 it has been ever since!
(96 dozen candles = 1,152)

A GLIMPSE OF HOLIDAY LIGHTS HISTORY

This is the 10th year of Holiday Lights. It began in 2001 by Rangers **Jesus Jimenez, Gloria Reed,** & Park Staff with the help of Senior Circle Organization. In December 2005 Friends said they would help out.

Julie Urban contacted Peppers who agreed to sell us the candles at half price and provide the bags free. December 2006 was the 5th year of this annual event.

Attendance was way up from earlier years. We started out with 400 hot cups and ran out! Hot cocoa is the beverage of choice for sure. **Irene Jacquez** of Las Cruces made the traditional Mexican cookie while **Brenda Vasquez** and **Pat Sherman** added their holiday flair. Guitar **Greg Scarpella** provided musical background. There were 37 4 H members to light the candles. 12 Girl Scouts sang carols Each year, as always, our members come together to rattle bags, play in the sand, and position the candles precisely—1,152 of them.

Each year has brought changes--even controversy. --separation of church and state, nativity scenes, religious music were all in the news, and, there was the year (2008) that the horrible winds prevented us from lighting the candles, but volunteers still had fun!

Santa hats, lights, biscochitos, cocoa, cheer & camaraderie have endured! See you there.....



FALL PLANT SALE

September 24

Oh! what a grand day. The weather was wonderful, great temperatures and lots of happy customers.

Well, not Dan Welch who wanted a CORAL rain lily and we had selected a white for his pre order. Oops, we will try again in April.

The new cactus man, Fred Estrada, was to deliver ocotillo's on Thursday, or maybe Friday and then called at 8:15 on Saturday to say he was on the way. We let him set up in the driveway and sell to folks with the understanding that he would give the Friends group a donation in line with his sales.

As planned, we were sold out and out of there before 11:00 AM -- our last lady was a newcomer to the area--we had 3 plants left at that time 2 banana yucca and 1 three leaf sumac. We had planned to just plant them in the native garden. She said she and her husband just moved here and had a property with nothing. She adopted our last three plants! All is well once again.



With the eager helpers and three wagons for hauling we did great. Julie took the cash and MaryKay's son, Derek, and family gave out about 7 membership applications. We had wonderful cookies, mini cakes, rice krispies treats (after sitting in the sun they are extra gooey and yummy) Folks were generous-- one man put \$5 in the donation can for a cup of coffee!

18 folks helped unload the truck and organize plants on Thursday and 20 members helped on Saturday.

Thank you to all who made this a success.

The Power of Friends!



Thursday's crew (minus 7)

We were so busy that the photographer forgot to capture us until many had already left!

Why did FOR decide to have a Fall Plant Sale?

MaryKay Brady recently spoke to the Garden Club with tips and techniques to deal with plants in Deming. Here is an excerpt:

The best time to plant is often the fall in our area for the following reasons:

- 80% of plant's root growth occurs in late summer and fall so plants establish better
- Milder temperatures and more dependable rainfall helps plants acclimatize
- Fall soil is warmer and more conditioned than spring soil making root growth easier
- Pests and diseases that often attack young vulnerable plants lessen with cool weather
- Less water is required as plants go dormant for the winter

- Plants bloom more profusely the following spring
- Plants with an established root system withstand heat and wind the following summer

Take advantage of fall planting roughly six weeks before the first hard frost.

Nursery selections are after better in the fall and prices may even be less as retailers begin cutting back their inventories for winter.

Spring is a great time for vegetable gardening, planting smaller shrubs and accent flowering plants for color.

Let's have one in 2012!

Free Plants

Wanda Meyers, new member of FOR (but longtime plant sale supporter) has threadgrass, blanket flowers and chocolate mint she would love to share -- Her number is 544 0285--call and make an appointment to indulge in her generous nature. One person who did said her property was fabulous and came home with oodles of goodies!!

Friends of Rockhound State Park, Inc.

a non-profit 501-C3 New Mexico Corporation

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www.friendsofrockhound.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Art Vasquez	President
Sally Allen	Vice President
Veronika Barnes	Secretary
Donna Whitten	Treasurer
MaryKay Brady	Board Member
Nancy Grinnell	Board Member
Jim Hazelton	Board Member
Derek Brady	Board Member at Large

CHAIRPERSONS

Entertainment	Veronika Barnes
Program & Greeter	Carol Wootton
Publicity	Sally Allen
Newsletter	Betty Griffin

MEMBERS AND SPONSORS

Friend \$25

Joy Kincaid

Carol Ann Levy

Greg Scarpella & Sandy Zalecki

Good Friend \$50

Enchanted Tea Room

Skip & Pat Sherman

Princess & Delbert Thompson

Ron & Sue Wolfe

Best Friend \$100

Baca's Funeral Chapels

Howard & Patty Roth

Three Chips Construction

Tinley Tee Tire Company

LIFETIME MEMBER \$500

Lyle & Bobbi Megli



*You are a stranger only
once, after that you are a
Friend. .*

MEMBERS

Bill & Sally Allen
Jeanne Marie Banderet
Charles & Veronika Barnes
Phil Barrett
Leslie & Mary Bass
Derek & Katha Brady
MaryKay Brady
Ellis & Shirley Breckenridge
Betsy & Wayne Clark
Kevin & Lori Coleman
John & Marilyn Cornfoot
Tom & Sherrill Davis
Eugene "Roscoe" Dorriere
Peter & Polly Edmunds
Nan & Donald Fitzgerald
Robert & Patricia Floyd
Cheryl Fontane & Joe Sena
Larry & Joan Foster
David & Marilyn Goble
Tom & Hazel Gonzales
Greg & Nancy Grinnell
Bob & Barb Hanson
Gary & Nancy Hawthorne
Jess Hays & Debbie Gwin
Jim & Sandy Hazelton
Craig & Russ Howell
Gene Jercinovic & Betty Griffin
Glenn & Jo Kruger
Charlene & Dale LeMaster
Gary & June Loudon
Herbert & Suzanne Madero
Connie Martin & John Sutherland
Sam (Sally Ann) Miller
Gustavo & Frances Morales
Pamela A Morgan
Ric & Linda Morgan-O'Connor
David & Judy Mueller
Wanda Meyers
Helen Noury & Dan Ryan
Julie & Armand Orban
Jerry Owens
Lee & Sharon Pattison
Ellen Pelton
Shelley & Perk Perkins
Gene & Joyce Peterson
Joe & Berda Polichio
Jim & Jackie Rankin
Robert & Gayla Rochambeau
Keith & Mary Schwarzer
Betty Shay
David & Ruth Shephard
Ronald & Dorothy Siepman
Jack Smith & Janet StCyr
Ruth Smith

Jimm Thomas & Barbara

O'Leary-Thomas

Floyd & Janice Utterback

Art & Brenda Vasquez

Pete & Mickey Vincken

W. Lowell White

Donna Whitten

Will (Wayland) & Marty Willis

Peggy Wion

Dick & Carol Wootton

Honorary Members

All park volunteers

Park Staff

Robert Apodaca

Art Benevidez

Carlos Tafoya

Jeff Montes (seasonal)

LIFETIME MEMBER

At the August 31 meeting, Lyle Megli became a **LIFETIME** member of FOR. He and his wife, Bobbi moved here from Jansen, Nebraska on August 17.

The humidity and cold of the Midwest were contributing to Lyle's health problems and as he researched more hospitable places to live, he watched the weather Channel, spotting the Deming area. He traveled to Deming and bought a house here in February. (Yes, just after our most disastrous winter freeze in decades!!)

He is a member of Rock Clubs in Nebraska and is an avid fan of the TV series "Gold Fever" on the Outdoor Channel. The dry warm climate, as well as an interest in rock hounding, Indian artifacts and history of the Southwest, lured him here and he plans to stay. He says, "The desert out here is beautiful!"

Welcome to Friends, Lyle & Bobbi !

Do you have suggestions, comments, corrections or an article you wish printed in the Newsletter?

Contact Betty: betgrif42@gmail.com