

Pinon Hills

Chamber of Commerce

**Gateway to
San Bernardino County**



Piñon Hills Chamber of Commerce

Join Us: 3rd Tuesday of Every month – 6 PM

Where is the chamber? 10405 Mountain Road – Piñon Hills, CA 92372

Follow Us:

<https://www.facebook.com/Pinon-Hills-Chamber-of-Commerce-142718772459648/>

Watch us Grow : www.PiñonHillsChamberofCommerce.com

Contact Us: 760-868-7191

Email Us: Info@PiñonHillsChamber.info

Email Our Board of Directors: Directors@phchamber.org

Our Officers: President@phchamber.org

VicePresident@phchamber.org

Secretary@phchamber.org

Treasurer@phchamber.org

Lori Weston – President

James Conkle – Vice President

Ed Greany – Secretary

Robert Blue – Treasurer

Bonnie Butler – Director, Randy Sampias – Director,

Heather Purro - Director, Tiffanie Williams - Director

Cheryl Beaman - Director,

Email a committee:

NominatingCommittee@piñonhillschamber.info

Scholarship@piñonhillschamber.info

Summerfest@piñonhillschamber.info

Tourism@piñonhillschamber.info

Email to let your voice be heard:

Cast.my.vote@phchamber.online

Email to participate:

Speaker@piñonhillschamber.info

Survey@piñonhillschamber.info

Vendors@piñonhillschamber.info

Chamber Trivia:

Our chamber began with meetings being held in a World War II Quonset hut on the north side of the 138, then in 1934 members voted to sell that property and Fred & Maud McGee donated the land to the site we have now on Mountain Road. It took a lot of years before the decision to become a more formal Chamber – and in 1948 this group of pioneering individuals aspired for more and began the arduous task of creating a community thus forming the Desert Springs Chamber of Commerce (...the actual name of our community at the time..

Their dream – their goal, written in simple language identifies and expresses the will of the people residing in the local area at that time.

In 1977 chamber members – more than 80 strong voted together, renaming this organization to Piñon Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Now there is more to our story and we love to tell the tale. Join US and become a part of history.



Editorial

Like what you see in this magazine? We are Pulse Custom Magazines and we specialize in creating customized magazines and other media for communities or regions who want to get their story out to the world.

We will work with you to learn about who you are, what you do, what to see and all that you have to offer. Then our team of experts will use a variety of tools to help you entertain, educate, and inform your intended market by using one or more of our uniquely styled media platforms.

Those media platforms are:

- A custom magazine like the one you're holding in your hand
- Our INFO-videos that virtually take people down a scenic road, inside a museum, walk a trail or visit a destination
- Our INFO-maps that geographically show people where you and your attractions are located
- Our web-based INFO-guides that help the public interact with and learn about your community
- Public relations campaigns
- Create/design/conduct physical tours of your community

For more information or to get started, please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!

Jim Conkle

Publisher

66jimconkle@gmail.com

1 760 617 3991



Cliff Bandringa

Lead Content Developer

cliff@backroadswest.com

1 760 987 8896



John Kafides

Business Manager

66jkafides@gmail.com

1 760 987 1600



Jorge Leandro Rodrigues

Graphic Designer


leandro.works@gmail.com

55 16 99991 0229



Heather Conkle

Consultant/Advisor

 n opportunity to showcase the area in which you live, where you raised your family and are in business at first seemed like an easy project. We know why we live here but putting that reason into words did not come easy.

Working with the chamber board members, Lori and Ed, we took on the task of compiling articles, photos, history and material that you, the reader, would find enjoyable, interesting, and peak your interest in our communities.

This publication's content comes from a number of great writers, photographers, and researchers that came together to assist in celebrating our community and its assets. We list them below.

You can shop globally but please BUY LOCALLY. Support our advertisers.

Thanks to Cliff & Ilene Bandringa, John & Laureen Beyer, Don Fish, Jr., Wendy Walker, Dan Wilson, Michael Palecki, Mark Landia, Carolyn McNamara (deceased), and the Wrightwood Historical Society. Without the contributions and support from each of them, we would have a lot of blank pages.

Wrightwood Historical Society and Museum

www.wwhistory.org - 1 760 963 4265

NewsPlus, www.4newsplus.com - 1 760 868 4658

Mountaineer Progress, www.mtprogress.net - 1 760 249 3245

County Library, www.sbclib.org - 1 760 868 3053

Jim Conkle

Transition Habitat Conservancy

As Jill Bays, Board President of the Transition Habitat Conservancy, spoke – it reminded me of sitting in a college class listening to my professors. The difference was, Jill was actually interesting.

I wondered if this warm and friendly woman was a biologist or botanist by trade. She was so knowledgeable about tortoises, butterflies, mountain lions, hawks, wildflowers, and other desert plants and animals – it felt as though I was in the presence of a top expert.

"No," she answered in response to my query. "I was in private business before turning my passion toward this cause."

That cause is protecting as much land in the High Desert as the conservancy is able, with the ultimate goal of preserving a lot of the desert landscape for all to visit and enjoy. How much is a lot? As of now, the conservancy has 7,551 acres in three separate project areas in both San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties.

That, my friends, is a lot of land. And they are not done yet.

"When we started the conservancy," Jill stated, "I had no idea how much paperwork would be involved to obtain grants, learn how to manage land mitigations. It was almost overwhelming; there was a lot to learn."

And learn she did. Along with her husband, Bert, and other community members in 2005, they founded a nonprofit organization, 501(c)(3), for the sole purpose of keeping the desert in its pristine condition – which also means the plants and animals that reside there.

One of the issues, according to Jill, is the lack of available water. "There is a lot construction here and only so much water. San Bernardino County allows municipal water to be obtained by any home or business built here. Los Angeles County does not, since the only water source is coming from the San Gabriel Mountains to our south which enters the aquifer below us."

My friend, Patrick Brocklehurst, a volunteer at the conservancy had invited me to check out the project and pointed to a large satellite map attached to a wall in the conference room at the conservancy's office.

"You can see how the water table flows out of the San Gabriel's

through Pinon Hills, and ends up toward El Mirage."

The variant coloration of the land was rather apparent on the aerial map. A thin dark line came out of the mountains to the south and flowed northward, widening as it stretched toward the El Mirage dry lake bed. Fertile land to the south and not so much to the north – if I read the map correctly. Another noticeable difference was how many structures were hugging the mountain slopes in San Bernardino County and none that I could see in Los Angeles County. Same mountain range but different images – very interesting.



"We want people to come out and hike the trails we have here and the other project areas," Jill suggested.

There are 365 acres in Pinon Hills, under the control of the conservancy, which has plans to purchase 1,000 more in the near future. "The paperwork takes so long to obtain more property for us. Sometimes up to ten years."

Since 2007, the conservancy has raised over 24 million dollars in grants, donations, and land values, allowing the organization to safeguard the land – protecting the environment, and at the same time allowing hiking and horse trails for visitors.

Moonstruck Farms

Rowena McDermott

5137 Cygnet Road
Phelan, California 92371
(760) 412-9746

moonstruckfarms2@verizon.net
Flowers From The Farm
For Every Occasion



Vicki Graves

Agent/Realtor

Keller Williams Realty

vicki.graves34@gmail.com
DRE# 01099742 / Office 01986372
760-713-4349
17270 Bear Valley Road, Ste# 101, Victorville
4208 Phelan Road, Phelan, CA 92371

The Tri-Community Kiwanis Club



Serving the
Children
of the World

**Meetings Every
2nd & 4th Thursday
of the Month at 6 p.m.**

**Pizza Factory
Phelan**

Everyone is Welcome!

Victor Valley Community Services Council

"Building a Better Community Since 1956"



Free Senior Needs Programs
Transportation, Home Repair & more!

P.O. Box 1992
16692 Mojave Drive
Victorville, CA 92395

760-243-9646

fax 760-243-4762

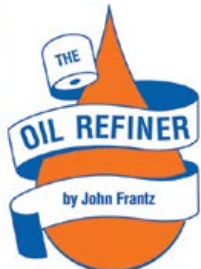
vvvsc@vvvsc.com

www.vvvsc.com

The Refiner Oil Filter

by John Frantz

Don't Change Your Oil, CLEAN IT!



Ed Greany
Manufacturer and Distributor

PO Box 720790

Pinon Hills, CA 92372

(951) 897-4153

ToiletPaperOilFilter.com

Crest25@verizon.net



Rick's Roadside Café

HOME ALWAYS FROM HOME

3281 State Highway 138

Pinon Hills, CA 92372

(760) 868-8863

www.ricksroadsidecafe.com

Open 7 Days a Week
7am to 2pm

J. TIDWELL REAL ESTATE



Jo Ann Tidwell

Lic. #00999438

Direct: 760 887-8800

Office: 760 868-1222

E Fax: 888 519-8838

4468 Phelan Road, Phelan, CA 92371
JTIDWELL.COM



J. TIDWELL REAL ESTATE



Frances Conkle

DRE 01231485

Direct: 760 617-3774

Office: 760 868-5888

Francesconklehighdesert.com

4468 Phelan Road, Phelan, CA 92371
JTIDWELL.COM



PINON HILLS

History

The earliest inhabitants of the Pinon Hills dates back to approximately 4,000 years ago, aboriginal peoples occupied the higher elevations of the San Bernardino Mountains. The earliest uses were as gathering sites for food, both plants and animals. The Serrano Indians, approximately 1000 - 1,500 years ago, established permanent summer camps, coming down to the lower elevations in winter. The Shoshonian, primarily mountain Indians inhabited the Jaw Bone Canyon. For many centuries they used a trail which was later known as the Fort Tejon Road. The Barrel Springs received its name from the Indians who lived in the canyon because they would fill their barrels with water for the stagecoaches that came through the area. The first white man in recorded history appeared in the Mojave Desert in March 1776 when Francisco Garces, a Spanish Franciscan priest, followed an old Indian trail along the Mojave River looking for a practical route from Arizona to Northern California. In 1851, under the direction of Charles C. Rich, Mormon colonists from Utah were sent to found a settlement around this area.

Tails: A Lost Gold Mine of Pinon Hills

In the early 1700's several priests of the Jesuit Order discovered one of the richest gold mines of the southwest. This mine was said to be located somewhere between Pinon Hills and Littlerock, and great quantities of gold were taken from it. When the Jesuit priests were recalled in the 1730's they caused a landslide to cover the mine, and it has never been found.

A Town With Five Names (a.k.a. Pinon Hills)

An old map, printed before Highway 138 came through as a dirt road, showed the name of the town to be Border Town as it was located on the San Bernardino-Los Angeles county line.

Later the town was called Horine Springs for Merrie Horine who homesteaded the foothill region east of the county line. The Horines let people dip water from the end of the water line at their house and did not charge for dipping. A man named Smithson' ran cattle over most of the area, and the water company later created at the springs by Alfred Mondorf was named Smithson Springs Water Company. Naturally, the town inherited the name for a while. But the residents didn't like all the s's, so they changed the name to Desert Springs and they obtained a post office under that name. Winifred E. Ellison was their first postmaster.



Melissa Mischka, PsyD
Clinical & Forensic Psychologist
PSY28982

15428 Civic Dr. Suite, 230
Victorville, CA 92392

Office 760.552.4442
Emergency 760.563.8111



James M Conkle

1 760 617 3991

jim@motherroadenterprises.com

www.motherroadenterprises.com


Mother Road Enterprises
P O Box 290066
Phelan, CA 92329-0066



CR&R
INCORPORATED
environmental services
the face of a greener generation

9828 Buckwheat Rd.
Phelan, CA 92329
P.O. Box 290309
Phelan, CA 92329

t 760-868-6353
f 760-868-3689
csphean@crrmail.com
crrwasteservices.com



S&S Electric
Residential Industrial Solar

Skip Ewing
760 559-5104
bonded & Insured

4435 Sunrise Blvd.
Phelan, CA 92371
Lic. C-10-995903



Pinon Hills

Phelan

*Wilson
Ranch Rd*

Baldy Mesa

Forest Service Rd. 3N24

Sanford Road
Summit

Hogback Section

Section of road that 1850
emigrants skidded down

1850 Sanford Road

West Cajon Valley

Mountain Shadow Manner Ln.

For many years, I've been fascinated by accounts of pioneers who made the arduous journey from Salt Lake City to Southern California by wagon. I recently decided to retrace a section of the famous Sanford Road in the west Cajon Valley known as one of the most difficult parts of the entire trek.

Sanford Road sometimes called "The Sanford Cutoff" was built in 1850 by William T.B. Sanford, and it holds historic significance as the earliest "passable" wagon road through the Cajon Pass.

Sanford was a prominent resident of Los Angeles, and he joined fellow entrepreneurs Phineas Banning and David W. Alexander in a venture to open a trade route between Los Angeles and Salt Lake City. In 1855, Sanford built an "improved" road into the Cajon Pass, about 1.5 miles west of the 1850 road.

The Old Spanish Trail had been the main route into the Cajon Pass for many years, but it took an easterly course into the Cajon Pass through Coyote Canyon (known today as Crowder Canyon) that was nearly impossible for wagon travel.


Sanford's 1850 road departed from the Old Spanish Trail near present-day Victorville, and went southwest toward Baldy Mesa and Wilson Ranch Road. The wagon road climbed up the grade to Sanford Pass, and then dropped down a precipitous course into the west Cajon Valley. Sanford Road rejoined the Old Spanish Trail near where the truck scales are on the 15 Freeway.



Mormon Monument on Highway 138, 4.2 miles east of the 15 Freeway. The location of Sanford Pass can be seen by lining up the outer edges of the wagon wheel on top of the monument. The thick patch of Joshua Trees on the summit ridge in the distance is where the pioneers descended on the Sanford Road into the valley. (Photo by Mark Landis)



Jill Bays
Board President
P.O. Box 721300
Pinon Hills, CA 92372
Cell 760 552-1327
Jill@TransitionHabitat.org




www.TransitionHabitat.org

Cal Automotive

NAPA Auto Care Center
4444 Phelan Rd, Phelan, CA 92371
760-868-2700

follow us on facebook



CLASSIC COLLISION

David Scobee
General Manager

e: d.scobee@classiccollision.net
o: 760.868.5885

9764 Pionero Rd.
Phelan, CA 92371

VONDRA & HANNA

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

PHILLIP T. VONDRA
Attorney
(760) 868-4346

15520 Bear Valley Road
Victorville, CA 92395
www.InjuryLawyerVictorville.com

3936 Phelan Rd., Suite A-2
Phelan, CA 92371
pvondra@VondraAndHanna.com

In The Shadows of the San Gabriel Mountains

By Don Fish Jr. - Editor & Publisher Tri-Community NewsPlus

Two prominent geologic features that many who frequent the Tri-Community often ask about are the huge rock-laden "scars" of barren greyish mountainside sitting on the northern slope of Wright Mountain. These "scars" are located just above a small community nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains called Pinon Hills. What they are and how they got there is a story that begins millions of years ago.

While most mountain ranges in California follow parallel to the coastline in a north to south direction, the San Gabriels, known as a transverse range, run east to west. This transverse range resulted from movement between the Pacific tectonic plate and the North American tectonic plate and began about 20 million years ago. A large part of the continental crust trapped between the two plates

broke loose and turned 90 degrees as the Pacific plate dragged it to the northeast. Point Conception along the California coast is where this shift occurs as the coastline abruptly changes direction just south of this point. The San Gabriel Mountain Range is located directly inland from Point Conception and can be seen sitting perpendicular to the mountain ranges to the north.

The San Gabriel Mountain range began forming about 5-7 million years ago when part of the continental crust that broke off began rising along the Sierra Madre and Cucamonga fault zones. Geologically speaking, there has been a lot of recent activity as the San Gabriels are thrust up and cut back by erosion. Much of the Los Angeles basin sits on top of sediments washed off the slopes of the San Gabriels.



Water

Parks & Recreation

Solid Waste & Recycling

Street Lighting

Phone: 760-868-1212 • Fax: 760-868-2323 • www.PPHCSD.org
4176 Warbler Rd. • P.O. BOX 294049 Phelan, CA 92329



Bonding with a horse is a singularly uplifting experience that gives humans an outlet for their fears and anxieties while promoting leadership skills, developing responsibility, and sharing the values of trust, self-discipline and hard work.



Donate Today! www.meaola.org



DAVISON ELECTRIC

Safety ~ Integrity ~ Service

BILL DAVISON

Romans 5:1

1434 Sunnyslope Rd. / Pinon Hills, CA 92372

Licensed & Bonded

Lic. # 749332

Residential~Commercial~Industrial

davisonelectric@gmail.com

(760) 221-1121

Guilt Free Decadence



Gluten Free

Products by
DNC
Pinon Hills, CA

Sugar Free

Permit # PR 0044787 San Bernardino County

Cindi Mitchell (626) 260-4186



Landmarks that can be seen from miles around the Heath and Sheep Canyon slides have been causing havoc with locals for over a century.

CRYSTALAIRE COUNTRY CLUB

Golf At Its Finest



DISCOVER ~ PLAY ~ BELONG



A Private Golf Club

Limited Tee Times Available to Discover
Crystalaire call 661 944 2111.
Golf Attire Only

For Membership Information Contact

INFO@CrystalaireCC.com

www.crystalairecc.com

Facebook: Crystalaire

15701 Boca Raton Avenue

LLANO, CA 93544

A Brief History of the



The Cajon Pass is the valley that separates the San Bernardino and San Gabriel mountain ranges. At one time these two ranges were one, formed by the San Andreas fault where two continental plates, the North American and the Pacific plates push against each other. As the years passed a low point eroded by water and helped along by additional faulting formed the valley between the two.

The plates pulled away from and pushed against each other forming new canyons, creeks and springs. More erosion formed what is now known as the West Cajon Valley or amphitheater leaving the slanted Victorville Apron with the headless and dry canyons we see today where the high Mojave Desert ends creating a passage into the inland valleys and basin below.

Since we do not know when man first came to the land we can only guess when people first laid eyes on the rift between the ranges.

Certainly early on man found his way through the pass in one direction or another in his wanderings many thousands of years ago. The Indians, the Serrano in particular, knew the valley well and lived there for hundreds, maybe even thousands of years before the first European ever found his way into the area. For this same indeterminable time the Indians used this valley and the passes and saddles in the mountains as a corridor to trade.

It may never be known, but possibly the first white man to enter the passageway between the two lands could have been a deserter from the Spanish Army. What is known is that Pedro Fages, who was destined to become the Governor of California, was the first to pass through in search of these men. The deserters were said to have been living with Indians in lands not previously explored. Fages rode through the area coming from the south and soon after discovering and naming the San Bernardino Valley. He did not spend long in this

Cajon Pass

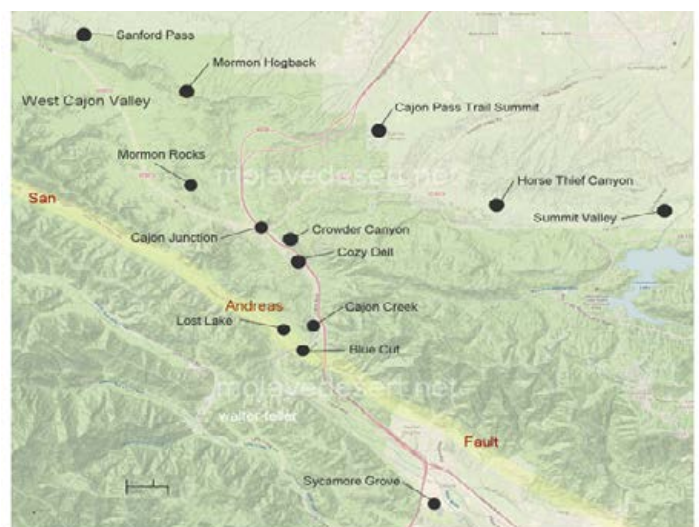


place. From the Cajon he rode west in the foothills along the edge of the Mojave toward the ranges that come together to form the western-most wedge of the desert.

Padre Francisco Garces came soon after at the end of his 1775 crossing of the interior Mojave Desert. Some reports claim Garces crossed through one of the mountain passes to the east and others have him descending the pass into the Southern California area. Next was mountain man Jedediah Smith. Disputes are likewise to Father Garces. Soon after Smith, came Antonio Armijo with his mule train blazing what was to become the Old Spanish Trail bringing commerce between Los Angeles and Santa Fe.

As trade developed the route became known and more and more the Pass was used. The Indians became absorbed into the missions and the village (Muscupibit) was abandoned nearly completely.

The horses bred on the ranchos in the south were beautiful, strong,



Grizzlies in Our Backyard

By Wendy Walker

It was not so long ago that our local mountains were populated with lumbering grizzly bears, one of the largest sub-species in the lower 48. These grizzlies could reach 7-8 feet tall and up to 2000 pounds which is about 400 pounds heavier than the grizzlies in Yellowstone National Park. The reason for this difference is that the California grizzlies, at least the southernmost populations had no need to hibernate. Biologists estimate that California once boasted over 10,000 individuals. The now extirpated, California grizzly was a distinct sub-species known as *Ursus arctos californicus*, and while they were not initially aggressive to humans, a female grizzly with cubs was always unpredictable. As humans moved in, and converted the grizzly's dense brush habitat to pasture land and orchards, the bears began to interact more with humans and they became a menace. They quickly adjusted to their shrinking habitat by raiding farms and ranches, attacking livestock, and gorging on fruits, honey and vegetables. Local tales of grizzly encounters abound.

In 1906, a male grizzly was terrorizing ranchers and miners in Lytle Creek canyon. Harvey Bradshaw, an old rancher had a place several miles up the canyon. One morning the bear, standing on his hind legs, came within 100 feet of Bradshaw and startled him while he was hitching up his team for a trip to town. The bear, after seeing the man, turned heel and lumbered upslope, disappearing over the hill. Bradshaw having nothing larger than a .22 caliber rifle, thought better than to go after him.

On September 29, 1898, T.J. Starke, Ben Tibbots, Will Born and Hube Clyde ran into a monster female grizzly at Big Rock Creek, near Devil's Punchbowl, on a 12-day hunting trip. They tracked her for two hundred yards when she caught wind of them and started aggressively shredding tree bark. Ben Tibbots fired his 30-55 Winchester striking her in the shoulder. After 9 more shots, and close to death, she fought valiantly until she took her last breath. She weighed five hundred pounds and was seven feet and seven inches from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail.

The California grizzly was more at ease in the dense chaparral and brush than open timber habitat. They ranged over the whole state of California with exception of the arid desert land. An opportunistic



SOCIAL EXPERIMENT

Gone **Wrong** In Llano

Robbyn, a fan of local history and this column, contacted me, and described a place to visit that she had heard about through family stories. After a few more historical tidbits from Robbyn, I discovered those family legends were indeed based on historical facts.

As with all stories – let's start at the beginning.

At fifty-five years of age, Job Harriman had had it with his law practice and his political aspirations. The defeated California candidate for governor with the Socialist Labor Party in 1898, and the defeated Vice-Presidential candidate for the United States with the Democratic Socialist Party in 1900, and twice defeated for mayor of Los Angeles, Harriman knew a change of scenery was needed.



SUN DOG NURSERY



Wendy Walter, Owner
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
(760) 220-6141 Pinon Hills, CA
SunDogNursery@gmail.com

Your California Native Plant Connection



SMART FLOORS

Quality Flooring For Smart Living

James Loveless
Owner/Installer
(760) 981-8708
FREE ESTIMATES!

Specialities - Tile-Shower/Tube enclosures, Tile-Counters, Backsplashes, Fireplace Surrounds, Stairs

Showroom - (760) 868-5065 - 3936 Phelan Rd., Phelan CA 92371



Roaddogs Express

Terry Fritzen, Owner
(402) 662-3355
Cell (402) 239-5939
Fax (402) 662-3641

PO Box 101
Filley, NE 68357

U.S. MADE WITH AMERICAN HANDS

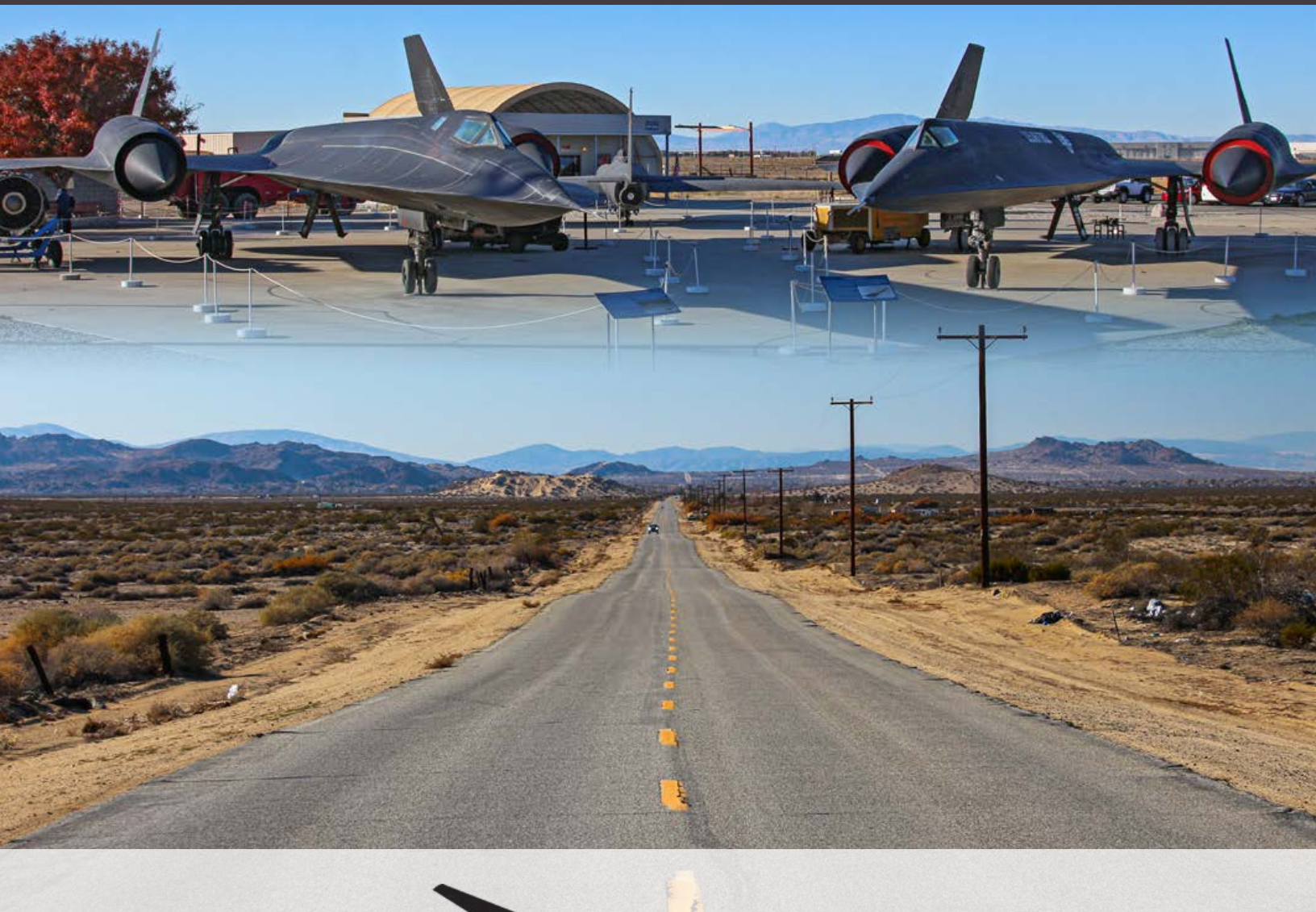


VETERANS ARMORY

LARGEST FIREARMS MANUFACTURER IN TRI-COMMUNITY AREA

(760) 706-8387

IF YOU LIKE OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK ASK ABOUT OUR DISCOUNTS
3936 PHELAN RD B-13 - PHELAN, CA 92371



Mojave Desert Aviation Tour

By Cliff & Ilene Bandringa

A road trip through the Mojave Desert doesn't have to be all about looking at the scenery. It can also include visiting places where aviation history was made and is still being made today. We'll take you on this easy road trip that stretches between Victorville and Palmdale, which is just north of the Pinion Hills / Phelan area, and show you where aviation evolved and was transformed in the Mojave Desert during the last half of the 20th century.

Most people who travel the lonely roads through this desert north of Los Angeles don't realize that this region was, and still is, used by aircraft manufacturers to build some of the most iconic aircraft ever built. That aircraft includes the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, the F-117 Nighthawk, the F-22 Raptor and U-2, Northrup's B-2 Bomber, the Space Shuttle and the legendary XB-70 Valkyrie.

Blue Ridge

in the San Gabriel Mountains

By Cliff & Ilene Bandringa

Pinion Hills is nestled at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. When it's a hot day down here, it's nice to go up there in the mountains to enjoy the cool air and peer down at the hot desert floor below.

This trip can be done in a single day and is broken into two sections. The first section explores a dirt road that runs along Blue Ridge above the Mountain High ski area and the town of Wrightwood. The second section is a hike to an old gold mining structure built in 1905 located on the slopes of Mt. Baden-Powell.

Make sure to watch our virtual video tour of this trip on YouTube. You'll find out how to find it and our blog post containing more information, including an interactive map revealing all the points of interest in the trip, at the end of the article.



Davidson Arch - Big Pines



**THE NEW REFINER
CLEANS YOUR OIL
AS YOU DRIVE**

Call



ED GREANY
Manufacturer and Sales
(951) 897-4153
www.ToiletPaperOilFilter.com
AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR

*and start
Saving Money
with...*

**The NEW
REFINER**
by John Frantz

**NOW IT'S
GOOD-BYE
OIL CHANGES**



**AND
\$AVE!**

Pinon Hills Oasis

By Michael Palecki

Nestled in a box canyon straddling the Los Angeles County Line to the west and abutting the National Forest Boundary to the south, Smithson Springs in Pinon Hills has been seeping water into a 48 acre wetland for centuries. Dating back 1,000 years, Serrano Indian People traveled to the area in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains to collect tall reeds and grasses from the floodplain used to make tent-like structures. They also fashioned bows and arrows from cottonwood and willow branches. Situated between the scorching heat of the Mojave Desert and harsh mountain winters, Smithson Springs was an ideal locale for hunting camps.

Much later on during the mid-1850s, Shoshone Indians living in the canyon would provide barrels of water from the springs to passing stagecoaches and military wagon trains traveling west on Fort Tejon Road to the Central California U.S. Army outpost of Fort Tejon. However, with exception of the water haulers activities and a few short pipelines installed in the springs by adjacent ranchers and homesteaders, most of the water was absorbed into the desert terrain of Boneyard Canyon for decades.

In 1943, a cattle rancher named Fred Smithson teamed up with Alfred W. Mondorf to establish the Smithson Springs Water Company (SSWC). While Smithson received grazing rights and naming rights for the springs and the surrounding area, it would be Mondorf who was granted a certificate of public conveyance to operate a public utility water system. The new water district encompassed 535 acres with the entire service area located adjacent to Mountain Road and Oasis Road and south of State Highway 138.

The infrastructure serving residential lots and 10 acre homesteads for the next 35 years began at the springs where concrete block weir boxes were constructed in the wetlands and canyon floor, which collected water and directed it into pipelines extending one-mile



north where two 200,000 gallon concrete reservoirs were constructed. There was also a 25,000 gallon storage tank situated at the northwest corner of Mountain and Tamarack Roads used for fire protection, but also available to registered water haulers who had their own key and water meter. The entire system extending from Smithson Springs to water customers was gravity feed.

At the peak of its lifespan Smithson Springs Water Company was producing 18 gallons per minute, which equates to approximately 1,198,000 gallons per year. That figure became evident in 1956 during a hearing before the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California, when landowners outside the SSWC service area attempted to be included in the boundaries. With land values soaring in the service area, that was desirable. However, a stipulation never achieved mandated that "Phreatophytes Growth" or water-loving plants that grow mainly along stream courses, be trimmed to one-foot of growth in May, July and August. Implementing that procedure would have doubled the water supply and provided for future community growth.

When my Great Uncle Ernest built The Cabin in 1959, his property was less than 200 feet west of Mountain Road and was included in the SSWC service area. That meant he did not have to drill a well or use water haulers, and the monthly water allotment was within his life style. However, by the time my parents inherited The Cabin, the water flow was shut off for 17 hours each day and SSWC was facing bankruptcy. The situation prompted residents to vote for the CSA70 Zone-L San Bernardino County water system in 1978. In 2008, residents voted for a better water system and established the Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District (CSD).

Today, the CSD as the owners of the Smithson Springs property maintains the wetlands and returns 1,839,600 gallons of water per year to the aquifer. In the future it would be nice to have a conservation easement dedicated so the public could enjoy supervised recreational activities in the Pinon Hills Oasis.



Take a 'monumental' tour of Cajon Pass

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin
Mark Landis, Correspondent

For centuries, the **Cajon Pass** has been a primary corridor into Southern California, and a series of little-known monuments commemorate the pioneers who blazed the trails over the rugged mountain barrier.

There are nine unique monuments set in historic locations throughout the Cajon Pass. Each one tells a story of the hardships and triumphs faced by the pioneers who made the difficult journey.

The routes through the Cajon Pass began as simple footpaths used by Indians traveling from the inland deserts to the coastal regions of Southern California.

The first white explorer to travel through the Cajon Pass was most likely Spanish military Captain Pedro Fages in 1771, who was leading a band of soldiers hunting for deserters.



Santa Fe and Salt Lake Trail Monument (parks.ca.gov)

Your Pinon Hills/Phelan Real Estate Pro's

Trusted ❖ Respected ❖ Recommended



Jo Ann Tidwell
Broker/Owner | DRE # 00999438
Cell: (760) 887-8800
jt看idwell8888@gmail.com

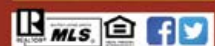
IT IS NOT ALWAYS ABOUT
REAL ESTATE
IT IS ABOUT THE
COMMUNITY
AND BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS



Frances Conkle
Realtor | DRE # 01231485
Cell: (760) 617-3774
francesconkle@gmail.com

J. TIDWELL REAL ESTATE

4468 Phelan Road, Phelan, CA 92371
JTIDWELL.COM





Deep gorge formed by the fault along Big Pines Hwy

San Andreas Fault Tour

By Cliff & Ilene Bandringa

California is world-famous for many things and one of them is earthquakes. A stones-throw south of Pinion Hills is one of the most famous earthquake faults in the World –the San Andreas. This tour showcases a small section of that infamous fault. Our tour starts in the Cajon Pass and traverses the north side of the San Gabriel Mountains. We'll explain what there is to see, where to find it and how it is related to the fault.

Our state is covered with earthquake faults. Most people have heard of the dreaded San Andreas Fault yet many of the State's greatest earthquakes did not happen along the San Andreas. Some of us living in Southern California have heard of other faults like the Helendale, San Jacinto and Elsinore faults but the San Andreas is different. It is a "plate boundary" where the Pacific and North American Plates meet and grind past each other. This grinding action has gone on for millions of years and is what causes earthquakes as well as the features you will see on our tour.

Due to space constraints, we can't give you all the details for the tour in this article so, for more details, watch our YouTube video or see our blog (see last paragraph).

We start our tour at the southern end of the Cajon Pass. Use a map or your GPS to get to the intersection of Cajon Blvd (Route 66) and Swarthout Canyon Rd. Reset your trip meter to zero and head across Cajon Creek and the railroad tracks.

At 0.6 miles, you'll come to the first San Andreas Fault feature - a sag pond. It's located on the right side, on private property next to a residence, and is difficult to see from the road. A sag pond is formed when underground water seeping along the fault line comes to some sort of blockage, is forced up to the surface at a low spot along that blockage, creating a pond. This blockage is often a fine earth material, such as clay, that has been created by the fault's grinding action.

Continue past the second railroad crossing and at 1.3 miles and you'll reach the parking area for Lost Lake. This is another sag pond and one you can access. Walk the short distance here to take in the views of this unique body of water. Notice that the pond is long and skinny and that it is oriented in the same direction as Lone Pine Canyon, the long skinny valley you'll soon be driving up. This pond is right on top of the fault.

Driving on up the dirt road, you'll pass by a few fault scarps that



Line marks fault crossing I-15 near Lost Lake

have been created by numerous earthquakes over the years. A scarp is created in the few seconds during an earthquake when the earth is pushed up or moved sideways during the quake's movement. This surface rupture looks like a small step or offset in the land and can be a few inches or many feet high. Unfortunately, most of the scarps along this trip are hidden by vegetation.

Continue up the dirt road to a stop sign. Turn left onto the pavement of Lone Pine Canyon Road and notice how long and skinny Lone Pine Canyon is. This particular fault feature is known as a linear valley and there are many examples similar to this canyon all along the fault's trace.

At 10.7 miles, you'll cross over a ridge and enter the town of Wrightwood. Before you cross the ridge, however, find a safe place to pull over to look at the view behind you. On a clear day you can see the fault trace run from under your feet all the way to the mountains near Palm Springs, about 70 miles away.



Jackson Lake

(760) 868-3335
3936 Phelan Rd, Phelan, CA 92371

Robins Honey
(760) 563-2099

Genuine Raw Wildflower Honey
Locally Produced & Bottled in Phelan
Save The Bees!
We Do Live Bee Hive - Swarm Removal
Apiary Tours Available
www.PhelanHoneyFarm.com

CASA ORTEGA
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

593 Highway 138
Pinon Hills, CA 92372-0775

JESUS ORTEGA
General Manager
(760) 868-6558

LAW9089
Making A Difference One Piece At A Time

Lori Ann Weston
Liaison
Lori@LAW9089.com
www.LAW9089inc.info
CELL:
760-680-9472

Traveling a Forgotten Road in the Cajon Pass

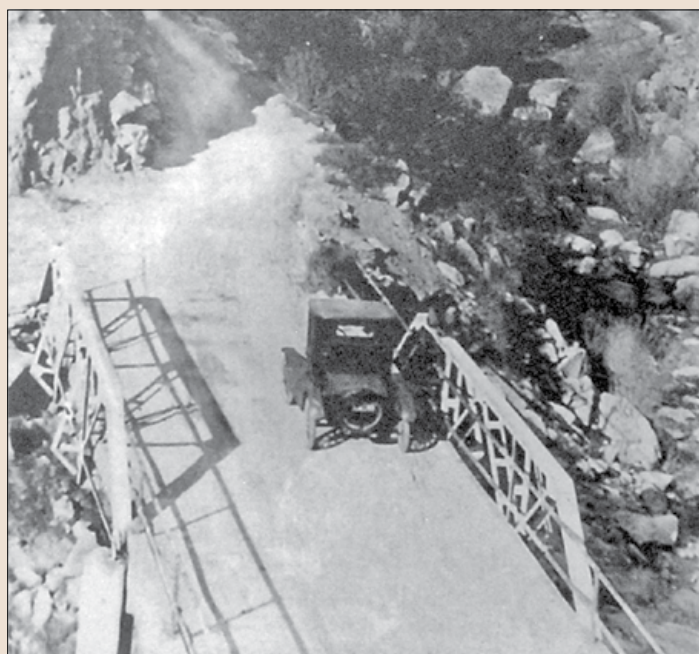
By Cliff & Ilene Bandringa

There is a forgotten road in the Cajon Pass that was originally a wagon toll road built in 1861 and, later, was used by many early Route 66 travelers. There are no signs to point out this historic road or to tell you about its connection to the Mother Road but there is still evidence of where it once existed.

This trip focuses on that forgotten historical road. Early automobile travelers used this steep, narrow and hazardous road as a short cut when traveling Route 66 (although it was never used as an alignment for Route 66). Unlike old segments of 66 in the upper Cajon, sections of this road can still be traveled on today.

Our trip begins at the site of the former Summit Inn located at the Cajon Summit (off the Oak Hills Road exit) and ends next to the truck scales located halfway through the Cajon Pass. Half of the trip is on dirt roads with the other half on pavement and it can be traveled in either direction.

Even though most of the dirt road is maintained by the Forestry Service, it is still subject to deep ruts and bumps that make it difficult for normal vehicles. We have seen plenty of standard cars on this road but we don't recommend it. A high-clearance vehicle, such as a truck or SUV, is best.



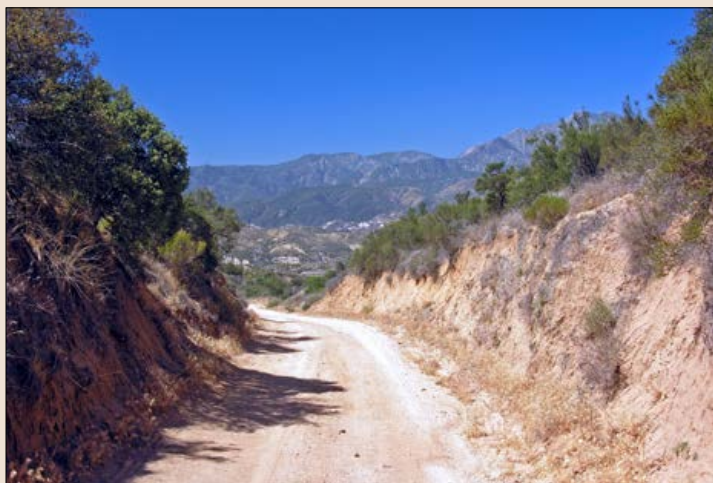
Old bridge at bottom of Crowder Canyon

Get to where the Summit Inn used to stand, which is next to a couple of gas stations. Sadly, this iconic roadside café along Route 66 burned down during a large brush fire in 2016. There were plans to rebuild it, but they fell through. Today, the only thing that marks this spot where so many great memories were made is a big empty lot.

From the Summit Inn, continue south on the frontage road paralleling I-15. The pavement ends in half a mile but this short distance of pavement was the alignment of Route 66. The alignment then turned right, crossed the northbound lanes of I-15 and continued down the middle of I-15.

For our trip, continue on the dirt road (when the pavement ends) as it makes a quick left and then heads south. You will quickly see how rough the road is. At a 90-degree left turn, there's a great viewpoint of the Cajon Pass on the right.

Past the viewpoint, the road twists and turns and a road intersection is reached. Turn right here to pass through the obvious road cut.



Road Cut in 1861

Pinon Hills California

INFORMATION AND PIONEER HISTORY

By Dan Wilson
Best Syndication News Writer

The community of Pinon Hills is at the very edge of the Mojave Desert in the hills overlooking the Victor Valley. Situated in San Bernardino County approximately 45 miles northeast of Los Angeles, the high desert community sits between Phelan and Wrightwood.

With more than 6,000 residents, Pinon Hills is part of the unincorporated first district of San Bernardino County. The town center is approximately 28 miles east of Palmdale and 25 miles west of Hesperia and Victorville. Pinon Hills Elementary School is in the Snowline School District and middle school students attend Pinon Mesa while high school students attend Serrano High in Phelan. The Pinon Hills zip code is 92372 and the area code is 760.

The Pearblossom Highway (138) crosses Pinon Hills. East / west cross streets include Oasis and Phelan Road. The post office is located on Oasis Road just south of Highway 138.

Pinon Hills California History


Native Americans lived in Pinon Hills as far back as 4,000 years ago. The Serrano Indians established camps in Pinon Hills approximately 1000 - 1500 years ago. Rather than battle the harsh mountain winters, these Native Americans traveled to the area now known as Pinon Hills. The Shoshonian, primarily mountain Indians inhabited the Jaw Bone Canyon, according to a qnet article.

Welcome to
Crystalaire
GOLF
MEMBERSHIP
LODGING
COMMUNITY



crystalaireCC.com 661 944 2111

John R. Beyer
Writer
Photographer
beyersbyways@gmail



Yvonne Barton
YNP Enterprises, LLC
Business Manager
760 868-6615
info@thebigrockinn.com
1828 Hwy 138 - Pinon Hills, CA 92373
thebigrockinn.com

Cheryl Beaman
The Nat Genis Team, Inc.
Realtor BRE Lin# 02049226
PO Box 720303
Pinon Hills, CA 92372
760-912-8056
cheryl@cherylbeaman.com - www.natgenis.com



Mills Hardware



Plumbing

Water Heaters – Faucets – Kitchen & Bath Plumbing Repair Parts
PVC, ABS, Galvanized, Black, Brass and Copper Pipe & Fittings

Lawn & Garden

STIHL Outdoor Power Equipment - Wheelbarrows
Lawn Sprinklers - Drip Irrigation - Weed & Pest Control

Lumber and Building Materials

Plywood - Lumber - Bagged Concrete
Fencing - Sand & Gravel - Block - Brick - Rebar

Paint Supplies

Paint - Computer Color Matching - Ladders
Plastic Sheeting - Brushes

Mobile Home Supplies

Electrical and Plumbing Supplies - PEX Pipe & Fittings
CPVC Pipe & Fittings "Largest Selection in The High Desert"

Rental Equipment

Party Supplies - Trenchers/Tractors/Post Hole Augers - Plumbing Tools
Concrete Tools - Automotive Tools - Tile Tools - Log Splitters

Services

Propane - Pipe Cutting & Threading - Chainsaw Blade Sharpening
ReKey Locks - Glass & Screen Repair



Authorized
dealer



(760) 868-3335

3936 Phelan Rd., Phelan, CA 92371

Mon-Sat 7:30am-7:30pm Sun Closed

