

2015 Afton Canyon Field Trip

On Thanksgiving weekend we will be seeing what the rains have uncovered in the Afton Canyon area. The dates are Thursday, November 26th through Sunday, November 29th, 2015. This area is known to be productive for rockhounds. There is a lot of area to explore. You may even go to an area that no one has discovered and a new material will be found.

For those joining us on Thursday, our Thanksgiving feast will be a potluck - prepare enough food for 8 people as everyone takes a 'dibby dab'.

With any luck the weather will be perfect to collect cutting material and a good time will be had by all.

The trip over Thanksgiving is to Afton Canyon - also known as the Grand Canyon of the Mojave Desert. It is a fascinating place to explore; there are virtually a thousand places to look for cutting material throughout the region. It is not often you can drive up and down the Mojave River to get from point A to point B. If the weather is clear the sand in the river bed will support traffic and stopping here and there you may find agate and jasper in a multitude of colors. If it is raining or has just rained, it's probably best not to try. There are alternate routes to get to the east end of the canyon and to the quarry. At the quarry there are what appear to be dolomite and hematite - amongst other things - even a geocache!

The camping area is just above the BLM Afton Canyon Campground (at the group camp or overflow camping area). The camp area is on the right just before going down hill to the official BLM camping area and at the end of the curve. This camp ground is excellent for self-contained campers. The regular BLM campground is nearby and has toilets, water and fire pits. There should be a sign on the fence stating such, or we will put "PLS/W" signs indicating the overflow camp.

Whether you camp or "motel camp" we will meet for a briefing at 8am each day. If you drive up on Friday and arrive after we have departed, we will leave a note giving you suggested areas to explore until we return to camp around 3pm that afternoon.

This is a great field trip and is interesting to both the novice and seasoned Rockhound. The views will surprise and amaze you! Have fun and be safe - that way you can go on more field trips in the future. As always - **plans can change - so let me know if you are planning to attend!** Reach me at (626) 260-7239 or at joenmar1@yahoo.net.

Joe Goetz

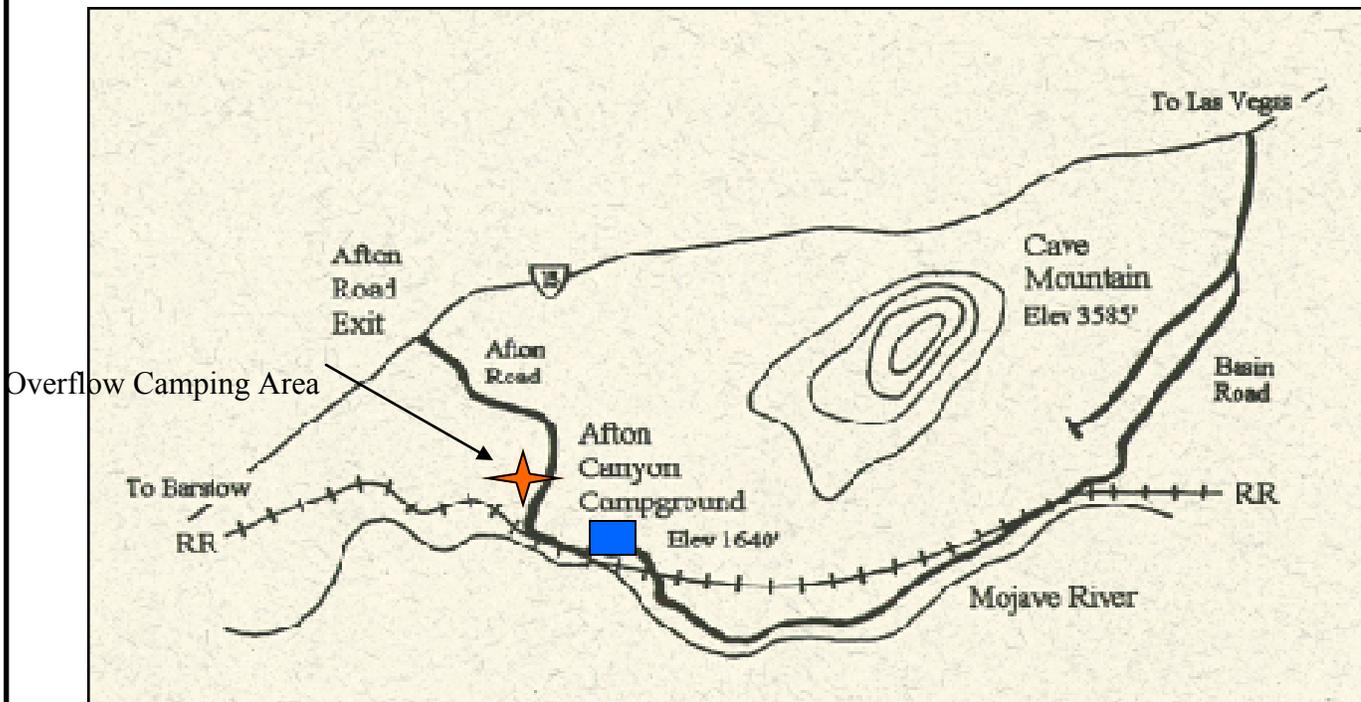
Baxter Wash / Afton Canyon Field Trip

- A. Be sure to let your field trip leader know in advance of the trip that you plan to attend the field trip and give him or her your cell phone number.
- B. Even though the meeting time and location may be noted in the Bulletin, ask the field trip leader where and when you will meet the group for the orientation, signing waivers and safety discussion.

Directions to the Afton Canyon Camp from Barstow:

1. From Barstow, get onto the I-15 North, toward Las Vegas/Needles. DON'T get on I-40.
2. Keep left to take I-15 N toward Las Vegas - drive 37.2 mi
3. Take the Afton Rd exit, EXIT 221.
4. Turn right onto Afton Rd.
5. Afton Road will become a good dirt road. Keep on the road for about 3 miles and watch for small signs that read PLS or P/W that will direct you to turn right into the overflow camping area where the clubs will camp.
6. If you reach the official Afton Canyon BLM Camp Ground with toilets and camp tables you've gone about ½ mile too far. However, you can select this area to camp in and join the rest of the group for campfires and briefing!

Map of road from Exit 221 to Camp Area



Suggested Packing List for a one day Field Trip

updated February 3, 2014

- personal medications
- hat
- gloves
- jacket, layered clothing
- sunscreen
- hiking boots
- comfortable shoes
- extra socks
- Short Sleeve shirt
- Long Sleeve shirt
- glasses, sunglasses, contact lens, etc
- water - one liter for every 2 hours
- lunch
- cell phone
- car cell charging cords
- camera, extra battery
- something to carry collected rocks in: bucket, knap sack, carrying bags
- paper towels
- first aid
- hand cleanser
- toilet paper

Optional

area Topo Maps

jumper cables

scoop sticks

rock hammers, pick

tow strap

rock books

110v cell phone charging cord

- knife
- binoculars
- walkie-talkie FRS type radios
- tool box for car maintenance
- extra plastic bucket or crate for collected rocks
- reading material
- GPS
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Some Discount Motels in Barstow

Prices listed are from the Internet and subject to change and availability.
2/1/2014

Route 66 Barstow Hotel - \$30
921 East Main Street, Barstow, CA CA 92311
(760) 256-9331

Budget Inn - \$36
1111 East Main Street, Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 256-1063

California Inn - \$42
1431 E Main St, Barstow, CA 92311 (Formerly Comfort Inn)
(760) 256-0661

Motel 6 Barstow - \$38
150 Yucca Avenue, Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 256-1752?

Super 8 Barstow - \$33
170 Coolwater Lane, Barstow, CA 92311-3222
(760) 256-8443

Basics for overnight camping

8/26/2015

These are some ideas for preparing for overnight camping. Campers must be self-sufficient and not depend upon other campers for their needs.

Shelter: tent with rain cover, trailer or vehicle. Two plastic tarps. Enough bungee cords and tent stakes to meet your needs.

Sleeping: warm sleeping bag and ground pad or mattress, wool blanket, pillow

Toilet: have access to one in a nearby town, carry a portable or have a shovel and seek privacy nearby. Coleman makes a fold-up enclosure that doubles as a shower and toilet enclosure.

Folding table for cooking, eating and working off of the ground.

Cooking:

- metal utensils, including slotted spoon, ladle, spatula, can opener.
- 14" frying pan
- 4 quart metal pot
- Cup - metal, ceramic or sturdy plastic for hot beverages.
- heating device: fuel stove or burner.
- If planning to cook over a fire - bring quick-lighting product such as Duraflame Fire Logs (one per cooked meal), a steel fire grille large enough to set on rocks over your fire log and cook on (20" minimum), a hot pad and something to get your food off of the fire.
- Soap, sponge, mesh and steel scrubbers.

Eating: Paper plates and bowls, paper or plastic cups, plastic utensils. Enough for each meal.

Chair - those with a side table and cup holders are convenient.

Lights:

Head lamp for hands-free task work.

Flashlight - strong battery LED type with extra batteries.

Lantern (optional but a nice accessory) - battery or gas model.

Notes:

Those lights and lanterns that use multiple C or D batteries are usually more cost effective than those that use one 6volt battery).

The new LED models provide longer hours of use and provide more light.

Ice Chest plus a small insulated tote for lunches.

Water - containers to allow at least 2 gallons a day, plus water during activities. The 7 gallon size carried by Walmart travels well.

Food:

- Plan your meals carefully. Make a day-by-day meal plan and list each item that you will need to bring to meet your plan.
- Purchase only what you can prepare with the resources that you have (ie: don't bring steaks if you don't have the cooking equipment, don't bring cereal if you don't have milk, bowls and spoons).
- There are excellent canned, pre-cooked and frozen products that can be reheated with little effort by boiling or heating in a pot or skillet.

Meal Plan - This is an idea of what a meal plan might look like:

Breakfast: 1cup dry cereal, 1 cup milk, 1 bannana, 1 instant coffee

Lunch: 2 slices bread, 2oz peanut butter, 2oz jelly, bottled water

Dinner: 1 can soup or re-warmed fried chicken

Other: bug spray, warm clothes for the cool nights, light clothes for the sunny afternoons, hiking shoes, sun-screen, large brim hat, first aid kit, shovel, rock hammer or pick, gad or chisel, sledges, collecting bags, buckets, day pack, eye protection, sturdy shoes, drinking water, trash bags and the usual stuff you bring when you camp. Food for the potluck.