

News from Saline Valley

September 27, 2019

Greetings Fellow Saline Valley Visitor,

It is getting close to Saline Valley soaking season. This newsletter is an update of events and happenings at the springs. Remember, for real-time news and road conditions about the springs, go to the Saline Preservation Association (SPA) forum at: <http://forum.salinepreservation.org>

SPA is a non-profit organization providing an informational conduit both between and among governing agencies and a widely dispersed community who visit the Saline Valley and its Warm Springs. SPA's goal is protection, preservation and conservation of the valley to include geology, wildlife habitat, archeology, and a traditional human presence that emphasizes responsible individual freedom of choice.

SPA Board Membership:

(OJ) John Runkle, President

(Flipper) Michael Ramsey, Vice President/Treasurer

(Red Molly) Michelle Hamilton, Secretary/Membership

(Timbo) Tim Hynes, Park Liaison

Bonneau Dickson, Director

(Farmer) Fred Dickson, Director

Gary Kremen, Director

SPA AND THE NPS ENTERED INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between SPA and the National Park Service (NPS) in July. A MOU is an agreement between the NPS and SPA for the continued stewardship of the Saline Warm Springs area. There has been such an agreement in the past with the Park Service, but it lapsed many years ago. The current MOU was signed by Mike Reynolds (Park Superintendent) and John Runkle (SPA president) and will be in effect for 5 years. Prior to the end of the 5-

year term SPA will determine if it was beneficial to the Members and users of the Springs.

With the signing of the MOU, an annual work plan between the NPS and SPA was drafted to meet the mutual goals promoting the health and safety of the Warm Springs user community and protection of natural and cultural resources in Saline Valley.

Here are some of the areas the work plan will cover:

- NPS will provide training and guidelines to carry out activities for continued care of the Warm Springs.
- Assist with tub and restroom cleaning
- Educating users about Park fees and camping protocols.
- Help with removal of the immature palms and the trimming of the existing palms.
- Planting of native species in the area.
- Help with trash removal and general clean up.
- Educate users about feeding or approaching wildlife (burros in particular).
- Monitor camping areas so no new campsites are constructed.

There will be other things involved as we get further into the work plan. And, yes, we as users already do most if not all the above but will have the NPS resources and backing now.

(OJ) John Runkle, SPA President

“DON’T BE AN ASS BY FEEDING THE BURROS” EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



Originally from North Africa, the Wild Burro (*Equus asinus*) sometimes called the Wild Ass, was introduced in the 1500's by the Spanish. At an average of 4 1/2 feet tall and 350 pounds, the burro is adaptable and can tolerate a water loss of about 30% of its body weight. They can be dangerous but generally are not.

Burros can feed on a wide variety of plants but prefer grasses. The burros in Saline Valley love cardboard! Burros have no natural predator and are not susceptible to disease. This allows them to live up to 25 years.

CFR 36 (Code of Federal Regulations) 2.2 prohibits the feeding, touching, teasing, frightening, or intentional disturbing of wildlife within national parks.

That said it is in the best interest of wild animals not to feed them. They are better off left to fend for themselves so as not to become dependent on humans. Feeding the burros changes their behavior. Burros are smart and learn quickly that humans keep their food in ice chests and storage boxes in their camp. If you leave those items unattended and accessible, they learn to raid your supplies. The best policy is not to leave any food or supplies accessible to burros or any wildlife. Be sure and get your free bumper sticker and educate those new to Saline Valley. It is very important that we all do our part to get this message out to the user community.

(Flipper) Mike Ramsey, SPA Vice President/Treasurer

VOLCANO TUB REPAIR/MAINTNENCE



The much-needed repair of the Volcano Tub was completed between May 13th and May 15th. All materials used for this job were paid for by *donations to SPA, along with a couple direct donations of cash and supplies from other individuals. The volunteer tub repair crew comprised of, (Flipper) Mike Ramsey, (OJ) John Runkle, Mark King, (Silver Bob) Renton, (Hornhead) Dennis Horn, Justin Barton, Tom Dew, and Tim Stevenson. A special

thanks to them for their hard work and thanks for the donations provided by the user community.

EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

July 4th a 6.4 magnitude earthquake hit close to Trona, CA followed by a 7.1 magnitude earthquake the next day. Silver Bob and I decided to make a quick trip

to Saline Valley to make sure there was no damage to the springs and to check-up on the recently repaired Volcano Tub. I am happy to report the water flow in Saline Valley was not affected by the quakes and the Volcano is in fine shape.
(Red Molly) Michelle Hamilton, SPA Secretary/Membership

NPS FINAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SALINE VALLY

The Regional Director signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for Saline Valley Warm Springs Management Plan/EIS on June 14, 2019.

The full plan/EIS is at this public

website: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/SalineValleyWarmSprings>

UPCOMING EVENTS

The SPA Board of Directors are planning to meet with the NPS sometime in November. The purpose of the meeting will be to cover the topics of the work plan outlined in the MOU between SPA and the NPS. While SPA provides most of the services mentioned in the work plan, they are unclear on the issue of educating the user community regarding the paying of park fees. SPA is also curious about the training and guidelines that will be provided by the NPS. As always SPA will keep the you posted. *Timbo Hynes, SPA Park Liaison*

***Thanks for your support
and we look forward to seeing you in Saline Valley!***

***(Red Molly) Michelle Hamilton
Secretary/Membership SPA***

*SPA is an eligible 501(c3) Nonprofit. 100% of all donations go towards the maintenance and continuance of Saline Valley. Membership to SPA is free, just email your name and email information to

www.membership@salinepreservation.org.

Voting membership is also free but requires name, physical address, and email.

If you want to donate to SPA using PayPal or a Credit/Debt Card click on the donate bottom at the bottom of the [SPA Website](#)

You can also donate by sending a check or cash to:
Saline Preservation Association
PO Box 1941
Lancaster, CA 93539-1941