

GSSN November 22-24, 2013 Outing

This review was submitted by club member Leslie Burns.

I left home about 6:30 AM Friday morning. It had rained during the night and was still sprinkling. My normal route to the Arizona claims is to get on Hwy 95 at Charleston Blvd, but due to the weather and Las Vegas drivers, the highway was closed at Tropicana because of a multi-car wreck between Tropicana and Russell Rd. So instead I followed Boulder Highway until it intersected Highway 93/95 in Henderson. Once back on the highway, the trip was pretty uneventful.

It rained lightly all the way to the claim making the dirt road part of the journey a muddy, treacherous mess. I arrived at the claim about 9:30 AM and began setting up my trailer. There were some club members already there and set up, but not much activity outside. After setting up, a few of us stood around talking and Ian soon arrived. We built a fire pit and started a fire and then folks began to come out and hang around the fire. As the day wore on, more of the regulars started arriving. The rain continued on and off all evening and we even saw a few snowflakes.

This is the Thanksgiving outing. I think it's the first Thanksgiving potluck with fried turkeys we've had. I'm making the stuffing in a crock pot – a first for me - and have coconut cream and pistachio pies with cool whip. We don't know who will show up tomorrow, so don't really know what other traditional Thanksgiving foods will be there. One thing we do know is that we will have sweet potatoes, potatoes, rolls, and pumpkin pies because those folks are already here. Ian spoke with the member who is bringing the turkey fryers and he will be here first thing in the morning.

Saturday morning arrived and still more rain. I started the stuffing in the crock pot and went outside to join the group huddling around the fire. They set up some canopies and folks crowded under them. This is certainly not prospecting weather! As the day went on, others started to arrive and we ended up with a pretty good turnout considering the weather. About 25 – 30 people there for the meal, I think, including two visitors from Ethiopia! We even had one person become a new member. There was plenty of food and it sure was a terrific meal!





We had fried turkey, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn, stuffing cranberry sauce, rolls, baked beans, relish tray, cabbage salad, gravy, and pies. After lunch, most folks packed up and left, because of the weather, leaving only about eight of us to brave one more night in the desert. We sat under a canopy at the edge of the fire for awhile, but everyone turned in about 7:00 PM to find some dry clothes and warmth. Think the big meal may have played a role, too.



Sunday morning I was awoken by an RV starting and getting ready to leave. It was still dark and raining but I think Tony had had enough. After cleaning up inside my trailer to prepare for heading home, I went out to join the remaining members at the fire. Shortly after Tony left the sun came out!



There was more rain in the forecast so I wanted to leave before it started. I was ready to go and Russ helped me hitch up the trailer. I was headed out by 9:30 AM. The road was still a muddy mess, but not as slippery as on the way in. As I was driving through Dolan Springs, the sky was getting dark again and I was glad I'd left when I did. Smooth sailing all the way and I arrived home about noon with a very muddy truck and trailer to clean!

Even though the weather didn't cooperate, the food was great and the company was lots of fun as usual. Thanks everyone.