
Fwd: GOFFSGRAM 2025-02 - Spring Encampment & etc. (11 April 2025)



**GOFFSGRAM #2025-02
11 April 2025**



**Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural
Association
Goffs Schoolhouse**

Physical Address

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MDHCA Website: themojaveroad.org

MDHCA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MDHCA>

MDHCA Instagram: <https://instagram.com/themojaveroad>

East Mojave Heritage Trail - Facebook: [EMHT](#)

Location: [Google Map](#)

Goffsgram Editors: Larry & Stephanie Vredenburgh

Sean Holman - President's Letter

Hello Goffians,

What a couple of months it has been since the last time I wrote to you! We have had so much going on, it will be hard for me to fit the majority of it into this letter, but fortunately you will find many of the details and the people called out elsewhere in this Goffsgram. In the interest of brevity, I am just going to touch on a few of the great things we've been working on.

First off, how excited are we to finally have a new website up and running!?! While I know we still have a ways to go, and it is not without growing pains, I am happy to report it is functional and our volunteers have been working hard to iron out the bugs and make changes on the fly. Please bear with us as we grow into our new site and as new functions, such as our sorely needed calendar of events comes online.

With that being said, if you have any type of website background and are looking to volunteer on a very important project, please email me your background for consideration on being involved with the website as a webmaster. You can e-mail your interest to seanpholman@mac.com.

In addition to our website, our on-site volunteers at Goffs have been incredibly busy. They recently replaced our worn-out composite shingle Depot roof with a brand-new metal roof (red, of course). This wouldn't have happened without grant money from the Groundworks Grant and without the time and skills of many volunteers who selflessly donate their time and talent (and money) to our cause. Additionally, we are finally beginning the process of building our long-awaited Homestead exhibit, which we think will be another wonderful attraction at Goffs.

The Clampers have been busy installing the Mojave Cross information kiosk, as well as completing our new group campsite area on the north end of the property. I find it fitting that they will be the inaugural group to use it at their upcoming annual Clamp Out in May.

As a reminder, Spring Encampment is coming up quickly and we have a laundry list of projects and needs. This annual signature event is scheduled for 4/17-4/20.

Please contact Laura if you are willing to come out and volunteer, or if you have any questions about how you can contribute.

There is much more going on, more than I can put into this letter, but it is exciting times at the MDHCA! Please consider making a trip out to Goffs or sending in a donation so that we can continue to build upon Dennis's legacy.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to keep our mission going.

Hope to see you soon

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean P. Holman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sean P. Holman
President, MDHCA Board of Directors
seanpholman@mac.com

Spring Encampment

By Laura Misajet

As mentioned by our President, Sean Holman, Spring Encampment is coming up **SOON** - April 17 through 20th. Encampment is an annual gathering to repair and clean up our facilities at Goffs. Encampment is also a time for the MDHCA community to gather and share together. Bring potluck items for Friday and Saturday dinners. Clampers will provide burgers and dogs. Bill & Marsha Moser will provide a salad Saturday night.

On Friday at 2 PM Austin Schoenkopf will lead a demonstration workshop on the digital scanner in the Library Depot. He also will conduct oral history interviews on Saturday throughout the day in Depot. (Location subject to change).

There will be stargazing weather permitting.

On Sunday there will be an Easter Sunrise Service at the Mojave Cross 6:30am conducted by Minister, Bill Moser. Music provided by Ryan Wishner. Bring your own chair. Breakfast Burritos provided by Bill and Marsha Moser after the service. **RSVP to Laura Misajet** at MDHCA.Goffs@gmail.com or 760-733-4482

The maintenance needs are extensive. Please review the complete list below. Hope to see you there!!

1. Schoolhouse. (Need lead to oversee painting)

- Paint exterior window frames (white)
- Patch cracked stucco on north side of Schoolhouse wall (we have the stucco caulk)
- Prep & Paint (white) eaves & joists under Schoolhouse roof where red is bleeding through.
- Someone to cover the schoolhouse (docent) & gift shop during Encampment - open to the public. (Jerry Kazynski?)

2. Prep for East Mojave Trek (David Hess lead, Laura Misajet)

- Prep Schoolhouse Main Room for EMT Registration (remove desks and add table).
- Stuff Registration bags (meet in schoolhouse).

3. Schoolhouse Yard and Pine Trees (Deb Marschke lead)

- Hammer long rebar poles into ground around outer base of trees to create holes for deeper watering.
- Water all trees and shrubs in Schoolhouse yard.
- Weed Schoolhouse yard.

4. Weed and Water throughout grounds (Need Volunteer Lead, Deb Marschke):

- Expand water rings around trees.
- Check watering timers.
- Weed removal throughout property.
- Water plants at Mojave Cross.

5. Signage (Steve Marschke lead):

- Fix metal camp site number signs in Ol' Miners Camp. (Put floppy metal signs onto a wood backing).
- Replace or repaint number signs at artifacts, add new ones for most recent displays for Guide to the Grounds
- Check that numbers match the item number in the Guide to the Grounds. flooding may have washed some to other locations. (#7 in the Guide has the wrong number — 71 instead of 7 according to the Guide.

6. Route 66 House: (Sam Sumitani lead?):

- Paint north porch posts (Bill S will bring sand color paint)

7. Finish Depot New Roof Project (Bill Slutter lead):

- Rent boom lift again for two days.
- Install remaining roof panels and complete trim/capping, etc.
- Sprinkler system planning for exterior staircase.

8. Stamp Mill Maintenance/ Trailing (Nance Fite lead):

9. Install RR Signal Arm Display up at RR area (Steve Marschke lead):

- Concrete pad for base has been installed
- Write up for Guide to the Grounds.

10. RR track measuring artifact installation (Jackie Ridge lead)

- Need Backhoe operator to bring 3 or 4 RR ties and 2 long sections of rail from boneyard to RR area.
- Install the RR track measuring artifact onto rails for display
- Write up description for Guide to the Grounds

11. Veteran's Brick Walkway at Mojave Cross (Laura Misajet lead):

- Continue grading and adding bricks in forms along edging.
- Add additional edging as needed.

12. Caboose Shed Roof replacement or repairs (need lead):

13. North "Clamper Gate" (Bill Slutter lead):

- Center post upgrade and maybe additional chain added.

14. Clean out the Kokomo Retreat Trailer (Deb Marschke lead):

15. Full spring cleaning of all RV/Trailers:

16. Homestead (Laura Misajet lead, Jim Toenjes):

- Organize wood in Boneyard for use in Homestead
- Move Bagdad outhouse down to Homestead site.

17. Backhoe Maintenance (Arioch M'Greene lead):

- Hydraulic Fluid in stock.

18. Golf Cart Maintenance (Darin Hochberg lead):

- Check distilled water for batteries, and connectors.
- Check tires.

19. Repairs/Maintenance to 2 donated generators (David M'Greene lead)

- Fix wiring.

20. Repositioning the AT&T Streetlamp (Bill Slutter lead)

- Move down to service entrance.

21. Drag the magnet around grounds to pick up nails.



EAST MOJAVE TREK 2025



The California Four Wheel Drive Association and the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association are pleased to announce this year's East Mojave Trek, Thursday April 24 through Sunday April 27, 2025.

Join us for the 2nd Annual East Mojave Trek hosted at the historic site of Goffs Schoolhouse, about 30 minutes west of Needles and 2 hours east of Barstow on old Highway U.S. 66. Come explore over 1.5 million acres of fascinating, historic, rugged desert backcountry, rich with indigenous petroglyphs and hundreds of miles of trails and tracks reflecting the incredible achievements of our mining, ranching, and homesteading pioneers. Four days of adventure, education, and exploration of the East Mojave await you.



This event includes:

- Guided overland tours of the East Mojave to include portions of the Mojave Road, the East Mojave Heritage Trail, and many other points of interest in the East Mojave Desert.
- Immersive workshops focusing on overland planning and safety techniques, the history of the East Mojave, and the flora, fauna and geology of the Mojave.
- Experience the thrilling story of the Oatman Massacre of 1851 in an oratory reenactment of Olive Oatman, a survivor held captive by Indians until rescued by the U.S. Army.
- Visit abandoned mining sites, get up close to ancient petroglyphs, walk in the footsteps of World War II soldiers as they trained for desert warfare, and experience some of the famous desert oddities, such as the penny can tree, the site of the historic Mojave phone booth, and many other renowned landmarks.
- View a silent movie with live piano accompaniment.

- Enjoy the many exhibits and artifacts curated by the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association, including working stamp mills!

Important Info:

- The event is primarily for street legal 4-wheel drive vehicles with good clearance. Stock vehicles are perfectly suited for some of the trails, but there will be some more technical trail runs as well.
- Camping is included in the entry fee and is provided on the grounds of Goff's Museum. Toilets and showers are available with sites for motorhomes, trailers, and tent campers.
- Breakfast and dinners are included in the entry fee, per person. Meals are catered by Boardie's Family Barbecue: <https://www.facebook.com/boardiesfamilybbq/>.
- All participating vehicles shall have a full-size spare tire or repair kit, first aid kit, at least 1 gallon of potable water, and a modern GMRS radio on board. Handheld units are acceptable.

Contact:

David Hess, Event Coordinator: (661) 333-2314 dmhess88@yahoo.com

Russ Chung, Event Coordinator: (818) 519-9029 russ.chung@earthlink.net

[REGISTRATION AND EVENT INFORMATION](#)

[EVENT INFORMATION](#)

A NEW ROOF FOR THE DEPOT

Groundworks from California State Library funded by the State of California. **We were awarded \$14,616** to cover the Depot roof with a metal one to help with fireproofing. The Groundwork Grants program is administered by the California State Library in partnership with Myriad Consulting and Training and is part of the Library's Ready or Not: California Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project, funded by the State of California.



Roof work on the Library Depot. Workers: David and Arioeh M'Greene (on roof), Bill Slutter and Steve Marschke, Richard Duncan, Clampers Jon Allen, "Cookie" Jones, and "Scooter" Wall.

Photo by Laura Misajet.

Docents Going Away Party



Going away party on March 29th for our amazing museum docents and Site Manager Richard.

From left to right, Zac, Nadine and Richard Duncan, Dan and Tracey Urban

Photo by Laura Misajet

MDHCA ACTIVITY LOG

It takes a lot of work to maintain our facilities at Goffs!! Here is the list of accomplishments since February 7, 2025. We can always use more help. Call or email us.

10-11 April 2025

- Bill Slutter drove his truck to Kingman AZ to pick up 8 additional sheets of roofing panels. Only place that had them until May.
- Bill Slutter cleaned the refrigerator in the East 97 House.
- Darelyn Casebier did the weekly accounting in the Schoolhouse Gift Shop.
- Darelyn C. cleaned two of the Goffs RVs/Trailers.

3-6 April 2025

- Darin H covered for Laura while on PTO.
- Manned Harvest host reservations and placed guests in appropriate spaces
- Manned School house and sold multiple Goffs products and generated generous donations

- Charged all golf carts. Maintained Golf carts by refilling battery water and reapplied terminal protectant.
- Gave private Goffs tour to Family of 8 generating a considerable donation into the donation jar in School house.
- Cosmetic repair to Hess RV by repairing water heater door to stay closed.
- Found multiple signage in boneyard and repurposed around compound to make Goffs better.
- Repaired schoolhouse main door bottom lock latch.
- Checked all restrooms cleanliness and replenished toilet paper rolls.
- Darin Donated and installed 4 refrigerator Thermometers in cookhouse fridges
- Dave Taylor and “Little Dave,” “Cooke” Jones and Paul Renner provided coverage while Laura was on East Coast.
- Bill Slutter and Dave Taylor donated paint for Encampment.

29-30 March 2025

- Depot roof replacement project started by numerous parties: Richard Duncan, Bill Slutter, Steve Marschke, Jon Allen, Arioeh and David M’Greene, Support from Cookie Jones, Scooter Wall, Laura Misajet.
- Bill rented a boom lift to do work on the highest part of the Depot Roof. He will rent again during Encampment. He used his own pick-up truck there and back.
- Project will be completed during Spring Encampment.
- Scooter Wall donated 14 hours as volunteer, hauled trash from Motz trailer and serviced all golf carts, and general maintenance. Scooter Wall removed termite infested wood. He helped outline the footprint for the Homestead.
- Jon Allen donated 16 hours doing Depot Roof work.
- Laura picked up supplies for Spring Encampment, including edging for the Veteran’s brick walkway, Bill installed the edging and Laura worked on the brick installation.
- Laura and Bill drove around property to develop a detailed work project list for Spring Encampment.
- Bill Slutter began staging equipment for Spring Encampment.
- Bill S. donated & replaced a new 10-year smoke & CO detector in the Harrington Trailer.
- Bill S. donated the food and cooked a group dinner all our volunteers here to work on the Depot Roof.

28 March 2025

- David M’Greene brought parts to repair Phil’s Golf Cart.
- David M’Greene and Steve Marschke installed new solenoid, new forward/reverse switch. Replaced potentiometer. Swapped out punctured tires from boneyard Jacky golf cart.
- Ft. Piute building inspected and lightly swept. New wooden storage box for McClellan saddle to stand on dropped off for future display change.

24 March 2025

- John Marnell at Goffs to drop off binders plus extra inventory, and picked up different book inventory.

21 - 23 March 2025

- Rick Jackson made a unit insignia of the 7th Division, who were stationed at Goffs.
- Rick J. cleared out weeds and brush from the south side of Flywheel.
- Rick J. researched heavy metal item for possible display.
- Rick J. added unit insignia (484th Quartermasters Corp of of Freda CA)
- Rick J. worked on military display area, removed brush, filled 95% of Jerry Cans and a few empty shells with sand so as to blow away.
- Rick J straightened out and cleaned displays disturbed by rain water runoff.
- Rick replaced paper handouts with QR codes and added RR ties and small drainage ditches to re-direct rain water.
- Rick Jackson cleaned up Battleship Row around hookups.

20 - 23 March 2025

- Clampers, Dave Taylor, Ray Vago, Dave Carson, Paul Renner, Scooter Wall and Site Manager Richard Duncan removed fuel grass and prepped ClampOut camp site.
- Clampers, Scooter, Paul, Dave Carson, trained on fire tender wagons, and did test run on both fire wagons

18 March 2025

- Steve Reyes dropped off a box of his book for sale in the giftshop.

14 March 2025

- Bill Slutter donated and replaced the smoke & carbon monoxide alarm in the Harrington RV.
- Bill S. replaced batteries in digital thermometer.
- Laura M. checked mouse traps and Bill S. put in sticky traps where needed.
- Laura M. checked archival material for a researcher and burned a CD for him. (thank you Bill for providing the CD burner)
- Richard Duncan and Bill Slutter altered the curb area immediately south of the Office Trailer to allow larger rigs (RVs, Trailers, etc.) to more easily make that corner on their way to Battleship Row. They moved the wooden ore cart from that area out to the O' Miners Camp for an appropriate display. (chicken wire was placed inside to keep any kids from climbing in.
- Rick Jackson placed rocks along the border.
- Bill Slutter cut bush back at 97 house.

8 March 2025

- Laura M hosted the Colorado River Museum staff and members at Goffs, about 50 attendees. Docents Dan and Tracey Urban, Richard & Nadine and Darin H. helped

Bill Slutter serve the BBQ, and manned the Exhibit Hall and Schoolhouse and gave golf cart transportation to those with physical limitations.

- Austin Schoenkopf and Jim Toenjes conducted 3 group tours of archives for the group.
- Darin Hochberg serviced all trash cans and checked all restrooms to prepare for the Colorado Museum guest campus tour.
- Darin Hochberg helped organized parking for 25 vehicles
- Darin Hochberg and Tracey Urban shuttled and gave quick private tours of Goffs compound to elderly guests and visitors.

1 March 2025

- Ryan Wishner worked on the cemetery, cleaned the E. 97 House, and gave 2 tours to visitors.
- Member Jeanette Simons did a deep cleaning of the YKL trailer.
- Darin Hochberg handed out EMT flyers at the antique car show in Amboy.

27 February 2025

- Scooter Wall repaired Dutchman Trailer roof leaks.
- Scooter Wall repaired Fire Barrels at Route 66 House.

26 February 2025

- Bill Slutter ordered all the roofing materials, hardware and security harnesses for Depot roof replacement. Materials ready for pick up at Home Depot on 3/24/25. Work to commence 3/25 - 3/30. Need 6 volunteers.

23 February 2025

- Tracey Urban checked and cleaned bathroom in YLK trailer for next visitor.

22 February 2025

- Deb Marschke and Laura Misajet picked up items for roof repairs, stopped at Star Nursery and Deb purchased plants to donate. Deb and Laura also stopped to see a veteran's brick installation at the Veterans memorial in Golden Shores
- Deb planted and Transplanted native seeds & plants at entrance & Cross exhibit.
- Deb M. donated 4 new birdhouses and installed them.
- Deb M. cleaned out all existing birdhouses (all full)
- Deb M. Swapped out memory card in the Guzzler game camera.
- Dan & Tracey Urban, Ricahard & Zac Duncan, the Marschkes, Jim Toenjes, Laura Misajet & Bill Slutter Entertained the Harvest Hosts in the Flywheel Cafe.
- Steve Marschke taking empty Oxygen tank home and refill it.
- Bill Slutter and Steve Marschke apply roof seam sealant on Office Trailer roof seams. Had leaking in O.T. after last rain storm.

21 February 2025:

- Bill Slutter and Steve Marschke started working on office trailer roof seams and repaired the Matthews leak area at air conditioner as well as bathroom vent. Steve donated the vent cover.
- Bill Slutter prepared enough pulled pork for March 8th BBQ for Colorado River Museum tour.
- Steve and Bill moved empty shelving from route 66 house to Office Trailer & Conex container.
- Bill S. and Steve M. worked on roof of Matthews trailer
- Steve M. worked on the Classifier to ready for Encampment.
- Steve M. did rebar for the foundation of the Signal Arm

20 February 2025

- Laura M. attended the Mohave County Tourism meeting at Lake Havasu and handed out the East Mojave Trek flyers and described the event to all the County Tourism offices for them to post on their sites for upcoming events.

15 February 2025

- Richard Duncan checked, cleaned and restocked the bathrooms
- Richard Duncan checked and emptied trash cans
- Richard Duncan removed the tarp that was used to cover the dutchman trailer during the rain
- Richard Duncan checked and filled the fire barrels around the schoolhouse, route 66 house and the cookhouse
- Richard Duncan reattached the access door to the water heater at the public showers.
- Richard Duncan cleaned out the inside of the MDHCA truck.

14 February 2025

- Richard Duncan checked all the building for leaks after the rain. I made note of all the places showing signs of leaking
- Richard Duncan relocated boxes of books in the route 66 house that were in an area that was showing signs of leaking
- Richard Duncan went to town to get roof patching tape for various leaky roof repairs.
- Richard Duncan picked up trash and debris blown onto the property from the high winds
- Richard Duncan resealed the windows on the office trailer that had shown signs of water intrusion
- Laura Misajet printed and delivered the East Mojave Trek flyer to the Truck & Camper Show in Quartzsite. Walked the area handing out the flyers and invited everyone to attend. Left remaining flyers on the Registration Table.

12 February 2025

- Richard Duncan serviced the backhoe. Adding fluids and charging the battery

- Richard Duncan operated the backhoe to assist in the installation of kiosk at the cross.
- The Clampers came to install the complete info kiosk at Cross. Those attending the work party: Scooter Wall, Ed Minkler, Dave Bertino, Stan Ehresmann, Allen Young, Bob Coonrod.
- Richard Duncan replaced damaged wood on the schoolhouse roof and resealed it. Also resealed areas that the roof coating was damaged
- Richard Duncan covered the dutchmen trailer with plastic to protect from water damage from upcoming rain
- Richard Duncan inspected office trailer roof to identify areas of water intrusion
- Nadine Duncan put seam tape on area of water intrusion on the office trailer roof

9 February 2025

- Richard Duncan emptied trash cans
- Richard Duncan checked and cleaned the bathrooms
- Richard Duncan finished digging the holes for the [kiosk.at](#) the cross to the dimensions specified to meet code
- Richard Duncan heat sealed the rolled roofing on the north and south map sheds
- Richard Duncan shut down the caboose

8 February 2025

- Richard Duncan began prepping The Dutchman trailer for a new roof
- Richard Duncan fixed a flat on the docent golf cart
- Richard Duncan fixed leaking waterlines at the washing machines
- Bill Slutter & Laura Misajet hosted a BBQ Lunch for the Coachella Valley Camera Club workshop.
- Nadine Duncan cleaned, organized and did inventory of the cookhouse

7 February 2025

- Richard Duncan picked up trash around the grounds
 - Richard Duncan checked/cleaned and restocked the bathrooms
 - Richard Duncan turned on the caboose for guest visit.
 - Richard Duncan estimated materials needed for the new depot roof.
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