



Goffsgram



Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association
Goffs Schoolhouse

#2025-07 | 21 December 2025
Goffsgram Editor: *Laura Misajet*



Daniel M. Parker
Another New Board Member Joins MDHCA

Daniel M. Parker is an Associate Professor at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), and his work focuses on infectious disease epidemiology, demography, and mobile and rural populations around the world. His work has taken him to rural and remote border regions in Southeast Asia and East Africa, where he has mapped infectious disease patterns, supported health services in remote communities, and studied how people's movements shape their access to care.

Born in West Texas, he spent much of his early life traveling through and exploring the desert Southwest before later living in the Pacific Northwest, Pennsylvania, and then Southeast Asia. These experiences cultivated a lifelong interest in remote places and the people who inhabit them.

Daniel's connection to the Mojave Desert is more recent, developed over the past five years, since returning to the U.S. to take on a faculty position at UCI in 2017. He has a strong passion for scholarship in many forms, including reading, documenting, writing, and mapping. He is a Fellow National of the Explorers Club and a Chartered Geographer and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, distinctions that reflect his commitment to geographic inquiry and exploration.

He is drawn to the MDHCA in part because these same values sit at the center of its mission: preserving stories, landscapes, and histories that might otherwise be overlooked.

His work/academic and personal pursuits often overlap, blending field research, exploration, and community engagement. He is also an active amateur radio operator and backcountry traveler, often using these interests to better understand and appreciate the regions he visits. Daniel is honored to join the MDHCA Board of Directors and looks forward to contributing to the preservation and celebration of the Mojave's cultural and historical heritage.

Cleanup Work Weekends a Big Success

Route 66, also known as "the Mother Road" or "the Main Street of America," was constructed in 1926 from Chicago to Santa Monica. However the road's origins go further back before it was paved as one of the country's first transcontinental highways "National Old Trails Road." Today, more than 250 miles of Route 66 can be found in the County of San Bernardino and the County Department of Public Works maintains nearly 150 miles from Needles to San Bernardino. Now the county is getting ready for the big centennial starting with a big clean up. The county reached out to us to see if we could use their help cleaning up our property here at Goffs, after all we are on Route 66 and MDHCA will host many visitors during the centennial. With the support of former MDHCA board member (now with the county) Steve Reyes, and Suzan Garrido, with the Department of Public Works, several representatives from SBPW and Burrtec, visited us in August to schedule our cleanup event. We also want to acknowledge the San Bernardino County Public Relations Department, Amy Ledbetter, Noel

Castillo, and Sameh Batista.

At the beginning of December, 2025, Burrtec's 11 dumpsters started arriving, spread out across the property from the Mojave Cross area, for community access, up through the "Boneyard" to the northern "Clamper" area. Our members/volunteers arrived for a work weekend over December 5 - 8. Arioeh M'Greene operated our failing backhoe but he and Site Manager Chris Wirth kept it going long enough to fill up 7 dumpsters in the first two days. Burrtec was so wonderful, they came and replaced the full ones so we could keep going through the following weekend when the County sent a 930 and a 950 CAT plus two operators (Sergio and Cipriano) and their supervisor (Vitalino). We also cleaned up along Goffs Road (66) and filled up two dumpsters with just tires.

Thanks to MDHCA volunteers: Bill Slutter, Arioeh, David & Lori M'Greene, Steve Marschke, Dr. David Hess, Chris & Jennifer Wirth, Garret Baquet, Scooter Wall, Jim Toenjes, Steve Reyes, Laura Misajet, Mignon Slentz.



Left: Weekend one volunteers creating piles in the "boneyard". Right: Tommy Tortoise hiding under planks. He's protected with lots of signs. (photos by Scooter Wall)



Left: Tires collected along Goffs Road (aka Route 66). Right: Potluck dinner with our volunteers in the Exhibit Hall. (photos by Laura Misajet)



Top: San Bernardino County Public Works team. Bottom: County heavy equipment cleaning up our “boneyard”. (photos by Bill Slutter)



Burrtec provided 11 dumpsters, 7 filled twice. (photo by Laura Misajet)

Replica Homestead Exhibit Project

Thanks to a generous grant from the BNSF Railway Foundation of \$2500, plus an additional private donation from MDHCA member Jere Baker, our replica homestead construction project is well underway. A location in the southeast section of the property along Lanfair was chosen since historic farming equipment is already located there so it makes sense to dedicate that area to tell the story of historic homesteading and farming in Lanfair Valley in the early 1900s.

Our MDHCA Archives contain many historic photographs and descriptions of homesteads that we used to research typical construction styles and materials used, as well as tangible intel from many site visits to well known homesteads with Archeologist Jim Toenjes, Dr. Joe McAuliffe, and Engineer Steve Marschke. Materials were noted and measurements were taken, so our Homestead exhibit can help round out the story we can tell about what life was like in the East Mojave Desert during the time the Goffs Schoolhouse was built.

New wood is used for the bones of this basic 10 x 10 structure with old wood covering the outside so it resembles a typical example of an early Lanfair homestead. A porch will be added, and other items we currently have on site, such as a wood burning stove and pipe from the period, will round out the structure. Updates to follow.



Left: Board member, Dr. David Hess helping Site Manager, Chris Wirth, with the framing early December 2025. (photo by Jennifer Wirth) Right: Aged weathered wood for the exterior of the homestead. (Photo by Jennifer Wirth)



Archeologist Jim Toenjes looks on as Site Manager Chris Wirth adds weathered wood to the exterior. Jim is our consultant for historic accuracy. (Photo by Jennifer Wirth)

2026 Upcoming Events

- February 6: Phase 1 Archive Assessment (half day)
- March 19-20: Bob Wohler's Overland Group Visit (overnight)
- March 20-21: South Orange County Photo Club Night Photography Workshop (overnight)
- April 4-5: "CapeNights" Night Photography Workshop (overnight)
- April 15: Phase 2 Archive Assessment (full day)
- April 16-19: Spring Encampment
- April 23-26: East Mojave Trek
- October 12-13: "CapeNights" Night Photography Workshop (overnight)
- October 15-18: Rendezvous
- November 7-8: Camp with the Camels - Route 66 Centennial Event (overnight)

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East Mojave Heritage Trail Facebook: facebook.com/groups/559278615161496

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