

THE MOHAHVE MUSE



Mohahve Historical Society
P.O. Box 21, Victorville, Ca 92393

Volume 27 Issue 3
March 2024

President: Marcy Taylor **VP:** Delvin Harbour **Treasurer:** Dennis Hom **Rec Secy:** Open **Corres Secy:** Stormie Reid
Directors: Scott Johnson, Meera Maheswaran, Eric Mandeson, Mike Phillips, Rick Schmidt.

President's Corner

Dear Members and Friends,
February, known as the shortest month with the most celebrations, has come to an end, and looking back, I think this year topped the list. Black History Month was commemorated with many memorable events, but not so much Dental Health Month. Who wants to go to the dentist? Not me! Of course, we all know Mardi Gras fell on the 13th, "Fat Tuesday," and were expecting Valentine's Day on the 14th and President's Day on the 19th. But were you expecting to encounter a moon in the middle of the day on February 9th at precisely 2:47 PM? I found out about it that same morning, wrote down the time, got busy, forgot about it, suddenly remembered and looked at my watch. Lo and behold! It was exactly 2:47. Time to grab my phone and rush outside. (refer to page 7). And were you aware that the very next day, Feb. 10, would usher in the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Dragon, a year predicted to be full of prosperity and good luck. I suddenly realized, hey, that's me! I'm a Dragon! And let's not forget Leap Day, where those born on February 29 only get a birthday every four years. So let's see, 20-year-olds are really only 5, ready for kindergarten, and 52-year-olds are really 13, ready for junior high school. That does give us one more day in February, but maybe just one more day of rain, as this was also the month of the Pineapple Express. We do need rain, but do we need floods and mudslides?

So let's move ahead into March, the beginning of Ramadan and Day Light Savings time, both on the 10th, and good old St. Patrick's Day on the 17th, the day you can wear your Irish green and pinch those who forget. (Now that's not very nice.) Two days later marks the first day of spring and hopefully beautiful sunny weather. And as the full 31-day month comes to a close, many will celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter.

Of course, lots of MHS and community events can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. Please note, the Apple Valley Legacy

Museum's 9th Anniversary celebration will NOT take place March 16 as originally planned, but has been rescheduled to the weekend of April 5th, 6th, and 7th, with the main event Saturday April 6. See page 3 for details. Tickets will be on sale at the March meeting and at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum during open hours.



Marcy sporting her Christmas present T-shirt
Compliments of the 2024 MHS Board

Marcy

MHS website: www.mohahve.org Email: Mohahve64@gmail.com (Stormie Reid - Webmaster)
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mohahve-Historical-Society-2022-101844115718783>

MHS Upcoming Events

- Mar. 24 **Field Trip.** 10:00am Overnight to Amboy, -25 Goffs, Needles
- Mar. 28 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Delvin Harbour, "Cruising the Route 66 in Style"
- Apr. 25 **MHS Mtg.** Speakers - MHS members, "History of MHS", Bob Cambridge - "Young Historians: Desert Seekers"
- Apr. 26 **MHS 60 - Year Anniversary BBQ** and Awards Night followed by a tour of the Telephone Museum. 5pm, LWC
- May 23 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Scott Johnson "McDonald's Arches & Mid-Century Modern Architecture"
- May 25 **Field Trip.** Pioneer Town
- Jun. 27 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - TBD
- Jun. 28 **Field Trip.** TBD
- Jul. 26 **Movie Night,** AVLM
- Aug. 23 **Field Trip.** Edwards AFB Museum, Yeager Park.
- Sep. 26 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Sid Hultquist, "Wildlife and Landscapes Photography"
- Sep. 28 **Field Trip.** Rainbow Basin/Barstovian Fossil Beds.
- Oct. 24 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Mark Landis, "Arrowhead Water Train"
- Oct. 26 **Field Trip.** Arrowhead Springs
- Nov. 21 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Lee Risler, "Risler's Rocks: Homesteading in Lucerne Valley", MHS Board Election
- Nov. 23 **Field Trip.** St. Joseph's Monastery in Lucerne Valley
- Dec. 19 **Christmas Celebration..**

Community Events

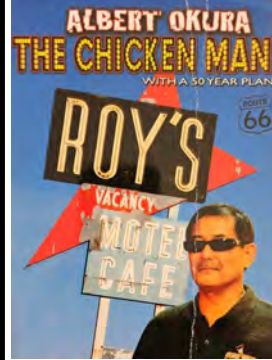
- Apr. 5,6,7 Apple Valley Legacy Museum 9-year Anniversary, Sale and Silent Auction **
- Apr. 6 4-7pm, AVLM Shindig. Tickets \$20 includes Dinner and Entertainment.
- Apr. 13 San Bernardino Railroad Museum Event **
- Apr. 20 Mojave River Valley Museum BBQ, Barstow **
- May 2,8,16,23,30 Courtyard Concerts, AV
- May 4 Apple Valley Flea Market **
- May 11 Victorville Crafts Fair, Old Town Victorville **

** MHS booth at this event.



March Field Trip - Heading East on Route 66 by Marcy Taylor

For the second time this year the March fieldtrip will precede the general meeting. The overnight adventure is scheduled for Sunday March 24 through Monday March 25. You must be signed up for this trip, as hotel accommodations will be reserved in advance.



We will meet in Amboy at 10:00 AM on Sunday for a tour of the very small town, famous for Roy's Cafe and the Amboy Crater. We will travel a few miles down the

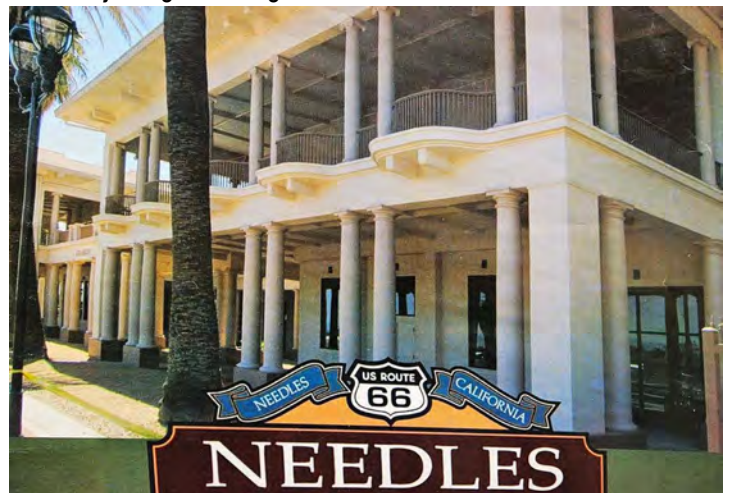


road to our next destination, the newly renovated Roadrunner Retreat. Following a rest stop for lunch, we will head north to the Goff's Museum and grounds. From there we will proceed to Needles for dinner and an overnight stay.

Monday's itinerary will include the Needles Museum, a Harvey House tour, a photo op at the Welcome Wagon, and possibly some additional attractions for those who still have the time and energy. So pack a lunch for Sunday, and be prepared to pay for your dinner



Sunday and meals on Monday. Our accommodations will of course be prepaid. MHS VP Delvin, also VP of the Route 66 Association California East, will be working out the details and orchestrating this trip. All committed participants will receive an email with specifics. Consider joining us for a great adventure not far from home.



March General Meeting - Cruising the Route 66 in Style

By Marcy Taylor

Our March 28 Mohave Historical Society speaker will be none other than our Vice President Delvin Harbour. He will be taking the place of our previously scheduled speaker, Pete Walraven, who is dealing with a family medical emergency. (We always try to have a back-up plan.)



If you've been around Delvin much, you've probably noticed he has a shirt for every occasion, and often a hat to match. He's what I'd call an avid traveler with the wardrobe to show for it. Each article, of course, has a story behind it.

So why not crack out your best Route 66 shirt and hat, or showcase any clothing item you picked up on a trip anywhere in the world, and join in the fun. I know some of you have that Hawaiian shirt and lei, or something equally exciting, in the back of the closet. For further information, call (760) 985-1918.

As usual, the meeting will be held at the Lone Wolf Colony, and doors open at 6:30 unless you are scheduled to work the event. Please allow our board members and volunteers the necessary time to set up. There will be time to visit, enjoy refreshments, or purchase a book or two, from 6:30-7:00 or after the presentation. Guests are always welcome.



Apple Valley Legacy Museum 9th Anniversary Weekend Celebration!



Collectibles Sale - April 5th, 6th, and 7th 12:00 - 4:00pm

Silent Auction - April 5th, 6th, and 7th. Results Sunday 3:00pm

Vintage A.V. Ranches Items
Brochures, Note/Postcards, Maps

Local History Books
Apple Valley, Hesperia, Victorville, Barstow,
Lucerne Valley, Yucca Loma Ranch, Mohave Series



Bargain
Books!



New Items
& Displays!
Photo Ops!
Western Music!
Historic Venue!

Saturday Shindig April 6, 4-7pm

\$20 ticket includes dinner/live entertainment
On sale at Apple Valley Legacy Museum
20601 Hwy 18, Apple Valley Inn Cottage #153, Apple Valley, CA 92307
760-985-1918 for more information.

4:00 - Doors open. Buy your dinner and raffle tickets, bid on auction items, enjoy live music and visit museum.

4:45 - Dinner line begins

5:30 - Skit performance "Genuine Desert Animals"

5:45 - Line Dancing (Participation encouraged)

6:15 - Sing-along / Raffle/ Closing song "Happy Trails"

(Auction results - Sunday at 3:00pm. Need not be present.)

See you there!

Happy Trails!

A Trip to Nashville, the Country Music Capitol by Marcy Taylor

Mohave Historical Society Life members, the Maheswaran and Subramaniam family, do more than their share of traveling, both internationally and stateside. The twins, Eshan and Nesha, both attend colleges on the other side of the country, Nesha in the northeast and Eshan in the "Country Musical Capital of the World," Nashville. So there's always a good excuse to take a trip back East.



In January, while mother Meera was visiting her son, they decided to enjoy the ultimate Nashville experience, the Grand Ole Opry. Could this have been a way to get a taste of home here on the desert? You know Victorville definitely started off as an often wild cowboy town. And you may know that many old Westerns were filmed around here, starting back with the silent films of the very early Hollywood Days. In fact, our desert is still used as a filming site today. Think Beyonce a few summers ago. (Wait, that's not country.) Ok, how about "Mank" filmed at the Kemper Campbell Ranch? That qualifies.

The desert has a definite Nashville link. Roy Rogers and Dale Evans performed there May 16, 1970, when they were living right here in Apple Valley, and numerous times both before and since. Their granddaughter, Julie Polimia, and other family members, have also made guest performances there. Gene Autry is said to have performed there regularly as far back as the 1930's. And you may or may not know that Gene was a frequent visitor to the High Desert and the Apple Valley Inn, even living in Victorville for a time during the 1960's. And much more recently Chayce Beckham, American Idol winner from Apple Valley, made his debut there Oct. 18, 2023 with two songs: "Till the Day I Die" and "23," which is now at #8 on the Country music charts.

So thank you, Meera, for sharing your trip photos, and reminding us of the important connection between our local area and the famous town of Nashville, Tennessee, and the Grand Ole Opry. Maybe we'll plan a MHS fieldtrip there soon! Good idea!

Protecting Public Lands and Ecosystems - by Marcy Taylor
The Thursday Jan. 25 Mohave Historical Society meeting at the Lone Wolf Colony provided an interesting and informative follow-up to the fieldtrip to the Palisades Ranch in Helendale the prior Saturday. Mojave Desert Land Trust employees Sarah Bliss, Director of land Conservation, and Yanina Galvan, Project Coordinator-Lands, shared a wealth of information on their non-profit, including their mission, land acquisitions, conservation efforts, their seed bank and native plant nursery, volunteer opportunities, and numerous partner organizations.

Sarah, the first speaker, gave a detailed history of the Palisades Ranch, once home to a Native American village. Due to its location on the Mojave River, the area included several old trails, as well as farming and ranching operations. Early residents George Washington DeCrow and Harold Hill made their mark, as did later owner Bob Older, who gained attention by flying the largest American flag for the 1976 Bi-Centennial, and later opening a car museum on the property, which also boasted an airplane hanger and landing strip, and a small zoo. And let's not forget the 1990 MHS Time Capsule burial and 1992 monument dedication.

Yani followed up with a report on the progress made since the MDLT's acquisition of the property, the clean-up and restoration efforts, as well as set-backs such as invasive species and the 2022 500 acre Heritage fire that burned 3.5 miles of vegetation along the riverbed. She emphasized the importance of the

property, a Mojave River transition zone, where the water flows above ground year round. This riparian area is home to 1500 species of plants, animals, and insects, including the rare western yellow-billed cuckoo, the San Emigdio blue butterfly, and the Mojave Chui Chub. She explained how the invasive tamarisk causes water and habitat loss, while solar farms, roads, development, ravens, and coyotes all threaten the endangered desert tortoise.

After the program, we showed our appreciation to these two ladies for coming all the way from Joshua Tree twice in one week with a gift of books and MHS decals. For further information on the MDLT and Palisades Ranch, visit their website, or better yet, make a trip to Joshua Tree to check out their seed bank, native plant nursery, and nearby Joshua Tree National Park Visitor Center. You just might learn a thing or two!



Yani Galvan and Sarah Bliss accepting MHS books and decals from Marcy for their excellent MDLT presentation

A Tribute to a Country Music Legend - by Marcy Taylor
Some of you remember our "Genuine Desert Animals" float in the September 2023 Apple Valley Happy Trails Parade. We got a first place thanks to our cute costumes, stuffed toys, and a catchy song to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Leading the



singing was guitar player Uncle Leo J. Eifert, Jr, AKA Swamp Water Fox, who just happened to be in town and was recruited by local drummer Gary Whiteside. So I asked this professional musician, usually on tour somewhere, if he thought he could play three cords over and over again, as we rolled down Outer Highway 18. He thought he could handle that. He even came to a volunteer potluck where we had a little run-through on the patio, and then moved inside to don costumes and props for a full-fledged one-time rehearsal. Leo passed the test!

Those of you who attended the Mohave Historical Society Christmas party at the Lone Wolf Colony might remember me saying that we had to hire some new musicians because Uncle Leo had the "flimsy excuse" that he couldn't make it because he had to back up Toby Keith in Vegas that night. When I jokingly asked Leo why he would choose Toby Keith over us, he explained that he had a 23 year history with him, and besides, he was getting PAID. Excuse accepted!

Well, it's no longer a joking matter. Dumb me. I thought Toby's cancer was in remission and he was on the road again. Little did I realize, when I and the rest of the country music fans in this world got the news that Toby had passed away February 5, that good old Leo had been loyal until the end. Apparently Toby had pushed himself through three final sold-out concerts at the MGM in Las Vegas, December 10, 11, and 14th, all the while battling cancer and knowing the end was near. He even brought his mother on stage and introduced her to the fans. A few things suddenly dawned on me: The song "Don't Let the Old Man In" had new meaning. And December 14, the date of Toby Keith's last concert, was the date of our Christmas party. Leo, your absence is definitely excused. While we were performing at the Lone Wolf Colony singing to the guitar of Toni Clegg and the fiddle of Bob Hall, you were right where you were supposed to be.

Like a loyal long-time band mate, Leo took off for Oklahoma for the funeral, a private service for the Covell family, the band and crew only. The message I got, "Yes, it's a little hard on me right now." I guess it would be.

RIP Toby and God Bless Uncle Leo.

Od West Days - A Rip Roarin' Good Time at the Victor Valley Museum by Marcy Taylor

Saturday January 27 the cowboys and cowgirls once again rode into the Victor Valley Museum for the second annual Old West Days, sponsored by the San Bernardino County Museum Association.



The combined Mohave Historical Society / Apple Valley Legacy Museum corner was hoppin' with visitors, anxious to learn tidbits of local history, do some browsing and shopping, and keep clear of the unscrupulous characters nearby, notorious for cheating folks at cards, and passing off their imitation snake oil for the real thing. Scandalous!



Stormie explaining the artifact to the young cow folks

Thanks to our six hardworking volunteers (Delvin, Mike, Rick, Patty, Stormie and Marcy), both non-profits made a little cash, and satisfied customers left with history books and vintage collectibles.

Our group met lots of interesting folks, signed up one new MHS member, and enjoyed complimentary pizza provided by the museum staff.

But we weren't the only show in town.

A couple of rooms over, Griz Drylie showcased the Hesperia Museum, while Mark Landis and Nick Cataldo showed off the San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society's displays and for-sale items. The Hesperia Days Rodeo folks and the Valley Prospectors were also on hand, along with the Victor Valley Museum staff, who welcomed families and helped kids with cute crafts projects. Two young banjo players even stopped by to play us a tune on their rubber band strings.



Mark Landis and Nick Cataldo showcasing the San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society's displays and for-sale items



All in all, it was a beautiful fun-filled day celebrating the Old West, a time not too long ago when our desert was nothing but tumbleweeds and jackrabbits, roadrunners and sagebrush, home to Native Americans, pioneers, ranchers, farmers, and yes, cowboys!



Very happy and satisfied Collectible buyers

Retired, but Not too Old To Learn Something New

by Marcy Taylor

Have I ever mentioned that I'm more than grateful that I retired before COVID hit? I definitely couldn't have taught third grade, or any grade for that matter, remotely. How about on-line kindergarten or art, or PE, or even chemistry lab or biology dissections? Give me a break! But I am happy to be a member of CalRTA, with the "R" standing for "Retired." The full name of the organization is California Retired Teachers, Division #74, The Tumbleweed Division. How appropriate!

One objective of the Mohave Historical Society is to present and share local history with other organizations. Recently I have had the opportunity to give two presentations to the CalRTA group.



On January 18, 11 members came to the Apple Valley Legacy Museum for a little "porch talk" and a tour. I tried to cover topics many people aren't real familiar with, so I started by showing off my bombs (yes, bombs) left over from World War II bomber training. At that time what we think of as the old George Air Force base was known as Victorville Army Air Field. The pilots were practicing for the real thing by dropping bombs on targets placed all around the barren desert, trying to hit the bullseye in the center. So I was quite happy to be the recipient of two bombs and some other miscellaneous pieces recently dug up in northeast Apple Valley.



But never fear, my bombs were filled with sand, not explosives. The remnants of these bombing circles and the practice bombs are still visible in several spots in Apple Valley and Lucerne Valley.

My next subject was the old Terri Lee Doll Factory, which operated just a few blocks north of our location. This infamous business employed many local women, including a number of military wives, who created the handmade dolls that were the Terri Lee family and friends, now cherished collectibles. Terri Lee and her brother Jerry Lee had friends of many races and cultures, which was not so common in the early 1950's. In fact, Bonnie Lou and Benji were an important part of the Civil Rights movement. Since the dolls were guaranteed for life, a trip to the doll hospital could make a child's playmate good as new again. Come over and meet our 34 "children."

Is it a coincidence that just a mile or so north was the location of the



famous Murray's Overall-Wearing Dude Ranch, that welcomed people of all races during the Jim Crow years of racial segregation? I am proud to say that our Apple Valley artifacts have been on the road with the Smithsonian Traveling Green Book exhibit for over three years now, compliments of the Mohave Historical Society and the Apple Valley Legacy Museum. So the group stepped inside to see our Bell Mountain corner, featuring the Murrays and the Herb Jeffries' movies made at that location. Stop by to learn more.

Exactly two weeks later on February, the first official day of Black History Month, I was invited to the Trinity Lutheran Church in Victorville to give a presentation to this same organization.

My subject was the Route 66 Green Book travelers, with emphasis on our two local ranches, the Murrays and the Raglan, both in the Bell Mountain area of what is now



Apple Valley. The presentation included the 2019 2-day visit from Candacy Taylor, author of "The Overground Railroad," who was doing fieldwork for both her upcoming book, and our section of the Smithsonian exhibit, which she curated. The MHS and AVLM are both proud to be a part of sharing this important piece of local history. (Commercial: This amazing book is for sale at the AV Legacy Museum for \$35. Sound like a lot? It's worth at least \$50.)

In conclusion, I will say, teaching is a lot more satisfying without all the bells and runny noses.

Going for 110 by Marcy Taylor



Have you ever heard of a 100-year-old taking out a Life Membership to Mohahve Historical Society?

Well, you have now! It's none other than June Langer, who attended some of our meetings in the past, back when we met at the Victor Valley Museum. So she thought it was about time to make it official. June is a prolific author, an active member of the California Writers Club, as well as an active member of California Retired Teachers Association. In fact, she was at the February CalRTA luncheon when I gave my "Green Book" presentation, and came over to greet me to make sure I knew she was there. As usual, she was in attendance with her daughter, Mary Langer Thompson, retired teacher and principal, also a former MHS member, who just updated her membership. as well. I was privileged to attend June's 100th birthday celebration at the Jess Ranch Church last September, and hope to be able to help her celebrate her next 10 at least, to make sure she gets her money's worth out of her life membership. Welcome, June and Mary!

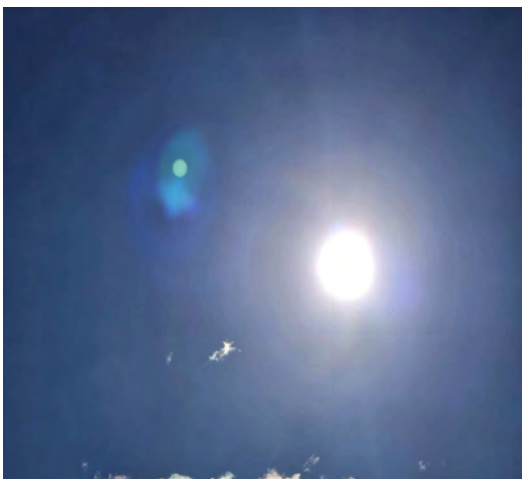
Welcome to Jake's Garage by Marcy Taylor

As you Mohahve Historical Society members know, our January field trip took us to the Palisades Ranch in Helendale, formerly owned by Supervisor Bob Older, who created a museum on his property showcasing his antique and vintage vehicles. Eventually most of his treasures were auctioned off, and MHS member Jim Jacobs became the proud owner of Older's 1934 Ford Sedan. I snapped a picture of Jim at our MHS 50th Anniversary celebration at the Victor Valley Museum with his prize possession. Unfortunately on the way home that night, Jim blew up the engine, which he has yet to fix. When I reminded him that this year marks our 60th Anniversary, his response was, "Really? It's been sitting for 10 years?!! I better get to work." Hopefully he'll have it on the road before we celebrate our 70th.



The Start of the Lunar New Year by Marcy Taylor

The afternoon of Friday February 9 the sky was blue and covered with beautiful white cumulous clouds. I had read in the morning paper that an unusual celestial event would occur at exactly 2:47 PM. Hmmmm, what could that be? I looked around and didn't see anything unusual. The sun was extremely bright, almost blinding, in the south sky above the Hilltop Hill at the Apple Valley Inn. Suddenly a strange sight appeared to the left of the sun. In the middle of a sunny day a greenish-colored sphere with a pale blue orb surrounding it seemed to float ever so slowly to the east for about 10 minutes. Then it vanished!



February 9 marked the beginning of a new lunar cycle, when the moon is at its lowest point and closest to the earth at 20 degrees in the sign of Aquarius. It is believed to be a time of reflection and new beginnings, the start of the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Dragon. So what was it that I saw and photographed? It does not meet the description of the Blue Moon, or the New Moon, or the Full Moon. Can one of you astronomers out there explain it please. To be continued....

MOHAHVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Founded 1964 Website: www.mohahve.org
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE: _____
 EMAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

ANNUAL: FAMILY/COUPLE \$30 SINGLE \$20
LIFETIME: FAMILY/COUPLE \$200 SINGLE \$150

MEMBERSHIP DATE: ____/____/____

Newsletter (MUSE) delivery option:
 Email USPS

RENEWAL NEW MEMBER

Questions? Call (760) 985-1918
 Please make your check out to:
 Mohahve Historical Society

Mail the completed form and your payment to:
 Membership
 Mohahve Historical Society
 P.O. Box 21, Victorville, CA 92393

PLEASE USE THIS FORM TO RENEW OR CHANGE YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 (Name, Address, Phone, Email) and submit by USPS, Email or in person at a general meeting)

MHS GENERAL MEETING Lone Wolf Colony
 23200 Bear Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308
 7:00pm - doors open at 6:30pm



Mohahve Historical Society
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