



TWELFTH ANNUAL
S.D.S.U ALUMNI FIELD TRIP
CASTLE MOUNTAINS, MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE
Field Trip Date: February 13, 14, 15, & 16

1998

ACTIVITIES

This year's trip is on a three day weekend (President's Day). We have arranged for a tour of an active heap-leach gold mining operation, the Castle Mountain Mine operated by the Viceroy Gold Corporation. This tour will occur on Saturday, Feb. 14th at 10:00 a.m. If you want to go on the tour, there will be waiver forms to fill out at the camp. They also would like us to bring hard hats (a few will be available at the mine) and carpool in our personal vehicles. The tour should last two to three hours.

Nearby Mitchell Caverns (one of the few limestone caverns in California) will be open that weekend with tours at 10, 1:30 and 3:30 each day. Fee for the tour is \$6 adults, \$3 kids, 25 persons/tour. There are also a number of old mines in the area, providing opportunities for collecting azurite, malachite, native copper, chalcedony, etc.

FACILITIES

We will be camping at Juan, the remnants of a ghost town just on the other side of the state line in Nevada. There are no facilities at the camp, so bring what you need. Expect that it will be cold at night (in the 30's). There is no fee and ground fires are permitted. The town of Searchlight is within ten miles of the camp, down moderate to good dirt roads. Searchlight has gas, a couple of stores, a casino, and motels (El Ray Motel, 702-297-1144 & Kay Motel, 702-297-1770, Nevada is in the same time zone as California).

COMMUNICATIONS

We will be monitoring CB-11 and 2-Meter Ham simplex 146.520. Repeater and cell phone use is limited near camp, but improves with location. Any questions call Tony Sawyer, ph. 1-800-HYDROGEO, e-mail tv@hydrogeologist.com.

DIRECTIONS

From Barstow, take I-15 north past Baker to the Nipton exit. Go east toward Searchlight for approx. 25 miles on Hwy 164. There will be a sign for Walking Box Ranch Road and SDSU Alumni signs. Go south on this graded dirt road approx. 8 miles and look for a road going east. This continues for approx. 1.5 miles to a T intersection, turn right and down into the wash. Continue up wash (southwest) for about a mile to camp.

