

TOWN



NEWS

DALLAS, TX

FEBRUARY 2022

**TOWN Meetings will be held
on the second Monday of
the month.**

**Next Meeting is Monday, February
14th 6:00 - 7:30 PM at Fretz
Recreation Center
6950 Belt Line Rd, Dallas, TX
75254**

**Sharon and Suzi are planning a
fun meeting for us.**

Meeting schedule for 2022

January 10th - indoor location Fretz Recreation Center
February 14th - indoor location Fretz Recreation Center
March 14th - no meeting
April 11th - outdoor location TBD
May 9th - outdoor location TBD
June 13th - no meeting
July 11th - no meeting
August 8th - indoor location TBD
September 5th - indoor location TBD
October 10th - outdoor location TBD
November 14th - no meeting
December 12th - no meeting

Dues are due

Annual dues are \$20 for 2022.

Pay in person at the February meeting, or pay electronically via Paypal or Zelle.
sameurer@yahoo.com for Paypal or Zelle

We are asking everyone to complete a TOWN Membership form this year. Blank forms will be available at the meeting or you can print one out and complete it in the comfort of your home.

Winter Hike

**Will it be 40 degrees or 70 degrees?
Who knows?**

What? Hike Arbor Hills

When? Thursday, February 3, 2022, 11:00 AM

**Who? Trip leader Shirley Meurer
sameurer@yahoo.com**

Where? Arbor Hills Nature Preserve, 6701 W Parker Road, Plano 75093

Join us for a mid week hike at this beautiful Nature Preserve. We'll stick to the natural surface trails whenever possible. Lunch afterwards someplace nearby. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. Hiking sticks optional.

More trips are on the calendar.

Link from the website (<http://www.localendar.com/public/TOWNDallas>)

Camping at Inks Lake State Park - Barb Minyard and Shirley Meurer

If you are signed up for the Inks Lake trip look for an email or two for all the details.

Camping at Possum Kingdom State Park - Nancy Lee

Camping at Brazos Bend State Park - Allison Gilani and Lois Jacobs

Cabin at Medicine Park & Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge - Shirley Meurer

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

By Rosie Alaniz

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Death Valley National Park for the second time. In 2016, I visited the park via Las Vegas, which took me a couple of hours. The second time, from Los Angeles, it took close to five hours. Both routes are easy to navigate with astonishing views.

Death Valley is the largest National Park in the contiguous United States at 3.4 million acres. It was established as a National Monument in 1933, expanded by 1.3 million acres, and re-designated as a National Park in 1994. Death Valley traverses the states of California and Nevada.



Artist's Palette

HOTTEST

Death Valley is officially the hottest place on Earth. It holds the world record for hottest air temperature, 134°F (57°C).

Record Year

For five days in a row in July 1913, Death Valley experienced temperatures hotter than any other place in the world. That record stands unbroken, despite a higher temperature reading in Libya that has since been discredited.

An even hotter future?

Death Valley also has the warmest overall climate. With summer days regularly hitting 120°F (49°C), and nights remaining in the low 100s. Global warming is likely to make Death Valley's summertime temperatures even more extreme. Climate models predict hotter weather and a longer hot season.

DRIEST

Death Valley is the driest place in the United States. It gets that distinction by having the lowest average annual rainfall of any place in the country- less than two inches per year. Some years, there is no rain at all. The air, too, is usually dry. Moisture evaporates quickly from plants and animals - and people. In the summer, you can lose over 2 gallons of water per day just sitting in the shade.

The ultimate desert

A desert is defined by less than 10 inches of rain per year and a rate of evaporation exceeds its rainfall. Death Valley gets less 2 inches of rain and has an evaporation rate 75 times its rainfall.

An even drier future?

Global climate change would likely mean even drier weather for Death Valley. Most climate models indicate decreased annual rainfall in snow pack across the Southwest.

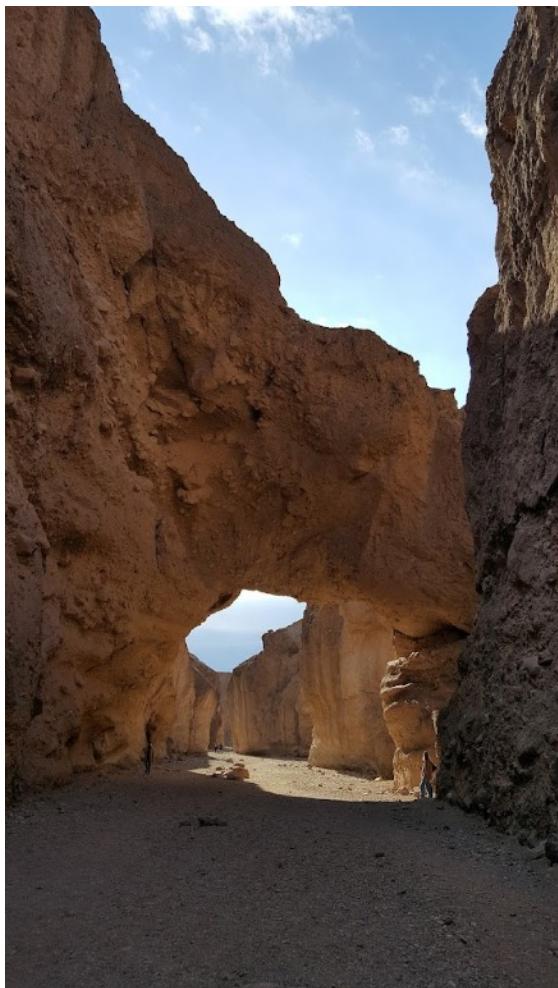
LOWEST

Badwater Basin, in the heart of Death Valley, is 282 feet below sea level. It is the lowest point in North America.

Discovering Death Valley's Depth

To 19th century Americans, it was unthinkable that a valley hundreds of miles from the ocean could be below the sea.

When Joe Brooks, a guide for the US and California Boundary Commission of 1861, first suggested it, his companions laughed at him. To their chagrin, the party's barometric readings showed the valley floor to be well below sea level. Still, even after the Commission reported this astounding finding, few believed it to be true.



Natural Arch



Natural Arch Trail



Devil's Golf Course



Artist Drive



Zabriskie Point



Badwater Basin



Badwater Basin Trail



Golden Canyon Trail



Devil's Golf Course at Night