



Date: Jan 10, 2011
From: Albert Eddins
To: Southern Trails Chapter Members
Southern National Historic Trail Project Supporters
Subject: Southern Trails Chapter Annual Winter Conference

Enclosed you will find the agenda and registration form for our upcoming Southern Trails Chapter Conference to be held at the Borrego Springs Resort and Spa (borregospringsresort.com) on Feb 25-27, 2011 in Borrego Springs, California.

For those not using email or if you missed the email sent Dec 28, from our new email address stc@southern-trails.org announcing the meeting, that information is repeated here as well. Please note that future emails from the Southern Trails Chapter will be sent to you from the stc@southern-trails.org email address. Please make sure to receive this new email address in your inbox.

This year's conference will follow a style similar to last year with a welcome reception on Friday night, guest speaker presentations on Saturday and a guided bus tour on Sunday. There is also an optional 4x4 day trip for those interested.

The focus of this year's meeting will be on the history of the Southern Trail from its crossing of the Colorado River at Yuma, Arizona to the fork in the trail at historic Warner's Ranch, and on to either San Diego or to Los Angeles. This will include the routes followed by emigrants, gold rushers, and the Army of the West, including the Mormon Battalion, over some of the most difficult, interesting, and colorful trail history of the mid-nineteenth century western migration era in America. Highly qualified historians and archeologists will focus on locations and events that took place over this far western portion of the Southern Trail. For excellent background information on this area read Phil Brigandi's "*The Southern Emigrant Trail*" in the fall 2010 issue of *Overland Journal*. The article is also posted on our website southern-trails.org

The tour on Sunday will be of special interest to many historic trail enthusiasts. Thanks to Vista Irrigation District, owners of Warner Ranch, and the support of the Save Our Heritage Organization in San Diego we have been granted special permission to visit key sites on Warner Ranch. Open access to some of these sites on Warner Ranch has been highly restricted for many years. The tour bus has a limited number of seats, so to insure a seat on the bus please send your registrations in as early as possible.

For those who want to come in early on Friday Feb 25, we are planning a 4x4 day trip from Borrego Springs to Carrizo Creek, with stops at Box Canyon, Vallecito, and other historic sites as time permits. This trip will require a 4x4 vehicle, or a ride in one, and will return to Borrego Springs in time for the welcome reception that evening.

We do plan to try something new this year. In the past we have followed the policy of not using our conferences as a means for generating income for the chapter. In order to keep the cost down and make attendance more affordable to all we have always set the registration fee as close as possible to the actual costs incurred. That is the case again this year.

Therefore, as a means to raise needed funds for our Southern National Historic Trail Project the chapter has decided to hold a silent auction this year. If you would like, please bring an item(s) to contribute to the auction. Books, pictures, and ornaments are always popular items. Something unique from your area would be great. It doesn't need to be expensive. A table will be set up to receive items at the welcome reception Friday night and at the conference Saturday morning. The silent auction will run throughout the day and end just prior to the dinner on Saturday night. Your donation will be tax deductible.

Late February is usually the beginning of desert wildflower season in Borrego Springs, and a peak for winter tourists. Please make your reservations early. When calling the Borrego Springs Resort (760 767-5700) for reservations give them the code name "Southern Trails Chapter" for the group rate. January 28 is the last day the group rate will be guaranteed. Palm Canyon Resort (800 242-0044) has excellent RV facilities. Campground reservations in Anza Borrego State Park can be made at 800 444-7275.

For other lodging and information about the area see the enclosed Borrego Springs Village Guide or visit borregospringschamber.com

Guests are welcome! If you would like to pass this information on to someone you think might be interested in attending, all information including the [3-page agenda](#) and the [registration form](#) is available at southern-trails.com

Hope to see you there!