

# Desert cleanup yields quite a haul

By NATHAN BRUTTELL  
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

When Bruce Speirs heads out into the desert on his four-wheeler, he has no problem picking up all kinds of debris and trash left behind by others.

And while hauling out junked, rusted pickup trucks might seem like a challenge, it wasn't on Friday for Speirs and about 25 other members of the Havasu 4 Wheelers.

"There's always a litter problem out in the desert," Speirs said. "It's not overwhelming, but we see continual litter. Most of it is cans and bottles from visitors

to the desert areas. Our club, part of our goal, besides enjoying the desert, is to try to help give back."

In conjunction with Mohave County Environmental Rural Area Cleanup Enforcement and the Bureau of Land Management, volunteers with the Havasu 4 Wheelers helped haul the five wrecked vehicles more than 10 miles from desert areas north of town and south in Standard Wash using only 4x4 jeeps, towing cables, a 6x6 M35 "deuce and a half" and elbow grease. Each vehicle was hauled to the edge of State Route 95 where they will be

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**Volunteer John Thuneman and Havasu 4 Wheeler member Chuck Guibord attach a towing cable to an old, rusted vehicle Friday in Standard Wash south of Lake Havasu City.**

Nathan Bruttell/News-Herald Photo

removed by Steve's Automotive and Towing Specialists.

Gary Sibble, Mohave County ERACE investigator said he believed the vehicles were possibly stolen and destroyed in the desert years ago, but credited the Havasu 4 Wheelers with assisting the investigation. The ERACE program, formed at the request of Mohave County supervisors, is tasked with addressing illegal dumping in desert lands in Mohave County.

"Without volunteers and groups like the (Havasu 4 Wheelers), we wouldn't be able to take care of what other people dump out there in the desert," Sibble said. "Volunteer John Thuneman, who isn't yet a member of Havasu 4 Wheelers, said he often helps pick up trash and debris on trips, but didn't realize the magnitude of the illegal dumping until seeing the burned out vehicles.

"It's just wrong. I can't believe that people come out here and just drop their stuff out here," Thuneman said. "If we're ever out, we carry out more than we bring in. But this takes it to another level."

Speirs agreed.

"Who knows the sad history of these hulks," he said. "But if no one was going to pick them up, they'd be out there forever spoiling the area. I think we were all glad to help out and give back. It couldn't have been more successful."

Five-year member Chuck Guibord said it felt "fantastic" to be a part of the cleanup.

"I look forward to hauling more stuff out," he said, after driving a jeep with one of the wrecks attached. "It just came out really easy and it was a great time."

You can contact the reporter at [nbruttell@havasunews.com](mailto:nbruttell@havasunews.com)

## OPINION

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TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

### OUR VIEW

## Cleaning up after others

Three teams of hardy souls made a plan and worked the plan Friday.

Members of the Havasu 4 Wheelers embarked on an ambitious project to rid three desert areas around Lake Havasu City of abandoned vehicles.

It is unconscionable in the first place that these rusted, old relics were dumped in the desert to begin with. There are many ways to get rid of unwanted items and dumping them in the desert is not among them.

The Havasu 4 Wheelers split into three teams with each team

concentrating on a particular area. The areas were Standard Wash, Mohave Wash and the Gravel Quarry. Team members along with county and Bureau of Land Management representatives and a reporter from this newspaper worked most of Friday morning on the task at hand and were successful in removing several desert eyesores.

Throughout each year, a variety of organizations and individuals work hard to keep the desert areas free from trash. Lake Havasu City is lucky to have such

folks that care about the environment and the surrounding pristine beauty the desert offers.

The disrespect of others that believe it is OK to dump their trash in places that appear to be uninhabited is mind boggling.

The desert is home to beautiful flora and fauna. A variety of critters also call the desert home. It would be interesting to find out if these desert dumpers would like a junked vehicle abandoned in their front yards.

The desert is also a place where off-roaders go to enjoy the beauty and challenges of a good

day of 4-wheeling. Trash ruins an otherwise back-to-nature experience.

We urge those who see someone dumping anything in any desert area to report it to the proper authorities. Get a license plate number and call the BLM. Perhaps after a stiff fine, those doing the dumping might think twice before doing it again.

We thank those who care enough about the area to work to keep it clean and free of refuse.

Keep up the good work.

— Today's News-Herald

# DAILY MINER

Friday, April 22, 2011

## Volunteers fence off abandoned mines

Friday, April 22, 2011

LAKE HAVASU - Using only hand tools and with a lot of hard work, 18 members of the Havasu 4 Wheelers inventoried, fenced, and signed 10 abandoned mines on public lands in the Lake Havasu area on March 29.

"Abandoned mines are one of the greatest hazards we have on public lands in Arizona," said Bureau of Land Management Lake Havasu Geologist Amanda Dodson "There are literally tens of thousands of mines left open in the West. We can't thank the Havasu 4 Wheelers enough."

Dodson added that half of the volunteers worked on similar projects in 2010. The mine openings are located 10 miles north of Lake Havasu City in the vicinity of the Boulder Mine. The volunteers fenced and signed 10 features including four mine shafts, three adits and three prospect pits within a four square-mile area. Three of the four mine shafts were within a few feet of existing trails and were previously not marked. The mineshafts were about 25 to 30 feet deep.

The Havasu 4 Wheelers are planning to do additional fencing the end of April at the Jupiter Mine Complex located five miles east of Lake Havasu City in the Mohave Mountains.

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Courtesy

Volunteers from the Havasu 4 Wheelers fenced an abandoned shaft at the Boulder Mine. Abandoned mine shafts are extremely dangerous – especially to unsuspecting recreationists. This shaft is located about one mile west of the Boulder Mine.

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