

Restoration Days 2000

by Jeff Darlington

Thanks to all those who came to see us at Restoration Days 2000! Your participation made the event successful in many ways. It was great to see long-time members and new supporters at our annual celebration of Mono Lake, and was nice to enjoy fun activities at the lake with all of our friends.

For those of you who couldn't make it, Restoration Days 2000 included events such as a garden reception with book and poster signing, the traditional Rehydration Ceremony and Annual Meeting, restoration walks, tours and projects, a Paiute basketry seminar, campfire s'mores and story-telling, State of the Lake and Living Lakes presentations, and lots of opportunities to discuss Mono Lake with Committee staff, directors, members, and friends.

Special thanks to those who contributed their time or services to Restoration Days, including Dave Martin, Jim Hetrick, Dave Carle, Genny Smith, Lucy Parker, Vireo Gaines, Daniel Klaus, Dave Marquart, Nick Buckmelter, Don Banta, Jim Stimson, Mono County, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, Walker Lake Working Group, Lee Vining High School, and Ross Middle School.

We hope to see you all again soon!



Photo by Bartshe Miller

Restoration Days participants making their annual pilgrimage down to the lakeshore for the rehydration ceremony.

Mono Lake Luxury Bus Tour

Phenomenal fall weather, a group that felt like long-time friends reunited, and gourmet wine and food—it was as if the Mono Lake Luxury Bus Tour last September was blessed! Under the guidance of Mono Lake Committee board member emeritus Grace de Laet and her husband Rick, no detail was overlooked!

California Parlor Car Tours provided an incredibly comfortable bus and a tremendous driver, Bob Johnson. Bob's anecdotes and knowledge of the region kept everyone entertained and informed. Highlights of the trip include:

- Gourmet meals at the Knight's Ferry Resort, the Mono Inn at Mono Lake, the County Park with Anything Goes catering, the Double Eagle Resort in June Lake, the Ahwahnee Hotel, the Tenaya Lodge, and at Espana Restaurant in Los Baños;
- excursions in the Mono Basin: canoeing, birding, exploring Bodie, walking along Lee Vining Creek, and strolling at South Tufa;
- stops in Yosemite at Olmstead Point overlooking Cloud's Rest, Tenaya Lake, El Capitan and Bridal Vail Falls, and the Giant Sequoia grove;
- a guided tour of the San Luis Wildlife Refuge with John Fulton of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;

- seeing the Zee Zee Mott painting exhibit at the Mono Inn.

The next chance to tour the Mono Basin and Yosemite in style is Friday, June 22 through Monday, June 25, departing from Los Angeles. For more details contact Shelly Backlar (shelly@monolake.org) at (818) 716-8488.



Luxury Bus Tour 2000 participants in Yosemite.

Photo by Bob Johnson

High Sierra Fall Century 2000

by Shannon Nelson

The Sixth Annual High Sierra Fall Century was a great success! Over seven hundred and fifty riders joined us for a fun (except when fighting tough headwinds near Wildrose Summit) day of cycling in the Eastern Sierra.

Highlights from last year's ride included the Mono Craters stop adopted by the Mono Lake Committee which had a water theme—complete with kayaks filled with cold drinks. This year's surprise stop was the Wildrose Lounge complete with rehydration cocktails.

The 2000 ride was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Mark Milford who was tragically killed in a car accident while driving to participate in our Fall Century in 1999. A group of his friends decided to ride in this year's event, started training and formed a non-profit organization, Ride to Remember, to raise funds for a scholarship in Mark's name. After months of hard work sixty Ride to Remember riders joined us on the course to celebrate the life of their friend Mark.

Have you always wanted to ride a century? Here is your chance to ride and support the Mono Lake Committee at the



Photo by Arya Degenhardt

Eastern Sierra resident and bicycling enthusiast Jack Trefry in a dramatic crossing of the High Sierra Fall Century finish line.

same time. Start training now and we will see you on September 15, 2001. For more information contact Shannon Nelson (shannon@monolake.org) at (760) 647-

6595 and visit www.monolake.org/century too.

The Mono Lake Committee and the Sierra Cycling Foundation would like to thank the following sponsors whose support made this event a great success.

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Whiskey Creek and Mammoth Brewing
Company



Sponsors make bus tour a success

by Shelly Backlar

Special thanks to Mr. Bipin Ramaiya, President of California Parlor Car Tours and to our stalwart bus driver, Bob Johnson. We thank George Peyton and Kent Rosenblum of Rosenblum Cellars for donating two cases of their finest wines. Thanks also to St. Supery and Robert Mondalvi Cellars for discounts on their fine selections. We thank Shelley and Barbara Hayes of the Knight's Ferry Resort, Sarah Adams of the Mono Inn, Susan Beck and Mary Pipersky of Anything Goes Catering in Mammoth

Lakes, Connie Black of the Double Eagle Resort, Gene Hagberg of the Tenaya Lodge, and John Fulton of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Finally thanks go to all of the Mono Lake staff and volunteers who guided us all over the Mono Basin.

And a special thank you to Grace de Laet—the underlying inspiration behind the Mono Lake Luxury Bus Tour. Grace's undying devotion to protecting and restoring Mono Lake has helped to sustain the Committee from the beginning. Alarmed by Mono's plight she has

spearheaded numerous fund raising events including the luxury bus trip to Mono Lake in the early '80s, and she did it again in 2000.

Over the years I've developed a treasured friendship with Grace and her husband Rick, and I've had the rare fortune to know this wonderful person whose tremendous conviction is surpassed only by her loving heart. Thank you Grace for your insight, for your guidance, and for your gentle spirit. 