Once again Gus Peterson gathered the St. George Jeepers group for what was to be a very scenic and pleasant run. Broad vistas and interesting geology are evident throughout this part of the country and this trip didn’t disappoint. Nineteen vehicles and 33 participants gathered at our air-down spot just across the Virgin River in Mesquite, Nevada. The first leg of our trip was southeast on the Lime Kiln Canyon Road, Rt. 242. On this day, Phil and Joan Hayes were our tailgunners, bringing up the rear. It was a bright, clear, cool day with only a slight breeze. It was perfect light jacket weather.
The eroded scars on the hill in front of the UTAHCAR Jeep clearly illustrate what can happen when drivers leave the road and make their own trails. In this case the damage was caused by ATVs. It is only a minority of the off-roaders that will do this, but something like this is enough to encourage the BLM to shut down the trails to everyone.
Looking back toward the northeast and the snow covered Pine Valley Mountain north of St. George, right side of photo in the far distance.
The scenery on this trip included Mojave yucca, left, banana yucca lower right, and large stands of healthy Joshua trees.
This area is part of the Bundy range where his cattle may be seen. They are very picturesque and wild, to say the least. Residents in this area are familiar with the 2014 Bundy/US Government standoff, a controversy over unpaid grazing fees.
When we did the pre-run for this trip we found a small corral with two cows in it. The below animal had murder in her eyes and there is no doubt that she would kill a person if she got the opportunity. Although she smashed into the fence trying to get at us, the iron bar fence was sturdy and high enough that she couldn’t get to us. Her tail was constantly wringing, a sign of agitation and aggression.
A memorial to Barney who (presumably) died here in an ATV accident. Date not readable. I also assume he was not “whereing” a helmet.

Below, gathered at the infamous Budweiser Fence, out first stop of the day. If there’s a breeze, it is quite the wind chime.
Below is a little unnamed arch along the trail. It can be seen above Norm’s UTAHCAR.
A vista looking northwest down into the Virgin River Valley, Riverside and the Mormon Mesa across the river and interstate.
More scenery, looking west.

Below, more views looking west toward Overton, Nevada, and the Valley of Fire State Park
Exploring the area around the Great Eastern Mine
Looking into the flooded shaft at the Great Eastern Mine
Next stop was lunch at the Key West Mine. There was a cool breeze blowing, so the partial shelter given by the face of the Key West Mine was welcome. Elevation is 3,839 feet above sea level.
Veins of copper ore are evident along the face of this mine.

Even to the untrained eye, it is evident that there is an abundance of minerals in this location. It is rumored that a large gold nugget was found here earlier in 2015, but that claim has been disputed. What is known about Key West is copper was found here in the 1890's. The Copper King District was developed, but was on a small scale. Then after 1900 they also produced some Nickel up till 1913.
Mineral List—Primary: Copper, Tertiary: Silver, Palladium, Nickel and Gold. For more detailed information you may visit the following link: http://rruff.info/uploads/EG19_309.pdf

Virgin Mountains coated with a fresh dusting of snow. Highest point is Virgin Peak, 8,071 feet elevation.
Admiring the view are Mike Hess, Andy Christensen and Joan Hayes
Making our way off the mountain, headed for the Seeps
A lone sentinel scans its domain
Just one example of some of the interesting geology ahead of us
Entering the Seeps at 36 deg, 39’ 27.20”N, 114 deg, 08’ 13.89” W. Not an extreme obstacle, but a good opportunity for the stock vehicles to do a little bumper and differential dragging.
Below, the Stephen Wade dealer loaner Jeep navigates the steps. When the service consultant said “take it and have fun”, he was heard and taken seriously.
OK, who’s also having fun, now? It’s obvious that Phil and Joan Hayes are.
Unusual deposits on the stone
Leaving the Seeps
View of the Seeps area from space
It’s always pleasantly surprising when in this part of the state, with so much structurally interesting but drab colored stone, an outcropping of the red Aztec sandstone such as this one comes to the surface. This is on Bunkerville Ridge.
Climbing a steep, loose, scratchy hill
These fins, known as Knifeblade Cliffs are found in North Valley. They are a fine example of sedimentary rock tilted up vertically. It’s interesting to notice that the area immediately to the left of these fins remained almost horizontal.
So called “mudstone”.
Looking back west through a Joshua tree stand
Next stop, Keyhole Rock. It is located at 36 deg, 40’ 43.50” N, 114 deg, 06’ 23.01’ W
View from inside Keyhole looking north toward Mesquite and the Mormon Mesa
Now, it’s on toward the Choo Choo. In the below photo, upper right, is the Water Tank Trail. A water line came from this area to fill the Choo Choo. The location of the pipeline is evident when examining the area with Google Earth.
Bunkerville Choo Choo from space. It’s coordinates are; 36 deg, 40’ 46.51” N; 114 deg, 06’ 04.27” W
Inside the tender area at the rear of the old locomotive
So concluded another wonderful day on the trail. Thanks again to Gus Peterson for arranging and leading the run.
Some of the below trails, mostly on the right half of the picture, are our route on this trip. The white line is the Arizona/Nevada state line. The roads in the upper left are coming from Mesquite.
Below is a sunset shot from Old 91 that put an exclamation point at the end of this great four wheeling adventure.

When out on the trail, it might be easy to imagine Bunkerville, Nevada, as some ghost town formerly inhabited mostly by ranchers and miners. It may have been at one time, but it is no ghost town today.

Below are some statistics and a history of the founding of Bunkerville.
“Bunkerville was settled in 1877 by Mormon pioneers from Utah. It is named after Edward Bunker, who was already a seasoned pioneer settler before he came to Bunkerville, having pioneered the settlement at Santa Clara, Utah.

Bunker, on his own initiative but with permission from Brigham Young, moved his large polygamous family 25 miles southwest to Bunkerville after the settlers in Santa Clara had failed to live the communitarian United Order. The residents of Bunkerville, so named by Brigham Young, established a new communal effort, sharing the work and the fruits of their work, with all land being held in common. The communal experiment ended in 1880.

Juanita Brooks (1898–1989), was born in Bunkerville; Mormon writer, editor, historian, descendant of Bunkerville pioneer Dudley Leavitt.

Early life

Bunker was born in Atkinson, Maine, the youngest of Silas and Hannah Berry Bunker's nine children. As a teenager in the fall of 1841, he struck out on his own with his brother-in-law John Berry to Wisconsin "to see the country."

Conversion to Mormonism

Bunker did not make it to Wisconsin that winter. Because the rivers and lakes were frozen by the time they reached Ohio, he and John decided to visit a friend in Kirtland, Ohio. There, they met Martin Harris.

John and Edward both read the Book of Mormon and Parley P. Pratt's A Voice of Warning. John eventually went to see members of his family in Pittsburgh, while Edward remained in nearby Cleveland, attending meetings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and being baptized in April 1845.

In the spring, Edward and John finally made it to Wisconsin, but they soon left for Nauvoo, Illinois with a letter of introduction to George A. Smith.
Edward Bunker arrived in Nauvoo nearly a year after the death of Joseph Smith, at which time the Latter Day Saints were busily preparing to abandon Nauvoo. He worked briefly across the river in Montrose, Iowa, where he met Emily Abbott. They were married in Nauvoo in February 1846, just before the pioneers began their first long trek across Iowa.

Edward and Emily soon left Nauvoo and traveled halfway across Iowa, helping to found the settlement at Garden Grove. He and a friend built a one-room log cabin and moved their wives into it. Edward then went to Missouri with the intention of earning enough money to buy a team, a wagon, and supplies for the journey.

**Mormon Battalion**

While he was in Missouri, Edward heard about the call for volunteers to form the Mormon Battalion. He returned to Garden Grove and was one of the first to volunteer.

The Battalion marched to Santa Fe, Tucson, San Diego, and finally to Los Angeles, where Edward finished the six months he had left in his tour of duty. He was discharged in July 1847.

He then traveled north with other Battalion members to Sutter's Mill, where gold was discovered, and then to Salt Lake City, arriving on October 16, 1847. They stayed only briefly, and then set out for Winter Quarters, Nebraska to rejoin their families.

They had a very difficult journey, having left so late in the season. The Platte River was frozen, and they were reduced to eating rawhide saddles and a mule that fell through the ice before they reached Winter Quarters on December 18. Edward spent the night with some friends, not realizing that Emily and their son had moved from Garden Grove to Winter Quarters and were nearby.

**Pioneer**

He moved his family to Missouri to earn money for an outfit, and then to Mosquito Creek in Iowa, where he raised corn. He bought a team and wagon for his family, and with his mother-in-law and her two small sons, they emigrated in 1849. They settled in Ogden, Utah Territory, and he served on the first Weber Stake High Council of the Church and Ogden's first city council.
When plural marriage began to be lived openly in 1852, he took a second wife, Sarah Ann Browning Lang, a widow with two daughters.

He was called on a mission to England in 1852, and he presided over the Bristol, Sheffield, Bradford, Lincolnshire, and Scotland conferences of the Church.

On the way home from his mission, he led a handcart company to the Salt Lake Valley in 1856, arriving just before the early winter set in that trapped the Martin and Willie handcart companies in Wyoming.

He returned to Ogden, serving as a bishop there for several years. In April 1861, he married a third wife, 14-year-old Scottish immigrant Mary McQuarrie.

He pioneered again in Santa Clara, Utah. This was one of the most difficult settlements because the pioneers were repeatedly washed out by floods of the Virgin River and the Santa Clara River. They also had to deal with extremes of heat and drought. He served as the bishop in Santa Clara for 12 years.

In 1892, Bunker was called before an LDS Church high council in St. George to discuss his public opposition to the Adam–God doctrine. After submitting his arguments to the council (and eventually, the President of the Church), he was told that his teachings were incorrect and that he should stop creating contention in the Mormon community. Despite this period of defiance, by 1900, he had been ordained a patriarch in the church.

In October 1901, at the age of 79, Bunker went to help found the Mormon colony at Colonia Morelos, Sonora, Mexico. He died there on November 17, 1901.”

Submitted by Bud Sanders