

WEDNESDAY EVENING DINNER SOCIAL

Bonnie Springs Old Nevada

Wednesday, October 27, 2004



The Wild West is still as wild as ever in Old Nevada -- a replica of an 1880's mining town built on the 115-acre Bonnie Springs Ranch. Bonnie Springs Old Nevada is John Wayne Country! Boarded sidewalks that creak pleasantly under your feet, saloons, tumbleweeds, stagecoaches, and even a Boot Hill Cemetery.

Bonnie Springs Ranch was originally built in 1843 as a stopover for the wagon trains going to California down the Old Spanish Trail. The Bonnie Springs Ranch tourist attraction got its start back in the early 1950s when Al Levinson, a recently arrived New Yorker, met and married Las Vegas dancer and showgirl, Bonnie McGaugh. Bonnie passed her strong love for the West and its historic past to her husband, and together they ambitiously decided to recreate and preserve much of the wild and woolly old Nevada. Levinson began building Old Nevada back in the early 1970s after doing extensive historical research and slowly gathering artifacts from the 1800s. If the scenery looks familiar, perhaps you saw it in an episode of the TV series "Bonanza."

This little ol' mining town offers plenty of rousing, rough-and-tumble action. We will see a gunfight in the street, and even a public hanging (return your IEEA ballots on time or you may be invited to the neck-tie party!). In addition to gunfights and cowboys, there's a wax museum with figures from our frontier history, and a beautiful 1800's style chapel. Inside Old Nevada, there are no false fronts! It is a real town, with shops and a saloon, and an operational 1902 stamp mill that crushes ore into fine powder for gold separation. Also plenty of opportunities to purchase souvenirs!



TRIP DETAILS

We will have exclusive use of the town! Buses will depart simultaneously from both hotels (Green Valley Ranch and Sunset Station) at 6:00 pm. We will take a 45-minute tour through scenic Red Rock Canyon to the town of Bonnie Springs. The town is at the base of monumental majestic peaks. It is quite a view! Although it may be dusk when we arrive, a full moon that night will add to the ambiance of the Old West. The buses will leave Bonnie Springs between 9:00 and 9:30 pm and go directly back to the two hotels. For those of you staying at the Sunset Station and attending the Wednesday afternoon Committee meetings, you may ride a bus from the Green Valley Ranch to Bonnie Springs, and return to the Sunset Station afterwards on a different bus.



OUR DINNER

Dinner will be served buffet style in the large Old Nevada Saloon. A five-piece country & western band will entertain us. Dinner will consist of barbeque chicken and ribs, baked beans, green salad, corn-on-the-cob, hot homemade biscuits, assorted cookies, and tea and coffee. A cash bar will be provided. We have called around to other groups who have used the facility and apparently the food is not a novelty. It is a big BBQ dinner with delicious food and you won't go away hungry.

Western wear is encouraged! (cowboy hats & boots, jeans, western shirts, bandanas, etc)

COST (includes admission fee, dinner and transportation): US\$65