

**TOWN Meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month.**

**Next Meeting is Monday, February 14th 6:00 - 7:30 PM at Fretz Recreation Center  
6950 Belt Line Rd, Dallas, TX 75254**

**Sharon and Suzi are planning a fun meeting for us.**

### **Meeting schedule for 2022**

January 10th - indoor location Fretz Recreation Center  
February 14th - indoor location Fretz Recreation Center  
March 14th - no meeting  
April 11th - outdoor location TBD  
May 9th - outdoor location TBD  
June 13th - no meeting  
July 11th - no meeting  
August 8th - indoor location TBD  
September 5th - indoor location TBD  
October 10th - outdoor location TBD  
November 14th - no meeting  
December 12th - no meeting

## **Dues are due**

**Annual dues are \$20 for 2022.**

Pay in person at the February meeting, or pay electronically via Paypal or Zelle.  
[sameurer@yahoo.com](mailto:sameurer@yahoo.com) for Paypal or Zelle

We are asking everyone to complete a TOWN Membership form this year. Blank forms will be available at the meeting or you can print one out and complete it in the comfort of your home.

## **Winter Hike**

**Will it be 40 degrees or 70 degrees?  
Who knows?**

**What? Hike Arbor Hills**

**When? Thursday, February 3, 2022, 11:00 AM**

**Who? Trip leader Shirley Meurer  
[sameurer@yahoo.com](mailto:sameurer@yahoo.com)**

**Where? Arbor Hills Nature Preserve, 6701 W Parker Road, Plano 75093**

Join us for a mid week hike at this beautiful Nature Preserve. We'll stick to the natural surface trails whenever possible. Lunch afterwards someplace nearby. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. Hiking sticks optional.

### **More trips are on the calendar.**

Link from the website (<http://www.localendar.com/public/TOWNDallas>)

**Camping at Inks Lake State Park - Barb Minyard and Shirley Meurer**

If you are signed up for the Inks Lake trip look for an email or two for all the details.

**Camping at Possum Kingdom State Park - Nancy Lee**

**Camping at Brazos Bend State Park - Allison Gilani and Lois Jacobs**

**Cabin at Medicine Park & Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge - Shirley Meurer**

# DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

By Rosie Alaniz

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Death Valley National Park for the second time. In 2016, I visited the park via Las Vegas, which took me a couple of hours. The second time, from Los Angeles, it took close to five hours. Both routes are easy to navigate with astonishing views.

Death Valley is the largest National Park in the contiguous United States at 3.4 million acres. It was established as a National Monument in 1933, expanded by 1.3 million acres, and re-designated as a National Park in 1994. Death Valley traverses the states of California and Nevada.



*Artist's Palette*

## **HOTTEST**

Death Valley is officially the hottest place on Earth. It holds the world record for hottest air temperature, 134°F (57 C°).

### **Record Year**

For five days in a row in July 1913, Death Valley experienced temperatures hotter than any other place in the world. That record stands unbroken, despite a higher temperature reading in Libya that has since been discredited.

### **An even hotter future?**

Death Valley also has the warmest overall climate. With summer days regularly hitting 120°F (49°C), and nights remaining in the low 100s. Global warming is likely to make Death Valley's summertime temperatures even more extreme. Climate models predict hotter weather and a longer hot season.

## **DRIEST**

Death Valley is the driest place in the United States. It gets that distinction by having the lowest average annual rainfall of any place in the country- less than two inches per year. Some years, there is no rain at all. The air, too, is usually dry. Moisture evaporates quickly from plants and animals - and people. In the summer, you can lose over 2 gallons of water per day just sitting in the shade.

### **The ultimate desert**

A desert is defined by less than 10 inches of rain per year and a rate of evaporation exceeds its rainfall. Death Valley gets less 2 inches of rain and has an evaporation rate 75 times its rainfall.

### **An even drier future?**

Global climate change would likely mean even drier weather for Death Valley. Most climate models indicate decreased annual rainfall in snow pack across the Southwest.

## **LOWEST**

Badwater Basin, in the heart of Death Valley, is 282 feet below sea level. It is the lowest point in North America.

### **Discovering Death Valley's Depth**

To 19<sup>th</sup> century Americans, it was unthinkable that a valley hundreds of miles from the ocean could be below the sea.

When Joe Brooks, a guide for the US and California Boundary Commission of 1861, first suggested it, his companions laughed at him. To their chagrin, the party's barometric readings showed the valley floor to be well below sea level. Still, even after the Commission reported this astounding finding, few believed it to be true.





*Natural Arch*



*Natural Arch Trail*



*Devil's Golf Course*



*Artist Drive*



*Zabriskie Point*





*Badwater Basin*



*Badwater Basin Trail*



*Golden Canyon Trail*



*Devil's Golf Course at Night*