

Andrew Klest

1215 Ford Avenue, Redondo Beach CA 90278 (310) 376-6883

Mr. Paul Stuart
6121 El Toro Court
San Jose CA 95123

16 July 2014

Re: Stone, Robert Bruce; Inyo County Coroner's Report No. 1995-052

Dear Mr. Stuart,

After we talked on Saturday, I realized that Google Maps has a Latitude / Longitude coordinates function, that I can use to show you where I found the body.

I don't know how familiar you are with Google Maps, so I will explain briefly.

1. Open Google Maps, at this website: <https://maps.google.com/>
2. Set the map for "Satellite" to see the actual terrain (in upper right corner of map page), and select "Labels" to see the main roads, towns, and other key features.
3. Type the following numbers into the Search Box on the Google Map page: **36.3015, -117.9028**
(These numbers are the coordinates of Latitude 36.3015 degrees, and Longitude -117.9028 degrees)
4. Press "Enter" (or the "Search" button to the right of the search box).
 - This should generate a satellite map image, with an arrow pointing down at the site of the body.
 - A "bubble marker" may also appear on your map, approximately where I parked my vehicle to hike up the dry wash.
 - You can zoom in or out to see more detail of the terrain, or less, as desired. The terrain in this area is sparsely-vegetated desert, generally becoming more sandy as you go north toward Owens Dry Lake, or westward toward the sand dune field that is east of Olancho. The dry washes are mostly loose sand.
 - All roads in this area south of CA 190 blacktop road are 4WD jeep roads.
 - None of the jeep roads were marked in the field with street signs.

The body was located within about 100 feet or so of the of the position of these coordinates. This location is also consistent with my sketch map in the Coroner's report, based upon the terrain features.

(Note: 100 feet corresponds to about 0.0003 degrees latitude.)

(Also see comment below about minor error regarding the "North" arrow on my sketch map.)

My points of reference for pin-pointing this location are that I hiked up the dry wash, then climbed up the rocks that form the dry waterfalls where the creek bed zig-zags sharply just northwest of the body location, and I headed straight south toward the high point of Red Ridge. I saw the light blue sleeping bag on the relatively flat plateau to my left (east), and went over to see what it was.

My sketch map is on page 6 of the Coroner's Report No. 95-52: <http://nahistorytree.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Coroners-Report.pdf>

(or page 7 if you include the cover letter from the Coroner's Office to you)

I wrote my observations for the sheriff on the right side of my sketch map that is included with the Coroner's report, and I see that these notes did not copy very well... so here is what it says:

"Body is face down, partially in sleeping bag (color: light blue). Upper torso exposed. Head is under a black plastic trash bag. Clothes and two travel bags are next to body, one has some water in a plastic jug. I did not touch anything."

One error I noticed on my sketch map: I indicated North to be straight down, but True North is actually rotated about 45 degrees to the lower left on my sketch map. This error is obvious from the compass orientation of CA190 in this area... when driving toward Death Valley, the highway heads northeast, but I sketched it as heading straight east. This error has no effect on the body location, however, because the coordinates are based upon the local features of the terrain, and not on the compass orientation.

Google Maps follow standard mapping convention, with True North oriented straight up on their maps, so my sketch map is oriented roughly up-side-down as compared to the Google Map.

And finally, here are a few words about my outdoors experience, to lend some credibility to my ability to define the precise location of the body after so many years have passed. As I mentioned in our phone conversation, I have an acute ability to remember key details of my hiking route, and to correlate these details with features on maps (Google Map, in this case). I have a lot of experience with cross-country hiking and climbing. I was an assistant instructor with the Sierra Club BMTC (Basic Mountaineering Training Program), as well as a rated leader for 3rd-class mountaineering trips with the Sierra Club. One of my specialties in the BMTC was teaching map and compass usage, terrain recognition, and route finding to the mountaineering students.

I hope this helps in your quest.

Regards,
Andy Klest