

ORBA

ORBA - A Trade Association for Motorized Off-Road Businesses

Below is a list of meetings and/or events ORBA staff has attended recently:

May 3, 2010 - Meeting with Ocotillo Wells SVRA in Southern California, Tierra Del Sol 4 Wheel Drive Club and a representative of ORBA to discuss alternatives in managing the highly controversial Truckhaven/Desert Cahuilla/Freeman properties located directly north of the Ocotillo Wells SVRA in Imperial County, CA.

May 18, 2010 - BLM CA Desert District OHV Leadership meeting. This meeting is held between OHV leadership and BLM employees from the 5 field offices in the CA Desert District. There is open discussion and a collaborative approach is used to find solutions to OHV related challenges.

May 19, 2010 - Desert Empire Fairboard General Meeting - On the agenda of this meeting was whether or not to extend the MOU between the Fairboard and the City of Ridgecrest to operate the motocross track. It was decided to extend the MOU and have an executive board meeting to work out more specific issues.

May 26, 2010 - Desert Empire Fairboard Executive Meeting - This meeting was held to talk about the specific challenges facing them with regard to continuing to operate the motocross track.

May 31, 2010 - Field Check of the Avawatz Proposed Wilderness Area - Representatives from Senator Feinstein's office, the California Wilderness Coalition, ORBA and CA4WDC were in attendance. After this field check it was agreed that the current cherry stem in S.2921 needed to be lengthened to include the entire trail.



Trail in the Avawatz proposed wilderness area in San Bernardino County, CA

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HOW ORBA WORKS FOR YOU

Work with local, state & federal land managers to ensure access to public lands.

Protect, promote and represent the off-road recreation industry.

Educate state and local leaders about the economic value of our industry.

Utilize lobbyists to be pro-active on political issues.

Utilize an attorney to work through the various administrative processes and litigate on issues when necessary.

WANT TO SEE WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO LATELY?



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THE ORBA NEWSLETTER

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July 2010



ORBA

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THE ORBA NEWSLETTER The Latest Land Use Updates

S.2921 - The California Desert Protection Act of 2010 Receives Hearing in Front of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

As previously reported in this newsletter there are many OHV organizations, including ORBA, that support this bill as currently written. Attorney for ORBA and select other OHV organizations, David Hubbard, was asked to testify in support of the bill at the hearing. David's testimony highlighted the fact this bill represents a radical departure from the way desert land use legislation has typically been developed. Rather than shove the bill down our throats, Senator Feinstein's staff asked for our input early and often and then did the same with other stakeholders. The big surprise was not that we had disagreements on some issues and on the wording of certain provisions. The big surprise was that we had so much in common. For the full text of his testimony go to the link listed below:
http://energy.senate.gov/public/_files/Hubbardtestimony052010.pdf

Working Together to Keep the Ridgecrest, CA Motocross Park Open

In May ORBA staff attended two meetings associated with the possible closure and management of the Ridgecrest Motocross Track located on property owned by both the Desert Empire Fairboard and the City of Ridgecrest, California.

This motocross track is home to the Viewfinders Motorcycle Club annual Gran Prix Race. This race attracts hundreds, possibly thousands, of people to the small high desert town. The racers and

their families provide an economic boost to the town during the event by staying in local hotels, eating at local restaurants and buying necessities like fuel and parts to race. If the track were to close the town would lose out on the added income as well as a safe place for the locals to ride.

ORBA is committed to working with the Desert Empire Fairboard and local residents to try and make the motocross track a viable business so that it can stay open.

Field Check of the Avawatz Proposed Wilderness Area

A few months ago it was brought to our attention that one of the cherry stemmed trails in the proposed Avawatz Wilderness Area was possibly being cut short. The Avawatz is located in northern San Bernardino County, CA, and it is slated to become Wilderness in S.2921, The California Desert Protection Act of 2010.

On May 31, 2010 members of Senator Feinstein's staff, staff from the California Wilderness Coalition and various OHV organizations, including ORBA, went out together to see exactly what was proposed and what was reality on the ground. As it turned out the trail was cut short. Everyone agreed that it was a well used trail and it should be cherry stemmed in its entirety. It was a beautiful day in a beautiful part of the California desert. All of the pictures in this month's newsletter were taken that day.

The 42nd Annual International Snowmobile Congress

On June 10-12, 2010 the International Snowmobile Association held its 42nd annual International Snowmobile Congress in Coralville, Iowa. This three day event was hosted by the Iowa State Snowmobile Association. In attendance were 430 delegates from the United States, Canada, Sweden and Russia. Twenty three U.S. states were represented; whose active numbers are well over 250,000. ORBA's President/CEO Fred Wiley attended on behalf of our members.

Federal, state and provincial administrators from the U.S. and Canada meet annually at this event to review strategies on how to better manage public lands. Federal highway department is an intricate part of the administrators and their goals. Federal high-



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ways is also department where the off highway program called the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). These funds are part of the dollars used on the ground to help manage OHV use.

The International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association was represented by Arctic Cat, Polaris, BRP and Yamaha. Their representatives were there along with the president of ISMA Ed Klim. The presented information about sales trends, new equipment and areas on decline and growth.

The event also provides training seminars in public relations and communications. The latest and greatest equipment was on display along with staff to answer any questions.

The opportunity to interact with the US Forest Service, BLM and Federal Highways is very important to our goals. It is also important to listen and learn about what is going on around the country and world.

Upcoming Events

Sand Sports Super Show - September 17, 18 & 19, 2010
Orange County Fair and Event Center - Costa Mesa, California
www.sandsportssupershow.com

Lucas Oil Off-Road Expo - October 9 & 10, 2010
Pomona Fairplex - Pomona, California
www.offroadexpo.com

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The Voice of the Off-Road Recreation Industry