



OFF-ROAD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER—SPRING 2005

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OFF-ROAD IMPACT SHOW

Advanstar Communications Off-Road Group in January held the first ever off-road only business trade show in Las Vegas. ORBA sponsored the Business Conference held before the show and ORBA's President was the luncheon speaker for the Conference attendees. Denner presented his concept of what is in store for the OHV recreation industry for the immediate future.

ORBA's Executive VP Jim McGarvie conducted a PowerPoint presentation "Best in The West" showing popular OHV recreation spots in the western US and discussing land use problems that ORBA is involved in for most of those areas.



ORBA staff, with the help of Jacquie Parral from Advanstar and Pete Conaty, ORBA's CA lobbyist, put on a "Celebrity Off-Road Jeopardy" show. Contestants were Ivan Stewart, Rod Hall and Casey Folks. Rod Hall managed to edge past Casey Folks by a mere 50 points at the finish line. Casey ran away with the categories having to do with land use and government agencies. Could it be because his

"Best in the Desert" events run mostly on BLM lands? (Casey announced that BITD was joining ORBA after the Jeopardy program.)

DESERT WASHES CLOSED TO OHV USE

9th Circuit Federal Court judge Susan Ilston in San Francisco issued a ruling that closes desert washes to OHV use on over 500,000 acres of public lands within the Mojave Desert as an effort to protect the Desert Tortoise. No one we know has ever seen a tortoise in the soft sands found on the floor of desert washes. Any tortoise that was foolish enough to venture there over the last few months is history! Water gushing through washes has wiped out paved roads and freeways across four western states. If this ruling sticks, millions more acres could be closed to OHV use. If there is any place that OHV's should be allowed to run it's in desert washes. They are completely reconfigured every time it rains.

ORBA, along with several other concerned OHV groups, is doing everything possible within its limited resources to educate lawmakers and politicians and to enlist their support to stop nonsensical land use decisions such as this.

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Held in San Diego, this conference was attended by Governors from 13 western states as well as ORBA's President Roy Denner and Land Use Director Bill Dart. The main theme of the Conference was the need to revise the Endangered Species Act. Several Governors cited examples showing how actions taken under the Act have been unwarranted and, in many cases, have actually had a negative impact on the species listed for protection.

WESTERN BUSINESS TRADE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Business leaders from western states, including ORBA's President, were invited to attend this conference held in Phoenix. Representatives from the oil and gas industry, mining, energy and others discussed problems with development and access on public

lands managed by federal agencies in the west. Congressman Pombo discussed his plans to revise the Endangered Species Act and obtained much support from industry representatives.

ALUMI CRAFT DESERT PRE-RUNNER CAR

Many ORBA member companies have stepped up to the plate and donated components that will enable Alumi Craft to build a world-class pre-runner car for ORBA to give away as a fund-raiser John Cooley, President of Alumi Craft, says: "I am delighted to be able to make this contribution to help ORBA with its efforts on behalf of the motorized off-road recreation industry. Without exception, other ORBA members who are donating product for the car have expressed the same enthusiasm."

The car is scheduled for completion by the end of March and will be on display at all of the off-road shows, SEMA, and Truck Fest events as well as at SCORE and Best in the Desert races. Only 2500 tickets will be sold on this car at \$100 each. This is a premium 4-seater desert machine worth \$100,000. The winner will be drawn at the 2nd annual Off-Road Impact show in January.

ORBA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

On March 7, ORBA held its annual membership meeting. It was announced that Rocky Trevino, Cycle Parts West and John Pederson, Southern Motorcycle Supply, have been re-elected to serve for three more years as Directors of ORBA. ORBA's entire Board of Directors congratulates Rocky and John and looks forward to the continuing valuable support from these members of the Board.

ISDRA

ORBA continues to work with the American Sand Association and the San Diego Off-Road Coalition on issues within the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area. A favorable "no-jeopardy" ruling has been issued by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that, theoretically, allows the BLM to implement the new Management Plan - which includes on-the-ground improvements for ISDRA visitors. Unfortunately, it is now in the hands of the lawyers and it is unlikely that liti-

gation matters will be resolved so the new Plan can actually be implemented before next season. This means that the closures are still in place until the new plan is cleared for implementation!

NEVADA BLM

ORBA's President Denner and Land Use Director Bill Dart are meeting quarterly with the Nevada BLM State Director, Bob Abbey, and his staff to collaborate on land use plans within that state. Dart is also holding regular meetings with Nevada BLM field offices and local OHV leaders to offer ORBA support for land use plans and actions underway in their respective areas.

WASHINGTON, DC TRIP

ORBA's President organized a trip to DC to visit Congressional offices and high-level employees within the Department of the Interior. He was assisted by Paul Kavinsky, DC Lobbyist, and accompanied by Bob Mason of the American Sand Association, Harold Soens of the San Diego Off-Road Coalition, and Pete Conaty, California Lobbyist.



Paul Kavinsky, Roy Denner, Pete Conaty and Bob Mason

During meetings with Congressmen Richard Pombo, Duncan Hunter and Bob Filner, the group affirmed its support of Congress's plan to revise the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Plans were laid for a nationwide OHV fly-in during September to promote OHV recreation in Congress and the OHV community's support of ESA reform.

Visits were made by the group to many Congressional offices where the shortfall in funding for OHV areas managed by the BLM and the Forest Service were pointed out. Support for increased

funding for these agencies was requested. Letters from Congress to the House Appropriations Committee will follow.

CA OHV DAY

Monday, April 11 has been designated as OHV day in Sacramento for OHV enthusiasts. ORBA members are encouraged to participate. This is an excellent opportunity to meet CA legislators and learn how your State Government operates. Many State Legislators attend luncheons and receptions hosted by the OHV groups. For information check www.clorv.org.

SEMA AT INDY

On February 4th Nancy and Sherry manned the ORBA booth that was provided by SEMA at the Spring Off Road Expo. The booth was located in a good spot near the rockcrawling demo area. Several new members joined at the show and many said they were interested in getting more information.

INDY M/C DEALER SHOW

On February 20th, it was back to Indy again. Nancy, Meg and Bill manned the ORBA booth at the huge Advanstar Dealer Expo Motorcycle Show. We have attended and walked this show in past years but this time – thanks to Mike Webster - we had a booth in an excellent location near the front entrance. The staff was kept very busy fielding questions by folks from all over the country about land use issues. The trip was very productive for ORBA, both through networking with members and educating prospects as to why they should be ORBA members.

DESERT TORTOISE

ORBA VP Jim McGarvie attended a 3-day Desert Tortoise Symposium in Tucson in February. This annual event primarily features speakers presenting brief synopses of scientific papers they have published relating to the Desert Tortoise. There is perhaps some encouragement to be derived from the fact that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has established a "Desert Tortoise Recovery Office" and placed in charge of that office a biologist who has been involved in the study of the Desert Tortoise for quite some time. Also, many scientific studies

have been or are being performed in attempts to learn more about the threats to this species.

Lack of actual progress on the ground, however, remains discouraging. Although good data is lacking, there appears to be a continuing decline in the species, particularly in certain areas. This apparent decline has resulted in the closure of considerable OHV opportunity in four western states.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- American Material Company
- SoCal SuperTrucks
- Factory Pipe
- DG Performance
- Toy Hauler Magazine
- High Sierra Motorcycle Club
- VW Automotive
- Rocklin, LLC
- McM Motorsports L.L.C.
- Rhino Off Road Industries
- Rod Hall Events LLC
- Honda Kawasaki of Vegas
- Beaverton Honda-Yam/Suz
- Smittybilt Automotive
- McDowell Performance
- Los Altos Dirt Bikes
- Mtn. States Contracting
- Weekend Warrior Trailers
- Rocky Mtn. Suspension
- West Coast Batteries
- Best in the Desert
- Arizona Rock Crawlers
- Motive Gear
- Balboa Auto Body
- Polaris Industries, Inc.
- Transaxle Engineering
- Michael's Reno Pwrspots
- Dunlop Tires
- APE Wraps
- M.I.T. drivetrain specialists
- Nevada United 4 Whl Assoc.
- DeJong Manufacturing
- Cal Coast Motorsports
- The Dyno Shop
- Pro-Tec
- PML, Inc.
- Jeeperz Creeperz, Inc.
- American Sand Association
- The Converter Shop
- Tatonka Products
- Double-D R.V.
- Toyo Tires
- Motorcycle Perf Center/KTM
- Fasst Company Inc.
- California Metals Supply
- Central Striping Service
- Kennedy Engineered Prod's