



# OFF-ROAD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2003

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### ORBA and BLUERIBBON COALITION

ORBA's President was asked to speak to the BlueRibbon Coalition's (BRC) Board of Directors at BRC's Board meeting in Minden, Nevada. Denner presented his concept regarding how BRC and ORBA can work together on various issues nationwide.



The presentation was well received by BRC Board members. BRC's focus is on grass-roots issues involving individual recreationists while ORBA deals strictly with off-road businesses and off-highway vehicle issues. The two organizations are already working together on several issues and it was agreed that, by combining resources, both organizations could be more effective.

### ORBA and SEMA

Several ORBA members joined ORBA's President at a meeting with SEMA's President, Chris Kersting and VP Peter MacGillivray. ORBA's team included Howard Hughes of Off-road Warehouse (ORBA Board member), Jeff Yoder of Race Car Dynamics and Gary Woofter of Fabtech. Discussions involved the feasibility of ORBA supporting SEMA on off-road issues that may impact SEMA members. ORBA lobbyist Pete Conaty and ORBA member Mark McMillin joined ORBA's President at a Washington, DC meeting with Brian Caudill, SEMA's legislative representative in Washington where they discussed working

arrangements between the two organizations.

### ORBA's CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL

With the help of ORBA lobbyist Pete Conaty, ORBA has sponsored a bill submitted by CA State Senator Dean Florez to give California's Governor four more appointments to the CA Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission. The Commission determines how money collected from OHV recreationists in California is spent. The Governor has appointed three current Commission members who are knowledgeable about OHV recreation and who vote in a fair and balanced manner regarding the expenditures.

The Assembly and Senate leaders appointed the other four members, who are extreme environmentalists and have little or no first-hand OHV recreation experience. As a result, **most of California's OHV funds are being used for conservation, environmental issues and law enforcement. No funds have been used to expand existing OHV facilities or to find new OHV opportunities.** ORBA's hope is that, if the Governor has more appointments, he will appoint more OHV friendly Commissioners and change the Commission balance to be fairer to OHV recreation opportunities.

### KEY PLAYER JOINS ORBA

A well-recognized and respected OHV leader has joined ORBA's staff. Jim McGarvie, past Chairman of the San Diego Off-Road Coalition for six years, has accepted the job of Executive Vice President. Jim is also a member of the California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division's Stakeholder's Group.

Jim's wife, Jan, is a past Chairperson for the OHMVR Commission. Mr. McGarvie will be a strong right arm to ORBA's President Denner. He will be responsible for land use matters and ORBA's website and will pinch-hit for Denner on many administrative matters. Welcome aboard, Jim!

### OFF-ROAD SHOWS IN CALIFORNIA

Off-road shows and expositions are becoming more common in California than avocados. When the dust settles, it looks like the two major shows that attract many ORBA members are the Sand Sports Super Show in Costa Mesa in September and the Off Road Expo in Pomona in October. A third important event held at the Cajon Speedway in San Diego is the San Diego Off-road

Coalition's Off-Road Expo. A home town kind of event, the San Diego show is important because it is put on by volunteers and all proceeds go to keeping public lands open for public use. ORBA enthusiastically endorses these shows and encourages members from California and neighboring states to participate.

### ORBA INTERNATIONAL

ORBA has been criticized for concentrating its efforts in the western states—or, worse yet, strictly California. Not so! Poor management decisions seem to start in California and, if they work there, spread across the nation so most of ORBA's efforts to date have been concentrated there. ORBA has members spread across the U.S. and now in three foreign countries. KTM, for example (whose Vice President Scot Harden is on ORBA's Board of Directors) is based in Austria. ORBA member DID Chain is a Japanese company, Vertex Pistons is an Italian company and ProX Inter B.V. is headquartered in the Netherlands.

Additionally, ORBA is currently addressing issues in Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Texas, New Jersey, and Florida. If your company is involved in a land use issue or an off-road business oriented issue that needs ORBA's help, call ORBA's office and ask for Jim McGarvie.

### DESERT TORTOISE LAWSUIT

**Millions of acres of public lands in four western states have been closed to public access to protect the Mojave Desert Tortoise.** A plan to save the tortoise was developed eight years ago using the best science available at the time. The plan itself recognizes that good information on the tortoise was not available when the plan was drafted and it includes a provision to be updated in three to five years – It has never been updated. Yet major land management plans are being developed which are being driven by the faulty Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan.

Five OHV organizations—USA-ALL, AMA D37, CORVA, SDORC, and ORBA—have filed a lawsuit in Utah charging the Dept. of the Interior with knowingly and willfully causing the demise of the Desert Tortoise by directing all of its resources to closing tortoise habitat to public access while the tortoise is dying every day from disease and predation. A recent government report shows that over 100 million dollars have been spent on the tortoise and no evidence exists that a single tortoise has been saved!

**ORBA AT MOAB**

Each year thousands of jeeps converge on the little town of Moab, Utah. The event is the week-long annual Easter Jeep Safari sponsored by the Red Rock 4-Wheelers. On Thursday and Friday about one hundred 4-wheel drive oriented companies displayed their products at the Moab arena. ORBA's presence at the arena was made obvious by the white plastic member signs with their red flashing lights. ORBA membership representative Kim Kammer and Membership Director Nancy Denner actively recruited new members from the arena floor. Except for Fabtech's Gary Woofler performing a backward half-gainer down a hill with Fabtech's once-cool custom built truck, a good time was had by all.



**Nancy Denner in Moab**

BlueRibbon Coalition's Del Albright provided outstanding guided jeep tours for ORBA staff. President Denner met with representatives from BRC, United 4WD and USA-ALL during the event and received an invitation to be a speaker at United 4WD's convention in Flagstaff in June.

**SAND MOUNTAIN, NEVADA**

If the Nature Conservancy and the BLM plant ecologist for the area have their way, 1,000 acres at the Sand Mountain Recreation Area near Fallon, Nevada will be closed to OHV recreation to protect 5 plant species, 17 species of bees, 6 beetles, the Dune Honey Ant and the Blue Butterfly - none of which are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The biologists stated that many of these species are "only known to exist at Sand Mountain." No studies are available to prove that they exist only at Sand Mountain. Shades of Glamis!

ORBA President Denner, accompanied by attorney Joshua Mackenroth, attended a Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting in Fallon to support Jon Crowley, President of Friends of Sand Mountain. Representatives from CORVA, BRC, Cal4WD and ASA were also present.

After a presentation by the local BLM biologist showing that OHV use is destroying Sand Mountain (and probably the rest of the known universe), a tour of Sand Mountain was conducted to prove the point. The group was shown how OHV use is destroying the Kearney Buckwheat plant (an unlisted plant species) that is the habitat for the Blue Butterfly (an unlisted species). According to BLM manager Terry Reed, it is important that the BLM take action now (closures) to protect the butterfly so it doesn't get proposed for listing under the ESA. Mr. Reed is the ex-manager of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA - AKA Glamis).

**Denner and Mackenroth made it clear to the BLM and the RAC that any proposed closures must be supported by good, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence. Closures implemented because it "feels like the thing to do" will only result in legal action against the BLM.**

At the end of the day it was decided that immediate closures would be premature. Instead, a sub-group was formed to evaluate the information available and make recommendations to the RAC—which would then make recommendations to the BLM. BLM representative, Elayn Briggs, was designated to coordinate the sub-group. Ms. Briggs is an ex-employee of the ISDRA/Glamis BLM area.

The BLM acknowledged that Sand Mountain is the most popular OHV recreation area in Nevada. Sand Mountain is the single largest tourist draw to Churchill County and vital to the local economy. The BLM managers in this area were encouraged to consider the net benefit to recreation as well as the positive impact the popularity of this area has on the economy of local communities. These factors were not even mentioned during the BLM's presentation.

If you are concerned about the potential closures in this area and the potential negative impact on your business, write a letter on your company's letterhead expressing your concern and mail it to: Mr. Robert Abbey, Nevada State Director, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 12000, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, Nevada 89502.

**ORBA at INDY**

ORBA's presence at the Indianapolis Motor Cycle Dealers' Show grows more evident every year. This year, in February, more than 40 vendors displayed "ORBA member" signs. Since then, a number of companies have become members.

ORBA should make quite a showing in February 2004!

**ORBA's SECOND ANNIVERSARY**

March 31, 2003 marked the end of ORBA's second year in business as a non-profit trade association. With over 250 member companies, ORBA has become a formidable force representing the off-road recreation industry. Most major off-road companies are members of ORBA—including companies from three foreign countries. We are well on target to have ORBA recognized as the voice of the off-road recreation industry nationwide. All ORBA members should pat themselves on the back for helping convince business associates that they need to be members of ORBA. Keep up the good work!

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

- Lightforce USA, Inc.
- Motorcycle Accessory Shop
- Arizona Motorsports
- E-Ton
- F-K Bearings Inc.
- Curtis Sparks Racing Products
- Fortin Racing
- Robert F. Chapman, Inc.
- Threat Racing, LLC
- Chula Vista Cycle Center
- Pacific Customs Unlimited
- Racer X
- Performance Motorsports, Inc.
- Carrillo Industries
- JE Pistons
- ProX Inter B.V.
- Vertex Pistons
- Sullivans M/C & Snowmobile Access.
- Metro Motorsports
- USA Motorsports
- YSA Motorsports
- Tucson Motorsports
- Tucson Cycle & Ski
- Desert Motorsports
- Las Vegas Motorsports
- Motorcycle City
- World Motorcycles
- ARB 4X4 Accessories
- Sandco Performance
- S & M Properties
- Redline Performance, Inc.
- Hahm Motorsports
- Superlift Suspension Systems
- Stewart's Raceworks, Inc.
- Imperial Valley Cycle Center
- Ancra International LLC
- James Duff Enterprises, Inc.
- EMPI, Inc.
- Town & Country Motorsports
- Industrial Tire Products Inc.
- Market Services Intl, LTD
- Tera Manufacturing
- Esslinger Engineering, Inc.