
THE ROOSTER

A monthly update from the Inland Empire Offroad Association

What's New

We had a great summer trip to Coral Pink for the 28th year in a row. This trip was a little different since we didn't bring the sand toys, but we still enjoyed the beautiful location and kept the streak alive.

Sand Show Coming Soon

The Sand Sports Super Show is just around the corner, which is the unofficial start of the duning season. There will be some interesting vehicles there this year, with production Speed UTVs and a V8 Performance side by side. It will be something to see.

Coral Pink v28, July 27-30, 2022 The Streak Continues!

By Jim Kastle

When so many things happened to almost everyone scheduled to go, it became clear we couldn't justify the cost of the group site, so we decided to cancel the trip 2022, breaking the 27 year streak. This greatly bothered P.J. and me, the only two people who have made EVERY trip. He decided he could miss three days of work. We decided that for such a short trip with only two off road vehicles, we didn't need to bring the RZR's. Nancy and I hoped my dually would be back in time, but decided we would take her car and rent a motel if we didn't get the truck back. We made RV site reservations for Wednesday the 27th through Friday the 29th. Around the 17th it became clear my truck would NOT be ready. As mentioned in an earlier article, we decided to rent a motor home in St George. We found a very personable owner who sounded almost too good to be true. We were worried the motor home wouldn't be as good as it sounded. It turns out it was everything we hoped for. As many of you know, we have a tradition of spending a few nights at the Casablanca Casino Hotel and RV Park on the way up. Nancy and I continued that tradition and arrived in Mesquite on Sunday the 24th and had a room only, as the motorhome was in St George. We enjoyed the hotel as always, but missed the kids and didn't even use the pool. We did make our usual trip to Texas Roadhouse in St George. Wanting to minimize the days away from the elevator shop, P.J. and Melissa opted to make the drive straight through from Riverside to Coral Pink. They left home at 4:40 AM Wednesday with all four people and FOUR dogs! It had to be a feat to get on the road that early. Nancy



Upcoming Events

- September 16-18: Sand Sports Super Show
- October 14-17: Proposed dates for Dumont Trip. Let's start the season with some fast riding in the big dunes.

August, 2022						
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September, 2022						
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and I left Mesquite around 8:00. We picked up the motor home in south St George around 10:00. It looked great inside and out, and the owner was as gracious in person as she was online. She thoroughly knows the motor home and we were surprised by all the amenities that were included: Everything from dishes, pots and pans, salt and pepper, paper goods of every sort, linens, camp chairs and a folding table, and even a tow strap if we should need it. She gave us a quick, but complete, tour inside and out, and sent us on our way. From her house there was a nearly direct route to Hurricane. I was very pleased with how well it drove, and was amazed by the power of the Ford V10. It climbed the steep hill out of Hurricane better than any other rig I've ever driven up that hill. I'm sure the fact this is the first time I drove anything other than a Chevy is on some of your minds! We arrived at Coral Pink in just an hour and a half, and were shocked to find it was only 68 miles from her house to the RV site.



The ranger remembered us and seemed glad to see us. Nothing major had changed since last year, but the ranger station now carries soft drinks and ice cream, in addition to an expanded shirt selection, and of course, ice. The snake is still alive and is almost 20 years old. It began to rain very hard, hard enough that we were concerned about the other Kastles making it. Before long we saw the familiar black Ford and long Weekend Warrior, giving us great comfort. They reported the rain had been the heaviest they've ever seen, and water was flowing very fast around the most recently paved portion of the Cane Beds road. He said the road by the campground was flooded and closed going to Kanab. The ranger was caught between two large puddles and



had to wait probably half an hour or so until he could cross in his truck. He got their small tractor and spent probably three hours clearing the road enough to make it passable. Kane County roads came overnight and did a great job of clearing it.

Thursday we made the usual trip to Kanab and visited the pawn shop, where the proprietor remembered us, the hospital thrift store, The Junction for food, both hardware stores, and Honey's market. Fuel was priced just about what it is in Kingman, close to a dollar a gallon less than California! We had a great

lunch at The Junction and did some shopping then returned to camp and had a campfire. It was great to be able to be at Coral Pink and we all enjoyed the atmosphere.

Friday morning we made our annual visit to the Thunderbird Restaurant in Mount Carmel Junction. We had the great waitress, Carmen, we first had in 2019. I know this because she was so great I put a note in my phone! The restaurant is closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and like every other restaurant the prices have increased, but it remains a highlight of our trip. Carmen gave us the off roader's discount, even though we came in a car and a truck. Nancy and Allie have a tradition of going to St George the last night of the trip.



They both look forward to the time together, and the tradition continued! They left the restaurant and headed to their usual hotel. They love shopping at antique stores and thrift shops. They have favorite restaurants and seemed to fit almost everything in. While they were in St George the rest of us went back to the campground where Marshall and P.J. drove their RC cars and flew the drones. The guys left Melissa in camp and went off on a mission to fly the drone. They got lots of good video, and Marshall flew it unassisted from takeoff to beyond where we could see it (he used the camera on the drone to fly it) and back to land it in the bed of the truck. He isn't tall enough to see inside the bed, so he used the camera to

land it in the exact center of the bed! Dad was proud, and Grandpa amazed! Back in camp we sat around and just took it in, played a board game, visited the ranger station, and P.J. and I went into Kanab and brought back a Lotsa-Motsa pizza for dinner.

Saturday morning we broke camp, dumped the RV's, and headed for St George to return the motorhome and meet up with Grandma and Allie. We fueled up in St George and caravanned to Las Vegas where Nancy and I headed for home while they continued to Riverside. They made it home by 8:00 PM. The trip was short, but well worth it. I was surprised how little I missed my RS1, but I look forward to next year and beyond with a full compliment of friends and time to use the off road toys. We haven't picked the dates, nor figured out the length of the trip, but we'll decide and let everyone know.



Introducing Maverick

One of the many reasons we've been so busy the last couple of months is that we decided life was a little too calm, so we decided we needed a German Shepherd puppy. We now have four dogs, as Shelby, Ratchet, and Socket have been joined by Maverick, a 7 month old puppy. He made his first camping trip to Coral Pink, and loved riding in the truck even with four dogs and four people. He is looking forward to seeing Dumont and Glamis soon, and seeing what he can find to chew on there. -P.J.



Jim's Dually Out of Commission for 2+ Months

Some of you may remember my dually was in the shop for what I thought was head gaskets late in 2021, and early 2022, prompting me to leave the 5th wheel and RS1 at home for two trips. As I was hooking up to leave Glamis after the Thanksgiving trip I noticed coolant leaking from the overflow tank. I thought it was odd, but just added coolant and hoped for the best. It needed more coolant in Blythe, and again at home. Reading about the problem, it seems it is common for 2005 Duramaxes to lose a head gasket around 150,000 miles and the coolant reservoir overflowing is a common symptom. I feared the worst, and took it to a well-reviewed shop in Kingman. After a week they called and agreed it needed head gaskets, but their mechanic, although great at Fords and Dodges, had never done a Duramax. He suggested another well-reviewed shop that had more experience with Duramaxes, and had called and arranged for an appointment. I took it in, and the appointment was for them to put it in line! There are no other shops with good recommendations in Kingman, so I left it there. About 10 days later, I got a call that they didn't think it needed head gaskets, instead some coolant lines were loose, and there wasn't a significant enough leak for it to be a head gasket. This saved me over \$7000 they could have charged, so I was pleased, but puzzled. It made three or four Glamis trips and two trips at the end of the season to bring home both trailers, seemingly without a problem.



On the way to Dumont on May 12th I was thinking

how great it was towing, having climbed the Baker Grade at over 50 mph, as good as it ever has. When I got to Baker the "low coolant light" came on. I pulled over in Baker, and the coolant reservoir had spewed coolant all over the right front tire. I topped it off and continued to Dumont. At Dumont I spoke with Steve Porter and he told me I could buy a kit to test for exhaust gasses in the coolant, and that would be a sure indicator of a defective head gasket. Going home it climbed the Baker grade at only 35 mph and the pass between Laughlin and Golden Valley at barely 20 mph, and used over a gallon of coolant. I made it home and went to Harbor Freight and bought a coolant test kit. I immediately tested the coolant and it CLEARLY had exhaust gas in it.

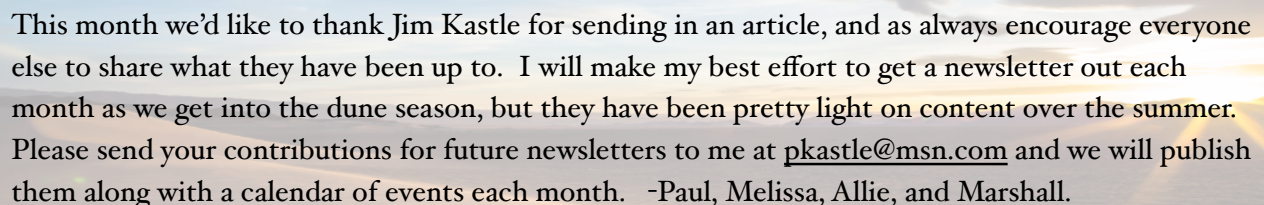
The next day I called the shop that had saved me \$7,000 and told them the bad news. The receptionist felt bad, but the soonest I could drop it off was May 19th. Reviewers had mentioned they were often backed up.

I went by a few times, and as I type this it's July 12th, and when I spoke to her and the owner four days ago they both apologized, and assured me mine would be the next truck to be worked on. They expect it to be in the bay by July 15th. I am shocked I have not raised my voice yet, and I still believe they are the best in Kingman! I can only imagine what the worst one would be like!

We realized a week ago that we wouldn't have it for our Coral Pink trip starting July 24, and Nancy and I decided we could stay in a motel in Kanab and drive to Coral Pink each day. We shared our idea with P.J. and Melissa, and they came up with renting a motorhome in St. George as an alternative. When we realized we wouldn't have to pay for fuel to tow the fifth wheel all the way to Coral Pink and back, it became an affordable option. We reserved a motorhome to be picked up then dropped off four days later in St. George. We were comfortable knowing the 27 year tradition would continue. Then 3 days later the owner of the motorhome texted me and said he was sorry, but they had double-booked for those dates! I tried renting four other motorhomes, but they didn't work out. Finally I sent a text to one of the owners explaining our situation and she immediately agreed to rent it to us. It appears this one will come through.

Hopefully by the time you read this the trip will have been successfully completed and we'll have the truck back for a planned camping trip to Prescott starting August 7th.

Edit to Add: Jim picked up the truck on August 15, but had a new oil leak. They resolved that and he now has the truck as of August 19th, so it should be ready to go for the dune season.



This month we'd like to thank Jim Kastle for sending in an article, and as always encourage everyone else to share what they have been up to. I will make my best effort to get a newsletter out each month as we get into the dune season, but they have been pretty light on content over the summer. Please send your contributions for future newsletters to me at pkastle@msn.com and we will publish them along with a calendar of events each month. -Paul, Melissa, Allie, and Marshall.