
THE ROOSTER

A monthly update from the Inland Empire Offroad Association

What's New

We had a nice long dune trip for Veterans Day through Thanksgiving, but the next big trip is just around the corner for Christmas / New Years.

New Years Pot Luck

We will again have a pot luck dinner on Saturday of the New Year's trip, since some people may go home before New Year's Eve. We'll have spaghetti and lots of sides, so bring whatever you want to share.

Jim is OK

After some time in hospitals Jim Kastle is doing great and hopes to be back out for Christmas / New Years. Check out the story on Page 4.

Thanksgiving 2023

By Paul Kastle

We had a wonderful trip to Glamis once again for Thanksgiving, and I figured I'd share some notes from the portion of the trip I was there for. Ray had arrived almost two weeks earlier for Veterans Day, when they stayed at Wash 6 due to lack of space at Wash 10. Early the next week they moved to a great location in Wash 10 on the North side up against the dunes.



I arrived on Tuesday after spending the day getting everything packed and ready. We still arrived just after 10PM, after making it to Brawley for dinner at Rally's. Mike Bacon, Scott Blair, Pete Hagen, and Dave Huggard had joined Ray and Janice, and the space was reserved well since Jim, John and Barry had left their trailers in camp the weekend (or week) before. Unfortunately on the way in a glass jar



Upcoming Events

- December 26 (or earlier)- January 2nd: Christmas / New Years at Glamis, location TBD.
- January 11-15: MLK Dune Cleanup weekend at Glamis.

December, 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

January, 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

of spaghetti sauce fell from the cabinet and broke on the front of the car, so we had a bunch of glass and sauce to clean up. The car still smells like an Italian restaurant, but at least we got the floor cleaned up.

On Wednesday we got up and finished unpacking and getting the car ready. The battery on the car had been left on and died, so we went to AutoZone to get a replacement. While we were in town Steve and Kimmie arrived from Arizona with their granddaughter Elsie, and Tom and Sarah Rickets with Jacob and Aubrey, so there were quite a few kids in camp. Scott Blair even brought out his Grandson for the weekend. Soon John and Anna arrived, followed soon after by Ray and Janice who brought Ray's car out with newly added doors. Scott Blair had led a ride for Pete and Dave, but I went to town instead.



Speaking of arrivals, my Dad had planned to come out earlier with his new V8, but had wound up in the hospital instead. For the rest of that story see his article on page 4. They instead wound up coming out for the day on Thanksgiving. Since they were coming in I didn't go for the morning ride, but I instead met them at the store and got them John's extra pass since he had thought ahead and bought a second one that started when he arrived instead of once his first one expired, which meant there was one available for Nancy's car. They made it in fine and it was extra nice to have them there for the Thanksgiving dinner.

On the ride they got the opportunity to introduce Brianna's boyfriend Ryan to the dunes for the very first time, since they had driven out from San Diego the night before. Ryan grew up in the South and has a modified Toyota 4x4, and he flies a helicopter, so he fit right in and seemed to have a good time.

The annual Pot Luck Thanksgiving dinner was great, and food-wise Melissa and I agreed it may have been the best ever. There was so much great food, and plenty of it for the over 35 people in attendance. The weather cooperated as well, and it was nice

and warm with no air movement, which we appreciated and we were all able to eat outside Ray and Janice's gooseneck where we set up the food. After the 4:00 ish dinner we had plenty of time to get ready for a ride to



the hill, and we headed out a little after 7:00. I led and didn't go as direct a route as I had hoped to, but we made it there. We had a fire and watched the action for a bit, then made it back to camp before too late.



On Friday we got up and got a ride ready, and I was fortunate enough to get to lead it. We headed out to Oldsmobile and then went South through the "helicopter dunes" to the swing set. We had 11 cars on a nice quick ride, including Tom Rickets and Randy Ray in side by sides along with nine sandrails. On the way back Barry broke a bolt on his front end, but we had a spare that we were able to make work. As we took an easy path towards camp Randy, Pete, and John all talked about being low on fuel, so we had done quite a bit of riding. We all made it back to camp successfully though, and the cars survived. Mark and Erik went for an afternoon ride with some more of the group, but instead I went to the vendors with the kids and Tom and Sarah. We got sweatshirts and ice cream. We managed to get another ride to the hill together for the second night win a row, a feat which I don't think we had accomplished in years. John, Tom, and Ray agreed to follow me again, and we had a nice direct path there and back.

On Saturday I got up and started the water for the omelettes. We decided on an early 8:00 start so that we didn't delay the ride by too much. This time the wind picked up, and it was a little difficult to eat outside but most of us were able to do it and we still had a nice breakfast thanks to everyone who participated. As we got ready to go for a ride, the brakes on my sandrail failed due to a line rubbing on the five link bar. John stayed back and helped me fix it as Scott led the group to the big bowls. We heard on the radio that Randy lost a belt, so we headed that way once I had the ability to stop. We got there quickly, then finished up the belt replacement before continuing the ride towards Gecko. We enjoyed those dunes and trails for a while before Randy lost another belt, likely due to a clutch issue that was taking them out. We decided to get him to Gecko and call Janice for



a trailer. She willingly met us at Sweet Marie's, where we had ice cream before loading the RZR on the trailer. Then the rest of us were free to dine back, so we headed for the big bowls. They were really nice because of the wind, and we hit them hard for a bit until Tom lost a belt. We changed the belt quickly, Allie did a little sledding, and then we made our way to Oldsmobile. We again made it to camp and hung out for the afternoon doing some work and tuning on John and Barry's cars. John used his truck to haul Jim's fifth wheel to storage, and we got it dropped off with not problems. I ended the day in the little dunes with Allie and the kids playing on a sled. It was fun to have a campsite within walking distance of some small dunes for them to play on. On Saturday night we just hung out in camp and enjoyed the campfire, which was fun although not quite as scenic as the hill.



On Sunday we made the decision to pack up and head home before going for a ride, which I almost never do. With the wind the day before and generally lower crowds there wasn't too much traffic, and it was nice to get home before too late since we had to work the next day. On the ride John broke a CV which added some excitement, but they got it back using the spare U Joint axle. Our trip home went well, and we made it home just after dark, which included a stop to dump the trailer tanks at Salton City.



Overall it was another great trip, and I appreciate all of you who made it fun. Jim really missed being able to be there for the whole trip like usual, and we missed having him there, but we are looking forward to Christmas and New Years.

What's Up With Jim's Health?

by Jim Kastle

After busting my ass, along with HUGE amounts of help from the Tuesday buggy night crew (What a super group of friends!) I brought the car home on Tuesday, November 14, with the intention of heading to Glamis Friday or Saturday after tying up some loose ends. While loading it we found a broken shift cable for the 20+ year old, obsolete shifter.

Wednesday I found paperwork from the last time I ordered a cable. I quickly called them, and he remembered making those cables and looked up my order and had the details of the part. He said he

would try and get it done as soon as possible. I went outside and lit the fridge in the buggy box. I worked on the car in the garage, and after about half an hour went to the trailer and found the fridge was ON FIRE! I put the fire out with CO2 and a garden hose. The fridge was destroyed, but the trailer had only minor damage.

Thursday he called me back and said that I could get the cable Friday morning. I planned a 650 mile round trip for Friday. I worked on the car all day Saturday, Sunday, and Monday morning.

I left for Glamis around 3:00. I got on the freeway and my eyes just weren't right. In a move very uncharacteristic of me, I turned around and told Nancy we needed to go to urgent care. They did a few things and said you need to go to the emergency room, I did, and after a zoom conference with a neurologist they admitted me. After talking to a few other doctors and several blood tests they thought I might have myasthenia gravis and would wait for test results.

Wednesday they sent me home and Nancy was able to drive me to Thanksgiving. We enjoyed the visit, but I'm a terrible passenger and Nancy didn't enjoy my well intended advice! I don't blame her. I hope I don't have a chance to practice being a better passenger by keeping my mouth shut! We got home with no problems .

Monday I had quite a bit of trouble breathing. Another trip to the emergency room and based on my symptoms and tests that they had run I probably have myasthenia gravis. The KINGMAN ER treated me wonderfully but they don't have the advanced treatment required so they flew me to Sunrise hospital in Las Vegas. They confirmed the myasthenia gravis and started a five day infusion process that doctors at both hospitals have sworn is a miracle cure. Melissa did some online research and agrees with that diagnosis. I think I'm gonna be almost as good as ever, and hopefully wiser as my days of burning the candle at both ends are over. I'm gonna slow down some and have a good rest of my life. I am lucky to have received such great care and have so many people that offer support, thanks so very much. Let's go dunin!



This month we'd like to thank Jim Kastle for submitting an article, and encourage anyone else to write articles as well as we move into the heart of the sand season. With the season now underway, we'll be spending some great time in the dunes and there will be plenty of stories to share. 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.