
THE ROOSTER

A monthly update from the Inland Empire Offroad Association

What's New

The sand season is over, but we are getting ready for Coral Pink and will be there in less than a month.

30th Coral Pink

This will be our 30th annual July trip to the Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park in Utah. Check out some pictures and details of past trips in this issue.

Summer Projects

What are you up to during the summer months? Are you headed to the river, the mountains, or the shop to improve your sand toys for next season? Send in your articles and we will share them with the group.

Eagle Mountain Mine

By Mike Bacon

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Back in 1948 Kaiser Steel opened the Eagle Mountain Iron Mine just northeast of Desert Center, CA to mine and process iron ore for the Kaiser Steel plant in Fontana, CA. During the next few years the mine employed up to 4000 people and became a town of it's own. The town of Eagle Mountain had over 400 private homes, and 200 RV sites, as well as boarding houses and dormitories to house the people working at the mine. It also had markets, a bowling alley, a number of churches, and a school. It also had it's own medical facilities, which eventually grew to be the Kaiser Permanente Health organization.

Eventually the mine was closed down in 1983 due to environmental and financial issues. In 1986 part of the community center of the town was fenced off and made in to a private prison, for non-violent offenders. Some of the housing and the school were used by the people working at the prison. The prison was eventually closed in 2003 due to financial issues, and a fatal riot.

A couple years ago a couple of companies bought the property with some different ideas of how to make use of it. One company is going to start processing all the mine tailings looking for precious metals such as gold, silver, and platinum. The other company is processing all the rock that has been dug up and crushed, trucking it to the south end of the Salton Sea to dam it off to facilitate lithium mining in that area.



Upcoming Events

- July 25-August 1: Coral Pink 2024. We will be at the state park from Thursday the 25th through the following Thursday August 1st, with time before and after in Mesquite Nevada.

July, 2024

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	31			

August, 2024

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	31

The mine site has been used in a number of movies over the years and most of the mining equipment, buildings, etc. have been damaged and destroyed. Some of that equipment has to be rebuilt or replaced, but before that they have to get electricity run back to the site. All the high tension wires have been stolen for scrap, and all the poles have rotted out. Enter my cousin Jon! Jon's company is working to get new wires and power poles run in to the site and get the facilities back under power. Its going to be a big, multi year job. The mine has refurbished a couple of houses on site for him and his crew to stay there while they are working, and one of the benefits of him being there is they get to ride around the area on the weekends. I have been lucky enough to be invited to come ride with them a couple of times and the place is really fascinating!

We have toured the entire mine area and explored many interesting places. We went through the old prison area. It was as if they were there one day and gone the next! We found weights and weight machines in the exercise area, and many beds and mattresses in the dorms. We found the medical center with records of the inmates still in cabinets, and a full dentist office with tools and drugs still ready to use.

We discovered a mine tunnel that went back in the mountain almost 2 miles, big enough to drive full sized trucks in, and off to a side we found a fully equipped fall out shelter! It has

been fascinating to explore this place and hope to go back again. Here are some pictures of the area!







Yellow Trailer Update

By Paul Kastle

In the last newsletter, I published the funding for the yellow trailer, which is included again below. My error however was that I did not include Scott Blair's name on the list of contributors that contributed the \$800 total that Janice collected. The total was correct but I did not have a complete donor list, and Scott was left off.

As an update, we were able to move the trailer to Scott Cole's house during the Easter trip, so it is stored in Yuma for the summer and will be ready should we decide to store it at the dunes next season. We have \$207.20 as a head start, and will look at the cost of storage in October and come back to everyone with an update at that point.



Yellow Trailer 2023-2024

Income

Collection from Janice (Bacon, Blair , Hagen, Broker, Burns, Knowles, Broker, Simpson)	\$800
Dave Huggard	\$100
Jim Kastle	\$100
Total	\$1000

Expenses

October Rent	\$245.00
November Rent	\$122.50
December Rent	\$122.50
January Rent	\$122.50
February Rent	\$122.50
March Rent	\$122.50
Total	\$857.50

The remaining balance from 2022-2023 was \$65.20, so the current balance is **\$207.20** which we have as a start for 2024-2025.

29 Years of Prior Coral Pink Trips:

With such a long history of Coral Pink trips, it is easy to come up with content looking back at the trips through the years. We have all aged somewhat over the three decades, but it is fun to look at what has changed and what has remained the same.

1995: The Kastle, Goodrich, and Reynolds families make the first IEOA trip to Coral Pink and fall in love with it.

1996: Our first trip with the group site. We had a good turnout, and it became clear this tradition might catch on.

1997: We had a large group including Barry, Brad, and Tyson, and met the Nielson family from Utah who also visit the park every year.

1998: The Schellingers first trip, and our first big day trip to Zion in their motorhome. Discovered log cabin restaurant outside Zion after skipping Taco Time in Hurricane.

1999: We took a day trip to Bryce Canyon where the fog lifted after Arlene complained about it. We had rain every day but two, and on the last day we changed drivers and Kris, Devon, and Dana all drove on a ride.

2000: Day trip to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon with 22 people. Shirley jumped her car off Bob-Jim, leading to the infamous air pump incident. Walt made his first trip and we performed an exorcism on Barry's car.

2001: Don and Shirley's motorhome died in Vegas, but they borrowed Bill's and made the trip. Our day trip was going river rafting below Lake Powell, which was great.

2002: Dave and Paula Medlin joined in for their first trip. Day trip where we took boats out to explore Lake Powell. Dave towed the Kastle's boat, and we rented two more boats up there and travelled up to Rainbow Bridge.

2003: This was Melissa's first trip, and Jim's legs got burned when Shirley's car backfired. Kris and Doug brought their freshly painted new Dunn-Tech LS1 powered car.

2004: Barry and Terri Baker joined in for their first time with their fifth wheel. We had some hard rain that collected in the EZ Ups. We replaced transmissions in three cars (Don's, Jim's, and P.J.'s) but kept them all running.

2005: Lakes were present in the upper dunes. We had a high temp of 105 in camp, but later had rain as well. Some of us visited Zion, and ate at the log cabin restaurant outside the park.



2006: Dunes overlook was completed and the Bakers returned. Doug first brought a Polaris Ranger to the dunes, and it was the first Coral Pink trip for P.J.'s and Steve Sturm joined in late in the trip.

2007: P.J. and Melissa borrowed John's truck, and towed our Weekend Warrior up for the first time. We first visited Panguitch after a side trip to Bryce in the trucks. Walt and P.J. collided, but we got the cars running using the tools and parts we brought.

2008: Mike Bacon made his first trip, and Tyson Conger returned. We had lots of rain, which temporarily washed out the road. Gene Sherman and Steve Sturm joined in late in the trip.



first Coral Pink trip with good VHF radios.

2011: We first visited the Dinosaur tracks. We had a smaller group with 4 cars and 3 side by sides, but Walt and Shirley both brought RZR's for the first time. There was enough rain to have standing water in the meadow. The group site was enhanced with more concrete and a BBQ.

2012: Doug's first trip with the RZR 900, and otherwise the same group of 4 cars and 3 side by sides. A permanent shade structure was added to the group site. On a side trip P.J., Melissa, and Allie visited Brian Head and Cedar City.

2013: Mike Bacon returned, and for the first time the side by sides out-numbered buggies 5 to 3. The RZR's discovered the Waterfall trail in the hills above the dunes. They also trailered the RZR's to check out nearby trails above Kanab.

2009: Jerry and Linda Trantham made their first trip, and for the first time there were as many side by sides as buggies in the group, with 3 Rangers and a Rhino. Melissa was pregnant with Allie, and we took our first day trip to Cedar City. (It's hard to believe that the picture on the right, with Don and Walt's "new" cars was from the 2009 trip, which is now 10 years ago!)

2010: Allie's first trip after being born, and John and Anna Cole joined in for the first time. Steve and Gene returned, and it was the





borrow A.J.'s RZR which meant we had four RZR's and nine people on the trip. It was Marshall's first trip, and we used quadcopter to take photos and videos of the dunes for the first time.

2017: This was another all RZR trip, as Mike again let P.J. borrow a RZR, this time his from the previous year since he had upgraded again. It was the first trip for the younger Kastles' new bigger trailer. We had 13 people on the trip, with Don and Shirley, Kris and Doug, Jim and Nancy, Walt, and Mike with his daughter Ashley who he picked up from the Vegas airport during the trip. Mike was able to stay at the camp host site to have power, which was a nice upgrade.

2018: For the third year in a row this trip was all side by sides, with Don and Shirley offering their four seater to P.J. even though they didn't make the trip. We had 11 people on the trip with the Schelling's, Kastles, Walt (with his CanAm for the first time), and Mike, who brought Pat Starr for her first trip which she enjoyed. We had an epic trip to the Thunderbird thanks to washouts on the Virgin River trail and the threat of rain, but were able to meet up with Melissa who drove our new truck to meet us and give Marshall and Kris a dry ride back to camp. We also took a day trip to Sand Hollow for the first time.

2019: This looks to be another great trip as we return in July for the 25th time. The Kastles, Schelling's, Mike Bacon and Pat Starr made the trip, and it was another all side by side trip since P.J. and Melissa borrowed Don and Shirley's four seater even though they did not make the trip themselves. We rode the trail to the Thunderbird and checked out all of the usual sites including the Dinosaur tracks.

2014: We had the fewest buggies up to this point at 2, but had a great time. Found some newly closed trail areas in the upper dunes, including Bob-Jim hill. We only had 8 people on the trip, but look forward to more returning next year.

2015: We again only had two buggies, and for only part of the trip as Walt arrived on Monday with his car and RZR, and Jim brought only the RZR for the first time. We had 13 people on the trip, and Melissa was pregnant with Marshall. Allie enjoyed playing with Paula's grandson Mykel, in camp on scooters and out on the RZR rides.

2016: This was the first all RZR trip, as Mike let P.J.



2020: Fortunately COVID was not able to stop the tradition of Coral Pink, and as the group picture shows masks were in use, but we still had a larger group with the Mike Bacon and Patt Starr, and Barry, Ann, and Amanda Baker joining the Kastles. It turned out to be the last trip in the old group site, as we visited the newly constructed site and made plans to use it on the next trip.



2021: The same crew as the year before made the trip with the re-addition of the Schellingers. We



camped in the new large group site for the first time, and really enjoyed it. Barry brought the purple dune buggy and did fairly well following the side by sides, but did wind up a little stuck in a tree by the lower corral.

2022: Due to a combination of unforeseen circumstances, most of the usual participants had to cancel on this year's trip. In order to keep the tradition going however, the Kastles rented a couple of regular campsites and made the trip for a few days in late July. Jim and Nancy rented a motorhome since Jom's truck was broken. We

made the trip without any sand toys, but the kids said it was one of their best trips yet and we all had a ball.

2023: We made a triumphant return to the new group site with the Kastles, Mike Bacon, Barry and Ann Baker making the trip, and we were joined by Pat Starr's brother and sister in law Bill and Stephanie as well as some of Ann Baker's cousins. Both Barry and P.J. brought sandrails, making it the first time P.J. brought a sandrail up there in over 10 years.



2024: This looks to be another great trip as we return in July for the 30th time. Unfortunately the Schellingers are not planning to make it, but Walt Fisher is planning to return and join the Bakers, Mike Bacon, and the Kastles to celebrate the 30th trip. Check back next month for details of our adventures.

This month we'd like to thank everyone for joining in on all of the fun in the dunes this season, and Mike Bacon for writing up an article this month and everyone who has participated in the 29 Coral Pink trips so far for making them memorable. Please send your contributions for future newsletters to me at pkastle@msn.com and we will make our best effort to publish them along with a calendar of events each month. -Paul, Melissa, Allie, and Marshall.