

THE ROOSTER

An off-season update from the Inland Empire Offroad Association

What's New

It's been a busy summer, and we have not gotten a newsletter out but it's time to get ready for dune season.

Glamis Season Is Here

We have Glamis trips planned for Veterans Day and Thanksgiving, and New Years is just around the corner.

Dumont Kick Off

The season is already underway, since some of the group kicked it off with a weekend at Dumont in early October. Everything worked well and the toys are ready to go.

Coral Pink 2024 trip report

as remembered by Jim Kastle

After missing nearly all of the 2023-2024 dune season I had doubts I'd be able to make the 30th annual IEOR Coral Pink trip. But thanks to some great doctors and assistants, I began thinking in late May I might be able to attend P.J. and my 31st trip (we made two trip trips sometime around 1998.) As July approached I felt good enough I decided I would not only make the trip, but could take the RS1 as well.

On Monday, July 22, Nancy in her Kia, and me in the dually towing the fifth wheel and RS1, met Walt on Highway 93 just outside of Golden Valley and caravanned to the Casablanca Hotel, Casino, and RV Park in Mesquite. We had an easy drive. We both had RV Park and hotel reservations, and were able to check in immediately. I was



Upcoming Events

- November 8-11: Veterans Day Weekend in the Washes, check for which wash.
- November 27- December 2: Thanksgiving at Glamis, likely Wash 14
- December 26 - January 2: Christmas / New Years at Glamis.

November, 2024

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December, 2024

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able to get my preferred space, the only one where I can park the truck and both trailers without unhitching. Walt was 1 spacer over. Our rooms were on the same floor as the casino, and just a few rooms from the casino. I had my favorite hot dogs (now \$1.50 each instead of \$.75 as they've been for 20+ years!) for lunch. I enjoyed the Nevada style entertainment. We had dinner at the Casa Cafe.

Wednesday morning we had breakfast at the Virgin River buffet. Good buffets, which used to be a Nevada staple, are now hard to find, and the Virgin River's remains about the same as it was pre Covid. The younger Kastles arrived that afternoon and P.J., Allie, Marshall, and I went swimming. Then all of us, including Nancy, Walt, Melissa, and Mike, who also arrived that afternoon, had dinner at the Casa Cafe. After dessert at the ice cream shop, P.J. and I played some nickel draw poker machines, continuing a long held tradition.

Thursday morning we met at the cafe for breakfast. It was good, but not the value it has been in past years. We were all checked out and hooked up by 10:00. We caravanned to "Blowout Junction", a Chevron station and nice convenience store, a traditional place for a break and a snack that used to mark just about the halfway point between Mesquite and Coral Pink. Now that the Cane bed Road is paved, it is less than an hour to the State Park.

We arrived at the park around 2:00 PM Utah time and were all able to park within 15 minutes, a huge improvement over the old, but shadier, group site.

Friday Mike led us on a ride to both corrals This ride was important to me, as I wasn't sure my neck was ready to go off roading. I was VERY pleased as it was quite comfortable. He had intended to go only to one corral, but when he asked me which one I wanted to go to, the upper or lower, I was confused and replied the upper. He started by leading us to the nearer corral, which was the lower one. When we arrived at the



lower corral I mentioned that I thought we were going to the other corral, the one by "Bob-Jim." Mike then continued to the upper corral. It was a much longer ride than Mike had planned, but I thoroughly enjoyed it. I was very pleased that I had completed an off-road ride, the first in nearly a year, and a fairly long one at that!

Saturday morning we all took a ride to the Dinosaur tracks.. P.J. flew his drone. At some point we heard him say it got caught in a tree. I walked over to where he was flying it, and we looked in the tree for the drone, but couldn't find it. It was very windy and after about five minutes, I heard a thunk, and I looked behind me and found it had been blown from the tree to the ground. PJ looked at it, and it had suffered only superficial damage, and was able to fly it again before it leaving the dinosaur tracks. We all made it back to camp uneventfully.

Later Saturday Barry and Ann arrived towing their brand new beautiful "Garagemahaul", a 42 foot, ALL aluminum, dual slide out fifth wheel. The trip from home had taken over 24 hours. The delay was unrelated to the new trailer. Some of you may remember the truck hauling lithium that caught fire on I 15 about a month ago. They got caught in the backup that appears to have been grossly aggravated by Cal Trans's ineptitude. They were soon joined by Ann's sister, Lorraine and the next morning by her cousin and nephew, John and Trevor who had joined us last year.

Sunday morning P.J. gave everyone their "30th Annual IEOR Coral Pink Trip" shirts and took the traditional photograph. We then all went to the Thunderbird Restaurant in Mount Carmel Junction for our traditional breakfast feast. It was great, topped off for too many of us with a slice of their "Ho'made pie." I don't eat a lot of pie, but I wouldn't be surprised if half of the pie I've eaten in the last 30 years was from the Thunderbird! We returned to camp and Mike led us on a ride that has become a tradition. We went to the Meadow and then crossed the highway and up a trail and then to the valley that is behind the ridge that is across the highway from camp. We continued on trails until we got to the highway near the dinosaur tracks. We then took the highway back to camp.

Monday we took what is my favorite side by side ride anywhere, and possibly my favorite off road ride in any vehicle. We took the highway to the trail we used at the end of Sunday's ride, then took trails to the Virgin River and crossed the river twenty-so times and ended up at the Thunderbird for more pie! We then took trails paralleling the highway to the paved road that leads from the highway to camp and took it to camp. That afternoon P.J., Barry, Ann, her brother and nephew, and I went to the Kanab shooting range. My main take from that trip is to not mess with Ann! We had a good time and then went to the Junction drive in for the first time the trip. I always enjoy the Junction.

Tuesday morning P.J. Flew the drone from camp the half mile or so to the Sandsquatch statue. It was again quite windy, and the drone ended up in another tree. This time a tall, very luscious one. He took the RS1 to the site and was able to download the video, but despite us looking for it each day the rest of the trip, as far as we know it is still in the tree. Once home, he found another on eBay and has flown it. P.J. and family left



and had a trouble free drive home. After they left the rest of us took a ride to the high overlook that is beyond the lower corral. We were all impressed how Barry's new car easily maneuvered the winding, narrow trail. On the way back from the overlook we took the trail to "Shirley's Waterfall." I think it was the first time Walt has been there since we discovered it about eight years ago. It continues to amaze me every time we visit it. There are no warning signs or railings, and it has a sheer drop off of at least 150 feet! I was able to lead the ride down the "Disneyland" trail and back to camp. Not leading for a year certainly has taken the edge off my leading ability, but I sure had fun. I made every ride, and am still excited about having done so. The next couple of weeks I realized I MAY have overdone the riding at least a bit. But now I am feeling at least as good as I did before the trip and am looking forward to more off roading this season, hopefully including my sand rail.

As I write this on Labor Day, I can't find any notes on what we did on Wednesday. All I can remember is preparing for leaving the next day. Thursday we hooked up, dumped the trailers and headed home. Mike left very early, just about sunrise. Barry and Ann stayed at Coral pink until Saturday. Walt, Nancy, and I left around 10:30 and had an easy drive to Mesquite where we spent another night at the Casablanca, followed by another Virgin River buffet. We then caravanned home with no problems.

We are planning on the 31st annual trip next July, tentatively July 24-31, 2025. As soon as we get the dates finalized I'll put them in the newsletter. I hope we can have an even bigger group next year. In addition to the five spots in the group site, there are several individual sites near the group site.



MBPSMSPRAHDWR 2024

By Mike Bacon Photos by Jim Kastle and Malinda Sudduth

Last Saturday was the 12th annual Mona Bacon Pat Starr Memorial Spook Poker Run And Hot Dog Weenie Roast, this time held in Lake Havasu. Jeff & Lavon, Dave & Donette, Jon & Malinda & Makayla, Jim, and my girlfriend Susan all came for the ride to the hunting cabin south of Havasu. Barry & Ann, and Don & Shirley then joined us for the hot dog roast and pizza after the ride.

We left my house in Havasu and trailered to The Steppes where we unloaded and followed trails and washes to Holy Rock and stopped to explore. From there we followed trails and washes which I had found two years ago to find the Lost Cabin Of Havasu. I had waypoints on my GPS from my initial trip, but I wasn't sure they were all correct. I was amazed we made it right to the cabin!





After lunch we worked our way back to the trucks. It was a rough, dusty ride, but great fun. Once we loaded the cars back up we all headed back to home or where everyone was staying to get cleaned up and ready for dinner. We had bbq hot dogs, pizza, salad, and Jim's famous meat balls amongst other things. It was all great and I ate way too much!!

I want to thank everyone who came, my cousin Jon for cooking the hot dogs, everyone who brought food, and my girlfriend Susan who guided us through the trip to and from the cabin because I couldn't read my notes on the GPS!!

Trailer Work

By Paul Kastle

After 8 years and over 20,000 miles it became evident it was time to put some more work into our Weekend Warrior. When I went and picked up the sandrail at the shop after



installing the transmission

to get ready for Dumont I lost a wheel bearing and arrived at home on fire. Then while changing the bearings I found that wall sag issues had led to the tires rubbing the wheel wells. That meant no Dumont trip for me, and it put Thanksgiving in jeopardy but we are making progress and hope to be there.



This month we'd like to thank Mike Bacon and Jim Kastle for writing up articles this month and let everyone know that I will get something out each month during the dune season. 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.