

Welcome to the 40th Annual

LA-BARSTOW-TO-VEGAS

DUAL SPORT and ADVENTURE BIKE RIDE ~ November 24—25, 2023

The AMA District 37 Dual Sport Committee welcomes you to our 40th Annual LA-B-to-V Ride and 29th Annual Toys for Tots run. We'll begin for the fifth year at Embassy Suites in Palmdale, following marked existing trails on (BLM) Bureau of Land Management land through U.S. National Forests and finish in Las Vegas at The Orleans Hotel and Casino, a mile west of I-15 on Tropicana Blvd.

ALL RULES MUST BE ADHERED TO! Failure to do so WILL JEOPARDIZE our ability to receive permits for future dual sport rides. If you need additional information, please call Paul Flanders at 626-684-2336 or Kieth Huff at 562-244-0244.

Membership in the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) is REQUIRED to ride LA-B-to-V. Avoid waiting in a second line at registration. Sign up now at join.americanmotorcyclist.com/privileges-savenow/ if you haven't already.

PREPARE YOURSELF AND YOUR BIKE! Eat breakfast and get gas BEFORE you reach signups. Sweep crew leaves Friday at 8:30 a.m.! Expect rain, snow, wind, or fog, although sunshine is usually the norm. Layers are helpful so you can shed clothes if it gets warm. BE SURE TO BRING ALONG A BACKPACK WITH WATER, TOOL KIT, AND TIRE REPAIR KIT! Take time to go over your bike thoroughly to prevent on-course repairs. Tighten all bolts and check chain, cables, brakes, air/fuel filters, battery, oil, drain plug, and tires.

TIRES: Fresh, aggressive off road/knobby tires are VERY important! If you need a tire after the first day, A-ONE CYCLE of Barstow will be at the hotel parking lot in Barstow. **Buy and install new tires and, especially, ultra heavy duty tubes before the ride. Carry a regular spare tube and repair kit (including tire irons) with you on the ride!**

DUST: Be prepared for dust. A cover for your mouth and nose is a smart idea. The ride is over 500 miles of desert every year.

DUAL SPORT/ADVENTURE: This is not a race or competitive event! Our course has been ridden by both novice to veteran riders within daylight hours. Your skill and personal riding style may vary from these riders. There are leap options or bail outs for both day's rides. USE THEM if your running behind or told to bail by our course volunteers. We don't want to be out looking for you because you are lost in the dark. Please remember this is not a race, but a scenic dual sport/Adventure Bike ride for you to enjoy our mountain and desert areas. TIME MANAGEMENT IS CRITICAL!

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: As part of our permits, your motorcycle must have an operational spark arrester at the start. Before you proceed to sign-ups for the

event, your motorcycle needs to be street licensed and have proper license plate, muffler, mirror, turn signals, headlight, tail/brake light and a GPS for the course. If you are coming from out-of-state and have all the necessary equipment to be street licensed for your state, this will suffice. Aftermarket exhaust systems not exceeding 96 dbA will be allowed.

GPS ONLY: *GPS only will aid for navigation on this event. Buy GPS, use it and learn to work with it. Our volunteers will download the course on your GPS. Bring your own cable to download GPS table.*

FUEL: DAY 1 Gas stops are no more than 102 miles the hard way and 88 miles the easy way. DAY 2 Gas stops are no more than 95 miles hard way and 103 miles easy way. A four-stroke bike with a large capacity fuel tank should have no problem with the distances. At the lunch stop on DAY TWO in Sandy Valley, each rider will receive 1.5 gallons of gas ONLY. This is just enough for you to make it to Las Vegas. **Get gas at each opportunity, especially in Baker!** Get fuel as you arrive in Barstow on the first day be prepared for the next day.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES: All regular checkpoints will have minor first aid kits available to riders. If you are injured or riding with another rider who becomes injured, please have someone notify the closest available checkpoint of the position on the course and the nature of the injury. When you seek medical help, notify our workers with your full name, phone number and rider number so if we need to get a hold of the injured rider.. The best way to get emergency medical help is to call 911.

SWEEP CREW / DESIGNATED COURSE: The sweep crews follow the designated course only. They leave the start area half an hour after signups close. Do not deviate from the course. Use bail outs when necessary, but notify the nearest checkpoint of your ride plan. The sweep trucks have been instructed to pick up ALL riders and broken motorcycles on the course to be delivered to a drop-off point to connect with your crew. Your cooperation is appreciated.

LUGGAGE and GEAR: We will transport your 1 SMALL overnight bag from the start to the finish each day. Please put your contact info on all pieces of your overnight bag. NO LARGE GEAR BAGS, NO TIRES, NO FUEL and NO DOLLIES will be accepted in the trailer. We are not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged luggage. Drop off/pickup of luggage is during sign-in times each day at the signup area. You'll find the event trailer parked outside the signup area with your 1 overnight bag.

GOODIES: Your entry includes a commemorative t-shirt, sticker, ride pin and special goodies. Some additional commemorate t-shirts will be available for sale in Las Vegas at the Saturday night banquet.

TOYS FOR TOTS BENEFIT: Remember, this is a Toys for Tots benefit ride and you are asked to bring an *unwrapped toy with a \$20 value* or be prepared to make a *charitable \$20 cash contribution*.

WE NEED HELP AT THE EVENT: If your pit crew/wife/family/friends can assist us at the start or finish of each day, we would really appreciate it. Please contact Jackie Nicholson at 626-255-0269. At the event, if you have questions, find a worker wearing District 37 Staff shirt and they will help as best as they can.

ALL LAWS APPLY: All Federal, State, County, Local, BLM (and Murphy's) laws apply to the operation of this event. This event IS NOT exempt from any law pertaining to the safe operation of a street-licensed motor vehicle.

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION

ALL routes on the course are expected to have two-way traffic situations. Please keep to your **RIGHT** on all roads, especially in the mountains. You may encounter hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, and others within our course area. Although we have permits for this event, this does not give us exclusive use of the areas. HARD WAYS are exactly that and we mean it, no B.S! Our hard ways may strip the cylinders off a BMW twin and we won't airlift it out!



The 2023 LA-B-to-V course will traverse the Toiyabe National Forests and four BLM Resource Areas. On both days, there are checkpoints and sections where speed limits of 30 mph to "protect the desert tortoise" are necessary. This course will include mostly two-track jeep roads and several short sections of pavement. The terrain will vary with both easy- and hard-way options available. Some "bail-outs" and "leaps" will be included for you to take if you experience fatigue or are running late.

**THERE ARE 30 MPH TORTOISE ZONES.
YOU MUST OBEY THE SPEED LIMITS.
YOU CANNOT SEE THESE ON YOUR GPS.
BLM OFFICERS WILL BE WATCHING FOR
RIDERS EXCEEDING THE SPEED LIMIT
IN THESE ZONES.**

DAY ONE SIGN-IN PROCEDURES: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2023 (START RIDING DAY ONE 6:30-8 a.m.)

**EMBASSY SUITES, 39375 5TH ST. W.,
PALMDALE, CA 661-266-3756**

STEP 1. PARKING: Parking is available for your vehicles on the four streets surrounding Embassy Suites: W. Ave P-4 north of the hotel, 5th St. W on the east side of the hotel, Technology Dr. on the south side of the hotel and Trade Center Dr. on the west side of the hotel. A dedicated security guard hired by District 37 Dual Sport will be watching bikes from Thursday night to Friday morning.

STEP 2. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: All motorcycles must have a license plate. Do not block the Embassy Suites east driveway on Ave. 5th St. W! Vehicles will be driving through to the parking area. Parking until Sunday or Monday for your vehicle is available in the Embassy Suites parking lot.

STEP 3. SIGN-UPS: You will be directed, as spacing permits, to the sign-up area, where you will pick up your rider envelope. Take your GPS/cable and Toy for Tots toy with you to sign-ups.

STEP 4. TOYS FOR TOTS: Put your toy into the receptacles provided and get your toy receipt or have your \$20 ready here.

STEP 5. AMA MEMBERSHIP: AMA membership (\$49) is required to ride LA-B-to-V. Your name will automatically be entered into the national drawing to win a new Beta motorcycle from Beta USA just by entering LA-B-to-V!



STEP 6. ENTRY PROCESSING: Pre-Entry-You will be directed, as spacing permits, to the area corresponding to your **LAST NAME**. If you have not prepaid for the toy, turn in your **toy receipt** and sign the release form. You will receive your rider wristband, map, t-shirt, LA-B-to-V rider # sticker, rider plaque (if ordered) and other important information.

STEP 7. Next, go to the GPS download area to get the tracks downloaded. Make sure ahead of time previous GPS tracks are cleared to accept the download. Remember to bring your GPS cable!

STEP 8. PUT YOUR LA-B-TO-V RIDER # STICKER ON YOUR NUMBER PLATE OR FRONT FENDER. WEAR YOUR RIDER WRISTBAND THROUGHOUT THE RIDE, INCLUDING SATURDAY NIGHT.

STEP 9. READ YOUR RIDERS' INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK OF THE MAP IN YOUR ENVELOPE BEFORE LEAVING ON THE RIDE!

STEP 10. Put your 1 small gear bag in the enclosed luggage vehicle outside the front entrance of Embassy Suites or send with your personal support crew. Give your support crew the PINK MAP in your rider packet. It's for them to follow the route and meet you along the way, if desired.

STEP 11. GO! Hit the road! Start the ride by 6:30 a.m. (no later than 8 a.m.) GET FUEL PREFERABLY BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT SIGNUPS or AS YOU DEPART! Eat and gas up, then ride to the Checkpoint

FINISH DAY ONE: *BARSTOW-FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24.* Our official headquarter will be at the Holiday Inn Express, 2700 Lenwood Rd., Barstow, in the meeting room inside the hotel. Look for the Checkpoint sign and go inside the hotel. We will open Day One Finish around 2 p.m. and will continue in the same location until 7 p.m. or when final sweep comes in. You will receive Day 2 info and GPS download. **If you bail out early, you must check in so we can account for you.** There is limited RV/trailer parking in the parking lots of the Holiday Inn Express and Hampton Inn. Overflow RV/trailer parking will be in the dirt lot between the Holiday Inn Express and the 15 Freeway. Camping here is for self-contained RVs only. Bring locks for all evenings to secure your bike! (See below.)

BIKE SECURITY IN BARSTOW: Security for your bike will be provided by Boy Scout Troop 357 for a \$10 donation. The secure, well-lit paddock on the dirt lot adjacent to the Hampton Inn will be staffed by troop members and their fathers from 2 p.m. Friday until 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning. **Your bike must be out of the lot by 7:30 a.m.!** (In the last few years, bikes have been stolen that were parked at other motels, even inside vehicles and trailers. Let the Boy Scouts guard your bike!)

MOTORCYCLE MECHANIC: A One Cycle, Alex owner will be at the dirt parking lot on Friday if you need tires, levers, tubes and anything you might need he will help.

DAY TWO ONLY RIDERS: PRE- AND POST-ENTRANTS. Check in at the Holiday Inn Express beginning 3 p.m. Friday, 11/24, until 7 p.m. and again from 6-7 a.m. on Saturday, 11/25, to receive your second day's riders' envelope, map, and GPS download.

START- DAY TWO IN BARSTOW: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 6 A.M., EVERY ENTRANT WILL PASS THROUGH OUR CHECK-OUT CHUTE STARTING BEFORE DAY-BREAK ON SATURDAY MORNING. You will be checked off our official rider list to account for our riders on the course. This is part of our permit stipulations from the BLM, so we must strictly adhere to it! BLM personnel will ride the event on both days as they have in the past. Give them your best regards and share your enthusiasm for the dual sport rides we have on our public land.

Day Two will be nearly all desert and a fabulous mountain finish, with a course of around 250 miles, depending on route options. There are fun and fast sections. Keep a good pace. Get a **quick** lunch at our checkpoint in Sandy Valley, where a free lunch and 1.5 gallons of gas are part of your entry fee. **ONLY RIDERS WEARING WRISTBANDS WILL RECEIVE LUNCH AND GAS!** The best part of the ride is after lunch through two mountain passes between Sandy Valley and Las Vegas, so don't delay here. **FILL YOUR BIKE AT BAKER AND EACH GAS STOP PLEASE DON'T PASS UP GAS!**

DAY TWO PROCEDURES: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2023 (START DAY TWO 6-7 a.m.)

FINISH- DAY TWO LAS VEGAS: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25. The finish will be at The Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas about one mile west of I-15 on Tropicana Blvd., on the street level of the north parking structure. Check-in will be from 2-7 p.m. **Check in even if you are staying at another hotel, at a friend's place, or going home!** If you arrive after 6 p.m., check in at the banquet reception upstairs at 7 p.m.

Photo ops with the showgirls are at the finish with Grumpy from 3-6 p.m. Showgirls are upstairs at the Mardi Gras Ballroom from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for personal photos.

BANQUET RECEPTION: LAS VEGAS-SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25. Riders, their families and support crew are welcome to attend the banquet reception in the Mardi Gras Ballroom above The Orleans Casino. Doors open at 7 p.m. with no host bar, hors d'oeuvres will be available starting at 7:30 p.m. and the presentation begins at 8 p.m. **Riders must wear their wristbands for admission and to win prizes.** Riders must be present to win all prizes.

SPECIAL AWARDS: Tradition dictates that we recognize those who take the effort and dare to be different. If you feel that you or one of your riding buddies qualifies for one of these awards, please discuss this with our District 37 officers.

OVERALL DAY 1 AND DAY 2 COMBINED CATEGORIES:

- Hard Luck Award (verified by witnesses, not rumor)
- Smallest Engine (rider finishing both days has priority on this award)
- Distance Traveled to Event Award (U.S. entries

- only, verified by entry and driver license)
- International Entry Award (for farthest outside the U.S.)
- Most Unusual Motorcycle
- (as determined by our opinionated staff)
- Ben Gay Award (Ouch!)
- Oldest Rider (Verified by license)

BIKE SECURITY IN LAS VEGAS: A dedicated security guard hired by District 37 Dual Sport will guard bikes from 8 p.m. Saturday night to 8 a.m. Sunday morning at The Orleans Hotel District 37 parking area where you checked in upon finishing the event. **Regardless, you should still lock up your bikes! If you have a long cable, lock your bike to a pole.**

NOTE:

OUR SWEEP CREWS ARE PROVIDED AS A COURTESY: They are *not* mechanics, do not change tires, adjust valves or refill your oil. They are there *to assist*, get medical aid, and communicate in case of an emergency. Sweep is **definitely** not out there to remove you from a hard way course. Our 4WD sweep **will** help get a broken bike out of the boonies to the nearest road so your own crew can rescue you. Their radios and communication system will make sure your message gets to the appropriate party. Your entry fee does not provide point-to-point towing/flatbed service. Our sweep crews will close portions of the course throughout the day. If you do not heed sweep's personnel warnings, you will be in the desert after dark. You will be on your own with no one behind you. (Unless you have super-bright off-road lights on your bike, you do not want to be out in the very dark desert at night. It is easy to lose your

bearings and get lost.)

If you have any other questions please send email through website and we will answer as soon as we can.

IMPORTANT INFO: NO SOLO RIDERS

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

ANTELOPE VALLEY HOSPITAL

1600 West Ave. J
Lancaster, CA 93534
661-949-5000
(East of the 14 Freeway, on the corner of 15th St. West)

BARSTOW COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

820 E. Mountain View St.
Barstow, CA 92311
760-256-1761

HUMANA/SUNRISE HOSPITAL

3186 S. Maryland Pkwy.
Las Vegas, NV 89109
702-731-8000

UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER (Trauma Center)

1800 W. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89102
702-383-2000

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

2601 Barstow Rd.,



MOTORCYCLE SHOPS AT THE START

CYCLE GEAR Tel. 661-273-6113
(Open 6 a.m. Friday.)

CELL PHONE MONITORS

Dave Spencer 661-733-7096
Kieth Huff 562-244-0244
Jackie Nicholson 626-255-0269



HOTELS

THURSDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 23, PALMDALE:

Event headquarters

Embassy Suites

39375 5th St. W.
Palmdale, CA
661-266-3756

Discount code: AMA (Cutoff date: October 28)

FRIDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 24, PALMDALE:

Event headquarters

Embassy Suites

39375 5th St. W.
Palmdale, CA
661-266-3756

Exit Hwy-14 at Hwy 138 (W. Palmdale Blvd.) and go west. Turn right on 5th St. West. Go north. Embassy Suites is on the left. Park on the street or in the Embassy Suites parking lot only if leaving a vehicle

FRIDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 24, BARSTOW:

Event headquarters

Holiday Inn Express

2700 Lenwood Rd.
Barstow, CA
760-253-9200

Discount code: AMA

Hampton Inn

2710 Lenwood Rd.
Barstow, CA
760-253-2600

(Across the parking lot from Holiday Inn Express)

Comfort Suites

2571 Fisher Blvd.
Barstow, CA
760-253-3600
(.8 miles away)

Discount code: AMA

Trailer parking okay

Ayres Hotel

2812 Lenwood Rd.
Barstow, CA

SATURDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 25, LAS VEGAS:

Event headquarters

The Orleans Hotel and Casino

4500 W. Tropicana Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV
(About one mile west of the strip.)
702-365-7111 or 800-675-3267

Discount code: AAM1C11

SUNDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 26, LAS VEGAS:

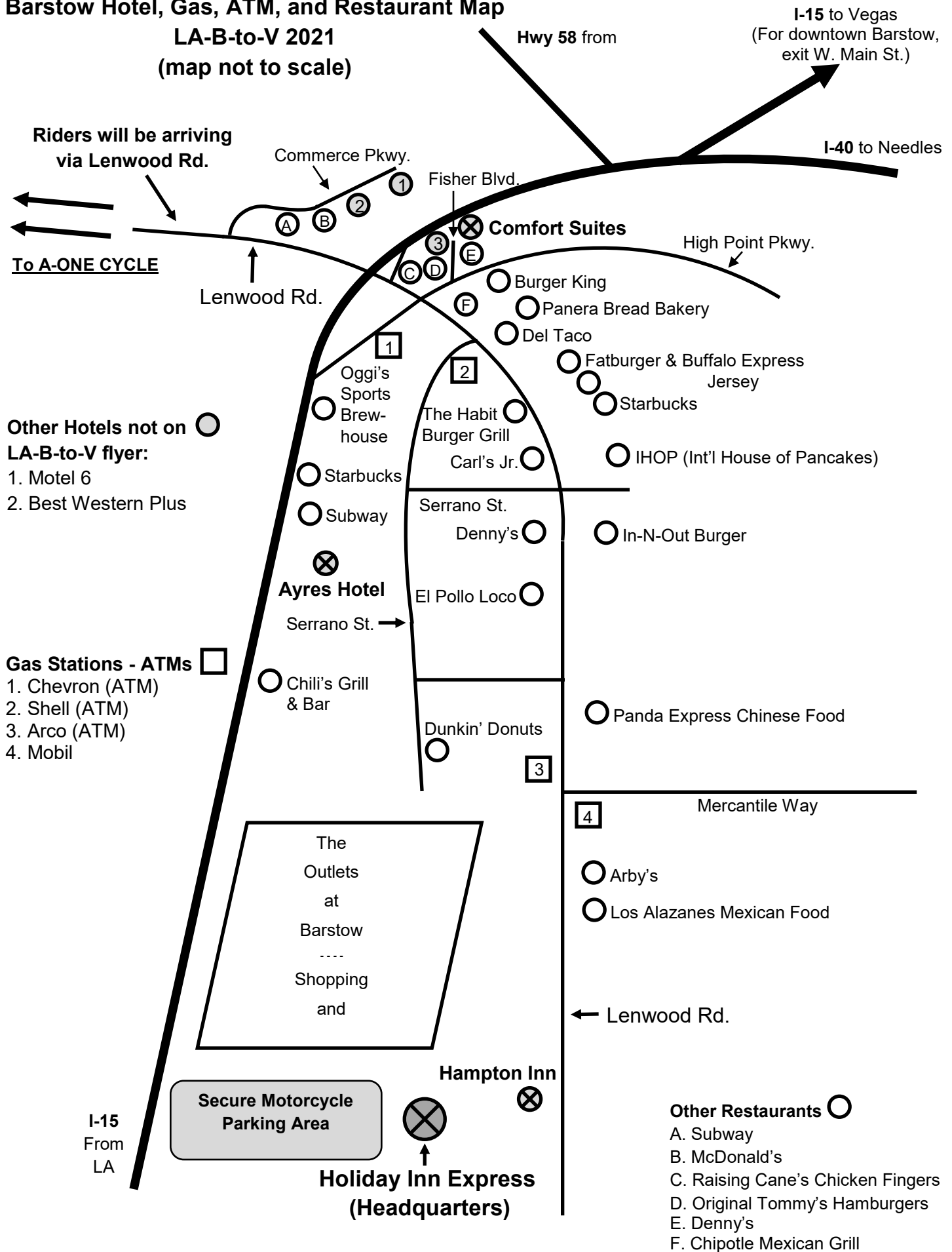
The Orleans Hotel and Casino

702-365-7111 or 800-675-3267.

Discount code: AAM1C11

(Cutoff date: November 12)

Barstow Hotel, Gas, ATM, and Restaurant Map
LA-B-to-V 2021
 (map not to scale)



Photos by Grumpy

LA-B-to-V Photo Instructions

Welcome to this year's LA-B-to-V dual sport ride! Our team looks forward to taking your photos so you can remember your LA-B-to-V dual sport experience.



Rider Number: Place the number sticker in your rider envelope on your **front number plate or fender** in a *vertical location with no obstructions, so it can be seen from a distance*. Our crew depends on these numbers to identify your photos; good sticker placement will help make your photos easy to process online.

Photo Locations: Multiple action photo locations are located on the off-road trail sections before lunch both days. Exact locations are marked on the roll chart as well as on our flyer included in your rider envelope you receive at signups. Look for our banners on the trail preceding the photo area and be ready to look good when you see our photographers. There is also one "non-rolling" photo location on Day Two with the showgirls at the finish in the parking lot of The Orleans Hotel.

Purchasing Photos

Check our flyer in your rider envelope at signups for pricing.

Online: Photos are usually available within a week of the event. Individual Digital Images and Prints ranging from 4"x6" to 24"x36" are available through our website. Digital Images will be available for download immediately following payment. Prints are usually shipped and received in less than a week. Our website uses PayPal, which accepts all major credit cards.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us make your photographic experience an enjoyable one at this year's LA-B-to-V dual sport/adventure bike ride. Your customer satisfaction is of great importance to me.

See you in Las Vegas!

Bryan "Grumpy" Clark
760-947-7558



photosbygrumpy@gmail.com
www.photosbygrumpy.com

Steve's Trail Etiquette Tips

By Steve Di Yorio

Courtesy is contagious. Please spread it abundantly! We represent our sport to the outside world, so help keep a positive image for dual sport riders everywhere.

When coming up from behind on a slower rider you can rev the engine a couple times and/or honk to let them know you are behind them, then wait to pass safely. (Follow the Golden Rule, remembering what it was like when you were a beginner rider. Frightening novices can lead to injuries.)

If you need to stop, pull over to the side of the trail. Don't stop in the middle of the trail!

When going from dirt to street, don't forget you're now on the street! Sounds simple, but easy to forget. Wheelies, erratic driving, sudden stops, peeling rubber, etc. are not going to win us any points. Don't forget to use blinkers, if they haven't broken off, AND hand signals for turning.

When approaching oncoming OHV traffic, Use the common hand signals to indicate to the group that is behind you, if I can. One finger for each rider behind me or a closed fist if I'm the last one. Maybe this is stupid on LA-B-to-V because I don't have 500 fingers, but there are times when it's just my group for a short while and I feel it helps to practice the habit and promote it among others.

When encountering non-two-wheeled citizens - hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikes, etc. - I always slow way down and wait until I'm a fair distance away before I yank the throttle to avoid dust and rock flinging. A nice wave or nod to be friendly doesn't hurt either. (This is common in Red Rock Canyon.)

STAY ON THE TRAILS. If you miss a turn, turn around and go back or find a connecting trail up ahead, even if a member of my own group decides to bust across a bunch of bushes just to get back on track. (Do you know someone from District 37 Dual Sport has to go back with a rake and repair all those busted-across trails?)

Tortoise zones - 30MPH. This is hard to do, but following the rules will keep trails open. Not following rules could jeopardize the future of LA-B-to-V. Don't be a weenie and ruin it for the rest of us because you have a desire for heavy throttle. Pay attention to the roll chart for these zones. If you see one of these little dudes on the trail, stop to pick it up and move it away from the trail to keep it safe. Tell it to go get laid so they won't be endangered any more.

Pack it in/pack it out - don't litter; that's just lame. It takes minimal effort to put trash in your backpack, bike storage, riding pants, in your helmet or up your butt until you can put it in a trash can. This includes cigarette butts. Make sure it's out; store it, or lose it at the next pit stop with a trash can. It's really not that hard. We are guests here. Let's act like it.

If you encounter officials who feel like harassing you a bit, accommodate them and be nice. Acting like a jerk will only make things worse for you and the rest of us. If your bike isn't street licensed, that's your fault, not theirs. Getting angry about it and forcing an escalation to the situation is a losing scenario. Be a winner, not a wiener.

Did I miss anything? Give your mommy a hug? Honor thy country? **LIVE TO RIDE?**

Have fun out there, guys and gals!

This list of LA-B-to-V Smart Tips is included especially for dual sporters riding LA-B-to-V for the first time. However, there are some experienced at this ride who might not have thought of these tips that have proven to make life easier on the trail and when you arrive at your hotel. Read on!

Julie Angell: It's a long walk from the check-in point/luggage trailer in the parking lot of The Orleans Hotel to the front desk of the hotel. Then there's the long walk to your room. Do yourself a favor and buy/borrow a small gearbag with wheels. If you don't have one, you'll wish you did!

Dual Sport Referee: A guy makes his reservation about two months before the ride with The Orleans in Las Vegas. On the day of the ride, his wife drives their truck and arrives in Vegas three hours before her husband. The hotel will not give her the room because the reservation only has his name on it.

She has the same last name, same home address, same credit card number as the husband and the reservation confirmation number. The hotel still won't budge. She has to wait until her husband gets in to check in at the hotel and get their room key. (This happened years ago to former District 37 Dual Sport president Jim Woods and his wife.)

Add the names of the adults sharing your room with you in case they arrive in town before you. If you already have a reservation, you can call and add their names.

Julie Angell: Put your business card or contact information in your fender bags. Fender bags get turned in to us at the Holiday Inn and The Orleans each year that have fallen off. Some never get found by our riders or sweep. You can't get your fender bag back if no one knows who it belongs to!

Drill small holes in your fenders and zip-tie the clips at the end of the straps to your fender. Keeps your fender bags from falling off.

What do you do about the cold temperatures in the mornings? In 2010, it was in the low twenties leaving Barstow. Brrr!

Candycornman: WEAR SOME GOOD WARM GLOVES! Sometimes it's freakin' cold in the mornings.

mcdx: I found the cheap air-activated hand warmers fit in the top of my gloves and worked pretty well. (Available at Walmart.)

Crawdaddy: I get teased sometimes about the elephant ears I have screwed into my bark busters in the winter months, but nobody is teasing me after that first rest stop in the morning when I start "complaining" about how "warm" my hands are due to heated grips and elephant ears.

You can buy both heated grip elements and elephant ears online for about \$30-40 each. (Moose Racing Foam Handguards.)

I also drop air activated heated foot warmers into the soles of my boots (available at any sporting goods store or Walmart). They last several hours, which is good enough to get you through the morning. It's a good \$3 investment.

And don't forget the balaclava for your face. Cold feet/hands/face = no bueno.

CF: If you're on a budget, you can tape cardboard on your hand grips in lieu of elephant ears.

mcdx: It was so cold in 2010, the water hose for our Camelbaks froze. You might want to purchase the insulated hose cover.

Julie Angell: Buy merino wool long underwear. Nothing beats merino wool when it's cold outside. Believe it or not, it keeps you cool when it's hot outside too. It's expensive, but won't smell like polyester long underwear will eventually under the arms. Doesn't itch-I guarantee it! I wear several layers of Smartwool under my jersey, one under my riding pants and a windbreaker in cold

weather while riding. Rolls up small in my backpack. No heavy jacket for me that you can't remove when it warms up!

Buy it at smartwool.com, at REI, or on Amazon.com.

goldenrod: Buy a nice microfiber cloth at the 99 cent store for cleaning goggles and GPS lenses on the go. They won't scratch your lenses/screens.

CF: Have a microfiber cloth close by. There's lots of dust, especially in the early morning leaving Barstow riding into the sunrise. It's hard to see with the blinding sun/dust that never settles.

goldenrod: How about the old trick of using duct tape and a cardboard extension for your helmet visor when heading into that blinding morning sunshine Saturday morning?

Waky66e: If I can make it this year, I'm bringing a dust mask. I blew at least 1/4 cup of El Mirage out of my head one year.

I'm also transferring all my "go to" items forward to my belt pack and jacket. (Keep items like your camera, goggle-cleaning cloth and energy gels in your number plate bag or a pocket where you can get to them quickly, not in your backpack.)

Julie Angell: Go to Walmart and buy a Cliplight in the flashlight section. They cost about \$10. Attach it to the visor of your helmet and put some duct tape on the clip so it won't come off in case you fall over.

Why do this? How are you going to see your roll chart, GPS and speedometer at night? Or work on your bike if you need to?

You can get different versions of this light at Harbor Freight, Turner's Outdoorsman and Bass Pro Shop, but Walmart's version has worked best for me.

Jim Pilon: Or carry an LED headlamp in your backpack in case you get caught in the dark. There are many kinds. Get the brightest (most lumens) you can afford. It really helps to have two hands to work on your bike instead of one holding a flashlight.

CF: Use your GPS along with the roll chart, double-checking constantly.

Candycornman: Double check your gear. I was going through mine today and found my matches didn't work, glow light didn't work, etc. All the odd items that I carried for the last two years and never used. Guess it's time to replace some items on Julie's list of 'What Should I take on LA-B-to-V?'

Jeff Thompson: And include your spare tube, patches and glue in that check. If they have been in your fender pack for a year or more, the tube may not hold air or the glue may not stick (or BOTH). Trust me, I learned that one the hard way.

Strega: Three things that will NEVER help you while on a dual sport ride: 1. Fuel you left at the pump. 2. Water you left in the jug. 3. Tools you left on the bench.

mcdx: Put a wrench on every bolt before the ride. If you are just now working on your bike, you need to get busy.

Julie Angell: Make sure you carry the AAA Los Angeles Region, Central Coast Region and the San Bernardino Region map. The latter covers Las Vegas as well. Get them for your support crew too. They are the best maps you will find for the ride!

Jill Flanders: Carry cash with you on the ride, and I don't mean \$1. You'd be surprised how little cash some of the riders carry on them. You need to pay for lunch, gas, dinner, tips, etc. What if you have to pay someone to get you out of a bind?

Credit cards aren't good everywhere, especially at little podunk gas stations.



THE DESERT TORTOISE

The desert tortoise is listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species. Under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), anyone who takes (the term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct) a tortoise is subject to civil and/or criminal penalties of up to a \$50,000 fine and one year in jail, or both. BLM assists the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the enforcement of the Act. The desert tortoise is also considered by California to be a threatened species with associated penalties.

BIOLOGY: Like other reptiles, the desert tortoise is cold-blooded. To survive in the desert, the tortoise estivates (remains underground in its burrow) during the hottest times of the day during the summer and hibernates (sleeps underground in its burrow) during the cold of winter. Tortoises come out in the spring to eat grasses and wildflowers and drink water from the spring rains (although they obtain most of their water from the plants they eat). Also in spring, they socialize and look for mates. At other times of the year, they are less active above ground.

The desert tortoise reaches sexual maturity between 10 and 20 years of age. The females lay from 2 to 14 ping pong ball size eggs. Since a tortoise may live for 60 to 100 years, many eggs will be laid in a lifetime. However, only about five out of every 100 hatchlings will survive to become an adult tortoise. For the first six to eight years, the young tortoise's shell is no thicker than your fingernail, and therefore, it is easy prey for many other desert animals, especially the raven.

Many human activities also threaten the survival of the desert tortoise. Some of these include:

- removing wild tortoises from the desert
- releasing pet tortoises into the desert (they often carry disease)
- driving off roads in areas not designated for off-highway vehicle play (tortoises are crushed in their burrows)
- crushing tortoises as they are crossing roads
- Shooting at tortoises

SOME DOs and DON'TS:

1. If you find a tortoise in the desert, **DO** take pictures, get down and look at it (but not so close that you disturb it). Watch to see how it moves and what it eats, then walk away and know that you have done a good deed by letting it live in peace.
2. While driving on desert roads, **DO** keep an eye out for tortoises crossing the road. If you encounter one and have plenty of room to pass, drive slowly and carefully around it. If the tortoise is in immediate danger, pull your car over and stop in a safe place. Carefully place your fingers under and thumbs on top of the tortoise's shell, grasping it on the sides. Keep your hands away from its head. Lift the tortoise slowly and gently, keeping it level and close to the ground, as if it is in a walking position. Move it to a safe place no more than 100 yards away and in the same direction that it was traveling. Carefully set it down, preferably in the shade of a shrub.
3. **DO** check under your car or truck before driving away. Sometimes a tortoise will seek the shade underneath a parked vehicle.
4. If you want a pet tortoise, **DON'T** take one out of the desert! **DO** call the California Turtle and Tortoise Club: Ginger and Gary Wilfong at 510-886-2946. The Wilfongs can help you adopt a tortoise and obtain a free permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to legally keep a tortoise.
5. If you get tired of a pet tortoise, **DON'T** let it go in the desert! Release of pet tortoises violates the Endangered Species Act and can spread the deadly Upper Respiratory Tract Disease. Call the number listed above to find a new home for your pet.

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