

# The Rooster

a monthly update from the Inland Empire Offroad Association

May 2008

## More Easter at Gordon's Well

The Fallbrook Four left for Gordon's Well Friday morning of the first spring break weekend. We had a smooth trip and arrived around 12:30. It turns out the distance is only an extra 25 miles vs. camping at Wash 6. The Trantham's, Porter's and Huggard's were there already and had found a nice flat spot that was easy to get to. It was getting warm and after unloading and lunch we all decided to check out the dunes. We had not been there since 2005. Dave lead the group over the freeway and along the USA-Mexico border. There were lots of Border Patrol making their rounds. The dunes were quite different from the Glamis side and it was a fast ride, mostly in 3rd and 4th gear. The smooth transitions were a joy to drive in, flowing from one bowl to the next. Felt like snow skiing. Back at camp we had dinner. The full moon and warm temperature made for a very relaxing camp fire. That evening, both Kastle families and Walt arrived. The next morning the Becker's filled in the circle. The wind picked up a bit, but swept the dunes clean. This time we stayed on the north side of the freeway and enjoyed another fast ride. During the day a new club member family brought in their rig and introduced themselves. The Adlers brought along their 3 children, a chocolate lab and 2 Ferrets. That evening some went into Yuma and others stayed and BBQ'd. The wind died down and another campfire was enjoyed. Thanks to Jerry and Linda for patrolling in the Rhino



The group from Sunday morning's ride.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## What's New

- ◆ As promised we have lots more coverage of the Spring Break trip in this month's issue.
- ◆ The April Dumont trip went well. Check out the articles on pages 6 and 7.
- ◆ We are considering another Dumont trip in May. Watch the website and contact Jim if you would be interested in one more trip before Coral Pink.
- ◆ This is an extra large edition of The Rooster, but that means we'll need more content for the months to come. Please send your articles about dune trips, buggy repairs, summer fun, or anything else to [pkastle@msn.com](mailto:pkastle@msn.com)

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# Calendar of Events

## May 14th:

Club Meeting. Don't let the start of the off season make you miss a chance to get together for dinner and to talk about the dunes and plan river trips.

## June 11th:

Club Meeting. Come update your friends about your off-season projects. This is also the last meeting before Coral Pink!

## June Weekend TBD:

The Hagens and Kastles are headed to Lake Mohave. Check with Jim or Pete for the dates as they are finalized.

## May

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## June

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and coming back with lots of firewood. The morning of Easter Sunday was exciting for all. Diesel and Tiny were in the spirit and took turns wearing some cute Bunny ears. First, the 15yr and younger crowd had their turn at finding hidden Easter eggs among the various buggies and quads parked in the center of camp. Then it was the adults turn with the kids doing an expert job hiding the eggs. It was mayhem and chaos and was over in about 3 minutes!!!! When the dust settled various prizes were awarded that included candy, cash and other goodies donated by the Club. Fun was had by all. The club gathered up for late morning ride and ended up at Patton Valley. The dunes were exceptional with huge bowls, what a smooth ride. Back at camp we had a late lunch and found various shady spots to get together and laze away the afternoon. A bunch of ladys started up a marathon game of "Mexican Train" that lasted over 2 hours. At 4pm the boys headed out for a late afternoon run in the dunes. Jeremy decided to chase us on his quad. Again we crossed over Interstate 8 and headed down towards Buttercup. Wow, what a ride!!! We flew like the wind, several GPS's logged in at 58, 63 and 65mph. Jeremy did not lag behind and really did a great job keeping up with the buggies on this ride. Jim was impressed and offered him a beer (root beer--right?) Jeremy reads the dunes well, rides to his skill level and really enjoys his quad. We are very proud. Lets not forget his twin sister, Karissa also rides very well and is always improving her skills, next year she will conquer hill climbing!!! --right??? They better since we have been dragging them out here since they were 6mo old. Remember Nancy?? They both make our weekends enjoyable and contribute to the over all club spirit. That evening was our last campfire for this season and we ended it by torching a very, very dry Christmas tree. We really enjoyed this last trip and would consider adding a few more GW trips during the season to break things up a little. Thanks to all the club officers and members for all your contributions to making this Club run smooth. We hope everyone has a safe and fun summer. We'll be at Lake Shasta in early August so we will miss the annual Havasu trip but hope to see a few of you in September for the Lake Mojave/Cottonwood trip. If you're ever in our neck of the woods, call ahead and stop by for a visit.

**Adults waiting to hunt eggs.**

Adios from the Hagens





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# Spring Break, Tuesday and Beyond

After Walt; P.J. and Melissa; the Hagens; and the Huggards left, the Porters; the Tranthams; the Adlers; the Beckers, and I were left. Doug had hurt his back over the weekend, so he wisely opted not to ride the rest of the trip. We made one or two rides a day, with the morning ride usually being in the area between camp and Patton Valley, and the afternoon ride across the freeway to Buttercup. Taking advantage of the proximity to Yuma, I made daily trips to shop, eat, gamble, and generally relax. Most of us dined in Yuma, with Famous Dave's remaining my favorite, followed closely by Panda Express, In and Out, Sam's Club hot dogs and pretzels, and Pizza Hut.

Monday the Beckers left, followed by the Adlers on Tuesday. That left the Porters and the Tranthams and me. Monday or Tuesday night I had one of my most enjoyable campfires ever when after everyone retired except Steve and I and we were talking about his 2500 VW, which got us into a discussion about long strokes being easier on engine blocks than short strokes. This is based on Steve's experiences building and driving top fuel dragsters in the 60's. That



**Sunday afternoon's ride group at Buttercup.**



**Relaxing in camp on Saturday.**

got us into a discussion of Steve's career in top fuel. For nearly two hours I listened intently as Steve talked about the cars he drove, races he won, those now famous people he competed against and at times beat (Don Garlets, Tommy Ivo, Don Prudhome, and Keith Black, among others.) Steve was a pioneer in drag racing, and led the life I dreamed of as a high school kid. With a few breaks, and maybe a little less common sense on his part, Steve would be mentioned today in the same conversations as the famous racers mentioned above. I've known Steve for over 15 years, and knew he had driven a dragster, but had no idea how into it he actually was. I really enjoyed our conversation; it was probably the highlight of the very enjoyable trip.

Thursday afternoon Dale Downsworth arrived, without Rebecca, seems she figured it would be too hot. (I'm sure she is still scarred from the 125+ degree Memorial Day Dumont trip of several years ago. I still am!) We made the afternoon ride to Buttercup and had excellent sand due to some moderate winds earlier in the day. Dale remarked it was not often the first ride of the trip was mostly third gear. Later that evening P.J. and Melissa returned.

On the Friday morning ride, as we were returning to camp, P.J.'s new-to-him Mendeola broke the input shaft. We figured at least it's a Mendeola, it can be fixed. (After getting it to the Wright Gearbox Monday, we found it wasn't near the transmission we thought it was, and needs lots of parts replaced. Oh well, it was a good try.) Friday afternoon Walt returned and we went for an afternoon ride.

Saturday we decided to go to breakfast at the Duner's Diner, formerly Pair a Dice. Remember that customer service has continually deteriorated since the



**Overlooking I-8 above test hill.**

(Continued from page 3)

opening of the business several years ago, prompting us to give up on the once traditional Saturday dinner. Things certainly haven't improved. They serve a great breakfast bowl which P.J., Dale, and I ordered. When Steve ordered his without gravy he was told, "NO, you won't like it that way. He (the cook, her husband) won't make it without gravy. You'll have to order a regular breakfast." Yep, nothing's changed. Fortunately, the quality remains very high, but you gotta' order it THEIR way! It seems so appropriate for Pair a Dice. Dealing with us duners has hardened them diamond hard! It provided for lots of fun conversations the rest of the trip.

Saturday night everyone piled into the Excursion or the dually and headed off to Pizza Hut for an exceptional meal, followed by an excursion to the newest and largest Wal-Mart most of us had ever seen.

Sunday it was a morning ride followed by packing up in the strongest wind of the week, and saying goodbye to all but the Tranthams who stayed Sunday night along with me. The three of us enjoyed Pizza hut so much, we went again Sunday night.

Monday morning I headed for Riverside to drop off the trans, and to Big Bear to change trucks before heading off to Cottonwood early Tuesday for the rest of my spring break. I arrived at Cottonwood to find it CLOSED due to a water system outage! I made a 400 mile round trip at 16 miles per gallon for nothing! As I type this Thursday night, they are saying they don't know when water service will be restored, but almost certainly not for the weekend. I'm sure glad I had a great first week of vacation, and the second is turning out kind of boring! -Jim

# The Search for OBL By Mike Bacon

A week or so before the start of Spring Break we began hearing rumors that Osama Bin Laden was thought to be in the Ocotillo Wells/Anza Borrego area hiding out. A call from a contact in The Department Of Homeland Security confirmed the rumors, and requested our help in finding him. Not wanting to bring a lot of attention to the search and possibly scare him off, a story was put forth about Kris Schellinger hurting her knee and not being able to drive her buggy, and AJ's buggy being down for an engine change, so we had decided to stay a little closer to home and visit Anza for a few days.

Doug & Kris, and AJ & I arrived on Friday afternoon and picked a very nice place to camp, on a rise that gave us a wonderful view of the Salton Sea, the Truckhaven Hills, and the Ocotillo Wells Valley. Once the Rangers were unloaded we decided we needed a "planning session" to outline the search area and plan. Off to the Travertine Grill for lunch, uh, I mean "planning session". Once we had laid out our plan of attack (and filled out stomachs!) the search was on!



We proceeded to search the surrounding area and late Friday afternoon we found Bin Laden's Cave. Really! We knew it was his cave because his name was etched in to the mud wall right next to it! He actually did a nice job setting it up with stacked rock walls and a nice slab chair right out front. Although we knocked on the cave wall, and blew the horn a number of times Osama wasn't home. We recorded the GPS coordinates and headed back to camp before it got dark. Mona joined us that evening and after a hot dog dinner we watched the full moon come up over the Salton Sea.

The next morning the search was on again, after the appropriate "planning session" at the Travertine. Going north this time in to the Truckhaven area we rode across some plateaus and down through washes. We eventually came across evidence of Osama's sporting activities, Tether Ball Hill. This was a small hill amid a couple of sand washes, with a tether ball pole mounted at one edge. AJ spent a few minutes "exercising" the tether ball while we recorded GPS info, then we

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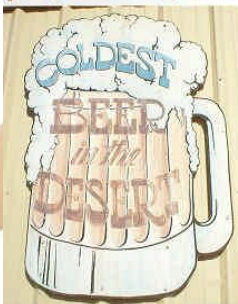
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(Continued from page 4)

were off again on the search.

Off in the distance we could see another, much larger hill with something sticking up at one end. We proceeded to find a way to get there. It took a couple of hours, and a lot of back tracking, but we eventually found the trail that led to the top of the hill. The trail was impressive. Loose dirt amid small rocks, and a couple of steep rock ledges and a sharp turn in the middle. We were skeptical about trying it, until a State Park Ranger



Dean Carver 5/15

Shirley Ford 5/17

Mario Gaudreau 5/28



came by in his Dodge truck. He climbed up the trail, slowly and cautiously, but he made it without incident. We figured if he could make it we could, so off we went. It was a little exciting, but we made it up without too much trouble. Upon getting to the top we met up with the Ranger and told him we were apprehensive about climbing the hill until we saw him do it. He burst our bubble by telling us this was the first time he had ever climbed the hill in his truck! Oh well! The significant thing about the hill was we found how Osama communicates with his associates! Right at the edge of the cliff was a telephone, an old pay phone mounted on a pole and secured in concrete!

WOW! This is getting interesting! We had a great view of the entire area from this hill, but after spending almost an hour scanning the area with binoculars, and Kris tormenting the Ranger getting GPS info on

everything in the area, we descended the hill. It was getting late, and pretty hot, so we decided to head back to camp and continue the search later. We relaxed the rest of the day, then had another "planning session" at the Travertine while enjoying a nice dinner.

Sunday dawned nicely and after a quick breakfast we decided to go north again. Mona had to leave to go home as she had to work on Monday and needed some time to relax before going back to work. This searching is hard work! AJ stayed for one more day of excitement, though. Off we went in to the Truckhaven Hills again. We had some coordinates of another possible OBL location, but finding the right wash was difficult. After trying two or three different routes we finally came across a very promising trail. Up the



wash we went, around corners, over little hills,

through some rock patches, until we came across Osama's old motorcycle! Yes, he had actually mounted his old bike to a stand, probably as some kind of marker for his associates. Amazingly the bike was in beautiful condition for being left in a sand wash out in the middle of nowhere! AJ did a little styling on the bike before we took off looking for more evidence.



We ended up back in camp a few hours later and AJ decided he was bored with the search, so he took off for home. The next morning we decided to go south. We searched the Gas Domes, the old Artesian Well, and the Blu In, where we had a midday "planning session" (lunch!) before heading back to camp to relax during the heat of the day. That afternoon we headed out east towards the Salton Sea, getting within a quarter mile or so before we noticed we were in lightly crusted Salton Sea mud! (very nasty stuff!) We got turned around and headed back for another "planning session" at the Travertine. (it's amazing how much "planning" has to go in to one of these searches!)

Tuesday morning we decided to go west, towards Ocotillo Wells. We visited Devil's Slide, the Pumpkin Patch, and Blow Sand Hill before deciding another "planning session" at the Travertine was in order, so we headed back to camp. As we walked in to the Travertine who should be there enjoying a big plate of onion rings, no, not Osama, but Doug and Jeananne Becker! We talked and had lunch for a while, then headed back to camp. That afternoon we searched the local area again, including going back to Osama's cave, just to see if he was home, but no luck.

Wednesday was time to go home, but before we could leave another search was on. Kris was looking for that special rock she just couldn't live without so it was in to the big canyons just west of camp. We searched for a couple of hours, but Kris couldn't seem to find a rock that suited her tastes, meaning one big and heavy enough to give both Doug and I multiple hernias, so back to camp to load up. While loading up we had a nice conversation with a Border Patrol agent, who told us the area had been a hot spot of illegal alien activity for the last few weeks. We told him we had noticed some foot prints out on some of the trails, but we didn't see the set of multiple foot prints less than 100 yards from camp that were made the night before! Thank you Mr. BP Agent for pointing that one out to us! Kris was looking over her shoulder the rest of the morning while we loaded up. Even though we didn't find Osama, we did have a wonderful time and can't wait to go back. Maybe some of you can join us next time???????

(If you are skeptical about this article please keep in mind it was written on April 1<sup>st</sup>.) -Mike Bacon

## Dumont, April 11-13, we saved the best for last, or did we?

Nancy and I arrived at Dumont about 6:00 P.M., after failing to catch Walt on the very washboardy road on the way in. We've been going to Dumont since New Years 1986, and this was the worst I've ever seen the road. That's kind of annoying now that we spend \$30.00 in fees for a weekend. At least the tenters have lots of toilets. When we arrived we found Dave and Cindy; Mike and Doug, sans chaperones; Steve Porter and his friend, Russ and his family; Mark and the kids arrived shortly. We had a good campfire (if you weren't Mark, whose son Trevor was wound up by Doug's suggestion he go to "Aunt Cindy's" trailer to get candy) where we heard stories of strong winds during the day Friday. It was cool enough to sleep comfortably under a sleeping bag.

Saturday morning we started the ride at 8:30, and due to Friday's wind, had near perfect sand. We went for a long, fast, very smooth ride, probably the best of the season. Fast enough that even Dave used fourth gear much of the time. We took a break, and continued the ride, and by the time we got back to camp, I'd used most of a tank of gas. We gassed up and went for another fast ride, but the sand was noticeably rougher than the first ride, but still good. After the ride, Mark continued what I hope will become a tradition he and Tanya started last year at Dumont, making snow cones. They were great in the 90 degree heat.

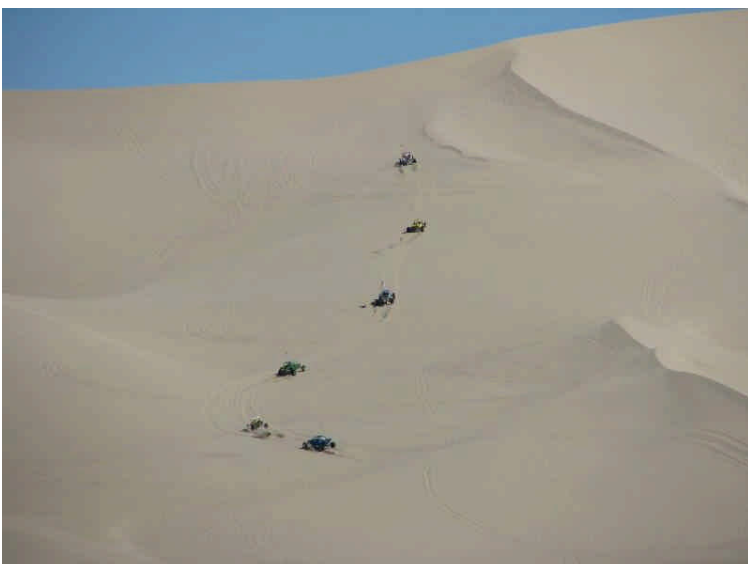
Russ has a mid engine long travel Prowler's car with a blown Honda V-6. That engine roars like a big block, and Russ had no trouble keeping up. He enjoyed the length of the ride. His son, Andy rides a quad and also had no trouble keeping up, but we wore him out with the long ride. I hope to see them again.

Mike and Doug took the Rangers for a long ride, reporting later they saw several mines, old town sites, and traveled nearly all the way to Tecopa.

Walt went out to the road to meet a friend from work and her two girls, Jordan, 9 and Indiana, 7. Jordan was kind of scared of the sand rails, but with Walt's encouragement, and Mark's generous offer to let her ride with his kids, she reluctantly got in the car. Indiana, knowing no fear, rode with me. We started the afternoon ride at a very mellow pace, and I figured with kids in the cars the North Pole might be a good spot to visit. All the cars went on the ride, and I was a little worried the pace might have been boring, but everyone understood, except Jordan, who now wanted to go faster. So faster we did. The shadows were great, so we were able to step it up to a good 3rd gear pace, and made a very long ride. Jordan was fine with it.

Another campfire was started Saturday night, while Nancy and I watched the end of the NASCAR race, before joining the others. It was cool enough a jacket and the fire felt good. Overnight the wind blew reasonably hard, but not enough to affect our sleep.

Sunday morning the dunes were somewhat smoothed out, but had enough tracks it was easy to see the terrain, so it was another long, fourth gear ride. Jordan and Indiana were eager to get back in their seats, and neither was bothered by the fast pace and both seemed to have a good time.



The ride line heading up Dumont's front face



The camp between the "fingers" at Dumont

After the ride, all of us but Steve packed up and headed home. Nancy and I stopped at the Mad Greek, and despite a 30 minute wait, had great food. Some of you may know I don't do well with long waits, but the weekend had been so mellow, and we were really pretty early, it didn't bother me at all. In fact, the weekend was so good, that I'm kind of thinking that if John Cole gets the Mendeola installed, Dean Carver finishes his car, and P.J. gets the Mendeola back, that an early May Dumont trip would be an excellent way to finish the season. Also, it would give all three of them a chance to find any bugs to work out before Coral Pink or next season. I'm probably dreaming here, and our last May Dumont trip was too darn hot, but I'll go if they will! Remember Dumont is 50 miles closer than Glamis and think how bad you'll feel if P.J and Melissa go all the way to Utah to find a problem with the Mendeola.

- Jim



# Dumont

By  
Dave Huggard

On our way to Dumont Cindy and I made our normal stop at Peggy Sues for breakfast. We like stopping here for multiple reasons. Only 1 1/2 hours from home, good place to let the dogs out to stretch their legs, the ambiance is good, the food and service are generally outstanding.

I don't know what our Dumont fees are paying for but it sure is not to grade the road in from the Highway. As long as I stayed below 10 MPH there were no comments from within the motorhome.

We arrived just before 11 AM to find Steve Porter parked by restroom #5. His friend Russ was camped right behind him. They were in the dunes enjoying the smooth conditions. Oh yes, I forgot to mention the wind. It blew from the time we hit Victorville until we parked at Dumont. I positioned the motorhome so when the door was opened it was not ripped from your hand.

Steve and Russ returned from their ride and we were introduced to Russ and his family. Wife Lori, Son Andy and Daughter Emily. Next to arrive were the two bachelors for the weekend. Doug Schellinger and Mike Bacon. Seems the girls were going to Mexico for medicinal reasons.

The wind had quit blowing Friday afternoon. Russ had 2 friends visit our camp on Friday and invited us for a ride. Sand Crab and Bud Man were their names. Sand Crab led the ride. A quick fling in the dunes to the South of Comp Hill. The only tracks you could see were in your rear mirror.

Later in the day we welcomed Jim and Nancy Kastle, Walt Fisher and the Rhoades family minus Tanya. The weather was so nice Friday evening we were able to have an enjoyable camp fire.

Our first ride Saturday was the best sand conditions I can remember. Jim led starting in the bowls to the South and transferring to the North side of Dumont. Once we stopped for our refreshment break, Russ indicated he was impressed with the amount of time we



dune without a break. Well, that is what we are here for. We made 2 other rides during the day and as you can guess, the conditions changed from ride to ride. On one of our rides we took our break at Comp Hill. We no sooner got out of our cars and a gentleman from the group parked next to us came up to me and asked if we were the Over The Hill Gang. Seems it had something to do with our age. I did let him know we were part of a long-standing club and we were in fact getting older. As a matter of fact we are so old we just had an Easter egg hunt for the adults because we don't have enough younger folks. After our second ride of the day, Walt met a co-worker at the highway and escorted her in to camp. Sylvia and her 2 daughters were in time for our next ride. Our destination was the North Pole. Sylvia indicated she really enjoyed her time in Walt's car.

Sunday morning we awoke to find the wind had blown just enough to take some of the rough edges off them there hills. So off we went. Another fun ride with Jim again doing an outstanding job of finding the right path and keeping us safe.

Back to camp and everyone with the exception of Steve began loading for the return trip home. Seems Steve needed to stay so he could watch the drag race on TV.

Cindy and I are making a trip to Wyoming in June. We will be staying in a town that is about an hour from the St Anthony Dunes area. A few club members have expressed an interest in making a trip to these dunes so we are going to stop by on a fact finding mission. After sharing this with Russ he informed us that he will be there when we are so we may spend an evening with his group. He has graciously invited me out for a ride in his car. If everything works out we will be providing pictures of the camp sites in addition to in-car pictures of the dunes. Look for our report in the July or August edition of The Rooster.

## Quick Take



"The name's Bond, AJ Bond."  
"This is the new Acura Sand Squirt "Q" (Dad) is building for my next mission." "It'll be fast, good-looking, and the ladies will love it." "Just like ME!"

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Dean Schellinger has a Buick V-8 Mid Engine Buggy For Sale:  
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The Hagens have two childs helmets for sale:  
Both were purchased at Chaparral, 3 years ago. Both are full face with visors. Exterior is in good shape, minor scratches. Inside is in perfect shape, foam intact, no tears. Black one is a child Small and the Yellow one is a child Medium. \$50 each. Contact Pete/Linda at 760-451-0845

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This month we would like to thank Mike Bacon, Jim Kastle and The Hagens for submitting Spring Break articles and Jim Kastle and Dave Huggard for writing about the Dumont trip. With all this trip coverage, it makes you want to go dune some more. Maybe another Dumont trip will work out, and either way Coral Pink is just around the corner. The river is calling too though, and we are planning to spend a few weekends out there in May and June, and then there's the big Havasu trip coming in August. Hopefully we'll see you there.  
-P.J. and Melissa Kastle



# Inland Empire Offroad Association

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## Membership Application

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Would you like your name and address put into our club directory? (The directory is given to club members only)

YES NO

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As with any organization there are guidelines we operate within. Please read and abide by the following:

1. NO FIREWORKS ALLOWED WITHIN CAMP BOUNDRIES
2. DOGS MUST BE KEPT UNDER CONTROL AT ALL TIMES (BLM law)
3. ON A RIDE, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VEHICLE AHEAD OF YOU AND THE VEHICLE BEHIND YOU. If they stop, you stop and wait for the group to return to you. This prevents separation and in this manner we never leave a member in the dunes. Remember, it's easier to find you if you stay still: "a moving target is harder to hit"
4. PLEASE OBSERVE THE "RIDE RATINGS" ON THE CLUB BOARD AND SELECT THOSE RIDES YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN. If you wish to lead a ride, put the time and type of ride you want to lead on the board and then stick to that time. No passing on rides (except #6 rides). You can always change your place in line at a break or if you are waved on by the driver ahead of you.
5. REMEMBER, WE ARE A GROUP OF FRIENDS who share a common interest in riding in the desert. Always keep in mind how your actions affect the other members.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the club? \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues are \$35 per family. Each 12 month membership includes a monthly newsletter. Send your check or money order to:

Inland Empire Offroad Association  
P.O. Box 132411  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Inland Empire Offroad Association  
3457 Carlsbad Way  
Riverside, CA 92506

