

# The Rooster

a monthly update from the Inland Empire Offroad Association

September 2008

## Lake Havasu 2008



**Off road doesn't have to mean on land, as many members got together for a weekend on the water.**

## What's New

- ◆ The annual club picnic will be held on **Saturday, September 27th** at Dave and Cindy Huggard's in Highland. See page 5 for more info.
- ◆ We are looking forward to returning to the river when the club visits Cottonwood Cove on September 12-14th.
- ◆ The duning season is getting close. We are already planning trips for Halloween, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. We are hoping that some members will stay out Thanksgiving week, allowing others to leave their toys and do two weekends in a row.

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[www.inlandempireoffroad.org](http://www.inlandempireoffroad.org)

## The Rooster

At the September club meeting, Jim brought up the fact that Bob Keirns is our last remaining charter member. About 20 years ago, Bob and a small group of others decided to form Inland Empire Offroad. In appreciation of Bob, his contributions to the club, and being an all around great guy, the members present at the meeting agreed to award Bob a lifetime club membership. Jim presented a certificate commemorating this to Bob on Saturday night during the Lake Havasu trip, and for once Bob was speechless.

### September 10th:

Club meeting at the Denny's on Alabama in Redlands, 7:00 PM.

### September 12-14th:

Club river trip to Cottonwood Cove.

### September 19-21st:

Sand Sports Super Show at the OC Fair and Expo Center.

### September 27th:

Annual Club Picnic at the Huggards' in Highland.

### October 8th:

Club meeting at Denny's.

### October 31-November 2nd:

Halloween weekend at Glamis, Wash 6.

## September

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	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				

## October

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	28	30	31	1



The club would also like to extend get well wishes to Shirley Ford. She was readmitted to the hospital the week before the club Havasu trip, but upon her and Don's insistence the trip continued as planned. Everyone missed having Shirley around and are looking forward to seeing her soon. On Wednesday August 20th Shirley underwent surgery to insert an additional stint to reinforce the earlier one that was kinked. She returned home Friday the 22nd and was resting comfortably. Thanks for opening up your home to so many club members, and we all wish you well. Get well soon!



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## Coral Pink, 2008, Mesquite by Jim Kastle:

We were settled in our room and while waiting for Don and Shirley, were partaking of the “Las Vegas style entertainment” and a casino hostess introduced herself and said she noticed we were from Big Bear and said she was from Barstow. We talked a while and she gave me her card and said to let her know if she could be of any help. I continued my entertainment. I called about the truck and found they had the trans out, and it was defective. They said that at Chevy’s direction, they’d have to take it apart and find the point of failure, and Chevy would decide what to do.

Don and Shirley soon arrived, followed by Walt. We had a great buffet dinner at the Eureka in their new buffet. We continued entertaining ourselves in the casinos and shopping in Mesquite. Don, Walt, and I visited the local Do it Best Hardware store and found they had a killer deal on 18 volt DeWalt drills (More on these later) Mike Bacon and Doug and Kris arrived Tuesday. We continued doing the Mesquite things, and while driving around, Mike’s truck lost its power steering pulley. Wednesday morning we made a trip to Auto Zone and Parts Plus, and soon had the truck better than new. We mentioned the DeWalts to Mike and he said he wanted one. I decided that if I won a hundred dollars, I’d get one. I mentioned the drills to P.J. and he said he definitely wanted one. We made a run to the hardware store, and bought five of the drills! Despite my best efforts, we couldn’t get any further break on the price. P.J. and Melissa soon arrived, and the shopping and playing continued. I hit a \$400 four of a kind, and decided I needed another drill. We had the now traditional pizza dinner, followed by the annual go cart race.

Thursday morning Kris and Doug, and Mike got up early and in an attempt to beat the heat, left before the traditional send off buffet breakfast. The rest of us met and ate, and then Nancy and I got a head start while Walt, Don and Shirley, and P.J. and Melissa hooked up.

Nancy and I had an uneventful, but slow trip, and due to the Beetle’s low ground clearance, separated at a dirt road that is a short cut to Coral Pink. I was on my own for a few minutes, but knew that the others were close behind.

I arrived at Coral Pink to find Mike and the Schellingers waiting for me. The rest were just minutes behind, and Nancy would catch us within half an hour. We made it!

## The Main Event:

Once we were all in camp, we set up the EZ ups and lights, and took the first of many rides. As happens on most Coral Pink rides, we stopped for a break at the corral. The cars worked great.

Friday was the hottest day of the trip, with temperatures hovering at the 100 degree mark. We made a run to Kanab for Lotsa Motsa (my favorite sandwich shop ever.) It did cool off Friday night for sleeping. Tyson arrived for his first Coral Pink trip in a number of years.

Saturday there was a morning ride, more Lotsa Motsa, and a huge rainstorm, the first of the near-daily rains this year, and the heavi-

est we’ve seen ever at Coral Pink. This rainstorm brought lots of hail, and even more mud on the road. An 18 wheeler carrying a motor grader attempted to cross the mud and got stuck. The park has a small Kubota tractor which they used to sand ramps to get the grader off the trailer, and then the grader went to work attempting to clear the road. We took lots of pictures, including several of the grader getting stuck just off the road. During the clean up, two teenage part time employees of the park got a Kawasaki Mule stuck very deep in some mud and were having a very difficult time freeing it. Tyson offered to pull them out with his truck, and did so. They were very appreciative.

While watching the work on the road, we were approached by a somewhat familiar face, who asked if we knew Gene Sherman. Gene is a long time friend of Barry, and a fairly new member of the club, who said he was coming to Coral Pink. The somewhat familiar face was Steve, Gene’s step dad. He said Gene would arrive Sunday.

Sunday we had another morning ride, and an afternoon ride. On this ride, we met Gene and Steve in the dunes, and rode together for a good, long ride. It was obvious Gene was very impressed with Coral Pink. In their group were Gene’s mom, Gene’s wife, son, daughter, and a friend. Gene’s group made great use of their rails, and even brought dirt tires which enabled them to do lots of exploring outside the park. It seems they were almost always on a ride the rest of the week.

Speaking of rides outside the park, Doug and Mike brought their Rangers, and also were running them a lot. On one ride they took Shirley and Kris and rode to within 7 miles of Zion. I’m sure one of them will give the details of that ride.

I expected to make a drive to Barstow to pick up the dually. But, early in the trip I made one of my near daily calls and found that Chevy decided that the transmission should be repaired by the dealer. This was not comforting to me as the service manager made it very clear that the technician, although having been to school on Allison’s, had never repaired one himself. Lucky me! He learns on mine. The service manager said the parts would arrive Friday and Monday, and the truck should be done next week, the week AFTER the trip. As I write this Wednesday after the trip, it still is not done, and they are waiting for some gaskets, but it’s supposed to be done late this week. That actually means early next week at the earliest, which means I will have been without my truck for a month! Remember the main task for the dually is the Coral Pink trip each year and the 3 year old truck has less than 21,000 miles on it.

On the subject of my car woes, I noticed late in the Glamis season that my radiator had begun to leak a little bit. At Coral Pink, it got progressively worse requiring the addition of a radiator stop leak, and by Friday it wouldn’t run without overheating. That meant I would miss the last ride of the trip, right? Well not with this group. P.J. offered me a seat, and so did Kris. I had a little trouble trying to fit in Melissa’s seat belts, so Kris again offered me a ride. As I walked to her car, she was in the passenger seat! She wanted me to drive. I drove her car a few years ago when I had broken a trans in the gray car, and was impressed with the

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

smooth ride and maneuverability of the car. Now, my car rides much more like hers, and handles similarly, so I was more comfortable driving her car this time, and drove faster than last time. The LS1 has a LOT more power than the shortstar. I was very impressed with the entire package. That is a great car, and it was very generous of Kris to let me drive. Yep, I did get out the measuring tape, and with just a few modifications, an LS1 will fit in my car. That's something that won't happen for a long time!

Throughout the week Walt, Don, and Kris had no trouble with their cars. Once P.J. slowed to a stop with what we thought was a broken CV. It turns out the axle pulled out of the CV, and rather than fixing it in the dunes I towed it back to camp. That was a pretty good pull, but we made it with some help from Walt and Don. We repaired the axle, only to have the same thing happen on the next ride. We thought we'd have to take the axle in for some welding (I couldn't weld because my generator was in the dually, and the welder requires 220 volts.) But early the next morning we figured out a fix and the axle seems as good as new.

Throughout the trip we made a morning ride and on most days, an afternoon ride. Almost everyday I ended up at Lotsa Motsa, a feat made easier by having the beetle with us in camp. We had the traditional breakfast at the Thunderbird in Mt Carmel Junction, and most spent many hours playing games at the table. We had a few campfires due in part to Tyson's generosity. It was a very relaxing time for us all. It really is my favorite week of the year.

Friday afternoon P.J. took us for a ride in the Excursion to check on the status of the dirt road that is a 40 mile shortcut. However, the storms of the week made it questionable, so we opted for the additional 40 miles through Kanab.

Saturday morning, Kris and Doug, and Mike broke camp early and left by 8:00 A.M. again in an attempt to beat the heat. The rest of us took more time, but by 11:30 were packed, and ready for the road. I knew there's a lot of uphill, and it would be slow, so I asked Walt and Don to go on ahead, in an attempt to avoid creating a 5 rig rolling roadblock. P.J., being the dedicated son he is, volunteered to stay with me. Nancy followed in the beetle. There was one section of road just outside the park where the truck slowed to 10 miles per hour, but kept moving. I drove it wide open for 2 hours from Kanab to Hurricane, but didn't need to worry because the pyrometer, which used to limit my full throttle times, was not an issue. I do think a visit to the Grossman's shop is in order, as it's embarrassing to be passed by fully loaded semis on hills, but at least it got me there and back. I love that old truck, and it has its original transmission and it's got 255,000 miles on it! It did the job; it just took a little longer than it used to.



I mentioned the casino hostess earlier. I called her and asked if she could arrange for a room for us, as I couldn't run the air on the way to Mesquite. She obliged and gave us a room for Saturday night. Don and Shirley were annoyed with the front desk when they couldn't park in their usual spot, despite having reserved it months ago. They were told someone else had reserved it. It makes no sense that individual spots can't be reserved, but the spot they wanted and supposedly reserved was empty but not available. They took the spot next to the one they wanted, only to find their long time friends, Barbara and Larry pull into the preferred spot! It seems that all are created equal, just some are more equal than others!! Neither family knew the other would be there that night. We all got together and returned to the Eureka buffet for dinner. It was a little pricey for a buffet, but had a great variety. We enjoyed the "Las Vegas Style Entertainment" and slept well.

Sunday, the Schellingers and Mike headed off early as they wanted over Mountain Pass before it got hot. P.J., Walt, Nancy, and I helped start Melissa's birthday off with a Casa Blanca buffet.

Nancy and I hit the road before the others, again not wanting to create a rolling road block, and had another uneventful but slow run to the river. I think I discovered the steepest urban freeway in the US, the 515 between Sunset and Boulder highway. I was driving 25 miles per hour on the freeway! I made it, but felt like an obstacle.

Nancy and I spent a Sunday and Monday at the river and decided to leave the buggy trailer there until I get the dually back, so we got in the beetle and drove home Tuesday in time for me to go to the high school Tuesday night. I hope to get the dually back before I return to school on the 30th! What a great vacation!

**Note: We have our group site reservations for Coral Pink 2009! We'll be in the park July 9-18th. We hope to see you there.**

P.S. I just received a phone call from the dealer. He says I've got good news and bad news. The good news, I will get a new transmission, bad news they're backordered. The reason? They got all the gaskets today, and started to assemble it. He got to a certain step, and found he needed a special Allison tool. He doesn't have it. He talks to the manager, he calls Chevy, is told the tool has not been manufactured yet! They couldn't find a manufacturer! Remember, originally he thought they'd just send him a new trans. This idea of rebuilding them in the field is a new one. NOBODY has the tool! Gee, do you think I'll be quick to buy another Chevy? If Toyota made a diesel, I'd seriously consider it.

# Picnic Time

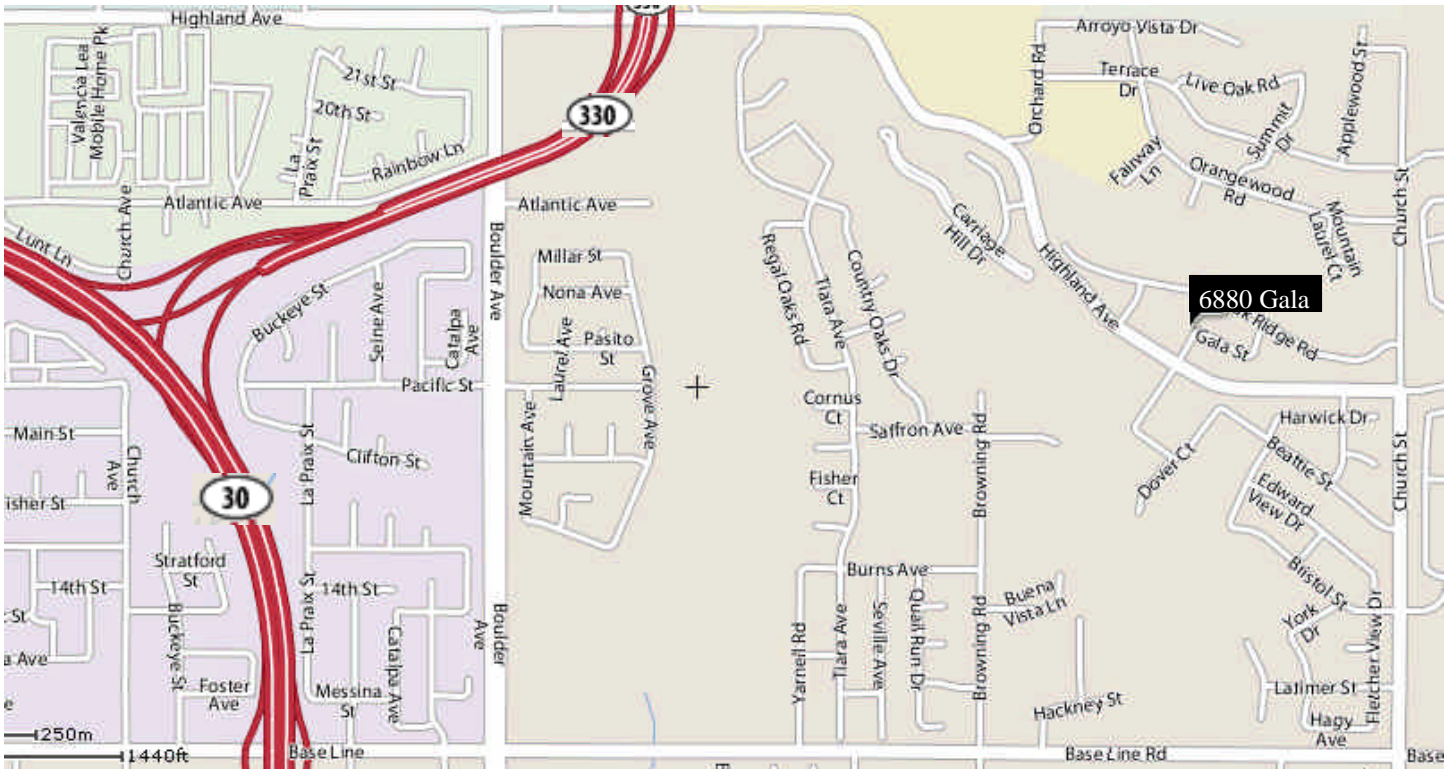
It is that time of the year again, time for the annual sand season kickoff picnic. Dave and Cindy have once again graciously volunteered to host the event at their beautiful home in Highland on Saturday, **September 27th** starting at

**11AM**. Their address is 6880 Gala St. and a map is below. The club will provide Hot Dogs and Hamburgers, so bring a pot luck side dish. We will also have the annual raffle with lots of great prizes from our supporting businesses, including pizza gift certificates from Mama Jeannies! This also is a great time to renew your membership, as renewals at the picnic get a free raffle ticket. Make your plans now to come out and join us for the official start of the dune season.



Doug Becker 9/2  
Bill Martine 9/3  
Devon Schellinger 9/5  
Joann Stump 9/17  
Lindsey Becker 9/17  
Janece Grossmann 9/18  
Pam Gaudreau 9/19

Ashley Bacon 9/19  
Aaron Berger 9/23  
Jessica Fuquay 9/25  
Nancy Kastle 9/26  
Alex Bonanno 9/29  
Michael Bacon 9/30



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**The Rooster**

*\$ For Sale \$*



P.J. and Melissa have a Yamaha Golf Cart For Sale:  
Late 1990's G14 Gas golf cart with lift. Floor sits 24 inches above the ground. Stock motor, runs well.  
\$2600 obo  
Contact P.J. Kastle:  
(951) 285-8459  
pkastle@msn.com



Jeff Oliver has a set of four Ford F-250 Wheels: One piece aluminum wheels. Tires have been sold but wheels are available.  
\$100 for the set of 4.  
Contact Jeff Oliver:  
(760) 774-1991  
jeffoliver74@yahoo.com

Dean Schellinger has a Buick V-8 Mid Engine Buggy For Sale:  
Bought from Acacia RV. I've had it for two years and have not touched it and I feel it is a shame for it to just sit there. Includes two extra solid rims and bearings for front wheels. Great buggy I just don't have the time anymore.  
\$5500  
Contact Dean Schellinger:  
(909) 987-1880 work  
(909) 887-8945 home

The Hagens have two child's 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



Dale and Rebecca Downsworth have the following for sale:  
1995 Newmar Dutchstar 38ft. Motorhome, 8.3 Cummins, single slide, 80K Miles, \$44,500 OBO

2002 Long Travel 2 seat sandrail, Chevy 4.3 V6, bus trans, pwr steering, King shocks, \$19,500 OBO

Contact Dale Downsworth: (909) 376-8490



**Kar Tek Off Road**  
2871 Ragle Way Corona, CA 92879  
(951) 737-7223



This month we would like to thank Jim Kastle for writing articles and Pete Hagen, Bill Martine, Jim Kastle, and Steve and Janice Tharp for sending in pictures. We would also like to thank the Huggards for once again volunteering to host the picnic at their home. This has been a great event in the past and serves as a fundraiser for the club and a chance to get together and get excited about the upcoming dune season. Hopefully we'll see you there. -P.J. and Melissa Kastle

# Inland Empire Offroad Association

P.O. Box 132411  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

## Membership Application

Please Print

Birthday

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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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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If you would like your business included in the directory please include the information below:

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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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:

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P.O. Box 132411  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Inland Empire Offroad Association  
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Riverside, CA 92506

