

The Rooster

a monthly update from the Inland Empire Offroad Association

December 2008

Thanksgiving 2008



The Thanksgiving Potluck was once again a success.

This year we decided to sample the retired life and spend a week at Glamis for Thanksgiving. Since we were already planning on spending both weekends, the extra three days off work meant we didn't have to drive back and forth, so we were saving money. It was crazy logic, but it worked out well. Melissa and I arrived Friday night at about 9 PM to see that Jim, the Tranthoms, Walt, Darryl Harju, Chuck and Justin Grossmann, Steve Porter, the Tharps, and Olivers had already arrived. Later John Cole arrived despite a short detour in wash 7. From then on more members arrived all week, and



a surprising number of people stayed all week. The Grossmanns (who were without Janece for the first weekend) had brought out their new toy, a Sand Cars Unlimited long travel A-Arm car with an LS2 V-8 and a sequential Mendeola. It is a nice car and another case of this club costing innocent people money. Sorry about that Janece.

On Sunday, Dean Carver and Scott Cole arrived for the day with their new high school built cars. Dean's had debuted at Dumont and Scott's was brand new. We went for a

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What's New

- ◆ This newsletter was slightly delayed in order to include some info about the Thanksgiving trip, but please feel free to write about your trip for next month's newsletter.
- ◆ The club will once again do a Spaghetti dinner during the Christmas / New Years trip. This year the dinner will once again be on New Year's Eve, the night of Wednesday the 31st. The club will provide Spaghetti, salad, and garlic bread.
- ◆ We'd like to welcome Mark and Angela Stutte to the club. They are friends of the Olivers who have camped with us a number of times and joined over Thanksgiving.
- ◆ Don and Shirley are planning on a cruise for their 50th anniversary, and club members are coming along too. See more on page 2.

President: Jim Kastle (909) 584-7003
Vice President: Doug Becker (909) 989-6180
Treasurer: Walt Fisher (951) 849-5403
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Reporter: Paul Kastle (951) 683-4908

Board of Directors:

Dave Medlin (909) 681-4547
Doug and Kris Schellinger (951) 681-5486
Mark and Tanya Rhoades (760) 561-1165

www.inlandempireoffroad.org

Calendar of Events

December 10th:

Club meeting at Denny's on Alabama in Redlands.

December 26—January 4th:

Christmas / New Years at Glamis, Wash 6. We'll have a club spaghetti dinner on Wednesday night, December 31st.

January 14th:

Annual election meeting at Denny's on Alabama in Redlands.

January 16-19th:

MLK dune cleanup weekend at Glamis, Wash 6.

Spook Run

We arrived at the Salton Sea Beach Marina at Salton Sea Saturday around 1:00 p.m. In our group was Mary Martin and Barbara and Larry Jones. Already there was Dave and Cindy, Kris and Doug, Mike and Mona. Mike and Mona and Kris and Doug were out on a ride in their Rangers. Later Dave's daughter Diana and her husband and children and then Pete Hagen and his father Floyd arrived. We all went out for dinner Friday night at the restaurant Travertine.

Saturday, my daughter Donnette and her 2 grandchildren arrived. A little later Jeff and Lavon, Jason and Dana arrived.

At 9:30 a.m. we started on the Poker Run. It was a 39 mile ride. My daughter found a little pumpkin hanging on a bush, only because a guy in front of me got stuck. So we had to take another route around him. Thank goodness he got stuck or she wouldn't have found the little pumpkin. The Poker Run hides treasures for you to find. Little plastic pumpkins for children, bottles, brooms, skulls, gold painted rocks with pumpkin faces, etc. for the people to find for money or prizes. In all we had 2 plastic pumpkins, which was for color books, candy, etc. for the kids.

We had a ball, only one problem, I thought I had bent the frame on my Tracker for hitting a large rock on the trail. A lot of people had gone over this same rock, loosing up the sand. So when I went over it, It flipped up underneath my car and then I ran over it with my back tire. Mike Bacon said, I got a lot of air. My daughter and I thought it felt like I hit a brick wall. That's how hard we hit. It wasn't fun. After that I made sure I went around rocks. It turned out to be my tire. Whew.

Saturday night we had Hotdog and Hamburger Potluck. Thanks everyone for your side dishes.

Sunday they have the drawing for the Poker Hands and the prizes that were found in the desert. At the last minute Don decided to buy some raffle tickets. Good thing, he won \$100.00. I won 2 tie downs. At least I won something.

Dave and Cindy and his daughter and her husband left to go home. Kris and Doug, Mike and Mona along with us stayed until Monday.

-Shirley and Don Ford

December

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	28	30	31			

January

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Wanna Go On A Cruise?

Don and Shirley would like to invite you to their 50th Wedding Anniversary 3 day Cruise on the Carnival Elation. Leaving Thurs. March 19th 2009 and coming back Sunday the 22nd. If anyone interested in joining us please contact us 951/680-0657 or my travel agent Doreen at the Bridge Travel Center here in Lake Havasu for prices. 1-800-889-4280 .



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quick shake down run and both cars worked well. Scott's tended to run hot, so the afternoon project was to change to his larger spare radiator. We went on a night ride, which was the first of many during the trip. Being dedicated duners, Scott and Dean went too, and after getting up before 4 AM stayed out duning until almost 8PM before the long drive home. Another cool part of the first weekend was weighing cars with Jerry Tranthom's new scales. Weights ranged from 800 pounds for Jerry's VW car to nearly 2400 lbs for Chuck and Janece's new V-8 car. We had good rides every day all week with only relatively minor mechanical issues. Mike Bacon and A.J. had just finished putting an Acura V-6 in A.J.'s car and



it made its debut. A.J. did a great job with the car and kept up on lots of very fast rides. The car runs great and I think A.J. is happy with their accomplishment. It is something to be proud of.

It was great to watch more and more members arrive each day building up to the big Thanksgiving weekend. Walt led lots of nice rides, and John led to the hill at night. We also ran around the flats in our Suzuki LJ that John had brought out in his trailer. This is the little toy we wrote about in last month's newsletter, and we put a roll cage in it at the high school and brought it out for its first dune trip. It went as far from camp as wash 17 and the vendors and got

lots of interesting looks. Melissa and I explored Yuma on Wednesday after some significant rain in the morning. After getting our shopping fix we returned to the dunes and watched more people arrive.

On Thursday we went for another quick shakedown ride followed by a longer ride out past hill 3. We had 11 cars on that ride and as many as 15 on other rides during the weekend. Scott Cole returned with a second radiator added to his new car and it ran nice and cool.

The thanksgiving potluck dinner was at 3:30 on Thursday, and it worked out great as always. Thanks go out to Walt and Mona for cooking Turkey and to Nancy for the Ham and everyone else for the great side dishes. Also the Hagens provided a great location for the food and Young Stump decorated it nicely. With the earlier dinner time, we finished eating about sunset and got ready for a night ride to Oldsmobile. The hill wasn't very crowded, but the trip out and back was fun as always.



On Friday the arrivals continued with the Bakers and Dave Huggard arriving in the morning, followed by Janece Grossman. The Bakers made the long trip from Visalia, stopping in Riverside county for thanksgiving dinner on the way. All in all, we ended up with 22 separate rigs in camp, which was a large turnout despite the overall decrease in number of people at the dunes compared to last year. We went for another large club buggy ride which ended when John hit a hole and lost a wheel. In true Inland Empire fashion we drove the car back on three wheels (without even getting stuck) and had it repaired for the afternoon ride. On the afternoon ride Jim's steering arm broke, but we improvised with a socket and allen wrench and drove fine back to camp. Later we had another night ride, and this time we ventured past Oldsmobile into the big bowls. It brought back memories of when night rides were a fixture of every trip.

Saturday saw the last of the arrivals, as Dominic and Amanda, some new club members who have been to a couple of recent meetings arrived. Dominic has an 1835 VW two seat rear engine car and is very excited about getting in to duning. One word of caution though, this club can cost you! Just ask Chuck and Janece, or the Rhoades', or the Hagens, or any of us... On Saturday we had some nice rides and the traditional trip to Mama Jeannie's for pizza with 13 people in the Excursion. We filled half the restaurant!

On Sunday we got up early for one last ride at 7:00 AM. The dunes were quiet and the shadows were excellent, so this might become a tradition on the big trips. We had such a long fast ride that my car stopped running, and it turns out it was out of gas! Thanks to my Dad and John we got enough gas to get back to camp and load the car for the trip home. It was an awesome trip and hopefully the Thanksgiving week will become a tradition for us. -PJ

The Cole's Thanksgiving Week in Glamis

After a weekend shakedown trip to Dumont for Halloween, where Matt received a speeding ticket (a broken tranny) I was able to drive my car in the trailer with no problems. Our week long Thanksgiving Glamis trip was on!

Since Matt's car was broken I had extra room in the trailer so we decided to put Melissa and PJ's LJ in the front since we would be there all week. We arrived around 11pm Friday night and I with all my wisdom missed wash 6 and went in at wash 7 and tried to dune back to wash 6 in the motorhome. After a short jog to camp I was able to wake PJ up and he graciously agreed to help free the motorhome as the LJ was it's prisoner.

We set up camp on Saturday morning. Dean Carver and Scott Cole (my brother) showed up on Sunday to debut Scott's new car. It ran well and had lots of power but had a slight overheating problem so he changed the radiator. We went on a night ride that resulted in Dean finding a witches eye and breaking a front shock. Dean and Scott went home after dinner but the rest of us got to stay out all week.

There were only a few cars in camp from Monday through Wednesday so there was a lot of time to tinker, I set up a club headseat for my gps radio which made communication on the rides easy (great idea!). AJ Bacon brought out his new Acura car and I had a time keeping up with him (great driving!). Scott, Brandy, Dave Medlin, and Shawn arrived late Wednesday night eager to start duning. Scott now had two radiators so he was the cool guy in camp. Now that his overheating problem is solved though he's gotta find a way to keep up with his little brother without breaking his transmission. After a successful tranny swap he was able to go back out on Saturday (what would Thanksgiving be without a tranny swap?). Between Scott, Brandy, and Chuck and Janece's new cars we couldn't wipe the smiles off their faces. On Friday I was the last car of 15 on the ride and I couldn't find the tracks and wound up in the middle of a hole. It was driver error on my part but thank's to Jim and his magic work bench, Scotts welding, PJ's engineering, and everyone claiming it wasn't the car we were able to get it going on another ride that same day.

It was a great week without a single tow strap on the front of my car. The Mendeola held up all week too. I had a terrific Thanksgiving with my family and friends and can't wait to do it again next year!
-John Cole

Dumont, Halloween 2008

After much thought about whether to go or not, and where to go, Nancy and I decided that we really wanted to be there for the debut of Dean Carver's new car. It has been at least a two year project that often took a backseat to other's cars as Dean is always helping one or more of us with our projects. When Dean said he'd go to Dumont along with Barry and Gene, and John would test his Mendeola for the first time, we decided to go to Dumont, despite it being a "holiday weekend" resulting in a \$40 weekly pass.

As I was hooking up the trailer Friday after work, I got a message from P.J. saying Steve Porter's motorhome and trailer were stuck, and that Steve was requesting water, and boards, and anything else that might help him get unstuck. I filled up the water barrel and threw a ramp in the dually and we headed off down the back grade for the first time since the ill-fated Coral Pink trip. I was pleased when I got to Lucerne Valley and saw no indications of trouble from the trans. In fact, the truck worked great all weekend, much to my delight.

We headed straight to Dumont, having bought Quizno's sandwiches to reheat once we got there. We arrived about 7:30 and saw the biggest crowd we've seen at Dumont except for Thanksgiving or President's day. I had to use the GPS to find camp. When we got there we found Steve Porter, Steve and Janice Tharp, and Steve, Gene Sherman's dad. Lots of Steves there. Barry and Gene, who had the original idea to go to Dumont were no where to be found. Steve Porter had managed to free the stuck motorhome after an all day



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effort with the help of the other Steves, but the trailer was still stuck. We filled Steve's water tank from the water barrel, and since P.J. was only minutes away, we figured I could move Steve's trailer. My plan was that if I got stuck and needed to be pulled out by a Ford, at least it would be dark, so no pictures!

Sure enough, I got stuck trying to get to the trailer. About this time P.J. and John arrived, and P.J. suggested I air down. I did so, but still was stuck. P.J.'s Excursion was able to free my truck. With the confidence of aired down tires, I hooked up to the trailer and moved it all of two feet before getting stuck again. Once again, after several attempts, the Excursion freed the truck and trailer. We went to bed and had the most noise I ever recall at Dumont most of the night.

When we awoke Saturday, we found Barry had arrived. Dean Carver, however was no where to be found. A little while later Dean drove up in his truck, saying he had gotten stuck and left his trailer about a half mile away. I figured I'd redeem myself and go get his trailer. No mishaps this time and Dean was soon in camp to unveil his new car. The car is beautiful, clearly the best of the high school cars, with shiny red paint, lots of chrome, polish, powdercoating, and a Mendeola and a Shortstar.

Most of us went for a ride while John and Dean put a few finishing touches on Dean's car. The ride was uneventful, but the sand was very rutted up. We returned to camp and figured this was a great photo opportunity with 6 running high school cars in camp. Barry's, P.J.'s, Dean's, John's, Matt's, and mine were all parked in a semi circle and many pictures were taken. All of these cars started as a pile of tubing at the high school. We were all quite proud of our accomplishments, and set off on a ride. Within yards of camp, Matt's transmission broke. Well, they were all running for a few minutes. We went on a ride and a good time was had by all. Dean enjoyed his car, and is very pleased with all aspects of it. The sand was still rough, and there were a lot of vehicles in the dunes, but it was fun.

We decided to go for a night ride to test the HID lights that John and P.J. added during the off-season. Before we could leave, it started raining, and raining hard, much of the evening. The only car to leave camp was Barry's when he ran it up the big hill during a slight lull in the rain.

Sunday arrived with just a few clouds, and we went on another ride. On this one Dean's car stopped because something in the drive train broke. We feared it was the Mendeola. Barry towed him back to camp and graciously offered Dean a seat in his car. We went for a long, fast ride. As often happens, a full sized long travel

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Iliana Adler 12/3
Jacob Adler 12/10
Tyson Conger 12/14

Justin Grossmann 12/17
Joshua Adler 12/22
Rory Campbell 12/27



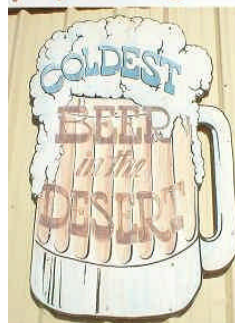
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B. Jeannie Le Blanc, Manager

Look for Inland Empire Offroad at Mama Jeanie's on Saturday nights

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car joined the end of the line for a while, but opted out when we got in some tight twisty stuff. Later a mini rail joined the end of the line, and stayed with us until we took a break. That little car did a great job, and was the topic of much conversation on the break.

With the change to Standard time, we knew it would get dark early, so we packed up and headed home. It took me a little longer than Dean, John, or P.J., so they all helped me pack up, even to the point of hooking up the trailer! Thanks, guys. The Kastle-Cole group and Dean stopped at the Mad Greek for a great lunch.

Tuesday night the first thing I asked was what Dean found with his drive train, and it turned out the center broke out of his clutch! This had to be the absolute best failure there could have been, \$60 instead of as much as \$4000. Dean is so excited; he's going to join us at Glamis a few days before Thanksgiving, before he meets the rest of his family at Ocotillo Wells.

I can't wait for Thanksgiving. -Jim



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.
\$2100 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

The Grossmans (including Janece) have their Rhino For Sale:
2006 Rhino 660, motor bored out to 686. Low mileage and hours, Four seat cage, bench seat in back with four point harness seat belts all around. Has CDI, Filter, Jetted, and after market exhaust tip. Dirt Logic shocks, ITP wheels with offset and beadlock. Sand tires. AZ license. Has a lot of dress up, must see.
\$14,000
Call Justin (909) 322-4404



The Rooster

Below are updated cards for your club address books. Cut them out and add them. If you need complete books, let Melissa know.



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



This month we would like to thank Jim Kastle, John Cole, and The Fords for submitting articles and encourage everyone to write articles about the trips this dune season. Also, Janece, did you catch that you were in this newsletter 8 times! (Actually, that makes 9, and this Janece is 10 and...) Anyway, we sure had a great Thanksgiving with the club and we hope to see all of you in the dunes soon. -P.J. and Melissa Kastle

This page intentionally left blank so that you can cut out the new address cards on the opposite side and add them to your club directories and keep them forever, right?

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: _____

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

YES NO

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

Business Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Business Phone: _____

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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