



OFF-ROAD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER—SUMMER 2005

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MOTORIZED OHV SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON DC

Roy Denner, ORBA's President, and Jack Welch, Chairman of the Board of the BlueRibbon Coalition (BRC), are co-chairing a national OHV Summit in Washington, DC. Representatives from motorized off-road recreation groups from all over the country will be participating. The Summit will be held from July 11th through July 14th.

During OHV Summit week off-roaders will be visiting Congressional offices to promote OHV recreation and its importance to the U.S. economy. They will also be asking Congressional Representatives to support Congressman Pombo's bill to reform the Endangered Species Act—an effort that is desperately needed. ORBA's President is working directly with Pombo, Chairman of the House Resources Committee, to educate the OHV community about his efforts and solicit support.



Roy and Nancy Denner with Congressman and Annette Pombo

OHV lobbyist Paul Kavinoky and BRC lobbyist Bill Horn are working with Pombo's staff to organize a Congressional Oversight hearing on Motorized OHV Recreation in the U.S. OHV leaders will have an

opportunity to testify about important OHV issues across the country.

The Summit is expected to be the biggest off-road event ever seen in DC.

DESERT WASHES REOPENED!

After the BLM completed actions required by the Federal Court, the California Desert District BLM Manager announced that the washes in the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Area are re-opened to vehicle traffic. After this year's rainy season, the washes have been totally reconfigured by rampaging waters. How much more damage can a vehicle do?

RIDING AREA RE-OPENED

During an OHV meeting with Congressman Duncan Hunter in March in Washington, DC, the Congressman asked how we might acquire more camping opportunities at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (aka: Glamis). ORBA President Denner suggested that he might help re-open the 26,000 acres closed to camping east of the dunes.

During an ISDRA TRT meeting in El Centro in June the BLM announced that the 26,000 acres previously closed to camping is now open.

Could these two events possibly be related????

ROADLESS RULE

During President Clinton's reign, he implemented a national "Roadless Rule" for forest areas across the U.S. This policy closed many forest roads and trails that had been used by off-highway vehicles for years. President Bush overturned that arbitrary rule and left the management of forest roads to the individual States. Many State Governors, who appreciate the importance of OHV recreation to constituents and to local businesses, re-opened many roads and trails that had been closed by Clinton. Unfortunately, Governor Schwarzenegger of California, a State where OHV recreation is a major activity, is proposing to implement the Clinton closure policy. Off-roaders in California are flooding the Governor's office with orange postcards protesting this proposal. Where do

you suppose he rides his KTM motorcycles and his Hummer?

DAC MEETING

The BLM Desert District Advisory Council (DAC) met in Barstow, CA during March. ORBA's President has been reappointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to continue to sit on that council for three more years.

At the March meeting, Denner succeeded in getting three motions passed by the Council. Passed unanimously was a motion to add an agenda item for the next meeting to discuss the formation of an advisory group to assist the BLM in developing a standardized Special Use Permit system, a standard cost estimating procedure for special events, and a standard cost accounting system to report on how funds paid by event organizers are utilized.

Also passed unanimously was a motion to add to the next meeting's agenda a discussion regarding the formation of advisory groups to make recommendations regarding the expenditure of user fees at Dumont Dunes and at El Mirage OHV areas.

Off-roaders interested in participating in the discussions and/or being on an advisory group are invited to attend the next DAC meeting to be held in Ontario on June 25th at the Ontario Hilton.

Passed on a 9 to 2 vote was a motion to have the DAC Chairman write a letter to the new Desert Tortoise Recovery Office (DTRO) Manager recommending that stakeholders should have advisory input directly to his office with the same authority as his science advisory group.

ORBA MEMBER BENEFITS

ORBA has become large enough now, as a national trade association, to attract promoters of company benefit plans. Some ORBA Board members are in the process of test-driving a payroll service program that appears to be comprehensive and inexpensive. Other Board members are testing a relatively low cost Workers' Compensation package.

If, after a few months of trial, the "guinea pig" companies are happy with these services, ORBA will negotiate a deal with the providers

CONTACT **ORBA**

11487 Woodside Avenue Suite 110, Santee, CA 92071 * www.orba.biz * 619.449.0778 * Fax 619.596.5826

to treat ORBA members as one large company and price their products accordingly.

ORBA is also supporting a bill in Congress to allow employee health care providers to package programs for "trade associations" as if their members are all part of one large company. Obviously, if passed, this will make small and medium sized ORBA company members able to offer health care coverage to their employees at drastically reduced rates.

Don't forget about our buying program with Office Depot. ORBA members can purchase office products from Office Depot at a cost that is less than their standard industrial catalog, with free delivery. Call for details if you haven't already signed up.

A GUARANTEED WIN!



Have you ever gambled in a situation where even if you lose, YOU WIN? ORBA is offering you that opportunity! Just donate to ORBA's fundraiser. Even if you don't win the world-class prerunner car built by John Cooley of Alumi Craft—using products donated by many ORBA members—you can rest assured that the money donated will go toward keeping OHV recreation areas open and protecting and promoting the off-road recreation industry. For info and great shots of the car visit ORBA's website.

ECOBALANCE, INC.

A new organization has been formed to address the imbalance that exists relative to legal rulings and actions taken with regard to ecological issues. Vast areas of public lands have been closed with little or no valid scientific data. The purpose of newly formed EcoBalance is to support actions that are based on good scientific data and stop those that are not.

Joint efforts on the part of David Hubbard, environmental attorney, and Roy Denner, President & CEO of ORBA, have led to the participa-

tion of five California organizations to form this new non-profit organization. David Hubbard serves full-time as the Executive Director of EcoBalance. The Board of Directors consists of leaders from the American Sand Association (ASA); American Motorcyclist Association, District 37 (AMAD37); California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA); the San Diego Off-Road Coalition (SDORC); and the Off-Road Business Association (ORBA). Denner has been elected Chairman of the Board.

SOUND AND PRIVATE PROPERTY

OHV private property issues are popping up all over the country created mostly by loud exhaust pipes on motorcycles and ATV's. ORBA is heavily involved in educating County Supervisors in several counties to make sure that new ordinances do not over-react to the sound problem. In one case, Jeremy McGrath, famous super-cross champion, is being told he cannot ride on his own 100 acres of land because it might disturb the neighbors.

ORBA's Board of Directors recognizes that the sound problem for off-road vehicles is probably the most detrimental factor to good relationships with the non-off-road segment of communities. The Board has taken a firm stand to push for manufacturers of exhaust pipes to build quiet pipes. The argument that quiet pipes reduce power is negated if all competitors are restricted to the same sound level. It is important for OHV enthusiasts to be good neighbors.

ROCK CRAWLING EVENTS BACK AT MOON ROCKS

Two years ago the Carson City Field Office of the BLM halted rock crawling events at the popular Moon Rocks area north of Reno after a few problems were encountered at a permitted event. This moratorium placed doubt on the future of all rock crawling events in Nevada. ORBA has been very active in Nevada and has been meeting on a regular basis with Nevada State BLM Director Bob Abbey, as well as coordinating meetings with a variety of local OHV organizations and Don Hicks, the Carson City Field Office Man-

ager. The Moon Rocks issue has been discussed in both sets of meetings.

During a recent field trip to Moon Rocks that included representatives from CalRocs, the Motorcycle Racing Association of Northern Nevada (MRANN), Friends of Sand Mountain, Friends of Wilson Canyon and ORBA Land Use Director Bill Dart, a variety of issues were discussed. The outcome was that the BLM would resume accepting applications for rock crawling events.

NEVADA OHV BILL

In other news on the Nevada front, ORBA's Land Use Director, Bill Dart, was instrumental in the creation of an OHV program in that state.

The good news for Nevada dealers is that all Nevada OHV's will be required to have a new "Certificate of Operation" sticker to legally operate on most Nevada roads and trails. This sticker will be issued at no charge by Nevada dealers upon request of the owners, but for all OHV's purchased from licensed dealers after 1-1-06, the owners will have to show proof of payment of Nevada sales tax, so the already required payment of sales taxes will now have an enforcement mechanism. This will eliminate the loss of sales to other states to avoid paying sales tax.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- South Sound Honda
- Trail Tech
- Allied Racing Wheels
- Airgas Rutland Tool
- Tuff Country Suspension
- South Bay Motorsports
- AZ Assn of 4WD Clubs
- Willys Works
- Hutchins Motor Sports
- Van Leeuwen Enterprises
- 10 West Motorsports
- Desert Dynamics
- Laeger's
- Nichols Fabrication
- Dirt Skins
- DesertSports & Rec.
- Colorado 500
- J.E. Laser Engraving
- Off-Road Adventures
- Turn Key Engine Supply
- Eliminator Motorsports
- Detroit Locker