



OFF-ROAD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER—WINTER 2004

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CONGRESSMAN FILNER ADDRESSES ORBA BOARD

Members of ORBA's Board of Directors and a few select OHV leaders were privileged to have Congressman Bob Filner of the 51st District address a recent Board meeting. Filner's district now includes the Imperial Sand Dunes. The Congressman admits that he did not know much about that area, nor about OHV recreation, until redistricting put the dunes into his district. He is now making the effort to get educated. In recent months he has been instrumental in obtaining additional Federal funding for the dunes.

CONGRESSMAN FILNER MEETS WITH OHV LEADERS

Congressman Filner met with the leaders of several OHV organizations in December. He supported the OHV community by signing two letters; one letter was ad-

ressed to the Fish and Wildlife Service in support of a favorable opinion on the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area Management Plan. Another letter was sent to Gale Norton in support for an additional two million dollars to fund adequate law enforcement, species monitoring, operations and maintenance.

ORBA ORGANIZES OHV LEADERSHIP MEETING

In December, ORBA organized and led the first meeting in years of the leaders of most of the significant OHV organizations in the state. The primary subject of discussion was the new political climate in Sacramento as a consequence of the election of Governor Schwarzenegger, and how best to capitalize on that change. Also discussed was the OHMVR Commission grant hearing, held on the following day.

ORBA TO OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS

ORBA has instituted a scholarship award program for ORBA members, their employees and immediate families. The scholarships pay for enrollment in certain OHV-related courses. Check the ORBA web site at www.orba.biz for details.

ORBA ENGAGES LOBBYIST IN WASHINGTON

Having for some time enjoyed the tremendous benefit of having our lobbyist in Sacramento, Pete Conaty, we have recognized that we need an advocate in Washington, D.C. as well. Accordingly, ORBA recently joined with the American Sand Association, California Off Road Vehicle Association and San Diego Off-Road Coalition in hiring Michael Hardiman, a notable Washington advocate. His first assignment is to work with US Fish & Wildlife to secure a favorable ruling on our petition to delist the Peirson's Milk-vetch, and to gain a "no jeopardy" opinion on the management plan for the Imperial Sand Dunes which would allow that plan to go forward.

OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING

ORBA President Denner and Vice President McGarvie attended the December 2003 meeting of the

OHMVR Commission in San Diego. The purpose of the meeting was to approve grant applications from Federal and local agencies in Southern California. The most significant of these grant applications was undoubtedly those related to the operation and maintenance of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA), especially law enforcement. It was disappointing yet hardly surprising that the pre-dominately green Commission denied the request of the Imperial County Sheriff Office for \$522,000 for equipment storage facility, fuel and maintenance, and completely eliminated funding to the BLM for law enforcement in the dunes.

ORBA IN NEVADA

ORBA has initiated an effort to assist the Nevada BLM office to identify "Intensive Use" OHV areas on BLM managed public lands in Nevada. The BLM is conducting a new land use planning effort for Nevada and is asking for input from the OHV recreation community to make sure that open areas are identified and included in the new plans. If you ride or race in Nevada, please contact ORBA and provide information about the areas you would like to have included in the new plans as intensive use OHV areas.

LAND ROVER MEETING

ORBA's President Denner was invited to be a speaker at a Southern California Land Rover Club meeting in Los Angeles during the International Auto Show. Denner emphasized that Land Rover drivers have already been negatively impacted by land use decisions and land use plans being implemented for public lands and gave several specific examples.

ORBA'S PRESIDENT MEETS THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

In addition to being an avid off-road enthusiast, ORBA's President is also an equestrian. He has ridden in the Rose Parade with the Long Beach Mounted Police for many years. Gale Norton, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, participated in the Rose Parade this year. Denner had an opportunity to meet Ms. Norton at the float construction center and discuss his participation on the BLM's Desert

Advisory Council to which he was appointed by the Secretary.



SEMA SHOW LAS VEGAS

Each year as the Las Vegas SEMA show grows larger, the number of SEMA members who are also ORBA members grows proportionately. ORBA's member companies were highlighted at the show on our ORBA BUSINESS HONOR ROLL. ORBA's President has been asked, by SEMA, to conduct an educational program at the SEMA Spring Expo in Indianapolis in March. ORBA staff will be presenting "Off-Road Jeopardy" – a program designed to educate attendees about land use and legislative issues while they have a fun time. Attendees will be eligible to win door prizes. Jeopardy shows will be presented in the ICC Wabash Ballroom 2 on Thursday, March 4, from 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm and on Saturday, March 6, from 9:15 am to 10:45 am.

NATIONAL RECREATION FORUM

In January, Kathleen Clarke, National BLM Director invited a select group of recreation leaders from across the US to attend a National Recreation Forum in Las Vegas. ORBA's president participated in that Forum. The Director asked for input regarding what the attendees believe recreation on BLM lands should look like in the year 2010. She received many comments regarding what is wrong with the BLM's procedures today and what needs to be done to give recreation appropriate consideration in future land management plans. OHV recreation was a major consideration at this Forum. A document titled: "The BLM's Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services" was provided to attendees. The back cover

of this document depicts a motorcyclerider climbing a sand dune.

ORBA AT CAL4WD CONVENTION

At the invitation of California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs, ORBA had a booth at their convention in Reno, Nevada in February. While other members of the ORBA staff manned the ORBA booth at the Powersports Dealer Show in Indianapolis, ORBA President Denner and Vice President McGarvie handled the Cal4WDC convention. It proved to be an excellent opportunity to gain additional exposure to off-road businesses, and to contact ORBA member businesses that were present.

LOW COST OFFICE SUPPLIES!

ORBA has entered into an Association Buying Agreement with Office Depot. **DISCOUNTED PRICES ON OFFICE SUPPLIES AND FREE SHIPMENT IS AVAILABLE TO ORBA MEMBERS!** To register your company and receive a product catalog, contact Doug Kearnaughan at (858) 642-2331 or email him at: dkearnaghan@officedepot.com

ORBA ANNUAL MEETING

The ORBA Annual Meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, February 24 at the ORBA offices in Santee, California. Three seats on the ORBA Board of Directors are up for re-election. There are no new candidates at this time; however one can add write-in candidates at the meeting.

DESERT MANAGERS GROUP

ORBA Vice President McGarvie attended a meeting of the Desert Managers Group in Barstow, California in January. The principal focus of these meetings is the Desert Tortoise, and ORBA has a vital interest in the future of that animal. The new land management plans in the Southern California desert are based primarily upon

the protection of that species, resulting in the loss of significant OHV opportunity. ORBA continues to keep a close eye on this issue.

PARTNERS IN STEWARDSHIP

ORBA Vice President McGarvie attended the "Partners in Stewardship" conference in Los Angeles in November. The conference was conducted by all the Federal land management agencies, and attended by agency personnel, end users and others interested in the management of public land in this country. Says McGarvie: "It was encouraging to see the land management agencies acknowledge that they cannot properly conduct their mission without help and input from the public." The event also proved to be an excellent opportunity to network with the agencies and other user groups.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Motonation LLC
- Gibson Performance Corp.
- Predator 4 Wheel Drive, LLC
- JB Motorsports
- Parker Pumper Helmet Co.
- PCI Race Radios, Inc.
- Torco Oil Int'l.
- Rancho Suspension
- Tuffy Security Products, Inc.
- Heartland Meat Co.
- Goodyear Tire & Rubber
- Deaver Spring Mfg. Co.
- Painless Performance
- A-Fab
- Texas Off Road Performance
- Beauchamp Enterprise
- TC Construction Co., Inc.
- HydroDynamics USA, Inc.
- Daystar Products Int'l.
- Renegade Enterprises
- Cycle News
- Wheels-4-Tots, Inc.
- Fly Racing
- Parts Unlimited
- Moose Racing
- Thor
- RK Chains
- Excel Rims & Wheel Sets
- JD Built
- Sandsational Sound
- Outerwears
- Rental America