American Sand Association Inc.
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American Sand Association
"IN THE DUNES"

Volume 6 Issue 1
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Unite, Inform, and Mobilize

STILL WAITING FOR THE JUDGE

While we are waiting for Judge Illston's ruling on the ISDRA issues, we are actively working on the Peirson's Milk-vetch (PMV) delisting. Studies this season by Dr. Art Phillips show that the seed bank is profuse and that the plant does not germinate in years of little or no rain. Dr. Phillips' studies will conclude in March adding to the best available science that we hope will aid the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) in making a fair delisting decision. Our studies as well as those of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) show that the prolific plant thrives in both open and closed areas of the ISDRA.

The delisting is critical to the 3-pronged attack by the CBD. Their 3 suits are all based upon the PMV being a listed species: take that away and we knock the legs out from under all 3 cases. If the PMV is delisted, their cases, and any appeals in progress (ours or theirs - one way or the other) would likely become moot. Since all the PMV-related claims and suits are then baseless, the only decision the judge would have at that point is that the cases are indeed moot. However, the BLM has agreed not to take any on-the-ground action until the judge rules – and she has so far not made a ruling. We have no way of knowing if she would make a ruling any sooner if the PMV were delisted.

Once the claims of the CBD are deemed moot, the BLM would likely then proceed with implementing the Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) that calls for all but the Adaptive Management Area (AMA) to be restored to unrestricted access. However, the legal system being what it is, we can expect further litigation by the CBD. It is a given that they will appeal and ask for a restraining order to keep the closures in place while they make their appeal. One can only guess if the judge would grant the request if there are no listed species to base their claims upon.

When asked for help in transporting Dr. Phillips and his crew in the dunes, PLEASE STEP UP AND DO YOUR PART.

U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service takes a second look at status of the Peirson's Milk-vetch

A News Release dated November 30, 2005 was released by the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service office in Carlsbad, CA. Our new petition was received to remove this plant from the Endangered Species list and provides substantial information. The Service will now initiate a 12-month status review of Peirson's Milk-vetch, a desert plant found only in portions of the Algodones Dunes in Imperial County, California, to determine whether the plant should be proposed for delisting. In 2001, the Service was initially petitioned by the American Sand Association, the Off-Road Business Association, and the San Diego Off-Road Coalition to delist the plant. Based on the Service's finding that the petition contained substantial information, a complete review of the plant's status was undertaken. In 2004, the Service published its finding that the plant still warranted protection under the ESA. The most recent delisting petition was submitted to the Service on July 30, 2005, by the American Sand Association, the Off-Road Business Association, and the American Motorcycle Association - District 37. The 2005 petition asserts that based on four years of additional data collection, Peirson's Milk-vetch is more abundant than was reported in the 2001 petition and that the plant's population and reproductive capacity are stable and strong enough to warrant delisting. The findings do not affect other ongoing activities related to the protection and management of the Peirson's milk-vetch, nor does it constitute a decision to delist the plant. The Service listed Peirson's Milk-vetch as a threatened species due to habitat degradation, impacts associated with off-road vehicles, and the inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms to conserve the plant. We are hopeful that this will be our final petition to delist the Peirson's Milk-vetch plant.

FIND MORE INFORMATION AND STORIES IN OUR ONLINE VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER

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ASA Quarterly Newsletters
February
May
September
November

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President's Message

By Grant George

As I write this, I marvel at how quickly the season is slipping passed. We've almost completed another year of PMV studies and a seed bank study on top of that. I personally want to thank all the volunteers that stepped forward to help in this most mission-critical task. I hope you proudly wear the ASA hats and t-shirts you received as a token of appreciation from the dune community for your efforts. It is easy to say, "We should do this," and "We should do that". However, when it gets down to it, few deliver. You are to be commended for putting your body AND TIME where your mouth is.

As of this writing, there is still no ruling from the Judge that could re-open the TEMPORARY closures. Many in our ranks speculate that she is stalling pending the decision by FWS on our latest PMV delisting petition. FWS acknowledges that there is significant new data to support delisting and is required to give us a decision by July 30, 2006.

Why could she be waiting? Put yourself in the judges position: if you ruled that all the science presented by the OHV community was invalid only to have the FWS delist the plant, you'd be just a little embarrassed now, wouldn't you? That's as good a guess as any at this point.

Let's concentrate on things that we can control. ASA membership leaps to mind.

With an estimated 1.2 to 1.7 million ISDRA visitors each year, the ASA has only 23,000 members. 23,000 is a big number, but we have only just scratched the surface. Our goal is 50,000 members. If every current member signed up just 2 new members each, we'd be over 69,000!

Why do we need more members? The benefits are many.

The most obvious is fundraising. As much as we hate to admit it, money does make the world go 'round. We need it to fund the PMV studies, the upcoming invertebrate studies, our state and federal lobbyists, our on-going legal actions, newsletters, and our day-to-day operating expenses. That all adds up to a whole lot of $$$.

On another level, it gives us a deeper talent base – and there is a ton of talent in the ISDRA community. We need to tap into it. First on our list is a paid volunteer coordinator. From there, we stand poised to form an even greater organization.

Last, and possibly the most important, is political power. It is lost on us peons how impressive it is to walk into a politician's office and be able to legitimately say that we represent 50,000 votes. Presidential elections have been decided by less! That gets their attention and in a hurry. Our lobbyists are then more effective as well.

Within the political aspect are letter writing and email campaigns. When the time comes, we will need letters sent to our representatives. We need to be able to communicate that need to as many of the sand community as possible. I can't help but recall the day we asked for emails to the BLM and we inadvertently shut down their servers!

We have achieved much. Nevertheless, we must continue to move forward. We can't do it without YOU, because YOU are the ASA. Make the pitch to your friends: those you camp with - those in your sphere of influence. Those that care if our rights are eroded by those who wish to impose their values upon us. Get them to join, after all, it is still Free.

It is all about numbers, politics, and science. Its how things get done in this country.

Chairman's Report

By Bob Mason

Thanks to Our Sponsors and Members

During the past five years the ASA has enjoyed the support of many Sand Sport related businesses. The list of business sponsors has grown to more than 500 and is continuing to grow. The scope of the contributions ranges from outright unsolicited donations to support of specific ASA programs.

Five complete sand cars, an enclosed toybox trailer, quads, bikes, golf carts, production of two videos in support of our cause and support of the "Litter Education Program" have been donated to name only a few. Add to these two significant 5-figure donations during the 2005 year end holiday period, outstanding! Combining this financial support with the steady growth in ASA membership helps increase our ability to make a difference.

How can you add to our continued success? As you read this newsletter it will be easy to identify opportunities to help. Please call or email our Volunteer Coordinator Lloyd Misner at 619-448-8078 to offer your help. No offer to help will be too small. Making a few phone calls to round up others volunteers for a specific project, entering data in the membership records, help at a specific function, the list is endless and all needed.
Email: Volunteers@AmericanSandAssociation.org

Working together we will protect our right to ride for future generations to enjoy.

As Always, thanks for your support,

Chairman of the Board

WHAT IS THE ASA?

The ASA is the lead group fighting to keep the Imperial Sands Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) open to OHV use. We are a nonprofit California corporation under the IRS Tax Code known as 501(c)(4). The leadership of the ASA are volunteers.

Working in concert with the Off Road Business Association (ORBA), San Diego Off-Road Coalition (SDORC), and others, the ASA has filed eight lawsuits against the Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service. We have standing in several legal actions that could well be used to close the entire dunes. We stand poised to oppose any legal actions brought by any anti-access groups that would prevent the new Recreation Area Management Plan from being implemented. This plan would remove some of the closures entirely and grant conditional access to others.

In addition to our legal actions to preserve our right to ride, we filed a precedent-setting delisting petition to remove the Peirson's Milk Vetch from the Endangered Species List. This plant was used to create the closures put in place in 2000. These closures total over 49,000 acres of sand dunes and are located south of Highway 78, south of Highway 8, and at Mammoth Wash.

Our delisting petition is based on good, solid science derived from biological studies paid for by the ASA, ORBA, and SDORC. This science cost over $100,000.00 so far and we are budgeting for more. Our efforts don't stop there. We have two lobbyists on retainer: one in Washington D. C. and the other in Sacramento.

We have made several trips to Washington D.C. and Sacramento to present our case and plan to make several more. Our Public Safety and Education makes us known as a group that is not only interested in a World Class duning experience, but Stewards of the land and its resources: a very good connection with the current administration.

The ASA has received the US Dept. of Interior's 4C's Award, recognizing our organization's commitment to working with the Bureau and others to enhance recreational conservation on public lands in Southern California.

ASA Invited to Washington, DC

Stephen Razo Director Clarke Bob Mason

At the request of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), ASA participated in the Western States Sheriff's Summit hosted by Bill Woody, BLM Director of Law Enforcement and Security on November 1 and 2, 2005. Attendees included County Sheriff's from areas where BLM and the Sheriff's have common jurisdiction. Several BLM lead law enforcement officers were also in attendance. One of the primary topics of discussion was the "Public Awareness Programs" being implemented at the Imperial Sand Dunes.

The keynote speaker, BLM Director Kathleen Clarke, (pictured) praised the efforts of the Partners in Stewardship program noting that in a mere twelve months the UDG and their partners have made remarkable progress. She continued by noting that the UDG is being used as a model by many other gateway communities.

ASA Chairman Bob Mason was joined by Stephen Razo, California Desert District External Affairs Director, in summarizing Public Awareness Programs supported by the Imperial County Sheriff's Office (ICSO), United Desert Gateway (UDG), BLM and ASA. Considerable interest was expressed in the Partners in Dune Safety and Stewardship programs at the Imperial Sand Dunes. Leo the Lizard was a prime topic of discussion.

Imperial County Sheriff Harold Carter noted that considerable progress has been made toward returning the Imperial Sand Dunes to a safe and enjoyable place for families to enjoy off-highway vehicle recreation. Sheriff Carter discussed the ICSO's new role in visitor fee collection. Carter noted that while there are many bugs to be worked out, the collections through October 30, 2005 have more than doubled that of 2004 for the same period.

Bill Woody observed that the Imperial Sand Dunes managers, the OHV organizations and the gateway communities have really got their act together. He encouraged his staff and the visiting County Sheriff's to take a good look at the public awareness programs.

During their visit to Washington, Razo and Mason had an opportunity to meet with BLM Director Clarke. Stephen Razo reviewed the progress made since formation of the UDG with particular emphasis on the "Litter Education" program. A "Leo" banner was presented to the Director along with copies of the October 2005 edition of the "Partners in Dune Stewardship Report" and the November 2005 "Litter Education Report." The Director offered to communicate her support of the "Litter Education" program. Director Clarke acknowledged the designation of the "Litter Free Zone" by the El Centro Field Office Manager.

The participation by several prominent sand sports related businesses was noted. It was observed that the local support will likely be several times more than required under the cost matching provisions of the UDG/BLM Task Orders.

A Morning With The Glamis Ranger

By Robert Ford

Saturday, November 12, 2005

When I was offered an opportunity to do a ride-along with the BLM's Glamis Ranger, I accepted for a couple of reasons. I wanted to see the dunes from the perspective of someone who is fortunate enough to work where we play, and I wanted to know more about the BLM and their management of the ISDRA.

I met Ted Jones via the telephone the week before the ride along. Ted is a Glamis Ranger and is responsible for law enforcement in the North portion of the ISDRA. Ted has been with the BLM since 2002. He is based out of the Cahuilla Ranger Station on Gecko Road and reports through the BLM's El Centro field office.

I contacted Ranger Jones to schedule the ride-along for the 12th of November, over Veteran's Day Weekend. My family and our group were camped at wash 15 for the weekend so he offered to pick me up at our camp at 7:45AM. From camp, we drove over to the Cahuilla Ranger Station via Highway 78 where we found several folks in line to purchase passes. We toured the station and I was amazed at what a lean operation they have. The station consists of a couple offices, main lobby area, two detention rooms, a break room, and an area for the EMT's equipment storage. Ted showed me the CO2 cylinders that were used to recharge their crowd dispersement guns (pepper ball guns), and I asked what prompts the closure of an area at night like Olds Hill on Halloween weekend this year. He explained that when law enforcement feels the behavior of the crowd in an area is getting out of hand, or if enforcement cannot easily access the crowd in the event of an emergency, or if the size of the crowd is deemed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Weekend Warrior Support Recognized

During the past two years Weekend Warrior has repeatedly stepped up to support several critical ASA activities. According to ASA Chairman, Bob Mason "Warrior has made several partnership activities a reality."

Early on Weekend Warrior owner Mark Warmoth recognized the need to support ASA Washington level lobbying efforts. He followed this up when Warrior joined the "Partners in Dune Safety" highway billboard program. Their billboards at the Glamis Beach Store currently feature a litter education message.

In January of 2005 they donated a trailer to BLM that displays the "Take Time Out For Safety" message indorsed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Imperial County Sheriff's Office (ICSO), the United Desert Gateway (UDG) and the ASA. They followed this with another trailer built especially to display the ASA 2005-06 Tatum give a way car. "More recently Warrior has offered a trailer to the ICSO to be used in conjunction with the Imperial Sand Dunes fee collection program. This brings the total to three trailers."

To top this all off when Warrior joined the Off-Road Business Association (ORBA) they dedicated their monthly dues to support a staff person to carry out on going ASA tasks relating to membership and business sponsor records.

More recently Warrior's Administrative Assistant Michele Garnett successfully encouraged several suppliers to support the "Leo the Lizard" trash bag program. Onan, Dometic and Atwood all made significant contributions to this program.

On October 21 the ASA Board presented a recognition award to Mark Warmoth and his management team. During the presentation ASA President Grant George observed, "Warrior's contribution along with many others have made it possible for ASA to continue to Protect our Right to Ride."

RVIA Trade Show

On Nov 28-30 I attended the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) trade show in Louisville, KY as the guest of Weekend Warrior. During the trip owner Mark Warmoth and I met with Richard Coons, RVIA President Elect to discuss the growth of OHV recreation and the associated impact on the RV industry. Discussion of the "Go RVing" national media program indicated that RVIA is open to consideration of PSAs relating to responsible use of OHV's and good stewardship of public lands. Coons clearly understands the impact of access to public land as it relates to the continued growth of the RV industry. During the meeting with Coons he encouraged Warmoth to consider becoming a RVIA Board Member. Mark acknowledged the invitation with a positive but noncommittal response. Having Warmoth on the Board will be very helpful to the relationship with RVIA.

Several other RV industry contacts were made which will ultimately yield support of ACTION and ASA. During a dinner meeting with Warmoth he approved the continued involvement of Warrior in the billboard program. He also asked Mark Jerman to look for other billboards on the routes from AZ and CA. Warrior will contract directly with Lamar Advertising and ASA will continue to coordinate the stewardship message.

The trip provided an excellent opportunity to interact with several of the Warrior management team members. ASA is viewed in a very positive manner. Mark Warmoth, on several occasions, reinforced his support of ASA activities. It is clearly apparent that Warrior's support of ASA will continue at the present level.

Bob Mason
ASA Chairman

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THE STORY OF HOLLY GORRELL

An open letter from a father who's daughter was killed at Glamis October 29, 2005

My name is Patrick Gorrell and together with my wife Samantha we have managed to raise five wonderful children. From the time that our kids were toddlers, our family began taking trips to a place in the desert called Glamis. For those of you who may not be familiar with Glamis, it is essentially a stretch of mountainous sand dunes that run from the middle of the Salton Sea and extend southward to the Mexican border. The dunes there are truly beautiful. They are made up of a seemingly endless stream of sandy valleys, ridges and deep bowls.

In our early trips to Glamis we found it to be the perfect venue for family adventures. In our many trips there we were joined by a large number of families from our local community (Canyon Lake, CA). Together, there in Glamis we taught our kids to ride and helped each other in the task of raising them into adults. We camped wagon wheel style in our motor homes. At night we ate our meals around a roaring campfire while we shared the day's adventures and an endless stream of stories late into those chilly desert nights.

We found it so ideal, that we became hard-core regulars. For more than two decades during the cooler winter months we would go to Glamis just about every other weekend. We became accustom to eating a little sand in our turkeys. We relentlessly cleaned sand out of every nook and cranny of our motor homes and trailers. We washed sand out of our hair for days after we got back home. But despite these problems, there was one overwhelming factor that kept us going back again and again. It was fun….. About as much fun as anyone could possibly have.

It is hard to put into words the feeling of exhilaration and the absolute joy that comes from riding in the dunes at Glamis. It is a very three dimensional experience. You can ride up hills, you can ride down hills, you can ride around and around in bowls and valleys of unimaginable proportions. You can feel the exhilaration of achieving weightlessness during a jump. You can carve turns in the sand that feel like they will rip you right off of your bike. And you can ride for hours at a stretch until you arms are so tired that you just can't use them anymore. From my experience, there is simply no feeling on earth that can match Glamis for its ability to deliver a sense of freedom and power.

Growing up and learning to ride there, my daughter Holly became addicted to these simple yet very powerful pleasures. She was a great rider, and her experience at Glamis left her with sand in her blood and in the deepest parts of her soul.

Because of its irresistible attraction, over time this one-time haven for family adventures became increasingly crowded. In fact, it is dangerously over crowded these days. Because of this, and because of our old age I guess, we stopped going there as regulars. But my daughter Holly made sure that we went back every now and then. Her love for the place kept drawing her back for her necessary Glamis fix.

I loved riding with Holly. She was just great. But October 28, 2005 we went back to Glamis for a very another special purpose. Holly and her sister Heather had started a line of women's riding apparel called DAMZL. Together, Holly and Heather identified a need in the in the off-road motor cycle industry that was very personal to them. Despite the fact that they were tough enough to ride with the best of us, they are also beautiful women and have a strong sense of fashion and taste. They resented the fact that for more than 30 years, they had to dress in riding clothing designed by men - for men. And from their experience they knew that they could design clothing specifically designed for the woman rider. Clothing with more color and far more practical for women.

Their theme slogan that I dearly love is "Feminize The Machine". This founding concept became their mantra and it symbolized what was to become a real quest for both of them. If Holly had a goal with DAMZL it would be to put a woman dressed in pink at the head of a pack of aggressive riders.

They went to Glamis that weekend primarily as vendors. They were embarking on the necessary marketing task of gaining exposure and acceptance and creating an identity within the riding community. And Glamis is certainly one of the best places to do this.

On that Friday, Holly and her fiancé Eric spent the best part of the morning taking pictures of Holly riding and jumping some dunes. The few brief minutes she spent doing this did little to satisfy her need to spend some time seriously shredding up some sand. The rest of that Friday, Holly spent working the DAMZL sales booth with Heather and she begrudgingly resisted her temptations to go back out in the dunes and get some sand in her hair.

On that Saturday Holly was back in the booth again. She was dying for a ride, but kept putting it off until late in the day. And then finally before it got too late her moment came. Holly fulfilled her dream. She mounted her bike dressed in pink and led a pack of five riders out into the sand. As she had dreamed, she led the way and challenged everyone following to keep up with her.

I can sense what was in her heart as she through caution to the wind for a moment just long enough to miss sight of an approaching dune buggy. In the blink of an eye she was irreparably crushed. And as she laid there in the sand dressed in her pink DAMZL shirt Eric, the love of her life held her hand, cradled her head and told her just how much he loved her while she passed away from him. And so that is what happened just a week ago as I write this today.

Now many of us here would describe this whole episode as tragic. But if you really knew Holly the way I did, then it would be much more appropriate to describe it as poetic. Holly died very quickly. She died doing the thing she liked to do most, and in the place that she liked the most. She died in the arms of the man that she loved most dearly – the man that she called the love of her life. I am very proud of the fact that her life and her end have become the inspiration for her sister to continue with the goals they set together for DAMZL. I think this reflects positively on their personal strength and character. I feel blessed to be the father of such a great family.

It is with mixed emotions that I reflect on how I feel about Glamis and other popular off-road riding areas. On one hand, our family enjoyed countless adventures and very positive experiences there. On the other hand, it's the place that I lost my daughter. Upon reflection have come several conclusions.

First, I believe strongly that it is up to each parent or individual rider to determine if it is appropriate or safe enough to ride in these places. Clearly, I do not believe that this decision should be made by the BLM or any other government agency. In my mind their job is to protect our ability to make these choices, not to make them for us.

My strongest feeling is that riders and buggy drivers must learn to temper their enthusiasm in favor of more caution. Especially in these very crowded areas. Perhaps the easiest way to do this is to simply not to ride or drive beyond what your field of vision can let you be in control of. If you can see what lies ahead and you are confident that there are no surprises, let that be the opportunity to go for it and get your thrills. If you cant, or are not sure, resist the temptation until a safer opportunity presents itself. It will eventually come. You owe it to yourself, co-riders and others that might be tragically affected by your impatience. As individuals we owe it to the other people around us not to jeopardize their safety because of your lack of self control. We simply don't have the right to take other peoples safety for granted. None of us own Glamis or any other similar place. Instead we share it. And if we don't share it responsibly, big brother will certainly take it from all of us. May God bless and keep you and your loved ones safe.

BLM DIRECTOR CLARKE SUPPORTS ISDRA LITTER FREE ZONE

In a recent meeting conducted in Washington, D.C., the American Sand Association (ASA) presented a Litter Free Zone banner to Bureau of Land Management Director Kathleen Clarke. The banner depicts "Leo the Lizard" encouraging Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area visitors to be good stewards of public land. Leo says "If you want to stay and play, take your trash away." In accepting the banner, Director Clarke praised the partnership efforts of the United Desert Gateway (UDG) communities and the BLM El Centro Field Office staff. Director Clarke continued by expressing her support for the "Litter Free Zone" concept.

The ISDRA Litter Education program has been totally funded by donations from sand sports enthusiasts and related businesses. Furthermore, BLM Chief Ranger, Ray LeLoup has stated that all BLM Law Enforcement Officers, under his direction, will actively enforce all litter violations in the Dunes. If you have plans to visit the ISDRA anytime soon (this includes Glamis, Gordons Well, Buttercup, and the surrounding areas), it is important to make provisions to haul your trash and supplies back home with you. Representatives from the BLM, UDG, and ASA have commented that it is important to haul your trash away, as opposed to relying on the dumpsters located in the Dunes camping areas. Also, because of the way in which trash tickets are being issued to off-road visitors, it is suggested to be sure your camp is clear of any trash at all times. This includes when you arrive to the dunes and set up your camp (should any litter be present), as well as during your stay, and when you head home.

GLAMIS RANGER ..... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

unmanageable by law enforcement, the order to disburse is given. He emphasized that they typically give multiple notices to leave an area before moving in physically to clear it, and that generally people are cooperative when the order is given.

After the station tour, I got to check out the patrol vehicles (buggies and quads) and Ranger Jones informed me that he was lobbying for better storage buildings for the vehicles. They are currently housed in non-climate controlled buildings, which isn't a big deal during the cooler weather of duning season, but the vehicles stay there all year round, which subjects them to temperatures over 120 degrees during the warmer months! He explained the communications system, which is housed in the ranger station, but they have additional mobile equipment that is used on busy weekends as well. This being considered an "off" weekend, Ted was the only BLM law enforcement officer for the entire north dunes. On busy weekends, BLM supplements enforcement with up to 35 uniformed officers, with support from other agencies as well. Once the tour was over, we got back into the truck and headed down Gecko Road for the first patrol of the morning.

We weren't on the road for a minute when a call came over the radio about someone dumpster diving. As we approached the area, Ranger Jones commented how dumpster diving is detrimental to the dunes, due to people leaving trash on the ground after they've gone though and picked out the recyclable materials. The trash then blows away and across the dunes the next time the wind picks up. The same thing goes for leaving trash on the ground around the dumpsters when they are full. Ranger Jones approached the two persons sifting through the trash and informed them what they were doing was illegal. They were both cooperative and placed the bags they had been going through back into the dumpsters and were let go with a warning.

We continued down the road checking camps for litter, primarily, as Ted explained that litter was a very big concern for him. He is very aware that litter in the dunes means dune closures. He showed me several ticket books from the past couple weeks and they all had multiple litter tickets in them. Most of these were issued in camp areas, but several had been issued out in the dunes, at the big hills too. Ted also explained that "space saving" (i.e. taping or coning off camping areas) was a big concern but went on to say that enforcement of this regulation was very difficult, generally. We pulled up to a couple camps where there were glass bottles in the sand and trash in fire pits. Both of these constitute litter, not to mention that glass beverage containers are not allowed in the dunes. The ranger explained that trash that is on the ground is considered litter, EVEN IF YOU INTEND TO PICK IT UP LATER!

About this time the radio crackled again with a citizen complaint about people doing drugs in a particular camp along the road. We rolled through the area looking for the camp that matched the description in the complaint. When we found the camp, the Ranger spoke with the individuals there and asked if he could check their persons for any weapons or illegal substances. On getting consent from the individuals, Ted searched them all and found one to be carrying illegal narcotics. This individual was promptly handcuffed and searched more thoroughly where even more drugs were found. The Ranger then called for support from the Imperial County Sheriff's Office. When the ICSO officer arrived, he loaded the suspect into his vehicle for transport back to the ranger station. This pretty much ended the ride-along as Ted explained that most of his afternoon would be spent processing this individual for booking. I have to say I was a little disappointed that it ended as soon as it did, but I'm more than happy to see this element removed from our dunes, even if it meant my ride-along was cut a little short. All in all this was a very positive and enlightening experience for me and I got a feeling that Ranger Jones truly is working to make our dunes a better, safer, place to have fun.

2005 SEMA Show Report

As many of you know, the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) show takes place in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the Las Vegas Convention Center. This past year it was held from November 1-4, 2005.

We arrived at the show on Monday, October 31, and spent the better part of a full day (between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.) setting up the exhibit and moving in the feature cars. Our booth measured 30x40-feet, and we were located in the upper level of the South Hall right next to Fox Racing Shox and FabTec. Also in the general area were displays from the Off-Road Business Association (ORBA) and Friends of Oceano Dunes. Our booth looked similar to the exhibit that we set up at the Sand Sports Super Show, but we used the additional floor splace to display vehicles from the following manufacturers: DeJong Sand Cars, Trick Racing Products, Extreme Performance, Sandbullet, and Buckshot Racing.

In addition to handing out about 3,000 total copies of Sand Sports, Hot VWs, and the 2005 Sand Sports Super Show Directories, we also had an arrary of ASA items that were provided by Jim Colln (which were dropped off to the SS office by member Bill Jones). This includes: 1000 ASA stickers (1 roll), a stack of UDG newspapers, and Dune Smart Safety Books. We also placed checkered flags on four of the five cars that were in the booth, and an ASA Business Sponsor plackard sign was placed in the driver's seat of each buggy. I should also mention that 2,500 copies of the current issue of Sand Sports with write-ups on "Leo the Lizzard Trash Campaign" and "New Dunes Fees" (also featuring the ASA Tatum Give-Away car Ad and UDG Trash Ad) were distributed in another area of the show through the SEMA Bin Program.

In all, the show went very well and a lot of people came by the booth and picked up information.... people who previously had no idea of Sand Sports, the ASA, or what the whole sport of sand duning is all about. I also spoke with two gentlemen representing Renegade Trailers out of Indiana about signing up as Business Sponsors.

The SEMA Show presented us with the perfect opportunity to "Unite, Inform, and Mobilize" a whole new audience about the American Sand Association and the Sand Sports industry.

Thank you,

Michael Sommer
Member ASA Board of Directors
Media Affairs Chairman
Sand Sports Magazine Editor

OUR "LUCKY MEMBERS" ARE GROWING!

And we don't like that fact! ARE YOU LUCKY? To find out, please look at your mailing label on page 16. If you have a "#" sign in front of your first name you're **lucky!** Those members must have a new email address due to changing jobs, ISP providers or just too much spam. We know this because we had to remove all of the bad email addresses found in our database, they are now marked; **US MAIL ONLY**. To continue to receive the latest information by email, please update your information and put us in your address book. We currently have 652 names without an email address.

Please send an email to: Membership@AmericanSandAssociation.org

>>> ***ASA STORE SPECIALS*** <<<

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Please send check payable to ASA:
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Moreno Valley, CA 92557-5504

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF STORE MERCHANDISE, PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE STORE. www.AmericanSandAssociation.org/store

Where your purchase is helping to fund your future of duning

>>> BIOLOGICAL UPDATE <<<

The November 19th and 20th 2005 trips were utilized to organize Dr. Phillips' thoughts and methodology for this year's PMV counts and seed bank study. Literally, tons of sand was sifted to allow him to consider the appropriate strategy to get the most accurate estimate of the number of seeds that were produced by last year's fantastic growing season. In addition, yes, we have a permit from FWS.

One of the goals in this year's seed bank study is to answer the FWS' question, "Do all seeds geminate at once?" We think the answer is a resounding "NO" since the plant would have long been extinct if that were the case. If they all germinated and then a heat wave occurred, where not one of them was able to produce seed and died, then what? No more PMV is what!

For the seed counts, Dr. Phillips chose to due randomly selected plots within a known PMV colony to give each sample more creditability. I personally wanted to go count seeds where we knew they would be (under an old plant). Dr. Phillips insisted on his strategy – period.

Last season was a season where the PMV could take advantage of their adaptive strategy for survival - the large amounts of rainfall produced many millions of seeds. We know that they will sit dormant until just the right conditions exist for them to germinate – not all of them will germinate at once to protect against any adverse weather conditions that could occur once they sprout. This is one of the survival strategies the plant uses to survive years that are unfavorable to its reproduction – as it has done since the last Ice Age. Last year, 1.8 million plants were counted by the BLM last season, and many of them produced hundreds of seeds each - easily totaling into the millions!

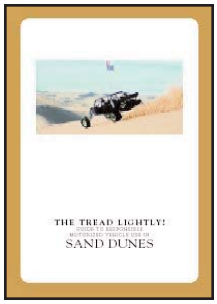
After the November trip, we got down to business on the December trip. Many thanks to the great volunteers that made this possible. The first day the team looked at survival rates at the nine sites at Gordon's Well where we did not have seed bank studies. Due to the lack of rains, survival rate is rather low, with only 10-50 plants, including last year's plus older perennials. We did not see any seedlings. Day 2: we sifted sand at the three remaining Gordon's sites and found a fair number of seeds. Day 3: we did the seed bank studies at two sites at Buttercup. The gamble we took in doing randomly selected plots is apparently paying off, as we found lots of seeds in nearly every plot. Day 4 was spent at the remaining five sites at Buttercup counting survivors; survivorship if anything is lower at Buttercup than at Gordon's. Day 5 was spent at Glamis, with seed bank studies at one site and survivorship counts at the remaining five sites. Even if we can't answer the FWS' questions about residual seed banks, Dr. Phillips thinks the look at the existing seed bank from another perspective is providing extremely valuable data.

Barring lack of rainfall, we will go back in March 2006 to log the reproductive capacity of the survivor plants. Please step up with transportation help when asked – no YOU = no studies. Vince Brunasso

Handing out flyers at the Dunes

At the dunes have you ever said "***I wish someone would tell that guy to slow down around our camp!***" We all see these people from time to time and wonder if they know the rules (or know there are rules) or have ever received any information regarding the dunes. We recently had several "stuffing party's" to fill our Checkered Flag bags with just that needed information all duners should have.

New Tread Lightly! Dune Safety Books
Litter Education Handouts
UDG Trash Bags
Info on where to seek help in Imperial/Yuma Counties
United Desert Gateway Newspapers
Safety Rules for the Dunes
New BLM ISDRA Maps



Now we need EVERYONES help to get these bags out to those people that need it. You can get your bags at 2 locations: Mama Jeannie's Pizza Parlor above the Glamis Beach Store in the north and Light'em Up! in the south. Please take a minute to get some bags and pass them out to those camped around you. Remember the ASA mission statement; ***Unite, Inform and Mobilize***. We can only accomplish that mission with your help, our volunteers. Handing out flyers at the dunes is our most popular of the 20 checkboxes in ways to help. So please take the time next trip to help educate others in our playground.

State OHV Division Should Handle Public Dollars as Carefully as Off-Roaders Handle Public Lands

First in a series by California State Senator Bill Morrow (R – Oceanside)

Long before I decided to become active in public service, I had already developed a deep love for the outdoors. To me, the essence of the American spirit, and certainly the vigor which reflects California, is an appreciation for the recreational opportunities offered in our remarkably diverse state. The isolated, pristine lands and beautiful waters are not meant to be admired from great distances or brought into our lives only through paintings; they are a direct part of the human experience.

Obviously, I respect conservation and restoration of wilderness areas, wherever appropriate. However, I subscribe equally to the notion that operations and management deserve equal priority in budgeting – and also the same accountability that comes when any tax dollar is spent. Public moneys raised to facilitate reasonable access to our natural resources must be spent for the purposes for which they have been earmarked by law.

I am committed to maintaining the full array of outdoor experiences for my fellow Californians. As fellow outdoor enthusiasts, you and I know that the challenges we meet when experiencing rugged, natural environments energize us. I feel more fully alive when climbing a hill or when riding on the sand or snow. I know I am not alone in this feeling, or in believing that off-highway vehicle recreation is a family activity that needs to be protected for future generations. This idea did not originate with me; it's part of the mission statement of the OHV Division of California Department of State Parks and Recreation.

Nearly 34 years ago, Governor Ronald Reagan signed into law the Chappie-Z'Berg Off-Highway Motor Vehicle law. The Reagan legislation included the following, "There has been a tremendous growth in the number of off-highway vehicles used as a source of recreation. Legislation is urgently needed to satisfy the demand for adequate recreation facilities for such off-highway vehicles and to provide the restraints, which are necessary to ensure recreational compatibility on public lands between the various user groups. Thus, it is necessary that this act, which is sponsored by the off-highway vehicle enthusiasts, go into effect immediately." As in so many other areas, Ronald Reagan understood that the best way to prepare for the future is to have a reliable, accountable system in place to secure that future.

I cannot help but think that Ronald Reagan would be disappointed in how the off-highway vehicle motor program has been forced to deal with so much undue bias from radical environmental groups pushing an agenda of eco-totalitarianism. As a result, land-use issues have been unnecessarily over-politicized as the radicals seek to drastically limit or even end motorized recreation entirely. Indeed, we are witnessing a steady, heavy-handed approach from demagogues who believe their opposition to OHV is ennobling enough to let them use the Division and its resources as their own regulatory slush fund.

Of course, every responsible OHV enthusiast knows that OHVers must recreate responsibly. And nearly all do. No one is advocating an undisciplined assault on open lands. At the same time, however, the money set aside through statute and regulatory action to adequately support recreational areas and provide for environmental and law enforcement concerns, must be handled with integrity. This past year I took legislative action to force an audit of the Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program. The audit was not only one of the most comprehensive ever performed by the State Auditor, but it also turned out to be one of the most damning.

The report clearly demonstrates that the OHV Program has been mismanaged, perhaps to the point of malfeasance or theft. The private contracting for goods and services has been a disaster. It's hard to tell whether it's due to bureaucratic bungling or a taxpayer dollar feeding frenzy for contractors who provides services unrelated to OHV programs or goals. I was furious to see large expenditures for non-OHV pet projects of bureaucrats who can manipulate State Parks and Recreation for their own selfish interests.

The release of the audit was enough to prompt a State Parks spokesperson to admit that systemic problems within OHV did exist and were the source of poor management. The admission was followed-up with the promise that new protocols were being put in place. The Schwarzenegger Administration inherited these OHV mismanagement problems from its predecessor. I have confidence that our reform-minded Governor and his well-intentioned Resources Agency Secretary will address these issues that had been buried deep in the Department of Parks and Recreation.

To help the Administration, over the next several months my office will work to schedule public legislative hearings that will shine a strong light on the dysfunctional Division. I am not interested in picking on anyone individually, but I insist that the problems delineated in the audit be addressed in a manner that guarantees they will not be repeated.

I will need your help in educating my fellow legislators on who constitutes the OHV recreational community and the value and joy of family time in the outdoors. They need to know that voters and taxpayers from all over the state love OHV. I look forward to hearing from you.

###

Contact: Trudy K. Thomas – District Representative for Senator Bill Morrow
760.434.7930 Trudy.Thomas@sen.ca.gov

>>> *MEMBERSHIP NEWS* <<<

We still want to have **50,000+** voices to take with us to **Washington DC** and **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

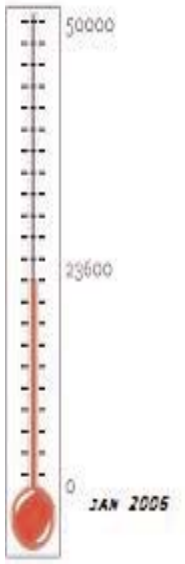
Yes our membership has increased but we really need ALL members to sign up at least 2 people each.

Who is missing? Maybe your spouse, other family members or your friends you enjoy those dunes trips with. Our database has come a long way with the ability to add your family members under just one account. Use the "ADD FAMILY" option under your account profile. With the costs of printing and mailing a newsletter to each of our thousands of members, all current and future members must list a verifiable mailing address in our database.

You can change and review your information on our website here:
http://www.americansandassociation.org/mymembership/
Don't know your username and password? Send an email to:
Membership@AmericanSandAssociation.org

The above will enable us to save our needed funding and to keep you Informed. So please **help us** and update your information and ask your family and friends to do the same.

Thanks, Dick Holliday
ASA Membership Director



We would like to welcome all the new and renewing Supporting Members that have signed up or renewed since our last newsletter. Their commitment goes a long way in supporting the fight to keep our riding areas open now and for our future. Thank You

Ken Ackert
Davy Acosta
Mike Acuna
Karen Acuna
Sammantha Acuna
Tom Adair
Patti Alcorn
Terry Allen
Larry Allen
Lance Amatulli
Luther Anderson
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Russell Worden
Grant Yecoshenko
John Zettner

ASA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

OFFICIAL RULES for the ASA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST
Specifically, the rules below are for the Contest

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN

How to Enter: Using a membership form or the ASA online Join page, sign up family members and friends for a membership or upgrade your own membership. Each new membership receives points (see below) that are credited to your name. Odds of winning depend on number of contestants.

By entering or participating in the ASA Membership Drive Contest you agree to all of the following rules:

ASA Membership Contest Rules:

Begins: Sept 19th, 2005 Ends on: June 1st, 2006

TOP PRIZE: The Winner will receive a 4-Night Stay at Terrible's Hotel & Casino - Las Vegas and includes meals and 1 night on the town with a limo!

Winner determined by points earned:

Each new individual membership = 1 Pt (free membership)
Each new paid Supporting Membership = 5 Pts ($25 annually)
Each new supporting Business Sponsor = 10 Pts (same for all 4 levels)

All new and existing members may participate (board members excluded)

One Random Prize: All that participated in the contest are eligible for a $250.00 gift certificate good for all merchandise in the ASA Online Store

Winners to be awarded at the 2006 Sand Sports Super Show
(need not be present to win)

ASA Membership Contest Rules for ASA Business Sponsors:

(Same rules as above; time frame and points earned)

Winner receives: Special perpetual plaque for business gaining most new members within contest. Free Website Advertising for one full year. (link on main page and random banner ads) Free Newsletter Advertising for one full year. (half page ad in color on back page)

Adopt-A-Sponsor

One Hundred of our Business Sponsors received the 11X17 poster on the right and sign up sheets. Your help is needed on Saturday, April 8th during our first "Adopt-A-Sponsor" program to help sign up those that come by that day to *Unite*, *Inform* & *Mobilize* them. Contact us as to your closest Sponsor and we will set you up with everything you need. Call today, 619-448-8078

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Business Card	$100	$300

Contact Us : Advertising@AmericanSandAssociation.org OR 619-448-8078

>>> UPCOMING EVENTS <<<

ARIZONA: ***SAND & RIVER EXPO, FEBRUARY 25-26th, YUMA CIVIC CENTER***

CALIFORNIA: ***2006 ADELANTO GRAND PRIX, FEBRUARY 25-26th, (ASA Trailer help needed)***

4th ANNUAL DUMONT DUNES CLEAN-UP, SATURDAY, MARCH 18th 2006

4th EXTREME MOTORSPORTS EXPO, MAY 19-21st, ORANGE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

FOR UP-TO-DATE EVENTS, PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE
To help at the above events:
Volunteers@AmericanSandAssociation.org or call: 619-448-8078

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Our new and renewing sponsors since our November issue!

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Become a Supporting Member and receive an ASA Membership ID Card. This card is valid for discounts at our "Premium Sponsors" listed below. This annual membership ($25) helps keep our organization funded and fighting for your right to ride.

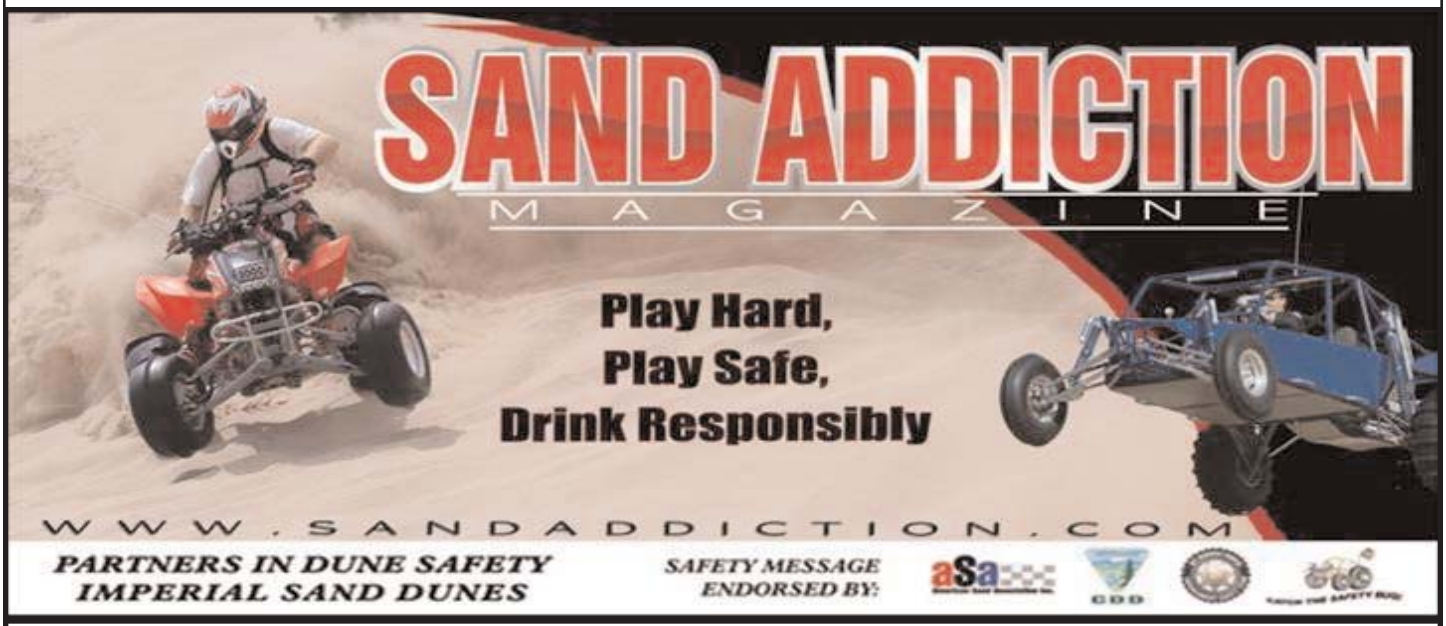
PLEASE SUPPORT ALL OUR SPONSORS WHEN MAKING YOUR PURCHASES.

ACE Air Cooled Engineering	Salt Lake City	UT	801	943-1234	10% Off All In Stock Items and Some Special Orders
Advantage Home Warranty LLC	Gilbert	AZ	480	365-0165	Free Optional Coverage Upgrade to Any Policy We Offer ($50-$100 Value)
Alba Action Sports	Poway	CA	858	486-4380	12% Discount off on All Parts
Azdune.com	Apache Junction	AZ	480	982-8100	10% on Most Stock Items
B&R Buggies	Oceanside	CA	760	722-1266	10% Discount off Parts and Labor
Beard Seats	Anaheim	CA	714	774-9444	5% Off Orders Made Directly to the Factory
Big Shot ATV Rentals LLC	Phoenix	AZ	602	790-4268	No Additional Charge for Paddles and Whip.
Bill & Steve's Foreign Car Parts	Downey	CA	562	923-3251	10% Discount on Parts
Brawley Trailer Supply	Brawley	CA	760	344-6620	10% Cash Discount
Butler Auto Repair	El Centro	CA	760	335-4965	10% off on parts with a minimum purchase of $100.
California Performance	Temecula	CA	951	699-8898	2% Saving on New Purchase or Overhaul
Camp 'n Style	Lakeside	CA	619	561-7368	5% Discount off Rental Rates.
CartWheelin	Glendale	AZ	602	568-1729	30% off any ad placed in our publication for ASA supporting members
Center for Bodywork and Natural Therapeutics	Laguna Beach	CA	949	212-1444	10% Discount
D&D Motor Sports	Mesa	AZ	602	421-2359	10% off Retail Price on All Quads
Daniel And Sons Trucking Inc	Corona	CA	951	808-0681	10% off on All Deliveries
Dice Motor Sports	Mesa	AZ	480	217-3642	10% off all purchases and orders
Dirt Diva	Simi Valley	CA	805	527-0747	10% Off Any Purchase
Dj Safety Inc	Tujunga	CA	818	951-0774	12 to 20% Discount off Selected Merchandise
Duncan Racing International	Santee	CA	619	258-6306	10% off any item purchased direct from Duncan Racing.
Eagle Performance Products	Alpine	CA	619	445-7321	10% Off on All Items in Stock.
Electro Tech Coatings Inc	San Marcos	CA	760	746-0292	Show your ASA ID card and receive $10 off your order.
F&L Racing Fuel	Long Beach	CA	562	432-3946	$0.50 Discount ($0.25 to the paying customer and $0.25 to the ASA)
Fabrication Specialties LLC	La Habra	CA	714	447-3127	10% Discount Off Website Pricing on All Purchases
Fiber-Tech Auto Parts	Santee	CA	619	448-0221	10% Discount off selected merch. excl. tires, wheels & frames
Foremost Silk-Screen & Embroidery	Rancho Cucamonga	CA	909	941-1713	Free Setup
Four Winds Group	La Jolla	CA	858	483-7654	Save 10% on Product and Services!
Funrunner	Whittier	CA	562	945-2180	10% off Regular Prices; Sale Items Discounts will vary.
G.E.T. Sales, Inc.	Mesa	AZ	602	315-3504	10% Discount on all products. For a catalog, contact GET Sales
Hall's Engine Rebuilding & Radiator	Moreno Valley	CA	951	242-7418	10% Discount on Any Invoice
Haulin' Toyz Trailer Rentals	Ventura	CA	805	641-2869	$250 Off Purchase of any Weekend Warrior
Hill's Custom Chassis & Exhaust	Tucson	AZ	520	889-3767	10% Discount on all products to paying ASA members
Ironwood RV Storage & Firewood	Cerritos	CA	562	924-2670	10% Discount on Firewood
J & J Tire Company	Westmorland	CA	760	455-3109	10% Discount on Labor - Service
J.M. Race And Development	El Cajon	CA	619	448-7048	10% off All Customizing Jobs
John Potocki Associates	San Diego	CA	619	464-7904	Hourly Fee Discount
Lazer Star Billet Lights	Anaheim	CA	800	624-6234	10% off walk-in orders or FREE Ground Shipping
Light 'em Up !!	El Cajon	CA	619	593-9791	10% Discount on Non-Sale Items
Marina Suzuki	Los Angeles	CA	310	306-8595	10% Discount on Parts
Mendeola Transaxles	Chula Vista	CA	619	691-1000	10% Discount on Magnaflux
Mid Cities Honda	Paramount	CA	562	531-1225	10% Discount on Parts
MTG Experts Inc	Moreno Valley	CA	951	653-4884	50% off All fees charged by MTG Experts
Nationwide Financial Group	Temecula	CA	951	699-1157	Free Appraisal Up To $400.00 Refunded At Closing
Octane Motorsports LLC	Phoenix	AZ	623	516-4878	Free upgrade from a standard powdercoat color to a specialty color.
OMF Performance Products	Riverside	CA	951	354-8272	10% off all retail purchases
Orangewood RV Center	Surprise	AZ	623	974-3000	10% Off All Service Labor, 5% Off All Parts
Progressive Trailers	Phoenix	AZ	800	500-1405	5% Discount (no other discounts apply)
Racewerks Inc.	Vista	CA	760	822-2428	$20.00 Discount on any complete Powertank Air System.
RIS Designs	Paramount	CA	562	251-1330	5% Discount on Parts
Schilling 3D Design	El Cajon	CA	619	390-0390	25% off any off-road related product design/ engineering
Simon's Auto Body & Frame Inc	Laguna Hills	CA	949	951-5265	10% Off All Labor Customer Pay Jobs or Off Deductables for Ins. Jobs.
Suck It Up Racing Apparel	Downey	CA	562	622-8808	15% Discount on Merchandise
Thar Customs	Phoenix	AZ	602	870-0882	5% Discount
Toy Box Covers.com	Winnetka	CA	888	214-8928	20% off Custom Covers
Trans Media Group	Higley	AZ	480	694-1180	10% off advertising 5% off money paid for first year's ad given to the ASA
Verde Powersports	Mesa	AZ	800	483-3134	Free installation or 15% off Seat Covers or Shock Covers
VW Country	Bakersfield	CA	661	326-8092	10% on Some Items, Call for more Info.
Warner Truck Rental	Oceanside	CA	760	757-1908	10% Discount on Rentals
Webb's RV Supply	Lakeside	CA	619	443-5073	10% off Parts & Supplies (excl. sale items and propane)
Wild West Motorsports	Yuma	AZ	928	783-8282	10% off Normal Retail Prices and 5% off MSRP on New Bikes and ATVs

The SAFETY BUG says,

Trash can be a Huge Problem!
Broken bottles can ruin your tire
and your trip! Please No Glass.

The Safety Bug is the official mascot of the public safety and educational program embraced by many organizations and businesses.



KNOW THE LAW… DON'T LITTER IN THE DUNES!

Keeping the Dunes a Clean, Safe and Fun Place for all outdoor enthusiasts is your responsibility.

PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT - DO YOUR PART

FOR MORE INFO. PLEASE CHECK OUR *ONLINE VERSION* AT: WWW.ASASAND.ORG

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5TH ANNUAL GLAMIS POKER RUN SUCCESS AGAIN!!!

THANKS TO:

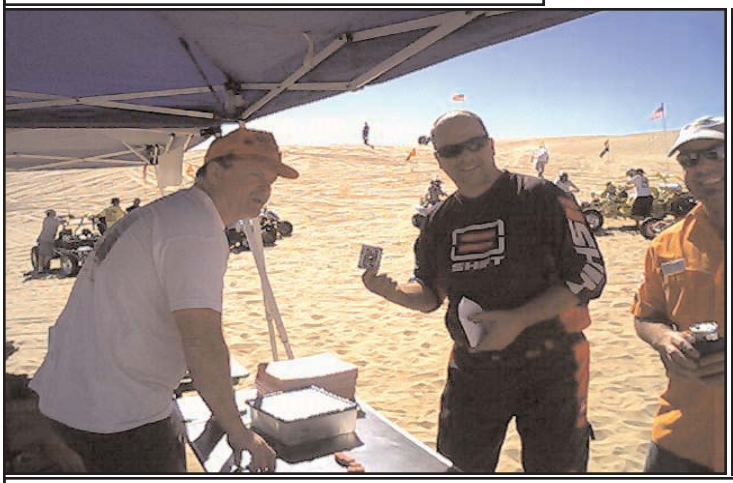
LONG BEACH MOTORSPORTS
BOARDMANVILLE, SAND SPORTS MAGAZINE, EL CENTRO BLM, SDORC, CORVA and ASA MEMBERS
TO HELP

"KEEP OUR DUNES OPEN"

PROCEEDS RAISED AT THE ANNUAL EVENT WENT TO THE ORGANIZATIONS LISTED ABOVE FOR OUR FUTURE OF RECREATING AT THE DUNES. THOSE ORGANIZATIONS ARE FIGHTING FOR OUR FAMILIES RIGHTS TO RECREATE AT LEGAL RIDING AREAS.

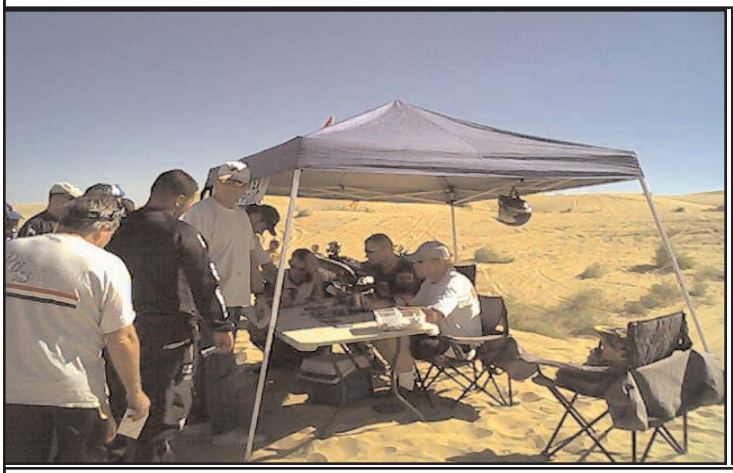
MANY THANKS TO THE *ORANGE COUNTY ATV ASSOCIATION* FOR HOLDING ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EVENT.

Orange County ATV Association OCATV



MEMBER JIM ARBOGAST DEALING -- CORVA CHECKPOINT

ASA CHECKPOINT @ OLDS HILL -- MEMBER ERIC NORQUIST



OCATV CHECKPOINT HILL #3 -- MEMBER RICHARD FERR

R&R DUNERS CLUB MEMBERS @ CHECKPOINT BRAWLEY SLIDE

Letter sent from ASA Chairman Bob Mason to the Department of the Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary.

November 8, 2005

Ms. Julie MacDonald
Deputy Assistant Secretary
U. S. Department of the Interior
MS MIB-3156
1849 C Street NW
W ashington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. MacDonald:

Thank you for making time in your busy schedule to meet with me on November 1, 2005 in your office at 3:30 pm. As we discussed, the American Sand Association (ASA), the United Desert Gateway (UDG) and the Bureau of Land Management El Centro Field Office (BLM) have implemented a major public outreach program designed to inform the Imperial Sand Dunes visitors of the importance of good stewardship practices.

The outreach program involves the distribution of educational material, specially designed litter bags and the display of banners encouraging the dune visitors to be good stewards of public lands. The following is a summary of the material which I provided both you and Assistant Director Renne Lohoefener.

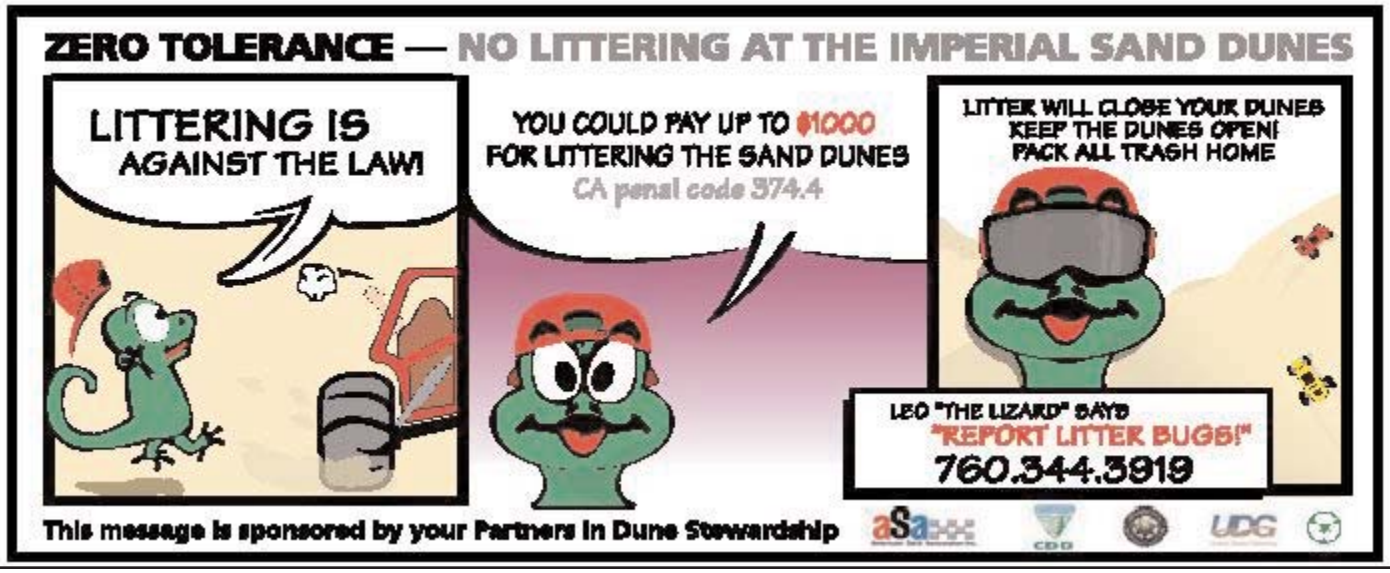
Partners in Dune Stewardship Report, October 2005
United Desert Gateway Welcome to the Dunes Newspaper
Litter Education Report, November 2005

As you review the Litter Education Report, you will note that this outreach program was proposed by the ASA in January of 2004 and became a reality when the BLM and the UDG entered into the Assistance Agreement in September of 2004. Much of the litter education program has been funded by sand sport enthusiasts and related businesses.

Very truly yours,

Bob Mason
Chairman, ASA Board of Directors

Cc: Renne Lohoefener
Paul Hansen
Jim Bartel



W ish you had an RV in the dunes?

by Harold Gottschalk

I ran into this great idea at the 2004 SSSS (Sand Sports Super Show), renting an RV in the dunes and by the 2005 show there are multiple vendors. When you consider what it costs to buy a nice comfortable RV this idea can be a budget saver in the long run. If you bought a motorhome or toy box 5th wheel or trailer, you could pay on average $200 or even more a month, plus the cost of insurance and gas getting it to the dunes, possible storage cost in your hometown. The cost to rent an RV per night depends on size and amenities but let s say it is $200 for a 6 to 8 sleeper per night, with a generator. If you go 5 times a year for a 2 day weekend you would pay $2000 in rental fees, plus tax and extra services, less then the average yearly installment payments. Remember these vendors have multi-day discounts and specials.

W ell I decided to try this idea out in 2004, I had been sleeping in a bag on top of my car trailer and I wanted my wife to see what this was all about. No way would she sleep on the trailer. So my friend and I decided to rent an 8 person trailer, with a generator, a must in my opinion and all the comforts of life. So I brought my wife and stepsons with his kids out to the dunes.

Now here is the great part, we are approaching the Imperial Sand Dunes on 78 and we call the rental vendor and let them know we have arrived. We then continue to our camp spot at wash 7 and wait for them to arrive. In no time they are there and our trailer gets parked and setup for us, we get a quick tour on how every thing works and off they go. Wo w, out in the dunes with all the comforts of home!

The weekend goes by without a hitch, it is time to pack our stuff we brought, sweep up, wash the dishes and pans. I give the rental vendor a call and indicate it is ready for pick up and off we go home. Wow no hooking up the trailer, finding a dump station on the way home, then waiting in line to dump, just drive home with the toys.

I believe this is a good way to have some of the comforts without the long-term cost of buying your own, with the cost of fuel; it is a very appealing option.

BOTH THESE BUSINESSES PROVIDE ASA HANDOUTS AND SAFETY BOOKLETS TO THEIR CUSTOMERS. FOR OTHER RENTAL OPTIONS FOR TRAILERS, ATV'S - PLEASE USE OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS LIST ONLINE AND USE THE "KEYWORDS" TOOL BY USING THE WORD "RENTAL"

A Call to Quills!

(An Alternative to Closures)
By Del Albright

No more Mr. Nice Guy. I've had it! Our recreation is in serous jeopardy, I don't care what you ride. Whether a dirt bike, buggy, 4wd, ATV, PWC, sled, or wake skates behind a boat, **we** are in trouble.

I am writing this as me, Del. I am not claiming to represent any group or organization that I work for, represent or am a member of. This is from my guts telling me we had better change the way we're doing business, or we're gonna lose our motors. I am getting firmer and stauncher in my positions on land use and access. But we need an **army of people getting in the game so our voice can be heard.**

Now I'm not playing Chicken Little here, either. The sky is not falling. But from my experience around the continent, the atmosphere is sure shaky. Tune in here and see what I think we need to do before it's just any further down the road, too late.

To make a long, bring tears to your eyes, story short, this is the gist of the problem:

1. Our image is so tainted we're an easy target for bad press and closures due to the few yeh-hoos and dip-wads out there.

2. We deserve some of the bad press – we are not policing our own.

3. By not showing up and speaking out as much as our opponents, we are the vast minority, under dog, get stepped on groups.

4. We are a HUGE army waiting for the call to help manage our public lands, but we're not there in mass.

5. We wait until the gate is up before we ask for help or get involved.

Now with that in mind, I have some fixes. If you've read this far, I am HOPEFUL that you will do more than read. ACT. Act now. Get your friends to act. Do not take my gut instinct, based on 22 years in this business, lightly. Stand up and quit rolling over! Get aggressive and assertive about your recreation. Here's how in simple terms:

FIRST: Let's clean up our web sites and bulletin boards where some people think they can talk like inmates and make us look like idiots. Clean them up now. Change the rules of posts if you're a moderator. Get rid of the idiot behavior and let's start showing some responsibility towards shaping our image. If you're posting to BBS's, then post like an adult. Get a private list somewhere if you need to launch out; but not where our opponents can see you.

SECOND: if you're not a member of EVERYTHING you can afford to be, then you're not in the game all the way. JOIN every local, state, and regional organization you can. And JOIN BlueRibbon Coalition. It is through membership that we build strength and find money to fight the battles.

THIRD: Be an advocate for your sport. Include others. Do ride alongs. Get political. Do not think you can let someone else do it for you. Get some training. Get some help. Do whatever it takes, but do it now, before YOUR gate goes up. Get a Trail Patrol or Neighborhood watch started on your trails. Advocate for responsible use; dump the dip-wads.

FOURTH: Set the example in everything you do in your sport. Ride responsibly. Camp responsibly. Drink responsibly. Behave like EVERYONE in the world is watching and evaluating your actions. Have fun, yes. But realize we are threatened like never before. I've never seen so many closures and potential closures on the horizon. I've been at this a long time. Please take heed and act now.

FIFTH: Pick up your pen. That's why I called this article a "Call To Quills" (pens). Pick it up and write a letter. I don't even care to whom you send it. Just start to write. Tell your congressman how you feel about multiple uses of public lands. Tell your Commissioner/Board of Supervisors how you feel about your right to ride responsibly. Tell somebody something. Get your voice out there. Be heard. Be in the game. Tell them you're tired of rolling over and compromising. Tell them you want no net loss of public land riding opportunities. Tell them no more unreasonable compromise that means loss for us.

We are not well-represented when the letters are counted at the end of the day. We have to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

LAND NEEDED IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Hi, my name is Susan Vincent. I have just become an ATV Safety Instructor with the ATV Safety Institute (ASI) a division of the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA). I am located in Santee, CA in the county of San Diego.

The ATV Safety Institute was formed in 1988 to implement an expanded national program of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety education and awareness. The primary goal of the ASI is to promote the safe and responsible use of ATV's.

In order to help ASI reach this goal, training sites are needed on which ATVs can be ridden to teach the safety course. We are asking for your assistance in providing these much-needed sites. The ASI insures the property owner of the training site against liability loss; and only trained and licensed ASI Instructors will teach the safety course.

The training site surface must be dirt, grass, sand or gravel. It should be obstacle free, and approximately 150 feet by 200 feet. A small hill or incline is desirable, but not required. Only for to eight students with ATVs will be on the site at one time, riding under controlled and supervised conditions. The training site will be used for safety training ONLY and will not be open to the public. No indoor facilities are needed, since the safety course is designed to be taught outdoors. It is my desire, as an Instructor, to have 2-3 training sites located in San Diego County.

With the use of your property as a training site and the course offered by the ATV Safety Institute, we could provide an important public service to our community. Thank you for being a part of these safety efforts.

If you have any questions, concerns or interests in providing your land, please feel free to contact ASI or me.

Sincerely,
Susan Vincent

ATV Safety Institute (Region Operations) – 949-727-3727
Susan Vincent – 619-749-5423 or 619-857-5233

WWW.ATVSAFETY.ORG

CALL TO QUILLS ..... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

to change that, or just give up the effort. I for one am not ready to roll over or give up any more. I'm in there with teeth barred now.

On the other hand, continue to work with the great land managers who ARE working with us, trying to help us, and seem like they have a balanced approach to their job. Even if you don't get your way every time, do support those land managers who you know are trying and fair. Support those good politicians who believe in giving us a chance to recreate on public lands. And in both cases, where there are bad land managers, or bad politicians, put them in the dip-wad category and work to get them dumped!

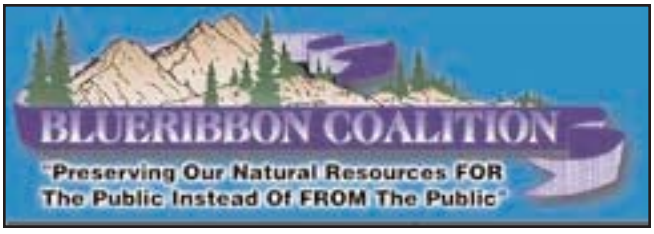
Do it now. Do something. Please do not sit by and wait. We can't wait. Emergency closures should be reserved for when management fails. Well, if you're not in the game, then chances are, management will fail. Pick up that quill.

Del Albright is the BlueRibbon Coalition Ambassador, a Life member. Del is involved with land issues, clubs, organizations, associations, coalitions, volunteer groups and much more. He's one of the "Good Guys" and is working hard for all of us on many fronts. Please follow his lead!

GO HERE TO EASILY SEND A LETTER NOW!!!

http://capwiz.com/share/home/

* Check out Del's website: http://www.delalbright.com/



Contests and Prizes

Nature Photography Contest

The popular Nature Photography Contest will be held again in conjunction with The Sun. Consumers at the show are offered one opportunity to judge the entries. The top five entries will receive prizes related to outdoor activities and travel.

Show'n'Shine

Consumers will complete for the best of the best with their ATV's, Sand Rails, Motorcycles, 4x4's and other off-road vehicles. Special prizes for the "muddiest" and children's entries will be awarded

Over the Horizon Line / Hal Rothman

Goodbye Preservation, Hello Recreation

By Hal Rothman, 1-15-06

In the American West the age of preservation has ended and that of recreation has begun.

Preservation is predicated on what is now a more than century-old, class-based value system. It began as conservation in the age of Theodore Roosevelt, when it was easy to separate sacred space and that fouled by humans, and even easier for those who fouled that space to accept the distinction and throw their energy into preserving places that were beautiful and remote. No wonder conservation and preservation were watchwords of the American elite for the first half of the 20th century and beyond.

These values turned into environmentalism, a heady set of ideas during the 1960s and 1970s, when Americans embraced a vision of the world that was frankly complacent and just a little bit flushed with its own affluence. Environmentalism placed an incredibly high premium on the idea of wilderness, tacitly implying that prosperity had created a world in which all who deserved affluence had attained it. At the end of the American industrial economy, this premise led to great pressure to add existing wilderness.

These principles have now grown stale and even archaic. Environmentalism is a set of values, not the Ten Commandments. As a value system, it has to compete for adherents.

In the 1960s and 1970s, its version of authenticity held center stage.

Of late, it hasn't.

It's not that young people today don't understand what these values are; they do. What they don't understand is why these values are better than what they think is important. Today's young people have a different idea of what is authentic. They are post-literate, twelve-images-per-second beings. The IMAX in high definition gives a better view than anything they can do themselves. And they don't have to get cold or wet. From the point of view of an awful lot of young people today, why not? Why endure when technology can provide a visually better experience without the discomfort?

This is a profound and remarkable change that substantially alters the physical and psychic landscape of the American West. It means, among other things, that recreationalists, motorized and otherwise, have won. Wilderness is dead; not as reserved land, but as a movement or a viable political strategy. It's constituency is aging and it is losing political support to recreation by leaps and bounds.

As a result of political change, wilderness advocates can no longer get a hearing; twenty years ago, they simply swaggered to the table, pulled out maps and the rulebook they'd written, and achieved results.

Now they are supplicants, coming hat-in-hand, pleading their case, and threatening legal action. As annoying as federal agencies may find lawsuits, they're evidence of a loss of political power and support. In the 1980s, public outcry overturned Secretary of the Interior James Watt's administrative reforms of policy; Watt himself was ousted. Today, advocates resort to threats and the figurative bomb blast of a lawsuit. What is this, Guatemala? In the U. S., throwing bombs, real or otherwise, reveals a lack of power.

Recreationalists have become the new conservationists, and with that comes a great deal more responsibility than the recreational community has ever before assumed. Having easily juxtapositioned themselves as victims of the excesses of wilderness advocates, recreationalists of all kinds must now assume the onus of power.

This is especially true for motorized recreation, the fastest-growing dimension of the outdoor world. Recreationalists prize scenery, beauty, and the challenge of the outdoors; they just tend to do so more and more with technology. In this they are no different than the rest of us. We all use technology, cell phones, iPods, and everything else, to make our lives easier and more pleasurable. Since Gore-Tex, recreationalists have done the same thing. The capability of technology has grown immensely, effectively allowing the 47-year-old me to do things now that I could not do on my own in my 20s.

So now, the shift begins. As all forms of technology allow people deeper and deeper into the backcountry and as wilderness advocacy goes by the wayside in a postindustrial society, recreationalists will have to police themselves. Instead of trying to push the frontiers of what they can do and how they can do it, in their own self-interest, they will have to find ways to put boundaries around the resources they treasure, so those resources will be preserved for their future use.

It is a paradoxical situation: the outsiders have become kings and queens of the castle. It is a whole lot easier to sit outside the tent and throw firecrackers inside; it is much, much harder to sit inside the tent and govern not only your enemies, but your close friends as well.

No longer do recreationalists grapple with opponents about which lands they can use. The entire recreational community must now develop an ethic of sustainability that will assure that the sports recreationalists choose continue for generations. Leadership that provides stewardship of the resources it uses and consumes and develops a political position that wisely manages power from the inside rather than sits outside carping is essential.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

ASA BUSINESS SPONSOR PROFILE - J & J TIRE COMPANY

One of our business sponsors is now up and operational. Located in Westmorland right on Main Street (Hwy86S) you might remember seeing this old building in its run down condition for many years. ASA member and long time duner Jor Jimenez Jr. (JJ) the owner of J & J Tire Company has opened and fixed the old place up.

JJ wrote; It took a little while, however since July we have had the doors open. We have seen many duners pass thru. Here are a few pics to let the other members know where our location is. We offer new and used tires, road service and in case of emergency, overnight parking for our fellow members. Futhermore, we are slowly stocking firewood and dune whips for sale. We offer a 10% discount off for all labor charges for ASA Supporting Members. So if need a tire or some service, please give them a call. J&J TIRE COMPANY 199 E. Main St. Westmorland CA 760-455-3109

RECREATION ..... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Recreation now faces an internal struggle among its many constituencies to define its values, the do's and don'ts of a new land ethic.

It is a sea change in the American West, a reorganization of how we as a culture have approached the outdoors for the better part of four decades. It requires that those of us who love the American West find new ways to communicate with one another to preserve as much of it as we can, for use as well as for its own sake.

Hal K. Rothman is Professor and Barrick Distinguished Scholar at the Department of History at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Considered the one of the nation's leading expert on tourism, travel, and post-industrial economies, he is the award-winning author of countless books, including the widely acclaimed Neon Metropolis: How Las Vegas Started the 21st Century (2002), Devil's Bargains: Tourism in the Twentieth Century American West, (1998), Saving the Planet: The American Response to the Environment in the Twentieth Century (2000), which received the 1999 Western Writers of America Spur Award for Contemporary Nonfiction, and many others.

http://www.newwest.net/index.php/main/article/5318/

Friends of Dumont Dunes Presents

The 4th Annual Dumont Dunes Cleanup

March 18, 2006 - 8:00am to Noon
Free Lunch and Prize Drawing at 11:30am
Trophies for most number of bags,
largest and most unusual items.
Look For the Friends of Dumont Dunes Banner

For more information, call 951-738-9047 or write to vickiw@duners.org

Do you have a website or homepage?
Could you place an A S A logo link on the page?

aSa american Sand association Inc.

Link the logo to: www.ASASand.org

Thanks

For more info: advertising@americansandassociation.org

Dunes Outreach Program Helping Duners Keep Their Playground Clean

Have you seen the bright yellow 06 Ford Ranger with the Leo the Lizard banner in the back at Olds Hill or the Drags recently? Ever wonder where the yellow truck came from, who supplies all the trash bags, and just who the guy driving is?

Funco Motorsports of Rialto, CA and Sunrise Ford in Fontana, CA are responsible for the donation of the truck, with United Desert Gateway, the ASA, Sand Sports and Sand Addiction Magazines, providing current sponsorship support as well.

Leo s Ride , as it s affectionately called, is driven by Tim Gantz, a fellow ASA Member and BLM Volunteer. Tim is also the webmaster for glamisweather.com. He donates many hours of his time handing out trash bags throughout the north dunes, and hauling the trash that people collect back to the dumpsters for disposal as well as performing clean up efforts on his own as well. The presence of the truck in the dunes has been beneficial to the success of the program to educate folks about litter and the importance of keeping it out of the dunes. Tim reports that duners wave him down and ask for bags as a regular thing these days.

The trash bags handed out by Tim, Leo Bags , depict Leo the Lizard and his message If You Want to Stay and Play, Take your Trash Away . They are distributed by the Dunes Outreach Team and printing of the bags is paid for by Weekend Warrior, Onan, Dometic, Atwood, Sharp, Cody, gorage.com, and Motorsports Mania TV. There are additional sponsors signing up for the second printing of Leo Bags as well.

This program has been very successful to date because of the hard work and dedication of Tim Gantz, and the tremendous support from all the sponsors. It s been so successful that a second pickup is being considered for next season for the south dunes.

4th Annual Off Roaders Toy Drive A SUCCESS!
November 25th - November 27th 2005

Maria Ramirez winner of two Honda 450R quads with a trailer

Toys Received:
1915
Cash Donations:
$1514

Receiving Charities:
San Diego Rescue Mission, Mama's Kitchen, Angel's Foster Family, Tribal Head Start, Operation Homefront, House of Hope, Angel Tree

A big thanks to everyone who made this years toy drive a success. And thank again to the Golden Acorn Casino and Travel Center for being such a gracious host and sponsor. And I especially would like to thank all of you that have donated a toy in the past and will donate again for years to come. Remember we are "Making a difference one toy at a time" Chris Visconti Founder/Coordinator

Adelanto Grand Prix 2006

February 25th & 26th Adelanto, CA

The Desert Viper's will be holding the 26th Annual Adelanto Grand Prix on Saturday and Sunday, February 25th and 26th, 2006. The race has grown in both race entries and spectators throughout the years. In order to keep the race safe for all, we would like to increase the number of volunteers. This includes flagmen, road crossing posts, and numerous other positions.

As you may be aware, the Desert Viper's like to support off-road causes. We would like to offer a donation of $ 100.00 per day, per volunteer to an off-road organization or legitimate off-road cause of your choice. We started this program in 2004 and generated much needed funds to organizations such as Blue Ribbon and CORVA. We hope we will see even more volunteers this year to help with the race and help with the cause.

Please consider your involvement in this great race and weekend by supporting those who protect your right to ride.
Please email: volunteer@desertvipersmc.com

Some facts about Adelanto...
The Adelanto Grand Prix is a closed racecourse!
No Red or Green Sticker limitations!
FREE ADMISSION: It won't cost you anything to watch the greatest off-road Grand Prix in the US!
The Saturday Pro-Race offers a $15,000 purse!
The Pro Quad Race offers a $2,000 Purse
The Team Pro Race offers a $3,000 Purse!
You won't want to miss the famous triple, mud jump and over-under!
All your favorite industry vendors will be represented!
FREE CAMPING! Join the thousands of race enthusiasts in the RV and camp areas next to the track!
*Based on AGP 2006.*DVMC and The City of Adelanto welcome the off-road race enthusiasts and prepares for this event all year long! You will definitely feel welcome in Adelanto and take home memories that will last you a lifetime. It's not just an event, it's a happening!
The first race begins at 7:30 am on Saturday and races continue throughout the weekend.

MLK CLEAN UP WEEKEND A SUCCESS!

Organizers say dunes cleanup bigger, better

BY JEFFREY GAUTREAUX, YUMA SUN STAFF WRITER

Published on: January 19, 2006

More than 4,000 people picked up trash in the Imperial Sand Dunes Saturday in what organizers are calling the biggest cleanup ever in the dunes.

Jarrod Bullard, south dunes cleanup organizer, said 2,500 people signed up and filled more than 4,000 trash bags.

"There were people during the cleanup who started late and had a tough time finding trash," Bullard said.

Kathleen Godley, co-owner of KD Cycle in Yuma, organized the north dunes cleanup. She said about 1,700 people signed up and filled "at least a couple thousand trash bags."

" We literally ran out of trash bags at 10 a.m.," Godley said. "We were able to get more, but we ran out of the bags that we had printed."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Paul Setter, Gary Jordan and Bryan Holliday working the grill

Signing up at the booth for the cleanup

Crowd gathering for the raffle prizes

Tim Gantz and the Dune Outreach truck making the rounds

Make your plans now to help out and attend next year for the 10th Annual Martin Luther King weekend cleanup. Everyone helping to keep our dunes clean and open.

CLEANUP ..... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

Bullard said junk cars that were left near Ogilby Road were hauled off on flatbed trucks, while people simply walking the dunes found all kinds of odd objects. Bullard and Godley said the improvement in the cleanliness of the area was clearly noticeable.

"People in general are getting a lot more conscious about it," Godley said.

Bullard said the event succeeded because of the involvement of nearby cities and duners. He said Ken Rosevear, executive director of the Yuma Area Chamber of Commerce, and Cathy Kennerson of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce, both worked very hard at the event.

The cleanup ended with a free lunch and prize giveaway. Bullard said such large undertakings were made easier by the chamber help and involvement.

The Brawley Chamber of Commerce also participated in the cleanup, which was sponsored by the United Desert Gateway, a nonprofit organization comprised of the three chambers.

Bullard said the cleanup is working well, but he wants more people, more support and more help from big sponsors in the industry for next year.

"There s always room for improvement," he said.

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