American Sand Association Inc.
www.asasand.org

American Sand Association
"IN THE DUNES"

Volume 8 Issue 3
September 2008

Unite, Inform, and Mobilize

ASA WILL SELL PERMITS

Once again the ASA will be selling the ISDRA Annual Season permits.

During the 2008/2009 season, dunes permits will remain at the same price if purchased off-site. Permits will continue to be $25 per week or $90 per season if purchased at a vendor outside the ISDRA, over the internet, over the phone, or at an off-highway vehicle (OHV) show. If a visitor chooses to purchase a permit upon arrival in the ISDRA, the cost will be $40 per week or $120 per season pass.

The BLM and ISDRA Technical Review Team (TRT) have developed this two tier plan to encourage permit pre-purchasing. So get your season pass before you hit the sand and help the ASA in the process.

ASA INFO MEETING A HUGE SUCCESS!

The ASA sponsors three Info Meetings each year in an effort to get the latest info out to Sand Sport enthusiasts. These meetings are hosted by local OHV businesses. Thanks to Melissa and Allan Nimmo and the Extreme Performance staff as the second ASA Info Meeting was an outstanding success! This was the best ever. Over 150 enthusiastic attendees.

Mark your calendar now for the third meeting to be held in the San Diego on October 18, 2008. This meeting will be co-sponsored with San Diego Off-Road Coalition and be held at the new location of Toyota of El Cajon, 965 Arnele Ave, El Cajon, CA 92029.

The Nimmo's cleared their shop floor and welcomed a full house of OHV enthusiasts to hear representatives of the following agencies answer a long list of questions.

Daphne Greene, CA State Parks, OHMVR Division – Moderator
Phil Jenkins, Ca State Parks, OHMVR Division
Savador Nieblas, BLM El Centro Field Office
Neil Hamada, BLM El Centro Field Office
Ed Preciado, Imperial County Sheriff's Office
Boone Smith, US Border Patrol, El Centro Sector
Ben Vik, US Border Patrol, Yuma Sector
Alan Stein, BLM CA Desert District

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

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ASA Quarterly Newsletters
February
May
September
November

Editor:
Jim Colln
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President's Message

By Bob Mason

Behind the Scenes

Your ASA Board of Directors have been busy working on a wide range of issues designed to "Protect Your Right to Ride" in a safe family friendly environment. Early this year BLM California State Director, Mike Pool invited the ASA and the United Desert Gateway (UDG) to brief the Assistant Secretary of Interior and the Director of the BLM on partnership activities. In conjunction with this briefing the UDG and the BLM conducted a meeting with representatives of the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) to explore partnership opportunities. The meeting resulted in a series of new "Family Activity Cards" supported by new federal agency partners and the CNPS. Pick up your set of cards at the Sand Sports Super Show. Use them around the campfire to educate your youngsters and fellow duners. Dune safety and stewardship are important.

Yuma Border Patrol Chief Paul Beeson arranged a meeting with the ASA and the UDG to discuss partnership opportunities. This was the first of several meetings that have resulted in the USBP participation in the production of a UDG public service announcement (PSA) relating to border safety. The USBP have also provided articles included in this edition of the ASA newsletter. Please read the article to learn about the fence being constructed along the Mexican border. Watch for the PSA on some local TV channels and on the ASA and UDG websites.

ASA has been involved in extensive discussions with the BLM relating to the financial shortfall that is anticipated at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA). During the past year BLM reports to the ISDRA Technical Review Team (TRT) have noted increased expenses while federal appropriations and visitor fee collections have been less than anticipated. Trash collection services, the dumpsters, are one of the most expensive visitor services. BLM is assessing several cost reduction measures. You can help reduce ISDRA operating costs if you "Pack It Out." If there are no dumpsters available or if the dumpsters are full "Pack It Out." Eliminating trash dumpsters can amount to a savings of $500,000 per season. This next season, plan to "Pack It Out" and remember that any trash left on the ground is considered littering and you could be fined!

As Always, thanks for your support,

President

Chairman's Report

By Bill Jones

I need to get to the dunes. It has been months since I have felt Glamis sand. Very soon the dunes will be cool enough for us to return. I can't wait. When you do make it to the Imperial Dunes for your first trip of the season, be careful! If you are like me it has been a few months since you have powered over a sand dune. Make sure your ride is "dune ready". The machinery has possibly been sitting for a few months and should be looked over before you get to the dunes. Gasoline is too expensive to haul your toys all the way out to the dunes and then remember you broke something the last run of last season and forgot all about it. I have seen this happen. Take it easy the first trip and get used to everything again. Get your groove back and then pick up the pace to your usual level. Remember everybody else is in the same boat and watch out for other duners. Be extra safe out there.

There have been a few things happening this summer. The ASA filed a lawsuit against the Fish and Wildlife Service because they had not released their overdue answer to our petition to delist the Pierson's Milkvetch. Well they finally published their decision to not delist the PMV from the endangered species list, a huge disappointment to us but sort of expected.

Senator Abel Maldonado from California Senate District 15 introduced a bill called SB 1228 that would affect every minor riding an ATV on public lands. This bill has created enormous debate on whether more restrictions on young riders is necessary. We mailed out letters on this bill with our annual letters, we hope you took the time to let the Senator know you did not approve. The current bill has been withdrawn, but more action is expected next year.

The BLM is selecting a new vendor to sell the ISDRA permits and this season's ISDRA budget has many challenges to face with the economic woes we all have experienced recently.

There are more detailed articles on these issues inside this newsletter so be sure and check them out.

I continue to count the minutes until the first dune trip, so until then...

See you in the sand!

Chairman of the Board

WHAT IS THE ASA?

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

The ASA has joined with the Off Road Business Association (ORBA), San Diego Off-Road Coalition (SDORC), and AMA District 37 to fund EcoLogic Partners Inc. Ecologic has filed lawsuits against the Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service and has standing in other lawsuits affecting the ISDRA. 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, 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 $150,000 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.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE DENIED DELISTING OF THE PEIRSON'S MILK-VETCH PLANT

After nearly three years since the American Sand Association (ASA) first petitioned the Secretary of the Interior that the Peirson's Milk Vetch (PMV) plant be removed from the Endangered Species List, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced on July 16th that the plant warrants continued protection and will remain on the list of endangered species.

The battle encompassing the 49,300 acres of land temporarily closed to off-highway vehicles (OHVs) at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA), which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has inarguably been one of the highest profile cases involving U.S. public lands and the differing interests between off-road enthusiasts and extreme environmental organizations. Environmentalists were able to get the plant listed under the Endangered Species Act without first conducting any scientific studies or providing data that the plant warranted protection in the first place. Off-road enthusiasts contend the plant was simply a tool used by environmental extremists to have the dunes temporarily closed, and off-roaders have spent millions of dollars and countless volunteer hours trying to prove the plant is flourishing in the dunes and does not qualify as a species that deserves federal protection.

Off-road recreationists who have been battling the environmental consortium in federal courts for several years believe the scientific data the FWS and BLM have collected over the last few years should have verified the PMV was doing well and did not require continued federal protection. The anti-access advocates and environmental extremists continue to use every avenue available to them to further their agenda to close public lands. "Their weapon of choice during the past several years at the Imperial Sand Dunes has been the Endangered Species Act," said Jim Bramham, a member of the ASA Board of Directors. Bramham and the other Board of Directors with the ASA have chosen to work closely with the land management agencies, and support the method of gathering scientific data to make logical decisions whether public lands are closed for environmental protection or remain open for recreational access.

Many off-road enthusiasts are understandably outraged over the decision by the USFWS to keep the PMV on the Endangered Species List. They believe this is a politically-charged ruling, rather than a decision based on what is best for both the environment and the economic impact to both the private and public sectors. Off-road recreation is a hobby that has become a way of life for many generations of people living in the western United States, and losing valuable riding areas because of a blatant misuse of the Endangered Species Act is a sad situation that impacts many Americans, not just those who ride off-road vehicles.

The members of the American Sand Association urge fellow Americans, whether they're enthusiasts of off-road vehicles or other types of outdoor recreational activities, to take a hard look at the science behind this 8-year battle. The fact remains that the Peirson's Milk Vetch plant ranks as the most studied plant in the entire California desert! The studies conducted by Dr. Art Phillips, as well as the Bureau of Land Management, clearly conclude this plant is not deserving of a "Threatened" status by the USFWS. In 2006, a count of 1.8 million PMV plants were found at the ISDRA. In addition, notable data suggests that less than 0.5% of the plants are affected by off-road vehicles.

What many people do not realize is that nearly 26,202 acres of land situated within the ISDRA, north of Highway 78, have already been designated as a "Wilderness" area, closed to OHV use. This area, coupled with the current administration closures, make it nearly impossible for OHV activity to damage or threaten the PMV plant which is shown to be thriving in the barren desert environment.

The American Sand Association stands fast to its resolution that the PMV is not deserving of a Federally protected status. The plant has been the subject of many extensive and costly studies, and all the reports draw the same conclusion: The plant is very hardy but its numbers fluctuate according to rainfall; and there is no evidence that OHV use negatively affects the continued viability of the PMV. The ASA urges its members and other OHV enthusiasts to continue honoring the "temporary" closures that are currently set in place.

(This article was the ASA Press Release dated July 17, 2008)

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CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

ASA INFO MEETING @ EXTREME PERFORMANCE CONT'

Over 100 questions were prepared and distributed to the attendees and for the speakers to consider. Needless to say time did not permit the speakers to address all of the questions on the spot. To view the complete list of the questions and answers please see the ASA web site under "Important Info" here: http://www.americansandassociation.org/pages.php?pageid=13

Of particular interest were the questions relating to California Senate Bill 1228 relating OHV operation by children on public lands. Representatives of the California State Parks noted that while the bill will not advance this session similar legislation will certainly be proposed again next year. See page 11 for more details.

BLM representative, Alan Stein discussed the impact of renewable energy projects on OHV activity. The ASA and other OHV organizations encouraged the managing agencies to provide OHV recreation mitigation on a "zero net loss", acre for acre basis. For each acre of public land lost to renewable energy projects a like number of acres should be designated for OHV recreation.

Daphne Greene, CA State Parks described the Marines desire to withdraw additional public land at Twenty Nine Palms for training. Alan Stein of the BLM responded to several question on this topic as well. OHV representatives reiterated the "zero net loss" concept.

Representatives of the US Border Patrol discussed the installation of fence along the Mexican border in the south dunes. See the article on this topic on page 10.

Neil Hamada of BLM introduced Bert Alderete, Vice President of Service and Support for Wep Citations as the manager for Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) fee collect during the 2008-09 season. Mr. Alderete outlined his company's plan to use Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) to improve fee compliance at the ISDRA. See the article on this topic below.

The BLM must reduce operating cost to stay within the limited federal budget and the anticipated visitor fee revenue based on the current fee structure. ASA has encouraged ISDRA visitors to Pack it Out to reduce trash service cost. This course of action is intended to retain sufficient funds to maintain other visitor services without an immediate increase in fees. BLM will implement a litter education program designed to encourage ISDRA visitors to "Pack it Out." Law enforcement will issue litter citations to ensure compliance with the existing litter laws and rules.

More information and pictures from the meeting and the "Show & Shine" will be found in the online version of this newsletter. Looking ahead, the next Info Meeting will be co-sponsored by ASA and the San Diego Off-Road Coalition in El Cajon on October 18th.

BLM Chooses New ISDRA Fee Collection Company

The BLM has selected Worldwide Environmental Products, Inc. to replace the Imperial County Sheriff's Office in managing the ISDRA fee collection program. Worldwide has appointed Bert Alderete to manage the ISDRA fee collection program. Their WEP product line specializes in electronic citation systems and data management currently in use in similar applications and by several law enforcement agencies.

Learn more about this at: http://www.wepcitation.com/images/brochure.pdf

A key component of the WEP proposal is the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to quickly identify non-compliant ISDRA visitors during checkpoint and campsite visits. The ISDRA permits will include an electronic tag that will allow the WEP staff to report non-compliant vehicles to law enforcement officers with GIS coordinates and license plate photos.

WEP's goal is to make purchasing an ISDRA Permit easy, accessible and efficient. Do your part by making sure the sand dunes remain safe and a fun place to visit for years to come.

BUY YOUR ISDRA PERMIT BEFORE YOU HEAD FOR THE DUNES.

SAVE MONEY
And Buy Your Dune Permit From The ASA
asasand.org or 1-888-540-SAND

LICENSE TO DRIVE

GETTING YOUR CALIFORNIA NON-COMMERCIAL CLASS A LICENSE

reprinted from ToyHauler Magazine

I realize not all of our readers are from California but this is a conversation that has been coming up a lot lately. So if you are NOT in California you will need to check with your own licensing agency to see what the requirements are for your state. But if you are in the Golden State and have a three axle toy hauler, either tag or 5th wheel and don't at least have a non-commercial class A drivers license you could be asking for trouble because the man is starting to check. So this is the story of one of my friends (and trusted writers) experience in getting his Non-Commercial Class A Drivers license.

"In California, to legally tow a 5th wheel trailer with a GVWR greater than 15,000 lbs. or a travel trailer with a GVWR greater than 10,000 lbs you need to have a Non-Commercial Class A drivers license. Everyone knows this, right? Surely when you buy one of these behemoths the dealer informs you of this, right? Wrong on both counts. As a matter of fact the vast majority are either unaware of the law or choose to ignore it. Up until last week I was in the latter category.

I was headed to the Dumont Sand Dunes for the New Year's Holiday the following week and rumors of check points were all over the Internet forums. I figured what the heck, I have a 5th wheel with a GVWR of 16,500 lbs. Time to get legal for a little peace of mind. After a little research on the DMV website, I learned that it's a two step process. Each step involving a separate trip to the DMV.

The first step is a basic written test. I made the appointment to take the written test for the day before Christmas. I showed up, paid the fee, and answered the 19 multiple choice questions. All the questions are pretty basic. If you studied the DMV manual or already have several years experience towing you shouldn't have a problem. Then they give you a vision exam and have you answer a health questionnaire that certifies you are in good health. This questionnaire has to be updated every two years to keep your license in effect. If everything has checked out to this point, you are issued a permit and you make another appointment for step two of the process. I made mine for the day before my trip.

Step two in the process is the skills and driving tests. Prior to the tests they give your tow vehicle and trailer a visual inspection. The items they check are the headlights, brake lights, flashers, turn signals, and horn. If anything on the inspection fails to work properly, you fail the test and you must make another appointment after the items are fixed.

Next is the pre-trip inspection. This is where you demonstrate your knowledge of all your tow vehicle and trailers features and equipment that must be inspected prior to every trip. For the tow vehicle you must inspect the windshield wipers and the windshield for cracks, the mirrors are clean and adjusted, the oil, coolant, power steering, and brake fluid levels, the belts and hoses for any cracks or leaks, the condition of the tires and correct psi, wheels for cracks or excessive corrosion, hubs for grease leaks, lugs for tightness, brake linings where visible for thinness, all lights are working, check suspension for levelness, and the frame for cracks, and lastly that the doors and hinges are in proper working order. You also must identify all the working parts of your hitch or coupling system and if your tow vehicle has air brakes you must demonstrate that they work according to specs. Next comes your trailer. First, you must show the location of the emergency equipment which includes a charged fire extinguisher and 3 emergency reflective triangles. Then they check that all lights including side marker lights are working correctly. Again, if any items are inoperable, missing, or unsafe, the test will be postponed until they are fixed.

The skills test is next. The skills test is where you demonstrate that you can stop the trailer at a predetermined point, that you can back up in a straight line, that you can make a right turn without hitting a cone, and arguably the most difficult part; the dreaded backing up while turning your rig into a coned off zone that simulates a camping space. Now I'll admit that it took me 2 tries to do this without hitting a cone but no worries, the test is very liberal; they give you six tries before they mark you down on that one item. Now comes the easy part; the driving

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

2008 Sand Sports SUPER SHOW

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Flower Power! Hopeful Eagle Scout to Landscape New Ranger Station

Avid duner Ryan Gorman has a mission. This 15 year old from Phoenix, AZ is such a regular to the dunes that he has decided to donate the landscaping for the new Buttercup Ranger Station in the south dunes as his project to obtain his Eagle Scout ranking. The most difficult rank to earn, a scout needs to demonstrate leadership skills while participating in increasingly more responsible service projects. This may explain why only 5% of all Boy Scouts ever achieve this honored accomplishment.

Ryan holding the Panther patrol flag at camp

Landscaping a building is no small undertaking, and Ryan has spent countless hours researching native plants suitable for planting at the station, or as he puts it "working on this hard part now." The plants he is looking for should not only be ornamental and showy, but low maintenance and drought tolerant as well. As a kid with no budget, he is also price checking around town to find the best deal, and hoping to find either a nursery or benefactor(s) to either donate the plants towards his project, or help defray some of the cost.

If all goes as planned, plants go in the ground over the October 3rd-5th weekend. Ryan hopes to complete this project in one weekend, and would not mind if other similarly minded duners came out to help. Once completed, plants will have identifying plaques so everyone can learn and enjoy.

You can help! Donate time, money or plants and help get this project "in the ground." Ryan is exactly the sort of duner that will help keep public lands open to OHV use in the future: bright, responsible, and committed. You would be helping yourself, really.

For more information on how you can get involved, contact Ryan's dad Greg Gorman at: Gregg.public@gmail.com or call 602-770-7878.

Way to love your dunes, Ryan!

Worked Like A Grant MULE!!

By Bill Alexander, BLM Park Ranger, Yuma Field Office

The summer of 2008 has started out as a hot and busy one for staff and volunteers utilizing the Kawasaki MULE made available by the partnership between the United Desert Gateway and the Bureau of Land Management, Yuma Field Office. The Kawasaki MULE is provided through a grant facilitated by the American Sand Association and sponsored by our good friends at Kawasaki and Weekend Warrior.

To date, the MULE has been involved in several different aspects of recreation management and providing service to the recreating public. The MULE is an invaluable tool for contacting folks who are enjoying some of the various routes and trails leading to and from the Colorado River. For other public contact, the MULE has been a great tool for spreading the word about seasonal fire restrictions, providing environmental education, dealing with site management issues, and in just having a BLM Staff presence for the public to contact with their needs, thoughts, or concerns.

Project work times have also been shortened by allowing staff members to work longer while getting into and out of rough areas carrying tools and equipment. Together with the tools and equipment, the MULE can also bring a helper to get the work done quicker and safer. Without the MULE during the summer months, some project work would be limited to a few hours at the beginning of the workday when temperatures are cooler.

The MULE has been a true asset for accomplishing the BLM's goals and duties this summer, with the biggest benefits going to the recreating public. A great thanks goes out to our partners and volunteers!

Homeland Security is a Shared Responsibility

The Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) is without a doubt a terrific venue for wholesome family fun and exciting off-roading recreation adventure. Unfortunately, due to this recreation site's close proximity to the United States / Mexico International Border, it is also very appealing to violent and dangerous criminal organizations that engage in cross-border illegal activities. Make no mistake about it, human smuggling and narcotic trafficking is a big money business and the unscrupulous individuals involved will stop at nothing to satisfy their greed.

The priority mission objective of the United States Border Patrol is to prevent those who would do harm to America and its' citizens from effecting an illegal entry into the United States. Along with sharing in the responsibility of ensuring the safety and well-being of the off-roading community who frequent the ISDRA, we also have operational oversight for securing this vulnerable portion of the Southwest Border.

With the erratic variations in terrain features inherent to the landscape of the ISDRA and the seasonal increase in the number of off-roading recreational enthusiasts, our ability to secure this problematic portion of the border has represented a significant challenge. In response, we are in the process of erecting vehicle and pedestrian barriers directly adjacent to the International Border. These barriers, which are often times referred to as tactical infrastructure, serve as persistent impediments to the criminal cartels who will exploit any perceived vulnerability along our 1,993 mile long southern border.

It is anticipated that this particular tactical infrastructure project will be completed by the end of the calendar year. In the interim, we are asking that the off-roading community observe a 100 foot easement along the entire length of the construction zone. In doing so, you are ensuring your safety and also enabling us to better detect and prevent cross-border criminal activity.

Recognizing that the actual border is often times barely discernible and to avoid inadvertently violating federal law, we ask that you request guidance from a Border Patrol Agent before venturing too far south or into unknown territory. Should you observe or suspect cross-border criminal activity, notify a Border Patrol Agent. For clarification, we are asking that you only be a good witness and at no time should any attempt be made to stop or engage one of these dangerous criminals.

United States Border Fence Construction

Approximately 6.3 miles of fence will be constructed on the US and Mexico International border south of Interstate 8 within the US Border Patrol Yuma Sector Area of Operations. This 6.3 miles is in the dunes: another 4 miles lies outside the dune field for a total of 10.3 miles of fence.

The Yuma Sector anticipates fence construction to commence in June of 2008 and be completed by December 31, 2008. An additional 4 miles of Pedestrian Fence will be built from the Andrade Port of Entry west to the Imperial Sand Dunes. The USBP has requested the "Duning Community" observe a voluntary enforcement zone 100 feet north of the new fence. The fence poses no negative impact to the recreational community since there is more than 11 square miles of off-road recreation area south of Interstate 8. This will enable the USBP to provide better border security and a safer Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area.

Mesquite Regional Landfill

The Mesquite Regional Landfill (MRL) is being built five miles east of Glamis and will be ready for operation in 2009. The MRL is a waste-by-rail facility that will provide needed disposal capacity for a significant portion of Los Angeles and Imperial County's trash.

Trucking of a portion of the solid waste that the site will receive is being proposed. This will enable the site to open before the rail infrastructure is completed in 2011-12 and will increase transportation flexibility for the landfill in the future. The Sanitation Districts have been meeting with local stakeholders, including the dunes community through the BLM TRT, to identify routes that minimize impacts. Environmental studies for this proposal are being completed and will be circulated for public review and comment this fall. More information on the trucking proposal is available on line at www.mrlf.org.

The Mesquite Regional Landfill is committed to being a good neighbor in the north dune community. We are proud to have sponsored the last two UDG Martin Luther King clean up days and look forward to working together for decades to come. Please visit www.mrlf.org to learn more.

>>> *LEGISLATIVE REPORT* <<<

By Vicki Cossey

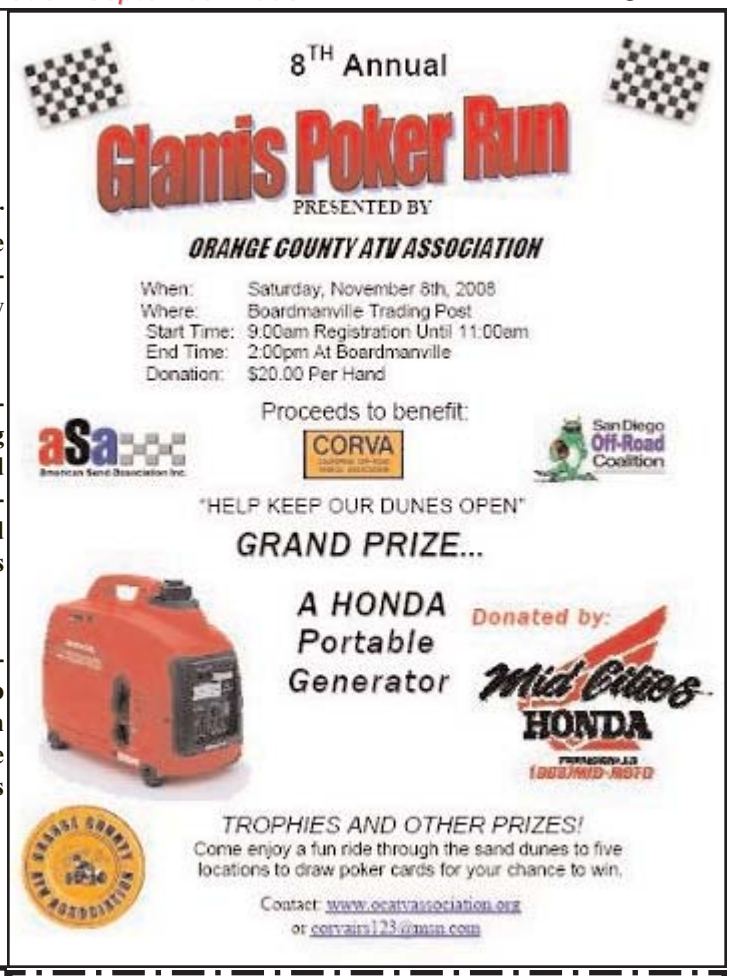
Proposed Legislation on ATVs and Children

Proposed language in Senate Bill 1228, authored by Senator Abel Maldonado (R-15) has been pulled this session due to the fiscal impact it held as well as the failure to reach a compromise between opposing sides and has been replaced with new language, unrelated to OHV.

The original, introduced language would have extended existing law pertaining to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) requiring parental supervision from age 14 to 16. It would have required riders to provide a safety certificate to law enforcement personnel on demand. Also, the bill would have imposed specified size restrictions on all-terrain vehicles operated by persons under 16 years of age.

Senator Maldonado still may decide to come back with another bill next year as the safety of young ATV riders continues to be his priority. If this should happen, the ASA, along with their partnering OHV organizations will work with the Senator and his staff towards creating language that satisfies all those interested.

For more information, contact Vicki Cossey at:
legislativeaffairs@americansandassociation.org



The California League of Off Road Voters

The California League of Off Road Voters Inc. (CLORV) is a coordinating and educational umbrella organization dedicated to keeping existing off road motorized recreation opportunities open.

The newly expanded membership of CLORV Inc. includes: the American Motorcycle Association D-36, American Motorcycle Association D-37, American Motorcycle Association-National, American Sand Association, California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, California Nevada Snowmobile Association, California Off Road Vehicle Association, Friends of Oceano Dunes, Off-Road Business Association, and the San Diego Off-Road Coalition, all working together for a common cause.

In order to elect more OHV friendly candidates to state offices, CLORV has formed a state level political action committee (PAC) to endorse candidates, donate money and provide volunteers to off highway friendly legislators and candidates. This is where you come in; The organizations making up CLORV cannot donate directly to candidates. This must come from the grass roots level, YOU. Several of the races in the last primaries were won by candidates who attribute their success to the OHV community! This is fantastic, as it is these people who will remember us when they get into office. So help support our sport by completing the form to the right and sending in a donation today.

Every dollar helps, no donation is too small!

www.CLORV.org

I WILL HELP FUND THE
California League of Off Road Voters
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
ID #1224019

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
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(661) 864-1158

WWW.CLORV.ORG

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1701 Westwind Dr Ste 216
Bakersfield, CA 93301

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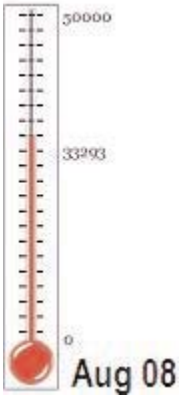
>>> MEMBERSHIP NEWS <<<



In late July we mailed out our Annual Letter and we received back a great response. Our membership keeps growing and we continue to reach for our goal. As another season is upon us, please take a little time and visit those next to your camp. Take them this newsletter and ask them to join up as membership is free. We know there are plenty more people that visit the dunes yet not members, we all need to keep everyone Informed on the issues we all face.

Please consider a Supporting Membership, the small annual donation really helps us keepgoing. Volunteers are another vital area in our organization, please contact us if you're interested in helping out.

Thanks for your support
Dick Holliday
ASA Membership Director
membership@asasand.org

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!

Tom Adair
David Adkins
Rich Alcaraz
Scott Anderson
Donna Armour
Frank Avila
David Beat
William Bierman
Randy Blevins
Collin Bohn
Charles Bokamper
Gary Borrmann
Jeff Brady
Justin Bucci
Alice Burnett
Gaylen Cabral
Bert Cheli
Bill Childers
Robert Cohen
Jerry Conway
Rick Cottington
Tom Davis
Steven Demont
Don Dumas
Lee Falk
Holly Falk
Bill Farris
Richard Ferr
Robert Fontaine
Brian Fuller
Tim Gardner
Jeff Gillis
Gary Glud
Shawn Griffin
Robert Gudde
Dameon Habinger
Darrin Habinger
Lynn Habinger
John Habinger
Isaac Hagerman
Jeff Helm
Rob Hintz
Sam Hock
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Dane Jasinski
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Larry Trueblood
Vicky Trueblood
Tim Vasquez
Phil Wagner
William Wakefield
Mark Wallace
Reid Wicker
Ron Wilson
Brian Witter

YOUR NAME HERE

We Can't Afford the Enormous Cost of Trash Service

Do the Right Thing... Pack it Out!

Why? Like everything else in today's world, the cost of providing visitor services at the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) is going up. Under the current federal funding process the primary source of money to operate the recreation area is the "Recreation Fee" that we pay. Under present conditions, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) receives very limited federal appropriations earmarked for operating expenses. The BLM El Centro Field Office is required to manage the recreation area with the fees they collect from ISDRA visitors to pay for day to day operating costs. The recreation fee is based on total cost recovery by BLM since the ISDRA is allocated limited funding from appropriated federal dollars as well as other sources.

Looking ahead to next season, we could see a reduction in dumpster availability. This cost reduction measure may be necessary in order to maintain other visitor services for the recreation area.

You Can Help!

You can help reduce ISDRA operating costs if you "Pack It Out." If there are no available dumpsters or the dumpsters are full "Pack It Out". Eliminating trash dumpsters can amount to a savings of $500,000 per season. This next season, plan to "Pack It Out" and remember that any trash left on the ground is considered littering and you could be fined!

>>> ASA STORE SPECIALS <<<

OUR 2009 ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CALENDAR IS HOT OFF THE PRESSES AND ONLY $8 EACH!

Please send check payable to ASA:
ASA
11419 Daybreak Trail
Moreno Valley, CA 92557-5504

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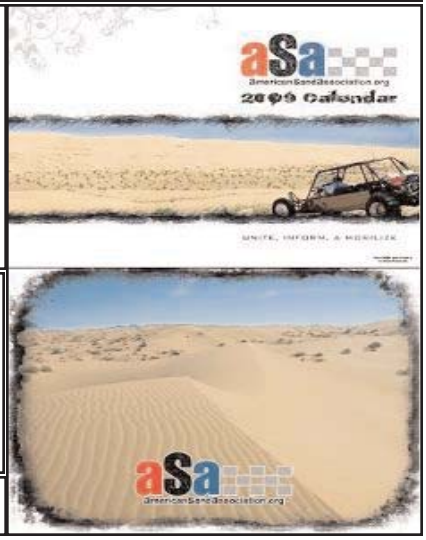

ASA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES
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Ad Size:	(1 issue)	(4 issues)
Full Page (approx.7.5" x 9")	$450	$1600
Three Quarter Page	$350	$1300
Half Page	$250	$1000
Quarter Page	$200	$700
Business Card	$100	$300

Contact Us : Advertising@AmericanSandAssociation.org OR call 888-540-SAND

>>> UPCOMING EVENTS <<<

SAND SPORTS SUPER SHOW - September 19-21st, Costa Mesa Fairgrounds, CA

OFF ROAD EXPO - October 3-5th, Pomona Fairplex, CA

ASA & SDORC INFO MEETING - October 18th, El Cajon, CA

8th ANNUAL GLAMIS POKER RUN - November 8th, Boardmanville Trading Post, 9am

FOR UP-TO-DATE EVENTS & MORE INFO, PLEASE SEE OUR WEB SITE

To help the ASA at the above events:

Volunteers@AmericanSandAssociation.org or call: **888-540-SAND**

ASA BUSINESS SPONSORS

Our New and Renewing Sponsors since our May issue!

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YOUR NAME HERE

PLEASE SUPPORT ALL OUR SPONSORS WHEN MAKING YOUR PURCHASES

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

LICENSE TO DRIVE cont'

test! During the test you must demonstrate you have control of your tow vehicle and trailer at all times. This includes coming to a complete stop at every limit line, following the posted speed limits, traveling in the correct lane, parking against a curb on a downhill and an uphill grade, merging into freeway traffic, changing lanes, demonstrating hand signals, and ending in the correct lane after a right turn in one fluid movement. I got marked down for this last one. Because of the length of my trailer I always end up in the far left lane of a two lane road. I then put on my signal and pull into the right lane when it is clear. The correct way to do it is to make the turn into the right lane in one fluid movement so as not to allow another vehicle to squeeze in. I told the DMV rep that I had a problem with this technique with an extremely long trailer because a small quick car can easily squeeze in on you no matter how quick you are to merge. The argument was to no avail, he marked me down anyway. The driving test took about 30 minutes and I passed with just a few errors. Overall, this was well worth the time and effort. I encourage everyone who tows a heavy trailer to take the test. It is extremely easy and gives you one less thing to worry about on a trip.

For more information visit www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/cdl_htm/lic_chart.htm#classanon to see what class of license you should have and www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/dl648/dl648.pdf for the complete handbook.

Good luck and tow safe."
by Kevin McKenzie

Reprinted from www.toyhaulermagazine.com

TOYHAULER MAGAZINE®

>>> ASA PREMIUM SPONSORS <<<

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.

ALBA ACTION SPORTS	POWAY	CA	858	486-4380	12% Discount Off on All Parts
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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)
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G.E.T. SALES INC	MESA	AZ	602	315-3504	10% Discount on all products. For a catalog call or email: get-sales@att.net
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JOHN POTOCKI ASSOCIATES	SAN DIEGO	CA	619	464-7904	Hourly Fee Discount
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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 (no conjunction with other specials)
PACE TRAILERS OF ARIZONA	MESA	AZ	480	924-3700	$500 off Any Trailer Over 20 Feet and 5% off All Parts
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ROCKY MOUNTAIN ATV/MC	PAYSON	UT	800	336-5437	Use your Discount Coupon to receive $$ savings on your order.
TEAM FRAMING & DRYWALL	PHOENIX	AZ	602	944-7001	A Discount will be granted to all ASA Supporting Members.
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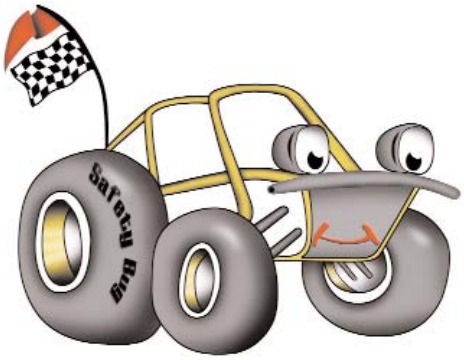

The SAFETY BUG says,

Keep the "15 mph / 50 feet" rule in mind, it helps both our safety in camp and keeps the dust down

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

Protect your Sandrail and your family with insurance coverage from Allstate!

Don't take the chance of driving your Sandrail, quad, dune buggy or any off-road recreational vehicle in the dunes without insurance protection!

Basic Liability Protection
(per occurrence)

$300,000 Bodily Injury
$100,000 Property damage

Liability protection pays injuries and damages for the other party

$55/year!

Don't wait for an accident to happen --- contact the Downtown Insurance Agency today to start a policy to protect your Sandrail and your family!

213.622.3307

We insure California residents throughout the state! Our agency is open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 6 pm.

Allstate requires all drivers on the policy to meet California good driver qualifications and other requirements.

Full Coverage Protection
(per occurrence)

Basic Liability Protection plus: Physical damage protection to your sandrail with $100 deductible (based on the sandrail value)

Example: $25,000 Sandrail

$56/month!

Downtown Insurance Agency, 900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 838, Los Angeles, CA 90017 www.DowntownInsurance.com

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

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New Partners Expand Awareness

The 2008 edition of the "Partner in Action" annual report was recently prepared by the BLM and the UDG. Several new Partners have been added to the team including the U.S. Border Patrol, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Native Plant Society and the Yamaha Motor Corporation. Take a few minutes to read and learn about the broad range of partnership actives that have provided nearly $1,000,000 of in-kind services and funding to the United Desert Gateway organization. This sand sport business community contribution has made it possible for BLM to receive over $300,000 of cost matching funds for ISDRA projects. Please let these folks know that you appreciate their support. To learn more about the "Partners in Dune Safety and Stewardship" activiti:es during the past year please see the link below.

http://files.americansandassociation.org/files/partnersinaction/Partners%20in%20action2008_FINAL.doc

Mexico / US Border Fence

The U.S. Border Patrol has started construction of a permanent anti-vehicle fence which will clearly define the border. Construction was started in August for the 13 mile fence and will be complete by the end of this calendar year. Please stay back at least 100' from the construction activities.

After construction is complete please continue to maintain the same distance from the structure to assist the Border Patrol Agents in maintaining security at the dunes.

PLEASE REMEMBER

SDORC AND ASA Present

The Dirt and Sand SPECTACULAR

OCTOBER 18

Starts at 10:00 am

WHAT'S LEGAL AND WHAT'S NOT !

Come hear the New changes at your playground:
Superstition Mountains
Ocotillo Wells
Gordon Wells
Glamis
Truckhaven

Show N Shine
Strut your stuff

Sponsored By
Toyota Of El Cajon
Join us their NEW location
at
965 Arnele Ave, El Cajon, CA 92029

Food
Music
Fun
Important information

More information about this event at WWW.SDORC.Org

---

buy your permit

here

BLM

Beginning October 2008, purchasing your permit once you arrive at the dunes will cost you:

Season: **$120.00**

Weekly: **$40.00**

It's your money.

Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area
Visit www.blm.gov/ca/elcentro
for a list of vendors where you live.
Phone: (760)337-4400
Fax: (760) 337-4490

Spend smart.

it's your gas money.

---

buy your permit

there

Purchase your permit before you arrive, and **save** yourself a chunk of change.

Season: **$90.00**

Weekly: **$25.00**

Purchasing your permit ahead of time online, over the phone, or at one of the local vendors where you live saves time and money, relieves traffic congestion at the dunes, and gets you on the sand that much quicker.

Isn't that what it's all about?

Visit www.blm.gov/ca/elcentro
for a list of vendors where you live.
Phone: (760) 337-4400
Fax: (760) 337-4490

ATV TRAINING INCENTIVES

All children in California are able to take the class free for it is funded by the state of California. Adults/children who purchase a NEW ATV are also trained free which is funded by the respective MAJOR ATV manufactures.

Those that purchase a new ATV are also given a financial incentive which is funded by the manufacturer once they have completed the class. The reimbursement is paid directly to the purchaser b y the manufacture. No paperwork to send in. It is all done automatically.

Students who would like to enroll in a class should call ATV Safety (enrollment express) at: 800-887-2887

ALPHA SPORT

The buyer is eligible for FREE training with NO INCENTIVE. An incentive may be available in the near future.

ARCTIC CAT

If the manufacture date is before 10/1/98, the buyer receives $50 when the buyer or an eligible family member completes the ATV RiderCourse training.

If the manufacture date is on or after 10/1/98, and the buyer is a first time purchaser who does not have previous riding experience, the buyer receives $100 when the buyer or an eligible family member completes the ATV RiderCourse. ATVs manufactured on or after 10/1/98, have VINs with the last (6) digits of the VIN 427547 or higher; or, have a model year 2000 or higher. Maximum three students trained per VIN, business or individual.

BOMBARDIER

If the buyer is a first time purchaser and does not have previous riding experience, the buyer receives $100 when the buyer or an eligible family member completes the ATV RiderCourse.

CANNONDALE

The buyer is eligible for FREE training with NO INCENTIVE.

HONDA

Honda will notify buyers directly that they are eligible to enter a quarterly drawing for prizes if the ATV was purchased on or after April 29, 1998 (Sweepstake drawing ended Dec 31, 2000). If the date of purchase is on or after 01/01/01 and the buyer is a first time purchaser without prior riding experience, the buyer receives $100 dollars when the buyer or an eligible family member completes the ATV RiderCourse. If the buyer is not a first time purchaser, the buyer receives $50 dollars when the buyer or an eligible family member completes the ATV RiderCourse. If the date is prior to 01/01/01 the buyer is eligible for the incentive offered on the date of purchase.

KAWASAKI

If the date of purchase is before 7/1/98, the buyer receives $50 when the buyer or an eligible family member completes training.

If the date of purchase is on or after 7/1/98, and the buyer is a first time purchaser and does not have previous riding experience, the buyer receives $100 when the buyer or an eligible family member completes training.

SUZUKI

If the date of purchase is on or after 7/15/98 and the buyer is a first time purchaser, the buyer receives $100 when the buyer or an eligible family member completes training. If the buyer is not a first time purchaser, the buyer receives $50 when the buyer or an eligible family member completes the ATV RiderCourse.

If the date of purchase is prior to 7/15/98, the buyer receives $50 when the buyer or eligible family member completes the ATV RiderCourse.

YAMAHA

If the date of purchase is on or after 7/1/98 and the buyer is a first time purchaser, the buyer may choose one of the following. Purchase a genuine Yamaha FORCE helmet and receive $100 when the buyer or an eligible family member completes the ATV RiderCourse. If the buyer already owns a suitable helmet, the buyer receives $75 when the buyer or an eligible family member completes the ATV RiderCourse. (refer customers with questions to (800) 288-2891)

If the date of purchase is prior to 7/1/98, the buyer receives $50 when the buyer or eligible family member completes the ATV RiderCourse.

Note: All buyers will receive manufacturer incentives within 8-12 weeks upon completion of the ATV RiderCourse.

Johnson Valley, what it means to YOU...

Do you live in San Bernardino county? You do if you live in the cities that include San Bernardino, Loma Linda, Highland, Redlands, Big Bear, Lake Arrowhead and Yucaipa among others. You're also in the district for Rep. Jerry Lewis. Please take a moment to read the following letter regarding the Johnson Valley OHV area. Please remember, the OHV area you help to keep open WILL benefit you at your favorite place to recreate.

A sample generic letter you can send;

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
U.S. House of Representatives
1150 Brookside Ave. J-5
Redlands, CA 92313

Dear Congressman Lewis:

I am writing to you today because my family recreates in the Johnson Valley OHV Area, which is located in your district. I am aware that the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) at Twenty-Nine Palms, California, has recently submitted a withdrawal application to the BLM for a large portion of the Johnson Valley OHV Area. In a time of war, the need to properly train our soldiers should be our highest priority.

At the same time I think it is important to recognize the fact OHV recreation has become a very popular form of family recreation in Southern California. There are over one million registered off-highway vehicles (OHVs) in the state of California alone and that number does not include street legal 4-wheel drive vehicles. According to the California State Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR), between 1980 and 2007 the amount of registered OHVs has increased 370%. During that same time the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) states, "Since 1980 the amount of land available to recreate on for green sticker vehicles (OHVs) has shrunk 48 percent in our deserts alone."

Johnson Valley OHV Area is 189,000 acres and is a major destination recreation area for motorized use. It is also the largest open OHV area in the country. My family and I spend quality time together in this area. If this area were to be taken partially or in whole by the Marine Corps it would have a devastating effect on the Southern California OHV community. Many of those that recreate there now would need to find another legal OHV area location to recreate. That would cause even more crowded situations and safety related issues at the other areas now in use.

My family and many like mine spend hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to participate in this form of recreation. Closing this area would negatively impact the economy of the Lucerne Valley and the surrounding counties. The majority of the users of this area do not live in Lucerne Valley, but in the neighboring regions. They purchase their off-road, camping, and associated equipment in the communities where they reside.

My family and the families we recreate with, request that you encourage the Marines to find a different area to fulfill their training needs. But, if the Marines find it absolutely necessary to take all, or even portion of Johnson Valley, we would like you to ask the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to demand acre for acre mitigation. This "no net loss" to public OHV recreation land will assure a proper balance on public lands. Through congressional designation you could reclassify land currently off limits to off-road enthusiasts. This "no net loss" policy will also ensure the future economic health of Lucerne Valley and the surrounding areas that depend on income from this type of recreation.

Sincerely,

A NEW RESCUE RAIL FOR DUMONT DUNES

A HUGE thanks to the Gesualdo Family who donated a Buggy Works sandrail, 3 quads and presented a check for $5,000 to the Barstow BLM office. The BLM will use these to provide medical assistance and visitor contact at Dumont Dunes. After watching a TV show that showed the BLM's very old and well used buggy they decided to donate one of their buggys to them.

ALL AMERICAN CANAL PROJECT

Here are some of the latest pictures from the lining project. The Canal Lining Project will result in the concrete lining of 23 miles.

The new concrete lined section of the canal will result in the conservation of 67,700 acre-feet per year of Colorado River water currently lost to seepage.

PICTURES FROM THE ASA INFO MEETING @ EXTREME PERFORMANCE

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