

**CORVA**  
CALIFORNIA OFF-ROAD  
VEHICLE ASSOCIATION  
[www.corva.org](http://www.corva.org)

# ***OFF-ROADERS IN ACTION***

## *Honoring America*

By Amy Granat, CORVA Managing Director

“Can you imagine what I would do, if I could do all I can?” Sun Tzu

While the barbecues and fireworks from July 4th fade into memory just a few short days afterwards, the concept of honoring America, and what it means to be an American, remains strong in our collective consciousness. Those of us who honor America by engaging in traditional forms of recreation do so for varying reasons with one basic commonality – to value, enjoy and appreciate the beauty around us as we venture forth into the forests, deserts or coastal areas that represent the State of California. But these freedoms we celebrate, including the freedom of choice so integral to our very existence as Americans, are under fire by many organizations that chose either not to understand our way of life, or outwardly seek to destroy what is so important to us and others.

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## *OHV Grants Cut by \$11 Million*

By Bruce Whitcher, CORVA VP of Land Resources and Public Policy

In our last issue we reported that the Sustainable Parks proposal was working its way through budget committee hearings at the Capitol. The state budget process was unprecedented this year because only a simple majority is required to pass the budget. With the Democratic majority in the legislature there was no need for any discussion with the Republican opposition and the budget passed with very little if any discussion. Negotiations between the Democratic leadership and the Governor were of critical importance. Most bills pass on party line votes making it very difficult for CORVA to mount opposition to Democratic attempts to divert OHV funding to State Parks. Nevertheless, we had some limited success. This was due to an all out effort by the OHV community to write letters to legislators, and particularly to the Governor.

The Budget Act appropriated \$10M for the OHV Division Grants and Cooperative Agreements program. Last year's budget appropriated \$27M and this year we had \$21M. Many excellent areas did not receive funding. \$10M represents a disastrous reduction in available funds for OHV recreation on public lands. Grants and Cooperative Agreements fund operations and maintenance, restoration, law enforcement, and education. With severe reductions in federal funding for Forest Service and BLM recreation programs, the OHV Grants program has become the lifeline for all developed recreation on public lands.

A secondary budget bill, known as a “trailer bill”, would have diverted \$21M from the OHV Division to fund State Parks. Fortunately the public stepped up through volunteer and non-profits to adopt individual parks, reducing the number of park closures. Fortunately the Governor used his line item veto power to reduce the \$21M transfer to Parks to \$7M, leaving the OHV Division with barely enough funding to survive.

From the beginning, CORVA lobbied heavily from the position that the OHV Division runs a model program, one of the best in the Nation, and that a successful, well-run program should not have its funding shifted to sustain an overburdened and less well-run State Parks program.

We would like to give special thanks to the Friends of Jawbone who sponsored a web-based petition. This petition allowed us to gather hundreds of signatures that were hand delivered to the Governor in support of the Grants program.

***"Dedicated to protecting our lands for the people, not from the people."***

## **So Cal Off Road Truck Show, 2012**

By Wayne Ford, CORVA Clubs

Compton California – The California desert is a formidable place in the summer. For that reason, off roaders in the state find other things to do when temperatures reach 105 degrees. Many head to the Colorado river or one of the numerous lakes or mountains where it stays in the 80's. However, some off roaders have a hard time shaking the off road life style they live and breathe during the other nine months of the year. Enter, the So Cal Off Road Truck Show. Its promoter, Pep Palomo, (aka Infernal), started this show four years ago, because he had a truck he wanted to show, and there wasn't anywhere to show it.

The 4th annual So Cal Off Road Truck Show, was held on June 30th this year and was better than ever. This time, Pep moved the event from Riverside to the corporate headquarters of 4Wheel Parts in Compton, California. Attendance was up, Pep expanded the show categories, and CORVA raised a lot of money.



4Wheel Parts was a gracious host again (we were in Compton for a "Car Crush" in March of this year, and they rolled out the red carpet for off road), providing people, space, forklifts, trucks, product displays, and most importantly, raffle prizes. We started off the day with few donations from prior events, and in true off road spirit, within 30 minutes we had several donations from Trail Gear, Brawler Gear, [Tough-Light.com](http://Tough-Light.com), Shift Up Motorsports, DirtBound Offroad, Global Off road, Full Flex Offroad, SCAR Offroad, Engage Offroad, Inland Empire Drive Line, Axial and 4Wheel Parts Compton. Axial donated a ready to run car, and offered it as a "free" raffle, so each person received a free ticket. Big Alex from The Few and Des Madres won the car, and it was a sight to see!



Midway through the event, a small "Dog Pile" formed in front of the main entrance, with ACORA President Mike Bishop the last one on top. Then 4Wheel Parts ratcheted up the raffle by donating a Smitybuilt winch, and raffle ticket sales soared! Special thanks to CORVA Life Members Harry and Helen Baker and Vinnie Barbarino for their help with ticket sales and raffle management.

Later that day, 4Wheel Parts stepped up again, rolling out the articulation ramp with their forklift. After setting it up and providing some required waivers, we were off and running. Many of the vehicles that were shown in the truck show that day were also used on the articulation ramp. Andrew from Axial entered one of the RC crawlers, Pure Magic, for a great picture. The high mark went to a Ford Pre-Runner (who says IFS suspension doesn't have a place in rock crawling?). Tell Shannon Campbell that. Another highlight was when Richard Flores of the Rock Brawlers rolled his '87 Toyota 4x4.

Trophies were awarded to 17 different categories of off road vehicles as follows:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) Best Jeep - Jaime Moat                           | 10) Best Equipped - Brian Simpson                      |
| 2) Best Toyota 4x4 - Rafael Beltran                 | 11) Best Sand Toy - Jack Bodossian                     |
| 3) Best Race Truck - Ulises Galvan                  | 12) Best Suzuki Based Trail Rig - Rudy Sanchez Jr.     |
| 4) Best Mud Bogger - Andrew Gonzales                | 13) Best Classic Off-Road Truck - John Rocha           |
| 5) Best Fullsize Truck - Nick Baldwin               | 14) Best Off-Road Show Truck - Danny Mejia             |
| 6) King Of Carnage - Richard Flores                 | 15) Best Overall Jeep - Raul Vega                      |
| 7) Best Built - Paul Alusha                         | 16) Best Pre-Runner/Chase Truck - Mohawk Mike Ermogino |
| 8) Best Rock Crawler - Al Devlin                    | 17) Best Of Show - Rudy Sanchez Sr.                    |
| 9) Best Street Driven Off-Road Truck - J.R. Posadas |  |

The trophies were all presented by Global Off-Road Supply and 4 Wheel Parts . Raul Vega also won the winch given away by 4 Wheel Parts and Jack Bodossian was also the winner of the RTI ramp contest and he received a \$50 gift card from 4 Wheel Parts . CORVA would like to thank Pep Palomo the promoter, and Jose Lugo, 4Wheel Parts Compton Manager, and ALL the 4Wheel parts crew, for doing a great job helping us with a successful event. And finally, we thank all of the participants for putting so much time into these trucks, and for entering their trucks into this show. See you next year !

## WHAT IS CORVA?

*The California Off-Road Vehicle Association (CORVA) is a varied group of outdoor recreationalists who are extremely active in promoting the positive aspects of vehicular access on public lands and protecting that right.*

*The group is composed of the owners of "Green Sticker" vehicles such as ATV's, motorcycles, 3-wheelers, trail bikes, and dune buggies, as well as "street legal" 4x4 vehicles, dual sport motorcycles, baja and desert racers.*

*The main purpose of CORVA is to have fun! We also work with the land managers for responsible off-highway vehicular access and recreation opportunities. Secondly, we educate our membership on the constantly changing rules and regulations and promote conservation, clean-up and trail maintenance projects.*

*We participate in lobbying activities in both Sacramento and Washington DC. We work closely with the State Department of Parks and Recreation providing input to the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) program from the users' standpoint. We provide a valuable resource to land managers in the form of dedicated OHV enthusiasts who believe in using our public lands responsibly.*

*We are active at all levels of the land management public process with both the BLM and USFS. We do this by commenting on many environmental documents on issues that affect us.*

*We coordinate with other multiple use organizations such as snowmobiles to horse enthusiasts to protect multiple use rights that we both share. Only together can we fight the extremists. We are,*

***"Dedicated to protecting our lands for the people, not from the people."***

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Wayne Ford	Assistant Southern Director - Clubs
Vinnie Barbarino	Southern Regional Secretary

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**By Jim Woods**

### **CORVA Annual Meeting Recap**

On May 19th CORVA held its annual meeting at the Lamplighter Inn in Visalia. At this meeting we held elections for the Treasurer, VP of Administration, VP of Marketing and VP of Education positions. The CORVA Board now includes Terry Work as our new VP of Administration and Linda Wucherpfennig as our VP of Marketing. Ed Waldheim will serve another term as our VP of Education as well! These volunteers bring with them a great deal of experience to serve the association in their respective duties and the Board is looking forward to working with them.

Our outgoing Board members, Jim Colln and Steve Hewitt, deserve our sincere thanks for their service to CORVA. I am happy to announce that Jim Colln will continue to help with Membership and the CORVA Store. Many of you know Steve as our chairperson for the CORVA Truckhaven Challenge held in January at Ocotillo Wells, and Steve has agreed to continue those duties. Again thank you both for the years of service you have given CORVA and remaining part of our CORVA Team!

We were unable to elect a new Treasurer and we still need someone to serve. Although we have secured the services of our bookkeeper, Pam, we need someone to serve on the Board as our financial director and help us develop budgets for our association. The Treasurer is a very specialized and important position that requires specific skills. If you or someone you know has the skills and the desire to serve, please send an email to Amy Granat or myself as soon as possible. Serving on the CORVA board is very rewarding and we are a great group of volunteers. Please help us fill this position.

CORVA voted again to retain the service of our Managing Director Amy Granat. Amy has been very influential in Sacramento and is very versed in the NEPA process. She has represented our open access policy all over the State and has worked with many clubs and other groups to spread the word of CORVA, along with presenting the educational Comments Project seminars. The vote to retain Amy was unanimous and all of us welcome her back for another year.

Now a little land news. You will read in our land use report that the California budget was approved and our OHV Grants were not totally taken away but we did lose millions, which means so did our State Vehicular Recreational Areas (SVRAs). The OHV Division will have a difficult time maintaining the SVRAs, so as time goes by, we may see many closures. Meanwhile, CORVA has donated \$2,500.00 to help save Johnson Valley along with the groups belonging to the California Motorized Recreation Council (CMRC). As frustrating as this seems, all the effort is worthwhile. Although we have seen the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) delayed many times, we are hopeful that the efforts of CMRC will be beneficial. At this time the FEIS is now due the first of August so we will see if the Marines hold true to that date or put it off again. This is a long battle that will take time to finalize. As usual, we will keep you posted of any changes or new events.

We received many membership renewals along with extra donations lately, and we thank you all for your support. Don't forget to add the CORVA Northern and Southern Jamborees in October to your calendar. The Northern Jamboree will again be held at Frank Raines Park and our Southern Event will be in Johnson Valley at the Hammers. Come support your Association and the fight to keep Johnson Valley and the Hammers open.

### **New CORVA Board Members**

#### **VICE PRESIDENT - ADMINISTRATION**

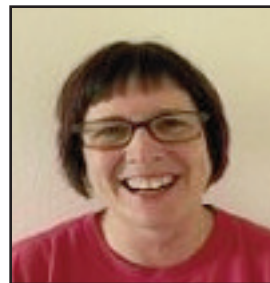
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**Linda Wucherpfennig**



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# CORVA

CALIFORNIA OFF-ROAD  
VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

[www.corva.org](http://www.corva.org)



Proudly Presents the:  
**2012**

# Southern October 20th Jamboree

**JOHNSON VALLEY OHV AREA  
- MEANS DRY LAKE -**

**This is a family event ...so bring the kids!**

Join the CORVA to help protect access to public lands!

**Open to ALL off-road vehicles! (spark arrester required)**

### **SATURDAY**

**Rider / Driver Meeting** 9:30am

**Poker Run** 10am to 3pm

**Prepared Dinner** 5:00pm to 6:30pm

**Award Ceremony and**

**Raffle Prize Drawing** 7pm

### **PRICES**

**Saturday Poker Fun Run** \$20  
each vehicle (includes one poker hand)  
\$25 non-members

**Kids** (12 and under) on ATV/MC \$10

**Extra Poker Hands** \$5

**Extra Poker Hands** (non-members) \$10

**BBQ Dinner** \$10

**EVENTS FOR ALL OHV VEHICLES  
GET YOUR CLUB INVOLVED & HOST AN EVENT!  
FOR MORE INFO CALL**

**909-815-3780**

OR

**VISIT US ON THE WEB**

[www.CORVA.org](http://www.CORVA.org)

OR

**E-MAIL**

[Clayton.Miller@CORVA.org](mailto:Clayton.Miller@CORVA.org)

**DOG SHOW STARTS AT 4PM**

### **DIRECTIONS**

**From Interstate 15:** Exit Bear Valley Rd, head East to Hwy 18, turn right, veer left to Hwy 247, continue to Boone Rd, turn left

**From Interstate 10:** Exit Hwy 62, head North to Hwy 247, turn left, continue to Boone Rd, turn right

# CORVA Land Use Resources and Public Policy Report

By Bruce Whitcher

CORVA VP of Land Resources and Public Policy

## [San Bernardino, Los Padres, Angeles and Cleveland National Forests Plan Amendment](#)

The first comment period for the Forest Plan Amendment has closed. The Forest Service will now use the comments submitted to assist in preparing and Environmental Impact Statement. The proposed Land Management Plan amendment is a result of the Settlement Agreement approved January 3, 2011 for California Resources Agency, et al vs. United States Department of Agriculture, and Center for Biological Diversity, et al vs. United States Department of Agriculture.

The proposed amendment would modify the existing land use zone (LUZ) allocations in selected Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) to include more Back Country Non-Motorized (BCNM) and Recommended Wilderness (RW) areas. An alternate monitoring framework is also proposed. The full details of the proposed action can be found on the project webpage at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=35130>.

### Major Components of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would change the zoning to “non-motorized” on approximately 300,000 acres of Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA’s), and change the Land Use Zoning allocation to “Recommended Wilderness” (RW) on approximately 80,000 acres Roadless Areas. The majority of the additional non-motorized zones are located in IRAs on the Los Padres National Forest and San Bernardino National Forest. Additions to the Recommended Wilderness allocations are within IRAs on the Angeles and Cleveland National Forests. A preliminary analysis does not reveal any closures of existing motorized routes.

On the Angeles National Forest, the Fish Canyon and Salt Creek IRAs were combined to create the proposed 40,000 acre Fish Canyon RW area. On the Cleveland National Forest, the proposed 23,000 acre Eagle Peak RW area includes portions of the Eagle Peak, Sill Hill, and No Name IRAs, along with portions of the Cedar Creek and Upper San Diego River undeveloped areas. The 11,000 acre Barker Valley and 5,000 acre Caliente RW areas are also proposed on the Cleveland National Forest.

### Governor Makes Appointment to the OHV Commission

CORVA recently received notice of the appointment of Martha Villegas, a Democrat from Los Angeles, as public member to the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission. Nine Commissioners are appointed to staggered four-year terms. The Governor appoints five of the members (subject to Senate confirmation), and the Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly each appoint two members. The Commission membership is intended to represent a broad range of groups including OHV recreation enthusiasts, biological or soil scientists, rural landowners, law enforcement, environmental protection organizations, and non-motorized recreation interests.

### San Bernardino County supervisors/OHV enthusiasts fight to keep Johnson Valley Open

(San Bernardino County Sun, 6/23/12)

The Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center says it needs “146,000 acres of the 189,000-acre” Johnson Valley Off Highway recreation area, “for live-fire and maneuver training.” San Bernardino County Supervisors Brad Mitzelfelt and Neil Derry, both former Marines, suggest a special-use permit from the BLM to train on the land two months of the year. Mitzelfelt and Derry still support base expansion to the east, where the impacts would be minimal to off-roading, filming and mining activity, all of which are essential to the area's economy.

The schedule for preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) has been extended. The FEIS is studying alternatives for the Marine Corps to acquire sufficient range and airspace to meet training requirements for sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver Marine Expeditionary Brigade Training.

- More time is being taken to complete the related studies and documentation on Off Highway Vehicle Recreation, noise, protected species, and other natural resources and to respond to public comments on the Draft EIS than was originally scheduled.
- Taking this extra time ensures that the Marine Corps can complete a thorough analysis with the best available information of the potential environmental impacts associated with the six alternatives under study.
- The new schedule shows the Department of the Navy’s Record of Decision now being released in August-September 2012.

Continued on next page

### [Clear Creek Management Area Decision Remains Delayed](#)

The retirement of Bob Abby as California BLM State Director and his replacement with Jim McKenna delayed the BLM's record of decision on the CCMA Environmental Impact Statement. CORVA has met with BLM officials to discuss the possibility of continued OHV use in the CCMA, but to date the information has not been encouraging. During recent discussions BLM indicated the decision would not be out until later this summer. Reasons for the delay were not given. The BLM indicated an interest in identifying alternative OHV areas, however past discussions have not been fruitful. CORVA will continue to work with BLM and to underscore that there is no viable alternative to OHV use at Clear Creek.

### [Chairman Eric Lueder to Leave OHV Commission](#)

Last week CORVA learned that the chairman of the OHV Commission, appointed by the Senate Rules Committee, received word that he will not be reappointed to the commission. Eric's term expired in January 2012 and he has continued to serve as member and Chair. Eric sent the following message:

"I am honored to have served with such a talented and dedicated group of people who in one form or another are passionate about OHV recreation and keeping it sustainable for future generations. I have made some good friends in the last four years and I know those friendships will continue into the future. I will stay in the "game" one way or another and look forward to seeing you all again very soon."

Commissioner Lueder has been a Real Property Agent with the Marin County Department of Public Works since 1991. During his career he has been directly involved with public land acquisitions for the Marin County Open Space District, Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Marin County Free Library System, as well as for a variety of other public agency projects. Commissioner Lueder is a Senior Member (SR/WA) of the International Right of Way Association. He is a member of the Marin County Motorcycle Association and has served as a Government Relations Officer since 1994, working with various government agencies on land use and trail management issues. Commissioner Lueder is a member of the American Motorcyclist Association and AMA District 36.

Eric was a strong advocate for OHV recreation and the OHV Division. He served as a highly capable chairman who was entirely dedicated to the program. He will be greatly missed as chairman and member of the Commission.

### [Forest Service Announces Change in Regulations Making it Easier to Obliterate Roads and Trails](#)

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) today began accepting public comment on a proposed change in regulations that would allow certain activities, including road obliteration, to be exempt from any public comment or analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The proposed rule would allow the agency to bypass normal environmental review for projects that remove, replace or modify water control structures and remove debris and sediment after natural or human-caused events including floods, hurricanes and tornadoes. The rule would also exempt road decommissioning efforts such, as stabilizing slopes, restoring vegetation, blocking the entrance to the road, installing waterbars and removing culverts.

However, the proposal would also exempt major ground disturbing activities such as completely eliminating the road bed by restoring natural contours and slopes.

"Some of the agency's recommendations make sense, but as usual, they go too far," said Brian Hawthorne, Public Lands Policy Director for BRC. Hawthorne said, "If 40 years of NEPA has taught us anything it is that noble intentions don't justify half-baked analysis. A bulldozer moving dirt is a bulldozer moving dirt. Environmental impacts don't magically disappear because the source of sediment is called a restoration project."

Visit the following link for details of the proposed action:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/06/13/2012-14284/national-environmental-policy-act-categorical-exclusions-for-soil-and-water-restoration-activities>.

**DATES:** Comments must be received in writing on or before August 13, 2012

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments online at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Submit written comments by addressing them to Restoration CE Comments, P.O. Box 4208, Logan, UT 84323, or by facsimile to (801) 397-1605. Please identify your written comments by including "Categorical Exclusions" on the cover sheet or the first page. Electronic comments are preferred. For comments sent via U.S. Postal Service, please do not submit duplicate electronic or facsimile comments. Please confine comments to the proposed rule on Categorical Exclusion for Restoration Activities.

Continued on next page

## Desert Renewable Energy Plan Development Continues

*Energy Roundtable Discussion: Infrastructure Planning, Cost & Market Implications of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan*

We have featured articles on the DRECP in past issues of the ORIA. Maps of Development Focus Areas for solar and wind power generation were made public at this meeting. One of the development scenarios shows encroachment into OHV areas established under the California Desert Conservation Act. CORVA strongly opposes any incursion by energy development into OHV areas.

Senate Bill No. 2X increases California's renewable energy portfolio standard to 33 percent of all retail electricity sales by 2020 and Executive Order # S-14-08 mandated the development of the DRECP, a major component of California's renewable energy planning efforts. The DRECP, when completed, is expected to further these objectives and provide binding, long-term endangered species permit assurances while facilitating the review and approval of renewable energy projects in the Mojave and Colorado deserts in California.

To oversee the implementation of the DRECP, a Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) was formed consisting of the California Energy Commission, California Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Others joining the team include the California Public Utilities Commission, California Independent System Operator, National Parks Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Defense.

The June DRECP stakeholder meeting contained a detailed presentation by Nature Conservancy arguing for the proposed renewable energy development zones to be closer to urban and disturbed areas. This is a three-way fight between environmental community, renewable industry, and the agencies. Also in June was a 3 1/2 hour meeting of the DRECP's Independent Science Advisors, a parallel, sister-group to the Stakeholder Committee covering all aspects of the planning process.

Lastly, below is a notice Dave Beaumont and Randy Banis received regarding the July DRECP Stakeholder meeting:

The REAT agencies need additional time to analyze and consider the thorough and helpful comments provided by many of you on the DRECP scenarios presented at our April 25-26 Stakeholder Committee meeting. The comments are helping to inform the REAT agencies' development of a range of DRECP alternatives that include, among other things, both development focus areas and reserve designs. We are postponing the July meeting from the usual 2nd Wednesday of the month until July 25th (and possibly 26th) to allow more time to develop the alternatives.

It will be interesting to hear Kern County's position on their DRECP participation since the Governor restored 66% the OHV grant funds through his budget veto.

See the DRECP website for details: [www.DRECP.org](http://www.DRECP.org).

## Rest in Peace Chuck Strange (June 18, 1950 – June 28, 2012)

By Terry Work, CORVA VP Administration

It is with a sad heart that I learned of the passing of Chuck Strange last week. For those of you who did not know him, Chuck was quite the character. I first met Chuck by way of a phone call, as he wanted to come to our Truckhaven Challenge and make sure he could race his Rolls Royce. I of course said we would really like to see him there. The night before the event, I drove Chuck and his Rolls Royce. This Rolls, however, was desert prepped! When he stepped out, everyone thought, "who is this rockstar with long hair, a goatee and purple sunglasses?" This was Chuck, unique and unforgettable. He again made sure it was okay to race his Rolls and told us he was breaking in a new engine and was there for a good time and to help keep our lands open.

And a good time it was, as Chuck and his Rolls ran the course faster than anyone on 4 wheels (so fast that he had to return to the checkpoints he kept passing). He had a great time and was an instant hit with the off road crowd.

While everything else changed with the years, Chuck remained much the same, still a racer, daredevil, and stuntman, though his hair was grayer and his Rolls was now purple with a cool airbrushing of Pinhead. Chuck was the kind of man who would never forget you if he met you, and it worked both ways as he was certainly not forgotten either, and will continue on as a fond memory for all of us. Rest in peace Chuck.



Chuck breezing through a Truckhaven wash at around 90 mph



# Managing Director's Report

by Amy Granat

## Wherever You Are, CORVA Is There For You

CORVA is working around the state to make sure you have the best representation possible to protect motorized access. We are here to educate, empower and inspire all our members to make a difference in their local communities.

This past month I have been involved in negotiations regarding travel on the Rubicon Trail. Last year El Dorado County applied for an easement from the Eldorado National Forest in order to work on various issues on the trail, from bridge construction to the installation of toilet facilities. This began a NEPA process open to public comment, and CORVA submitted comments every step of the way, including an appeal of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision which preserved our legal standing. However, this appeal process proceeded differently than most. The easement applicant, El Dorado County, asked all 8 appellants to come to an agreement concerning travel on the Rubicon that all could live with to be inserted into the final document. What we came up with was interesting – when working with opposing forces, there is occasionally room for negotiations. What still must be determined is the strength of the agreement, but if we get lucky, this may mean that work can continue on the Rubicon, which will comply with the terms of the Clean-Up and Abatement order issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board, without threat of lawsuits slowing down that progress.

CORVA has also submitted NEPA comments last month on the 007 trail reconstruction in the Sierra National Forest, a prized trail system that was not adopted during the Travel Management Plan. This trail system is in need of restoration and rerouting, and this is exactly the kind of process that affords the public the opportunity to tell the forest how they want this handled. CORVA holds “Comments Project” workshops to teach enthusiasts about NEPA and how to write substantive comments on a NEPA document for exactly these reasons, to help make a difference during local projects. Every land use plan must use NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act, so we are far better off understanding how it works than letting others get the upper hand by submitting better comments.

The bulk of my time this past month was spent working with the legislature, trying to knock some proverbial sense into politicians who neither understand nor appreciate our OHV program. Many people came up to Sacramento to help, and all our efforts together made a bit of a difference as we saw when the Governor vetoed a large part of the proposed removal from the OHV Trust Fund. But the damage was still done, and we have much work to do to shore up our SVRAs and the OHV areas in the forests and deserts of California. One casualty of our activism was Eric Lueder, former Chair of the OHV Commission, whose services were suddenly terminated after the Governor’s line-item veto was made known in the legislature. Eric had been a tireless and very effective advocate for the OHV Community, and will be greatly missed.

The summer brings many events to OHV areas all around the state, and I ask all our members to ride smart and drive carefully, following all applicable laws and regulations. The better you look out there as you enjoy your ATV, motorcycle, or 4X4, the better we all look as we strive to keep our off-road opportunities alive in California. Remember, CORVA is always here for you – ask questions, contact us, and we will strive to give you the information you need. Thanks to all of you who are members; please ask the rest of your friends and family members to become members too. This enables us to work hard on your behalf.

### **CORVA NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Here are the main projects that CORVA is involved with at this time. Please cut this form out and mail with your donation to:

**CORVA**  
1500 W. El Camino Ave. #352  
Sacramento, CA 95833-1945

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### **I AM DONATING TO:**

Legal Fund	\$ _____
Lawsuit against Forest Service	\$ _____
Reopening of Clear Creek Area	\$ _____
Funding the CA Desert Legal Bills	\$ _____
Funding work at: _____	\$ _____
Other Area: _____	\$ _____
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### *Honoring America*

The “Pursuit of Happiness” ingrained in American history is also being misinterpreted in the hallways of our Capitol. During the same revolutionary time period when the above words were written into our Declaration of Independence, so perfectly underscoring the needs of our newly formed country, roads most closely resembled the trails we now use for off-road recreation. Hunting with hounds was a tradition enjoyed by our forefathers, which in its very essence has continued unchanged till today. While driving in our Jeeps and other multi-terrain vehicles, we honor the memories of the soldiers who brought the concept of off-roading home to the States after serving in World War II and the Korean War. With our volunteerism and environmental activism leading the way to conserve and protect areas around the state, we preserve these traditions for next generations to come.

Now that these traditional values and activities conflict with the liberal demagoguery rampant in our state government, those arguing against our activities and way of life are holding sway. A demagogue can be defined as a leader who makes use of popular prejudices and false claims and promises in order to gain power, which perfectly explains the actions taking place in our legislature. Day after day I have the honor of representing off-road recreational and motorized access in the halls of our Capitol in Sacramento, seeking to win new allies in our seemingly everlasting battle. This year we have had two bills that created particular difficulties for our off-road communities: AB1221 - the bill to ban hunting bear and bobcat with hounds, and the Sustainable Parks Proposal authored by Senators Simitian and Evans.

The Sustainable Parks Proposal sought to give money with no restrictions or accountability to State Parks, presumably to keep open parks otherwise slated for closure. In other words, they wanted to severely maim the OHV Division of State Parks in order to benefit a different department of State Parks, one that has shown little regard and even less respect to OHV recreation and the myriad of jobs and funds we bring to the state. Through misinformation expounded daily on the radio and TV, and written in newspapers around the state, the above-named Senators positioned themselves as saviors of the State Parks program, all the while denying and rudely dismissing all evidence that their actions would gravely hurt the OHV Division of State Parks and the Local Assistance and Grant Program. Ironically after the budget was signed, Californians found out that no parks would be closed at all, even those previously listed. Part of this was accomplished through new public-private partnerships and individual volunteerism, which already exists throughout the off-road community. We found out the hard way that this highly touted closure emergency was really a man-made attention-grabbing headline, whose devastating effects will be long-lasting to OHV parks and areas throughout the state. In contrast our fiscal emergency is very real.

AB1221 attacked the very nature of rural life, and will affect families and livelihoods in many forest communities. By preying on the emotions of the public, The Humane Society of the United States is pushing a bill through the legislature that is flawed in many aspects. The bill incorrectly represents everything from the conditions of hounds and bears, the law-abiding nature of those who engage in hound hunting, and the humanity of all those who disagree with their bill. All issues regarding hunting and fishing are correctly dealt with and debated through the Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Game Commission. Instead, the authors of this bill correctly assessed the possibility that in those venues the bill would be judged on its merits and face fierce resistance when found to be wanting. They chose instead to exploit demagoguery. In talking with numerous legislative members scheduled to vote on the bill in committee, many professed ignorance regarding the merits of the bill, and listened with interest when shown fallacies in the arguments distributed to the public by the authors.

But when it came to votes on both the above issues, most legislative members turned a blind eye to the truths presented and voted as dictated by their respective parties, with the majority party leading the way. There is something very wrong with this scenario, as it represents government for government’s own benefit, not government for the citizens’ benefit. This lack of representation runs counter to the very freedoms celebrated on July 4th. In California we find ourselves burdened with taxation, but without appropriate and adequate representation, the same problem that led directly to the American Revolution. The majority party does not see it as their responsibility to understand our issues, and the problem escalates as individual legislators are unable to break free from the mandates of their political parties. All too often, career politicians fear their party will not give them the support they need come next election if they step out of the proverbial party lines.

“Can you imagine what we could do, if we would do all we can?” A slight rewording of the quote at the top brings the question back to each and every one of us, asking us to imagine what we could accomplish together. Separately, we represent a very small proportion of the citizenry of California, but together we combine to become many, many more. I propose that this is the time to bring together all those that celebrate traditional American values and activities under the umbrella of CORVA. Together, working with the California Off-Road Vehicle Association, we can show the legislature the millions of us who value the outdoors and the environment. Contact me at [amy.granat@corva.org](mailto:amy.granat@corva.org) and together we will plan our return to honoring America!

### [Letters to the Editor](#)

*The following letter is an important heads up written by CORVA member Steve Rouchleau to inform off roaders about a problem in the desert. It is followed by a response written by Terry Work, CORVA VP Administration.*

Well my friends, the demographics of the desert are changing.

On May 12th (Mother's Day Weekend) at Boone Rd. in Johnson Valley, between the hours of 2 and 5am, every group of campers was hit by thieves. They were specifically targeting gas cans and riding gear that were left outside and not locked up. Judging by what little evidence they left behind, they park a vehicle and walk into camps in order to avoid waking anyone.

An officer from the Victor Valley Sheriff's Department told us that "tweakers" watch camps from a distance with night vision, moving in when they feel it is safe to do so. The officer recommended keeping EVERYTHING either inside your camper or tent with you, or locked up outside. At the first sign of foul play call the sheriffs and try not to compromise any evidence (footprints, anything tampered with that wasn't taken). And one more thing, you probably should not try to confront the "tweakers", for your own safety. If you can get a description, plate number, or the even the direction they went, do so cautiously. See you on the trails

-Steve Rouchleau

Steve,

I too had a recent stay at Johnson Valley and while I had a great time and did not experience the issues that you mentioned, I am concerned about the safety in Johnson Valley and have addressed this with the BLM. I will report back in the ORIA when I have more information.

-Terry

### [4Wheel Truck Fest](#)

By Wayne Ford - CORVA Clubs

4Wheel Parts held its annual sales event at the Ontario Convention Center on June 9th and 10th this year, and CORVA was there to witness the spectacular event.

There were around 20,000 square feet of product booths and demonstration areas run by all companies that distribute through 4Wheel Parts. Most items were roughly 10-30% off retail prices, and better deals went to those who haggled with management. 4Wheel Parts is doing well this year, a good sign that our economy is improving, as people are more likely to spend money on off roading in good economic times.

CORVA did well at this show, signing up 59 new members to assist us with land use issues. A special thanks goes out to Harry and Helen Baker for setting up the booth on Friday. We would also like to thank Linda Wucherpennig, (her first show as VP of Sales & Marketing), Clayton Miller, and our President Jim Woods.. I would also like to thank our new members. If you have any troubles with your membership, or you would like CORVA to attend your event or club meeting, contact me at: [wayne.ford@corva.org](mailto:wayne.ford@corva.org).



## Waywegos 36th Annual Kids Run - 2012

By Panamint Paul



The Waywegos 4x4 Club hosted its 36th Annual Kids run on June 9, 2012. The Waywegos is a Southern California based off road club that meets in Pasadena. Each year it takes a group of special needs children from the Lawrence L. Frank Center of Ability First on a local off road trip into the forest. The trip is followed by a picnic with entertainment. There were 39 participants this year.

With the cooperation of the City of Glendale Parks and Recreation Dept, the trip was in the Verdugo Hills and took participants to an experimental forest where the children helped water baby trees.

The Jeep trip was followed by a picnic at Brookside Park in Pasadena, where the children had their pictures taken dressed up as firefighters. We enjoyed a delicious BBQ, participated in games and arts and crafts, and enjoyed meeting a costumed clown named after "Tigger", the Disney character.

The kids loved riding in the Jeeps and greatly enjoyed the activities as well as the role modeling of our club members. This is a great opportunity to give back to the community and an example of off roaders supporting their communities through philanthropic efforts. The smile you see all day long on their faces is the biggest reward a person may receive.



## Waywegos, a New CORVA Club!

By Wayne Ford, CORVA Clubs



The Waywegos are located in Pasadena and meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the L.L.Frank Center at 7:30pm. The doors of the center were locked the night we arrived, and we quickly contemplated having a meeting on the front lawn, but thankfully a staff member of the center came to our rescue and opened the facility for the club.

The club meeting was very well organized and run by President John Wucherpfenning. The agenda includes all of the normal items such as new business and old business, but the agenda item we liked the most was the land use report. Linda Wucherpfenning gave the report the night we attended, and it was refreshing to hear how well informed everyone in this club is, as a result of this monthly report.

Clayton Miller and I attended the club's June meeting and spoke about the benefits of becoming a CORVA Club. Clayton went first with an update on land use issues, and I followed with club benefits.

This club is very active, including holding a disabled children Jeep run every year, which allows children with mild to severe disabilities to ride to the Verdugo Hills area. The run ends at Brookside Park, where the kids enjoy many activities and lunch. Harry Baker, a club member for many years, has the "Hat" to prove that this year was his 36th year doing this event.

We are very proud to have the Waywegos as a CORVA club. They not only signed up for the \$300 club membership, but EACH member kicked in the extra \$30 to become an individual member. The Waywegos openly challenge all other clubs to do the same! Whether you live in the Pasadena area or not, consider joining this club and becoming a part of its long established history of trail runs and good deeds for the community. If you are looking for a club, contact me at [wayne.ford@corva.org](mailto:wayne.ford@corva.org).

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**Proposed California UTV Legislation AB 1595**

By Steve Kuehl

CORVA has learned in the past month or so of a new legislative proposal affecting UTV's like the Yamaha Rhino, Polaris Ranger, Arctic Cat, and Wildcat. The proposed legislation was authored by Assembly Member Cook and sponsored/supported by the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association ("ROHVA") and Kawasaki Motors Corporation. The bill started out on February 06, 2012 as a proposal regarding sales taxes and related items. The proposal was gutted and amended on March 29th in an Assembly committee to much of what the bill now provides. Since that time, the bill has had some minor amendments but has passed the Assembly 71 to 0 and the Senate 36 to 0. CORVA expects that by the time you read this, the bill will be on the Governor's desk for his signature and then Chaptered into law. Listed below are some notable parts of the bill.

"This bill would define an off-highway motor vehicle to include a recreational off-highway vehicle, as defined. The bill would establish additional requirements governing the operation of a recreational off-highway vehicle." In short, this bill will amend Section 500 of the Vehicle Code to define what a "Recreational off-highway vehicle" is. This section is more for a clear understanding especially for the Department of Motor Vehicles in the registration process.

More important for motorized recreationists is the adding to Chapter 8, commencing with Section 38600 to Division 16.5 of the Vehicle Code. This part of the bill is included below.

38600. A person operating a recreational off-highway vehicle shall be at least 16 years of age, or be directly supervised in the vehicle by a parent or guardian or by an adult authorized by the parent or guardian.

38601. A person shall not operate, or allow a passenger in, a recreational off-highway vehicle unless the person and the passenger are wearing safety helmets meeting the requirements established for motorcycles and motorized bicycles pursuant to Section 27802.

38602. A person operating, and any passenger in, a recreational off-highway vehicle shall wear a seatbelt and shoulder belt or safety harness that is properly fastened when the vehicle is in motion.

38603. A person operating a recreational off-highway vehicle shall not allow a passenger to occupy a separate seat location not designed and provided by the manufacturer for a passenger.

38604. A person operating a recreational off-highway vehicle shall not ride with a passenger, unless the passenger, while seated upright with his or her back against the seatback with both feet flat on the floorboard, can grasp the occupant handhold with the seatbelt and shoulder belt or safety harness properly fastened."

CORVA is providing this information as a service to the motorized recreation community. CORVA has not taken a position on this legislative proposal.

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10/6-7 Off Road Expo at Pomona Fairplex, visit [www.offroadexpo.com](http://www.offroadexpo.com) for details.

10/20 Southern Jamboree at Johnson Valley OHV Area (see ad on page 5)

10/26-28 Northern Jamboree at Frank Raines OHV Park Patterson, CA.

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