CALIFORNIA OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

Volume 26 Issue 7 March 2014



OFF-ROADERS IN ACTION

OHV Community Comes Together, Showing Allegiance to Carnegie SVRA

By CORVA Northern Board

On Monday evening February 10th, a large group of OHV enthusiasts came together to show their support for Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area at the Livermore City Council meeting. As members of the City Council had previously been presented with misinformation regarding OHV use at the park, this was an opportunity for enthusiasts to present a united front and defend off-highway recreation at Carnegie SVRA. Thanks to the work of Dave Duffin and Friends of Carnegie, over 200 off-highway enthusiasts and supporters of Carnegie came to present truthful and heartfelt testimony to the City Council in a respectful and informative manner.

For a number of years Carnegie has been under attack by a small but vocal group seeking to take away something very dear to the OHV community: access to their SVRA. Highlighting nonacceptance of OHV enthusiasts and painting an unflattering picture of OHV recreation, the opponents of Carnegie SVRA have been traveling around to cities, towns and counties closest to the park to spread their small-minded thinking. Yet at each and every opportunity the OHV community has been fighting back, showing up in force to present the truth to all who will listen.

Your Northern Board of Directors of CORVA was there in force, supporting all those who came by handing out orange



Livermore City Council Meeting (Courtesy of Dave Duffin)

stickers that stated "I Support Carnegie SVRA and I Vote". These stickers were designed to send a clear message to the City Council that OHV enthusiasts are involved in the political process, and will vote for those politicians who show support for them. The power of CORVA orange is as clear as our message: CORVA will defend access to our public lands for the people, not from the people.

The Courage to Save OHV Roads, Trails, and Areas

By Amy Granat, CORVA Managing Director

As a representative and advocate for OHV recreation and motorized access, many times I'll find myself meeting with people who have wild misperceptions and misconceptions about OHV recreation and off-roaders in general. Every time someone remarks that I don't look like an off-roader, they're assuming that off-roaders have a particular look that distinguishes them as a group. Or perhaps it's believed we have a

certain style of dress that labels us as "off-roaders" in the eyes of others. However the remark is rationalized, it remains an untoward comment with no basis in reality. It takes courage to look these people in the eye, all the while maintaining a professional demeanor, and let the ignorance inherent in the remark remain unanswered. (Continued on page 11)

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









Performance Centers

sand Oaks. CA

INTERSTATE BATTERIES

EVENT INFO

www.corva.org

WHERE: Hungry Valley SVRA-Gorman, Ca

Registration at Honey Valley Campground, Follow signs from either entrance.

Registration 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday 3-22-14

WHEN: Saturday, March 22nd, 2014

Rider meeting 9:30 a.m. at Honey Valley Campground. Poker Run starts at 10:00 a.m. Cutoff starting course

2:00 p.m. Games at check points on Poker Run Dog Show 4:00 p.m. Dinner 5:00 p.m.

Awards, Raffle and Camp Fire following dinner

hot dogs will be available for lunch

WHAT: CORVA FAMILY FUN- POKER RUN (5 cards per hand)

CORVA members: \$20.00 1st hand and registration Non-members \$30.00 Extra cards \$5 each

Dinner: \$10.00 Raffle & 50/50 Tickets \$1.00

HHW: POKER RUN-BEST 5 CARD HAND WINS

Games- Highest total points wins 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Place Prizes Awarded

WHY: FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!! SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF CORVA

Contact Jim Woods 805-526-4122

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, and snowmobiles.

We work with land managers for responsible off-highway vehicular access and recreation opportunities. Secondarily, 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 and OSV 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 as well as at the county and local levels. 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 <u>for</u> the people, not <u>from</u> the people."

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Harry Baker

There has been some confusion as to what exactly is the status of the Ocotillo Wells lawsuit. First just to clarify the most basic confusion, there absolutely is a lawsuit underway, P.E.E.R. filed suit in Sacramento court against the Department of Parks and Recreation seeking to close much of Ocotillo Wells SVRA to OHV use. CORVA contacted an attorney who specializes in these kinds of actions and with whom we have worked in the past on OHV land use issues. When the Department of Parks and Recreation responded to the lawsuit with their reply which is known as a "demurrer" our attorney discussed some additional points that might be included in the state's response. The deputy attorney general who is defending DPR in this lawsuit invited CORVA to join in the suit as an intervener. Our attorney applied to the court to intervene and the court granted us permission to become a party to the lawsuit as an intervener. CORVA then filed our own demurrer in support of the Department's arguments and added some additional points as discussed with the state's attorney.

The judge ruled in favor of the state in late December but gave P.E.E.R. an opportunity to refile their petition if they had any other points to cite. In December P.E.E.R. did refile, and CORVA responded by filing a new demurrer with the court which was followed shortly thereafter by the state's demurrer. CORVA's attorney continues to work closely with the state attorney in developing arguments and strategy. A new hearing on the matter has been set for next May 9th. CORVA will continue to monitor and report on the outcome and any changes in this matter. As of today, CORVA is the only court approved intervener in this case but we have heard that at least one local government entity with an interest in the outcome has considered becoming formally involved as have other OHV recreation interests. If anyone has a burning desire to inspect all the legal mumbo jumbo on this case directly from the source, it is publicly available on the court website at:

https://services.saccourt.ca.gov/publicdms/Search.aspx Case No: 34-2013-80001495

There are many concerns and major questions about the Marine takeover of Johnson Valley that will need to be resolved. How will the shared use area be managed by the BLM when the Marines are not using the land? When will the shared use land be closed by the Marines for their training and how will the public be notified? What will the safety procedures be during the closure? What effect will the year round training on the newly acquired Exclusive Military Use Area (EMUA) have on the users of the remaining OHV area? What will be the impact to the surrounding communities? And, if permitted, how will future events affect casual off roading at Cougar Buttes and Anderson Dry Lake? A

Resource Management Group (RMG) will soon be established by the BLM and the USMC. The RMG's role is to inform the public of the land use changes, solicit input from relevant State agencies, private OHV interest groups, event managers, environmental advocacy groups and others relating to the management and facilitation of recreational use in the shared use area. The above definition is from the FAQ's available at:

http://www.29palms.marines.mil/Staff/G4InstallationandLogistics/LandAcquisition.aspx

It is not only Southern California that has land use issues. Recently both Carnegie and Hollister SVRA's came under attack by the Sierra Club. CORVA is fortunate to have strong advocates throughout the state who are ready to defend the public's right to access public lands and dedicated to protecting our lands for the people, not from the people.

I hope all of you are planning to attend CORVA's Family Fun Day at the Hungry Valley SVRA on March 22nd. This one day event, about an hour drive north of Los Angeles, will feature a Poker Run with trails from mild to wild for all vehicles. In addition, CORVA will host its very popular dog show, a tri-tip BBQ, a fantastic raffle, movies and more! The event will be held at the new Honey Valley group camp on Gold Hill Road in Hungry Valley. During permitted events, this is an exclusive use area with built in BBQ's, tables, an amphitheater, ramadas and bathrooms. It is located about 3 miles north of Aliklik, (our traditional area) and it can be reached from Smokey Bear Road (gravel) on the South or Gorman Road (paved) on the North. There's plenty of room for camping too, so come early, stay late and enjoy!

2014 has already shown that nothing is static in the off road world, as new opportunities and challenges abound. CORVA will continue to support public lands for public use by whatever means necessary, legal, legislative, on dirt and off. We will be involved and active and we hope that you will join with us to ensure our mission is accomplished.

As always, I encourage you to follow our website and our Facebook page for the latest updates; there's always something new happening. If you want to have CORVA board members speak to your group or attend your event, please let me know.

Thank you all, CORVA appreciates your support, your activism, your enthusiasm and your friendship.

WHEN DOES YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRE?

Look on your mailing label to find out.

ESCARABAJO

35th Annual Off Road Rally



Escarabajo Off Road Club & East Bay Hi-Tailers present

"35 and STAYIN ALIVE"

CALIFORNIA

FRANK RAINES PARK April 5, 2014

REGISTER NOW!

- Fill out the form below and mail it in with a check payable to "Escarabajo Off Road Club".
- If you are registering more than one vehicle, please make a copy of this form and mail it in together with your check.
- ·Pre-Registration must be received by Friday, March 28th!

Address:	
City State Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Vehicle Class:	Class A Buggles Class B 4x4 / Bodied Vehicles Class C M/C Class D ATVs
Club Affiliation?:	

REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT!

Green Sticker / Registration Required 4x4's/Baja's/Buggies - Metal Roof or Roll Bar Quad's/MC's - Helmet, Spark Arrestor Suggested Items: First Aid Kit, Tow Strap, Spare Tire, Fire Extinguisher

Friday Night Bingo

Saturday Night Spaghetti Dinner - \$8.00

Saturday Night Raffle

Awards Ceremony Following Dinner

Saturday Rally Pricing:

Per Vehicle: \$20.00

Kids (15 and under) on ATVs/MC: **\$10.00**

Rally Adults	x \$20.00 =	\$
	x \$10.00 =	\$
(15 and under on A	TVs & MC)	

Mail completed form(s) with your check to: Escarabajo Off Road Club c/o Ralph Warbingtom 3131 Gloria Terrace Lafayette, CA 94549

Registration will also be available at the event at Frank Raines Park Registration includes in route snacks.

Event located at: Frank Raines Park 16001 Del Puerto Canyon Rd Patterson, CA 95363

Visit our websites at: www.EscarabajoOffRoadClub.com www.ebht.com

Email: EscarabajoBuggyClub@gmail.com Email: More_Info_Please@ebht.org

Registration#_	
Paid Ck #	
For Officia	I Use Only

CORVA Land Use Resources and Public Policy Report

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

Land Use: Summary

BLM Announces Release of Record of Decision on Clear Creek Management Area

Appeal period ends March 12

195 miles of route closed, 86.5 miles to remain open with travel in some areas limited to highway licensed vehicles and ATV/UTV's; Serpentine ACEC to be open by permit only. (More details on next page)



BLM Plans Keyesville Area Recreation Public Workshop

The Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management will host a public workshop Wednesday, Feb. 26, in Lake Isabella to solicit community input on management of public lands in the Keyesville area. The workshop will be held from 7 to 9 pm at the Kern River Valley Branch of the Kern County Library, 7054 Lake Isabella Blvd. (More details on next page)

Johnson Valley

OHV recreation in Johnson Valley will continue under the National Defense Authorization Act. The Marine Corps Twenty Nine Palms Base will expand into an Exclusive Military Use Area of approximately 97,000 acres with OHV

use allowed in a 53,000 acre Shared Use Area 10 months out of the year. OHV use may occur year round in the remaining 44,000 acre congressionally designated Johnson Valley OHV Area. (More details on next page)

Southern California Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision Released

Objection period ends March 18

Forest Service officials today announced the release of the Record of Decision selecting Alternative 2a for a Proposed Amendment to the Land Management Plans for the four Southern California National Forests (the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres, and San Bernardino). This announcement begins the 60-day protest period during which individuals and organizations that submitted substantive comments may protest the decision.

Pacific Legal Foundation Legal Action Update

Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) recently filed a Travel Management lawsuit against Tahoe National Forest. PLF is now considering similar litigation against the Plumas National Forest.

Public Meetings Announced for Sequoia, Sierra and Inyo National Forest Plan Revisions

The Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests will be the first to revise their land management plans using the new National Forest System Planning Rule, completed in 2012. The "Need to Change" document will drive how the Forest Service revises its management plans.

Recreation Groups Cheer 9th Circuit Victory

Recreation groups are thrilled by a just-released Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision upholding the validity of the Custer National Forest's Beartooth Ranger District Travel Management Plan. So what does this have to do with OHV recreation in California? This Decision sets an important precedent regarding "minimization criteria".

"The Forest Service interprets the TMR's minimization criteria as "objectives that the agency must evaluate in designating trails and areas, rather than required outcomes. We need not resolve this dispute, as we conclude that the Forest Service met its obligations."

Help CORVA Fight For You! Donate on Page 13.

Land Use: Full Report

BLM Announces Release of Record of Decision on Clear Creek Management Area

After many delays the Hollister Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management released the Record of Decision and Final Resource Management Plan – Environmental Impact Statement (RMP-EIS) for the Clear Creek Management Area. The Record of Decision was originally planned for release May-June 2011. This is the latest event in the long saga of Clear Creek which was "temporarily" closed in May, 2008.

- The RMP-EIS follows the Proposed Action/Preferred Alternative released previously.
- The "Red Zone" or Serpentine ACEC would be open by permit only to highway licensed vehicles, and use limited to 5 days/year for motorized activities on Level 3 or 4 roads only.
- In the Tucker, Condon and Cantua areas travel would be limited to designated routes only with highway licensed vehicles or ATV/UTV's.
- See table for exact mileage open and closed.

Route Designation Table

Management Zone Route Designation (Miles)

- Serpentine ACEC Open = 32; Closed = 195; Administrative = 88
- Condon Open = 24.5; Closed = 0
- Tucker Open = 30*; Closed = 0
- Cantua Open = 30*; Closed = 0
- San Benito River Open = 0; Closed = 0
- TOTAL: Open = 86.5*; Closed = 195

(*) Based on approval of Travel Management Plans outlined in TRANS-E3. Opening these routes will require additional planning.

The BLM has three principal levels of land use planning decisions: the RMP level, the activity level, and the site-specific level. This RMP focuses on broad resource objectives and direction while providing some activity-level guidance and site-specific decisions. The protest review for the RMP EIS was conducted last year and did not result in any significant changes to the Proposed Action analyzed in the Final EIS.

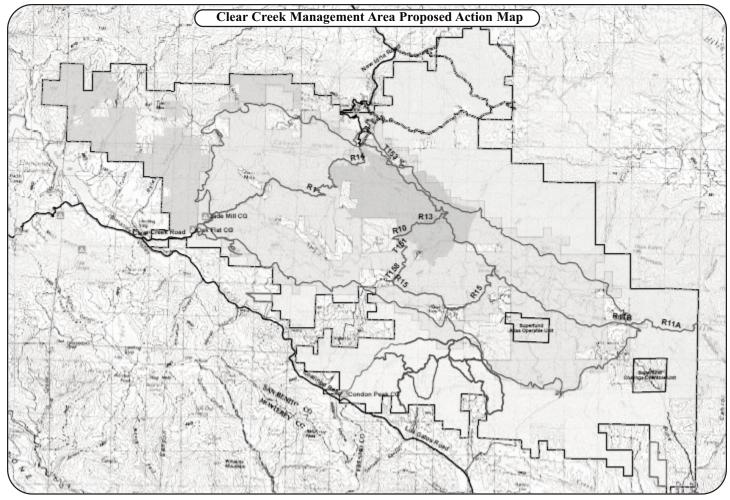
For Clear Creek, RMP level planning decisions are no longer appealable, however implementation level decisions may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

The land use decisions outlined in the Approved RMP are not appealable to the Interior Board of Land Appeals. All protests on the CCMA Proposed RMP and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) have been resolved, and the decision of the BLM Director is the final decision of the Department of the Interior (43 CFR 1610.5-2).

The decisions outlined in Record of Decision – Resource Management Plan, Section II(B), that implement the Clear Creek Management Area Approved RMP, are appealable to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Appealable implementation decisions include:

- Manage CCMA public lands as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).
- Limit visitor use in the Serpentine ACEC to one halfhour before sunrise to one half-hour after sunset (i.e. day use only), except at Jade Mill Campground.
- Improve access and enhance facilities (i.e. routes, trails, designated camp sites, staging areas, etc.) to support nonmotorized recreation opportunities at destinations with unique biological, natural and geologic features within CCMA.
- Provide motorized access on designated routes in the Serpentine ACEC for highway-licensed vehicles only.
- Authorize motorized access in the Serpentine ACEC by permits only, and limit visitor use to 5 days/year for motorized activities. Limit use for non-motorized activities to 12 days/year.
- Manage the Tucker and Cantua Zones with an emphasis on enhancing hunting opportunity and providing access for other non-motorized recreation opportunities.
- Improve access and enhance facilities (i.e. trails, designated camp sites, staging areas) to support non-motorized recreation opportunities in the Cantua Zone.
- Acquire public access to BLM lands in the Tucker and Cantua Zones. Improve access for motorized vehicles to Condon Peak.
- Provide a limited number of recreation facilities in the Tucker, Condon, and Cantua zones to meet increased recreation demand while protecting natural and cultural values and providing for public safety.
- Continue outreach and education program to create public and visitor awareness of human health risks from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers in CCMA.
- Provide recreation information such as maps, brochures, and educational opportunities to enhance visitors' experience on BLM public lands. Incorporate the best available information concerning: asbestos health hazards, OHV use designations, fire prevention, BLM regulations, and natural resources of the area into educational materials and on all maps, brochures, and kiosks.
- Cooperate with adjacent private landowners on land management activities to the extent possible.
- Maintain existing visitor use facilities outside the Serpentine ACEC, and mitigate human health risk from asbestos emissions inside the Serpentine ACEC through evaluation of dust suppression or surface hardening techniques. (Continued on next page)



The following land use planning decisions are non appealable. These were addressed in the RMP-EIS:

- Prohibit special recreation permits for organized events in the Serpentine ACEC.
- Designate the Serpentine ACEC as a "Limited" vehicle use area.
- The Limited Use area designation shall be defined as restricting motorized use to a concise network of designated routes providing access to key points within the area as a scenic touring route.
- Manage the Condon Zone with an emphasis on enhancing hunting opportunity and other non-motorized recreation opportunities, while providing for limited motorized opportunities.
- Authorize access into the ACEC for scientific studies, research, and education for accredited institutions and for individuals on a case-by-case basis. Access authorizations would stipulate health and safety mitigation measures, as appropriate.
- Enforce temporary closures year-round to protect persons, property, and public lands and resources, especially during periods of extreme wet conditions and during periods of extreme dry conditions.

CORVA retains standing to file an appeal and is analyzing the document at this time.

BLM Plans Keyesville Area Recreation Public Workshop

The Bakersfield Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management will host a public workshop Wednesday, Feb. 26, in Lake Isabella to solicit community input on management of public lands in the Keyesville area. The workshop will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Kern River Valley Branch of the Kern County Library, 7054 Lake Isabella Blvd.

Keyesville embraces the lower Kern River west of Highway 155 and receives high levels of use. The planning area encompasses over 7,000 acres of public land, extending north past Sawmill Road to Highway 155 above Wofford Heights. With a rich history dating back to the discovery of gold in the late 1800's, Keyesville continues to host a diversity of activities today. Gold mining has been joined by whitewater boating, camping, mountain biking, off-highway vehicle use and a variety of other activities.

The BLM is seeking the help of the local community to develop specific management direction for the area. Specifically, the BLM wishes to solicit input from everyone with an interest in Keyesville regarding concerns they may have and opportunities they feel should be explored in order to help guide management direction for the area. (Cont. on next pg)

"We're asking the public, starting with the residents of the Kern River Valley, to provide their thoughts on how Keyesville should be managed," said Gabriel Garcia, Bakersfield Field Office manager. "We're looking for input on how to manage the various activities in Keyesville so that conflicts are minimized, resources are protected and visitors have a positive experience. Decisions will address what facilities are needed, such as parking and trails. We believe that an effective partnership between BLM and the local community could transform Keyesville into a showcase for the valley."

The workshop will include a short overview of the planning area, as well as a discussion of the management direction within the Proposed Bakersfield Resource Management Plan. These presentations will be followed by a session in which participants can identify noteworthy resource values, ongoing challenges to effective management, and opportunities for future management. Feedback from the workshop will be used to identify potential solutions and specific management direction. Additional meetings will be scheduled in order plan how Keyesville can be managed in partnership with the community.

For further information on the public workshop, contact Steve Larson at (661) 391-6099, email: slarson@blm.gov, or write to: Bakersfield Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield CA 93308.



Johnson Valley Update

Johnson Valley is a 180,000 acre expanse of desert between Yucca valley and Barstow. It is the largest off-highway vehicle area in the United States, drawing about 200,000 visitors annually and pumping an estimated \$71 million a year into the local economy.

Under the law passed by Congress late last year, 99,870 acres will remain part of the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area and be overseen by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. That includes 56,000 acres of land to be borrowed by the Marine Corps up to twice a year for a total of 60 days.

The base expansion will cover 88,130 acres once reserved for off-roading. That is a little less than half of the 168,000 acres originally eyed by the military for simulated battle training in

which Marines approach a single target from three different corridors.

ADVERTISE IN THE OFF-ROADERS IN ACTION

Advertising Rates

	<u>3mo</u>	<u>6mo</u>	<u>12mo</u>
Full Page (7 1/2" x 9 1/2")	\$480	\$870	\$1,560
1/2 Page (7 1/2" x 4 3/4")	\$270	\$480	\$860
1/3 Page (7 1/2" x 3 1/4")	\$195	\$375	\$625
1/4 Page (3 3/4" x 4 3/4")	\$165	\$300	\$540
Business Card (3 5/8" x 2")	\$90	\$162	\$264

For more information contact us at: 800-42-CORVA Or send an email to: advertising@corva.org.

We need you to help CORVA make a difference. Show your support and advertise in the newsletter.

The BLM will have shared management of the 56,000 acres also used by the Marines twice a year. On the shared land, the Marines will not be able to use explosives that might not detonate immediately, creating a danger for off-roaders who might use the area. The prohibition includes projectiles larger than .50 calibers. The BLM will grant a use permit for the planned exercises, and an explosive ordnance device team will go through and make sure the area is cleaned up.

Under an earlier military proposal, only 20,000 acres of the off-road play area would have remained open to the public year-round. The off-road community would have lost access to an area known as the Hammers, boulder fields that serve as the main attraction for the King of the Hammers, a 182-mile off-road race that takes place every February and draws about 35,000 people.

The final deal includes the front and back side of the Hammers, Spooners, Aftershock, Sunbonnet, the Riffle Monument and The Rockpile, a memorial to the eight people killed at the Cal 200 off-road race in 2010. The public also will have access to most of the Fry Mountains and all of Soggy Dry Lake and Emerson Dry Lake.

Transfer of the 88,000 acres to the Marine Corps begins immediately, but the military will have to purchase private land holdings in the expansion area, officials said.

The compromise pushed by Rep. Paul Cook, R-Yucca Valley, was approved as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

"After years in which off-roaders have lived in fear of the closure of Johnson Valley, this permanently ends the threat of base expansion into off-road areas," said Cook, a former Marine colonel who was stationed at the Twentynine Palms base.

Managing Director's Report

By Amy Granat (Article By Diana Mead, CORVA Northern Director)

Every month I write a Managing Director's report that attempts to explain who we are as CORVA, and the unfailing dedication we have to keeping public land open to motorized access. This month I am giving the space for my report in the ORIA to a letter written by Diana Mead, CORVA Northern Director, in response to a very important question asked by one of our members. Which organization should I look towards for leadership?

"You have asked, with humor, which organization to look to for leadership in regards to the Clear Creek decision. I hear a bigger question and it is past time for those of us in advocacy positions to give you a clear answer. I have two paths to travel on the this answer. The first is the high road.

You must look to every and any advocate with feet on the ground next to you, because together you are the stakeholders. Any group or foundation that tells you they can do it without you, and just asks for access to your pocket book, is taking you to the bank. They write some informative newsletters, are fun people to know and you get to rub elbows with power-brokers (who put their pants on the same way that you do, one leg at a time). You will read about the progress of your cause in the depths of a lengthy online report and you can be sure they'll give you a call when they have good news. These advocates have their benefits. They are well connected, they are good guys, most understand your plight and they very likely have some stake in your cause, the proverbial, "skin in the game."

What they seem to be lacking, is the sense of community that we need to build each time there is a new fight. Our governmental design in NEPA of submitting comments is skewed two ways, you have to know the system AND have a genuine comment to make. Give CORVA one comment from an actual stakeholder who has been coached by CORVA how to comment vs. 1,000 internet generated letters of protest and I guarantee you that single voice that will be heard when the 1,000 protest letters may not. I cannot guarantee you victory, but I can promise you that each time we lose, CORVA will be crying with you. In other words, your group must take the lead and it is our job, (CORVA, AMA, BRC, etc) to give you the tools you need to fight. It's also our job to attend meetings, rally the troops, speak when it is helpful, coach and work with every other organization that can bring something to your table. We have the responsibility to grow your voice, make that one comment 50, then 100, then 1,000.

Hopefully, you are now wondering, "if that was the high road, what can she say to the other options?"

You can throw your voices and your funds behind the self proclaimed leader(s). CORVA will not fault you for doing so, because unlike some other leaders, we know your stakes are as high as they can be and you have to try everything to win. Losing is unthinkable, I know this isn't news to you. If you go

with the group who is accustomed to leading and collecting your membership fees and has the higher/national profile, you will not lose CORVA as your advocate. There is no real downside to letting BRC and AMA be your leadership. At least not as far as CORVA is concerned. Your loss is really in not identifying yourselves as your leadership and the rest of us advisors at worst and facilitators at best.

The off highway advocacy leadership, has a problem you see. We all need membership, both for funding and to represent voters, because votes equate to political power. Our true adversaries don't have the same problem. They seem to have no issues in coming together to fund a lawsuit wherever and whenever they find one. It doesn't cost them a thing. Even losing costs them very little. They dust themselves off and move from Carnegie SVRA to Ocotillo Wells and a new group of stakeholders. They leave us despondent and at a loss, our village gone. Eventually we find a new place to play and pray we don't have to do it all again.

There are two ways to sell. The first is the hard sell, "I've got a great product, see how well it has worked. It only costs this amount, and I'll be your new best friend."

The second is a relationship sale. "Can we help you solve a problem?" Relationship salespeople get invites to the party. They don't tell the hosts who to invite because they are the consummate guests and masters at etiquette. The key is, they don't forget who the party hosts are.

CORVA is staffed by volunteers, people like you who simply are fed up with losing access to the places we love. We have only one organization paid employee, and she makes much less than minimum wage when her hours are factored in. We don't play golf and don't get to attend high profile motorsports events for free. We are wheelers, quad riders, motorcycle enthusiasts and we go further, much further. If you use a trail in California and value that access, we value your voice, rock hounds, hunters, the disabled, etc. We are of all political persuasions. We tend to be fairly well educated and have learned valuable lessons each time we win or lose a fight. The most valuable lesson of all that we have learned is that what we have in common is much more important than where we differ. Leveraging and respecting these differences give our community unbelievable power, the kind of power that wins wars, if not every battle.

I for one appreciate your asking the question. I hope you will come to understand that just like Dorothy, the answer is with you and the team we all should help you build. And if I haven't embarrassed a few people by now, they have more in common with our adversaries than I knew. I do not apologize; the stakes are too high. By the way, my family supports BRC (through our club) AMA and CORVA. Last I checked I didn't have to choose."

Ed Barbarino Wins Big at CORVA Truckhaven Challenge

By Amy Granat, CORVA Managing Director

Thanks to CORVA's sponsor Napier Outdoors, Ed Barbarino is the proud new owner of a Napier Backroadz tent that was raffled off at the CORVA Truckhaven Challenge.



For those who may be unfamiliar with their product, Napier has created a tent that attaches to the back of your vehicle, making it a boon to off-roaders and back-country explorers alike. The tent is compact and lightweight, and because you can always have it at the ready in your vehicle, it offers a myriad of possibilities for impromptu trips to your favorite area or trail.

As an avid off-roader and camper, Ed is very pleased with the Napier Backroadz tent and says he plans to use the tent on trips he takes with his family. Ed says the Backroadz tent "Fits into my off-road style, because of the short trips I like to take with my brother, and the tent is much more convenient than taking a trailer or RV. I can also see myself going out to the desert for a one night trip and using this tent, instead of hauling around the RV. Basically, it's something we can use a lot." CORVA congratulates Ed and thanks Napier for their continued support.

Please join CORVA at our upcoming Family Fun Days in Hungry Valley SVRA to help CORVA keep OHV roads, trails and areas open to everyone!

The Courage to Save OHV Roads, Trails, and Areas

It also takes courage as a community to reflect on tactics or ideas that we've used in the past, and move on from comfortable but ineffective positions to embrace new and different methodologies in order to protect motorized access. We only have to acknowledge how much freedom we had in the past in California to travel off-road compared to the mostly designated system we currently enjoy to realize how much has changed. In response to this acknowledgement CORVA has moved away from the previously accepted norm, because it doesn't work! Old thinking will not retain opportunities to travel off-road in this new age. We're advocating thinking and acting using offensive strategies. Recognizing that action is always better than inaction, CORVA moved quickly when the time was right to defend the rights of off-roaders to crosscountry travel in Ocotillo Wells SVRA. Currently CORVA is seeking other opportunities to strike in defense of the rights of off-roaders and protect motorized access.

One of the definitions of courage given by the Merriam-Webster dictionary is: "[having the] mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty." As off-roaders we purposely choose routes or activities that contain inherent difficulties. Somehow we find the mental and physical strength necessary to traverse almost any obstacle. By analyzing what lies before us, whether a rock-crawling course or a race course, and developing a plan we can then move on to safely and efficiently conquer that

obstacle. Yet when faced with difficulties that threaten our continued motorized access, we often neglect to use the same skills. Instead we react with anger and dismay, when we should be reacting with careful skill and analysis. Emotion may serve to carry you through the battle, but it won't help us win the war. Book smarts, skill and savvy will instead carry the day for us and help retain our motorized access, and this is exactly what CORVA has discovered. Hyperbole may run rampant, but it never takes the place of a competent attorney!

Courage can also be defined by looking at the actions of CORVA. Being the state-wide organization representing and advocating for all forms of motorized access isn't easy, and it's not for the faint of heart. Many of the meetings we attend contain thinly veiled attempts by organizations opposed to OHV recreation on public land to close everything to motorized recreation. The pull to react by expressing indignation is very strong, yet the need to remain professional to analyze then thwart these attempts remains paramount. CORVA's representatives have mastered these techniques, and through this expression of quiet strength have gained the respect of federal and state agencies. We are the first organization turned to many times when problems arise, problems that we then work together to solve. Have the courage to stand up for off-road recreation by having the courage to stand with CORVA!

CORVA LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

By Bob Ham

On February 21st of this year, State Senator Jean Fuller introduced a bill to help preserve OHV access in the Johnson Valley area that was the subject of a 6 year long tug of war between off road recreation interests and the Marine Corps. After Congress agreed to a compromise that resulted in the loss of some of the Johnson Valley OHV area to the Marine Corps base at 29 Palms, Senator Fuller introduced a bill (SB 1289) that would transfer certain state lands that are

currently under control of the State Lands Commission to the OHV Division of the State Parks Department. CORVA is supporting this bill in hopes that OHV access within the congressionally designated Johnson Valley OHV area will extend to all lands within the area whether owned by the state or managed by the BLM. We will continue to provide updates to CORVA members as the this bill proceeds through the legislative process.





Off Road Park in Littlerock

The plan for an off road park in Littlerock continues to move forward. There have been several articles about the park, which would be the first of it's kind in LA County, in previous ORIAs. There is a continuing need for letters of support, as opponents have kept up the negative, although not factual, comments, about the park's location. Letters of support need to be sent to Supervisor Mike Antonovich c/o Robert Ettleman at rettleman@parks.lacounty.goy.

El Mirage Training Course

The UTV technical training course at El Mirage is a huge success. The Grand Opening was held on February 8th and many dignitaries from the State, County and BLM praised Rose Beardshear for her efforts in developing this park. The course will continue to grow, with future plans to include a full sized 4X4 technical course.

Contribute to the ORIA!
Submit a"Letter to the Editor" to:
editor@corva.org



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:

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To donate to help CORVA protect access to public lands, please see the ad at the bottom page 12. Thank You

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Poker Run to Support Beatty, Nevada VFW Post and Local Mining Heritage

By Karl Olson

The John Strozzi VFW Post 12108, in conjunction with the Town of Beatty Nevada is hosting the first annual Bullfrog Historical Mining District Poker run to be held on Saturday, May 3rd, 2014.

The purpose of the event is two-fold. The first reason is to raise money in order to the restore the exterior, especially the steeple and bell, of the historical church that was moved from Rhyolite to Beatty and now houses the VFW Post. The second is to raise awareness of the Historical importance of the "Last Great Mining Boom" in America and the part Beatty, Rhyolite, Bullfrog and the surrounding areas played in the event. Over the years Beatty has been a "boom or bust" town and in the opinions of many, including myself, tourism, especially highlighting geology, mining, and history, are going to be the salvation and preservation of the area.

As members of CORVA you are well aware that organizations, usually from cities that have no relationship to the area, are attempting to turn the West back into the myth of untrammeled wilderness and wipe out our historical heritage.

It is our hope that events such as this, really focusing on history and the importance of its preservation will stem the tide and keep Beatty and the surrounding areas of Gold Point and Goldfield open for responsible exploration into the past for generations to come.

The course is 41 miles long, consisting of mostly class two and three roads featuring the history, pre-history, and geology of the Bullfrog Historical Mining District. The course was designed for 4X4 vehicles and UTV's. Sorry but no dirt bikes



VFW Post in Beatty, Nevada

or two wheel drive vehicles are allowed, and all registered drivers must be eighteen years of age or older. The registration fee is \$25 per vehicle, which includes one poker hand and one BBQ dinner Saturday night after the event is over. The cost of the BBQ for all others is \$10 dollars per person.

For further information concerning the run go to: www.beattynv.info, www.beattynevada.org, or call the Strozzi VFW Post at 775-553-9313, or myself Karl Olson at 253-736-4273. Come for the whole weekend. There is plenty to explore in the area and many locals who are willing to share good routes for folks who have never been there before.

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CORVA CALENDAR

March:

3/22 Family Fun Day – Hungry

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April:

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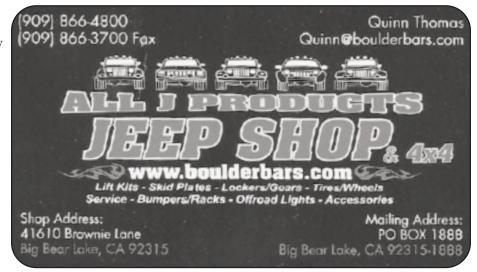
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May:

5/17 CORVA Annual Meeting

June:

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On-Going Meetings

Friends of El Mirage (<u>www.elmirage.org</u>): 2nd Wednesday

Friends of Jawbone (<u>www.jawbone.org</u>): 3rd Wednesday

CORVA Board Conference Call: 4th Monday

FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT THE CORVA WEB SITE

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