

# Horsing Around

The Voice of the Early Bronco Registry

## EDITOR'S "BS" (Bronco Stuff)

Steve Sampson, Editor

We have two fun things for you this issue; the release of the official 40th Anniversary DVD and a different kind of a report on the Arizona Classic Bronco (ACB) annual Stampede. Let me cover the 40th DVD information here.

If you had the opportunity to attend our 40th ANNIVERSARY special event, "An Evening with the Legends" (Todd Zuercher – Chairman), you already know that the magic of having all these Bronco racing legends on the stage at one time, joking with and about each other, was truly a once-in-a-

lifetime event. (As we said then, "Never before - Never again!") Luckily, with the considerable help of Rob Wilson of the ACB, we were able to

capture that magic on digital video and create professional DVD's. Even better, you will also have hundreds of photos arranged in slide shows of both east and west coast Bronco events during the 40th.

It is available now in the eStore at [www.earlybronco.com](http://www.earlybronco.com) for \$19.99 plus shipping and handling. (EBR members receive an automatic 10% discount if you log in first.) This DVD has got to be one of your very special Bronco collectable items!



## ACB Stampede or Bust... or "Some Kinda' Weekend!"

The annual ACB Stampede is one of the great Bronco events of the year. The Arizona desert has a special beauty and the ACB boys know where the good trails are, so this year we had a large contingent of folks that drove over from southern California to bask and relax in the sun. As it turned out, we did little basking or relaxing. This is not a story about the Stampede so much as a report about trying to get there and back.

Jim and Glenrose Covey and Bob Arthur and Karen Gray had decided to leave Wednesday, a day early, to take their time driving to the Stampede. The rest of the group consisting of Gary & Linda Gayda, Steve & Eileen Sampson, Rob Smithson, Jeff Law, Rick Barnes and Christie, Brandon Stoll, John and Norma Watson and Mike Shetler were driving straight through on Thursday.



Blowing sand erased the roads in front of us.

**THURSDAY** - The convoy left heading east with the forecast of possible rain in front of us. Passing through Yuma we were punched hard by 50-60 mph side winds that made the roads disappear in the blowing dust. Trying to keep our RVs with Broncos in tow in the right lane was a reasonable challenge. The first causality of the trip happened when Rob Smithson's RV awning unrolled and acted like it was a sail. We saved the awning with the scientific use of an old twisted radio antenna found along the road. After 200 miles the wind

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Dedicated to the  
preservation and  
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was replaced by rain and we struggled into Florence AZ late at night only to find up to two feet of water on the roads and parking lots. We had no desire to venture into the desert in



**Driving in the dark through water up to two feet deep damped our desire to proceed.**

these conditions, parked in a shopping center parking lot, and gave up for the night.

Another Bronco leaving from Victorville had little better luck. John Watson reports leaving Barstow after work Thursday night to drive his Dodge truck, camper, trailer and Bronco to Stampede. "It started raining part way there and along about midnight I decided to stop at a road side rest for some sleep as I was in no big hurry to get to Florence. I accidentally left the parking lights on and in the morning the truck batteries were too low to start the engine. The helper battery wasn't much better so I took the Bronco off the trailer and jump-started the Dodge. Luckily, I brought my jumper cables."

**FRIDAY** – On a cloudy and wet morning we found the turn-off into the desert and the Stampede.



**Arizona Classic Bronco signs guided us along several miles of dirt road to the Stampede HQ.**

Washouts were minor and we got into camp and set up, then the rains started again. The ACB boys properly decided that rain and desert washes don't play well together and cancelled the runs for the day. We all retreated to our tents and campers to wait for the clouds to pass. Eileen Sampson discovered she left critical medicines back in San Diego. Either



**You don't normally think of the desert as wet and waterlogged, but it was.**

they got delivered to the Stampede or an urgent return trip was going to be essential. Some phone calls arranged for a UPS Saturday AM delivery to Todd Zuercher in Phoenix, and then he would drive them out.

**SATURDAY** – Weather looked hopeful so runs staged, but the UPS deliv-



**The group gathers in the morning to determine if Mother Nature will let us play.**

ery had failed so the Sampson's packed up and rolled out of camp. Just as they passed the HQ, Todd phoned to say he finally tracked down the UPS package and he was on his way with the life-saving medicines. On the trail, Smithson (of bro-



**Todd Zuercher with his newly AOD equipped, medical delivery Bronco.**



**The Stampede runs were well-planned and laid out on topo maps.**

ken awning fame) had his track bar separate, hence no steering at all. With the amazing help of Jeff Law and his Link Arc 110v alternator and Makita cut-off saw, the damaged track bar was cut, treads cleaned up, reinstalled, and the run continued to the Coke ovens. He looked a little funny with his driver's side tire about 12" outside his wheel well and the



**Smithson's Bronco back in camp with the front axle offset way to the left.**

passenger front tire inside the same 12", but it was mobile again. On the way out, John Watson loaned his tow strap to winch the Bronco II up a steep rocky shelf. (He never got it



**The famous coke ovens – large enough to live in - are a great destination.**



**The Stampede HQ and raffle display was rain protected and the center of attention.**



**If you thought a roll bar was only intended to protect you in your Bronco, you have never seen the youngsters use one as a jungle gym.**





Three of major Bronco Vendors showed up to support the Arizona Classic Broncos Stampede (Wild Child, James Duff and BC Broncos).

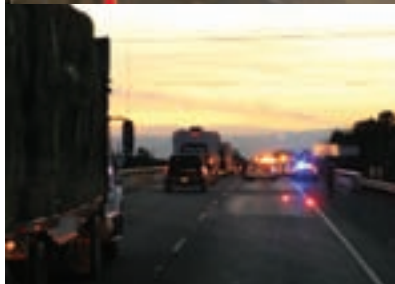


back. Anyone out there have it?) This run was now several hours late, but with the help of long distance Ham Radios, dinners were saved and the raffle stalled so all could participate.

**SUNDAY** – The group bound for San Diego was the first to leave and traveled well until entering California at the Glamis sand dunes where the freeway came to a full stop in both



How often can you set up a picnic on an interstate highway?



The highways were filled with vehicle litter.

directions for two hours while emergency vehicles dealt with a fatal accident. 100 miles farther, in El Centro, the road was closed again when a truck drove off an overpass. This group finally arrived home around midnight with one RV suffering from a rod knock.

The day didn't go well for John & Norma Watson either. They traveled 3.5 miles down the dirt road to pavement, shifted their diesel Dodge out of 4 low range, heard a "CLUNK" and rolled to the side of the road. (John suspected a transfer case but it turned out to be a broken tranny output shaft.) AAA was called but wouldn't cover this big rig. Bob Arthur, a fellow Broncoholic, has a tow truck converted to a camper/carrier for his Bronco, and another great friend, Jim Covey came out and towed the complete rig into the



Arthur's tow-truck camper loads a broken Bronco.

Coolidge Wal-Mart some 20 miles away. John decided to drive the Bronco back home and leave the Dodge/camper/trailer there, but by the time he got to Quartzite it was clear that driving home with 5.13 gears wasn't going to work. Going back to Wal-Mart he called a friend in Las Vegas, Mark Miere, who dropped everything and brought his truck and huge work trailer, big enough to handle both the Dodge minus the camper (too high) and the Bronco. Another friend, Brian, borrowed his Dad's truck to come from Victorville get the camper.

Now let's put the Watson story on hold and switch you to the Bob Arthur/Karen Gray report: They get a Sunday AM call that John Watson has broken down and needs to be towed to Coolidge where he will make arrangements to get his camper, truck, Bronco and trailer home. They move out to help, and a few hours later we are back in camp for a relaxing day – until the phone rings again. Ring - ring – "Hello? Bob? It's Steve Suhr. My Bronco has broken down 30 miles off I-60", and soon Bob and Jim are off again to collect Steve and deliver that Bronco to the growing collection at Wal-Mart.

**MONDAY** – Arthur's pack up and start for NM. John Watson calls and is still at Wal-Mart. [Photo #16. There is a total Monster Garage scene in the parking lot. Friends from Victorville and Las Vegas have come to help.] More cussing and discussing and it was decided that Mark would take Watson's Dodge and Bronco to Victorville and Brian would take the camper. Bob would take the trailer with him to New Mexico and then back to San Diego. In the meantime, Steve is trying unsuccessfully to replace the broken alternator bolts and belts in the Bronco. Needless to say, the Coolidge Wal-Mart has never seen so much action.

Bob offers to tow the Watson trailer and the Suhr's Bronco to New Mexico, and all is well they think. After approximately 10 miles, Jim's trailer has a blow out! Another 20 miles and a passing driver points out that the ramp on the trailer has come loose.

They said it couldn't be done but everyone finally got home to San Diego, Victorville and Las Cruces. Thus endeth the "Stampede or Bust" story! Thanks to the Arthur's, Sampson's, Smithson and Watson's for sharing their pain and photos! 🍷



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