

Horsing Around

The Voice of the Early Bronco Registry

EDITOR'S "BS" (Bronco Stuff)

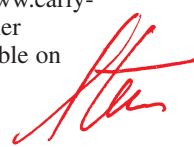
Steve Sampson, Editor

Whew!! This issue wraps up reports on our two big annual events; Fabulous Fords Forever and Bronco Daze. Read about Bronco Daze below. See the Fab Fords report elsewhere in this issue.

Both of these events are staffed by members of the Early Bronco's Ltd (oldest Early Bronco club in the country) and hard working EBR members from around the San Diego and Los Angeles areas. We work hard during the spring so that when the summer starts we can pack up all our event supplies and just

go play. In just a few weeks, a bunch of us will be pushing our Broncos over the 13,000 foot passes of the San Juan Mountains in southwest Colorado. Stand by for stories!

Remember - The very special DVD with on-stage interviews of the Bronco racing legends is available now at the eStore at www.early-bronco.com! Every Bronco owner would enjoy having this collectable on their shelf. See the web site for more details, and more Bronco specialty items for sale.



Bronco Daze 2007 A "Hot" Event... in More Ways Than One

Bronco Daze was off and running at a new location for 2007. Located at the West end of Borrego Springs Ca. is the Palm Canyon Resort. This new location was certainly the most "all inclusive" location we have sponsored an event at in quite some time. The Palm Canyon Resort includes a hotel, RV Park (with full hook ups), restaurant, pool, and an air conditioned (no lie--we needed this) meeting building for Bronco Central and vendor raffle prize displays. Gary and Linda Gayda chaired Bronco Daze for 2007, and everyone appreciated their hard work and leadership. If you have ever put on a large Bronco event, you know that it takes skill, cunning and daring to pull it all together. Gary and Linda report that we had 74 Broncos registered, with over 150 people from Montana, Washington, California, Arizona, & Texas.



The Early Broncos Ltd (EBL) members arrived a day early to set up registration, map out runs and get comfortable with the facility. Mike, the owner of the Palm Canyon Resort (also a hard-core Bronco owner) made us feel welcome and opened the doors to just about anything we needed to make the event a success.

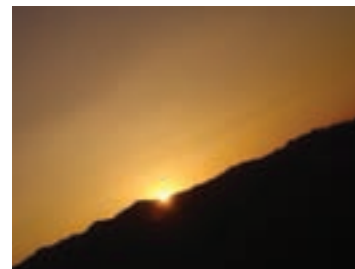
AND NOW . . . THE REST OF THE STORY

Getting to the event this year was (as usual) a challenge with stories all their own. Mike, the owner, started his trip from his home in San Diego to the Resort with Bronco in tow. The Bronco seemed to not enjoy being in towed mode and promptly disconnected from the Truck, then ramming the tailgate in

an effort to pass Mike and get to the Resort before him. Bob Arthur, not to outdo Mike, made the whole trip in his "Totter Home" rig (a converted tilt-bed tow truck with a camper on the bed) with one Bronco strapped on the flat bed and his other Bronco in tow behind. Bob's towed Bronco also got tired of looking at the back end of the stinky Diesel and preceded to break the hitch off the tow rig. It almost passed them as they arrived into Borrego Springs "Christmas Tree Circle". These Broncos just seem to have a mind of their own!

The weather was also a challenge for the weekend.

Desert weather is always up for grabs what with possible winds, rain, heat or cold, it



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Arizona Classic Broncos
Deep South Early Bronco Club
Early Broncos Ltd
Mid-Atlantic Early Broncos
Midwest Vintage Broncos



Early Bronco Registry
Dedicated to the
preservation and
enjoyment of the 1966-77
"Early" Ford Bronco

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never is quite predictable. This year's event was no different. Last weekend's weather had clouds, rain and even SNOW in the mountains above Borrego Springs. This event weekend changed 180 degrees. The heat and sun ruled for the weekend. Most temperatures hovered in the upper 90's to 115 degrees and more.

March 27th's run left with Joe Monroe as trail leader. After a brisk run in the Borrego desert, you found Joe wedged in a tight draw with the winch cables in heavy use. After almost turning over on its side, Joe's rig was righted and every one returned without other reported problems. Joe injured his hand in the mishap and the Bronco was dripping tranny fluid out the bell housing in steady amounts.

March 28th was the big day. All runs left Palm Canyon resort at or around the 9 am.

Hard Run: Bob Robinson led the hard run out to Pinion Mountain including the "The Squeeze" and "Heart Attack Hill". Some of the rigs had a tough time negotiating the Squeeze and came out with a little road rash on their bodies. Pushing, pulling and prodding brought all the rigs back to the campground in one piece.

Medium Run: I led the medium run with 29 rigs. This turned out to be the majority of trail Broncos for Saturdays runs. The weather was quite warm (high 80's) at 9am, but not too bad to manage such a large group to our first stop. The run took us to the "Calcite Mines" then to the "Borrego Badlands" for some mud hill action and notches. By the time we all arrived at the Calcite mine turn-off and aired down, the heat and sun were starting to really bake us. Continuing the lengthy climb to the mines in hot, stale air, marginal rigs overheated to the point that several Broncos elected to return to camp instead of continuing to the Mud Hills. The heat certainly did not let up when leaving the Calcite area, and was over 100 degrees when we entered the Badlands on the desert floor. Even though we 4-wheeled a portion of the mud hills, it was all too apparent that the heat and breakdowns would win out for the day. Countless overheating, defective distributors, blown tires, vapor locks, electrical failures, drive shaft failures plagued us throughout the run. With the temperatures climbing to around 114 degrees we all decided to pack it up and push, tow, and prod the Broncos back to camp. In recent

years I have never seen SO many combined failures and breakdowns for any one run. To compound matters I was now towing Don Woods Bronco due to a serious vapor lock. We returned to camp with Bob Arthur bursting a radiator hose (point to Bob, Electrical tape will not fix a hose burst). After nearly 15 gallons of water from every source imaginable (everything from cooler water, bottled water, and borrowed water), Bob and I kept trading lead spots in an effort to see which one of us made it back to camp first. Bob finally won when my Bronco gave up the ghost at one mile to the campground. It seems that my normally bullet-proof Bronco didn't like the 114 degree weather and towing another 5000 lbs at the same time.

Now that the damage was done, here is the approx. tally of the carnage: 7 vapor locks, 1 distributor & coil, 1 tire, 1 driveshaft, 6 to 9 boil-overs, 1 fuel pump, 2 electrical failures, 2 radiator hose failures, 3 tow ins. Lots of "De-fueling". Lots of "Re-fueling". Lots of "De-watering". Lots of "Re-watering." Can you guess which Bronco got five miles to the gallon of "WATER" ????

Easy Run: Steve Sampson led a frisky group of Broncoholics on a

scenic run to the 4,000 foot mountains and vistas of the Borrego Springs area. Although the high elevation temperatures were still 105 degrees, the only problem was one temporary vapor lock. Steve (sporting a brand new Explorer 5.0 motor) did a great job at Ham radio communications in and from the scenic run. Steve was able to talk to me some 10 – 15 miles away with crystal clear reception. Gotta love those Ham radios !!!!

The Saturday night raffle went off about 200 Bronco folks resting in the warm evening and with thousands of dollars of prizes for everyone to win. Karen Gray (Raffle Chairman) did all the Master of Ceremony work. All the Early Broncos Ltd. attending club members chipped in to

make the even a smooth running and well oiled machine. Thanks to the loyal vendors who provided these expensive raffle prizes. Without them, this event like others would not be as successful as it is. Chuck Atkinson at BC Broncos supplied a complete rear disk brake kit for the grand prize. Thank you to the following vendors and their representatives:

James Duff Enterprises:

Rob Smithson

BC Broncos:

Chuck, Debbie, Jason

Wild Horses

Toms Bronco Parts

American Broncos:

Scott

Driven Auto:

Randy's first visit to a So Cal event. I don't think it's his last!

Thanks Randy, Tiffany and crew.

Many other vendors that deserve our support for this event. Thank you all!

A special thanks to Roxanne Schorbach, Ralph and Buster for great pictures of the medium run.

Rob Smithson

EBR # 1760

Medium Run Chairman



