

Horsing Around

The Voice of the Early Bronco Registry

EDITOR'S "BS" (Bronco Stuff)

Steve Sampson, Editor

Get your calendar out and mark these event dates now. We have made big adjustments to our major EBR Bronco activities;

Fabulous Fords Forever, Bronco Daze and

BroncoFest. Here is the new plan.

Bronco Daze (now combined with BroncoFest) has been moved from the spring to mid-October every year. This year will be October 19-20, 2007, two weeks before the Las Vegas SEMA show. HQ will be in Borrego Spring, CA at the Palm Canyon Resort - with luxurious facilities for all. We will have some serious magazine coverage for this event, so wash your Broncos! (OK, OK, or you can go get it really muddy!)

Fabulous Fords Forever (which we support as a major Bronco gathering) will remain in April each year with the dates set by Ford. The next FFF is Sunday, April 20, 2008 at Knott's Berry Farm.

Borrego Bake will remain as always - a mid-August night run and swim. If you like the moon and want to test your Bronco's cooling

system, this is your golden opportunity!

The advantage of this schedule is that we de-conflict Bronco Daze from a growing number of other Bronco events that happen during the spring (we don't have a spring in So Cal), and we provide a major fun Bronco event about every half-year, as well as a rare mid-summer time to play. I guess all we have missed is a winter event. What is winter anyway?

But "Wait!" you cry! "Didn't we already have a Bronco Daze in 2007?" Yes, we did. But we also hold our BroncoFest in October, so we are kicking off the new schedule by renaming BroncoFest to Bronco Daze and combining them. We will start this year to get in-the-groove. Besides, what's wrong with having fun twice? Check www.earlybronco.com for all the details.



40th Anniversary Coast-to-Coast

Did you get your 40th Anniversary Coast-to-Coast decal? We have now mailed or handed out the official Coast-to-Coast decal to everyone listed in the log books of folks that carried the Coast-to-Coast flag around the USA and Canada. If you were one of the 214 hard working Bronco people that helped create this piece of history and you haven't received your decal, email or call us. If you already have one but would like a second decal or replacement, send us \$10 and your mailing address and another will come your way.

What happened during the Coast-to-Coast activities? Here are some statistics. During 2006, Bronco folks crossed the United States several times, touching 28 states and four providences of Canada. The C2C flag was carried to all major Early Bronco events



including Fabulous Fords Forever, the EBR's 40th ANNIVERSARY on the west coast, All Fords Nationals and the MEB East Coast 40th, EBR Free-4-All V, the ACB Stampede, Bronco Driver's Ford Super Celebration, So Cal Broncos Big Bear Bronco Bash, Son 'O Beach X, the Puget Sound Anniversary Event, EBR's Borrego Bake and BroncoFest, Oklahoma Classic Broncos, Ford's Arizona Proving Ground open house and Ford's international headquarters in

Dearborn, MI. If we missed any that you know of, please let us know.

Oh, and don't forget that the 40th ANNIVERSARY activities are documented in a wonderful DVD available in the EBR eStore. Do you have yours yet?



EBR MEMBER BUSINESSES:

BC Broncos
Bronco Parts
James Duff Enterprises
Jeff's Bronco Graveyard
LMC Truck
Kentrol
Tom's Bronco Parts
Wild Horses, Inc

EBR MEMBER CLUBS:

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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Bradshaw Trail

How often can you use your Bronco to retrace a piece of American history, much as it was done 100 years ago? We had that opportunity recently by following a little known stage and wagon trail from the gold mines of western Arizona to southern California – the Bradshaw Trail. We found it waiting for us one cool morning in the So Cal desert. You start below sea level on the east side of the Salton Sea, and you need to know exactly where to look or you can wander around aimlessly for hours, right Gary & Linda?

But once you “pick up the scent”, you have about an 80 mile trip climbing to 2500 feet then descending back to 300 feet at the Colorado River. You pass aqueducts, restricted bombing ranges, WWII tank tracks of General Patton fame, abandoned mines for gold, silver and opals, eagle nests, a prison, train trestle, charcoal kiln’s, mountains, springs, dud bombs, and you relive the hardworking life of wagon trains when this trip took a harsh week, not a pleasant day.

In 1858, gold was discovered in western Arizona near the Colorado River. Within a few years the town of La Paz, AZ flourished along the Colorado across from the modern town of Blythe, CA. It is estimated that at least \$250 million in gold (today’s dollars) was harvested from the area by the end of the 1800’s. But even if you were in La Paz standing on top of your personal mountain of gold, you had two major problems; temperatures that approached 130 degrees, and no way to get your gold to someone with money to buy it. The Bradshaw Trail was all about connecting your gold with money.

William David Bradshaw was an experienced miner and western guide. The Bradshaw Mountains in Arizona (NW of Phoenix) are named after him, and he had moved on to California in 1846. The existing trails, from La Paz to Los Angeles, were the arteries flowing La Paz gold to money, but they had long hard climbs and angry Indians, so in 1862 Bradshaw and a party of nine set out to find a better route. On the way, Bradshaw made a fortunate connection near today’s Salton Sea with a friendly Cahuilla Indian Chief and an Indian mail runner from Arizona. These men provided Bradshaw with a map of an ancient Indian trade route, complete with the locations of springs and water holes. The Bradshaw trail was born.

Bradshaw’s Trail went on to be a major passage for the stages and freight wagons of the day – an early interstate highway. One of the better known stage drivers over this trail was a young Wyatt Earp. Ancestors of Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater where frequent freighters on the trail. We followed in their steps. Today the gold is gone, the town of La Paz remains only in the form of a few overgrown foundations, the 130 degree weather is alive and well, and the Bradshaw trail is a mostly graded dirt road. If you want more information, we highly recommend the book “Gold Road to La Paz” by Delmer Ross. 🍷



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MILITARY RESERVATION
NO TRESPASSING
DANGEROUS EXPLOSIVES
LASER HAZARD AREA
PELIGRO
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NO TRASPASAR
EXPLOSIVOS PELIGROSOS
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