

Chapter Reports

Gold Coast Cruisers

We do not do four seasons here, we have only two: wet and not wet. In most years, it rains not a drop from early April until late November. Then the wet comes and we average about 15" over five months. Rarely do we have rain on more than 20 days during these five months. This year our counties, Ventura and Santa Barbara, got a good rain in mid-October, so the fire threat is gone, the roads are open, the cooling fog returns, the trees in the mountains think it is time to turn their leaves colorful, the dry, golden grasses green right on up and, most importantly, we get out and about in our rigs. The clear air and beauty can grab you—it does me, for sure.



The club elected officers for 2010 at our November meeting. Dave Thomas will be president, Joey Lux will remain vice president, Bike Bins will manage the money, Wally Boggess will keep records as secretary, Ben Lawley will do recruiting and Adam Caldwell will be the TLCA rep.

The surf at Pismo Dunes called in the form of the annual Surf n' Turf event in mid-November. After the sand fun, Cliff Linder headed up through the SLO County back roads past Lopez Lake and up the back side to Pozo and then through the Carrizo Plain on Soda Lake road. Not tough 4x4 driving but a beautiful trip this time of year.

Happy New Year

Bob Phinney

Gold Coast Cruisers have made several trips to the always available BC-109. What is BC-109? It is our name for a river wash that crosses Lockwood Canyon road about five miles northeast of Highway 33. The miles-long wash and adjacent area is always open for 4x4 play. Mike and Nancy Carter, Wally Boggess, Ben Lawley, Dave Thomas and some friends in six rigs went over and around the Mohave Road. These trails follow old pioneer trails through the desert from the Colorado River to I-15. Geoff Faneros abandoned his FJC some and did part of the trail on his mountain bike—reportedly hot, hard work but worth it. Ben broke nothing. Dave, with the dual transfer case, found some areas in which to play at night.

Dave, Ben and Mike went back to the desert and ran Doran and Odessa trails out in Calico, north of Barstow. Ben dented a couple of things. The guys found a three-wheel Rubicon awaiting Jeep-evac.

Bayou State Land Cruiser Association

The past several months have been filled with plenty of time on the trails as well as continuing our tradition of giving back to the community. The second half of the year started with what has become an annual tradition of a July 4th Camping Trip for BSLCA families. The long weekend at Sicily Island, LA, was filled with plenty of wheeling, fireworks and great food. Most importantly, it was a chance to spend time with family and friends while celebrating our freedoms.

The other major trip during the second half of the year was once again enjoying the wonderful event put on by the CottonLand Cruisers at the Southern Cruiser Crawl. The Chapter was once again well represented

by a variety of rigs including 40s, 80s, 4Runners, trucks and the Chapter's first Truggy. Overall about 15 of us made the trip and had a great adventure. As with many events, there is a "Carnage Award" given out at the end of the event, and this event was no exception. Ironically, this year's award was given to the entire Chapter based on some carnage on the trails, but more importantly because of the suffering caused when the entire camp was practically washed away in a flash flood on the first night. Ultimately the gear dried out and the rigs got fixed, but the memories of another trip will last forever.

While time is winding down on the year, there aren't a lot of rides planned, but we are beginning to once again get more involved in our philanthropic goals. This is the time of year when the Toyotas-For-Tots Campaign gets in full swing. For the third year, we are working in conjunction with the United States Marine Corps and their Toys-For-Tots Campaign to assist in raising money and toys for children that may not otherwise get to enjoy this Holiday Season. Even in the current economy, the members of the Chapter have already dedicated more time and effort than in previous years. We wish to again thank our Chapter Sponsors, Musson-Patout Toyota and Region's Bank for making so much of what we do possible. I know I speak for the whole Chapter when I say that I look forward to reporting back on this year's Toyotas-For-Tots Campaign. I hope everyone in the TLCA family has a safe and happy holiday season.

Eric Anderson

