

**DECEMBER 28, 1989
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
BACKROAD EXPLORERS**

You are probably wondering why you haven't received any correspondence from the BACKROAD EXPLORERS COMMITTEE. The BRE was suspended November 2, 1989 by the Executive Committee in the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club (Ex Com). The efforts of the BRE Officers to have this suspension lifted have, so far, been unsuccessful.

A September 22, 1989 directive from the Ex Com instructed the BRE to print a statement to the effect that the BACKROAD EXPLORERS ROUTE PRESERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS represent the work and opinions of only one individual. A letter from the BRE was sent to the Ex Com in October attempting to resolve this misunderstanding. It had no effect. I don't understand how the Ex Com can suspend us for declining to print a statement they know is not true.

The idea for a route recommendation list was put forth at the October 20, 1988 Backroad Explorer General Meeting where a motion was made and carried that the Conservation Chair form a committee to work on getting information to help with the Desert Bill. There was a lot of membership input to the list at the March 5, 1989 BRE General Meeting. A majority of the BRE Officers presented the list to the Ex Com at the July 20, 1989 regular Ex Com meeting. The list was the BRE attempt to have some constructive input into the Desert Bill and was accepted as such by the Ex Com at that time.

More recently there have been accusations that a few people have testified at the field hearings on HR780 as representatives of the Backroad Explorers and the Sierra Club. Let me assure you that the BRE members who were fortunate enough to testify were clearly speaking as individuals and not as BRE or Sierra Club representatives. One exception was Elden Hughes, who claimed to represent all of us.

The issue, as I see it, is that the BRE is expected to be supportive of the Desert Bill without being allowed any input into it.

The officers of the BRE unanimously want the BRE to remain part of the Sierra Club. I feel our goal was, and is, to have constructive input into the Desert Bill and become supportive of it. If allowed to, the BRE could become a powerful tool for conservation and a real asset to the Sierra Club.

This letter was written solely by me and sent out at my own personal expense. It does not officially represent the BRE in any way. I do look forward to the BRE being allowed to resume its activities.

See you on the desert,

Bob

ZZYZX FUN WEEKEND

Our trip to ZZYZX January 27-28, 1990 will be run as a private trip. Through Anne Duffield we have arranged for 2 nights lodging (Fri and Sat) at ZZYZX Desert Studies Consortium for BRE and/or EMRARP members. Dennis Casebier, Chairman of the Friends of the Mojave Road, is planning to join us and he knows ZZYZX better than anyone. We plan to spend the days exploring the area in our 4WD's and have a pot luck dinner Sat night at ZZYZX. The wood burning stove there will make the evenings warm and cozy.

You are responsible for your vehicle, food (including a dish to share for the Sat night pot luck) and bedding. You are also totally responsible for yourself. We'll meet at the Consortium Friday evening. It's about 3 hours from L.A. Please try and arrive before 10 PM. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Reservation deadline is January 6. Pets are not allowed at the Consortium. All vehicles should have CB's. We will use channel 16. For more information call Anne Duffield (619) 251-3320 or me, Bob Jaussaud (714) 244-3892. Make checks out to and send reservations to:

Bob Jaussaud
P.O. Box 6269
Canyon Lake, Calif, 92380