

Adventurers! Follow me on... **MG's 4wd check-ride!**



Today (Monday) was windy/cold, and it was snowing in the mountains outside the kitchen window... Snow-level approx 4,000' ...



Thinking... Should we head-out for Randsburg? We saw a...



...rainbow! A good sign! Heading out for Randsburg via sandstorm...



Then south on the powerline road...



...then east over the RR right-of-way...



North on dirt-route EP-21 (wind howling, yet not dusty)...



MG is operating in the **El Paso** wilderness area, hence "EP". We must stay on a "designated route" which is EP-21. The route toughens...



...and we must go through the far mountains. Beautiful colors...



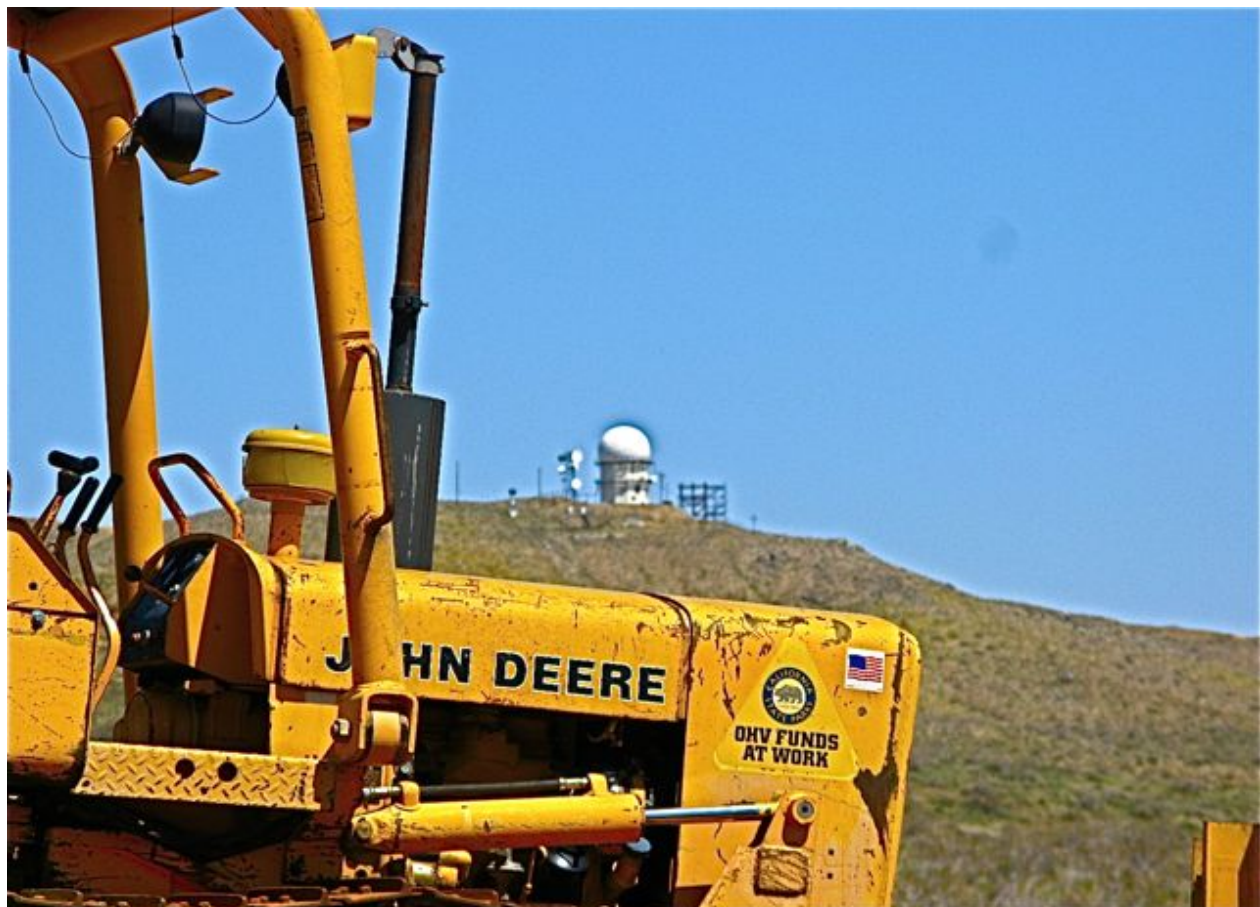
...with mucho yellow...



Below... The mountains and sky/clouds were awesome :-)
Looking east (we are headed south)...



We passed road-graders (tax \$ at work) and an LAX control-radar...



Then south along a sandy road...



...and into a high-canyon with Randsburg on the far horizon...





The above dry lake is 8 miles away, just before Jawbone OHV area... We made it! The Randsburg soda-fountain & store...



Randsburg an "authentic old-west mining town"...



Terrific people, and not-at-all a "tourist town". The local crowd...



MG and I split a burger (yum!)...



...but not our chocolate milkshakes...



Real antiques everywhere...



Departing Randsburg (windy/freezing!) past the old gold mines...



...where I suffered (recall "windy/freezing") to get MG "One more shot!" of the history...



Heading out of town, connecting to Rt.395, we saw wonderful sights...



Looking north-east, the snow-covered mountain in this far-telephoto shot is Telescope Peak which is the west-boundary of Death Valley and is 11,000' feet high!

http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=telescope+peak,+ca&sl=35.985091,-117.033577&sspn=0.073619,0.148659&ie=UTF8&hq=Telescope+Peak&hnear=Telescope+Peak,+Death+Valley,+CA+92328&ll=36.190538,-116.941223&spn=0.278743,0.594635&t=p&z=11

Heading north into the Owens Valley (my area) the weather had cleared, although it was still snowing on Owens Peak (right side of the below picture, in-cloud)...



Stopping at our wonderful hardware-store (primary mission: glue) we also bought... Eggs! Brown eggs fresh from the local farmer...



Greeting us when he arrived home was our loyal RB-the-cat, who lounges around inside the house during the day...



...but (?) always spends the night outside.

Loyal Readers, this trip was maybe the most-fun ever. MG wanted a lesson in **Off-road truckin'** (she drove the entire route; 6-speed manual transmission) and the story turned out really terrific.

Thanks for reading along!

Paul P.

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