

TOUR PLANNING & ITINERARY

BONELLI BLUFFS AND ROSE PARADE - 12/27/2023 - 1/4/2024

(Prepared by Steve Beede 2/9/2024)

Co-Wagonmasters: Steve & Ann Beede, Eric & Cara Roberts

Planning Time-Line:

January - Contact Bonelli Bluffs Campground - San Dimas, CA (near Pasadena)

<https://www.bonellibluffsrv.com/> - This is where all major RV Groups stay such as FMCA Reserve Campsites - I reserved 18 - no cost to Reserve

Start promoting Rally at RV Group Meetings - Prepare suggested Itinerary / Activities Flyer
- Participants contact Bonelli and pay for their Site

March - Contact Sharp Seating - Pasadena -

<https://sharpseating.com/> - Exclusive Seller of Parade Seating and Event Tickets

Participants Order & pay for Seats and Event tickets online

Grandstand: Best = TV Corner Sections - Parade Zone 1

Events: Equifest - Horse performers show

Bandfest - Performances by Parade bands

Floatfest - See Parade Floats up close - before or after Parade

June - Determine how Participants will get from Campground to Parade

We decided: Charter Motorcoach to and from Parade and carpool to other Events

Note: Don't lag on this: I didn't start until August - by then almost all Busses were gone

We used: Inland Empire: <https://www.iesbuses.com/> - Cost = \$2,400.

Bus Parking Pass required: \$350

Collected \$100/Participant to cover bus & parking costs

Oct - Nov: Seating and Event Tickets get sent to Participants

Float Decorating: During the entire year, various Organizations design and build their Floats.

For 2023, there were approx. 40 Floats in the Parade. During last 2 weeks before Parade (or more), the Organizations seek Volunteers to work decorating their Floats. Several of our Participants did Float decorating for one day on the Elks Float. Many of our RV Group Members are members of the Elks. All organizations need Volunteers for decorating.

Summary: Attending the Tournament of Roses Parade was a "Bucket-List" experience for almost all of our Participants I expected all 18 Sites would be taken early. That didn't happen. Club Members ultimately took 11 of our 18 Reserved Sites. 3 other Sites were taken by non-Club friends. The remaining 4 Sites were released back to Bonelli Bluffs in December.

ITINERARY

This is the actual Itinerary we developed and followed:

12/27 - Drive to Bakersfield - Overnight. - Approx. 310 mi from Lincoln

Possible Campgrounds: Bakersfield KOA, Orange Grove RV, others

12/28 - Drive Bakersfield to Bonelli Bluffs - 140 miles - <https://www.bonellibluffsrv.com/>

5:00pm - Wine & Cheese Welcoming Party - Dinner on your own;

Firepit Gathering at Site to be determined.

12/29 - Equifest / Bandfest / Float Decoration

Drive or carpool

Dinner on your own; Firepit Gathering

12/30 - Bandfest / Float Decoration

Drive or carpool

Dinner on your own; Firepit Gathering

12/31 - New Years Eve: Activities at Bonelli Bluffs - to be determined

5:00pm - New Years Eve Party - Pot Luck Dinner in Bonelli Clubhouse

Early to bed cause it's early to rise

1/1 - Motorcoach to and from Rose Parade

4:00-4:15am - Gather at Bus pick-up point in our Campground location

4:30am - Bus Departs Campground

6:00am - Deadline for Bus to arrive at Parking in Parade Zone 1

7:30am - Deadline to be in your Seats to watch the Parade.

8:00am - Parade starts - lasts approx. 2.5 hours.

11:00am (Est) - Depart Parking Lot for Bonelli Bluffs - arrive approx. 12:00 noon.

Rose Bowl Game Party - 1:00pm (Game Starts at 2:00pm) - watched at BJ's Pub/Sports Bar

ALT: Floatfest - Session 1: 1:30 - 4:00pm

Drive or carpool - 26 miles from Bonelli Bluffs - Take Shuttle to Float Site

Firepit Gathering

1 /2 - Floatfest Sessions 2, 3, or 4 - Drive or carpool - Take Shuttle to Float Site

Dinner on your own; Firepit Gathering

1/3 - Possible Tours:

Huntington Library & Gardens - this was excellent

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratories Pasadena - was not available

Others: Getty Museum, Wine Tasting, more

Departure Dinner: Recommend Coco's Restaurant close to RV Park

1/4 - Depart Campground for Home or next Destination

Many Members went on to further RV opportunities in the Desert, So Cal, or elsewhere

10 of us went to Borrego Springs - hiking, sightseeing, golf, games

2 of us went from Borrego to Indian Waters for Pickleball and sightseeing

Others went either home or to Ocean sites

For any further questions, please contact Event Organizer, Steve Beede
Steve's email address and phone # are in the RV Group Roster.