

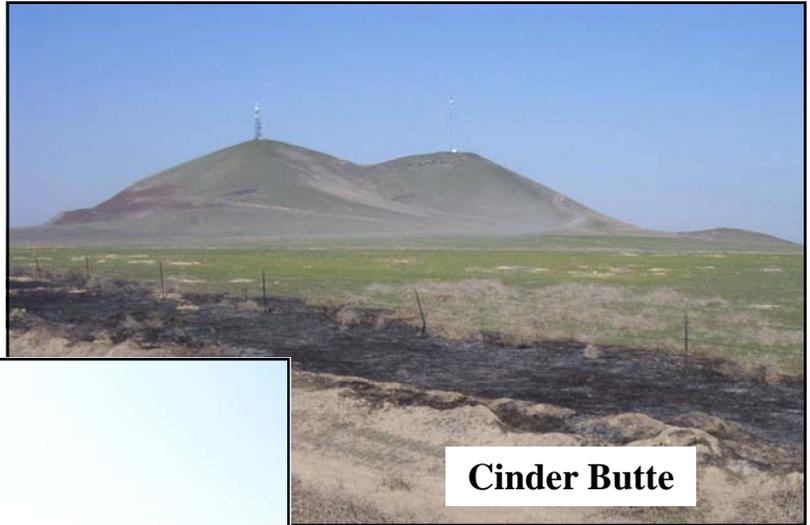
Ride Journal

Mountain Home Craters — Saturday, September 11, 2004

Ride Leader & Story: *Bill Jones*

Storey & Photos: *Pauline & Bill Jones*

It was a cold and windy day on the Mtn. Home desert, but 56 riders gathered at Crater Butte Road and unloaded for the excursion to the Cinder Butte. The wind was a steady 40 mph at the top and we did not stay there very long. We went east for seven miles in a straight line of dust and more wind to the east crater.



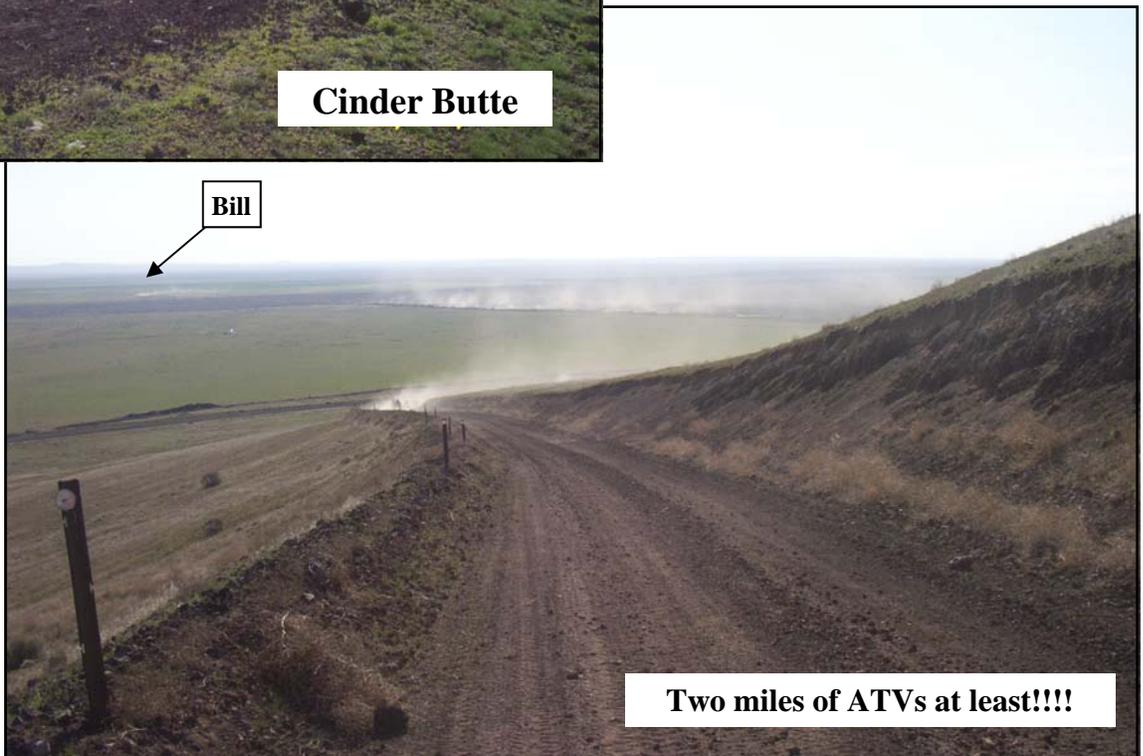
Cinder Butte



Cinder Butte

The view from the top of crater ring into the crater was very interesting (see bottom of next page). A large sunken hole in the earth, one-half mile across and 243 feet deep. Many riders said that they didn't even know this hole was here. We went looking for a place to

get out of the wind and headed to the west crater, this hole is even larger than the last one, three-fourths of mile across and 256 feet deep. As we ate lunch, we watched tumble weeds blow past us that felt like 100 mile hour winds.



Bill

Two miles of ATVs at least!!!!

One group was trying to BBQ right where the wind was coming up from the crater.

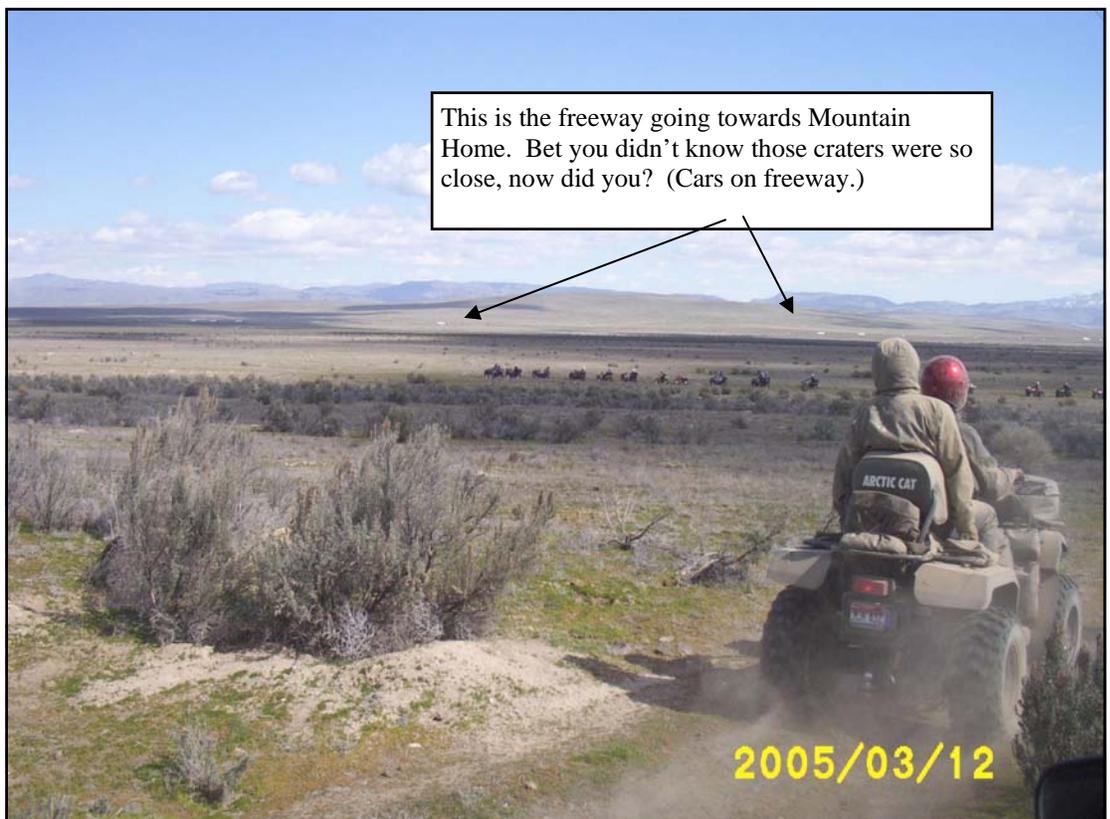
We saw five Peregrine Falcons soaring past us, one Golden Eagle was eyeballing the surrounding sage for anything that moved out of our way, and last but not least, Mr. "Badger."

We took off again, and I ask the group, "Do you want a long ride or a shorter one?" They replied, "Long ride."

I led the fearless group towards Mtn. Home and then turned north towards the freeway and the railroad tracks.

The wind got even worse as we headed back to the parking area. Have you ever tried to ride into a steady 40 mile wind on an ATV? Your tracks look like your machine has been drinking and it won't stay in a straight line. You had to turn your head into wind to keep it from being blown off—now that is windy!!

The ride was 28 miles long and we all returned back to the parking Lot safely.



Mountain Home Crater

