

RASOR OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE AREA

By Tom Severin

The Rasor OHV is sandwiched between the western edge of the Mojave National Preserve and Afton Canyon. Most people access the area from I-15 at the Rasor Road exit (about halfway between Barstow and Baker, CA).

Rasor OHV is an open riding area. As long as you are inside the OHV cross-country vehicle, travel is permitted. Camping is allowed anywhere in the open area. On long holiday weekends, expect to see plenty of campers and toy haulers. There is no shooting allowed and no glass beverage bottles are allowed (empty or not!).

If you stay on Rasor road until it ends at the border of the Mojave National Preserve, you will reach the ruins of Rasor Station of the now defunct Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad (T&T). It was named for

Clarence Rasor who was the chief engineer. All that is left of the ghost stationmaster's house, bunkhouse, toolshed and water tank are the foundations. It is a popular camp spot today with several shade trees.

The Old Mojave Road cuts through the middle of the OHV on its way from the Colorado River to the Coast.

Half or more of the OHV is in the Mojave River Floodplain. The dividing line is Shaw Pass over the Soda Mountains. Shaw Pass was named for Army Surgeon Dr. Shaw. Accompanied by a soldier who was carrying the US mail, he was killed by an Indian arrow through the neck while traveling this section of the Mojave road in October 1867. Shaw is buried at Soda Springs, the location of current day ZZYX, CA.

The heavy sand that blows from the Mojave Flood plane is a major attrac-

tion for off road use. The area has a number of small dunes. Somewhat hidden to the southwest is one major bowl that can provide hours of fun.

The Union Pacific railroad tracks form the southern border. West along the tracks toward Afton Canyon, is the old railroad watering stop of King. There are no ruins left except the gravesite of Delores Holland. The daughter of a railroad worker, she died as an infant in 1931. Some distant relatives maintain the site and decorate it for each holiday.

The bed of the old T&T Railroad forms the Southeastern boundary of the OHV area and the Mojave National Preserve. Just beyond the Rasor Station, you can find the old T&T RR bed.

The remote Rasor OHV might just become your new favorite destination in the desert. Enjoy exploring! ▲

MAP

Surface Management Status Desert
Access Guide – Soda Mountains
blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/iac/Northern_Map.html

GPS

I-15 & Razor Road Exit

N35 08.092 W116 12.739

Razor Road & Mojave Road junction

N35 06.520 W116 08.621

Razor Ghost Station

N35 05.438 W116 07.669

Shaw Pass

N35 05.606 W116 10.699

Delores Holland Grave

N35 02.763 W116 12.742

SOURCES

BLM – Barstow Field Office

760-252-6000

blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow/razor.html

Friends of the Mojave Road

info@mdhca.org

mdhca.org/

Badlands Off-Road Adventures, Inc.

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About Badlands Off-Road Adventures, Inc

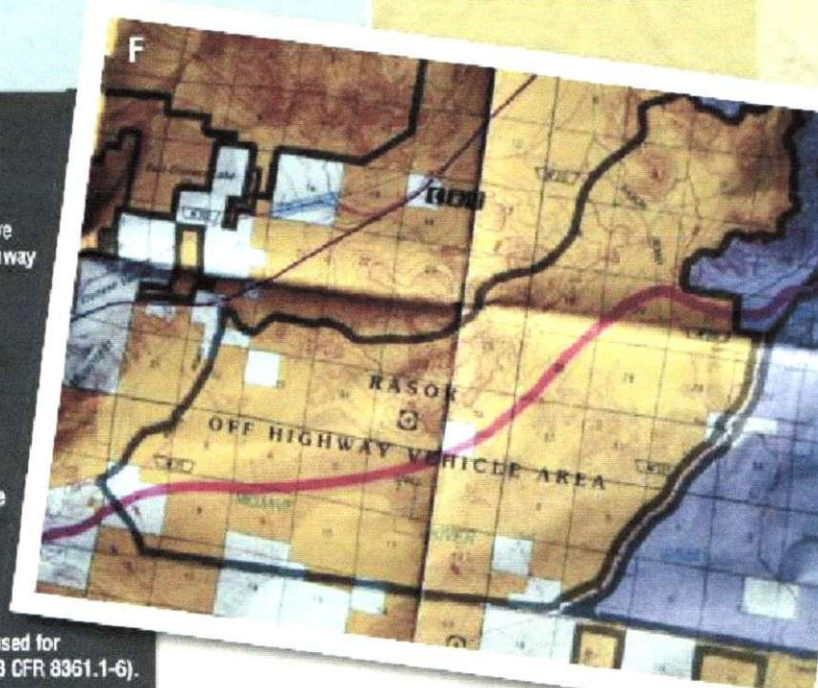
Badlands Off-Road Adventures conducts training classes and tours for off-highway enthusiast of all skill levels. The website is 4x4training.com. Tom Severin has 40 years of off-highway driving, including patrolling as a former Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer and former Sheriff's Deputy. Severin is a certified 4 Wheel Drive Trainer, a Wilderness First Responder and Master Tread Lightly! Trainer.



- A** A long line of small dunes run north and south in the Mojave River wash not far from Shaw pass.
- B** Foundations at Razor Railroad Station of the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad.
- C** Dolores Holland's grave at the old King railroad watering station with Cave Mountain in the background.
- D** Looking west on the Mojave Road, Shaw pass is in the V defined by the mountain range.
- E** One of several old foundations near a well that at one time had a windmill. It is hard to envision why it was in the middle of the Mojave River wash. Cave Mountain in the background is on the western edge of Razor OHV at the entrance of Afton Canyon. Basin Road runs in front of Cave Mountain out to I-15 (Basin Exit).
- F** The BLM Desert Access map cost \$4. The big red line is the Mojave Road cutting through Razor OHV. The thin brown/red line on the north is I-15.

Rules & Regulations (BLM web site)

- Draining of holding tanks, littering and trash dumping is prohibited. Pack It In, Pack It Out!
- All vehicles must have a muffler or spark arrester and have either a street-legal license or be registered as an off-highway vehicle.
- Vehicles being operated at night must have head and tail lights.
- Helmets are required on all ATVs! Also, there are no passengers allowed on ATVs.
- Digging up or destroying trees and shrubs or harassing wildlife or livestock is prohibited.
- The desert tortoise is a federally protected species. Please do not handle or disturb these animals; Look, but don't Touch!
- It is illegal to damage or destroy archeological sites or remove artifacts.
- Possession or use of any glass container, empty or not, used for carrying any liquid for drinking purposes is prohibited (43 CFR 8361.1-6).



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