

UPDATE 121603

I just returned from California. Fuzzy and I had a meeting Monday evening with the landowners explaining the situation that arose last week before they read about it in the local papers. The Keene Ranch owner was very understanding that we had nothing to do with what else was occurring, reconfirmed his support for our team's effort, reinforced his unconditional rules, and his unconditional holding me responsible for everything that happens. He also stated he will aggressively protect his private property rights from anyone not authorized on the ranch up to posting guards. I've been on the phone all weekend with Ron's family, CAWG DO, Commander Lacertoso, and several other agencies and individuals getting everything back on an even keel. As of midnight last night, everything for our effort is back on track as it was the middle of last week.

If you have any questions about what is going on, don't waste time with emails, call me. If you get information that did not come from or was coordinated with me, it doesn't apply to our team's efforts. We as a group have wasted too many collective mandays of productivity dealing with wedge issues.

Jeffy, Fuzzy, Deb Rosepink, and myself all have commented that if our trip wasn't for such a serious reason, this would be a super time. The landscape, night sky, people you'll meet, the group morale, and the adventure will be a lifetime event. As Deb also commented, it has all the earmarks of a "Ron Trip", a description that probably applies to all of us.

Sleeping bag, pillow, air mattress, warm outdoorsy clothes for all seasons, day gear, personal rappelling gear, and daypack stuff is all you really need. Call Jeff Riley about handhelds, but we should already be good. Food will be provided. I need to know immediately if you need a ticket. Either buy it yourself and we'll reimburse you or call me and I'll order it online when we're talking. Go for the discount websites. I need to know what airport and what time. Any LA airport and Las Vegas. We'll either have an airplane or car to pick you up.

Davey/93