

Work On Your Rig Weekend

Ray Mendez
4/8 - 4/9/2006



April 8,9 at Ed Lorenzen & Ray Mendez' shops: Motor City Imports & Ed's Datsun Service, and Honest-1 Auto Care, 418 Kiernan Ave. "D", CA 95356, 209/529-2886

10 rigs in 3 groups: Ed K5 Blazer, Ray: Red YJ, Tom: gray CJ7, Ron: red Toyota, Ira: white Dodge 2500 (with camper), Ellen: blue YJ, Loro: camo Bronco, Darell & Kathy: white early Bronco, John: red Cherokee & Carlos: black Cherokee (John also had his pickup on the lift, and Mark showed up with the burgundy Nissan).

The event started early Saturday morning with Ed & I prepping our respective shops for the activities that were to be done over the next couple of days. What customer vehicles were inside were moved out to the parking lot. We had all the necessary materials, parts, and tools ready to go for the rigs that we knew what needed to be done. For those club members that needed additional parts, it was just a matter of making a phone call, By 8:00 am we were ready to go.

Ira had come in on Friday night and spent the night in his camper in the parking lot. His Dodge was the first to get attention. We got him into my shop and put the Dodge in position for a coolant flush. Forty-five minutes later, the flush was done and we were doing a general inspection of his Dodge.

Next to arrive was John at approximately 8:30 am on Saturday, followed by Tom coming in at 8:45 am.

We got John into position on one of the racks to do several items on both of his rigs. He had several items he wanted to work on. Just to name a couple, a new clutch and Oil Temperature sensor. John's rig took some time for the original clutch that was obtained was not correct and a different one was ordered. The sensor work we got working on. We needed to do some modifications to his pan to place the sensor in. A little drilling, fabricating, welding & painting we had it done. (Editor: he makes it sound so easy!)

Meanwhile we got Tom's CJ up on a rack for an Oil & Filter change. Tom had that done rather quickly. Next on Tom's list was a coolant flush and radiator hoses replaced, CB radio tuning. Due to the condition of Tom's antifreeze, the flush required a treatment and longer circulation to clear out all the debris. He and Ellen tuned his CB later on during the day.



As Ira, John and Tom's rigs were being attended to, several other members had arrived: Loro, Ellen, Ron and Carlos.

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Ron and Carlos moved their rigs into Ed's shop and each took one of the three racks in Ed's shop.

Ron's red Toyota was going to get a new Transfer case and Transmission. The Tranny & TC had been ordered by Ron and drop shipped to Ed's shop. Ron's work would take the full weekend. Unfortunately, the only injury the entire weekend happened to Ron. The Transmission support (brace) was giving the guys some difficulty coming off, and broke loose unexpectedly and dropped onto Ron's foot. Later X-rays showed it to be broken. Even with a broken toe, Ron continued working on his rig.

Carlos came to WOYRW to do some modifications to his Cherokee. He wanted to put a suspension lift on. As most mods go, there is usually something that doesn't want to cooperate. In Carlos' case, it was the trailer hitch on the back of his rig. Whoever had done the original install, had stripped out a couple of bolts and the hitch was tweaked. Putting it back on required some tapping of threads and drilling out the hitch mounting holes to get it back on. The real challenge came later on when the front was done over in my shop. It took us several hours to get all the front brackets and lift to align correctly in order to get all the boots in. But with a lot of help, we got it done.

Loro's early Bronco was next to get some attention. We moved her rig into my shop and onto one of the racks. Her biggest concert was that of her steering. She had an unusual problem where the tie rod seemed to bind up and twist. She had made arrangements with Darell to have a couple of steering boxes brought over with John, thinking that might help. She also had brought over a winch, which she wanted to install. Unfortunately, the items on her list didn't get completed. We couldn't figure out the steering issue, and the mounting of the winch required some fabrication and

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welding that we were not set up to do. Some basic things did get done: transmission support was attached properly (4 bolts instead of 3) and a general safety inspection was done.



Ellen's YJ was next. We did a general inspection in the engine compartment and under the vehicle while it was on the rack. Torque the U-bolts to spec. (90 ft. Lbs). Ellen and Tom tuned her CB too. (Ed also adjusted the parking brake earlier.)

Day one was winding down. Tom & I went over to my house to pick up the grill for the Bar-B-Q for that evening. Loro had brought some Tri-Tip and Ellen brought some other things for dinner. We returned with the grill and set it up next to Ed's RV along with several folding chairs and tables. As Loro, Ellen and Tom got things going for dinner, I went back to continue working on Carlos' front lift in my shop and finished it with a front wheel alignment.

Darell and Kathy arrived in the early evening with the early Bronco in tow with his F250.

Within an hour the first Tri-Tip and the grilled potatoes were coming off the grill. Several of the members sat around the RV to socialize, some continued working on their rigs past 10:00 pm. Day one came to an end around 11:00 pm.

Thanks to Loro for the Tri-Tip and Ellen for getting the other items. (And Tom for cooking and menu suggestions).

Day two began about 8:00 am. Most of the members had gotten everything they wanted done during day one.

Ira decided he would like to have a front wheel alignment done. That was completed.

With Darell & Kathy arriving Saturday evening, most of Sunday's activities were with his rig. Darell had several items he wanted to take care of. Oil & Filter change, oil pan leak, U-bolts cut down.

Club members began to head home at 10:00 am with the last of them leaving around 5:00 pm. The weekend was a huge success. All the members got a lot done to their rigs and are now ready to hit the trails.

Thanks to all that made this a great event!!!!