

## BMW HP2 seen in Ocotillo Wells

OK the wait is over! I got my HP2 last week and spent last weekend riding it in the Southern California desert known as Anza Borrego and Ocotillo Wells OHV area. After riding it for the weekend I can say that it is an extraordinary bike. The bike has so much power that at any time or speed you can command the bike to respond and it feels ready to fly. I also have a CRF450X and at any speed above 30mph the HP2 will so out run the Honda that it is not even close.



Saturday, I took the HP2 on the route of the 2005 Low Desert Classic from the Big Bear Trail Riders. The route was great with plenty of rough stuff, some canyons, some sand washes, a couple of mountains to climb, and plenty of woop-de-dooos. Check out the GPS tracks from the ride with the satellite photos from Goggle Earth at: [insert URL here](#)

The bike of course is very stable and fast in the open sand washes; if you're going over 25mph the bike handles the sand great. If you must slow down for sharp corners with deep sand, the bike begins to show its size. The front wheel can get heavy and dig into the soft sand. I almost went down once as the front wheel sank in a slow corner, but I think the low center of gravity saved me.

Part of the ride takes you into the Truckhaven area where the Jeeps love to tackle the obstacles. The bike is a bit tall geared but it is not inclined to die when it runs slow. I put the bike up many rock obstacles and I would slip the clutch, but I soon learned that the motor just won't die. At slow speeds it is like driving a tractor. The engine has so much slow speed torque that it just keeps on going. Check out the photos from the bike looking over the Truckhaven Badlands. Yes, the bike did fine through there.



I got the bike with adventure riding in mind. I plan to take it from Canada to Mexico on dirt via the Rocky Mountain Continental Divide Route this coming summer. While Ocotillo Wells may not be the best riding for this type of bike, the bike did great and I am happy that it is capable of all the rough stuff.

No doubt about it the bike is spectacular. The only complaints I have is that it is too tall and the gas tank is too small. If you do some riding that requires that you to put your feet down and save the bike, you will find that you're on your tip toes. I am 5'11" and it is even taller then my CRF450X. To back the bike up I need to get off.

So I am psyched, adventure riding here I come!

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