

Page, AZ to Tonopah, NV – 07/05/06

Early mornings are a challenge on any day but when you spend the last hours of the previous day working on a car going to bed around 12:45 a.m. the morning comes far too soon. We left Page by 5:30 a.m. so we will be out of the way of the racers. There are few roads to choose from in this part of the country so we shared the roads. Our goal was to be far enough ahead of the racers to prevent any contact. We do not want to have our big rigs in the way of the racers. It was a spectacular sight to see this string of trailers, and RV's stretched across the bridge crossing Lake Powell with the sun rising in the east.

We have 480 miles to travel by 4 p.m. It seems like an easy task. But even this is difficult with few fuel stops and fewer potty stops. Yes, this truck makes frequent stops with 5 of us traveling together. The route we had to take seemed out of the way and annoying. We were given locations for emergency fuel stops. When we arrived there just 110 miles from our destination we discovered there was no diesel! I had about 70 miles left in the tank. The support crew from Ponca City arrived there with us and they had even less fuel in one truck. Our choices were to drop the trailer and travel back 42 miles or siphon fuel from a reserve tank in the second truck from Ponca City. We opted for the second choice and passed the gas can around until we all had enough fuel to make the 110 miles. We owe a special thanks to the team from Ponca City and Conoco-Phillips for helping us out.

This was a long day for the drivers and navigators. As the cars rolled into Tonopah there were some high numbers. We quickly learned that there was a train that held up the pack for as much as 20 minutes. Most of the teams turned in a time delay request. Our team came with a 2:26:36 but turned in a delay. Their final score is 60:06 which does not place in first for the day but moves us up in third place over all. We still have a chance to move to second if we work hard and stay on course and manage our time.

We have three more days and we are all showing signs of fatigue. Things that are not funny seem funny to us and we are looser around each other. We even have had conversations with the other X-Cup teams.

I have tried to show pictures of all the competitors for this race in the X-Cup Division. We truly work together to help each other make it to the finish line. We also root for each other knowing that "To Finish is to Win." We felt good about this day and hope tomorrow brings us even closer to our goals.