

## **STARDUST Critique – S. Morgan**

**Legs 1,2,3:** At START, there were multiple possibilities for this sequence. Since you knew you had to avoid roads that were “hot” for INMARKER 2, you could determine that you had to approach the STANDOFF using Juniper Hills Rd. and 131<sup>st</sup> St E. At STANDOFF, the light for INMARKER 2 was to the East, nearly straight ahead down the STANDOFF road, which placed it on Big Pines Hwy. Looking at the time for Leg 2, you could determine that INMARKER 2 could not be East of Largo Vista Rd. Based on the 9 minutes of driving time from INMARKER 2 on Leg 3, INMARKER 3 had to be on 165<sup>th</sup> St E South of Route 138. This put INMARKER 1 North of Route 138. But how to approach it? If you assumed INMARKER 1 was in the section of 165<sup>th</sup> ST E North of its intersection with 170<sup>th</sup> St E, you could drive from STANDOFF, East on Route 138, drive on 165<sup>th</sup> St E North, turn on 170<sup>th</sup> St E to Palmdale Blvd and enter the INMARKER heading South – but that required driving on 165<sup>th</sup> St E where INMARKER 1 could be. Since there was no way to determine that the section of 165<sup>th</sup> St E between Route 138 and 170<sup>th</sup> St E was SAFE, the correct route was to take Route 138 West, to 106<sup>th</sup> St E and 110<sup>th</sup> St E North, take Palmdale Blvd East, to 165<sup>th</sup> ST E South, to INMARKER 1 which was located just South of Ave T. REGULARs were told that INMARKER 1 was North of Route 138.

**Leg 4:** Collect CC1 on the way to STANDOFF, then use MAP 1A to find your way through Wrightwood. At STANDOFF 4 the light placed the INMARKER on the East side of I-15. So from STANDOFF take I-15 to Main St., collect CC X, use Summit Valley Rd to get to Route 138, head West to the INMARKER. REGULARs were told that the INMARKER was within 5.5 driving miles of the SO.

**Legs 5,6,7:** Collect CC2 on the way to STANDOFF. At STANDOFF, you saw that the light for INMARKER 5 was almost due North, which put it on the section of A Street North of National Trails Hwy. The light for INMARKER 6 was directly behind the STANDOFF on National Trails Hwy, West of its intersection with A Street. A handout told you that INMARKER 7 was on Minneola Rd. near Calico Blvd. In plotting your route, you could not use Minneola Rd. to reach INMARKER 5 heading South, so you had to continue East on National Trails Hwy, take I-40 East, go through Barstow to I-15 North. (REGULARs and EXPERTS should have taken the opportunity to note that there was no exit from Westbound I-40 to get to INMARKER 6.) You needed to pay attention to the exits and mileages to find the Ghost Town Rd exit off of I-15, turn South to INMARKER 5. The route to INMARKER 6 was to go over I-40, take the frontage road on the South side of I-40 West, turn North to cross under I-40, and into INMARKER 6.

After breakfast and a (we hope) successful viewing of meteors and comets at CC3. You drove on I-40 West, exit at Newberry Spring to National Trails Hwy West to Minneola Rd. and INMARKER 7.

**Leg 8:** From INMARKER 7, you had to determine how to get to STANDOFF 8. Since there was no exit from I-15 to reach the STANDOFF, you had to drive on roads that were “hot” for INMARKER 8. There were two possibilities: turn right from INMARKER 7 and take the frontage road South of I-15 to get to the STANDOFF or get on I-15 North to Harvard Rd, take the frontage road South of I-15 to get to STANDOFF. Examining the time for the leg, the correct choice was to turn right on the frontage road from INMARKER 7. At STANDOFF 8, INMARKER 8 was located next to the billboard on the frontage road South of I-15. From STANDOFF, you got on I-15 South at Harvard Rd, exit at Minneola Rd., and took the frontage road South of I-15 to the INMARKER. But wait, this was a minimum speed INMARKER – there had to be a way to determine the exact location of the INMARKER. REGULARs and EXPERTs were expected to measure the distance from the INMARKER (billboard) to the overpass near the STANDOFF. This allowed them to determine the exact distance from the last intersection on the frontage road to the INMARKER. This leg was derived from Starlite '93 written by Mike Pariseau and Len Everson.

**Leg 9:** At STANDOFF, you saw the the INMARKER was straight ahead. Drawing a line on that heading potentially placed the INMARKER on Kelbaker Rd. or Kelso Cima Rd. The leg time placed the INMARKER on Kelso Cima Rd.

**Leg 10,11,12:** Collect CC4 on the way to STANDOFF. At STANDOFF, INMARKER 12 was visible and very close, just past the intersection of Pebble Rd. and Procyon St. With only 3 minutes to get to INMARKER 10, you had to avoid INMARKER 12 by using either Torino Ave. or Raven Ave., get back to Pebble Rd. and find INMARKER 10 just before Arville St. At INMARKER 10, you had 12 minutes of driving time to reach INMARKER 11 and had only 1 mile of Pebble Rd. unexplored between INMARKER 10 and Route 160. The abundance of time dictated that there be another section of Pebble Rd. located West of Route 160. (REGULARs were told that INMARKER 11 was West of Route 160.) Your route took you to Route 160, to Rainbow Blvd/Route 595, to Pebble Rd., to INMARKER 11. You knew exactly where INMARKER 12 was from STANDOFF, so you returned via Rainbow Blvd/Route 595 and Route 160, being careful to avoid going backwards through INMARKER 10, to INMARKER 12. One last navigational challenge was to exit the INMARKER 12 area and avoid going through the STANDOFF backwards. On to FINISH.

Tiebreaker Sequence: 8, 1, 6, 11, 10, 2, 7, 4, 5, 12, 3, 9