

Angel's

*Be Alive!*Angel Gomez,
Director of
Member
Services

Jawbone



- (1)** At Jawbone Station shooting range, Angel shot several handguns:
- Below: a high standard .22 target pistol.
 - Top right: A 9-m.m.
 - Middle right: the big gun, a Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum.
 - Bottom right: a single-shot .22.

Hello again!

Thanks for all the good comments you're sending me. Glad you like *Be Alive!*

Before I begin, I would like to take a moment to thank all the fire, police and other personnel who helped with the horrible fires in the our mountains above the 210 Freeways. Our payers are with the families of L.A. County Firefighters Ted Hall and Arnie Quinones, who died Aug. 30 trying to protect about 60 people as flames advanced near Mt. Gleason.

When you see any Fire or Police personnel, please show them your support. They are real heroes.

This month, I decided to take a short trip to Jawbone Canyon, about two hours from downtown Los Angeles, up the 5 Freeway, and then northeast up the 14. Why Jawbone? Well, as you might remember, I was in the U.S. Marine Corps, and besides the many outdoor exercises I learned to love while in the Corps, I also learned to love to target-shoot. You can do that at Jawbone Canyon, and it's not too far away.

Firearm Safety

Before we start shooting, let's talk about gun safety basics:

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
2. Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use.
3. Don't rely on your gun's safety.
4. Be sure of your target and what's beyond it.
5. Use proper ammunition. (There are limits on the ammunition you can use at Jawbone.)
6. If your gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, handle with care.
7. Always wear eye and ear protection when shooting.
8. Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before shooting.
9. Don't alter or modify your gun, and have it serviced regularly.
10. Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the firearm you are using.

To the Targets

So, off we go. After a short while on the 14, you will be in Palmdale. Stop at a fast-food place called Sonic Drive-in. It has the best Creamslush treats! (Exit the 14 at Rancho Vista Boulevard, and turn right.

(3) In Palmdale, you can also stop at the Wal-Mart and buy some last minute supplies. Just before you arrive at Jawbone Station, you will pass the Jawbone General Store; use it as a reference point. **(2)**

Let's go a little closer. As you walk up to the door, you will find a very small home that belongs to a desert tortoise named Bob. **(4)** Bob is more than 100 years old, and if you are very lucky, he might come out to say hello.

Inside the station, you will find lots of pictures, artifacts, and maps of the overall area. *Note:* You cannot rent weapons at the station, or anywhere in Jawbone. You must bring your own. **(5)**

After a short visit to the store, we traveled a few minutes into the mountains behind the station and explored all the peaks and valleys in this area. Finding an open area to prepare for "boys with toys"

Cantil, California

Canyon



(2) Noah Hawkins, son of Club CEO John Hawkins, and Angel at Jawbone Station.

was very easy -- just drive and almost any foothill will do. Please be aware that there are lots of ATVs, motocross bikes and other off-road vehicles, plus campers and hikers in Jawbone. If you are in doubt, and maybe even if you aren't, ask the attendant at the ranger station for location advice. And stay within Jawbone -- if you get as far as Red Rocks, target shooting is illegal there. (6)

When we had our safe location, we lined up our cans and a soda bottle. Let the fun begin. (1)

Remember to always pick up any items you bring with you on your trip -- in this case, the brass shells. (6)

I had a lot of fun and wanted to show you an action shot of the Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum and what happens when its hollow-point round strikes a soda bottle. (7)

I hope this helps relieve some stress and gets you out into the great outdoors. I had a lot of fun. This was the first time I had fired a weapon since the good old days back in the early 1990s in the Marine Corps. I didn't do so badly for not touching a weapon in more than 10 years.

I will do some more research and find some local shooting ranges. So go out and have a blast!

**Until next time,
be safe and
Be Alive!
— Angel**



(7) A hollow point round from a Smith & Wesson .357 strikes a soda bottle, sending it into the air!

Directions

Jawbone Canyon Visitor Center
28111 Jawbone Canyon Road
Cantil, CA 93519

- From downtown, take the 110 North (2.6 miles), then merge on to the 5 toward Sacramento (24.3 miles).
- Take the 14 toward Palmdale/Lancaster (69.6 miles), then turn right in Mojave as the 14 veers off in that direction, and drive 19.3 miles to Jawbone Canyon.
- You will pass the Jawbone Canyon Store, 32629 Highway 14, Cantil, Calif. (stop and pick up lots of water and snacks).
- Finally, stop by the Jawbone Canyon Visitor Center on your way into Jawbone Canyon.



(3) Creamslush delight!



(4) Bob, a desert tortoise, is more than 100 years old, and if you are very lucky, he might come out to say hello.



(5) Take a look at the fantastic rocks.



(6) We chose this area.



(6) Angel collects his brass shells.