

MOJAVE TRAIL RUN ANNOUNCEMENT – May 4th to 6th, 2018

Trail leaders: Pete Johnson/Chris Slaughter

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Start place: Needles Highway 0.7 miles North of CA/NV state line.
(Trail head & air-down) GPS: N35°03.08' W114°40.57'

Start time: April 4 @ 08:30 Hit trail: 09:00

Alternate Start Place: Avi Casino Parking Lot near gas pumps.
GPS: N35°00.94' W114° 38.74'
Leave at 07:30

Distance: The Mojave Trail is 120 miles of dirt, sand, and maybe mud.
Side trips may add another 10 miles.

Difficulty: Mojave is an easy trail. Outside of a few miles of soft sand entering the Mojave Sink and possible mud at Soda Lake (which we will bypass if it is wet), an SUV or pickup with decent ground clearance should not have a problem. Barring erosion.

Run description: The plan is to camp Friday nite at Mid Hills Campground, a few miles south of Cedar Canyon Road down Black Canyon Road and west on Wildhorse Canyon Road. (GPS: N35° 07.999' W115° 26.090'). Saturday nite camp is planned in the lava flows 1.5 miles east of Kelbaker Road up Indian Springs Trail in Black Tank Wash. Sunday we will cross Soda Lake and head across Mojave Sink through Afton Canyon to Manix Wash, where we will exit the trail and hit I-15 near Yermo, about 25 miles east of the I-15/I-40 junction.

Gear: Bring enough gas for 150 miles of trail driving; food, water, and firewood for two nites of camping; and warm clothes (Mid Hills CG is about 5600').

Trail description: Mojave Trail was originally used by the Mojave Indians as a trading route, stretching from spring to spring across the Mojave to the coast. Later it was used as a freight wagon route to supply mines in Arizona and Nevada from Los Angeles. It was also used as a mail route for a couple of

years, during which the Army built a series of outposts to protect the mail. The trail splits the desert between I-15 and I-40 from the Colorado River to Barstow, passing over the Piute Range and through the Lanfair Valley and over the Providence Mountains, then skirting the Devil's Playground to cross Soda Lake, enter the Mojave Sink, and pass through Afton Canyon (the Grand Canyon of the Mojave) alongside the Mojave River. Plenty of history, mining, geography, and geology, not to mention Joshua trees.

Trail hilites:

Trail sidelites: (side trips)

Fort Piute	Government Holes
Rock Springs	Bert Smith Rock Cabin
Marl Springs Arrastra	Lava Tube
The Mailbox	Aiken Cinder Mine
Soda Lake (Zzyzx)	Intaglios
Traveler's Cairn	Buried Boxcar
Afton Canyon	Balancing Rock

Hotels: (for Thursday nite, if desired)

Rooms are available at the Avi Casino starting around \$40 a nite.

Take I-40 to River Road Cutoff, cross over I-40 and turn left onto Needles Highway. Head north 13 miles to Aha Macav Pkwy. Look for Avi Casino sign. Turn right and continue 2 miles to the Avi Casino on the west bank of the river. Call 800.avi.2.win for reservations or www.avicasino.com .