

# RUN ANNOUNCEMENT

## Last Chance Canyon

Run Date:	2/6/2021		
Trail Leader:	Robert Gabrielson		
RSVP Required:	Yes	(E-Mail) rgabrlson@gmail.com	(Phone) RSVP for info
Vehicle Limit	Yes - 15		
Radio:	CB Channel 4	HAM: 145.585 (DD Prime) (Simplex)	
Permits Required:	No		
Members:	Bring your Club Membership Card to expedite Club Liability Waiver requirements.		
Guest:	<b>Please Sign BOTH SIDES of the Participant Agreement and bring with you. The leader will send you a copy when you RSVP.</b>		
Reminder /Weather	BEWARE of RATTLESNAKES, Bring lunch and extra water, chairs, basic tools, Flashlight, shovel, camera, extra weather appropriate clothing, etc. The weather changes quickly please be prepared. Deserts get cool in the evening, dress in layers.		
Cautions:	<b>Please ensure you have a full tank of fuel prior to departure. Recommend filling up on the way in Mojave if driving from LA (23 miles away), and topping off at Jawbone store if needed - gas is about \$5/gallon at Jawbone.</b>		
Trail Rating:	2 – Moderate		
Meeting Location:	RSVP for meet info		
Meeting Time:	<b>Gather – 8AM, driver meeting and depart 8:30AM</b> Non Members please be prepared to fill out the ( <a href="#">LINK</a> ) <a href="#">DD Participant Agreement</a> . All Need to Sign the Run Roster.		
Trailhead Coordinates:	<b>35.36174, -117.89855</b>		
Special Equipment	4WD ( <u>Not AWD</u> ) and high clearance is required. Swaybar disconnects, 33+ inch tires. Tire and Body damage is always a possibility. A good spare is required. We will encounter sand, rocks to 24", ruts and other obstacles.  Bring Flashlights, lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. A chair for lunch would also be a good idea.		
Trail Description	After departing from the world famous Jawbone Canyon Store, we will travel northeast to the trailhead for <b>Last Chance Canyon</b> . Last Chance Canyon is approximately 13 miles long and concludes with 'Graduation Hill', a tall, steep rockface that gives even the more experienced offroader a shot of adrenaline. Along the way we will visit the <b>Old Dutch Cleanser Mine</b> , a pumice mine used in the 50s and left abandoned.		

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After leaving Last Chance Canyon, we will visit several other sites in the area, time permitting:

**Holly Cleanser Mine** – another pumice mine, this one with openings large enough to drive vehicles in

**Bonanza Gulch Post Office and Ruins**

**Bickel Camp** – a large open air museum with mining artifacts. <https://www.desertusa.com/desert-people/walter-bickel.html>

**Burro Schmitt Tunnel** – "Burro" Schmidt, mining gold in the El Paso Mountains, was faced with a dangerous ridge between his mining claims and the smelter to the south in Mojave. Schmidt said that he would "never haul his ore to the Mojave smelter down that back trail" using his two burros. Thus, he began his tunnel in 1900. The tunnel was about 6 feet (1.8 m) tall and 10 feet (3.0 m) wide. It was cut through solid granite bedrock and required little shoring. However, Schmidt was trapped many times by falling rock and injured often. He eventually installed a mining cart on rails.

In 1920 a road was completed from Last Chance Canyon to Mojave, eliminating the need for the tunnel, but Schmidt claimed to be obsessed with completion and dug on.

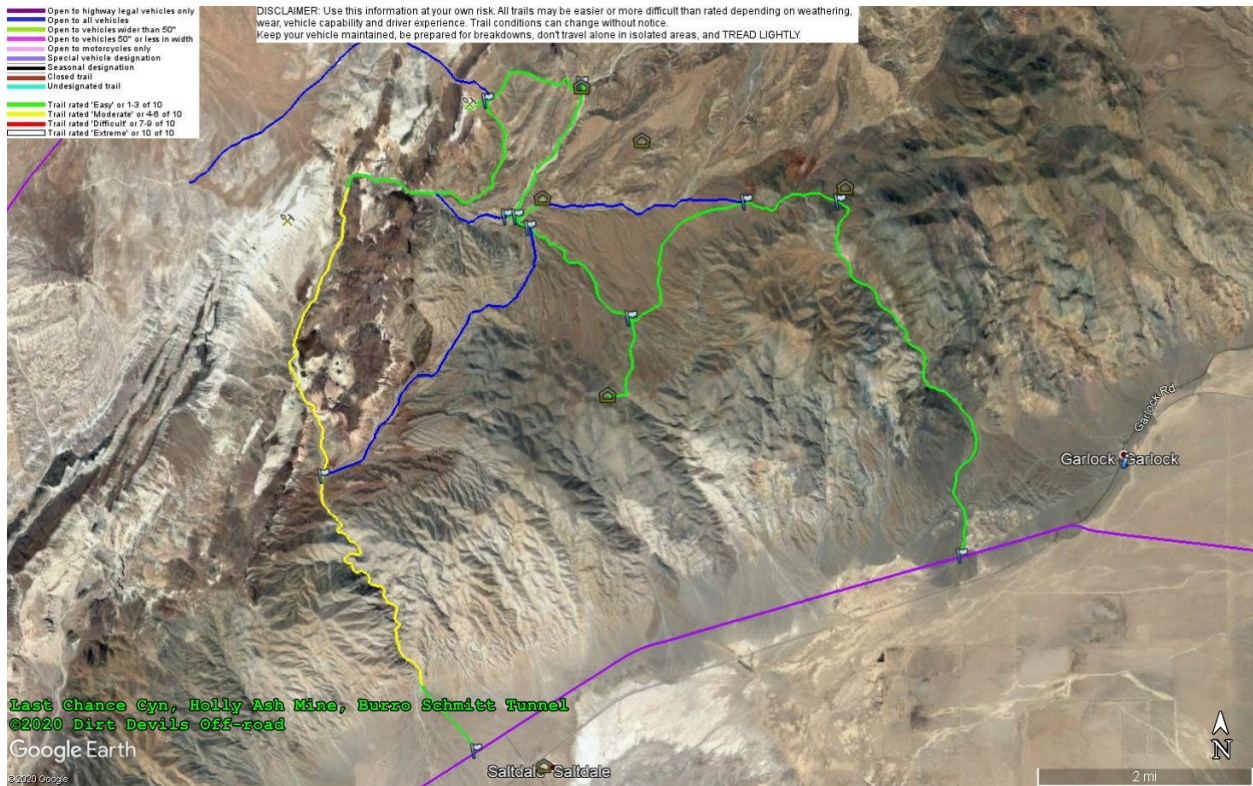
By 1938 he had achieved his "goal", having dug through nearly 2,500 feet (760 m) of solid granite using only a pick, a shovel, and a four-pound hammer for the initial section, and carefully placed dynamite with notoriously short fuses for the majority portion. It was estimated that he had moved 5,800 tons (5,260 metric tonnes) of rock with just a wheelbarrow to complete his work.

Schmidt never used the tunnel to move his mine's ore. Instead, he sold the tunnel to another miner and moved away.

**Garlock** – Ghost Town

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Last Chance Cyn, Holly Ash Mine, Burro Schmitt Tunnel [KMZ](#) or [GPX](#)