

John Bull (and Gold Mountain)

July 11, 2021

Today I led a group of 6 members and 5 guest vehicles on John Bull and Gold Mountain. 10 Jeeps (2 JTs), 1 Yota (Tim-Prez)

We met at 9am at the dump, and planned to leave at 9:30. When we arrived, we realized that there was another group of 18 also planning on leaving at 9:30, so we did our best to leave just before they did.

Upon our last guest arriving, we left the meet point at 9:30 sharp, just ahead of the group of 18.

The plan for the day was to run the entire length of John Bull, including Little John Bull, so we traveled up Holcomb Valley Road to 3N02, where we encountered our first traffic of the day. Ahead of us, was a tour group from the well known company in Big Bear, and despite them having 3 rigs they were proceeding very slowly, with every obstacle requiring spotting and photos (on Little JB). Unfortunately, the leader was unwilling to let us cut through since we had 11 vehicles, and was insistent that we wait. Fortunately, they were not running through the JB Gatekeeper, and took the turn off at 3N32.

As we arrived to the JB gatekeeper, there was a small crowd gathered and several vehicles were ahead of us to clear the obstacle.

We waited our turn and passed the gatekeeper without too much trouble, with only some careful spotting due to the JTs extra length.

The rest of JB was fairly uneventful, with all attendees passing through every obstacle without only occasional spotting required.

We departed the west exit of JB at about 12:15, and 9 of the 11 rigs decided to go over and extend the day by running Gold Mountain.

Arriving at the trailhead, most of the 9 attempted the new gatekeeper, despite the original bypass still being in place.

The GM run went quickly, and the group spent only 1.5 hours traveling the trail. We took the route through the shale pile, and the tougher trail that is the alternate to the main bypass. Traffic was minimal.

Everyone made it through GM without incident, and only occasional spotting.

We arrived back at our starting point at 3:15 PM, everyone completed their airup and said their goodbyes.

No mechanical issues, no cowbells today.

Rob