

Mojave Road

Nov 4-7, 2021

Leaders: Chris Slaughter and Rob Gabrielson

Trail lead: Rob Gabrielson

Tail-gunner: Chris riding with Pete. Chris was color commentator

Meet-up place: Avi Casino gas pumps

Meet-up time: 8:00AM

Leave time: 8:40AM

Number of vehicles: 9 Jeeps, two with trailers, 1 Yukon.

Members: 8 adults, 2 kids.

Guests: 5 adults, 2 kids.

Trail description: The trail was 158 miles from Avi gas pumps to I-15 which included several side trips. The road was typical--whoop-de-doo, washboard, and rocky areas, but the sand wasn't bad. Those with trailers did drop into low 4-wheel drive on occasion. The lakebed was dry.

Day one activities: Thursday - drive to Lenwood for lunch and convoy meet-up. Set out for Avi Casino with a stop at Goff's Schoolhouse. Nobody was 'home' at first, but showed up as we were getting ready to leave. We managed to tour the grounds and spend some money at the bookstore. We arrived at Avi about 6PM, checked in and met up with a few of the other peoples in the cafe.

Day two activities: Friday - We skipped the balancing boulder, visited some old buildings off Old Government Rd, took in the sights at Fort Piute, passed the Piute corral and stopped at the west side of Piute Spring and had lunch. We proceeded past where the Old Yellow Schoolbus used to be (it's at the Goff's Schoolhouse now), examined the petroglyphs at Indian Well, missed the Penny Tree, checked out the Vortac Station, and Rob checked out the Lanfair site. There was nothing to see, so we went on. We travelled on the Trench Road portion of the Mojave Road to the Rock House for a stop. There we fixed Terry's mudflap and Rick's roof rack. A bit later we dropped into Watson Wash, which a few folks bypassed. We did not stop at Rock Spring, but headed for Bert Smith's House. The next Point of Interest was Government Holes well, which we just drove around, but did not stop. A tree branch had fallen and collapsed the holding tank. We finally arrived at the Rock Outcrop at Wild Horse Canyon Road and Black Canyon Road to camp for the night. The kids had a fun time on the boulders, but our neighbors partied until 1:30AM.

Day three activities: Saturday - Broke camp after a visit by the BLM ranger and headed for Camp Marl, the Mailbox and associated frog forest, jeep rock, trolls, then headed to the Lava Tube and Aiken Mine. At the mine, Pete discovered his spare tire was missing. It had broken the welds and fallen off somewhere between the Mailbox and Aiken Mine Rd turn off. Back-tracking to the Mojave Road, we picked up our rocks for the monument, then we headed to camp and spent a few casual hours communing with nature and each other.

Day four activities: Sunday - Broke camp and headed past Seventeen Mile point, but did not stop for the petroglyphs, crossed Soda Lake and dropped our rocks at the Traveler's Monument. Coming into Rasor OHV, the road was apparently going through private property and was gated so we had to find a more southern route. We were passed by a group of speedy folk, one of which apparently got rather airborne at one point. We made it on down to the RR bridge, where a couple of groups were stopped.

Someone had lost their dog when the train going by spooked it. Since we wanted to get home at a reasonable hour, we skipped T-Bone Albright's grave and the buried rail cars and visited the Spooky Cave slot canyon where we had a quick lunch. Randy helped remove Rick's trailer roof rack which had been demolished. The east water-crossing amazingly had about 18" of water while the west crossing, which had been filled in, was only about 6" deep. It used to be about 3 feet deep. We spent a bit of time back-tracking out of Mojave Wash back to Afton Rd and to the highway where we aired up and headed home, tired but fulfilled.

Problems on the run: Terry's mud flap had gotten sucked into his wheel well. After a first 'fix', we finally removed it completely. Rick's trailer roof rack, broke and after an attempt to tie-wrap it, it finally exploded and had to be removed. Pete lost his spare tire, a 37" MTR with bead-lock rim, somewhere on the Road. We did not find it.

Cowbell activity: No cow bells were awarded

Additional notes: We were visited by the Ranger on Saturday morning who dinged us for a couple of 'violations'. We said we were going to camp at Thomas Place on Friday night, but switched to the Rock Outcrop. That location was not on the permit. Next time I need to add it as a secondary spot. Also, on the first night, some of the cars had encroached onto the adjacent wilderness area. I thought the wilderness started 100' from the road. Apparently, it starts AT the road edge. Oops.