

Run Report: Stoddard Valley OHV Area

Club members in attendance:

Ray and Karen Kleinhuizen
Danny and Linda Ward.
Bill Schopper
Maurice and Andrew Cote
Chris Campbell and Nicole Castellanos
Mark Chadwick

Guests

Alisha and Jeff Anticouni
Wesley Hibbs and two sons
Harry Long
Steve Babyak
Terry Olson
Mike Flint
Rick Doria and Kate Gordon
Mike O'Donnell & Kaitlyn, Sadie

Saturday March 13 2021:

On the day before the run, I found out that Huntington Beach Motorcycle Club had a race scheduled for Saturday. They gave me a map of their course layout. The good news was that their course was all on the east side of Stoddard Wells road. They were not running through the Sidewinder Hills where most of this run was planned. During the run, Bill Schopper monitored their race status on the HAM radio. Late in the afternoon we were able to cross the race course during their afternoon break.

Seven club member vehicles and eight guest vehicles (all Jeeps: two LJ's, two Gladiators, 2 JL's, the rest JK's) met on a cold and windy morning in Lenwood, Ca. We aired down, had a drivers meeting and hit the trail.



The first part of the trail was an easy section heading south with some small and medium sized hills along the way. We soon make a turn toward the Devils Loop trail gatekeeper. The gatekeeper is a test of driver and vehicle to let drivers know what to expect on the rest of the trail. This run had bypasses for all more challenging sections and tight spots.



The gate keeper

Everyone in the group tried the gatekeeper. A little coaching, some good spotting by Danny Ward and everyone made it through. These were the first Gladiators and JL's I have seen on the trail. I am happy to report they did real well.

After some rocky narrow canyons, a small waterfall, a large rock garden and a rocky hill climb we come to the squeeze, a narrow pass through some large rocks. The JL's and Gladiators are wider than JK's. The JL's made it through, one of the Gladiators tried

and made it through. Again thanks to Danny Ward for the good spotting.

The last challenging spot before lunch is a small bowl that's tippy going in with a small ledge going out. After lunch was the most difficult spot on the run: a steep, tall, solid rock ledge to climb. Six people tried, all made it with the aid of good gears and lockers.



The small bowl

We then climbed the hills to a good view spot high in the Sidewinder Hills. After two more challenging rocky sections, we got an opening in the motorcycle race schedule. We had 20 minutes to get across the race course.



We crossed Stoddard Wells Rd into a sandy wash that winds through the hills. A short section of the wash is part of the Achy Breaky trail. We turned east out of the wash into Waterfall Canyon, a narrow rocky wash that runs between 1/8 – 1/4 mile long. This is part

of the Pumpkin Eater trail. There were several ways to enter and exit the wash. Several people tried the trail downhill and a few of us went back up hill. A fun area to play in the rocks.



Waterfall Canyon

We then took Stoddard Wells Rd to the Lenwood wash that took us back to the meet spot. A fun day with a good group of people.



Thanks go out to Danny & Linda Ward, Bill Shopper, and Maurice Cote for helping on the trail.

NIGHT RUN

Attendees were all club members:

Ray & Karen Kleinhuizen

Bill Schopper

Chris Campbell and Nicole Castellanos

The night run also started from Lenwood. No moon, the only light we had was from the Jeeps. We entered the hills through the Devils Loop backdoor. We traveled west through several rocky canyons, then climbed out of the canyon to a hill top trail that overlooks the 15 fwy and the Lenwood area. After circling back to Stoddard Wells Rd. we took a short loop through a rocky canyon in the Watkins Peak hills. We were back to the meet spot by 10 pm.

