

# Black Canyon / Stoddard Valley

## Run Report

### Black Canyon report:

The Black Canyon run was on Saturday March 18. The weather was mostly sunny, the temperature was cool in the morning and mid 60's in the afternoon, the wind was 10-15 MPH. A very nice day for the desert.

We had eight member vehicles and three guest vehicles. Mud and water puddles were present in several places. The first mud puddle on the trail had a stuck full sized pickup truck with another truck winching it out. We took the bypass and continued on to the entrance of Black Canyon. We stopped to view Indian petroglyphs, the stage water stop, the Indian caves and the birdman petroglyph. Everyone avoided the mud in the silt beds leading up to the birdman petroglyph.



The birdman petroglyph

The rainy weather had caused lots of wild flowers to bloom. Some of the hills looked yellow because of the blooms.

We had lunch at Inscription Canyon, a large collection of Indian petroglyphs. After lunch we started through a rough section of trail with a steep hill climb. The next stop was at Scouts Cove, a small shelter cut into the side of a hill by miners in the Fire Opal Mining Camp.



Scouts Cove

We headed east through the rocky hills on Opal Mountain Rd., a fun section with easy hill climbs and mild rocky areas. The last stop was Murphy's well: a very impressive display of Indian petroglyphs.

A fun run with a good group of people.

## Stoddard Valley run Report:

The Stoddard Valley run was on Sunday March 19, the weather was rainy at the start then cool and windy most of the day.

We had six member vehicles. One guest arrived at the meet spot with a report of rain in the Cajon pass and possible 15 Freeway closure if snow conditions got worse. He turned around and went home. The rest of us decided to start the run and reevaluate if weather conditions got worse. We skipped the steepest hill climbs that might be wet and slick. As it turned out the weather was never an issue all day.

We traveled south into the Stoddard Wells OHV area trying to avoid the biggest muddy spots but it was an impossible task. After a run through what Karen calls the “big woops”, we took an easy route up the hills to a view point. Next we went through two moderate rocky sections that are part of the Devils Loop trail. The rain had rearranged the rocks on the first one but that just made it more fun!



After crossing Stoddard Well's Rd, the trail winds around the north side of Watkins Peak. After a few hill climbs and a steep descent we arrived at a rocky L shaped shallow canyon with a V notch obstacle at the end. Everyone made it without any bad dings.



V-notch

At this point we were on the Achy Breaky trail that winds through the hills. After lunch we took a side trip to a new obstacle that was fun. There were several lines over a big rock. Bill took a good line and got a wheel in the air for a good picture.



Bill on three!

The next trail obstacle was a steep six foot plus waterfall. We tried the waterfall downhill. Everyone ran down without issue. We continued through the hills on parts of Achy Breaky to a short loop in a rocky canyon.

The last part of the run was through part of the Devils loop trail. Then we headed over to the main parking and camping area off Outlet Center Dr. where we aired up and headed home.

A big **thank you** to Danny Ward and Bill Shopper for helping all weekend!