

Pioneertown to Big Bear Trip Report
June 8th 2024

Run Leader: Harry Long
Tail gunner: Bill Schopper
Vehicles: 11 = 9 Wranglers + 1 Cherokee + 1 Chevy Silverado

Roster: 17 people

Members

Harry Long
Mark Chadwick
Dan Smith
Jeff Stubbert
Bill & Darlene Schopper

Guests

Tom Preston
Darlene Chadwick
Ed & Scott Vena
Gina Stubbert
Ryan Farnes

Todd Vander Ham
Todd Gallagher & Alma Nunez
Ron & Phylis Danly

Burns Canyon Road (2N02) is an easy scenic route from Pioneer Town up to Big Bear Lake area. We added in a few Moderate to Difficult sections to spice things up a bit. We all began at an Arco off Highway 62 in Yucca Valley and held our driver meeting, poor choice of meeting spot, NO public bathrooms. I will pick a better starting point next time.

Made a short hop over to the trailhead in Rimrock where we got aired down and hit the trail.

Trail Conditions – I thought we might conflict with the Big Bear Bronco Bash but only encountered 5-6 Broncos. The trails were awesome for our run on the flat and easy 2N04 Burns Canyon, 2N61Y Round Valley rutted and eroded earning its black diamond for a ¼ mile stretch of rock garden. Our bonus run up Tip Top Mountain proved it to be in good shape. The final stretch through Bally Horse 2N04 was scenic and rocky most the way, easier than the Moderate rating it carries.

Challenges were met at a midpoint Round Valley 2N61Y. We got the first few jeeps up the easier line to the right then we had some courageous souls that opted for the difficult line to the right. With the guidance of spotter to jeeps made it up. Then Mark C. went for the bonus line with his built LJJ and got hung up on a boulder that he has been over many times over the years. We winched him up and over, but minor damage to some of the undercarriage will be addressed by Mark and his friends soon. Recent rains have eroded the dirt and basically more of the boulder was exposed. So, a well-earned Cowbell goes out the Mark. Fun times in the garage to follow. After watching several jeeps through the obstacles Ed and Scott V. in their Chevy Silverado with Independent front suspension opted out and headed home.

Navigational faux pas... I sent several of us down a wayward path that forced four of us to do multipoint U turns to return to the prescribed route. Thanks once again to guest Todd V. "Gigga T" for catching the error and getting us back on track. I did have ONX Maps installed, however my standalone GPS Monitor broke its mount just prior to the wrong turn, and I was flying blind just sayin....

Lunch was enjoyed at a shady wide spot along Broom Flats 2N09 with a view to Tip Top Mountain. After lunch we took a vote to add a run up Tip Top 2N90. Terry P and Phylis D. opted to stay at the lunch spot and enjoy the view whilst we traversed to the top of the local peak.

Smooth sailing (relatively) the rest of the way with a nice twisty rocky descent down 2N04 to Highway 38 to where we aired back up and reflected on our day.