

## Barstow-DeathValley-Barstow

Date: March March 14-16

Day 1: Cold overcast morning. 4 members and one guest.

We left Barstow and headed down Fossil Rd where we found an abandoned 40ft motorhome. We then traveled past Black Canyon to the Fish Pond. From there it started raining on the way to the F22 memorial which is only a few miles from the Fish Pond. We did a short stop at the F22 memorial. We then made our way north east to the Husky Memorial. The rain had stopped and we spent some time there and ate lunch. From there we made our way over to the X15 memorial. This is a memorial for NASA's only X15 member to die and also has a kiosk on the space program. This is an excellent place to visit just off of Trona Road between Rasburb and Trona. There is a memorial and kiosk at this location, which were Eagle scout projects and are extremally well done and maintained. From there we made our way over to our plan A camp site at the Trona Pinnacles. But there were 15-25 MPH winds. We search at the Pinnacles for a protected site to camp, but decided to continue on to the canyon leading into the Slate Mountain range past Trona. At Trona/Argus we stopped for fuel and supplies and then we made our way to the canyon and set up camp (plan b).

Day 2: Cool but bright sunny day.

We made our way over the Slate Range following part of the Rogers and Manley Escape Trail. We then went up Goler Canyon and finally turned off to the remains of the Barker Ranch, AKA Charlie Mansons hide out and where he was captured by the FBI. We ate lunch at the ranch. We then made our way up to the rock memorial at Mengal Pass. From here we made our way into Butte Valley, stopping at Russel's Camp, Greater View Camp and the Geologist Cabin. We traveled past Stripped Butte and down Warm Springs Canyon. We stopped at Warms Spring and did a little checking out of the giant Talc Mine. From here to the next camp is just big graded dirt/gravel/sand roads, but coming down out of Warm Springs Randy's control arm - track bar bracket on his rear axle broke off. We tried to weld it back on but due to it's tight location and a possible issue with the welder our repair failed. So we ended up camping on the road for the night. Again plan b for camp.

Day 3: Cool, bright sunny day.

We picked up camp and slowly limped Randy down to the paved road, where he called a tow service. The rest of us continued on too, Little Dumont Dunes and highway 127. We then took highway 127 to Baker for fuel. Ed and Gregg decided to bypass the Mojave trail section and Afton Canyon. So they gassed up and jumped on the 15 and headed home. That left Jeff and Gina and I. We decided to bypass the not so dry, Soda Dry lake and made our way over to the Mojave Road, which lead use to Afton Canyon. We stopped at the train tracks and ate lunch and then explored Spooky Canyon. From there we made our way about another 25 miles to where I end the trip. We then aired up, jumped on the 15 and headed home.

Randy ended up getting home about the same time as the rest of us.

Regards,

David Behlings