

Run Report

Holcomb Creek May 17, 2025

Leaving Orange County, we were met with light drizzle on the highway, and once we headed up Highway 330, heavy fog joined us. However, as we approached our rally spot at the Valero in Running Springs, we found ourselves above the cloud layer, enjoying perfect weather all day.

At the gas station, we ran into a large group of about 20 Jeeps from the Drifters Jeep Club, who also planned to run Holcomb. Unfortunately, they pulled out as we were still fueling up. We caught up with them again at the Fawnskin Fire Station, but and due to a tactical error on my part, they left ahead of us and made it to the trail first.

We gave them a head start but quickly caught up. Just as we approached the gatekeeper, we noticed a long line of Jeeps sitting idle. Upon walking to the front of the line, we discovered the leader of the group had flopped his XJ onto its side, about 20 feet before the gatekeeper. After they righted the vehicle and spotted their group through the gatekeeper, the trail began to flow again.

Our group navigated the gatekeeper without incident and kept pace with the group ahead of us. When they stopped for lunch under the tree at the base of the middle rock garden, we along with a pair of heavily built rigs on 42/44-inch tires with full-width axles seized the opportunity to pass them.

The center rock garden continues to get more difficult each year. The flowing water washes away more of the dirt and sand leaving only boulders and holes in front of boulders. There was still 6" of water in the pool at the top of the garden creating some wet and muddy patches down below.

We watched one of the built rigs struggle for 15 to 20 minutes due to what his buddy referred to as bad line choice coupled with not airing down ahead of time. To his credit he didn't pull winch line despite his buddy's repeated suggestion to do so. Some of the other spectators began discussing using the Larga Flats bypass for some of their members.

Meanwhile, the three of us plotted our lines. I am pleased to say that all three of the Dirt Devils represented the club well. Our chosen lines were, as the terrain dictated, challenging, but we each crawled steadily and cleanly through the middle rock garden.

We continued through the rest of the trail at a quick pace and cleared the last rock garden/gatekeeper without any issues.

Overall, the trail was challenging, fun was had, and no cowbells were earned.

Jeff Stubbart