

Dusy Ershim Trail 2025

August 12- 17, 2025 - 5 days and 4 nights on the trail.

Run leader: Ron Webber

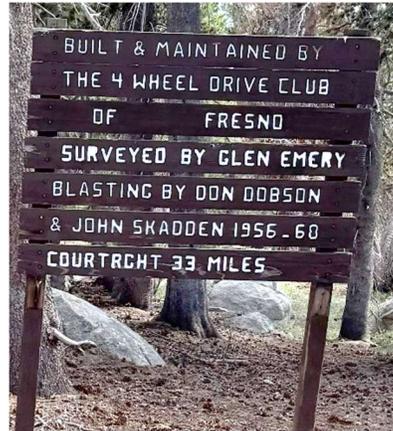
Six rigs Ron Webber, Dave Behlings, Greg Mudd, Tom Burke & Tyler (grandson), Bill Schopper & Brett (son), Dave Maurer & Andy (son)

The weather was perfect, nights were cool,

First day Shaver Lake to Voyager Rock Campground.

35 miles of asphalt, cross the dam to the Dusy trailhead, then 2 miles over a moderate rocky trail of course lots of trees.

First night enjoyed a nice evening at Voyager Rock Campground, right on the water & close to chicken rock a huge steep granite slab, that we climbed the next morning, 3 guesses why it is called "chicken rock" and the first 2 don't count.



2nd day's goal is to climb Thompson Hill. By reputation the most difficult climb on the DusyErshim trail.

The first part is 9 miles of moderate to difficult driving, to the bottom of Thompson Hill. The last part is a half mile long, 600 foot climb, over v large loose rocks. We made camp about 4:30pm and spent the night at the top of Thompson Hill. We did not stop for lunch, I did not want to arrive, after dark.

On the way up Greg broke his passenger rear upper control arm joint. The broken control arm tore up the inside tire side wall. The broken control arm joint looked unrepairable, between Greg, Bill & DaveM they replaced the joint with a 36mm long, 3/4" drive socket, welding it to the end of the control arm, the bolt went through it. This fix made it to the top of Thompson Hill, to Ershim, to the end of the trail and home. WOW good welding. How do you raise your Jeep on loose rocks? Well, we did it.

3rd day, the trail winds through the trees, lots of rocks, a few meadows and creek crossings we reached Ershim lake about 3:30pm.

Along the way, Greg broke his steering stabilizer, who needs it anyway.

3rd & 4th night, camped at Ershim Lake

Greg Mudd caught 2 brown trout, they were good.

Brett Schopper caught & released- 6 trout

Enjoyed stories around the campfire.



5th day left camp about 8:30am. The very first 100 feet is no laughing matter, some how we made it without winching. It is pretty much rocky the whole way.

Bill broke his rear spare tire mount; Bill and Brett using their best strapping skills got the tire rack in place and through the last part of the trail and home.

Bill also broke a valve stem; he cut the old one off at the base, so he could push the old stem inside. He then used a Colby replacement stem. It does not require any tools to install. It was difficult, to add air. The inflators were hitting the wing nut that tightens the valve down. We kept tightening the wing nut down until we could get the inflator over the end. Can Colby eliminate the wing nut?

The stretch between Ershim Lake and the north end of the trail overlooking Huntington Lake is much more difficult than I remember. We mostly went down the difficult areas. I can't imagine going up those difficult sections.

The north end gate keeper is no joke. One huge granite rock that you must pivot around. Good use of rock guards. The gate keeper has been changed since I was last there 6 or 7 years ago.

5th night 3 of us stayed at the Shaver Lake Hotel, the others drove home. It was very nice to shower, eat and sleep 9 hours straight through.

Dusy is probably the most difficult trail in California. On Ray's DD rating we all agreed it is a 5+.

Bill ran Rubicon before hitting Dusy. He said Dusy is more difficult.

A few quotes: it's a Doozy; a cool trail, no joke, I can't believe I made it.

It is 35 miles of loose small to large granite rocks (the granite rocks mostly have rounded edges). I have probably run Dusy 10 times, and I would have said Thompson Hill is the most difficult part, the day 5 section is giving Thompson a run for its money.

I have heard of guys doing this trail in 2 days, I don't know how. Last year Dave B and I met a fella on his motorcycle, he ran Dusy in one day.

Cow bells earned:

1st Tom burke Cowbell, Tom's rock garden.

2nd Bill Schopper before Thompson Hill

3rd David Maurer on Thompson Hill

I was expecting us to collect 6 cow bells, oh well maybe next time.

Advice for the future:

To prep for Dusy Ershim, I crawled under my jeep and put a wrench on all the bolts and nuts I could see, even though I had painted these bolts and nuts to indicate movement. I checked my transmission, brake, power steering, oil and even windshield fluid. I greased zerk fittings, I only have four. I painted my skid plates so that I could see where I banged on the trip, which is way more than my skid plates covered, a very tough trail.

After everything I thought of doing, I called a couple of the guys who were going on the trip and asked if they would also look over my jeep. Sometimes I see what I want to see and figure a fresh set of eyes would help. Plus the fact is I am quite ignorant of the names of parts on jeep and don't know all the details, so these extra eyes really helped. I didn't have any problems with my jeep, although I wish they would have TOLD ME TO "LOOK OUT FOR THAT TREE", I did side swiped a tree, I hope I can fix my passenger side mirror and not buy a new one.

Great trip and a pleasure to have been part of it. Tom & Grandson Tyler

The Dusy Ershim trail is very remote, no Auto Part stores, no cell service, Starlink does work, if you can get away from the trees.

If Greg, Bill & DaveM did not come up with a control arm solution Greg's Jeep would still be there blocking the trail. How much would a helicopter cost to air lift your rig off the trail?

You need low gearing and big tires. DaveM made it through with 35's great driving. Of course, front and rear lockers are an absolute must. The ham radios are also crucial.

The weather can change, it can snow at those high elevations, prepare for the unexpected.

This trail is well suited for short wheelbase vehicles like my 2000TJ. I have to give credit to the 4 door jeeps they made it.

I also checked every single screw, nut & bolt and greased every zerk.

I loaded and unloaded my camp gear several times before deciding on my final load. The 12-volt fridge is great.

Dusy has it all. views, meadows, creek crossings, granite slabs, ledges and shelves, loose rock climbs, tight forested areas, steep rutted descents. There are no bypasses for major obstacles, and turning around is rarely an option. Body damage is possible.

What a team, we conquered Dusy. Everyone jumped in and helped out. It was a pleasure hanging with this crew.

Elevation changes

- Shaver Lake 5,600 ft
- Ershim: 9,200 ft
- Courtright 8,200 ft
- High point 10,500 ft
- Thompson: 9,700 ft

Shaver lake is a good staging area for future runs:

- Bald Mountain
- Dusy Ershim
- Brewer Lake
- Samp Lake
- Red Lake
- Coyote Lake
- Miami
- Chepo Trail

DaveB set up 4 daily "2025 Dusy Ershim Day1, Day2, Day3 Day4" albums on "Facebook Dirt Devils of SoCal discussion group" for us to download Dusy pictures. I'm not sure if video can be downloaded. If Bill can't download video then we will have to come with another solution.