

Calico 2025

Date: December 6, 2025

Run Leader: Ron Webber

Cow bells earned: Run Leader RonW

Meeting place: Linning up out front of Calico Ghost Town was a little dangerous, so we quickly drove to where the trail starts, to air down and have our run meeting. These trails are moderate to difficult, on the Dirt Devils scale 1 to 5, I would call it a 3. Lockers are required and needed.

Departure time: after airing down and run meeting we took off at 9am.

Number of rigs: 17

Members: 12

Guest: 5

We took the Gate Keeper bypass, which winds around mud hills, up on a ridge for about a mile then we drop back down into a narrow moderate to difficult canyon.

With good spotting everyone made it through the canyons and over the water fall, which still has 3 feet of rocks stacked up. Some of us did the extra credit. ChrisC was first and made quick work of the extra credit, RonW was next and slide down into the V and got stuck. With a little winch help I got pulled forward and back up on 4 wheels. It is always a good idea to have one spotter. Several years ago, Cheryl May's brother Danny Delp attempted the same extra credit and suffered extreme damage. Danny had to go home for parts, 3 trips later he was able to drive his rig home.

We then took a new trail to Bismark Mine and enjoyed lunch and the views.

After lunch we split into two groups.

DaveM led a group of 7 rigs to "Wall Street Overlook" this trail takes you through a difficult narrow V ditch canyon with very tight turns, body damage is possible. They all made it and the 100 foot over look and views of Calico are incredible. They took the easier way around, then over to Odesa and pucker pass which over the last few years has become more difficult. They were back at camp by 4pm.

RonW took the other 10 rigs over to Phillips Canyon West and through Kramer Arch. Phillips Canyon parallels Odesa but easier. Then we continued down and through the Mud Hills which is always fun.

Some of the Calico gang hung around after the run and enjoyed a nice camp fire, refreshments and grilled Hamburgers (thanx to my sons-in-law).

Frank Gilliland owner of SouthBay Truck & Dif came after we hit the trail with 7 rigs, (he said they were running late). Frank said they were running late. They made it through unscathed. Two TJ's attempted "The Gate Keeper" after getting up on the first very big rock they changed their mind and backed out. They then took the bypass over to up Duran. They had a late dinner at Peggy Sues.

My kids and grandkids really enjoy Calico Ghost Town, I do recommend it.

The weather was Perfect. Cold weather was in the forecast, but Mother Nature had other plans and warmed it up for us, making a liar out of the WeatherMan.

IF, you have never witnessed pucker pass or the gate keeper just for fun, watch [Calico Home Page](#)