

Mottino Wash  
12/10/2011

Great day for a trail ride. We all gathered at Pappy & Harriett's for a fun filled day. We had a good many rigs ready for the class 4 trail. 12 in all with myself and Carole, Alfred & Lisa, David & Cindy, Sheryl & David, Curt & Molly, Ben & Donna, Nelson, Fred, John & Austin, Mark & Michelle, Ray & Bonnie, Bert, Jim, Mike & Snoop. I think I got everyone.

We left Pappy's at 8:30 and headed for the trail head. Arriving at the trail David decided to park the Suzuki and ride/walk the trail. Wise decision Grasshopper. It would have been total carnage having to



drag the Suzuki through the trail. Of all the jeeps running the trail, my XJ was the weakest link in the group with 31's and 3" lift. So I guess when the going gets tough, the weak go first—I led the run. Starting out Ray noticed I had broken a rear lower shock mount. Oh well, don't need no stinkin shock. First obstacle has my name written all over it. I scratched the jeep on a previous run and wouldn't you know—I did it again. Everyone got through okay and off we went again. A few more obstacles up the trail I hung a diff. Ray had to strap me back a few feet and with a few rocks under my wheels I got through.



Along the way Bert did some fancy stuff.

We stopped for lunch a little later and assessed the damage to my XJ. Inspected the dent on driver door



(nothing more armor won't fix) and a smashed left rear tire valve stem. We hit the trail again with no problems until last waterfall. I needed a little spotting but manage to get over without getting hung up.

Ray didn't fare as well. We had to give him a little tug. I think everyone else made it through okay. We finished the trail at about 1 o'clock. With 11 rigs running, it went very quickly. Some commented the trail has gotten easier and I would agree—my XJ doesn't count. We drove David and Cindy back to the Suzuki and headed home. It was a somewhat uneventful day with me as the only casualty. I couldn't air up the tire with the smashed valve stem so Mike followed me to a tire shop in Yucca and had the valve stem replaced.

All had a great time and enjoyed everyone's company.

Greg