

Truckhaven Club Run
5-7-2011

It was another great day at Truckhaven even though it did get a little warm. I wasn't sure how many people would show but from the egroup chatter I thought we might have a good turn out. We met at the T/A and left at 8:00 with myself and Carole, Darrell and Karen, Rich and Janet, Warren, Lee, Mike and Ann, Josh, Stacey, Justin and Olivia, Randy and Mary Ellen, Bill and Janet, and Alfred. Also joining us were first time off roaders Neil and Rhonda, Ammi and Laura. The group met up with Mark and Michelle at trail head along with their friends David, Sheryl, Sue in a sand rail. We had 14 rigs in all.



The plan for the day was to do moderate trails for the new people so they could get a feel for their jeep then head for Sheep's Tank and Calcite Mine slot canyons. As the saying goes, "Best laid plans of" never really work but but we seemed to have a good time trying. We started with a few hill climbs and descents with Josh having to get strapped. Josh told me he was going to hit the easy button on this run. When I asked about the easy button, he said "It looked easy". After a few hills, we did a few washes and made our way to the sign post. I've been told it's called 'The Wall' because of the wall like obstacles. Darrell tried one of the ledges but couldn't get over

it so he backed down and tried another ledge. He made it up this one but stopped to see the other side. Needless to say, there was a huge hole capable of swallowing the Rubicon. The decision was to back down off the ledge.



Backing down can be a scary thing so Mike Deaner fired up his wench and lowered him down. These obstacles are probably rated at 4+ so it gave the new people a chance to see what can happen when on a run. After getting Darrell off the ledge, we headed for the back side of phone booth hill. I took the group on a



trail that I forgot had a waterfall and was quickly reminded by the ones with stock jeeps--no can do. We split the group with Mark leading the stock jeeps around a by-pass. We again all met up at the trails leading up to the phone booth. Climbing the hill can be challenging, so I gave the option for doing the hill with about half the group going to the top. With lunch time approaching, we all regrouped and headed for Palm Wash. I had no idea how to get there easily so off we went down washes and over hills where we found a level spot to have lunch. After lunch, we again headed for Palm Wash. We did a couple turn arounds and finally found the wash. From here the



plan was to head up the wash to Sheep's Tank, but I took the wrong fork. I thought we could continue up this fork and intersect the Calcite Mine trail but... again I was wrong. Alfred continued up this wash to see where it might go and give us an idea if stock jeeps could do it. He radioed back with an all clear so up the wash we went. The wash ended at a trail head next to S22. We all gathered and discussed where to go from here. Most everyone called it a day except for Alfred and Mark. We said our good byes to those leaving with all saying they had a great time.



Myself and Carole, Alfred, Mark and Michelle, and their friends in the buggy headed for Calcite Mine. Mark sent a message on the egroup about the Calcite Mine slot canyons so Carole and I were interested in seeing them. We headed up the trail and about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way found a posted pull out. From here you had to walk about 700 feet to reach the slots. Since the path wasn't wheelchair accessible, I made myself comfortable in the jeep with my dog Duet while the rest hiked to the slot canyons. When they came back Carole told me this alone made the day exceptional. These water eroded slots are just a few feet wide, very deep, and spectacularly beautiful. I should have planned the run by starting here first so everyone could have seen these beautiful canyons. Oh well, will plan another run to do Calcite and Sheep Tank when it's cooler. We continued to the mine and after a brief stay headed back for pavement.

We had a good day with a group of people that were the best. Hope to meet up with everyone again.

Greg Mottino