

Memorial Day 2013 Grave Creek Range Jeep Trail Trip

Led by Richard and Mary Hood, May 27, 2013.

We had five vehicles show up for the ride including four guests: Joseph Colasanti in his '97 4 Runner, a guest to the club Tyler Pearce and his wife Jessica and daughter in a red Jimmy, Owen and Kailey Hood with his daughter Angela (age 3) and Tristan Austin (15) in a '06 TJ, and Richard and Mary Hood with daughters Avery (13) and Rebekah (6) in a '05 TJ Unlimited. Jeremy Hitchcock, a club member driving his JK Customs gold TJ, caught up with us about a half mile into the trail. He had been waiting up near the trail head and we left before he could catch up to us.

We met 9:45 am at the equestrian loading and dog walking parking lot of the Blue Mountain Recreation Area. We left the staging area at 10:15 am and headed up Blue Mountain Road to the trail head of the Grave Creek Range Jeep trail, where we stopped and disconnected our disconnects and stretched our legs after the 50 minute ride up the wash boarded road.

We then continued up the trail with constantly changing spring weather (typical spring weather for the Rockies). We stopped to play in the large mud hole near the middle of the trail and took pictures of the crossing. We did this going in and out being that it is one of the more fun obstacles on the trail.

Further up the trail with Owen in the lead followed by in order, Joseph, Tyler, Jeremy, and me, we encountered some heavy wet snow on a steep part of a ridge. Owen attempted to break through but after several attempts we finally winched him about 15 feet past the bad spot, and we got him up the hill. Jeremy then volunteered to go around Joseph and Tyler which took some interesting jockeying around to get him around them. Once he got around his tank of a Jeep went right up and through with no problem with his rear locker. Jeremy went up and down several times to help open it up. Joseph then went up with little problem, Tyler next and after three or four attempts finally made it up. After everyone else was up I made it up easily.

We traveled to an area about three or four hundred yards from Telephone Butte to eat a quick lunch. Jeremy had to break off from us at this point to get back for a previous engagement he had to attend.

We only had to use the chain saw once just beyond that point to remove one tree and block a couple of drive-arounds that the motorcyclists and four wheelers had been making. After loading back up we turned around at that point and headed back down the trail stopping to take pictures and play in the mud along the way. There were relatively few other travelers on the trail. There were a couple of small groups of dirt bikers and a few all terrain type four wheelers that we normally stopped for and let them around.

All in all we had a safe and fun trip with nothing broken and no one hurt. Once back at the trail head we all stopped and talked for a short while to stretch our legs and reflect on the ride a little. Jason Summerfield pulled up on his brand new 4 wheeler while we were there and talked with us for a short time. We all parted company at that point and traveled back down Blue Mountain

road and home from there.

Here are two links to the pictures and a video of the trip.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sXxHPlq2q2E>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.606750776009566.1073741825.100000239488566&type=1&l=b7a1acc12e>