

Rattlesnake Canyon / Matino Wash

Run Report

Members in attendance:

Ray & Karen Kleinhuizen
Danny & Linda Ward
Bill & Donna Schopper
Dave & Trish Behlings
James Ettinger
Tim Thomas
Castulo & Chandra Olivas
Gary & Audrey Alexander
Randy Smith
Steve Cave
Maurice and Andrew Cote
Carlos. Paula & Kathren Bautista
Scott Beggins
Doug Fracisco
Andy & K Sanchez
Terry & Victoria Cleaveland
Jeff Edwards
Bob Alaska
Ed Terwillig ?
David Cagl
Van Duong

Guests In attendance:

Mike & Sheri Costigan
Micheal & Victor Monuz

On my way to the meet location as I was pulling off the 15 Fwy on Bear Valley road, Jay VanWormer was stopped in the breakdown lane. Jay was experiencing problems with his Jeep and was not going to lead the run. He was hoping to be able to drive home but didn't feel comfortable running the trail.

We arrived at the meet spot looking for a volunteer to lead the Rattlesnake run. Randy Smith agreed to lead the Rattlesnake group. Thank you Randy! You saved the day. We had a total of 19 vehicles: two Toyotas, a Chevy pickup, the rest Jeeps.

We traveled together on Rattlesnake Canyon until the Matino wash trail turn. Eleven vehicles continued on the rattlesnake trail and eight did Matino Wash. After separating we were not able to reconnect later in the day.



Rattlesnake trail right at the start of Motina

The Rattlesnake trail is fun and unique. The trail starts in the desert and ends at 8000ft in the forest. The first part of the trail is a wide sandy wash. The trail gets narrow and tight in spots as we climb to higher altitude. Along the way there's some optional sections to play on. A few people in the group tried the optional sections without any problems.

We stopped at the Matino Wash turn for a short break. The Rattlesnake group was able to walk up the Matino trail to the first difficult obstacle and see what Matino is all about.



Extreme obstacle near the beginning of Motina

Matino wash is a very narrow canyon with lots of rocks, some as big as a Jeep, some as big as a tire. In several areas the driver is able to pick more than one way to travel. The most difficult sections are right at the beginning of the trail. We all made it through the first section without a problem.

As we proceeded up the trail drivers might need to try several ways to approach an obstacle in order to make it through. Bill shopper was impatient waiting at one spot and tried a more difficult line. He soon had four spinning tires. We stacked rocks a few times but the driver side back tire would slide left. A big rock next to the drive side tire was rubbing the back tire sidewall. We did not want to damage the tire trying to move the Jeep. Bill winched himself out without damage to the tire. Bill earned a cow bell due to impatience. (Bills words)

A little later on the trail Dave Behlings who was driving his new Jeep on 40's decided to see what the new rig would do. Dave tried to climb over a very large rock and became high centered. We needed Tim's Toyota and Bill's Jeep as an anchor to Winch Dave out. Dave found out that even a more capable rig can still get stuck.

The rest of trail was fun without any other issues. We stopped for a late lunch and proceeded up to highway 38.



Addition by Randy: Rattlesnake Group

After watching the more adventurous wheelers starting to tackle the Mattino Wash, the remaining Rattlesnake group continued on down the trail and stopped for an extended lunch at the Burns Canyon (N202) turn off. After lunch, continued on N202 to N201 and started the climb up to Hwy 38. The trail was about 26 miles with no issues, aired up at Hwy 38 at 2:45 PM.