

# The Dirt Devils Digest

Award winning publication.

March 2016
A monthly publication of the Dirt Devils <a href="http://www.dirtdevils.org/">http://www.dirtdevils.org/</a>

## **Editors Message:**

It was good to see Chris at the meeting. Kurt is moving to beautiful Kansas (my grandmother was born there and moved to California).

The Dirt Devils newsletter was awarded top honors by CAL4Wheel. Our members make it possible with great runs and follow up run reports that keep it interesting. Run leaders keep the run reports coming.

The Dirt Devils now have 19 ham radio operators. Mike Wallace is the unofficial HAM radio leader.

Volunteer Jason the HDR chairman pitched us on supporting HDR this year and leading a couple runs. This is a good event and <u>all</u> proceeds go to keeping your trails open.

Quote of the month "The trail is nice and wide with just one large rock and Dave chose to drive over that one rock and got hung up on it?"

Check out the last page of the newsletter for Dirt Devil accessories.

See you on the trail.

Ron & Emi Webber



Unimog

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## **Run Reports**

#### Last months Cal4Wheel convention report

The club did good on awards at convention. Jesse and Keith were both recognized for helping with the WinaJeep and HDR. Awards were presented to the club for the most new members and to Ron for the DD newsletter.

A portion of the gasoline tax is set to expire. This tax is used to keep trails open and if allowed to expire, trails will be closed. The tax is used to fund grants for offroading.

Jesse will be asking for letters when this comes up. Everyone needs to talk to their local representatives about supporting this.

South was only represented by six clubs.

Cal4Wheel Foundation has a scholarship for any college student regardless of age. This year four people applied for scholarship and Amanda got 3rd place and a \$1400 scholarship.

The Jeep was raffled off and won by someone a couple hours north of Sacramento but still in California. The new Jeep is in process of being built by Poison Spider and TransAmerica.

The Cal4Wheel President comes up for vote next year. This year was the treasurer and no one stepped up, so same treasurer.

Obama has signed in the new wilderness are and the details are still being developed. All established and inventoried routes are supposed to stay but going to have to watch what they consider "inventoried." Still waiting for the

details in order to know what has to be fought.

Introduced Jason, the new HDR chairman and Keith and Jesse are cochairing To assist him. Jason came to ask the club to lead a run. Ray confirmed that Devil's Loop is being planned. Ray asked if the Club is willing to also lead on Sunday if there is interest. The club is okay with this. A Mojave trail is also being added, leaving on Tuesday before. Ray also wanted to know if the club was interested in doing a night run and there is also interest in this. Thinking maybe do Devils Loop at night as well. HDR has runs on Friday evening, Saturday and a couple on Sunday. There are race games on Sunday, kids games and then a raffle that day as well. There is a Best Equipped game and we need clubs to participate.

## Holcomb Creek (snow) 2/20/16

Trail rating: Difficult

Trail Master: Joshua Bleijenberg
Tail Gunner: Frank Gilliland

# OF RIGS: 8

#### Members/ Riders/ Rigs:

- Joshua Bleijenberg- TJ Danny and Linda Ward- TJ
- Frank Gilliland- TJ
- Tim Debolt-JK with daughter Jesse
- James Ettinger- JKU
- Eric Walberg JKU with Brent and Eric's son Dean
- Mike and Nancy Zeller- JK

#### **Guests/ Rigs/ Riders:**

• Chris and Frank- CJ

**Meeting Location**: Rocky's roadhouse 8:30 AM **Starting Location**: Rocky's Roadhouse 9 AM

Weather: Beautiful! 60's and sunny

#### **Trail comments:**

We left Rocky's at 9 and made our way toward the west entrance of Holcomb creek by way of green valley and crab flats. We aired down once we hit the dirt and made our way to the trail head. We made a quick pit stop at Crab flats camp ground. It was immediately apparent that our voyage would be a very weathered, muddy and sloppy version of what it was the last time I was there. 3n16 was a mess! There were a few spots that had been heavily eroded from the recent rain and it looked pretty sketchy. We carefully proceeded to the trail head to find running water flowing thru the gate keeper! This was new. I had never seen it like that and it was actually more filled in from the sediment brought by the water flow. Mike Zeller did not make it far before he really wished he had a front locker. He got high centered and earned his first cow bell. To his credit he didn't have trouble with any other obstacles the rest of the day. The group as a whole did a great job helping their fellow Jeepers with spots and stacking. It was nice to have a little smaller group than we have had of late.

We broke for lunch around noon at the playground and enjoyed the perfect weather. Some of the kids played in the snow while some of the big kids caught a quick cat nap. We shared some stories and good conversation before heading back to the trail. There was running water at most creek crossings but the group progressed without too much trouble. About 2/3 of the way thru we encountered a downed tree that blocked a good portion of the trail. It was big enough that it needed some attention. We did some trimming and upon further inspection James noticed that the tree posed a bit of hazard for the trailing vehicles that were not engaged with the immediate

obstacle. It appeared that if the top of the tree moved too much it may force the trunk of the tree to roll down the hillside on to the following vehicles. Danny followed close behind me as I went thru and we planned put a strap on the tree to pull it down onto the trail and then move it off down into the creek. Danny attached his strap on a good size branch and asked me to give him a some room. He was going to give it a big pull and wanted to keep his forward momentum. I did not get to see his attempt but I saw the aftermath. Turns out a good portion of the roots were still entrenched up the hill so the tree went NOWHERE. Danny had it in 4-low and all 4 tires had dug in hard when gave it a tug. After that we knew the tree wasn't going anywhere without a chainsaw. We still used caution and went thru one at a time leaving space just in case the tree started to come loose.

We proceeded thru the next two rock gardens and onto the end of the trail. We met a few adopt-a-trail workers doing some trail maintenance at the last rock garden and informed them about the downed tree. We also spoke about the erosion back on 3n16 and the efforts it would take to get the trail repaired. They informed us that the trail was actually closed as was much of the big bear area trails from the recent rains. They gave us an update of what trails we could use to get back to the fawnskin area. Most of the connecting trails had big mud puddles and it was really wet. We made good time and made it to the trail head for John Bull. 4 of us decided to do John Bull and the 4 others headed home.

John Bull was AWESOME! There was 18-24" of snow in some places and the trail had not been run for a while. We had a blast and completed the trail in about 90 minutes. I was very glad we decided to do it! We also did John bull connector and then made our way back to Fawnskin. There was so much mud I had trouble seeing thru any window on my Jeep. At one point I spun out in an impressive manner and James gave me a simple WOW over the radio. It was really fun!

The whole day was fantastic! We had a great time! Thanks to ALL for great day with great friends!

Cowbells: Mike Zeller

Damage: Dannys ego for not ripping that tree from the

ground (LOL)

Injuries: None reported

**Recommended minimum equipment:** 1-lockers, 33" tires, Full skid plates including rocker guards, Longer wheel base vehicles may have trouble with this trail on minimum

requirements.

# Holcomb Valley Gold Fever Trail Snow Run...

Yahtzee!!!

The 2/13 snow run was filled with the usual merriment to be expected on an easy run. 23 Jeeps assembled at Rocky's Roadhouse in baited anticipation of the fun that was about to happen...



Well... The run's adventures didn't disappoint. After the air down, we hit the trail. Tailgunner Mike Wallace and Midgunner Rob "Robicon" Wallace along with navigators Jack and Zoe assisted in making the run appear effortless whilst the HAM radio airwaves were a chatter keeping things moving with Swiss watch precision. A brief snow-side stop for snowball fights, snow play and photo ops, then back in our rigs.

The run included a rich history tour visiting the Hangman's Tree along with the Pigmy Cabin as well as a CB narrated tour by Jack. Time for lunch and merriment continued. Post lunch was time for everyone to try their skills at muddy puddle crossing. It appeared that the inner kid in most combined with the temptation of a muddy puddle was too hard to resist. Some tried in vain to keep the mud off their rigs, while others went for broke. Mike Wallace got the unofficial king of the puddle, spooling up his engine like some Lambo from way far away hitting the puddle at slightly below subsonic speed. SPAAAAALASH!!! Muddy water way over the top of his rig. Other honorable mentions go to Newbie and mud puddle extraordinaire, Chris Raymond in his modified Grand Cherokee, Steve "Beau Duke" Meyer, Rob "Robicon" Wallace, Tonkacon's Zoe and Jack and Josh and Rayleen "GFI (go for it)" Schiller for creating walls of muddy water so large you couldn't see their rigs until they crossed the puddle...



and onto to the next adventure...

A quick tour to the Pinnacles and extra credits through the squeeze and back for those more skilled and adventurous types. That's where Rob "Robicon" Wallace slid in the snow offline and put on a winching clinic for the first cowbell of the day. Meanwhile back with the opted outs staging area your trail leader Dave Jones decided to let first timer Damian Velasco take the wheel of our rig and crawl over an easy obstacle. Oops. Damian slips off a rock and our rig is hopelessly trapped. (second cowbell) Forward no, backward no, piling rocks hell no... So Mike Wallace straps our rig and proceeds to pull us backwards out of rock prison. One problem, the trail is snowy and slick and Mike's front locker is on and his wheels are turned hard passenger unbeknownst to Mike. S-AH-N-A-P!!! Those new 37's and lockers were too much for his yoke and u-joint with the wheel turned hard passenger. Time for another winching clinic plus a trail repair clinic...

Starting to run behind and it's getting late. The shadows are beginning to get long. So it was decided to get all non-trail repair attendees off the trail to the air up point while the repair crew remained behind to fix Mike's rig. The non-repair group hit the trail and everything went smoothly and this group was at the air up while there was light. Vehicles were aired up and simple directions were given to get everyone back on the main highway headed home. Note: Grins ear to ear were apparent at the air up.

Now getting dark and time to head back onto the trail to meet up with Mike and the repair crew. Now dark... No problem more fun. It's time to put those 30,000 lumens to work. Perfect, instant daytime. Halfway to the repair site, we hear chatter on the HAM band and the repair group is on the trail heading back victoriously with Mike's rig partially repaired to the point where it's drivable. Rendezvous and the intrepid night snow run repair crew are headed to the air up. Along the way and now dark at night on the snow covered trail we encounter two less fortunates that also broke down that were hiking out. Mike picks them up and off to the air up point.

The two strangers call a friend and get a ride, we air up, head into town for dinner and wait for Mike's tow truck. As luck would have it, Valentine's Day weekend and President's Day weekend proved impossible to get a table for 12. Getting late and hungry, half the group opts to head home while the other now smaller group heads off to Carl's Jr. for some grub and more banter... Tow Truck was called at 6:30P, now 9:00P and still no Tow Truck. So Mike convinces the remaining group to head home and he'll wait in his Jeep in the freezing cold. Mike texts at 11:00P, Tow Truck 2 miles away. Next day, Mike texts his thanks for everyone's support and he got home at 2:00A.



Morale of the story... You never know what's store for you on the trail. As long as you're with the right people, fun can be had in almost any situation...

In this case we got the full Yahtzee of fun things with 23 Jeeps, snow play, mud play, a guided historical tour, extra credit driving, 2 winching clinics plus two cowbells, a trail repair clinic, night snow trail driving, stranded strangers rescue, plus post trail dining banter.

Looking forward to next year's easy snow run...

Dave Jones

#### Run Calendar

#### Adopt a Trail meeting place

8:30am at Rocky's Roadhouse 32150 Hilltop Blvd Running Springs, CA 92382 next to the 76 gas station

#### March

11th is hot Jeep nights at Premier Jeep.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Rattlesnake, Mottino Wash

#### **Run Leaders:**

Ron Webber 714 715 5692 cell / ronjp@outlook.com Josh Bleijenberg (562) 400-1305 / jbleijenberg@gmail.com

#### **Description of Run:**

Rattlesnake is <u>easy to moderate</u>, Mottino Wash is <u>difficult</u>

trail starts in Johnson Valley and ends in Big Bear

**Mottino Wash**, also known as Sidewinder Trail, is a side trail off Rattlesnake Canyon (2N91). The trail is about 2 miles in length and follows a wash uphill. The trail begins from the north end off Rattlesnake and the obstacles start

right away. The trail is littered with moderate to extreme rock gardens with car size boulders and lots of loose rock sections. Many sections of the trail are narrow and require 3-point (or more) turns to navigate around rocks. Vehicles with less then 35" tires or that have a long wheelbase will be constantly dragging their undercarriage on rocks and pivoting on rock sliders to get through the narrow chutes. Due to the narrow trail and large rock obstacles, body damage is possible.

Mottino Wash, there are rock obstacles and more technical than John Bull but not Sledgehammer the scattered rock layout sort of reminds me of Sledge. I would say it is 20% easier than Claw Hammer as well. We had no real carnage other than the sole of my shoe came off thanks to the heat. James was getting quite the work out with the stick shift and his starter was doing overtime but he got through with the occasional 'tug'. Cal and I took a couple of optional lines that tested the belly pan clearance of our large rigs. It was a fun run but the drive out there was a little much. I think I would consider it again if I were to come from the 247 side and if it was a bit cooler out there.

Rattlesnake Canyon (2N91) is a mostly a wash road that follows the canyon as it flows toward Johnson Valley. The trail connects with Burns Canyon Road (2N02) to the south and Hwy 247 to the north. Most of the trail is soft sand or dirt, with several smaller rock obstacles and many side canyon trails. There are cattle guards at each end as this section of land is used for cattle grazing. The owner of the land respectfully asks all vehicles using Rattlesnake Canyon to not disturb any of the cattle and please drive slowly when passing any near the road.

Run Type: Day Run no camping planned

**Directions to Meeting Place:** 247 and Rattlesnake Canyon Road. 34 22.195n, 116 39.045w (copy and paste into Google Drive) 6.5 miles before Boone Road & 105 miles from Marie Calendars Anaheim Hills eat breakfast and fill up with gas in Victorville

**Departure Time:** 9:30 am **Required Equipment**:

Mottino 35" tires and rear lockers

Rattlesnake 32" tires and lockers not required.

If very heavy rain is forecasted, then run maybe cancelled an email will go out. current Big Bear Weather: bensweather.com

CB Channel 4, if too much traffic then switch to 5 and so on.

HAMM channel 146.440

Contact Information Run Leaders

Is RSVP Required? Appreciated;

Josh Bleijenberg (562) 400-1305 /

jbleijenberg@gmail.com

#### 19 - 27 Easter Jeep Safari Moab -

25 –4/3 Moab (trail ratings Dif) – Dave & Zoe plan to go through Flagstaff on Friday, then through Monument Valley. Just thought I'd send off an email with current details on the Moab trip so everyone is on the same page and in the know. Here's the accommodation logistics if you are planning on hoteling it, or driving up with us. If you'd like to condo it, and share accommodations please reach out to Mike Wallace for details.

Our family along with Janet, Jack and Zoe and Chris and Alison, more than likely, Leslie and Kevin are driving to Flagstaff, AZ on Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> checking in at the Comfort Inn and checking out the following morning 3/27. 3/27 we drive to Moab but take a stop and drive into Monuments Valley and check out the beautiful buttes and see where all those old western movies were filmed on the way up to Moab. I'll also look into how much time we have on the way up and see if there are any interesting other stops on the way up before we arrive in Moab. (stay tuned on that one)

On Sunday March 27 we'll check into our hotel at the La Quinta in Moab, checking out on Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, then returning home. We plan to drive directly home, but Jack and Zoe and Mike and Laura I believe are planning on taking two days to drive back home.

Monday through Friday we will be going wheeling on day trips with a planned easy night run. Jack, Zoe and I are working out the logistics.

#### **April**

## 2 CORVA Poker run

Hungary Valley

5 Monthly club meeting

9 Adopt A Trail - Danny

15 – 17 El Mirage Jim & Karen

22 – 24 Hammer stock, Johnson Valley

22 –24 Anza Borrego (M) - Mike

29 –1 Corral Canyon (D) - Danny

#### May

3 Monthly club meeting

7 Adopt A Trail - Chris

12 –14 Jeep Jamboree Big Bear - non club event

**13-14** Molina Ghost run sponsored by CAL4WD see in gear or

www.cal4wheel.com/molina-ghost-run

20 –22 Overland Expo, Flagstaff AZ. - non club event

21 HDR Prerun Devils Loop (M) - Ray

**27 –30** HDR Cal 4

http://www.cal4wheel.com/events/hi-desert-round-up

Jason Williams, Chair

jason90715@gmail.com / 562-413-5128

The Dirt Devils are committed to leading 1 run Devils Loop (M) -

HDR is held Memorial Day weekend near Barstow. All proceeds go toward keeping trails open.

#### June

7 Monthly club meeting11 Adopt A Trail - Roger

17 –19 Big Bear Forest Fest – non club event 17 –25 Grand Canyon North Rim (E/M) – Ray

#### July

Monthly club meeting
John Bull (D) - Josh
Adopt A Trail - Ray

Old white mtn road near bishop No date

#### August

Monthly club meeting
Off road Clinic 1 - Mike
Off road Clinic 2 - Mike

13 Little John Bull night run (M) - Jack& Zoe

20 Adopt A Trail - Josh

11 –14 Jeep Jamboree Rubicon Trail - non club event

### September

6 Monthly club meeting 9 –11 Sherman Pass (M) - Danny 17 Holcomb Creek (D) - Jack&Zoe 24 AAT BBQ

## October

4 Monthly club meeting

7, 8 Miller jeep trail / lockwood creek

**14 - 16** Death Valley (E) - Rick

El mirage date not set

#### November

1 Monthly club meeting / run planning 2017

**4 - 6** Afton Canyon (M) - Chris

11 - 13 Panamint Valley PVD - Cal 4 Wheel event

#### **December**

6 Monthly club meeting

10 Calico (D) and Calico (E) - Ron/ Mike

#### **Guests & new members**

#### Guest

1. Chris Raymond 1998 ZJ Grand Cherokee

2. John Strege

3. Jerry Horner

4. Nikki and Damian Velasco

5. Alex Rodriguez

6. Brian Powell

7. Joe Cowie

8. Matt Gordon 1970 Unimog 404 Doka

9. Rob Rien

10. Mike, Janet and Michelle Gagnon

11. Jason Williams lookin good in a '95 YJ

#### 12. Jim Leslie enjoys a 2006 LJ

#### New members

1. Mel & Barbara 2014 JK

2. Ron and Debbie Johnson 2015 JK

#### Club info

## **Meeting Place**

First Tuesday of each month, 6:30pm for Dinner & 7:30pm for the meeting at just east of Imperial Hwy and north of the 91 Fwy. Marie Callenders. 5711 East La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807, 714-779-0600

#### Club officers

**President:** Ray Kleinhuizen kkfusedglass@roadrunner.com

#### Immediate past president:

Jesse May: jemay.xj@gmail.com

Vice President: Mike Wallace proudpop80@gmail.com

Secretary: Cheryl May: <u>jemay.xj@gmail.com</u>
Treasurer: Emi Webber: <u>emiwebber@hotmail.com</u>

Web Master: Chris Slaughter: webmaster@dirtdevils.org

#### Adopt a trail chairmans:

Roy Chance: <a href="mailto:rchance@aol.com">rchance@aol.com</a>
Roger Mauer: <a href="mailto:rogermauer@gmail.com">rogermauer@gmail.com</a>

Newsletter: Ron Webber: <a href="mailto:rom">ronjp@outlook.com</a>
Hospitality: Emi Webber: <a href="mailto:emiwebber@hotmail.com">emiwebber@hotmail.com</a>

Safety Committee: Bill Smith:

Run Coordinator: Rick Walter <u>rick03tj@gmail.com</u> Emergency response team coordinator: Rick Walter

rick03tj@gmail.com

the emergency response team makes themselves available to help with our adopt a trail Dish Pan.

CAL4 wheel reps: Jesse May and Keith Graham

## Club membership

## Membership dues:

Dirt Devil annual club dues\$36.0	00
Spouse	00
CAL4WD annual dues\$45.0	
CAL4WD permanent member\$675.0	00
CAL4WD permanent member 12 installments of \$56.2	25
CORVA\$30.0	00
http://cal4wheel.com/	

#### Adopt a Trail

The Dirt Devils Adopt A Trail is: Dishpan Springs Trail (3N34)

**Dishpan Springs** Trail can be found in the San Bernardino National Forest near Lake Arrowhead. The Dishpan Springs Trail is one of the toughest and most popular trails in the SBNF.

#### The West entrance:

2N26Y is N34° 16.198 W117° 08.258.

#### The T6 Bridge:

N34° 16.106 W117° 07.745.

#### The East entrance:

3N16 is N34° 15.663 W117° 05.116.

#### **Meeting place**

8:30am at Rock Road House 32150 Hilltop Blvd Running Springs, CA 92382 next to the 76 gas station

#### DD HAM's as March 2016

2 2 1 11 11 1 D WD 1 1 1 W1 C	
1. Scott Beggins	KJ6KBG
2. Paul Coursey	KJ6NNG
3. Tim DeBolt	KK6TRM
4. James Ettinger	KK6UYU
5. Roy Flansurg	KJ6SVM
6. Keith Graham	KF6LZA
7. Sandy Graham	KF6SBF
8. Steve Hendry	KK6UYW
9. Chris Johnson	KK6SAJ
10.Pete Johnson	KM6ARI
11. Dave Jones	KK6SAH
12. Linda Jones	KK6SAI
13. Cheryl May	KF6WNG
14.Al Ramsden	KF6BCJ
15. Chris Slaughter	KK6TMR
16. Mike Wallace	KK6SBC
17.Rob Wallace	KK6UZA
18. Rick Walter	KJ6NME
19.Ron Webber	KM6ANT

#### **Awards**



CAL 4 Wheel Drive, new member award

## **Newsletter advertising**

\$25 for ½ page ad, for 3 issues \$50 for a ½ page ad, for 3 issues \$100 for a full page ad, for 3 issues. A full page ad also gets a Web Link.

## First aid kit tracking

#### FA #1 (red, blue backpack)

Josh B Danny Ward Ray Kleinhuizen Mike Wallace Josh Bleijenberg

## FA #2 (Orange canvas bag)

Dave Jones Ray K Gilbert Mike Wallace Josh Bleijenberg Pete Johnson

## FA #3 (Orange canvas bag)

Rick Walter
Bill S
Ron Webber Calico
Jack & Zoe
Roger Mauer
Danny Ward
Ron Webber March 2015 Calico

#### **Cowbells**



The cow bell rules are: If you get stuck and are unable to move under your own power and need the help of a winch or you get strapped from one of your fellow jeepers then you have earned the privilege of hanging a cow bell from your front bumper. You must leave the cow bell on the front of your rig until another Dirt Devil gets stuck then, you can proudly hand it over. This starts at the beginning and the end of the trail, not on the highway.



Old logo green bell

Mike Zeller Holcomb Creek Frank Gilliland Claw Hammer Frank Gilliland Holcomb Creek 9/26/15 Josh Bleijenberg Corral Canyon 4/10/15 Josh Bleijenberg Dusy Ersham Sept 2014



Brown bell

Rob Holcomb Valley / Gold Fever Suhag Claw Hammer Frank Gilliland Claw Hammer Bill Smith HDR May25 2015 Tim Debolt Rattlesnake Feb 2015 Rick Walter adopt a trail 6/27/2014 Josh Bleijenberg Corral Canyon 5/4/2014



Little Blue bell

#### Dave

Kurt Claw hammer
Frank Gilliland Holcomb Creek 9/26/15
Bill Smith HDR May25 2015 winched Bronco on to trailer
Gilbert at Corral Canyon 4/10/15
Chris Slaughter Grizzly
Rick Walter
Mike Wallace



Mike Maneth memorial bell James Ettinger Holcomb Creek Frank Gilliland John Bull 6/27/2015 Mike Wallace Corral Canyon 4/10/15 James Ettinger Claw Hammer 1/10/15. Castulo Olivas

### **Dirt Devil Accessories**



# Dirt Devils accessories <a href="http://www.dirtdevils.org/">http://www.dirtdevils.org/</a>

Item	Price	Qty order	Extended price
Round Stickers	15.00		
Whip flags 8" x 12"	25.00		
Large flags 3' x 5'	70.00		
Caps	20.00		
Caps camo	22.00		
T shirt short sleeve	20.00		
T shirt short sleeve camo	28.00		
*Sweatshirt	35.00		
**T shirt long sleeve	24.00		
Total			

Inventory as of 3/6/2016

emiwebber@hotmail.com / checks payable to Dirt Devils

\* Out of inventory / \*\* Limited inventory

dd accessories order form.docx