

Johnson Valley Hammers Trails camping trip

When: March 11,12 2017- Camping Saturday night with scheduled runs Saturday and Sunday (Possible Friday night camping TBD)

Where: Johnson Valley OHV (THE HAMMERS)

Campsite/ Run meeting location: Campsite @ Valley Vista Airport (Landers). Daily runs will stage here at 9AM and depart @ 9:30 AM. **(DO NOT DRIVE ON ANY AIRPORT PROPERTY AT ANY TIME)** more info below.

Coordinates: 34.337231, -116.579934

Trip description: There are a couple of options if you choose to join us for this trip. I will be leading two trails in hammer town. Claw hammer trail on Saturday, and Sedge hammer on Sunday. More on both of these below. There is also some easier trail options in the area if you would like to go out and explore. The area has a lot to offer if you just want to come out and camp with some good people and check it out. I have included details about the camp site and lodging options below. Also you can do either of these runs as day runs if you prefer.

Area and trail descriptions: Hammer town and the trails in this area are HARD! Very HARD! These trails I have chosen are both short and considered to be some of the easier trails for this area, but make no mistake, this is a whole different level. Body damage and breakage is very possible even probable. We had 3 of 5 vehicles use their winch last time we ran Claw hammer but no body got any damage. The time before some of our larger vehicles did take some dings but no breakage. As a result I am going to limit the number of vehicles on these trails to 12 and ask that you RSVP directly to me. I will probably ask you questions about experience and vehicle build as I want to be sure you are prepared for the level of trail we are going to run. Please don't take it personal, I just want to get to know who I'm guiding through. There are a ton of videos on Youtube for both of these trails and I would encourage you to watch some to acclimate yourself. I have attached a couple of links below that include a detailed write up on the area as well as some videos that seemed fairly accurate in their representation. Try to picture yourself on those obstacles in your Jeep and ask yourself if this is something that you want to try. That being said, I don't want to scare you, they are REALLY Fun! We have done Claw Hammer as a club run with about 12 vehicles and it went very well. A couple of people turned back but most made it thru unscathed and we finished before night time. This area is like an off-road playground and if you have never been there. You should really check it out. There are continuous talks about closures and limited use of this area and who knows how long it will be open. It is an amazing resource. Rattlesnake Canyon and Mottina Wash trails are also close by and would be a good alternative if you are into the camping weekend. I can help you find your way, but I will not be running those trails on this trip.

Four Wheeler guide to the Hammers article with detailed descriptions for each trail: <http://www.fourwheeler.com/events/131-9903-guide-to-the-hammers/>

Saturday (3/11/17): CLAW HAMMER: Meeting @ 9, Departing @ 9:30 AM. This is the easier of the two trails. (sorry for the music) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vMFHt3VpXk>

Sunday (3/12/17) : SLEDGE HAMMER: Meeting @ 9, Departing @ 9:30 AM. One of the original trails in the area. It has trail signage and mail box to send for help if you get stuck. HAHA <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rvN11IyZZQ>

Difficulty: D+

Minimal equipment: Short wheelbase 33's with front and rear lockers. Long wheel base 35's with both lockers. Full skid plates highly recommended. Expect me to ask you questions about this when you RSVP. Driving experience will be a huge factor here as well. Ultimately preservation of your beautiful Jeep is my goal :)

Camping details:

This is a private campsite owned by one of our members who is gracious enough to let us use it. It is a about an acre of graded, packed dirt with a couple of vehicles and a shipping container on it. It is located next to Valley Vista Airport. The access road to the camp is fine for 4x4 and trucks with trailers, but heavy RVs will want to access by crossing the runway (requires escort spotter.. active runway).. You can put "Valley Vista Airport" into most GPS and it will either come up with a Yucca address or Landers. But it leads you to the right place. About a mile West of Boone Road off 247 is Valley Vista Road. Head south on Valley Vista for 2 miles until you T-bone Quailbush Road at the airport. I will be there and will help direct folks into camp. Camp has the red fire truck, white 5th wheel and brown shipping container. It's a fun spot, and just a couple miles from the Boone Rd entrance to JV.

Again I need to mention this: **THIS IS AN ACTIVE AIRPORT AND WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DRIVE ON IT!!!! STAY OFF THE RUNWAY!!!! This is for your own safety.**

We are going to get a port-a potty rental for the weekend and there are no service hook ups or showers here. We will have plenty of space to spread out and will be very close to the trails though. I could also use some help with firewood if anyone has a resource here. It would be greatly appreciated!

I'd like to get an idea of who will be able to make it and we can talk about food for the weekend. Maybe we can do a pot luck? If you are going to join us for day use please be sure to bring your lunch and plan to eat out on the trail.

Hotels in the Area:

Best western yucca valley (30 min from camp)
(760) 365-3555

There are also options closer but they were questionable so I did not include them in my write up.

Hammers trail map (Dirtopia)

http://www.dirtopia.com/wiki/File:Johnson_Valley_Trails.JPG

Weather:

TBD. I know if we have any moisture I do not want to run anything in Johnson Valley. They are hard enough when its dry.

Contact info and RSVP:

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