



The Dirt Devils Digest
June 2010

A monthly publication of the Dirt Devils Circulation 123
<http://www.dirtdevils.org/>

President's message

Another great issue of "The Dirt Devil Digest"

The election season is over. After some of the most vicious campaigning our club has ever seen, I remain as president, beating out Jesse May by just one vote` Roger Maurer is my new VP. My wife Nancy Neal will remain as secretary and Emi Webber will be the new treasurer. The officers contact info is always at the end of the "The Dirt Devils Digest". If you haven't paid dues for the new year, please send to Emi Webber. In case you need it the last page of the "The Dirt Devils Digest" has a membership form.

Mike Ortega our Webmaster is looking for photos of member rigs and a short bio to post on our web site. In case you haven't noticed he is doing a great job, thanks Mike.

It looks like the Riccardi's are adapting well to the Wisconsin life style.

We are using the "The Dirt Devils Digest" to track who has what, including The Dirt Devils first aid kits and cow bells. Let Ron Webber know of any changes. If you don't he has no way of knowing. His contact info is at the end of the "The Dirt Devils Digest".

VP Roger is going to arrange with Ranger Greg to pre run our "adopt a trail", prior to our July 17th working run, so we will better know just what Greg is looking for. Roger will need a big turnout as there is a lot to do.

See you on the trail



President Sheldon Neal and First Lady Nancy Neal

COW BELLS	2
TRAIL REPORTS	2
HIGH DESERT ROUND-UP	2
MOJAVE TRAIL	2
WHITE / GOLD MOUNTAIN PRE RUN.....	4
SAFETY REPORT	4
CALENDAR	4
JUNE	4
JULY	4
AUGUST	5
SEPTEMBER	5
OCTOBER	5
NOVEMBER.....	5
DECEMBER	5
CLUB NEWS	5
MEETING PLACE	5
GUESTS	5
NEW MEMBERS	6
ADOPT A TRAIL UPDATE.....	6
CAL4WHEEL NEWS	6
FIRST AID KIT TRACKING	7
BANNER	7
SHIRTS	7
STICKERS	7
CLUB OFFICERS.....	7
DIRT DEVILS MEMBERSHIP FORM.....	8



Troy Riccardi working on his snow mobile.

Cow Bells



Castulo Olivas at Gold Mountain July 09 (the little cow bell)



Jeff Jernigan John Bull July 09

John Powell handed his cowbell over to **Dustin Bennett** for getting high centered at HDR, he had to get yanked off.

How to earn The Cow bell: If a driver needs assistance on the trail with his winch or from another drivers winch or strap. Then the cow bell is handed over from the last owner. If you have never had the cow bell hanging off your bumper maybe you are not testing the limits of your vehicle. Try it, you may like it.

Trail reports

High Desert Round-up

HDR is basically a fund raiser for CAL4WD, in case you did not know CAL4WD works to keep to keep our trails open. They deserve our support.

HDR takes place over Memorial Day Weekend near Barstow. 196 attendees' signed up, 250 to 300 is typical. Dirt Devil Jesse May lead the Blue Moon run. John Strege Lead 20+ Jeeps on the Devils Loop run. The Dirt Devils showed their support for CAL4WD and won an award for best attendance with 12 participants.

Only one rig, a 4 door JK, rolled on its side while climbing Pumpkin Eater Trail. Thanks to his friends he did get back on all fours and crawled to the top of the hill.

Many of our members did well at the large Sunday Night raffle, President Sheldon won 3x's and our newest member Chuck Chapman won a new Warn winch. Way to go. It pays to attend HDR.

Mojave Trail

May 14th 2010

We drove to Avi Casino near Needles the first night, \$28 a night for 2 beds, how can you go wrong with that?

The trail head is about a mile north of the California Nevada line. We arrived about 8:15am and left half hour later.

We started out with 9 vehicles

1. Chuck Chapman and Ron Webber in Chucks Grand Cherokee
2. Scott Beggins in his Wrangler
3. Pete Johnson in his Wrangler
4. Ray in his Wrangler
5. Karen in her white Ford pick up
6. Mike Manneth in his Ford Bronco
7. Mike's daughter Lisa and Frank in a Chevy Suburban
8. Kevin and his son Sterling in his JK
9. Guest Bill Murphy in his Nissan Xterra

The first part of the trail leaves the Colorado River valley, about 45 minutes into the trail Mike's Bronco starting puking trans fluid. After waiting around awhile Mike said not to wait for him he was heading home. I checked with Mike on Sunday after getting home and he did make it home Sunday afternoon.

Once over the first range of mountains we crossed the Piute valley and made our way to Piute Fort and Piute Spring high up in the Piute mountain range. Piute Fort's rock foundation still remains and the water in the creek is incredibly clear.

In case you didn't know the old Mojave trail basically runs from watering hole to watering hole. 150 years ago travelers could not go more than a few days with out refilling their canteens. To think we are making this run in our Jeeps is incredible.



After Piute Fort, the trail backtracks a bit then takes you up another canyon and over the Piute range. In days of old the Piute range was the toughest climb. After crossing the Piute range we found ourselves in Lanfair Valley. The elevation of Lanfair Valley runs between 4,200 and 5,200 feet. The flowers and plant life are abundant. At every stop Kevin's son Sterling would jump out of his dad's Jeep and begin prospecting. At the end of the trail their JK was riding like a boat because of Sterling's rock collection.

After wandering across beautiful Lanfair Valley the next stop is Rock Spring and Government Hole. This was the base of operations for the Rock Spring Land & Cattle Company, for a hundred years.



From Government Hole it is a short distance to our first camp in Round Valley. Our camp site is set among huge boulders with a great view of round Valley. In the distance you can see a couple houses and a wind mill. After a dusty day on the trail I was really looking forward to my steak dinner. While pulling my filet off the grill it slipped off my paper plate and landed on the ground. I stared at it for a moment then picked it up, washed it off and put it back on the grill for a minute, then back on the flimsy paper plate. It still tasted good, just a little crunchy.

The next morning we were up and on the trail by 8:00am

From this point the trail starts out on a long straight graded road, crosses a set of railroad tracks, a paved road, a monument sign commemorating the railroad and then back on the trail. Our next stop is Rainbow Wells a fairly large hole about 10 feet deep with lots of stagnant water, reeds and trees. It appears as though someone showed up with a tractor and just started digging. Why did they start digging there? There are no rocks or mountains nearby like the other springs. The water table is just very high.

Marl Springs just like the other springs looks good enough to drink. There is a large basin constructed by ranchers long ago for their cattle. We hung around for a bit, checked out the facilities and then moved on to the lava fields.

At mile 73 you come across the Mohave Trail mail box. Installed in 1983 by Dennis Gasebier and 3 friends. We added our names to the book and Sterling left a turtle for good luck. Some people leave coins for good luck.



The lava tubes is a must do stopping point, a million years ago, when the lava flowed from nearby volcanoes, air was trapped creating huge lava caverns. I was disappointed to see that BLM replaced the rickety old ladder with a new OSHA approved set of stairs set in concrete.

After lunch we ran up to the old Aiken Mine. The facility looks like they just shut the place down about 10 years ago and walked away. All the old equipment is still set up, (needs a tune up) very large piles of red and black rock ready to be loaded and hauled out.

The highlight at Aiken mine was 4 big horn sheep we saw. It appeared to be a mother and 3 kids running around on the rock piles.

Kevin Hull directed us to a new camp spot the second night way up a dry wash which turns into a box canyon created from lava. The entertainment here was a large eagle nest built on a lava rock shelf 50 feet up the side of a cliff. The mother would come back and forth feeding here 3 white babies.

Note to self, Sunday morning the fella camped next to us, poured gas from a 5 gallon gas onto last nights fire to get it going. The hot embers ignited, the fire followed the stream of gas up to the gas can and ignited. It did not explode, the spout was more like a tiki torch. He was able to smother the fire.

After breakfast we took off for Soda Dry Lake. Lucky for us the road going across was firm, the lake did look soft off to the sides. "Travelers monument" (a huge pile of rocks) is a little larger than when I was here last. The tradition is, before crossing soda lake you grab a rock, take it to the center of the lake and add it to the rock pile. In the center of the rock pile there is a bronze sign. If you are one of the privileged ones to read the sign you are forever sworn to secrecy. After Soda Lake the trail winds through Razor OHV area. Then the trail drops into Shaw Pass, so named because back in October of 1867, Doctor Shaw along with one soldier and an open mail buggy was attacked by Indians and killed with an arrow.

From here the trail winds through a blow sand area, the trail is marked by old rail road ties stuck in the ground without which it would be hard to follow the trail. Before entering beautiful Afton Canyon we stopped in the shade of the train trestle. The

cliffs of Afton Canyon are very colorful. Old abandoned mines are visible hundreds of feet up the sides of these steep cliffs. I'm not sure but I think, the last time we went through I think there was more water. At the end as we are pulling out the water is 2 feet deep.



We aired up at Afton Canyon camp ground, then headed out to the 15 freeway and a quick stop in Yermo for lunch at Peggy Sue's for a burger and fries.

You can follow the trail along the Mohave River another 20 miles and get out near an old Indian site. We chose to get out at Afton Camp Ground.

All and all the trip went well. Anyway I had fun.

Ron Webber

White / Gold Mountain Pre Run

(Saturday 05.08.10)

Trail Boss: Mike Ortega

I met Danny Ward and Roy Flansburg at the Denny's off Imperial Hwy and the 57 Freeway at 7 AM to CaraJeep to Big Bear. Highway 330 was closed so we opted to traverse the Rim of the World Highway (18) to our destination. After a gas stop and an "Unload all of our Coffee" break, we arrived at the Big Bear Discovery center at 9:10 AM. We were greeted by 4 other Dirt Devils and 2-3 other OffRoad Clubs. WOW, a FULL parking lot of all 4x4s! Without hesitation we decided to leave ASAP to get in front of all the other Clubs, which were also doing Gold Mountain.

We met up with Roger and his girlfriend at the Staging Area, this made a total of 9 Dirt Devil Rigs and what a great turn out that was! As we finished our Drivers Meeting and airing down, we noticed a VERY large group of rigs showing up which we found out was all the rigs from the Discovery Center! We made a "mad dash" to hit the trail. We got to the first obstacle which *should* have been flawless but it wasn't.... Roger and I made it up and then it was Terry Puckets turn. He got about 5 feet from the Step and we noticed that he was *POURING* out antifreeze from his Cherokee! WOW, looks like Gold Mountain Claimed *another* Dirt Devils' Rig! After about an hour and 40+ Jeeps passing us by, we were able to

find a radiator at the local Big Bear A1 Auto Parts store. Eventually, we got Terry turned around and he and his son, *also* in a Jeep, headed to the bottom of the mountain. The rest of the Gold Mountain trip went was perfect except for the line of vehicles we had to wait behind.....

We had lunch at Holcomb Creek Campground around 12:30. I've got to admit the White Mountain part of this run made me a little on edge due to the large group of Dirt Devils, the Pre Run and this was my first run as a "Trail Boss," and oh yeah it was *my first time trailing White Mountain!* As we rode down 3N16 to the entrance of White Mountain, we ran into ANOTHER Jeep Club headed up White Mountain. "Hi Desert OffRoad" was a sign I was looking for!!! We stayed behind this group and they showed us (*ME*) where to go for the White Mountain Run..... The rest of the trip was flawless. I would like to thank everyone that showed up and helped me on this trip, even Tailgunner John for constantly saying, "what NEXT Trail Boss," and "I don't know, *you're* the Trail Boss!" ... Lol....

Adopt-a-Trail run April 24.

Roger led. There were nine vehicles. Started in Lake Arrowhead, there was a lot of snow on the ground until we crossed the bridge. Then the trail was clear. We worked on trail erosion. There were five downed trees that we had to cut up and move to the side. There are a lot of erosion at the waterfall area due to snow and rain. Otherwise we all had a good time. A few people got stuck – John Powell and Kevin Hull. Both managed to get out on their own. The trail has gotten harder because of runoff.

Safety report

Safety Chairman DannWard

Basic safety equipment should include: first aid kit, fire extinguisher, CB radio, tow strap, extra food and water, basic tool kit, some spare parts, safety glasses, gloves, full size spare, working emergency brake.

Calendar

June

12th - Miller Jeep trail Pete Johnson

9am at flying J's Frasier Park just off the 5 freeway.

26th - Gold Mountain, White Mountain

The leader Mike Ortega says this is an easy run no lockers needed, 31" tires recommended.

meet 7am Denny's at the 57 and Imperial or 9am at the Big Bear Discovery Center.

The forest service does require a "Forest Adventure Pass".

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/ap/vendors.php>

July

17th - Dish Pan Springs, Adopt a Trail

Leader is Roger Maurer.

There is a lot to do. Including moving dead trees off the trail, fill in some of the severe erosion and add more large rocks to

gate keeper.

22th - 25th Jeeper Jamboree

31st - John Bull & dishpan Mike Ortega

August

7th - 15th High Sierra trip

12th - 15th Jeep Jamboree

14th - Adopt a Trail need a leader.

19th - 21st Cal 4WD convention

28th - Rattlesnake Canyon Joel Card

September

18th - KOPL Kids On Public Lands, this date has not been verified.

25th - Last Chance Canyon John Bell this is an easy run near Randsburg off 395.

October

9th, 10th off road expo, Ontario

9th Shredder Canyon run Leader Scott Beggins near Adelanto

23rd Calico run needs a run leader. The KOA campground is nearby in Yermo. The owner Jean Dornon

jeandornon@roadrunner.com welcomes off roaders.

November

12th - 14th CAL4WD Panamint Valley Days

Thanksgiving Truckhaven

December

7th run planning meeting

Club News

Meeting Place

We meet the first Tuesday of each month. 6:30pm for Dinner & 7:30pm for the meeting at

Keno's Restaurant

5750 E. La Palma

Anaheim just east of Imperial Hwy and north of the 91 Fwy.

Guests



Dick Winn's daily driver is a 2006 wrangler. (May, June)



Manuel Goncalves met some of us at HDR, and was coaxed into visiting. Manuel has 2 Jeeps a Liberty and a 2 door JK. Manuel also belongs to the lost jeeps club formerly known as lost KJ'S.



Roy and Brent Flansburg, Roy putts around in his 2009 Rubicon with 37" tires, curry lift and a few other gadgets. Roy last visited us with his wife Leslie Flansburg.



Ron and Cathy Hodgson with their two sons. They are the proud owners of a lifted '08 Rubicon, sitting on 35" tires. They are ready to go.



Terry Pucket visited us again. Terry Puckett is busy restoring a '94 grand Cherokee. Terry does not want hard core just something nice to putt around in the desert with. 31" all terrain tires, bumpers, winch and he will pretty well be done.

New members



June meeting: Chuck Chapman's wife Jean has allowed him to

modify her Jeep (Jean said he can do whatever he wants as long as the dash mounted flower vase remains). At HDR Chuck won a new Warn Winch.



Kevin Hull voted in at the May meeting. Kevin has now joined us at Cleghorn and helped at April's adopt a trail run and work party.

Adopt a Trail update

Roger distributed a map of the new proposed trail system from the last Adopt-a-Trail meeting.

The next Adopt-a-Trail run is April 24. We will leave at 9:00 a.m. from Running Springs (next to the Union 76 station). Roger cannot lead; Mike Ortega volunteered. The only maintenance that needs to be done is water diversion.

Cal4Wheel news

S2921

The CA Desert Protection Act of 2010

The California Association of Four Wheel Clubs is **OPPOSED** to S2921

If enacted the California Desert Protection Act of 2010 (S2921) will:

- Create the Mojave Trails National Monument containing ~941,000 acres.
- Create the Sand to Snow National Monument containing ~134,000 acres.
- Set aside a minimum of 200,000 acres as "mitigation lands" to provide for alternative energy projects. This will likely exclude recreation in these areas.
- Add ~90,000 acres to Death Valley National Park
- Create new wilderness areas totaling ~300,000 acres in BLM, USFS, and NPS managed Lands
- **NOT** protect Johnson Valley from the Marine Corps expansion.

The California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs is **OPPOSED** to S2921 in its present form. We oppose legislation that restricts the public's access to public lands. We

oppose the creation of new wilderness areas and National Monuments that withdraw lands from public access and close existing routes. We oppose the creation of new wilderness areas that do not meet the standards of the Wilderness Act of 1964, which established the National Wilderness Preservation System. We also oppose legislation that attempts to indiscriminately close any area or route of travel without verification of the economic impact to the area.

Harry Baker / Robert Reed
 (818)705-3930 / (925)784-4702
 bakerhab@aol.com / robertreed5@comcast.net

First aid kit tracking

Mike Ortega now has Jesse May's.
 Danny Ward has one.
 Sheldon Neal has one.

Banner

John Strege has it.

Shirts

A few T's are still available. Contact Emi Webber
 Short Sleeve is \$11.00
 Long Sleeve is \$13.50

Stickers

Dirt Devil Stickers are now available for purchase at the regular monthly meetings or contact Mary Jo Delp. Magnets are also available for the stickers at \$5 each.

Club officers



President: Sheldon Neal



Vice President: Roger Maurer



Treasurer: Emi Webber



Secretary: Nancy Neal

- President: Sheldon Neal, smneal@cox.net
- Secretary: Nancy Neal, smneal@cox.net
- Web Master: Mike Ortega
- Newsletter: Ron Webber / webbermail@cox.net
- Treasurer: Emi Webber / emiwebber@hotmail.com

- Hospitality: Emi Webber / emiwebber@hotmail.com
 714 649 9836 /
 17092 Olive Grove Lane Silverado, CA 92676
- Immediate past treasurer: Mary Jo Delp /
rkoolmom@aol.com / 310-542-2436
- Safety Committee: Dan Ward / d4lward@sbcglobal.net
- Run Coordinator: Needed

Dirt Devils Membership Form

June 1, 2010 through May 30, 2011

Membership: New * _____ Renewal _____

Member Name: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Year: _____

Handle: _____

Home address: _____ City & Zip: _____

Cell phone # _____ Home phone # _____

E-mail address: _____

Associate Name: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Year: _____

Handle: _____

Home address: _____ City & Zip: _____

Cell phone # _____ Home phone # _____

E-mail address: _____

Annual Membership Dues:

\$36.00 (Member) **\$12.00 (Associate)**

Please make check payable to **Dirt Devils of SoCal**. Send check & this form to

Emi Webber 17092 Olive Grove Lane, Silverado, CA 92676 emiwebber@hotmail.com

California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs, Inc.

\$45.00 yearly renewal of membership dues Member ID # _____

Note: The Federal Tax Reform Act requires that we advise members that contributions or gifts to CA4WDC or Dirt Devils Club are not deductible as charitable contribution for Federal Income Tax purposes.