

Berdoo Canyon Run Report

Jan 16, 2021

The group met at 8am for an 8:30 departure at the Love's Travel Stop on Dillon Road in Indio. We ended up with 19 total rigs, 12 members and 7 guests. 17 Wranglers of various flavors, 1 Cherokee, 1 Toyota. Craig took the position of mid gunner, and Jay graciously accepted to eat dust in the back serve as tail gunner. The weather was a perfect 70 degrees at departure, and we held our driver's meetings and departed for the trailhead – Berdoo Canyon Road.

After cautiously moving through the shooters in Berdoo Canyon and an exceptional amount of trash (old targets), we found a suitable place to air down and after this was complete, proceeded to move up the trail. The trip up Berdoo Canyon was uneventful, with just enough scenery and a obstacles to keep it interesting. Upon exiting Berdoo Canyon, we stopped for a quick break before proceeding through Joshua Tree National Park and the approximately 30 mile long section to the south end of the park where we would again hit dirt. The park was fairly busy, despite COVID meaning the campgrounds were closed.

The group then turned up Old Dale Road, heading towards the Brooklyn Mine area. The road was exceptionally rough, which led to our first mechanical issue of the day. Several miles up the road, one participant had to stop due to concerns about the ride and harshness. Jay determined that the tires hadn't been aired down properly, and as a result the vehicles shocks had likely overheated. Air was removed from the tires and the shocks given some time to cool, and then the group proceeded up the hill. The road didn't get any better and the group did their best to moderate speed to find as good a ride as possible. Shortly after, a second mechanical issue was reported, where a participant had a check engine light on and was getting a message of over-rev. Danny recommended a reboot of the computer, which seemed to do the trick and the group was able to proceed.

We proceeded up Old Dale Road, and stopped at several areas to briefly explore – Gold Rose Mine, Rose of Peru Mine, Sunset Mine. Several participants decided they had had enough of the bumpy roads and departed early and Danny offered to lead them out, taking the group down to 16. The rest of the group proceeded to Brooklyn Mine, where several stayed down below to explore some of the abandoned buildings, and the rest of the group proceeded up the rocky, loose hill towards the Brooklyn Mine cabin. After making it up and over the hill, the group explored the cabin and the area around for a short time. We were at this time running out of daylight, and the group then returned to meet the rest down near the main camp via a rock strewn canyon, giving everyone a little bit of rock crawling for the day.

Upon returning to a count of 16 vehicles at camp, the group returned down the bumpy Old Dale Road and stopped to air up just before hitting pavement right about 4:30 pm. Upon airing up, the group was rewarded with a wonderful sunset for the trip exiting Joshua Tree.

No cow bell movement or other recoveries were required.

Robert