

## SAJE Club Run - Wolf Caves - February 10 & 11, 2017

**Rafael's Photos:** [https://www.facebook.com/rafael.berdecia.7/media\\_set?set=a.1387047441346540.1073741877.100001238921086&type=3](https://www.facebook.com/rafael.berdecia.7/media_set?set=a.1387047441346540.1073741877.100001238921086&type=3)

We arrived at Wolf Caves around 1 PM Friday afternoon. Several Club members were already there! Doug & Joyce and Kevin had beaten us there! I think they were ready to go Jeeping!

We headed out about 45 minutes later and started out on some green trails, with a few yellow thrown in. Connie was driving her LJ for the 1st time in awhile due to her shoulder surgery, and was doing fine. I was walking and spotting and enjoying the cool afternoon weather. As Rafael was coming up a small obstacle, we both heard a noise, that sounded a bit like a locker releasing (aka: Locker pop...). A couple of feet later I yelled for him to stop, as I noticed his right front lower link hanging down! the bolt had disappeared! The entire group headed back up the trail to look for it, and shortly all had been located except the nut. Connie came up with a nut out of the back of her Jeep, and after a few minutes, we were back on the trail! A few of us headed back after that to have a cool beverage, and to get dinner preparations going, as I had a bunch of sausage to cook up. Joyce added some homemade potato salad and brownies. Great Friday night dinner, followed by a camp fire...great place to be!

Saturday promised to be quite a bit warmer, with highs predicted in the upper 80's. Folks started showing up early, and by 8:45 we were having a Driver's Meeting that resulted in 3 groups going out. Doug lead the easy group, Rafael the medium/hard group, and Matt/Glenn/Earnest went for the hard/extreme group. Connie & me went with Rafael. We had a great time, with no problems until Connie tried to restart her LJ...the heat of the day, along with under-hood temps, combined with "winter gas" had caused the engine to vapor lock (this happened to several in the easy group as well). We waited for 5 minutes or so, and it started right up. Just a bit later however, the engine rpm was going up and down, making it difficult to drive on the rocks! Since the check engine light was on as well, Rafael pulled out his code reader and informed us we had a crankshaft position sensor code. It was almost 3 PM by then, so we headed back to camp at a slow pace along with several others to work on the LJ and start to get dinner going.

While this was happening, apparently Matt had somehow got his Jeep wedged between a rock and a hard place (literally). A call for assistance was heard and answered by Doug P., who had his own problems at the time, with a rear sway bar twisted in half. While he was removing it, Mike, Jen & Daniel jumped in and helped

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winch Matt out. The recovery reportedly took over 3 hours, and included winching huge rocks out of the way to get the Jeep back on all 4's again. (Later Matt determined he had broken the front ring & pinion in the process).

Dinner was ready early, with Hebrew National hot dogs, Joyce's chili and all the fixings enjoyed by around 25 club members. We also were joined by Kurt and Camilla Eppler, owners of Wolf Caves. After dinner, we again had a camp fire for a great end to a fabulous day!

The next morning a number of us (Trail Guides) were up early as we were headed to Oxford Ranch Campground, and then to Ink's Ranch for a Jeep Jamboree workday, but that's another story!

Jack

In attendance: Doug & Joyce, Kevin & mom Judy, Earnest and guest Chance, Jack & Connie, Rafael, Rich & Michelle, Shane, Shiela & Alexis, Jen & Mike and kiddos, Randy, John with Mason and Madison, Doug L., Daniel & Gil, Matt & Elisa, Glenn, Jeff, Giovanna, Subha & Eric, Gary, Larry, and Tim & mom.