

## SWR - August 15-16, 2015

I don't know what you did this last weekend, probably stayed inside out of the heat. Not a bad idea, but a number of SAJE members and a few others braved the heat and headed to Oxford Ranch Campground (ORC) for another great run on SWR Offroad (Stillwater Ranch) for a great time Jeepin' the trails, from mild to wild.

After the registration and Driver's meeting at ORC, we headed for SWR about 8:30 Saturday morning in 3 groups, led by Rafael, Doug P., and myself.

The extreme group consisted of only 3 rigs, mine, Gerald & Lou Ann in their buggy, and Tony V. in his rear engine buggy. We started with I Told You So, also running the option climb about half way up that can really get your attention, especially when coming back down!

From there we headed to Coulton's Ravine, where we ran every option, including Ray's Nemesis, Jack's Crack, and several others that had not been run in a long time.

After that, we headed down Tippy Toe, each taking a shot at Ain't No way and, well, still ain't! Then, up Hill 55, doing both Over & Over and Jaws, down Whatever, and on to the Gauntlet, where we did the optional wall, and the big obstacle at the very top. I was the only one lucky enough to succeed in crawling to the top.

Then it was time for lunch, and we met up with the other 2 groups at the Stock Pond, aka Randy's Reservoir. What a great place to take a break!

So far, we were very fortunate, as it was overcast, keeping the sun at bay.

After lunch, we headed up Mike's Finger. We all did one of the lines to the right, then went back down the bypass to come up another line. Down Whatever again and over to Pigeon Toe, where we all did the line to the extreme left, then went down the bypass and headed up the next hardest line in the middle. Traction was very good, allowing us to keep the "bumps" to a minimum, and crawl the biggest of the ledges. Next, we went down Kokopelli, going up No Problem, and then it was time for my favorite, El Diablo.

The 3 of us headed up El Diablo with no problems, until we had reached the 1st big waterfall. Someone had stacked numerous rocks at the bottom, turning an extreme trail into much less. (This has been one of my pet peeves for years...if you have to stack rocks, please remove them when you're done!) We spent some time removing most of the rocks, and then moved on. Once we reached the top we decided to turn around and run El Diablo backwards! Going down this trail is definitely attention getting!

It was just after 2:30 when we reached the bottom, and since the sun was now out in full, and it was REALLY getting hot, we decided to head back to camp for a cold beer and a shower.

Later, Activity Director(s) Doug & Joyce headed into Llano to pick up the pizzas we were having for dinner from Tommy's Mesquite-Flamed Pizza. AWESOME good stuff. We had PLENTY for everyone. Thanks, Doug & Joyce!

Sunday morning, Gerald & Louann, Doug & Joyce and I were the only ones headed back out to the trails. Doug really wanted to run El Diablo, and since there were still some rocks handy to help his TJ with 33's, we did just that! We headed directly there, and had no problems. Doug was able to drive, with a little bump, the 1st waterfall, after having to winch the smaller, always wet & slimy, climb just before it. After Doug made it up, we removed more rocks, trying to get the trail back to the level it's meant to be. At the top, we headed up the creek bed to the right (not a trail...yet!) and went down Tippy Toe to Hill 55, and then on to Fenceline, up Tokyn's Trail, and down Mousetrap. We headed towards the Stock Tank on Fenceline again, and finished the morning with Mike's Finger.

Unfortunately, we only took a few photos, but, based on comments from those attending, a great time was had by all!

**A special THANK YOU go to Trail Guides Rafael Berdecia and Doug Phillips for their hard work in making sure the 2 other groups were well taken care of...THANK YOU both!**

This was the last run at SWR Offroad for 2015 due to the various hunting seasons, but check [www.swroffroad.com](http://www.swroffroad.com) for updates on runs for next year. I'm sure we'll be back the last weekend of January, which always seems to be the biggest SAJE run of the year.

Take care, and keep the shiny side up!

Jack

SAJE members attending: Doug & Joyce, Jack & Connie, Gerald & Louann, John & Jane, Ray B, Rafael, Adam & friend, Robert, Giovanna & Harry, Jim M., Dr. Brown & family, Trey & Hayden, and Jeff M.