

SWR Offroad - March 7, 2015

Link to Rafael's Photos: https://www.facebook.com/rafael.berdecia.7/media_set?set=a.887529484631674.1073741837.100001238921086&type=3

Link to Craig's Photos: https://www.facebook.com/craig.dougherty.355/media_set?set=a.1549615665303245.1073741836.100007644787969&type=3

The morning greeted us with chilly temps and overcast skies. Jack blasted the air horn to get the drivers meeting started at 8:30 am. We broke down into 4 groups with Doug P. leading the easy group, Rafael leading and easy-medium group, Geoff leading a medium-hard group and the buggy crowd off on their own.



I joined Rafael's group along with 7 other Jeeps and headed out to SWR. We started off on Pigeon Toe with everyone making it up the trail without assistance, some taking the by passes and some challenging the harder lines. At the top we took a left and headed down Kokopelli. Back down on the ranch road we decided to try the new Hill 55 trail, we made quick work of the climb up and enjoyed the spectacular view from the top of the hill. With the new trail coming out at the top of Whatever, the group took some time to play on the rocks at the top of the hill. Moving on, we took Fenceline down and then the exit of Mousetrap to get over to the stock tank for lunch. After lunch we decided to head out to Graduation. I left my Jeep at the stock tank and rode with Rafael for a couple of trails so I

could take some pictures. We ran the first half of Graduation, then took the bailout road and went back around to The Bowl. After a few attempts without success, a couple of the group used a little throttle and wheel spin to climb up and out of The Bowl. Moving on we headed up Mike's Finger, the first couple of Jeeps took the far right line up the extreme obstacle and made it up after a couple of attempts, the next several Jeeps took the bypass to the left. Doug and Lisa came up last and Doug decided to take the middle line up the extreme obstacle. With the front end on top and the rear up the first ledge Doug was hung up, as he started to back down the passenger front came up and we ended up with 4 guys hanging on the front end to keep it from going over backwards. At that point we were able to get the winch line out and hooked up to stabilize and pull the Jeep up the obstacle. After that we headed back to the Stock Tank and I picked up my Jeep. We left the Stock Tank on the Fenceline trail, then onto Mouse Trap. The loose rock on Mousetrap proved to be a challenge for the



SWR Offroad - March 7, 2015

unlocked Jeeps and one had to be winched to get up and over the top. From there we hit Tippy Toe back down to the Ranch Road where Doug and Lisa split off to head back to ORC and cook dinner. We then made quick work of El Loco and the La Diablita. Since we still had a couple hours of daylight we decided to hit I Told You So before calling it day. I Told You So turned out to be the challenge of the day. The running water made for slippery rocks and very little traction. Rafael and Larry P. ended up winching up the first couple of ledges, then fighting for the better part of an hour to make it to the top. The rest of the group made the decision to live to fight another day and backed out at that point. We all made it back to ORC about 4:30pm.



We had a delicious dinner provided by Doug and Lisa. Pasta, salad, garlic bread and dessert. No one went to bed hungry! It was another great day of Jeeping at SWR. Look forward to seeing all of you again on the trails! Craig

SAJE members attending: Doug & Joyce, Doug & Lisa with kids, Craig & Samantha, Andrew C. with family, Barry & Terry, Neil, Jack & Connie, Jim M., John & Michele, Geoff & Rosie, Thomas, AJ, Rafael, Adam W. &

family, Greg & Renee, Joe & Tracy, Daniel & Tonia, Christine & Andrew, Ray B., Jason Z. & Austin, Mike B., Daniel O., Kenny, Artie & Bunny, Larry L., Val, Andrew C. with family, and Larry P.