

SAJE Club Run - SWR - January 24, 2015

Link to Craig's Photos: https://plus.google.com/photos/104541448606306475209/albums/6108468326024485041?authkey=CO7Eq_bL8afc9gE

Link to Rafael's Video: https://www.facebook.com/rafael.berdecia.7/media_set?set=a.864951286889494.1073741833.100001238921086&type=1

Link to Gaine's Photos: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nzh4iazdcnpuvv1/AAA1vM6BdYgVeaOud9TExIx7a?dl=0>

Link to Debi's Photos: https://www.facebook.com/deborah.schulze/media_set?set=a.10205656025463743.1073741836.1347471291&type=1

January 24th and 25th 2015

The first SAJE club run of 2015 was exciting. I'm not just talking about the trails; I'm talking about the weather starting Friday morning while some traveled to Oxford Ranch Campground. First Joyce calls and tells me she is getting big wet snow flakes driving from San Marcos to our house. Debi posted snow pics while Dave was driving on I-10 between Boerne and Comfort. Meanwhile my Dad and I were packing the truck and camper in a freezing rain. Brrr!!! Thanks for the help, Dad. Everyone arrived safely and had a great time around the campfire Friday night - greeting new arrivals and helping them get parked and tents set up.

Saturday morning was sunny and a bit chilly. Our brave tent campers probably have more descriptive words than I can't type but they survived and were ready to get in the Jeeps and turn the heaters on. Way to hang tuff guys! The skies had cleared during the night and all the Jeeps had a heavy covering of frost on them. We had 29 SAJE Jeeps and about 60 people show up for first run of the year. After the drivers' meeting we headed to the trails. It was a little muddy from the rain/sleet/snow mix from the days before.

Geoff led our group of 13 Jeeps through *Homestead* and *Colton's Ravine* where we had lunch and finished that trail before Joyce and I had to head back to camp to get the chili ready for everyone. By now it had warmed up enough for most to shed jackets and mittens. Our newly elected Safety Officer Pat Green took the opportunity to do his first Safety 101 for the club while we did a winching rescue of Barry on *Homestead*. Great job Pat and we look forward to more safety lessons from you in the future. We had several new members in the group with us and I think they learned a lot from our run on Saturday.

I received tidbits of trail reports while serving chili and later around the campfires Saturday night. Geoff's group finished the day on *El Loco* and *El Diablita* with only one vehicle that had a transmission problems. Steve S. led a group that broke an axle on the first trail. Rafael B. led a group as well and were the last group back to camp. From what I heard they decided to do one more trail before heading back for the chili. That "one more trail" curse turned out to be *El Diablo backwards!* I heard a rumor of someone playing yard darts on the trail, but I'm not sure what that was all about???

Sunday morning wasn't as cold as Saturday. We had a 9:00 a.m. drivers' meeting/round up and Jack led us to SWR. Jack took his group to *I Told You So* and later *El Diablo*. I led six Jeeps to *Fenceline*

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and exit of *Mousetrap*, stopped off at the stock tank for a break and photographs. Then we went to *Graduation* and making it through the first set of obstacles when Kevin J. and his wife Tracy (on her first trail ride) flopped his Jeep exiting the creek. No injuries and with the help from others in the group we got him back on all four tires. Joyce asked Tracy if she was coming back and with a big smile she said "YES".

A special shout out to Eric B. and his beautiful black Rubicon. He did a great job tail gunning for me Sunday. Eric and his family came out to SWR last year in his new Rubicon. I didn't see him on any other trail runs the rest of 2014. When I saw his Jeep Saturday morning I knew why. He made that first run and learned a lot from others on the trail. He spent the rest of 2014 adding a CB radio, suspension lift, tires, and winch. I'm sure he's done more but that was the most obvious. He's done a great job building it and hope to see him on more runs in 2015.

Thank you one and all for the great compliments on the chili and the great job we did. In all honesty I just stirred the pot with the big wooden paddle. Joyce did all the actual cooking and planning. Thanks to Connie and Debi for adding the cookies and sheet cake to the desert table. Good stuff! A special thanks to Doug L., Jack, and Ben and all others for helping set up and break down.

As a note please look under the [Contact Us](#) tab here on our website. You will find the obvious information for the board members and a couple of other links. One is titled "SAJE Trail and Spotting Etiquette Guide". Please remember to stay on the designated trails. If it looks like a trail bypass but the sign tells you otherwise, please don't drive on it (editor's note: Bypasses for Hunters Only on Tippy Toe and new road cut at Colton's Ravine). Often landowners have areas that are off limits to us and we need to respect that.

To our new members, I do have a copy of a Jeeping 101 that I can email to you. It includes a list of items you might wish to consider bringing with you on the trails such as a CB radio, tools and recovery gear. I will try to have it put on the website under the contact tab.

If you have photos or videos you would like to share please upload them to a website such as Photobucket, Flickr or Google and send an email to **Connie** with a link to your account. She will post the link on our website and many love to download pictures of their rigs. Please do not send her the photos directly as she does not have a way to store a terabyte of photos from all the trail runs. I will send out an email about the next club run very soon so be sure to look for it.

If you want to volunteer as camp cook for a particular club run, please let me know in an **email**.

Look forward to seeing you on the trails or at the next club meeting.

Doug Phillips
Activity Director

SAJE members attending: Doug & Joyce, Dave & Debi, Craig & Samantha, Geoff & Rosie, Jack & Connie, Steve & Elissa, Seth, Andy & Colleen, Christine & Andrew, Gerald & Louann, John C. & grandkids, Doug & Lisa, Matt & Heather, Craig & Amy, Rafael, Steve S., Eric B., Kevin & Tracy + 1, Chris & Samantha, Ben & Kim, Thomas, Andrew C., Gaines & Janna, Pat G., Val, Milton & Donnalee, Barry & Carla, AJ + 1, Andrea & dad Roger, and Trey & brother Troy.