

Nevada Backroaders Trail Boss Report

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Report for July's 4X4 Rally in Ely with the White Pine 4 Wheelers

What a blast! I think I'm safe in saying that a fun time was had by all who drove up to Ely for this years 4X4 Rally. The members of White Pine 4 Wheelers put on a great event and the new more laid-back "just a bunch of friends on the trail" format worked just fine. Granted, there were some bumps to be learned from, but all in all everything worked well.

We had a total of 18 vehicles show up to participate in 3 days of wheeling in the mountains of White Pine County Nevada. Because of the bad winter and spring weather alot of our old favorite trails couldn't be run but we did have enough trails to keep everyone happy and good and dirty.

We started out on Friday by running part of the old Lincoln Highway between Ely and Jake's Valley to the west of town. The Lincoln Highway was the first official coast to coast gravel highway that ran from New York City to San Francisco and was used, following various routes, from about 1913 until 1925 when highways began to be numbered. The section we followed was most likely used until 1919 or 1920 when the main route was moved and followed what is now US50. We got some great views of the Robinson Mine and still had a lot of wildflowers blooming which made for a great day in the hills and trees.

On Saturday we had 4 trails to choose from with 3 being run. A good size group went with Wes to visit the ghost towns of Hamilton, Treasure City and the Belmont Mill. Another group followed Phil on his new trail Log Canyon/Telegraph Hill and the rest went out to spend the day in the Blue Mass area out on the Utah border. From the sound of it all 3 groups had a great time and everyone made it back to town before dark. No one ran the Fawn Trail this year and that may be a good thing. This trail rated a 3.5/4 last year and we didn't get a chance to pre-run it this year so it could have been alot worse. Jon from WP4W will check it out with some people later this summer and see how it faired the spring floods and if it can be offered next year for those that don't mind "body damage" to their rigs.

Saturday night was the BBQ at the park in Ruth and it appears that everyone took my advice and brought a good appetite because there wasn't alot of food left over. I think the kids liked having a place to play while the grown-up's talked about the days events and compared critter sightings. WP4W managed to round up a few prizes and we had a raffle after all. YIPPIE!!! Both WP4W and the Nevada Backroaders donated \$50 from each club to the Ruth Playground Fund and they were very thankfull for the cash and said we could have the park for next year if we want it. My un-official head count for the BBQ showed a grand total of 46 hungry off-roaders burning meat into the evening. Afterwards a bunch of folks retired to play campfire games at the Lazy W Ranch & RV Resort in beautiful downtown Ruth Nevada (Phil's place) and laughed so loud I'm sure the coyotes wondered what all the noise was all about.

On Sunday we had 2 trails offered. Phil re-ran the Log Canyon/Telegraph Hill trail for those that missed it on Saturday and really wanted to see the sites from over 9300 feet elevation. Yes that was real snow still along the side of the trail the second weekend in July. You won't

get that down in the desert. I lead the Sawmill Canyon half day trail that runs past the Ward Charcoal Ovens and then climbs over the mountains from the Cave Valley side to end at Highway 318 in Lund. While the folks on the Sawmill Canyon trip didn't see the critters or multitude of wildflowers that Phil's group got to see, we did find enough mud for Rubicon Bob and Justin to try and change the colors of their jeeps with while the rest of us watched the boys play. Kids, what can you do with them?

All in all I think the new looser style of rally worked out really well and made for a nice weekend in the dirt. I know I've had several people ask if it would happen again next year. Hopefully the folks from WP4W will be able to throw some trails together for next year and if they do I'll let all of you know. A big THANK YOU goes out to this years Rally Committe - Tom & Carol, Jon & Kathy, Don, and Phil. Thanks for letting us all come up, and as Mac likes to say, "see the other Nevada".

Brad Cozart-Trail Boss July 24,2005

Nevada Backroaders Schedule of Events for 2005

August	OPEN To schedule a run contact Brad at 702/497-9154
September	OPEN To schedule a run contact Brad at 702/497-9154
October	OPEN To schedule a run contact Brad at 702/497-9154
November	OPEN To schedule a run contact Brad at 702/497-9154

To schedule a run or get more information on Nevada Backroaders, please call one of the following
702/497-9154(Las Vegas) or 775/289-3053(Ruth) or 702/433-2939(Henderson)

E-mail contact may be made at
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