

Montana Back Roads 4x4 Club Watson Children's Shelter Ride 2012

At 9:00am the club met at Watson's with 8 4x4 vehicles. After meeting the 9 children and 2 staff members we established seating and started our trip. Our first stop was at the saddle below Blue mountain lookout. So far the only comments about the trip were about the rough road. At this point everyone aired down and shifted into 4wd. We started up the trail and had little difficulty with mud or trees crossing the trail. Most vehicles had no problem at all. One club member with a larger vehicle mentioned that the trail had been cleared just wide enough for a Jeep.

About half way to the summit we found the first of several deep mud holes. Once all of the vehicles all caught up we started to cross one by one. Jason was in the lead with his TJ. The first half of the puddle was about 1 foot deep. The second half was closer to 3 feet deep. As Jason dropped into the deep part the rest of the club realized how deep the hole really was. Steve followed with his Samurai, and sucked a little water into his carb, but made it with little difficulty. Curtiss was next. His big block Suburban didn't even slow down in the water. The next vehicle wasn't quite as lucky. The truck sucked water in the carb and died, right in the deepest part. The tow rope came out, but the truck started just in time to avoid being on the receiving end. Everyone else seemed to make it just fine through the hole.

A few hills and mud holes later we arrived at the summit. It was amazing that the snow had pretty much melted away. During the pre-run a week earlier this was as far as we could make it. Lunches came out, kids played in the remainder of the snow and mud, and everyone had a great time. Before loading up the kids asked some of the club members into taking off the tops on their 4x4's. It was such a nice day we agreed. On the way out since the kids were already dirty, we decided to really get the 4x4's muddy. Everyone was hitting the holes just a little bit harder.....Well almost everyone. Jay was taking it easy. When asked why he showed the football size hole in his floorboards. I guess some people don't like wet feet.

We traveled convoy style back to the shelter listening to joyous comments about how awesome Jeeps are, and how cool it is that we took them on a trip like this. I'm sure that the club helped build some memories that will not be forgotten any time soon. I honestly can't think of another group of children that need a great day to forget about life's problems than this.