

3-30-2013 Snow Trip

Willie, (JK) Matt Heisler, (Toyota) Justin Kirkbride (JK) and Steve (Suzuki) left the Bonner truck stop at 0832 and headed to Maxville. Followed Maxville road, FS road #677, and turned off on the county road to follow South Boulder Creek. There was more snow than Willie had anticipated so in all his wisdom he had Justin take the lead who had no winch to get out should he get stuck. After about two miles we had to turn around mainly due to Justin destroying the trail. He decided to attempt a very narrow section of the road with some hesitation but Willie convinced him that he could make it. He should not have listened to Willie as everyone knows that Willie is not much of a driver. Well Justin didn't do very well and kind of put the down side tires off to the side a bit too far and any more movement would have landed him in the creek most likely upside down. Now it became serious winch time. With Willie's winch hooked to the rear of the jeep and Matt's to the front and both lines heading up hill to be anchored with snatch blocks to some scary old dead trees, we had to pull the Jeep sideways and at the same time pull it backwards. Due to the angles of pull it meant that one winch would have to pull while the other released and then just the reverse. This was done with about 6 inches of movement each time. Actually it was a pretty scary situation and we never let on to Justin just how scary it was. It was great how we all worked together to get him out. Actually I thought it was a quite fun challenge, though I am sure Justin didn't think so. Only took us a bit over an hour.

Back tracking, and after lunch we headed down FS road # 677 towards Philipsburg. Along the way we tried to reach Stewart Lake. Even though we took turns breaking a trail the snow was quite deep, and we had to give up. With Justin in the lead again he managed to find this 14 foot deep snow drift which again slid him sideways into a tree. There was no way that Willie could get high enough up on the snow drift to pull him out. Luckily Justin had a very long tow strap so we attached it to the front of his Jeep and with 6 people pulling and one pushing on the front we managed to pull it just enough sideways to get it free of the trees with no more damage other than Justin's ego.

Finding a way around the snow drift and spinning tires up this steep muddy hill we somehow managed to find P-burg where we all ate dinner before heading home. Yes our vehicles were quite dirty and covered with mud.

oh and now Willie gets to pass the pink hitch on to Justin.

Some thing else we learned was that factory mounted JK recovery hooks are POS when doing any side pulls.