

Trip Report - Haigler Creek - May 21, 2005

The Arizona Rough Riders Club joined the Rim Country Four Wheelers for a scenic run to Haigler Creek, southeast of Payson Arizona. Some of us met for breakfast at the Country Kitchen in Payson. Others camped near the meeting spot at Colcord Road and Hwy 260. We all met at 10am for a brief trip meeting. Three families from the Pinzgauer Club were present (two four-wheelers and one six-wheeler). Barry Brummet also joined us. The Rough Riders were represented by the Pufpaffs, Hoppers, Anna Palmer and Roger Baum, Glenn Carpenter and kids, Jamie Orras, Jon White, Ric Foreman, Jim Gibson, prospective members Jack Blevins and Shelly Johnson, and visitor Erik Levandowski and his friend John (last name unknown). Sixteen vehicles headed down Colcord Rd, not including one Pinzgauer that limped home due to carburetor troubles. FR200 took us down to the general vicinity of the creek, and then we turned onto FR848, meandering through the thick forest and crossing Haigler Creek a couple of times before stopping to play. Some of the group went further down the trail, crossing the creek again and working up to the trail's end, where there is a waterfall.

Lots of conversation, wading in the creek, water gun fights, and eating went on for a couple of hours. A number of desert dwellers commented on the mild temperature and cool breeze, knowing that it was probably searing hot in Phoenix.

Erik Levandowski, with his stock Wrangler, had one challenging climb on the way in, and got high-centered on a skid plate on the way out. Overall he did pretty well and learned a lot on his first offroad adventure. A few others had a hard time on one muddy uphill step after it was made nice and slick by the preceding dozen vehicles.

Jim Hopper would probably want to add something to this report about Jim Gibson needing to know how to put his Jeep into four wheel drive, but he can tell that story. (He only knows half the story, but he can spin a pretty good yarn with just the facts that he observed.) :)
Jim Gibson