60TH JEEPERS JAMBOREEE

The 60th Jeepers Jamboree celebration July 26-30, 2012 on the Rubicon Springs had many high points through all five days on the historic trail. Movies on the Grass, Historical talks, Diamond in the Rough wine tasting supporting the Rubicon Trail Foundation, Raffle, Vendor Show and a Flatfender Show’N’Shine were just the organized events.

On Thursday participants on the 5-day trip started their trek into the Rubicon Springs from Georgetown, California. Rock Rollers were stationed in all the right places to help assist participants through the difficult spots. Rated a 10 on most scales of difficulty, the trail offers a degree of challenge before 3 days of lounging by the river and enjoying friends.

Enter through Loon Lake, cross a large Granite Bowl, Ellis Creek, Walker Hill, Soup Bowl, Little Sluice, Spider Lake, Toyota Rock and then to Buck Island Lake where there are sneaky watergunners in the bushes and mechanics ready to assist with any issues. Big Sluice, Rubicon River Bridge and then onto the Private Property of the Rubicon Springs. A cabin sits in the same place as the former 19th Century mineral springs and 2 story hotel. The springs are bustling with activity for the event, and now it is time to find a camp spot to call home for the long weekend. It’s going to be a great one!

The Jeepers Jamboree and Jeep Jamboree events are ideal to join because all you have to bring is your camping gear and drinks – they supply all the food and entertainment. Three exceptional meals a day are served for all the guests in main camp. For dessert...
you can visit the Georgetown Rotary Club Ice Cream Parlor who’s ice cream sales benefit the local high schools.

The 60th Anniversary trip had a lot of activities planned that aren’t usually available. A large group of the ‘old timers’ came to share their experiences and infinite knowledge. We ran around and video taped them all to get the information into a sharable state. Please take the time to sit through the longer videos like Geologist George Wheeldon who spoke on the formation of the rocks and mining possibilities or Steve Morris who has been on the Jeppers Jamboree since 1954!

On Saturday the vendor show gave the guests an opportunity to visit with key industry leaders during breakfast hours. Just up the hill from that was the resurrection of Flatville where 22 flat fenders converged into a show’n’shine competition. It was a Great Sight for all of us Flatty enthusiasts. Yes! They had all wheeled in and only one was at the mechanics station and couldn’t come!

The afternoon hosted the first annual Rubicon Trail Foundation Wine on the Rocks event and the evening turned into a huge raffle that concluded with a JEEP! Lucky Jeff Saari from Reno won and we have already seen him on the trails in the jeep!

Other activities include hiking around to the different sites of the springs or just hanging out in the water of the Rubicon Springs and enjoying friends company.

When it is sadly time to leave, we go up Cadillac Hill which is a series of challenging switchbacks and obstacles ending at Observation Point. The rest is a dirt road with sections of rocks but nothing significant.

**Did you know?** The world-famous Jeppers Jamboree is the oldest and largest organized event of this type in the world. More than 35,000 vehicles and 102,000 people from throughout the world have been over the 17 miles of off-road famous Rubicon Trail, considered to be the “Granddaddy” of all four-wheel trails - a 10 on most scales! The Rubicon Springs encampment is at 6,060 ft.

The video is a pretty normal day in the Bower Family! I put it together the day before we were supposed to leave! Includes photos starting in 1977. Laughing Starts Now:

Watch Bower’s Family Video →
I Drive Too…

When I started “I’m Not Just a Girl” one of the first designs that we came up with was this very attractive Tank with Tire Tread all over the right side…with a little flare of curly curves and such!

The words in white? A Fun and Bold statement: I’m Not Just a Girl… I DRIVE TOO!

Any girl that drives should have one of these tanks in her closet! I love wearing it out on the trail or even around town! You can see I am wearing it in the picture to the left 😊

I searched out a quality tank top that has a generous and long cut where everyone is sure to feel comfortable from petite XS to 4XL. Yep! You read right…4XL!

If you have a design idea, contact me to find out how to have it included in the line! It’s a pretty cool program and you make money too!

All of our shirts, jewelry and bling line are now stocked on the www.RACETEAMSTORE.com for sale and are available at every Dirt Riot and WERock Rock Crawl Event.

> I am blogging about more of my personal experiences on the road and random thoughts on the new and (for now) simple website www.IMNOTJUSTAGIRL.com

Buggies, Toyotas or Jeeps can fit wheel chairs and walkers! Not all participants are physically handicapped.

The food is as 5 star as it comes when camping and always plenty for everyone.

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Disabled Sports Run

One of the best experiences of my life was participating in the Disabled Sports Run. What is it? A group of disabled persons who wouldn’t be able to experience the Rubicon Trail are matched with a group of offroad enthusiasts for a three day trip that is life changing…for everyone!

Over 20 participants and 30 volunteers gather on Friday morning on the Tahoe side of the trail. Some of the participants and volunteers are new, but some are old friends from past trips. Seat assignments are given and we load up to hit the trail.

A long day on the trail doesn’t matter. The smiles on the faces as they rock from one side of the seat to the other matters. The nervous nature of the first timer’s as they go over a ‘simple to us’ obstacle and their joy afterwords of ‘how cool this is’. We get into camp, and help set up tents, some never have or physically can’t. Then it is time for dinner and (of course) S’mores around the campfire!

Saturday is another full day on the trail loading up early to go to Buck Island Lake where the wheeling gets tougher and the water is cool and refreshing. The lunch at Buck Island is welcomed and it is fun to watch everyone swim and laugh together.

Sunday always comes to soon. But the motto is “It’s not a Goodbye; it’s a See You Later” Tents come down, sleeping bags get rolled, the last of the bacon gets eaten, and it is time to hit the trail and enjoy the amazingly beautiful landscape that can only be seen while on this historic trail.

With heavy hearts and sometime tears, passengers and drivers say their goodbyes. Friends hug, and then the planning starts for the next year.

The Disabled Sports USA Far West Back Country Access Program is organized on the offroad side by Jason and Andrea Berger. Alongside them, the WEBilt 4WD Club is one of the leading forces of vehicles who bring in participants and 5 trailers that carry all the necessities to feed the whole group amazing meals for three days.

This year’s trip is August 9-11th. If you are interested in Sponsoring a Participant, Donating money for Food & Supplies, or joining us on the trail, please contact Jason and Andrea directly at: nstrans@sbcglobal.net

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Land Use are two words that have become overused, sometime abused and unfortunately turn most people off when said or used in a title. (You should be questioning me right now on why they were the first two words of this article!) The problem is...every piece of land that we have to recreate on is under attack. It’s just the plain truth. The abundance of information flow has to happen. The effort and time has to be there...or our fancy tires will become useless.

There are three types of Organizations: National, State and Specific. I would like to introduce you to the Rubicon Trail Foundation that is specific to the efforts of keeping the Historic Rubicon Trail open and accessible to all motorized vehicles.

I have had the opportunity to work with them on multiple projects and really appreciate the way that they are not just ‘asking you for your support aka money’ they are not just ‘asking you for your services aka work weekends’ but they are trying to involve everyone into a positive situation...while the Rubicon benefits. Consider supporting one of their upcoming events ->

**Cantina for the Con** – I’ll be there, come join me the Sat & Sun of Labor Day weekend at the Loon Lake entrance. They serve up tacos all day, have a vendor show, have a RC Rock Crawling Course, have a Sat night Drive-In Movie (new this year!) and a lot more. The main attraction (other than the awesome tacos and the above mentioned) is the HUGE Raffle. Thousands of Dollars of prizes from great companies (yours?) are collected in efforts to raffle off to the Rubicon Trail’s benefit. **YOU CAN WIN FROM YOUR COUCH!** Yep, if you aren’t in the area you can call and purchase raffle tickets...this is one of the few opportunities that you can participate from afar. Items can be shipped to you or pickup arrangements can be made. 888-6-RUBICON

**Black Tie & Boots** – Watch for more information on the 6th annual Spring 2014 event. A nice evening of dinner, dancing, crazy boots and a lot of fun. This event is a platform for honoring a person a year that has dedicated themselves to the history and preservation of the Rubicon Trail. There is a silent auction and some additional opportunities to donate.

**Wine on the Rocks** – Last year they launched this fun Wine Tasting opportunity at the 60th Jeepers Jamboree and will be again this year. They feature Northern California wines that are local the Rubicon. They have been invited to bring their Wine Tasting fundraiser to other events as well. If you are interested in giving them a platform for success, please contact them directly.

**Win a Toyota Truck donated by Dave's Off-Road and Trail-Gear** - WIN a completely built wheeler! Dave’s Off Road and Trail-Gear have teamed up to build a 1979 Toyota 4x4 Pick up that Rubicon Trail Foundation will raffle off at Cantina for the Con 2013. Tickets are $10 each. All proceeds go to the Rubicon Trail Foundation to help keep the trails open to the public. Another opportunity to support from anywhere! 888-6-RUBICON

**501c3 Tax Deductable Donation** – Of course, there is always the opportunity to make your tax deductible donation at any point throughout the year. [http://rubicontrail.org/rtf-donate.htm](http://rubicontrail.org/rtf-donate.htm)

Learn More about what they are doing and See You in August @ [www.RubiconTrail.org](http://www.RubiconTrail.org)