



continued up the trail. This part of the trail is the steepest and the most eroded and we expected the worst. We got exactly what we expected. We climbed to an obstacle that gave some of our drivers fits. A nasty little notch between two rocks that has a right tilt to it that is just waiting to slide you into the notch. That is just what happened to Jason & Bill Dorey. It took some effort but we got everyone through this tough little spot without winches or straps, I did get to ride on Bill's rock rail though.

I think that I may be suffering a little "Bill Maddux syndrome" in that I could not estimate the distance to our lunch spot. I distinctly remember saying "This is the last climb to the lunch spot" at least three times. We finally did make it to our lunch spot at the foot of the "Last Big Hill" on the Freeway Ridge trail. We found a nice shady spot that was fairly level to spread out for a relaxing lunch while we discussed the trail so far and what is yet to come.

What is yet to come is the Borderline Trail (32E56). This was our first time on the Borderline as a club and we were anxious to see what lay in store. On the third or fourth big downhill, I heard Bill Dorey ask on the CB "How did that happen?" that made me look in my mirror just in time to see Kevin Serpa get completely sideways while coming down. How did THAT happen? "Very easy" was Kevin's reply. I guess it was. He righted himself before anything bad happened.

We were then on to the first obstacle, a nice boulder challenge with a stack of rocks between two large boulders. The rock stack looks almost

intentional in placement and spacing. As such, none of our intrepid drivers had any trouble with this challenge. On to the next challenge.

Next up was the "Chainsaw Challenge". This is a fallen tree that on my pre-run I found it a little narrow for even the "Wheezer", so on this trip I made sure that I brought my saw and widened this section so that even the Maddocks Lexus made it through with all paint in tact. There were a few low hanging branches from a dead tree that we removed as well. Then it was on to what's next.

What's next was a series of "hangin' in yer seatbelts" down hills with some serious erosion ruts thrown in just to hold your attention. The second hill in this section had a particularly bad rut that had Jason & Bill Dorey in it's grasp for awhile. With a little patience and skillful spotting, we were able to get all vehicles through with no damage, straps, or winches. Another triumph!

The Dorey's crawling up out of a ditch, with a little help from Warner.



**DON'T FORGET** to check out the club forum under our Members Only page.

P.S.: **CHECK OUT** the **new** website (still under construction) for Cerro Gordo at: [www.cerrogordo.us](http://www.cerrogordo.us)

## August Meeting Hilites

V.P. Fellows led the meeting. He pro-posed a possible trip to Moab in October. A petroglyph tour in November up to Renegade Canyon was also discussed. PVD is in Nov.

We will not participate in Maturango Junction this year, but we will lead a trip, maybe 2 for PVD. However, Curtis reported that Pleasant Canyon was washed out, which is usually the trail we lead. Bill Maddux volunteered to check it out.

It was reported that Dan Burkhart's Jeep is being repaired. A new cage & body cage is being fabricated by Rob Park and Phillip Burum is putting it together.

Guest Shawn Benson reported he is planning on running the Rubicon on October 1 and going to Moab over the Columbus Day holiday.

## **ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC in the SOUTHERN SIERRAS** *By Bill Maddux*

This was a warm Saturday morning, probably 30 July. It has been so long ago that actually I have forgotten the date. I have actually forgotten who all attended the picnic. We had 17 or 18 vehicles so the list of members not attending is much, much shorter than those who did attend. If I did try to list the attendees, I would leave out some and include others who did not make it, so lets move on.

The trip up Nine mile Canyon was uneventful, no one having major problems and we proceeded thru the locked gate. While passing thru some private property, the caretaker was flabbergasted at the number of vehicles coming thru. Thank goodness that he was sober for a change. Probably too early in the day.

As we proceed down Fox Mill road, it rapidly became apparent that the road had not been traveled in a long time. As a matter of fact, I had not been down the road in 5 or 6 years, and, since I did not get my Landcrusher reassembled until Thursday, I had not pre-run the road. After all, in previous years I had traveled the road in a 2 wheel drive Ford Courier. We came to one section where the rain water had eaten out the

left hand rut to the extent that the bushes on the left side were rubbing against the top of the hood. A little more than a 30 degree side-slope. We arrived at the flat above Don Jo McKernan's mill site and set up the cooking/serving area. People walked around some down to the creek others just looking at all the obsidian chips which covered the ground.

After an appropriate time to warm the food, we ate a very good lunch. As usual, Karen with help from Mary, did an excellent job of cooking for us. After stuffing with food and ice cream we headed back up the hill. This time, the right side of the hood got scratches to match the left side. On the way to the Long Valley road, we took a short detour to Bear peak. It is the highest peak around there that one can drive to. Up there we could almost see for ever, except for the haze. The Long Valley road had not seen much traffic either as we went thru several sections where the plants in the road were hood high. Upon reaching the Cane Brake road, the group sort of split up. Some going home and others stopping at the Indian art site.

It was a nice day for the Picnic, no problems getting to the site and the food was great.

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