

Iron Mountain Loop

**Saturday, July 30, 2010 - Ride Leader - Rusty Faircloth
Mountain Home Club**

Rusty and Jodie Faircloth took around fifteen Idaho State ATV members on a fantastic ride from our base camp near Baumgartner Campground. It was about a forty four mile loop ride on a nice sunny day with temperatures up into the mid nineties. Below is a photo of Sea Biscuit keeping guard on our camp and just itching to head up the hill.



We took the brand new ATV trail that was just laid out by the Sawtooth National Forest. Instead of turning left here and taking the old trail up to Iron Mountain, the new trail is accessed by going straight ahead across Kelly Creek and bearing right up the side of the mountain on the old dirt bike trail.



The trail goes up the side of the mountain through heavily a wooded forest and along the ridges through the quaking aspens. This is no trail for beginners, but it was an easy ride for experienced riders. There were no side hills like Jimmy Maxie likes to ride. However the ride is challenging on steep climbs and you don't want to let your eyes off the trail as you traverse!



Up on top, Tom Skogerson hangs a left where the trail joins in with the Idaho Centennial Trail for a few miles. The scenery up here was really nice, but to enjoy it you need to stop your machine and gawk!



Rusty Faircloth stops along the way to enjoy the view below. It is a long ways down on the port side so you want to stay on the trail!



We stopped for lunch at the Iron Mountain Saddle just below Iron Mountain. We were here a few years ago when this mule deer doe came out to visit us and she was back to greet us again this year. As soon as she heard our motors coming up the trail she made a running dash up to greet us. It is simply amazing how these ATVs scare all the game away and endanger their habitat! Jodie shot a nice video of the deer hanging around us for the 3-40 minutes we were stopped there.



This is a photo of us on a drink break just before we hit the Centennial Trail. It was fairly warm so we had to stop every now and then to wipe the dust off our lips and have a cool drink of water.



Once we got up to Iron Mountain we had a fantastic view. You can get a fairly good idea of the terrain up on top in this photo. Pretty cool!



As we reached our destination Tom Skogerson took a post up on the Iron Mountain Lookout to make sure everyone had made it to our destination safe and sound. We had no mishaps and we will all live to ride again! Our hats go off to Rusty, Jodie and the Mountain Home Gang for taking us out on this new trail. It was one of the better rides we have been on this year and I can't wait to do it again! Many thanks to the Sawtooth National Forest and the crews that built this new ATV trail for us. We stand ready to maintain it any time they have a need for our services!



submitted by Haden Claiborne (President, Boise ATV Trail Riders)