

Owyhee Ridge/Flint Area Ride Journal

July 17, 2010

Ride Leader: Jim Maxey

Photos & Story: Jim Maxey

Another very successful ride adventure took place in the Owyhee mountains on July 17. Our notorious and infamous James Maxey led a group of hearty ATV enthusiasts on a 64 mile loop run from Silver City end of the payment (EOP) up to the old mining town of Flint, Idaho and back down to EOP. We started out with around 19 riders and ended up with around 15.

Some of the riders were too new to stay with us. Discretion is sometimes the better part of valor and they returned to the staging area. The rest of us headed on up the trail. We stopped in Flint for lunch and to view the old mining facilities. We also checked out the cemetery on the hill just west of town.



We had several ATV chapter club Presidents along on the ride. In this photo Travis Tyson is seen inspecting the old mining mill and practicing on his smiling techniques. One of our Grandpa members brought along his younger (much younger) grandson for the ride and he had a pretty good time with Grandpa that day. In this photo he takes his helmet off for a rest break.

The temperature was up around 93-94 degrees so we had to have frequent water stops along the way.

Eventually we broke out of the desert floor and entered the mountains and juniper trees. It was a welcome sight to see the forest in anticipation of cooling our heels! When confronted with choices—such as Right or Left--Well...you can toss a coin, you can spit straight up in the air to see which side the spit falls on and go that way, or you can do what we did - look for the dust trail from the guy ahead of you and follow him!



We turned off the Flint road and headed north up towards China Butte. Now mind you, this is in the middle of July and the cheat grass is still green! What's wrong with this picture! Leaving China Butte we are on a roll now, it's all downhill to EOP. We passed by Thomas Lake and Thomas Falls and rolled on down to the staging area at EOP. We had one minor glitch when Jim Maxey gave Haden Claiborne some instructions. Jim told Haden to go on down a side hill trip to the bottom of a hill and then hook up with the rest of the crew. Now, Jim is from Tennessee and when he says "hill" he means a short distance of travel, like maybe 1/4 to 1/2 of a mile. Haden, on the other hand, being an Idaho

boy thinks of a "hill" in terms of 12 - 14 miles. Needless to say, this mix up in east versus west communications lead to somewhat of a delay while everyone waited at the bottom of the "hill" for Haden to show up! He eventually arrived at the desired location and we had a sweet ride back to EOP.