



## Recap

Good evening everyone; Hopefully, your weekend was fun & the weather held out for your plans. As you wind up for another week, here is a brief re-cap of what occurred this past weekend with 2 back-to-back "VIP" events. As you know from our event e-mails, this past weekend was super busy having a special 2-day "VIP" weekend @ AM General. From a personal tour of the AMG factory to a full day of an off-roading fundraiser for autism, members were busy having fun & supporting a worthy cause all at the same time.

### FRIDAY ("VIP Day w/ AM General")

Our group met & assembled @ 9 A.M Friday morning at the AM General plant #1. Club members were met by AM General executives and UAW local 5 leadership. After some "meet & greets", our tour guide Al T. educated everyone on the history of the HMMWV, H1, & the company itself. All members then proceeded to walk the assembly line with our guide to see first hand how the worlds most capable vehicle is built. Hand-made, one-at-a-time, & with local "Hoosiers", UAW local 5 workers were very knowledgeable and took the time to answer questions as well as to interact with the group. To our surprise, at the end of the tour, members were invited to see the next generation of military vehicles!! Of course no pictures were allowed.

After saying goodbye to the plant, IHC club members caravanned over to the AM General test track where they were given special access to the facilities & to put their vehicles to the test in a controlled environment for a little while.



Next was lunch and socializing for a few hours followed by another "invitation only" tour of Bremen Castings in Bremen, IN. The owners, Jim & JB Brown personally showed the IHC group what goes into making quality metal products with state of the art techniques. The fun continued as a local resident invited everyone over for some food & machine gun shooting prior to heading out for a local parade.

To finish the day, a local parade embraced IHC members as they drove their trucks down small town streets with sirens blasting, lights flashing, candy throwing, & hands waving. This group effort helped to support the local Red Cross chapter. It was then time for members to regroup, eat some dinner and prepare for the charity off-roading event @ AM General the following day.

### SATURDAY ("Off-roading for Autism @ AM General")

Our group assembled @ the AM General Testing/Training facility in South Bend, IN around 8:30am. After parking, checking-in, and meeting a few new faces, the group was called together by MJC president John Slayter to make some brief introductions. IHC president Mark Price spoke to the group & presented an award to AMG representatives John Camblin & Bill Thompson that were on hand for the event. A representative from the Sonya

Ansari Center for Autism was also present to offer a few words of appreciation. After giving the group the rules of the track, safety orientation, & direction as to which trails were available to different levels of driving ability, everyone broke off into our respective groups. Most IHC members were on levels 3 & 4. After conquering obstacles like "stairway to heaven", "framerail", the "dungeon", and the "elevator", we made our way back to the Tech Center to have some lunch. Nelson's BBQ catered the lunch with chicken, potatoes, corn, chips, & drinks. It was REAL tasty & a real nice treat after some spine-pounding fun!

A 50/50 raffle was available and a bunch of cool items (Warn off-road lights, limo rental, tow hooks, lightbars, etc...) were up for grabs to all attendees that were lucky enough to go home with a prize. Seeing that we had about a 1/2 hour before our next trail run, we got in our trucks to run the obstacles on the AMG infield. From off-camber moguls, V-ditches, & a rock garden called the "sluice", we were able to practice for the second part of our day.

The second leg of our day, had us back on the trails going through "Bayou Pass", "Broken Spirit", & many other challenging trails. We finally ended our day going through man-made obstacles that challenged the driver to use only two wheels to negotiate to the other side. This particular obstacle mimics the Moab, UT obstacle known as "The Crack".

Overall, there were well over 60+ trucks that supported this event and this is only the 3rd time in 9

## Recap cont.



years that this "Hummer Only" facility was opened to non-Hummer vehicles. Wheeling with Jeeps was interesting and fun at the same time. Jeep owners would throw diggs at the Hummer guys when we'd get stuck on an obstacle & Hummer owners would do the same when the "Jeepers" would get jammed up on the trail as well. It was all in good fun and at the end of the day, Jeeps or Hummers, we all "wheeled" together for a great cause.

Combined, our groups raised a few thousand dollars with the proceeds benefiting the Sonya Ansari Center for Autism (<http://www.regionalautismcenter.org/>) in South Bend, IN. As far as carnage, a few members sustained minor problems like a bent step tube support & a blown radiator surge tank. Nothing that a little teamwork couldn't fix and everyone made it home with their truck in close to one

piece! :)

Our appreciation and thanks go out to John Slayter (MJC) & the numerous individuals that volunteered/sacrificed their time & made it possible for us to be out there for this wonderful event. AM General executives donated the use of the facility for the day (thank you Jim A. & Bill T.!!), the instructors/trainers donated their time, and John Slayter & John Camblin put in many hours to get the whole ball rolling for this event to happen.

Thanks to all the IHC members that came out to support this special weekend event from locations like Bollingbrook & West Chicago, IL! We look forward to another opportunity to bring these two ingredients together again... helping our community & off-roading in the world's most capable vehicle!

Overall, this was a very busy weekend but all events went off without a hitch & were extremely well supported by the membership. Stay tuned for more exciting events & training coming in June & July!

The executive board of The Illiana Hummer Club would like to thank AM General & Bremen Castings for their



generosity in hosting our groups and supporting our club. Also a sincere thank you goes out to all who made this weekend's event like nothing else!

**HUMMER - "The New American Legend" is truly "Like Nothing Else!"**

