

4x4's Storm at Thulhiriya



The MAS 4x4 Park was spilling off its brim with 69 entries for the REAL Radio “4x4 Jamboree 2009” held by the Four Wheel Drive Club (FWDC) over the weekend of 27th and 28th June.

The event being centrally located in Thulhiriya attracted many, as 27th being a members day, Clubs such as Kandy Off Road & Adventure Club, Negombo 4x4 Club and Ratnapura Off Road Club showed up with an unprecedented 41 entries for the Novice event. A ladies event was also held with 8 participants putting up time equal or even better than some of the guys. The Saturday kicked off with the Extreme event with 4 Special Stages (SS) planned for the day. The first and the 3rd being relatively easy compared to the 2nd and the 4th SS. This was only a taste of things to come for the 28th and a seeding process to get the running order for the Sunday's run. The Prolog SS's were already intensified by committing to winch up some near forty five degree inclines where some competitors had to winch twice in the same SS. Compared to the 4x4 Challenge of 2008, these SS were already a notch higher and gave a good work out for the winch, the co driver and some butterflies in the driver's stomach.



This was the first event of the championship series where the Champion Driver & Co Driver will be sent to represent the National Flag in the International Rain Forest Challenge (RFC) Malaysia.

Founder and Event Director of RFC, Mr. Luis J.A. Wee flew down especially for the weekend and initiated the championship by flagging off the first SS. It is the intention of FWDC and Mr Luis to place a program in Sri Lanka that will bring the Champion 4x4 Driver & Cr Driver to Malaysia without having to face any financial obstacles to be at the start line of RFC each year.



The Novice event was the highlight of the day, where 41 competed for 3 top spots to win the Novice Event Trophy. The Novice Class was first given the Ladies Track to run which they found the challenge was the same regardless of the gender that tackled it. Mrs Needra Amarasinghe won the “Motor Magazine” toughest lady award competing in a Toyota Hilux at the age of 55. Then a second track with more tricky turns to avoid hitting marker tapes were set up with a few gates to open and close which committed the Co-driver 4x4 and strap them self placed on driving within and debits added for poles which is the First who’s planning on level of 4x4 competition. his wife Shivanthi for all not restricted to Extreme where they took did better than some of SS6 & SS7. They “Sportsmanship” award Reach Hotel.



to get in out of the in. The emphasis was a demarcated track hitting any marker Step for anyone getting on to the next Warner Orloff and proved that 4x4 is fun Ladies, Novice or on the extreme and the top runners in on bagged the given out by Elephant

Sunday 28th was the Public day where the Thulhiriya folks got the taste of 4x4 which has come to their town. Since this was a new sport in the region, many gathered in numbers cheered and were excited of this kind of adventure. Sunday was for the Big Boys with the extremely modified machines where the first SS for the day foxed the most experienced.



All of them were held by the winch line that was connected to a tree and the vehicle, where nervous moments were experienced by both competitors and spectators. The winch became the single tool of survival and completing the SS whilst testing their maximum load capacity. It was also refreshing to see the strategies employed by the teams to overcome the obstacles and complete



within the stipulated time. The organisers had planned eight SS’s for Sunday, yet had to cut short only for four as the first SS taxed many where winch cables and winch solenoids were getting strained and some failing.

Furthermore, dedicated 4x4 marshals were watchful of the winching equipment where they did not want to subject the stressed equipment on further demanding SS’s and it would be hazardous to do so.

The most experienced duo out of all, Indika Sanjaya and Naveen Marapana demonstrated great 4x4 skills not leaving any room for the top position in the podium with their Land Rover 90. Driver Sam Chandrasoma along with his Co Driver Amal Wickramarachi and Driver Deepthi Perera along with his Co Driver Nishantha Ranasinghe who had been challenging the winners in all the recent 4x4 events, both driving Jeep Wranglers emerged 1st Runners up and 2nd Runners up respectively. All these competitors had been quite consistent in their performance with podium finishes in almost all the 4x4 events held in the recent times.



4x4 Jamboree's Main Sponsor was REAL Radio, Co Sponsored by Jeep division of Dimo's, Toyota Lanka, PEO TV, Exide Batteries, Isotonic Lime Blast, and Office Max.

EVENT RESULTS

LADIES EVENT

Winner	- Bimali Fernando	(Nissan Patrol)
1 st Runners up	- Mali Champika	(Mitsubishi Jeep)
2 nd Runners up	- Chami Hameed	(Toyota Land Cruiser HZJ)

NOVICE EVENT

Winner	- Gayan Guruge	(Jeep Wrangler)
1 st Runners up	- Jayantha Wijayarathne	(Toyota Land Cruiser BJ40)
2 nd Runners up	- M A S K Fernando	(Nissan Patrol)

EXTREME EVENT

Winner	- Indika Sanjaya & Navin Marapana	(Land Rover 90)
1 st Runners up	- Sam Chandrasoma & Amal	(Jeep Wrangler)
2 nd Runners up	- Deepthi Perera & Nishantha Ranasinghe	(Jeep Wrangler)

