

April 2005



# Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

## Cover Picture

Glenn, neighbor, Matt and Steve Graham (from left to right) on Matt's rock pile out in Queen Creek posing for the camera.

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 30, 2005

Meeting called to order by President Ron Couch around 7:20 pm.

Secretary was ill and the fill in Secretary was late so there is no list of members.

### Trip Reports

Matt Parks gave an overview of the Play Day in his back yard. Everyone who attended had a good time and the weather was good. It only sprinkled a few time.

Nick and Jim gave a report about Tierra Del Sol in California. According to them it is "... well worth the drive". They estimated it took about 6 hours. TDS is held at Truck Haven hills near Ocotillo OHV Park in the California desert. There were about 5000 people in attendance. The TDS trails are color coded Blue for Short Wheel Base, Red for difficult and Green for easy. All the trails follow canyons and there are many bypasses. In addition to the required raffle there were vendors and other events occurring all weekend. One group was building a truck that was to be raffled off at a future event. Every entrant receives one ticket to the general raffle and there was about \$70K worth of prizes. The event is similar to Moab you can follow the trails or head off on your own. Sunday's rough run is a follow the leader trip. The club may do these trails as a club run this fall. Truck Haven hills is about 300 miles from Mesa, and about 30 miles south of India.

Scott attended Con Expo in Las Vegas. There were acres of heavy equipment used in construction. Some of the more interesting stuff was:

A Chevy truck with a Dana 70 front end. A Unimog that is as tall as Kenworth with a 14000 lbs payload, and only \$110,000. Also an underhood compressor with the power to run a jack hammer, a steal at \$17,000. When asked about his winnings Scott quipped: "I gamble at the buffet and always come out ahead"

### Upcoming runs

April 16, Mr. Ed memorial service. Meet at lower woodpecker trail head around 3:00 pm. A plaque will be placed, Mr. Ed stories will be told and his videos will play. If there are any more details they will be sent via email.

April 30 Mud Springs. This is our Adopt-A-Trail so be prepared for clean up and repairs.

There is no telling what affect the rains have had, that is one reason for the trip. Meet at the

junction of the Bush and Beeline highways at 8:30 am. For details contact Scott. Trail is a dead end so you can leave your rig and catch a ride when it gets too tough.

May 21 Camping and four wheeling trip to Chiva Falls. Contact Scott for information.

May 21 ASA4WDC conventions see the Wheeldust for details.

New Business.

Our Newsletter editor has put together a Participation spread sheet for 2004. He kept track of all trips, including wildcats, meeting attendance, trip attendance and trip leadership. This information was used to create the Editors Choice Award. The recipient was Scott Nixon he attended 11 of the 17 total runs and lead 4 of them. Congratulations Scott!!!

Treasurer's report

\$4019.70 in the bank.

Moved to adjourn at 8:05 pm

Minutes submitted by

Ted Gersztyn for Loran Gersztyn

## Calendar of Events

April 16 – Memorial gathering/runs for Mr. Ed on Woodpecker

April 27 – Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray

April 30 – Mud Springs adopt a trail run call Charlie @ 480-812-9101 for more info

May 21/22 – Scott's birthday run/camp out on Chiva Falls call him @ 602-482-8973

May 25 – Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray

## Trip Report

**Matt's Backyard 3/19/05**

1966 FJ40 – Matt Parkes

1973 K5 – Charlie, Becky, Shelby, Hailey, and Reilly Babcock

1980 Scout II – Steve and Linda Graham

1984 CJ7 – Glenn McConnell

2000 Denalli – Jerome, Lisa, Logan and Zoë Gill

I loaded up and headed for Queen Creek under rainy skies. We finally arrived at Matt's house (he's way down there) with just a few sprinkles on us. Matt's got a great house, 1600 sq, 2 car garage on 1 ¼ acres. He doesn't have a fence yet so it's easy access back to his rock garden. He's got plans for a big workshop/garage. We got there first checked out his yard, house and the main feature. Jerome, Steve and Linda showed up so I made my way through the center of the pile, the easiest path. Next I put the front end up on the steep end for a poser shot. After everyone examined my parts I went ahead and drove forward and a little to the right from this point. The front tire slid down and to the right until I completely missed the tallest rock and banged my way through rocks. Next I went diagonally through the last part of the rock pile. The front passenger tire went over a big boulder and I got hung up on the front leaf spring. So I backed up and dragged the boulder with me and then flopped back to earth. A new line got the whole Blazer up into the rock pile before getting hung up. After some careful maneuvering back and forth with several "get out and check it out" sessions and lot's of spotting from Steve and Linda I broke on through to the other side.



**Poser shot with everyone examining my undercarriage.**

That was enough for me so I parked the truck and had some lunch while I watched Matt's neighbor not make it up onto even the first boulder. We watched Matt make child's play out of the worst lines you can imagine. Glenn showed up. I borrowed some air from Matt and we took off for civilization. As you can see by the pictures below Steve and Glenn got on the rocks after I left and another neighbor in the Ford showed up. Thanks Matt I had a great time and you have a great place there.



**Rare Glenn sighting, on the rocks, I didn't actually see his truck drive onto the rocks.**



Steve's Scout making his way through the pile.



The owner of the facility showing off his very capable Cruza.

**Items of Interest**

Remember the club meeting is the last Wednesday of every month, 7:00pm at

Round Table Pizza

9920 S Rural Rd

Tempe, AZ

It's located on the northwest corner of Rural and Ray. If you visit

<http://www.roundtablepizza.com/> you can get discount coupons on pizza to use at the next club meeting. Come early and eat with the gang.



This is a new mini spool for the 14 bolt FF GM rear axle. It's the same size as the Detroit Locker for this axle but without the unlocking feature. The benefits of a spool over a locker are less weight, more rigid, less drag, absolute lock up, cheaper and no moving parts. The mini spool only gets the last three benefits since it uses the factory carrier to sit in. The mini spool doesn't require the ring and pinion to be reset-up like a new carrier would. This one is made by Sandy Cone Industries out of 4140 steel. If you think you might want to run a spool talk to Ron.



The above transfer case is a 3 speed prototype; it's got 1:1, 3.1:1, and 5.2:1 gears. It weighs 45lbs more than a NP205, so 140lbs maybe. It will bolt up where an Atlas or Dana 300 will. I'd say more but I can't find the link to it at my favorite source.

### April club runs

Mr. Ed memorial Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> meet at 3pm near Woodpecker trail. There will probably be people everywhere that you can join up with for a run. Call Sandee McCullen @ 480-832-8132 for more details.

Mud Springs club run Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> we're running our adopt-a-trail. Meet at the intersection of Bush and Beeline highways at 8:30am. It's an easy trail to the half way point and then it gets pretty rough. If you don't want to run the tough stuff you can park your truck at the halfway point and jump in with the rest of us. The trail is one way in and out so we'll pass right by the trucks we leave behind on the way back out. Call me @ 480-812-9101 to let me know you're going. Bring drinks and lunch it's an all day run.

### Land Use Issues

#### Editors Stuff

Just for fun I put together a spreadsheet to see which members attended meetings, runs, etc. I decided to make an award each year called the "Editors Choice Member of The Year." It's based only on participation in the club no favoritism or voting. Scott was the 2004 winner. I'm accumulating the data for 2005 so keep participating in the club.

#### Things you need but didn't know it

**For Sale:** Chevy TH350 transmission \$50 obo call Scott for more information @602-482-8973

**For Sale:** 3 camper jacks 1000 # capacity that I had for my Alaskan camper, they'll lift high enough for a 4x4 truck. Also have a 36" cab high sleeper that fits a full size Ford '75 - '97, or Dodge up to '84, or Chevy / GMC up to '87. It's solid, has a roof vent, 4" foam mattress, and a lift gate. Made of 1"x1" framing, 3/8th Plywood, and covered with .030 silver aluminum, & lockable. Best offer on them. Want to get them outta here! Call Ed Lyons @ 480-921-1171.

#### Quote

Faithless is he that says farewell when the road darkens.

J. R. R. Tolkien

Created by Charlie Babcock