

April 2007



# Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

## Cover Picture

Steve, Scott and John Griffin (guest) at Sunflower Mine, they just missed Jerome that day.

## Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Steve Smith (president), Ed Lyons, John Griffin, Steve Graham, Matt Parkes, Scott Nixon, Nick Sesma, and Marty Boetel

Meeting opened a little after 7pm by President Smith with the pledge.

No guests were present. Treasurer's report was given by Ed; we have \$4022.28. Recent expenses include \$18.42 to GoDaddy.com to renew our domain name and \$10 to the Arizona Corporation Commission to renew our not-for-profit status. Scott reported that a out of date email address led to our domain expiring; a quick credit card transaction and some help from Glenn McConnell got our web page back online.

Steve gave a trip report for last months Sunflower Mine trip; see elsewhere for details. Scott had an addendum; the bumps on the trip loosened up his rear spring pack enough that the bottom overload spring fell out on the freeway later that week. This led to some unexpected rear steer. It was fixed on the side of the road by laboriously squeezing down the remaining springs by torquing the u-bolts. This required a breaker bar and a hi-lift jack handle. Numerous suggestions for fixing it on the cheap were offered by various members and were greatly appreciated.

ASA 4-wheeler of the year nominations are opened. It was suggested that the members that suffered the most carnage be nominated, which would be Scott and Charlie. Scott indicated that the amount of carnage was related to showing up to most of the runs and wheeling hard.

Matt will be leading Upper Wood Pecker and then Highway to Hell on Saturday, April 14th. Meet at the flag pole off of AZ79 at 10:30. These are both hard core trails; members wanting to show up and watch can use the easy dirt road that crisscross these short trails to watch the action. Call Matt to RSVP: 602-741-8795.

Open discussion of another possible April trip. Four peaks, Turkey Creek, FR42, Mud Springs and Log Corral were all offered. Final verdict as Scott leading Tip Top mine on April 21st if he gets his spring fixed. Trail is easily doable by any stock 4x4; trail features a cool old Ghost town with lots of mining equipment. We pass several of the nasty 4x4 trails in the area if someone wants to play harder. Meet at Table Mesa parking lot at 10AM. Call Scott to RSVP: 602-361-1517.

Group discussion of land use issues; including the Ironwood National Monument and Gila Canyons.

There will be a Game and Fish expo March 31st and April 1st.  
 There will be a BLM meeting to discuss the Hassayampa area.  
 Nick asked about the group State Trust land permit; will we get this soon?  
 Rambling discussion of government bureaucracy and related frustrations.  
 Marty suggested a summer kick off camping trip; possible destinations mentioned were Flagstaff or Workmen creek.  
 Meeting adjourned, sorry didn't notice the time.  
 Respectively submitted by Scott Nixon.

## Calendar of Events

April 14 – Upper Woodpecker and Highway to Hell call Matt @480-888-9581  
 April 25 – Meeting at 7pm location La Belle Pizza  
 May ? – Club run  
 May 30 – Meeting at 7pm location La Belle Pizza

### Trip Report

Sunflower Mine (March 18, 2007)

Participants:

Steven Smith 2005 Jeep Rubicon Unlimited

John Griffin, 1997 S10 Blazer

Scott Nixon and passenger Patrick Winters, 1989 Chevy K3500

We pulled into the meeting spot about 5 minutes before 9AM to find Steve patiently waiting. John pulled in a few minutes later. We hung around and chatted for about 10 minutes to allow for stragglers, but none showed up. Pulling out onto SR87 we headed north.

Eight or ten miles up the road we reached the turnoff to the Sunflower Mine trail. Steve pulled over about a half mile after the pavement ended; he and John aired down while I locked my hubs. We jumped back in our rigs and headed down the trail.

We passed a group of friendly ATV'rs out enjoying the beautiful weather. A little further on down the trail we came to the new metal bridge that replaced the one the Viper Militia. It was a great spot to stop and take a break; water running under the bridge, a nice breeze and incredible rock formations all around.

The road climbed up a bit and then turned sharply to the left. I had to drive up the side of the mountain a little to get turned around.

John offered to change my oil while I was up there. We explored a mine shaft a little ways; from all the personal belongings strewn about it looks like somebody lived there for a while. They even decorated for Christmas!

Up and around the corner, then down some and we were at the processing plant. After pulling up close to it I realized two things; one I had never been over the bridge before and gotten this close to the mine and two, there was no room down here for me to turn around.

We explored the huge mercury processing plant for quite a while, marveling at the effort required to bring all the equipment back on primitive roads and the dangers the workers must have faced. Between the heat, the fumes and the exposed machinery a nasty accident was always waiting to happen and help was a long, long ways away.

It took me a while to get backed up and turned around, I lost track after shifting into reverse for the ninth time. Steve led us up a side road to some more mine shafts. Patrick

took great pleasure in exploring them with my flash light. The rest of us waited outside and made poison gas and cave in jokes. Leaving these mines I took the older road off to the left; it was steeper and narrower than the new road in, but a little bit smother.

A little ways up the trail the road takes a hard right, forcing you to mount a good sized step and then climb a loose, rocky hill. Both Steve and John got some good air under their front tires. Steve made it up the hill no problem. John got about a third of the way up and got snagged. He backed up, took a different line and made it to about the two thirds mark. His frame and spring hanger kept getting hung up. With a bit of spotting and a strategically placed rock he easily made it the rest of the way. I'm amazed how well his truck climbs with open IFS and a limited slip rear!

Around the corner was another long, steep, narrow hill. We all chugged our way to the top for a fantastic view. Officially declaring it lunch, we broke out the chairs. The breeze was perfect and the scenery breathtaking.

Just as we were packing up to continue, John noticed his rear passenger tire was low. He aired it up with his nifty new air tank, only to hear a whistling sound from the side wall. It was slow enough he decided to limp it home and let Discount Tire change it.

We crawled down a steep, loose narrow hill for a long ways. This hill would be a fun one to climb up; it's been years since I've run the trail in that direction. We stopped for another break at a home site. Patrick explored yet another mine shaft while Steve and I investigated the remains of a mid 40's Dodge truck. What little metal that remained was pot marked with bullet holes.

There was one last climb up to the graded road, nothing too bad, although there was one tipsy spot the narrower vehicles probably didn't even notice. John headed for home after topping off his tire one last time. Further down the road Patrick and I picked up a dozen or so beer cans while Steve aired up his tires. After that it was just a quick trip back into town.

Really great trip; nice trail with a few challenges. History, scenery, and a breezy spot on top of the world for lunch. Thanks again Steve!



Scott Nixon

Jerome and Logan Gill and Luis Chin guest just missed the club run but went on it anyway by themselves. Below are the pictures from Jerome.





Coves B-day campout run 3/30-4/1/2007

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

1976 K5 – Sean, Lynette, Hannah and Emma Murphy

1989 K3500 – Scott Nixon

1993 Toyota Pickup – Nick Sesma and Bill guest

2000 Denali – Jerome, Lisa, Logan and Zoë Gill

2006 Rubicon – Steve Smith

Sean and I arrived at the green gate around 4:30pm with our families and Steve Smith pulled in behind us. We decided to head right to Cove 3 avoiding the over used Coves 1 and 2. It was a great choice we were the only ones there and the Cove has a picnic table and plenty of room under huge mesquite trees. We strategically placed our rigs to block off traffic through the camp. Jerome showed up a while after we arrived and Scott pulled in after dark.

The first night was uneventful, Steve Smith left the night before for home. Scott said he was cold sleeping on the back of the tool bed until the sun came out. The next day the girls ate a quick breakfast then were in the water. Everyone else relaxed and enjoyed the weather. Later morning we spotted Nick's Toyota over near Cove 2, out on the peninsula. We waved and he showed up at our camp a while later with a friend. After lunch Nick hit the road and later in the afternoon the men all loaded into my Blazer for a wheelin run. We meandered around back towards the play hills near the start. We passed a stripped out Blazer rolled into a ravine. We passed a couple groups of trucks, one with two nice looking K5's in the group. I gave them the "nice truck" and they returned the favor. Sean hit his head

several times on the roll cage; the back seat isn't design for adults. On the way back one of the hills had a ledge in the middle of it and the tires at street pressure didn't want to climb it. I backed down a couple feet and got on it. The tires bumped off the ledge and slid sideways a little scaring my passengers (and myself). I backed down a little further and got on it harder and the tires bumped over the ledge and climbed over. We stopped at the Blazer wreckage for Sean to get some trim and Scott to look for an overload spring.

The rest of the day involved hiking around the area, searching for firewood and watching the boaters. Jerome and Logan found and chopped up a ton of wood. Jerome also led all the kids on a nature hike up on the ridge next to us. All through the day we had trouble with ATV's and trucks wanting to either drive through the camp or along the shore between us and the kids in the water. Someone has created a path from Cove 2 to Cove 4 along the shore bypassing all the other roads. A carefully placed ratchet strap and some big branches kept them out of the camp. They still continued to drive through the water to get around us.

Saturday night we had a nice dinner (thanks Becky), cake and rock hard ice cream (too much dry ice). We sat around the camp fire telling stories and listening to some noisy neighbors that moved in on the other side of the Cove. It was plenty cold enough that the fire felt good. Unfortunately the moon was almost full allowing people to wander around. Just before hitting the tent we heard people coming up to our camp and saw flashlights. Jerome and I went over to confront the people. Two girls and a guy were looking for there lost friend. Jerome turned his 1 million candle power light on them for a second. I explained to them that no one had walked through our camp. They complained about us not caring and wandered off. We could smell the alcohol on them from quite a distance. After cleaning barf out of my youngest daughters' sleeping bag twice I finally laid down. Just then the neighbors started up a canned PA system recording that sounded like an ice cream truck. Then they started yelling for there friend, then there was a gun shot and more yelling. A few minutes later the same three people walked through the middle of our camp. I opened the tent and asked them what they were doing and to get out of our camp. One of the girls let out a stream of trailer trash talk as she walked away but the guy stayed to chat. He insisted his friend must have walked through our camp and we didn't notice. He told me he was mostly sober. The other girl saw the ratchet strap and told her friends to watch out because we had the place booby trapped. I told the guy his friend was probably passed out near their camp and they didn't see him. I gave up and went to bed again. I heard them return a few minutes later slipping and falling down the steep ridge next to us. Swish thud, over and over as each one slipped and fell, stood up and did it again. That gave me a chuckle as I drifted off to sleep thinking I'd have to find a new spot for my birthday campout next year.

Sunday morning was the same, leisurely breakfast, kids played in the water. Everyone slowly packed up the camp. We stayed for lunch and then headed out. On the way out we met up with a group that also included another green Denali, what are the odds. We all took different paths up the play hill and made it out to the parking lot without incident.

I had a great birthday thanks to everyone who came out and joined me.



**First night at the camp.**



**Can you see the four trucks and tents in the picture; this was a beautiful camping spot.**



Scott parked his Chevy right on the lake and enjoined the morning sun.



Nick showed up Saturday, we saw him on the peninsula between Cove 1 and 2.





All the men piled into my K5 to go play on the hills, I discovered something on this trip; don't climb steep ledges with street pressure in the tires, it scares the passengers.



Sean brought up the rear on the way out.



**What are the odds of running into another Denali wheelin, let alone a green one? The other guy had dubs on it.**

Submitted by Charlie Babcock

### **Items of Interest**

Remember the club meeting is the last Wednesday of every month, 7:00pm at La Belle Pizza & Pasta, North West corner of Rural and Ray in Tempe.

April run

Matt is leading a trip on Saturday morning 4/14/2007, meet at flag pole at Cottonwood Canyon Road at 10:30am.

### **Land Use Issues**

Ironwood National Forest

Bureau of Land Management is in the process of management planning for the Ironwood National Forest.

There are two issues of concern.

One is the transportation plan. The BLM has three options on the table for routes in the Ironwood. The environmentalists want it closed except for the couple of main roads through the monument.

You may not use this are, but it is important that the BLM knows there are motorized recreation out there that wants to preserve our access to public lands no matter where it is.

The second issue I received from the NRA today. BLM is proposing banning recreational shooting on the 128,000 acre Ironwood forest. There are five meetings scheduled to discuss the Ironwood during its 90 day comment period to introduce these plans and allow the public the opportunity to comment.

The dates are as follows:

March 29 - Tucson, Pima County Parks & Recreation, 3500 West River Road, 6 PM to 8 PM

April 3 - Sahuarita, Sahuarita High School, 350 West Sahuarita Road, 6 PM to 8 PM

April 5 - Chandler, Chandler Public Library, City Council Chambers, 22 S. Delaware St., 6 PM to 8 PM

April 10 - Sells, Legislative Council Chambers, Main Street, 6 PM to 8 PM

April 12 - Tucson, Pima County Parks & Recreation, 3500 West River Road, 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM

To review the management plans, go to

[www.blm.gov/az/LUP/ironwood/ironwood\\_plan.htm](http://www.blm.gov/az/LUP/ironwood/ironwood_plan.htm)

Comments are due by May 30 and can be submitted by mail to Mark Lambert, BLM Planner, Tucson Field Office, 12661 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ 85748, or sent via email to [AZ\\_IFNM\\_RMP@blm.gov](mailto:AZ_IFNM_RMP@blm.gov).

### Middle Gila Canyons Workshop Update

All Middle Gila Canyons Travel Management Planning Participants (or the Florence Area)

Thank you all for attending the organizational meeting last night, and for your patience and help in getting through a rather ambitious agenda. Many people commented that this was a good, though indicative first start - people do seem willing to try to work together on this, but I think we all understand that there are going to be uncertain moments, and times when we're going to have to find creative ways to make tough decisions.

We have now agreed on dates for four working sessions:

Saturday, April 7th 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Tuesday, April 17th 5:00 P.M - 9:00 P.M.

Thursday, April 19th 4:00 P.M - 8:00 P.M.

We also agreed to meet in Casa Grande, and Kim will be working on securing the venue for the meetings. We will communicate details and directions when we've confirmed the meeting space.

Please continue to look to the website (<http://gila.ecr.gov>) for all information related to the project. In the next few days we'll be putting up all of the information requested last night so that it will be accessible to participants. Please also send any suggestions or requests you have for additional information that you think should be posted. Again, we encourage you to refer others to the site who may be interested in this process, and we will continue to welcome and respond to inquiries from interested potential participants. We will also be posting the participants list on the website, so please take a look at this list to see if you feel any people or interest groups are missing and send on any recommendations to me or Kim.

We'll be sending out announcements in advance of the first meeting to provide you with an agenda and other related information, and we'll also highlight the most important background readings and preparations for the session. We encourage you to do this homework/preparation before the meeting because this will help us all be as efficient as possible during the sessions.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process and plans forward, don't hesitate to contact me or Kim, or communicate directly with BLM staff. All contact information is available on the website.

We look forward to working with you all in the weeks ahead, and thank you once again for your interest and willingness to work together on this effort.

Larry

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May 5 - ASA4WDC Quarterly Delegates Meeting and Convention has been changed to the first weekend of May

This year's convention will be held in the resort town of Wickenburg.

There will be a general delegates meeting as always on Saturday from 1:00 to 5:00 pm, with the Convention following afterwards. The board meeting will be start at 9:00 am prior to the general delegates meeting.

The ASA4WDC would like to thank its delegates for all of their hard work during the year with a Convention in May. As a delegate your meal will be paid at Convention. You are encouraged to bring your significant other and other members from your club, but their meals will have to be paid for. There will be a run on Sunday, not sure where yet, but Kerry Hancock will be setting something up for us.

Convention is where we honor our delegates and those people who have done outstanding things over the past year.

Speakers and awards are also on the agenda. Joe Stevens a local historian will be one of our speakers and Tammie Pike with the Tonto National Forest will be there if you have any questions about planning.

The location for this year's convention is at the Wickenburg Recreation Center at 605 N. Tegner St., Bldg B, Wickenburg. Turn right on 93 like you are going to Vegas. In 5 blocks

you will see Coffinger Park. The 6th block is Swilling, turn right on Swilling and park in the lot. The Quarterly will be in Bldg. B.

### Editors Stuff

The Babcock and Murphy Moab trip is set in stone. We're leaving Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup> and returning Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup>. Wheeling Monday-Friday, we have hotel reservations at River Canyon Lodge (used to be Microtel Inn). Everyone is welcome to join us for a few of the days or the whole week.

Scott Nixon's done an excellent job of putting pictures up from our previous runs. Check out the webpage at: <http://www.azlorangers.org/images/index.htm>

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

Warn 9.5ti winch complete except for mount. Used three times  
New \$1,050; will take \$800

Back Rat hand winch; 3,500 pounds pull with snatch block.  
Never used.  
\$400 new; will take \$200

ARB Portable Air Compressor (RDCP) Just rebuilt.  
\$200 new; will take \$100

Master Flow Q89 chrome dual piston compressor puts out 150 psi and 72 Liter per Minute.  
Two months old.  
\$170 new; will take \$120

One Goodyear MTR 245x75r16; less than 1,000 miles.  
\$200 new; will take \$80

E-mail [stephenssmith@msn.com](mailto:stephenssmith@msn.com) or call afternoons or evenings 480-838-5394

Free for the taking:

\* Non-tilt steering column from a 1980 J20. It has the ignition key and GM-style wiring. The steering wheel is pretty generic. It doesn't say "Jeep" or AMG so it won't be embarrassing to put in any vehicle.

\* A flywheel for an AMC 360 engine. Weld some legs on it to make a nice little patio or accent table. Just kidding! It's in good shape. Call Steve or Linda Graham @ 480-834-1171

For Sale 800w generator call Steve Graham @ 480-834-1171

### Quote

An ounce of action is worth a ton of theory.

**Friedrich Engels**

**Created by Charlie Babcock**