

December 2004



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

That's Scott in the Big Ugly making his way through the rocky section of the Log Corral trail on the club run. That's me giving directions in the foreground and Glenn's Jeep waiting his turn in the background.

November Meeting Minutes

Don talked about Harley's Blah, blah, blah.

Said pledge.

7:05 p.m. meeting called to order.

Approximately \$3800 in bank account.

People in attendance: Don and James Munzer, Steve Graham, Linda Luik, Matt Parkes, Jim Sanford, Ed Lyons, Scott Nixon, Charlie Babcock, Sean and Lynette Murphy.

Anybody want to be president?

Sean sold minivan and bought hubs for his Dana 60.

Charlie gave trip report of Log Corral.

Steve Graham gave trip report of Lower Ajax with Scout Club. Everyone ran the trail.

There were approx. 13 vehicles. One got flat as they just before they started the trail. He then sliced another tire on Forest Road 4 but they found a spare that would work among the other Scouts. One broke axle on a straight road with trailered truck. This was the first run for Steve with his 4.3 Atlas, it was sweet. He also folded both front shackles and backwards. Most vehicles were in some sort of disrepair, open diffed, broke a rag joint with hand pressure while moving. Scott made a Scout joke; Steve was scouting the trail, ha-ha.

Steve and Linda got married last month. Congratulations.

Don walked with Undertakers and BTG during a wheelin' marathon to see who could do the most trails in 12 hours. Don gave a nice trip report. There was a Unimog out there with 40" Swampers. It rained, snowed, and hailed. He reported that Jay screamed like a 12 year old girl from the hail hitting him in the head (Ed. I added the 12 year girl part; Don didn't really say that out loud). Bronco lost passenger side hub and it had to use a come-a-long front to back and 6 vehicles. This still didn't work so they had to winch it all the way up the hills. Linda mentioned that the VJC are retrieving a late 70's Bronco from Martinez Canyon this weekend.

Club Christmas Party- RSVP to Scott Nixon (602)482-8973. 9:30 a.m. at Butcher Jones Beach.

January trip to TBD. Scott will check into a snow run for full size vehicles – possible article for Jay K.

February/March – Backyard Party at Matt’s Boulder Field.
 Scott made a motion to adjourn and Sean seconded it.
 7:57 p.m. meeting adjourned.

Calendar of Events

December 11 – Christmas party at Cottonwood Creek call Scott @602-482-8973
 No club meeting in December, see ya next year.
 January 1 – New Years Day run?
 January? – Club Snow run date TBD
 January 26 - Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray
 February/March – Backyard party at Matt’s rock garden.

Trip Report

Log Corral 11/20-21/04

Lo-Rangers

1973 K5 – Charlie, Shelby, Hailey, and Babcock; Jerome and Logan Gill

1989 K3500 – Scott, Lynn, Sydney, Steven, and Sam (puppy) Nixon

1986 CJ-5 – Glenn and Tonia McConnell

Other people that attended

2004 Rubicon – Ron Price and friend

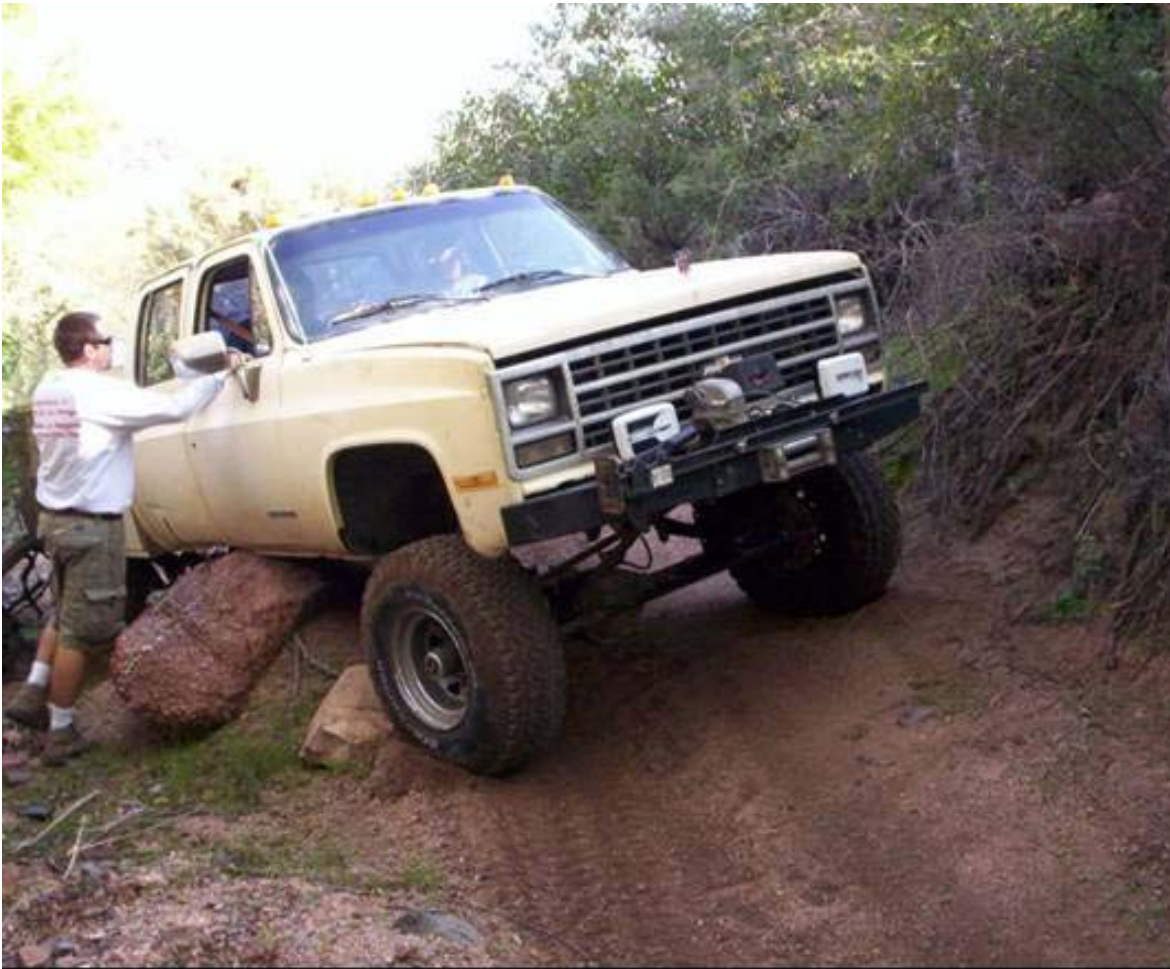
200? ZJ – 2 Guests

200? TJ – 2 Guests

I picked up Jerome and Logan at their house, stopped for gas and was at the meeting spot by 8:30am. The kids had fun looking at a big grader while we waited for the others. A large group of rigs started to assemble which turned out to be another 4wd club heading to Dupont Cabin. I bet that turned into a snow run! Ron who was at our last meeting showed up with 2 other Jeeps for a day run. Ron mentioned that Marty would meet us later? Scott and Glenn rolled in soon after.

We took off for the trail and soon pulled off the Beeline onto FR98. We all aired down and made our way down the wash and past where the fenced entrance used to be. Soon enough we were at the boulder filled canyon that is the only challenge on this trail. Don was right! He warned us that much of the fill was gone from the rocks and it looked a bit more challenging (that’s a good thing). I made it through this section with a couple back ups to get around diff hangers. I went back for Scott who was stranded pretty well with the rear 14 bolt anchor. After some head scratching and creative maneuvering we got the long Chevy through the worst of it. The Jeep crowd behind us had seen enough, they decided that it was a little to rough for them. With Scott and me planning to camp and return the next day Glenn was stuck with a choice of returning by himself (not a good idea) or returning with the other Jeeps. So we said our good byes and headed up the trail.

Just down the trail Scott called for help. The rear of his truck had slid into a ditch in an off camber section. This wasn’t a problem except that he high centered the passenger rocker panel over a boulder which was too much for his 3 driving AT’s to over come. The trail here is “S” shaped and the brush and branches were grown in ATV wide. It was very difficult for me to back up the trail to Scott. With a quick tug he was on his way again.



A bonus to our full-size trucks running down this trail was that they snapped off branches and cleared the path somewhat. Although the Mesa 4wheeler's adopt this trail it would take an army of workers to clear this path all the way to the lake.

Last time I ran this trail I pinched the passenger rear Swamper on a rock in the sandy wash part of the trail. This year in exactly the same spot I pinched the passenger rear Swamper on a rock and heard the familiar psst psst psst as the tire rolled to a stop. I asked Scott to get his jack because it was easier to get to than my camping gear piled Blazer. Out came his bottle jack and 4-way. We had it jacked up, the flat tire off, and the spare rolled over in no time. Just as I was trying to get the spare on, one of my daughters decided to climb into the K5 and slam the door. The Blazer fell off the jack and luckily the Swamper was just under the fender lip. Unluckily my hand was on top of the tire. The truck bounced off the back of my hand and landed again on my hand before I could yank it out. After I pulled my hand out the fender was resting on the tire. I walked it off while Scott got the Hi-Lift and Jerome helped him get the spare on.

After considerable tugging I got my Mechanics glove off of my swelling hand. I put some ice on it and let Jerome drive for a while because I was having trouble closing my hand. We made it to the log corral and I took over driving again, left handed.



Tire changing crew with the well worn spare.

We were soon at the lake and picked out a good camping spot, I think my girls were in the water before I shut off the engine. It was sunny but a nasty cloud build up was heading our way. We had lunch, set up camp, hiked, dug holes and in general enjoyed the weather. Scott built a fabulous fire pyramid with grass and sticks in the middle. There was drift wood everywhere. Scott insisted that next time he was going to build a log cabin out of the materials lying around. We grilled dinner over the fire then built it up white man style to keep away the evening cold. The girls announced they were ready for bed but when we looked at a watch and realized it was only 6:30pm we made them wait. After telling stories and playing with the fire for a couple hours we all hit the sacks. In the middle of the night I was awakened to the crashing of thunder close by, the wind popping the tent up and down as the rain poured down. This went on for what seemed like hours as I tried to sleep.

I got up early the next morning because I had a date with the outlaws back in town (early Thanksgiving). We tried to fix breakfast and tear down the camp as the wind came in and it rained off and on. Just as we were about to leave it started pouring again. I could barely see out the window through the fogging and rain. Eventually the rain stopped but still sprinkled off and on. On the way back I had my way with the rock that had taken out two Swampers. My hand was a 90% better and we made our way back to the Corral and then down to where Scott got stuck. I stopped and watched in my rearview as the poor BFG's just couldn't hold the Big Ugly on the side hill and the rear slid into the same ditch. But this time going in the other direction Scott was able to drive out of the stuck.



K5 getting twisted up in the washed out trail



Wheelin on the rocks in the rain!

We got to the boulders and they were wet and our tires were covered with sand and mud. The K5 made it through with some good spotting and a few realignments. Lynn and

the kids preferred to walk in the misty rain while we got the BU over the rocks. With a little jockeying (well maybe a whole bunch of) Scott made it through without any mishaps. It's amazing what a truck that long can do with a rear Detroit and open front. He thanked me for removing the plow like mount that used to hang down from his rear bumper just a few weeks ago. We passed a couple dirt bikers braving the rain going towards the rocks. Just as we were commenting how tough they were they passed us heading back towards the road again. I stopped at Beeline and aired up; we said our good-byes and drove back through the rain to Mesa.



This is as far out as Jerome could swim before taking a picture.

Even though it rained the kids and I had a blast. I wish more people had gone but maybe next time.

Honorable mention goes to Scott Nixon for not getting a flat tire on a Lo-Rangers trip. Scott asked me to mention this because he was very proud of it.

Written by Charlie Babcock

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.

December club run

The club Christmas party will be a cookout at Cottonwood Creek on Saturday 12/11/04. The club will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, chips, and soda. It's a potluck otherwise so you can bring side dishes or desserts. RSVP to Scott Nixon @602-482-8973 if you're going

so he can buy enough grub. There are some good rock crawling challenges nearby so you can bring your wheeler and have some fun. Any 4wd will make it to the cookout location, dirt road and sandy wash. We'll meet at the dirt parking lot just off of SR87 on the Four Peaks Road at 9:30am. I hope to see you there.

Land Use Issues

Nothing sent to me this month either.

Editors Stuff

We need a new president Don doesn't want to serve another term like most presidents do. So be ready to volunteer at the next meeting. I'm not going to be the president and the newsletter editor so somebody else needs to step up and take part in the club. It's an easy job, there are no qualifications, and all you have to do is show up at the meetings.

This is the funniest thing I've ever read on the Pirate4x4 page.

"If you turn a wood blade around backwards it'll cut sheet metal and corrugated steel roofing. But it makes a sound that makes you think that the world has cracked and Satan is coming to take your soul."

Texas Blake

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

I have never met a man so ignorant that I couldn't learn something from him.

Galileo Galilei

Created by Charlie Babcock