

December 2005



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

Jim Sanford in his Cherokee working his way down one of the steep plays hills on the trail near Needle Rock.

Meeting Minutes

There was no meeting in November due to the traditional combined November/December club meeting on the 14th, see you then.

Calendar of Events

December 14 - Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray

December 17 – Club Christmas party run on the Verde call Charlie @ 480-812-9101

January 25 - Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray

Trip Report

Needle Rock Run 11/19/05

2005 F250 – Marty Boetel

1973 K5 – Charlie Babcock

1989 K3500 – Scott and Steven Nixon

1996 XJ – Jim Sanford

199? XJ – 2 Guests

2005 Rubicon Unlimited – Steve Smith

It was a little chilly with the Becky made soft-top but no doors. I guess it's time to put the doors back on, it's nice the doors still fit, amazing what a 10lb sledge will do. We turned off of Dynamite road and pulled up in front of the pay station behind Marty and Scott. Becky paid the \$4 while I aired down, the rest of the gang soon pulled in behind us. Marty led us off down the trail through winding dirt trails that reminded me of Trail 42. We were soon at Needle rock and got out to check it out. I rolled the sides up on the top for the beautiful sunny day in November. We were off again and Marty found an obstacle for me to play on. It looked like the Escalator obstacle in Moab Utah except the rocky dirt crumbled away under the onslaught of tires. Scott went ahead and tried the steep climb in the big ugly. He was making great progress until about a third of the way up where there was a deeper bowl. The loose rock and steepness of the ledge were too much for his daily driver.



This was the only shot with Marty and Steve's trucks in it, Needle Rock is in the background.



Scott made a valiant effort to get the 1 ton up the crevice.



Scott pondering the K5 stuck in the hole.

After some good spotting by Marty, Scott was able to back down the bowls to the sand. This seemed scarier than driving up. I was next, everyone bailed out except for Shelby. I didn't have any trouble until I hit the same deep bowl. I tried numerous times with no success, increasing the bump speed each time. There just wasn't any traction even after bumping the tires up the ledge; it would just slide back down. Shelby shouted that she could hear air escaping from the rear tire on the passenger side. Checking it out it looked like the tire must have just burped some air out. Taking a good look and conversing with Scott he decided putting the passenger side front tire high on the wall and leaning the Blazer over might do the trick. This was pretty hairy and crossed the axles up good but it worked perfectly. I drove out of the bowl and was on my way over the top. Scott jumped in and rode the ridgeline over to a dropping off point. We dropped off a couple of 3' high ledges back down to the sandy wash. Steve was calling us on the CB; they had lost sight of us. We called back that we were right in front of them as I sped up to where they were parked.

Marty led us down the wash again pointing out various places to play. The canyon walls were beautiful. We stopped again at a rocky ramp with a peaked break over. Scott and Marty didn't think they could make it over so I went ahead. It wasn't any problem with the Blazers 111" wheelbase thanks to the 38's and flat bottom. The shorter XJ's both followed after me as I led them up a hairy steep incline and back down.



Guests going over the sharp breakover.



Playin' on the rocks.



Jim makes the crazy climb look easy.



Look familiar?

Going over the ramp back the way we had come I did drag the rear bumper, it was very steep. We continued down the wash, Marty and I would stop to let everyone catch up. Sand's a blast to drive in. Near the end of the wash the road became multi-lane and very hard to follow. We were soon split up into several groups. Somehow Steve made it to Bartlett Dam Road before the rest of us and asked which way to go. Marty and I popped out wets of Steve and Scott pulled out further east. We decided to hit the Indian Springs road and head to the play hills or the spring for lunch. When we got to the turn off to Indian Springs the road was blocked as were all the pull offs along the way. They didn't want people on the road after the fire that burned down to the lake. We then decided to go down to the river south of the dam. Marty led the way as we cruised on our aired down tires to the river. The river was pretty low as I backed up for river side lunch. I had brought water shoes for the kids so they could have fun. It was a little chilly so they actually didn't o into the water too much. We sat around and enjoyed the weather, the company, and the food. After an hour or so we headed back to the lake parking lot to air up.

Near the pay station we aired up, discussed the days events and where we could have the Christmas party. Thanks Marty for leading a great trip, the wealth of trail knowledge in our club is amazing. Thanks go to Steve Smith for taking a bunch of pictures.



Fun for everyone at the lunch spot.



Shooting the breeze after lunch.



The leaves changing down by the Verde.

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.

To get a state trust permit go to:

http://www.land.state.az.us/programs/natural/rec_offroad_permit.htm at the bottom is the link to the form at: http://www.land.state.az.us/programs/natural/rec_permit.pdf .

December club run

The Christmas party/run will be at ? meet at ? at ?. The club will provide Hamburgers, hotdogs, and sodas. Everyone's supposed to bring something to share so call Becky at 480-812-9101 and let her know what you're bringing or she'll tell you what you're bringing. If you have any questions about the party, the run, what kind of cupcakes I like best, a problem with your truck, or life in general call that same number but ask for me.

Land Use Issues

While on our last run we noticed that the roads leading off from Bartlett Dam Road were closed because of the fire there. Someone ought to check when they'll be open again.

Things you need or somebody wants but didn't know it

Wanted: 1964-1965 Scout and 39.5" Swampers, call Scott Nixon @ 602-482-8973

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

You can never underestimate the stupidity of the general public.

Scott Adams

Created by Charlie Babcock