

February 2006



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

Find the four trucks in the picture, standing at the movie screen looking back at the rigs on the last club run.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:18pm by Marty due to a lack of president, vice president or back up vice president.

Attendees: Matt Parkes, Steve Smith, Marty Boetel (and gang), Charlie Babcock, Ed Lyons, Jim Sanford, Linda Graham, Steve Graham, Kirk Rundle, Ted Gersztyn

New member Andy Armstrong introduced himself and said he wants to go wheeling
Charlie gave trip reports of New Years day at Lower Ajax, Middle Woodpecker, and Highway to Hell.

Linda Graham volunteered to be a virtual Jeep Club representative.

Charlie gave trip report of Movie Screen trail at Table Mesa;

Dues are due.

Linda mentioned that she reserved the group camp site with toilets and swing set on Mingus Mountain for August 25th-27th, so mark your calendars.

Jim Sanford volunteered to lead a club run at Red Picacho loop, meet 8:30am, February 18th.

Matt volunteered to lead a run through Martinez Canyon February 25th, meet at 9am at the flagpole on Cottonwood Canyon road.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Calendar of Events

February 11 – Backyard Boulder Party at Matt’s House call him @ 480-888-9581

February 18 – Red Picacho Road club run call Jim @ 480-225-5770

February 22 - Meeting at 7pm location TBD

February 25 – Martinez Canyon club run call Matt @ 480-888-9581

March – Club run TBD

March 29 - Meeting at 7pm location TBD

Trip Report

Lo-Rangers January run to “The Drive-in” 1/20/2006

Scott and Steven Nixon, 89 K3500

Steve Smith, Jeep Rubicon

Babcock Family, 73 Blazer
Jerome and Logan, 00 Denali

Despite being unanimously chosen as official club snow fairy, no amount of magic wand waving on my part was able to produce any of the white stuff to go play in. Seeing as the weather was so warm, I decided to run something short and simple to maximize the amount of time we sat around outside of our vehicles. Don Munzer had led a trip up here a few years ago, pre-running the trail for the Jamboree. We had passed this big structure that looked like a movie screen lying on the ground; hence the name of the trail. I wanted to go back and see what it really was.

Steven and I pulled in first. We threw a few rocks and watched as the Scout club rolled by headed for the trails. The rest of the group soon arrived. Those that wanted to air down did so and we headed out. After the official Lo-Rangers u-turn just passed the trail head I shifted into four low and started bumping down the trail. It starts out as a decent climb up a rocky power line road, with a good sized step three quarters of the way up. Everyone made it up no problem. We then bounced along for several miles, enjoying the panoramic scenery and the warm weather.



Beginning of the trail.

Arriving at the “movie screen” we all jumped out and headed off into the desert. Picking our way along game trails between the cacti, we soon arrived at a barbed wire fence. Beyond it was the screen, actually a corrugated aluminum sieve that trapped rain water into a large metal tank the size of a suburban swimming pool; shading it to slow evaporation. Despite no recent rain fall, it was almost five feet deep and only inches from the top. A pipe led off a ways to a bath tub sized drinking pool. Spent shotgun shells scattered about testified to hunters with no sense of fair play.

Mystery solved at last, we resumed our bouncing to the west. Dropping down slowly in to a valley off the ridge we'd been following, I took my best guess at which path would lead us back north towards the main road. I could see the optional climb up to the top of a large mesa in the distance, so I just headed for that. Once through a cowboy gate and after yet another u-turn we started the real bouncing. This climb starts out rough and gets rougher. Too much momentum and you shake your truck apart; not enough and you grind to a halt with the tires spinning uselessly on baseball to bowling ball sized rocks. After a hard left the trail gets steeper, forcing you to favor momentum even though it feels as if your dental work will soon shake loose.



Beautiful view after climbing the baby head hill.

Once again we all prevailed, topping out on a dead end climb at somebody's favorite hunting spot. After a brief break, we decided to head onward towards the spot where this trail intersects the exit from Armageddon in the hope some rock buggies would provide lunch time entertainment. The bouncing was slightly less tedious on the way down as I could ride the brakes and let gravity pull me down. Finally back on level ground, I headed north along a line of wooden telephone poles. Someone with a good sense of humor placed another cowboy gate at the very bottom of a steep loose climb; after dragging the rusty wires out of the way I slapped it in second and floored it, spinning my way to the top. Everyone followed, with Becky closing the gate and somehow climbing up the hill on foot.

Arriving at the intersection we all piled out and ate lunch. The sun had warmed up the air nicely, and it was beautiful down in the wash. After eating, we left Steve behind to enjoy his cigar in the shade while we went looking for buggies. We came up empty; no one had run the trail in quite some time. Only after sitting down to write this report did it occur to me that I seem to remember hearing this trail has been closed? It was a nice hike

nonetheless. We explored a cave or two, scrambled over boulders the size of household appliances, and threw rocks at a white talcum powder like wall to cause mini avalanches.



Lunch spot in the Armageddon trail

Back at the vehicles we loaded up and headed out. The trail soon got very rocky and narrow, bouncing along a creek bottom for several truck lengths. Then came the most difficult part of the trail: you had to make a hard left, then an immediate hard right, then another hard left up a good sized step; all the while driving on pea gravel. The first time I ran this trail I got hung up on the step and had to bump it several times until I bounced over. This time I was ready though; I picked my line even before completing the last turn and spooled up the turbo. It wasn't pretty, but I cleared it first try. Charlie had no problems with Detroit's front and rear, but Jerome was not so lucky. Street friendly tires, an open front, and a quirky factory limited slip conspired to keep him hung up on the step. After a valiant, throttle heavy assault, he wisely chose to accept a tug from the big Blazer. Steve turned on his factory lockers, adjusted the A/C to a comfortable temperature, and walked up it wondering what the big deal was.



Jerome's Denali couldn't quite make it up the steep loose hill, a ledge stopped his progress.

The trail got a bit confusing again as we neared the main road due to the numerous wild cat shooting rangers. I picked my way through; thankful for my rear locker as I felt the rear tires spin a bit on a field of spent shotgun shells. Looking over my shoulder I noticed Steven had called it a day; he was out cold, bouncing back and forth in his seat. At the main road I said my good byes and headed home. After discussing possible side trips, most everyone else decided to follow as well.

Charlie had a bit of fun on the way home; first a nail in his tire required a plug. Then, his alternator belt broke, wrapping itself around the water pump and creating quite a racket. He swapped on the spare and drove home without further incident.

Thanks to everybody that came out!
Scott Nixon

Items of Interest

Remember to re-member dues are due. Bring \$40 to the next meeting or send a check to:
Ed Lyons
936 E Wesleyan Dr
Tempe, AZ 85282
Make sure you tell him what it's for.

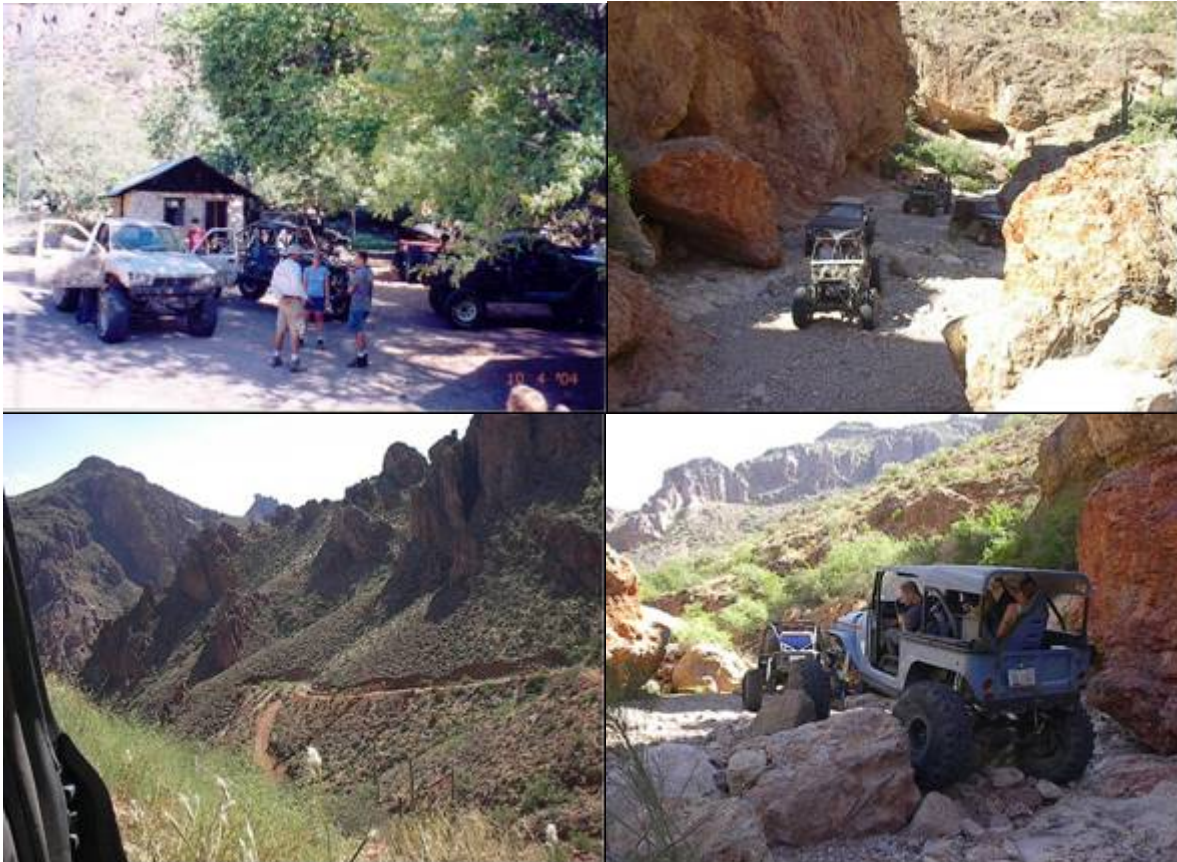
Remember the club meeting is the last Wednesday of every month, 7:00pm at ??? We need to find a new home.

February club runs

Saturday the 11th Matt's backyard party. Matt has invited the club to try out his new improved rock crawling garden and see his new workshop. Bring lunch, come to wheel, or just come to watch. Call Matt @ 480-888-9581 for more details.

Saturday the 18th Red Pichacho Road west of Lake Pleasant. It's a 2.5 rated trail any 4wd can make it. Jim Sanford offered to lead the run and we'll be meeting in the parking lot of the Wild Horse Bar a few miles west of I17 on the Carefree Highway. Meet at 8:30am bring lunch and drinks. Call Jim @ 480-225-5770 if you're planning on attending.

Saturday the 25th Martinez Canyon. Matt's leading this run, it's a 4.0 rated trail, and most of the tough stuff can be bypassed. It's a beautiful trail with lots of optional insane obstacles. For those that don't want to drive the entire trail the drive to the cabin is a nice easy trail and then they can ride/walk with the other rigs. The trail loops back to the cabin. Bring lunch and drinks it's a most of the day kind of trail. Pictures from 2004 below.



Land Use Issues

OHV SCOPING MEETING UPDATE

Thanks for your responses all..... MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!!

9 of 10 responses preferred the Saturday so I've confirmed **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25** with the Tucson BLM. **1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Haven't confirmed a location yet but I will announce this as soon as we confirm. We're looking at a couple of central Phoenix locations to help everyone to easy access.

I will be hosting a meeting (a central place) mid February to review our questions and facts so this meeting can be well planned and we can all be in line.

We cannot simply make statements like: "We want all trails to remain open."

Our comments must be "substantive"..... Meaning giving a reason in support of our comments. i.e.: Don't close Lower Woodpecker to OHV use..... mitigate any alleged issues by placing informative signs regarding the petroglyphs, or allow the trail to be adopted, or host peer patrols for education re responsible use, etc etc.....

Again, THANKS to all but we will most certainly need many more to attend so please don't leave this meeting to the "other guy".

We NEED YOU!

Sandee

Editors Stuff

Cleo Adcock mother to Loran Gersztyn passed away last week. Her and her husband used to be members of the Lo-Rangers and invited the club to spend the 4th of July weekend with them at their home near Bisbee every year. The family and I went one year and had a great time, they're really good people. Becky sent flowers on the club's behalf. The world is a little bit darker with her passing.

Someone needs to:

1. Step up and be the president of the club
2. Find a new meeting spot (I'll try the pizza place at Ray and Rural when it opens)

Things you need but didn't know it

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

The most wasted of all days is one without laughter.

E E Cummings

Created by Charlie Babcock