

February 2008



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

Sean's Blazer making its way through Rocker Panel Pass right before the carnage.

Meeting Minutes

Members present were Matt Parkes, Nick Sesma, Steve & Linda Graham, Ed Lyons and me. Guests were the two couples that did Log Corral with you last time. Don't know their names. Opened the meeting as usual then Nick and I told the story of why we didn't do Mud Springs and went to Rocker Panel. You can write that part seeing you were there. Matt and his friends did Cottonwood Creek. If you want that story you have to contact Matt.

Elections were quick. It should come as no surprise that you are still secretary, newsletter editor. Ed is still treasurer and I'm still president. The only change is Steve Graham is now vice president. There was only one candidate for each office.

Did you ever hear from Scott Nixon? I don't know if he's planning to stay in the club or not. I hope he will continue updating the web site for us.

We talked about the Four Peaks cleanup, Feb 9th; no one said for sure they were going. I told them that anytime they do trail cleanups to keep track of how many hours they donate and let me know so I can pass it along to the Adopt a Trail person at ASA4WD. Also we are going to try the Mud Springs cleanup again Feb 23rd. I will check out and see if the trail is open a couple of days ahead of time.

It was proposed that March's trail run be Miners Revenge since it was rained out last time. No date was set.

Steve

Calendar of Events

February 23 – Club adopt-a-trail Mud Springs contact Steve S for info @ 480-838-5394

February 27 – Meeting at 7pm location TC Luigi's

March ? – Club run

March 26 – Meeting at 7pm location TC Luigi's

Trip Report

Rocker Panel Pass 1/19/2008

Participants

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

1976 K5 – Sean and Lynette Murphy and Emma and Hanna Lyman

1993 Tacoma – Nick Sesma

2005 Rubicon UL – Steve Smith

We arrived at the Four Peaks turn off and most of the rigs were there. Steve had checked on the turn off to Mud Springs and it was blocked due to fire???. So we decided to run Rocker Panel Pass and Matt took his gang and headed to Cottonwood Creek. We crossed the highway and made our way across several Sycamore Creek crossings, it was plenty low enough for anyone to cross.

After winding our way through the desert we were soon at the Pass. Steve and Nick didn't think they wanted to go through Rocker Panel so Sean thought he'd drive through and then turn around and come back. You know what they say about best laid plans, 2/3 of the way through Sean's K5 dropped off a ledge making a hard right and sheered the sector shaft on the steering gear box. Seeing the pitman arm and drag link hanging down under the truck made us all groan.



This was the same spot the Liberty was stuck in in last months newsletter, the river was quite a bit higher.



Did I mention that the rain this year had produced an over grown Sonoran Jungle?



The hanging down thing shouldn't be hanging down. Classic steering gearbox sector shaft sheer caused by tires twice the weight and 33% taller then the factory thought would be put on there.

Nick offered to drive Sean to an auto store to get another gear box, I stayed and removed the old gear box, and Lynette and Steve would watch the kids and enjoy the beautiful scenery and weather. Nick had to make his way around Sean's Blazer and the obstacle that had snapped the sector shaft. With a bunch of spotting Nick was passed the spot and took off for unknown territory.



Nick did a great job on the Toy's suspension, he easily picked his way through the canyon.

I had the gear box off in about 15 minutes and wished that I had sent it with them to make sure it was the right one coming back. The kids had great fun building a fort and climbing the steep dirt walls of the wash. Steve, Lynette and I sat around, ate lunch, and talked to a few visitors who each said that's too bad and then left. Three hours later Sean and Nick showed up with a new steering gearbox. The gear to the steering column was different on the box they got but we tightened it enough to hold. After installing the gear box Sean decided he didn't want to turn around and drive back through the obstacle that broke his K5. So Sean would go out the way him and Nick had gone to the parts store. Nick was still on the down hill side of the obstacle with Sean so he decided to go with Sean. Steve was up hill of the obstacle and had never intended to drive through it. Since I was also uphill of the obstacle with Steve I decided to go back out the way we came in to keep Steve company. This way no one would be alone and we'd meet back up at the 2nd Sycamore turn off. Steve and I made our way back and then really poured on the speed once we hit the sand. I never have to wait for Steve he loves to fly on the open road.



Sean and me installing the new gearbox, Steve supervising.

We came up to a hill climb and there were a bunch of people and some rigs waiting. They said someone was broken down on the trail so we continued down the wash and into the creek to go around them. Some people are afraid to take a different path and will wait for hours to take the path they know. We arrived back at the highway and we pulled over to air up. Just a few minutes later Sean and Nick pulled into the dirt lot with us, they had made great time. Then we went home story over.

Charlie Babcock

Items of Interest

February run

Clean up and run on the Club adopt-a-trail Mud Springs on Saturday February 23rd. We will meet at the Four Peaks turnoff from SR87 at 8:30 a.m. The first half of this trail can be run by any 4wd. The 2nd half is pretty gnarly and requires a modified vehicle. Call Steve Smith to let him know you're going and for more info at 480-838-5394.

Land Use Issues

Editors Stuff

Things you need but didn't know it

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

Quote

I get up every morning determined to both change the world and have one hell of a good time. Sometimes this makes planning my day difficult.

E. B. White

Created by Charlie Babcock