



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

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Cover Picture

We stopped for lunch on the February club run at the 4th cove at Saguaro Lake. The problem with this picture is 2 Lo-Rangers and 3 guests.

Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2003

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Then the pledge was said. Those in attendance were: Charlie Babcock, Matt Parkes, Don and James Munzer, Aaron and Dee McCarthy, Steve Graham, Dan

and Jennifer Egge, Norm and Carol Harris, Ted, Loren, and Jake Gersztyn, and Scott Nixon.

Treasury Report-

Ed reported that we have \$4005.51 in our checking account. Dues are due this month. If you haven't turned them in send a check to Ed or pay at February's meeting. 11 out of 39 people have paid for this year.

General Business-

Trip report Forest road 42. No one showed. People complained about the newsletter being late. (Current Editor will try to send the newsletter out earlier). Quarterly Meeting is in Bullhead City. Clean up in New River? No one is planning on attending. Clean up in Sycamore Canyon? No one is planning on attending either.

Sunday, February 2, 2003 Matt Parkes is running Axle Alley at 9:00 a.m. Club Run is on February 22, 2003 to the Coves at Saguaro Lake, meet at Bush and Beeline Highway at 9:00 a.m. Scott Nixon hopes that people will show up for this run that he is leading. Scott gave a humorous description of Military Surplus Yard South of Tucson. Everyone joined in on the descriptions. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

February 26, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Followed by the pledge (thanks to Ted G. for providing the plastic flag).

A guest was recognized, Jan Corey. Welcome! Members present were: Charlie and Becky Babcock, Steve Graham, Mike Tutor, Ron, Brenda, and Jordan Couch, Norm and Carol Harris, Dan and Jennifer Egge, Aaron and Deborah McCarthy, Mathew Parkes, Marty and Michael Boetel, Ed Lyons, and Scott Nixon.

Treasury Report-

Ed reported that we have \$3983.14 in our account. We have had 17 paid members at this point. We ended the year with 34. Make sure to send in your dues.

Old Business-

Ron and Mike ran Trail 42 after one of our few rain days. They reported that there wasn't much mud but a lot of ruts.

Ron and Mike also ran Raw Deal with the AZ Virtual Jeep Club.

Scott reported on the club run- The Coves at Saguaro Lake. See elsewhere in Trail Tales for more information.

Matt ran Upper Ajax with friends from TRW. He is also doing a run on Saturday near Superior. If you are interested give him a call.

Ron and Mike also ran Cottonwood Creek. They happily reported that the trail is firmer and better to run. They think that it is actually possible to run.

Ted reported on the Quarterly. See him for a complete run down on the lengthy meeting. Thanks to all those from the club that attended the meeting. Ted

mentioned an organization that is out there that wants to help 4-Wheelers. Visit their website at www.orbanet.org.

New Business-

United Conference – June 21-24 at Little America in Flagstaff.
Jamboree is in the planning stages again.

March Trip- Sunday March 16, 2003. It will be in Cottonwood Creek. Ron has volunteered to run it. Meet at Bush and Beeline at 9:00 a.m.

April Trip- Mud Springs
May Trip- Cherry Creek

Calroc Competition will be held in Florence Junction on March 8 and 9, 2003. If you want to be a judge there will be a meeting on the 6th at El Gallion Mexican Restaurant, which is on Main Street, 4 blocks west of Gilbert Road. There is talk that they will be somehow charging an admission price of \$10 to watch and \$10 to park at this Calroc event.

If you visit www.roundtable.com you can get some discount coupons on pizza to use at the next club meeting.

Several BLM Planning Meetings coming up about Table Mesa Rd. If you need more information contact Marty Boetel at 926-3977.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Calendar of Events

March 8-9 – CALROC Event At Florence Junction
March 16– Cottonwood Creek Club Run
March 26 – Club Meeting At Round Table Pizza
April – Mud Springs Club Run
April 30 – Club Meeting At Round Table Pizza
May – Cherry Creek overnight Club Run

Trip Reports

January 18th FR42 Trip Report

Trip Leader: Scott Nixon
Participants: Nobody.

Filling in for the original trip leader who was still nursing an ailing TH400, I showed up to the meeting spot fifteen minutes early. Turning around to park, I was rather disappointed that nobody else was there yet. My disappointment only deepened as the unofficial grace period came and went. When NPR called out eighteen after the hour, I put my truck back in drive and headed home; leaving behind what would have been an awesome day wheeling one of my favorite trails in the midst of a glorious, seventy-degree Arizona winters day.



(My truck at home in the driveway. Same place everybody else's truck was too, I guess.)

Coves of Saguaro Lake February 2003

Participants:
Scott Nixon and John McCall (guest),
Ram
Babcock Family, Blazer

Gersztyn Family, Samurai
Kirk Rundle (guest), Bronco
Chuck Case (guest), CJ

After a quick air down at Butcher Jones, I instructed my CPS (Charlie Positioning System) to take us to the play hills. Taking point, the big Blazer rumbled towards the fun stuff. At the first rutted hill, the Samurai made some ominous grinding noises when shifted into four-wheel drive. Easily making the hill in two-wheel drive, they followed us to the play hills. While everyone else took turns seeing what line they could drive, Ted discovered his front differential was no longer turning without a fight.

Tired of driving up and down the hills, we headed for Cove one. A couple of young fishermen begged us for a jumpstart; they had drained both batteries in their new Super Duty listening to the radio. While the Blazer's alternator tried to revive the big Ford, we sat around snacking and marveling at the high water.



(Becky checks the water depth)



(Kirk crests the big hill out of cove one)



(Chuck's Jeep gets ready to climb the big hill)

At long last, the Power stroke roared to life and everyone but the Gersztyns pressed on, the Samurai staying behind for a quick picnic and a lonely two-wheel drive home. The four remaining vehicles made the hill easily, although my first attempt at crawling it

forced me to back up and use some additional throttle. We made good time back to Cove four where we stopped for a leisurely lunch and, for the Babcock girls, a quick swim in the green, frigid water.

Loading up, we followed Charlie out for some more hills. One in particular featured a big ledge half way down, which everyone but the Ram turned around and climbed. I sat on the next ridge and took pictures.



(Hill with ledge)

Back at the play hills, we couldn't resist one more shot. I tried valiantly to climb a big sandy step, but the frame kept getting hung up. Even with spotting from Charlie the truck just kept sliding sideways. Finally having enough, I backed up and went around. Figuring 38's and real locker up front could manage, Charlie proceed to dig a big hole below the step. At one point he cried out for ballast as the driver's front tire came up a foot or two. Kirk and I were happy to oblige, slowly lowering the tire back towards earth.

Back at the parking lot we said our quick goodbyes and headed out for air.

Submitted by Scott Nixon

Items of Interest

March Club Run- Sunday March 16, 2003. It will be the infamous Cottonwood Creek. The trail leads from Cottonwood Camp down Cottonwood Creek through a beautiful rocky canyon ending up at the last cove of Saguaro Lake. This trail is a 2.5 until the rough stuff starts then it's a good solid 4.5. Everyone is welcome to bring their rigs and stop when we get to the tougher part of the trail. Then you can walk along (like my wife and kids will be doing) or jump in with someone else. The rough part is short, distance wise and then a couple miles of sandy trail to the lake. We'll return by the same route. Ron has volunteered to run it so call him at 480-726-8509 for more information. Bring lunch and plenty of drinks. Meet at Bush and Beeline at 9:00 a.m.

I don't know about anyone else but I was pretty excited that BFG finally came out with a larger than 37" tire. It's a radial and it's actually pretty aggressive.



BFG's Krawler

The military surplus yard in Tucson that Scott and I were talking about 2 meetings ago was:

Jacks Government Surplus Trucks
5181 E Drexel Rd
Tucson, AZ 85706-2050
520-574-0300

Land Use Issues

I'm not very political, so I'm not going to search out information to include in this section. If anyone sends me information I'll certainly cut and paste it into this column.

Editors Corner

Sorry about the missing newsletter for February I placed fixing my transmission on the K5 as a priority over completing the newsletter. So I combined February and March newsletters.

Respectfully Submitted by
Charlie Babcock

For Sale

If anyone has anything for sale or needs something just type it up and email it to me and I'll put it in the newsletter.

1 285-75-R16 AT, 40% tread left, on 16"x8" chrome steel wheel, 8 lug, \$40. Call the Babcock's at (480) 812-9101.

2 30-spline axles from a FF Dana 60 rear, \$30 each or \$50 for both. Call the Babcock's at (480) 812-9101.

MAKE SURE YOU PAY THE CLUB DUES.

You can pay at the next meeting or send your \$40 to Ed at:

Ed Lyons
936 E Wesleyan Dr
Tempe, AZ 85282

Make sure you tell him what it's for.