

January 2004



# Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

## Cover Picture

The cover picture this month is Scott on his busted truck near Indian Springs Road on Bartlett Dam road. He was towed from this point, at home he discovered broken: inner and outer wheel bearings, races, manual hub, bearing hub, spindle, caliper and stub shaft.

## December Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m., followed by the pledge.

Members present were: Charlie Babcock, Steve Graham, Ron Couch, Ted, Loran, and Jake Gersztyn, Marty Boetel, Bob Spacy, Twila Madera, Dan and Jennifer Egge, Glenn McConnell, Don and Sammy Munzer, Scott Nixon.

Treasury Report-Ed was not at the meeting.

Old Business-Don gave a very funny and colorful description of his and Bob Spacy's trip to the Coves the week before the Christmas party. There were lots of people out there. A TJ (surprise) almost flipped with 4 guys in it. They laughed for 20 minutes. Charlie gave a trip report about the Trail 42 trip.

Scott gave a trip report about the Christmas Party. Matt gave a lively account of Jamboree run "Highway to Hell" that he led. 20 vehicles, Matt got stuck sideways in the 3<sup>rd</sup> obstacle. Finally fell over rubber side down after winching the front end 6' in the air. The next day he sheared the rear U-Joint on "Axle Alley." Ted gave the account of Quarterly Meeting.

New Business- New club- Road rats they used to be a part of VJ Club, 12 members. Table Mesa Cleanup- see flyer. Some group might get 2 million of gas tax money. Coke Ovens changed hands and owner wants to swap land with BLM, so ASA might become the stewards. Ted's still working on the ASA web site; he'll try to have something by next meeting. Don't have to be incorporated to be in ASA now. The ASA only made \$800 – 1000 on the Jamboree where last year they made \$6000 – 7000. Sandy will head the Jamboree next year. Pete Zorb (peat moss) product can be put on oil; it absorbs it, and can be left there.

Nominations were taken- Don Munzer for president, Charlie Babcock for Editor, Ed Lyons for Treasurer, and Loran G. for Secretary. Nominations closed, Glenn seconded; Don Munzer for president, Charlie Babcock for Editor, Ed Lyons for Treasurer, and Loran G. for Secretary. They were elected to serve the Lo-Rangers for 2004. Jay wants our club to run a trail to be in a 4 WD and Sport Utility magazine. Everyone decided it would be 201A, there might be snow there. January 24<sup>th</sup> we will meet at the Bush and Beeline at 9:00 a.m. Fiesta Bowl parade drivers and tow vehicles not needed anymore. Don will participate and give a full report at the next meeting. Ron will lead Upper Woodpecker, for the annual New Year's

Day Club run. Meet at Mineral Mountain Road exit at 9:00 a.m. January 1, 2004. Ron offered to tow a float on Woodpecker.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

## Calendar of Events

January 1 – New years day club run, Upper Woodpecker call Ron @480-726-8509  
January 24 – Forest Road 201A club run call Marty @ 480-926-3977  
January 28 – Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray  
January 31 – Table Mesa area clean-up, see details below.  
February ? – Club run  
February 25 – Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray

### Trip Report

Christmas Party - 12/13/03

Participants:

Nixon's, Chevy Crew Cab

Gersztyn's, Willy's

Spacy's, Jeep

Munzer's, Jeep

Glenn McConnell, Jeep

Mike Tutor and Guest, Toyota Tacoma

Couch's, Chevy Crew Cab

Boetel's, Ford Crew Cab

Steve Graham and Linda Luik, Scout

Conner's, Jeep

*(Ed. The Babcock's K5 was there also.)*

Pulling into the meeting spot I was happy to see the usual big turnout the Christmas party always draws. I was less pleased when a power mad forest ranger driving a garbage truck pulled up. Despite the fact that Linda had been told we were fine with just one permit for the entire group, Barney Fief insisted on playing hard ball. After he got done making a big show of checking all our license plate numbers, we all headed for the Coves of Saguaro Lake.

After a quick air down we headed for Cove one. The first big hill up out of the wash gave Marty a little trouble when he forgot he was driving an open-diffed low-rider and tried a foot high step. Backing up got him on the right line and he popped up. A short while later we pulled up at the shore of the lake, which we had all to ourselves.

We set up the tables and started eating. Lots of chips, dips, and various munchies disappeared while Steve, Charlie and I fired up three little camping grills. It took us awhile as everyone's water proof matches refused to light. Good thing freezing to death while four wheeling in Arizona rarely happens. An over-tired and under-powered Cherokee came through and made a stubborn assault on the big hill out of Cove one.

After lunch the adults sat around and talked while the kids continued playing in the water and mud. Despite the fact that most of us were still wearing hats and sweat shirts, the children seemed content even though they were soaked to the waist in chilly water. As the afternoon wore on, we loaded up, said our goodbyes and headed out.

Coming up to the play hill out of the Cove one wash, Charlie and Bob were already on top. Taking note of the audience of ATV's at the bottom I decided to show off. Heading up the center, Lynn asked if we would if through there. I indicated there was only one way to find out. To my surprise the big K3500 not only fit, but climbed a nasty step that had thwarted my Dodge many times. I noticed a funny wobble to the tire when it hit, but soon forgot about it. It would come back to haunt me later; turns out I snapped a stub axle (yes, in a Dana 60!) which eventually took out the wheel bearings.

The Gersztyn's Willy's had to get tugged up through this spot; at some point the front end had quit working. Everyone else made it up their chosen line, and we were soon back at the parking lot. It was a fun trip as always; hope to see everyone there next year.  
Scott Nixon

### 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.



**Big Ugly on Bartlett Dam Road with a broken Dana 60. Nobody wants to come home from a trip like this.**

### January Club Run's

Marty is leading a trip on Trail 201A Saturday January 24. This is a scenic easy trail to some abandoned mines with a possibility of snow. Any 4wd should be able to make it on this trail with no problems. Jay wanted our club to run a trail to be in a 4WD and Sport Utility magazine. Meet at the intersection of Bush and Beeline at 9:00am.

There's an ASA clean up at the Table Mesa area Saturday January 31. Meet at the parking area just west of I17 on Table Mesa road at 9am. Bring drinks, gloves and friends; shovels, rakes, and sun block optional. If you have any questions contact Robert Rogers @ 623-581-6791.

### Land Use Issues

Please send any land use issues that you want included in the next newsletter to the editor at: <mailto:charles.h.babcock@intel.com>.

### Editors Corner

If you're going to go on a club run make sure to call the trip leader. If the meeting time or location is changed or canceled then he can call everyone that's going and let them know. If you don't call then it's your own fault if you miss the run.

If you take any pictures during a club run please email, snail mail, or hand them to me and I'll include them in the newsletter.

### Classifieds

If anyone has anything for sale just type it up and email it to me at <mailto:charles.h.babcock@intel.com> and I'll put it in the newsletter.

For Sale – 1993 Ford PU 4 WD, Powerstroke, automatic, cruise, tilt, 142k miles, 40k on engine, 14 MPG, White, \$7500.00. For details call Marty Boetel @ 480-926-3977.

For Sale – 1986 Chevy 4 door pickup, 2wd, 454, automatic, Brown, 74k miles, \$6000. For details call Don Munzer @ 480-839-9096.

For Sale - 1995 Dodge Ram, ready for wheelin', for details call Scott Nixon at (602) 482-8973.

### Quote

You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it.  
Robin Williams

**Enthusiastically Created by Charlie Babcock**