

January 2005



# Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

## Cover Picture

Here's the line up for the club Christmas party, I made a wrong turn into Cottonwood Ranch and we all had to reverse order. I still think it was a nice excursion and I was the first person to declare that we had gone the wrong way.

## No Meeting Minutes

There was no meeting in December, see you in January.

## Calendar of Events

January 1 – New Years Day run on Upper Woodpecker contact Ron @ 480-726-8509  
January 1 – Club Snow/mud run off the Young Highway call Charlie @ 480-812-9101  
January 26 - Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray  
February ? – Backyard BBQ at Matt's rock garden contact him @ 480-726-8509.  
February 23 – Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray

## Trip Report

Cottonwood Creek, Christmas Party 12/11/04

1989 K3500 – Scott Nixon

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

1973 Bronco – Kirk and Katie Rundle

1987 Samurai – Ted, Loran and Jake Gersztyn

1980 Scout II – Steve and Linda Graham

1984 CJ7 – Jim Sanford

1989 K3500 – Don, Julie, Sam, and James Munzer

2000 Denali – Jerome, Logan and Zoë Gill

2005 Ram – Ron, Brenda, Jordan, and Cameron Couch

2004 Tundra – Mike Tutor and Gale

That's what I like about the Lo-Rangers, look at the attending list above. There's a representative of every major 4x4 manufacturer. Who wants to watch 20 TJ's drive through the same obstacle?

We showed up at the meeting spot a bit late (I searched for half an hour for the valve to my grill with no luck) and most of the gang was there. Jerome pulled in and we were off for the adventure. Scott asked me to take the lead and I headed towards the creek. I made the first turn I came to and started veering to far west so I stopped. Walking back to someone that had

a working CB, I hadn't brought my antenna; I couldn't find anyone with a CB. Each person I asked either didn't know the way or thought that we were probably on the right path. I got to Scott and he's yelling wrong turn, he was the only one with a working CB. Everyone reversed and Scott took the lead. We made our way leisurely towards the creek. The sky was blue, everything was green and the temperature was perfect. It doesn't get much better than this.

At the creek near the Ranch there were some small children in grown up bodies playing soft air gun wars. The soldiers in Iraq would be envious of the amount of gear these guys were wearing. I thought we had driven into a video game and we were the targets. We decided to move on up the creek and find more peaceful surroundings. I sped up a head and whacked a rock with the front diff and then hit it again with the rear just for good measure. With Don in the lead we stopped again in the creek bed. Becky didn't like the looks of trucks on both sides and a racetrack for motorized vehicles down the center. To everyone's complaint Becky and I vetoed the dirt track location. We had seen a better spot as we were dropping down off the mountain into the Ranch. Turning around again we were soon at the last stop, a wider bowl area that we blocked on both ends with trucks.

We all set up our tables, chairs, and food and started the arduous task of wheelin talk and relaxing.



Scott had the only working grill so he fired it up and started the BBQ. The kids climbed around, dug in the sand and shot the BB gun. We were soon eating perfectly grilled burgers and dogs (thanks Scott); the food everyone brought was great. I ate way too much and then sat around a little longer. Jerome had to leave for a family thing. Before he could leave, the kids

had buried some of Zoë's toys, so Don and Jerome started searching in the deep sand for the tiny dolls and toy spoons.



They found the treasures and the Denali headed out. Everyone else packed up and was right behind him.

We had a great turn out and it was a perfect day, next time maybe we'll get a few more out there. It's always a run everyone can attend so unless you have prior engagements come on out.

Submitted 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.

### January club run(s)

New Years day snow/mud run, meet at Globe in the parking lot of the restaurant at the intersection of US60 and SR88 at 10am. Call Charlie for details & to RSVP @ 480-812-9101.

New Years day run at Upper Woodpecker, meet at Mineral Mountain Road and US60 at 10am. Call Ron for more details and to RSVP @ 480-726-8509.

We'll run one or both of these runs, I haven't got a hold of Ron yet so make sure you call one of us before you head out to go wheeling Saturday morning.

Matt Parkes is having a backyard BBQ potluck and BYORC (bring your own rock crawler) to try out his offroad park. Some weekend in February, details to follow. I'll put a map, time, etc. in next month's newsletter. Contact Matt for more information @ 480-888-9581.



Here's Sean's new ride, 1996 F250 with a 460. It's sweet but looks too purty to scratch. At least he's got something to tow the K5 with if/when it breaks down.

### **Land Use Issues**

Nothing sent to me this month either.

### **Editors Stuff**

Discount Tire won't sell warranties on Swampers anymore and they gave me a lot of grief about honoring the warranties I had already paid for. Including telling me they didn't have any record of me purchasing the warranties. Luckily I keep every receipt and made them honor the warranty. It's time for me to take my business elsewhere.

Hail to the chief, Ron Couch was nominated and voted as the new president of our club. Everyone can congratulate him when they see him next. Thanks Ron! We might have to make it more official at the next meeting, I don't know.

Bring a container (2 qt or so, zip lock, etc.) to the next meeting and Glenn and I will distribute the Peatsorb. Ya hear that Glenn?

I can't believe I'm starting my 3<sup>rd</sup> year of newsletters, I like it and as long as nobody else is dying to do this I'll keep doing it. Remember I love input, if there's anything you'd rather see different or new in the newsletter just let me know. I get tired of the same format anyway so change is good.

Anyone tired of meeting at the Round Table? Find a new place (cause if you complain about our meeting spot that's the same as volunteering to find a new one) and bring it up at the next meeting.

### **Things you need but didn't know it**

**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.

**For Sale:** 1 285-75-R16 AT, 40% tread left, on 16"x8" chrome steel wheel, 8 lug, \$30.  
2 30-spline axles from a FF Dana 60 rear, \$30 each or \$50 for both.  
Call the Babcock's at (480) 812-9101.

### **Quote**

"There is no failure except in no longer trying."

Elbert Hubbard

**Created by Charlie Babcock**