

January 2006



# Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

## Cover Picture

Aaron pulling the axle on his Jeep sitting in the Highway to Hell trail New Years Day.

## Meeting Minutes

Don called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Those members that were able to find the meeting spot were: Micah, Loran, Ted, and Jake Gersztyn, Matt Parks, Scott Nixon, Charlie Babcock, Jim Sanford, Marty Boetel, and Aaron McCarthy.

The Christmas Party will be at The Coves of Saguaro Lake. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Butcher Jones Beach. Loran will be bringing her famous, Green Chili Enchilada's.

We motioned and seconded to pay for the web page domain name which is \$9 a year.

Aaron will be leading the New Year's Day club run to Highway to Hell then possibly Upper Ajax. Meet at the flagpole at Cottonwood Canyon Road at 9 a.m.

Marty described trip to NeedleRock/Eleven Mile Wash.

Reminiscid about Miner's Revenge Trip.

Talked about President's position and decided to postpone elections until next year.

Matt said he'd have a backyard party the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in February. Scott will lead a snow run the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in January. That is January 21<sup>st</sup>. Call him the snow fairy.

Micah bought hooded sweatshirt, he said he's now a real member.

Adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

## Calendar of Events

January 21 – Snow Run, Maybe contact Scott Nixon @ 602-482-8973

January 25 - Meeting at Honey Bears BBQ, 7pm SW corner of Priest and Elliot

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

February 22 - Meeting at 7pm location TBD

February 25 – Club run TBD

## Trip Report

Coves of Saguaro Lake, Christmas Party 2005

1989 K3500 – Scott, Lynn, Sydney, and Steven Nixon

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

1993 Forerunner – Ted, Loran and Jake Gersztyn

2000 Denali – Jerome, Logan and Zoë Gill, Brandon and Kailey

It was forecasted to be a nice warm day so we expected to have a higher turnout than had RSVP. After we loaded the beast up with all the essentials for a trip to the coves, we were off for an adventure. We arrived at the green gate near 9:00 a.m. to find Jerome Gill and his crew along with Jake, Ted, and Loran Gersztyn. A short time later we heard the roar of a diesel engine to find Scott, Lynn, Steven, and Sydney Nixon. We buckled up and headed for cove one. When we arrived we discovered that many people had been here due to the amount of trash and the burned out mattress. As usual, we cleaned up the mess and put the mattress frame in the back of the big ugly. The kids unloaded and ran towards the water with the mom's screaming, "Stay out of the water." The kids played and we began to set up for the party. Chips and salsa, soda, cupcakes, and chairs we were ready for some real relaxing. Several members climbed around on the hills. Jerome came back with a bag of wood like you would buy at Circle K. We began to set up for lunch, hamburgers and hotdogs, where are the plates? Oops, Becky forgot to bring the plates. Scott came to the rescue with his plate, bowls, and cup set. We just had to eat in shifts making sure to take a plate that had remnants of food that you preferred. (At least we had soda) When it was time to leave we put out the fire that was left there from the previous people, we poured 30 gallons of water on it, but it was still bubbling. After several more trips to the water we extinguished the fire. Jerome and his crew headed out towards Four Peaks and the rest headed out the way we came.







Submitted by Charlie Babcock

Middle Woodpecker, New Years Day 2006

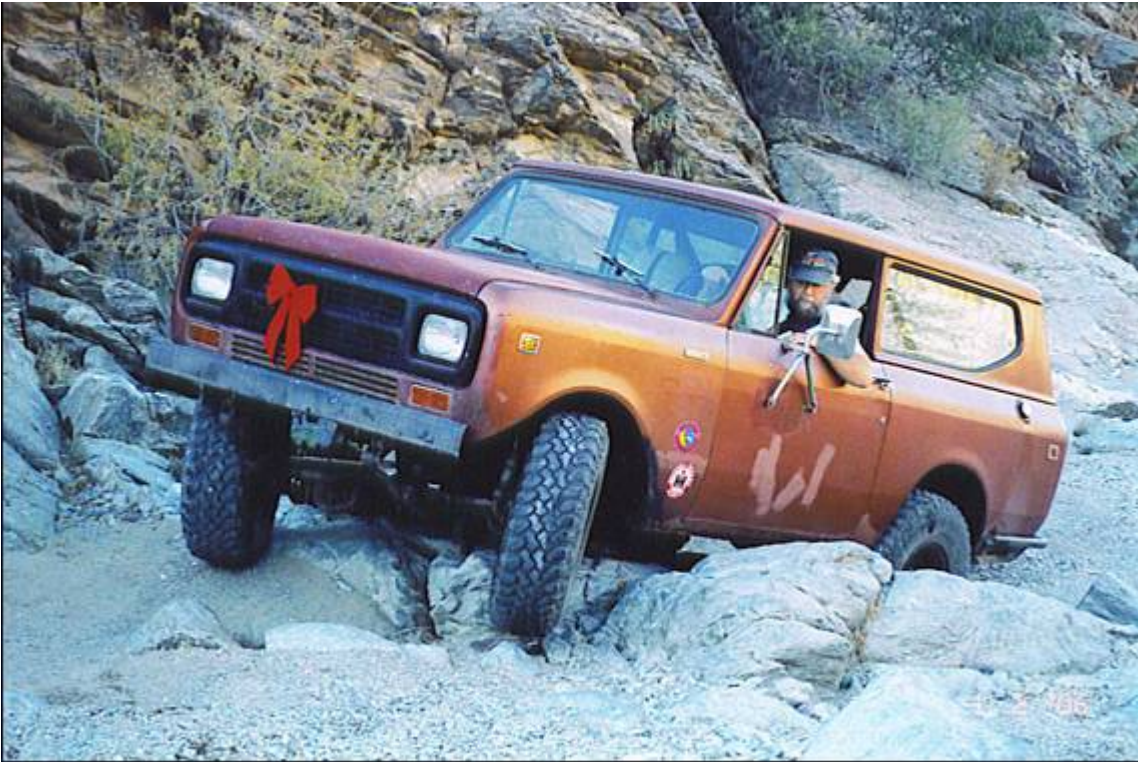
1980 Scout II – Steve and Linda Graham

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

2005 Rubicon Unlimited – Steve Smith

We met at the parking lot at Cottonwood Canyon road and Highway 79 at 9am. Aaron and Steve Smith, Steve and Linda were already there. Aaron had brought a friend with him in a Bronco II. They decided to meet up with a third and run Highway to Hell as planned. SteveG decided on Middle Woodpecker. SteveS and I were up for what ever. I didn't want to try Highway to Hell tipping the scales close to 7000 lbs (5940 lbs normal weight + 550 lbs of top, doors, and rear glass + 300 lbs of family + ~200 lbs of camping gear). The family and I had made our annual New Years Eve camp out in the desert with the Southwest Outdoors Club. SteveG lead, SteveS followed and I brought up the rear. We stopped to stretch our legs and explore a side wash before starting the trail. The difficulty was perfect for the Scout and Rubicon challenging the drivers a bit. Becky got in the drivers seat of the K5 and I got to watch for a change. On one of the obstacles Becky caught the rear diff on a boulder and put the hammer down to get loose. When the smoke and dust cleared the Blazer was free again but sideways in the trail. After this show it was obvious to everyone that I'm the cautious driver of the family. The two more street worthy trucks picked there lines carefully and readjusted a couple times to get a better line. We all had a great time enjoying the perfect Arizona weather.





After Middle Woodpecker we jumped into Lower Ajax but not far into it I saw Steve working on a small ledge when bang! Steve blew his front right side Dana 44 axle u-joint.

We decided to leave the trail at this point and find a lunch spot. I kept pushing to join the others on HTH so we all drove the long road around to the end of Upper Woodpecker beginning of Highway to Hell.

Submitted by Charlie Babcock

Highway to Hell, New Years Day 2006

1980 CJ5 – Aaron McCarthy, Alicia and Tyler

198? Bronco II – Charlie

198? Toyota pickup – Chris

SteveG parked the Scout up on the hill at the end of Upper Woodpecker and loaded some stuff in the Blazer. The girls all headed up Highway to Hell trail to have lunch and a show. I drove down into the trail and headed through the minor obstacles up to the first squeeze. SteveS decided to park his Jeep at the start of HTH after seeing the minor obstacles. He rode with me as we passed the walkers and several Jeeps in varying degrees of brokenage. I got to the squeeze and heard Aaron yelling to me.



He had made it through the squeeze but broke a front axle in doing so. We sat down talked, had lunch and enjoyed the spot on weather. Once Aaron fixed the Jeep he flipped it around and exited the trail not wanting to push on to harder things to come with only three wheels driving. He jumped in with the other two as they made their way down the trail.



We stayed for the rest of the show. 4 buggy-ized Jeeps entered the trail. The first looked like a competition rig. He made it through while checking out the clouds. The next seemed a little on the rookie side. After the squeeze he continued to climb the left wall until his Jeep flopped over on its side. After talking the group out of winching from a Saguaro or driving through the virgin Sonoran Desert to get a better angle for winching, I demonstrated that with my weight alone the Jeep would rock over some. When the rest of them joined in we easily flipped the Jeep rubber side down. I finally got to use my Peatsorb. I handed it to the owner of the flopped Jeep and he covered up his drained oils. He then took a better line and made it through. His friends then made it through and we were alone again. We decided to call it a day and drove back towards civilization. SteveG and Linda decided to take a break from the bumps. SteveS and I said good bye and continued on our way stopping at the flagpole at the Highway. Steve aired up and then he followed me to the nearest gas station thanks to my wandering fuel gauge. It turns out I was fine but thanks Steve for following us.

Submitted by Charlie Babcock

### **Items of Interest**

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

### **January club run**

Was Movie Screen trail near Table Mesa Road, see details next month.

### **Land Use Issues**



Nothing sent to me this month either.

### Editors Stuff

1. **DRILL PRESS:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer (or soda) across the room, splattering it against that freshly painted part you were drying.
2. **WIRE WHEEL:** Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprint whorls and hard-earned guitar calluses in about the time it takes you to say, "SHOOT!!!"
3. **ELECTRIC HAND DRILL:** Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age.
4. **PLIERS:** Used to round off hexagonal bolt heads.
5. **HACKSAW:** One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle: It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.
6. **WISE GRIP PLIERS:** Used to round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.
7. **OXYACETYLENE TORCH:** Used almost entirely for setting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside a wheel hub you're trying to get the bearing race out of.
8. **WHITWORTH SOCKETS:** Once used for working on older British cars and motorcycles, they are now used mainly for impersonating that 9/16 or 1/2 socket you've been searching for the last 15 minutes.
9. **HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK:** Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new disk brake pads, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.
10. **EIGHT-FOOT LONG DOUGLAS FIR 4X4:** Used to attempt to lever an automobile upward off a hydraulic jack handle.
11. **TWEEZERS:** A tool for removing splinters of wood, especially Douglas fir.
12. **TELEPHONE:** Tool for calling your neighbor to see if he has another hydraulic floor jack.
13. **SNAP-ON GASKET SCRAPER:** Theoretically useful as a sandwich tool for spreading mayonnaise; used mainly for removing dog feces from your boots.
14. **E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD EXTRACTOR:** A tool that snaps off in bolt holes and is ten times harder than any known drill bit.
15. **TWO-TON HYDRAULIC ENGINE HOIST:** A handy tool for testing the tensile strength of bolts and fuel lines you forgot to disconnect.
16. **CRAFTSMAN 1/2 ax 16-INCH SCREWDRIVER:** A large motor mount prying tool that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end without the handle.
17. **AVIATION METAL SNIPS:** See hacksaw.
18. **TROUBLE LIGHT:** The home builder's own tanning booth. Sometimes called drop light, it is a good source of vitamin D, "the sunshine vitamin," which is not otherwise found under cars at night. Health benefits aside, its main purpose is to consume 40-watt light bulbs at about the same rate that 105-mm howitzer shells might be used during, say, the first few hours of the Battle of the Bulge. More often dark than light, its name is somewhat misleading.

19. PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER: Normally used to stab the lids of old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and squirt oil on your shirt; can also be used, as the name implies, to round off the interiors of Phillips screw heads.

20. AIR COMPRESSOR: A machine that takes energy produced in a coal-burning power plant 200 miles away and transforms it into compressed air that travels by hose to an Pneumatic impact wrench that grips rusty bolts last tightened 70 years ago by someone at Ford, and rounds them off.

21. PRY BAR: A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

22. HOSE CUTTER: A tool used to cut hoses 1/2 inch too short.

23. HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer now-a-days is used as a kind of divining rod to locate expensive parts not far from the object we are trying to hit.

24. MECHANIC'S KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on boxes containing upholstered items, chrome-plated metal, and plastic parts, as well as errant fingers.

P.S. ---the hammer is also useful in flattening fingers!!

### **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.

### **Quote**

Faithless is he that says farewell when the road darkens.

J. R. R. Tolkien

**Created by Charlie Babcock**