

January 2007



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

Scott's Chevy parked beside a forest road in his search for the perfect Christmas tree this year.

Meeting Minutes

There was no meeting in December due to the traditional combined November/December club meeting.

Calendar of Events

January 1 – New Years Day Club run TBD

January 20 – Red Picacho Loop Club run call Steve Smith @ 480-838-5394

January 31 – Meeting at 7pm location La Belle Pizza

February ? – Club run

February 28 – Meeting at 7pm location La Belle Pizza

Trip Report

Christmas tree/snow run December 9-10 2006

Participants:

Scott, Sydney and Steven Nixon, Monique Claudio. K3500 aka Big Ugly
Steve Smith. Jeep Rubicon

As soon as Steven's baseball game ended we loaded up and headed north.

There was little to no traffic; we made good time up to Heber. We stopped for dinner in a fun little place called "Pizza Thyme". They had lots of Christmas toys scattered around on the tables; within about 10 minutes they had all congregated onto our table. With the speed and manual dexterity that would make a video game junky jealous, Sydney and Steven kept the motley collection of elves, dogs, bears, reindeer and other creatures jiggling, dancing and singing obnoxious Christmas carols. After dinner the kids got to pick a handful of toys out of a pirate's treasure chest.

It took three passes up and down 260 to find our cabin; they don't believe in lighted signs in Overgaard apparently. After a process of elimination involving pulling into several clusters of buildings fashioned from logs we found the right place and unloaded. I called Steve to check in, he was down the road at the Sawmill in; not as quaint but a lot easier to find.

Sydney was up just about every hour on the hour, wanting to look out the window to see if it was snowing. Sadly, it never did. Steven roused up around 8. Monique was kind enough to take the kids for a wilderness hike so I could sleep in. After they got back I pried my lazy butt out of bed and headed for breakfast. Despite being plugged in all night; the Big Ugly took a while to fire up. Guess its time to check the glow plugs. We swung by Steve's hotel; he followed us to June's Cafe.

After a hearty breakfast we headed out in search of a conical shaped pine tree. The girls decided hanging out in the cabin sounded like more fun than bouncing around in the cold truck so we dropped them off at the cabin. I didn't spend enough time reading the grainy Forest Service map that came with my permit and mistakenly headed east. We were soon in the heart of the Rodeo-Chedeski fire; I didn't figure they wanted me cutting baby trees out of there!

We turned around and headed for the right area. A snow squall blew in; tiny frozen flakes soon speckled my windshield. A few even blew in around my interior; I guess after the glow plugs I should put in new weather stripping. Other than a few left over patches on the ground, it was the only snow we got this trip. After passing back by the cabin (sixth time I think) and through Overgaard and then Heber; we pulled off onto FR504 and soon passed signs for cutting areas.

I picked a 4x4 spur road at random and started bouncing along. It looked awfully familiar; and I soon found out why. I had picked this same road a couple of years ago on another Christmas tree hunt. We stopped to check out an old log cabin, then drove up a ways and got out to walk.

A fair amount of hiking led to lots of Charlie Brown trees, but nothing worth dragging home. We drove up a little further and wound up back on FR504. I tried another spur road or two and finally found a nice one. I laid into it with the bow saw. About one inch in past the park I realized we were at some pretty good altitude; I had to take a break every few minutes when the black spots came.

Once my prey was safely on the ground and I could see straight, I affixed the permit and drug it to the back of the truck. Steve helped me load it up; Steven helped me strap it down. Steve decided he wanted to head home the long way through Salt River Canyon so we said our good byes. I stopped for coffee at a Circle K; someone knocked on my window to ask where I cut the tree. I wished him luck; the good ones are few and far between. We picked up the girls, loaded the truck, and headed home.

It was a fun trip. We'll have to head back up north when we get some more snow!



Scott

Items of Interest

Remember the club meeting is the last Wednesday of every month, 7:00pm at La Belle Pizza & Pasta, North West corner of Rural and Ray in Tempe.

January runs

Saturday the 20th, Steve Smith is leading Red Picacho Loop. If you're going to attend please call Steve Smith @ 480-838-5394. This trail is doable by any 4wd vehicle and is a beautiful scenic trail.

Land Use Issues

Editors Stuff

I went out to Florence Junction for a New Years Day run but no one showed up

Scott Nixon's done an excellent job of putting pictures up from our previous runs. Check out the webpage at: <http://www.azlorangers.org/images/index.htm>

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

For Sale 800w generator call Steve Graham @ 480-834-1171

Quote

To be pleased with one's limits is a wretched state.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Created by Charlie Babcock