

June 2004



# Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

## Cover Picture

This is Scott's truck at Steve and Linda's house right after a hydro assist install. We played on the ASA ramp at their house to check out how rigid our suspensions really are. You never know when you might come across an RTI ramp out on a trail.

## April Meeting Minutes

Don Munzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

All members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance: Don, Sammi, and James Munzer, Ted, Loran and Jake Gersztyn, Glenn McConnell, Marty Boetel, Scott Nixon, Dan and Jenn Egge, Aaron McCarthy, Nick Sesma, Charlie, Becky, Shelby, Hailey, and Reilly Babcock, Steve Graham, Linda Luik and Matt Parks.

There were no guests.

Financial Report: Ed Lyons was not present. Approx. \$4,000.00 in bank account.

OLD BUSINESS - Scott Nixon and the Babcock's attended the Mud Springs clean up. All went well, the trail was very clean.

Glenn McConnell went wheelin in Mexico. He broke a rental Jeep and rolled a rental quad. ASA4WDC Convention, approximately 30 people attended.

Don Munzer gave a Lo-Ranger sticker to the representative from United for their board which shows all of the United members.

Our club is sponsoring Shannon Campbell into ORBA.

ASA4WDC now has a new webmaster. The page is looking good. ASA4WDC is paying \$1100 to set up new web server and approx. \$200 per year for web space. Features include a calendar and photo pages. You may have any photos posted. Send them in any format to [webmaster@asa4wdc.org](mailto:webmaster@asa4wdc.org). Future feature will be pre-written letters to lawmakers.

Jay Kopycinski's articles will be in next months magazines. Please keep Jay and Sandra in your prayers. Sandra lost both her mother and grandmother recently.

Newsletters - Please omit mention of carnage and oil spillage or make positive statements as to what was done to clean up afterwards (e.g. Peatsorb, etc.) Big brother is watching and checking out newsletters that are published on the web.

ASA4WDC is selling raffle tickets for \$2.00 each for a Warn winch. The raffle will be going on for one year.

If you want to go 4-wheeling in Malaysia for one week go to [wilderness-explorer.net](http://wilderness-explorer.net) for more information.

Neil Hancock is in charge of Jamboree this year. It is scheduled for October 14-17 in Florence Junction and Table Mesa. There is talk of increasing the registration by \$25 for walk ups and registrations after October 1.

Charleau Gap (Tucson) – Access road permit is expiring in two years. We need to write letters to the governor requesting a mutual agreement to keep it open. Contact Sandee McCullen for more information.

Please run any ideas you may have for letters to lawmakers by Sandee so we can continue to present a united front.

LAND USE - Be prepared to attend meetings, get involved, pay attention to new developments, and write to lawmakers. All this to help keep lands open for use.

BLM is working on a 'Cooperative Land Management Agreement' (basically an adopt-a-trail). There will be specific 'site steward' training for at least one person from each group applying for an agreement. There will also be a follow up monitor program.

#### NEW BUSINESS

June 19 – Night run on Trail 42 (Telegraph Pass). Meet at Bartlett Dam Road and Cave Creek Road at 7:00 pm.

The San Francisco River trail has too much water in the river to run at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Loran Gersztyn

## Calendar of Events

June 19 – Trail 42 at night, to go contact Charlie @ 480-812-9101.

June 30 - Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray

July ? – Club run to...

July 28 – Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray

### Trip Report

Mud springs: May 15, 2004

Participants:

Nixon family, 89 K3500

Babcock family, 99 Suburban

You'd have thought I'd have learned by now to stay home on my birthday. Previous years trips have led to busted u-joints, possessed motor homes, club fights over camping spots and general carnage and misery. Being somewhat thick headed though I went ahead and planned another one, thinking that by doing it a week before my official birthday I would avoid the curse. Hah!

Showed up at the campground below Mud Springs and chatted with Mike and Ron a bit. They wanted a camp fire for the night, and the east side of SR87 had fire restrictions in effect so they headed north towards Sunflower mine. I went ahead and started the trail, figuring I'd get to the big hill and set up camp.

Trail was in good shape, only a few beer cans and a dead cow carcass at one campsite inside the cattle card. Picked up the cans and a good sized thigh bone for a hood ornament and headed up the bouncy trail. It was hot, the gnats were out in force, but I was looking forward to a camp chair in the shade and some solitude.

About four or five miles in, just before the first rough spot (that hard left/uphill turn) I hit a basketball sized rock that jerked the wheel out of my hand. No big deal, I do that all the time. A few feet later though I hit a smaller one and there was a metal clank. At that point the steering wheel turned really easy, too easy. Leaning out my window I could see the tire no longer moved.

Lynn worked the wheel while I followed the steering shaft. Rag joint ok, sector shaft intact, drag link ok, doh! Steering arm had three sheared studs. After saying a few choice words I drug out my tool box and got fiddling. Some 1/4" chain figure eight-ed around the arm and knuckle sheared off immediately. Some 3/8" inch chain held long enough to back up a mile to a spot I could turn around. I got maybe a 1/2 mile down the trail before the last stud sheared off.

Stuck in the middle of the trail, sitting diagonally so that you could barely walk around either side, I officially gave up. Luckily I had cell service. Don Munzer was in Tucson. Charlie's answering machine picked up; since he was headed out Sunday with Nick Sesma I just rattled off my shopping list (drill, bolts, and easy-outs) and set up a lawn chair in the meager shade provided by my immobile truck.

A half hour or so later Charlie called back and told me he and the family were on the way. We sat around and sweated, swatted gnats, and tried to nap. Around 4 pm we heard Becky's shiny black burban crawling up the trail, AC compressor humming along on high.

Charlie quickly yanked out the two studs I had been unable to work out with a hammer and chisel. Four grade eight bolts went in as a temporary fix till I could special order some dealer only studs. We drove down the trail a few miles trying to escape the gnats.

We ate a quick dinner, the kids played some Whiffle ball, and Charlie pointed a couple of guys in a Toyota pickup back towards Bushnell tanks; they were looking for Reno Pass!?!?

A few hours later I was home, the truck was unpacked, and I was in the shower vowing to spend the month of May 2005 in bed with a pillow over my head. And my truck will be up on jack stands, parked away from the house in case it spontaneously explodes.

Thanks again Charlie, you saved my hide!

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.

### June Club Run's

We're running Trail 42 on June 19<sup>th</sup> at night. Meet at 7pm at the intersection of Cave Creek Rd and Bartlett Dam Rd. The trail can be run by most stock 4wd vehicles. Running this trail at night should be fun and a little cooler. Bring plenty to drink, snacks and flashlights. If you'd like to go on this trip, call Charlie @ 480-812-9101.



The gang on Trail 42



Linda Luik's latest project, so far it's got a 4BT, 4 speed automatic, and an Atlas 3.8 transercase for a drivetrain. From Steve and Linda's past projects I know this Willy's will be a looker as well as a formidable crawler, sweet!

**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.

**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:** 1976 blazer 12 bolt rear axle 3.73 gears, lock-rite locker, complete drum to drum \$500, contact Sean Murphy @ 480-821-4549

**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**

I went camping and borrowed a circus tent by mistake. I didn't notice until I got it set up. People complained because they couldn't see the lake.  
-- Steven Wright

**Enthusiastically Created by Charlie Babcock**