

June 2006



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

Scott power relaxing up near Chevelon Lake, notice the sweat shirt it was beautiful there. Scott's bed is visible on top of the truck, sleeping under the stars in the pines doesn't get any better.

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance: Steve Smith, Marty Boetel and kids, Andy and Melissa Armstrong, Matt Parkes, Nick Sesma, Steve and Linda Graham and Scott Nixon.

Meeting called to order at 7:03 by President Steve Smith. Pledge was recited. No treasurer's report as we had no treasurer.

Scott gave a quick trip report for Chevelon Lake. A club banner was briefly discussed, but everyone seems to have lost interest in the idea. Steve Smith reported that our club is now featured on outdoorclubnews.com. Marty discussed a nice camping spot north of Flagstaff that sits at over 8000 feet; he will be leading a trip there June 15th-18th, call him for details or directions (480-926-3977 home or 602-400-3776 cell). He's going up mid week, but he should have cell service at the campsite. There are several 4x4 trails in the area and the Cinders are nearby, but the camp site is easily accessible by almost any two wheel drive vehicle. Marty's trip to Moab has been postponed till October. July trip is tentatively axle alley at night, if Matt can talk Charlie into going. August is our annual trip to Mingus Mountain. Linda insists we will go four wheeling this year. Meeting adjourned at 7:21. Respectfully submitted by Scott Nixon

Calendar of Events

June 15-18 – Camp out near Flagstaff call Marty @ 480-926-3977

June 28 – Meeting at 7pm location La Belle Pizza

July ??– Maybe Axle Alley at night call Matt @ 480-888-9581

July 26 – Meeting at 7pm location La Belle Pizza

Trip Reports

Chevelon Lake 5/19-21/2006

Members in attendance:

Scott Nixon 89 K3500 (aka Big Ugly)

Babcock family 99 Suburban

Steve Smith 2005 Jeep Rubicon

I always dread my birthday camping trips. Previous years have featured snapped u-joints, biting insects, sheared steering arm bolts, a motor home I swear was possessed, arguments over camping arrangements, and a shattered driveshaft CV joint. So I must confess I was a bit nervous as the Babcock's and I headed north on 87. Traffic was ugly slogging through Gilbert and Mesa, but sped up significantly once we reached the reservation. I smashed the throttle down, figuring even with a turbo my lowly 6.2 would be wheezing on the hills ahead. I soon lost the black 'burban in my review mirror. A little over an hour or so, grinding up the last hill before Payson at 45 miles per hour, Becky blew past me. Charlie was kind enough to flash me the Pirate salute.

We stopped for a nice Mexican dinner in town and headed up 260, and then west on FR300. The road was bone dry and very dusty. Charlie was nice enough to pull over and let me take the lead since my A/C is busted. I swerved around them, fishtailing and sliding. I soon hit 50 miles per hour, but slowed down after a herd of elk crossed the road. It was dark by the time I found the signed turn off to the camping area. There was only one other truck there when we arrived. Charlie and Becky set up their tent while I enjoyed my nighttime snack. We all turned in early; apparently I was snoring in less than fifteen minutes.

The next morning I laid in my sleeping back for an hour after the sun came up, enjoying the warm sunshine and cool breeze. After breakfast we hiked down to the lake. It's a mile or so down a steep road that is gated off to anything wider than 30 inches, although ATV's are allowed??? Charlie's arm got a good workout keeping Reilly on her feet. There were quite a few fishermen enjoying the lake when we arrived, mostly from the shore.



Sorry no wheeling pictures here, the camp site with the rock crawler Suburban in the back ground.

We hiked around a bit. There is a cement spill way about as steep as Lion's back that leads down below the dam. There was a nice shallow pool for the girls to swim in. I got hungry and headed back up the road for a snack. Just as I huffed and puffed past the gate I noticed a Jeep Rubicon approaching. Right as I was thinking "Gee that looks like Steve's Jeep", he rolled down his window and asked how far the lake was. When I indicated it was $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile past the gate and very steep, he turned around and headed back to camp. We sat in the shade for awhile, talking and enjoying the weather.



My only shot with Steve's Jeep in it, next time we'll have to at least stage a good picture.

The Babcock's soon came back from the lake; instead of stretching Charlie's arm, Reilly was sitting on his back. We all spent a lazy afternoon sitting around, striving to find the perfect balance between sun and shade that would offset the sometimes stiff breeze. Charlie, Shelby and I took a short hike to try and find a nice overlook of the canyon, but the road/trail petered out in a camp site.

After dinner, Becky brought out some "Darn good chocolate cake." There was just enough dough present to hold all the chocolate chips together; even the frosting had chocolate chips in it. After the girls sang me "Happy Birthday" we all dug in. Anything that good probably should be illegal.

As the sun went down, so did the temperatures. Steve headed for Phoenix, the rest of us circled around the fire pit. At times the wind whipped it into almost blow torch intensity. There was plenty of down trees; we all got tired long before the wood supply ran out. Not sure who was snoring first this time.

The Babcock's were up early the next morning for a hike. I stayed in my sleeping bag, dozing on and off in the warm sunshine. I also got to play forest ranger; although all the turn offs to the lake are well marked, it is a little confusing once you reach the camp site. I talked to at least three people who wanted to know where the lake was. I guess I should have asked them for the \$20 parking fee.

Around noon I loaded up and headed for the heat. The Babcock's followed an hour or so later.

All in all it was an awesome trip; thanks again to everyone who came out to help celebrate my thirty-eighth.

The birthday curse is broken!!!
Scott Nixon

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.

Marty Boetel's Moab trip has been postponed.



The latest addition to the Graham family, it's a 5hp horizontal/vertical mill.

June run

Marty's leading a camping trip to a site near Flagstaff June 15th-18th. It should be pretty nice up there so call him if you need to get out of the heat @ 480-926-3977 home or 602-400-3776 cell.

Land Use Issues

OHV Education Workgroup and others who may be interested,

You are invited to join the OHV Education Workgroup to discuss the logistics of a "dealer packet project" on June 13 at the BLM office, 1 N. Central, Phoenix, 8th Floor, from 1 PM to 3 PM - check in at front desk. If approved for funding by the AZ State Parks Board in July (as recommended by the OHVAG), what will the program look like -- who will coordinate, what dealerships, how to measure project progress, project deliverables, etc. Please feel free to join us or to send me your ideas.

Project Overview: To provide OHV dealerships with information packets to distribute to new OHV owners (pilot project). Personnel at dealerships will be trained on packet contents and the message to provide to customers.

Amy Racki

Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator

Arizona State Parks

1300 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Phone: 602.542.7126

Fax: 602.542.4180

Email: aracki@pr.state.az.us

Web: www.azstateparks.com

Public Scoping Meetings Planned.

The Town of Buckeye will be holding two open house style public meetings to present information related to the application and project description.

JUNE 6, 2006

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Verrado Middle School

20880 West Main Street

Buckeye, AZ 85326

JUNE 7, 2006

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Town of Buckeye Community Center

201 East Centre Avenue

Buckeye, AZ 85326

The Town of Buckeye is planning the development of a regional park that encompasses approximately 9,200 acres of land currently administered by the BLM. The area is located east and approximately eight miles north of downtown Buckeye in the southeastern portion of the White Tank Mountains. The Town of Buckeye has applied to lease the 9,200 acres from the BLM in order to accommodate the regional park. The lands would be leased with the intent to eventually receive patent to the land under the Recreational and Public Purposes Act.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to take into consideration the environmental consequences of proposed actions as well as input from the public and agencies. To comply with the NEPA law, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be completed for this project.

As part of the NEPA process, two public scoping meetings are being held to inform the public of this potential undertaking and to solicit public comments, questions and concerns related to the project.

During the scoping period, the Town of Buckeye will be accepting comments related to the Town of Buckeye's application for the land acquisition and development of a regional park. Comment forms will be available at the meeting for those interested in providing input. Comments will also be accepted by mail, e-mail, and phone until June 23, 2006. If you have any questions regarding the comment period, public meeting or the project, please contact Jeanine Guy at the Town of Buckeye: 201 East Centre Avenue, Buckeye,

AZ 85326, phone: 623.386.2588, fax: 623.386.1925, email: jguy@buckeyeaz.gov.

Editors Stuff

Scott noticed a curious thing, 6 of the 8 vehicles that members drove to the meeting were diesel powered. I think Steve is influencing us one member at a time. I just bought a diesel myself (but it's not a 4wd and not even a truck).

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.

Quote

Creativity represents a miraculous coming together of the uninhibited energy of the child with its apparent opposite and enemy, the sense of order imposed on the disciplined adult intelligence.

Norman Podhoretz

Created by Charlie Babcock