

June 03



# Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

## Cover Picture

The cover picture is my K5 fording the Verde off of Trail 42 last year (I just got the pictures). Marty, his brother and a friend of theirs thought I needed more ballast to cross the river so they hopped in. Yes I made it across.

## May Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Followed by the pledge. Members present were: Charlie Babcock, Steve Graham, Linda Luik, Mike Tutor, Ron Couch, Norm and Carol Harris, Roy Conner, Ted, Loran, and Jake Gersztyn, Matthew Parkes, Marty and Katie Boetel, Ed Lyons, Don and Sammy Munzer, Nick Sesma, Micah Coleman, Greg Willits, Ron, Brenda, and Jordan Couch, Nick Sesma and Scott Nixon. Welcome to guests Ed Rosa and Greg Titus.

**Treasury Report-** Ed reported that we have \$4214.82 in our account.

**Old Business-** Workman Creek trip report given by Charlie Babcock and Scott Nixon. See elsewhere for full report. A week and a half ago, Matt Parkes and friends went to Highway to Hell. Ran the whole trail in about 5 hours with only one flat tire. Ted reported about the Delegates meeting. There weren't any good arguments or crises at the meeting. Wendy is no longer the Webmaster. Jamboree 2003- will be run a little differently with no pre-registration. Information will be mailed out to members. There was lots and lots and lots of discussion about what should be done with the Jamboree. There was more talk about having chapter associations. ASA4WDC is working on their web site and will have cool stuff like bulletin boards, links to clubs and that sort of thing. We can join for \$7.50 a month. A motion was made by Marty and a second by Charlie to do this. Scott and Ted will work on getting the site up and running. There are problems with hours that the State Association has pledged to Cave Creek Ranger District to get a grant to keep area open. This could lead to litigation? Trail 42 is the only trail open in the area. Jawbreaker appeal is still pending. ORBA is now getting involved.

**New Business-** BLM is doing some talk about closures due to fire. You can respond via the web page. Poison Spider Mesa Area in Moab is closed. Club Run June 14<sup>th</sup> to Miner's Revenge, meet at Texaco in Florence Junction at 7:00 a.m. Contact Charlie Babcock for more info. Club Run June 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunflower Mine, meet at Bush and Beeline at 8:00 a.m. Contact Ron Couch for more info. June 2- 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., open house with the Forest Service at hotel @ 44<sup>th</sup> and McDowell, be there. Access to the Powerline trail is in jeopardy. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

## Calendar of Events

June 2 – Forest Service DEIS 4pm-8pm @ 1515 N. 44<sup>th</sup> ST (Corner of 44<sup>th</sup> & McDowell)  
 June 14 – Miner's Revenge run call Charlie Babcock @ wk480-554-4851 Hm480-812-9101  
 June 21 – Sunflower Mine run call Ron Couch @ 480-726-8509  
 June 25 – Club Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7:00pm, northwest corner of Rural and Ray  
 July??? – Club Run  
 July 30 – Club Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7:00pm, northwest corner of Rural and Ray

## Trip Report

~~Cherry~~ Workman Creek 5/24-26/2003

1999 K1500 Sub – Charlie, Becky, Shelby, Hailey, and Reilly Babcock

1979 Bronco - Mike Tutor and Jordan Couch

1987 Samurai w/camp trailer – Ted, Loren and Jake Gersztyn

1993 F350 – Marty and Michael Boetel

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

1995 YJ – Norm and Carol Harris

2001 K2500 HD – Ron, Brenda, and Maggie (dog) Couch

I loaded up the K5, decided it was an easy trail and too hot out so I unloaded the K5 and loaded up the Suburban with all the camping gear we had and a 152 quart ice chest (the widow maker). I got a call from Mike Tutor the night before and he said him and Ron Couch were going to beat the heat and meet us at the camping spot. He said he'd try to save enough camping spots for everyone that said they might come.

As we approached the meeting spot we admired the new divided highway until we passed the Texaco unable to exit. Luckily traffic was light and we made a u-turn on US60 and headed back to the gas station. We were told that we could have exited at the Junction and taken the original road east to the Texaco. We waited until 9:30am and then tried to call Roy who said he might come, no answer. So we made are way through the construction nightmare and eventually headed east. The Harris's, Boetel's, and I driving just below the speed limit quickly outpaced the rest of the group. I radioed that we would stop when we turned onto 288. There was some confusion; Ted and I had maps that showed 88 as our exit north from Miami. The actual road was 188, but later we saw a sign that read old 88 and were reassured. Everyone caught up and we were heading down 288 that quickly turned to dirt (it's good to be the lead dog). As we wound along the road I could see the damage that has already been done by the bark beetle. There were huge strips of dead Ponderosa just waiting for a fire.

From here we turned onto FR487 and made our way to one of the Workman Creek campgrounds. The other camping areas we passed were all packed with people, great. We found Mike and Ron camped at our destination saving the last few spots available. With Norm's help I unloaded the Suburban and set up the tent after clearing away dead branches on the flattest spot I could find. It was pretty bad but we're outdoorsy kind of people and adapted to the situation. Ted had set up his trailer and then took off with Scott and Marty. Ted later came back and got his trailer telling Ron that they had found a better camping spot up the road. He said there was room for us to join them. I don't blame them for wanting to find a good camping spot, I'm not sure there was room for everyone where we were at. (Stepping on to soap box) I don't think leaving the group without discussing it was very mature. In another

situation it could have been dangerous. We go out as a club to enjoy each other's company and help each other when needed. If someone was unhappy with the situation they could have discussed it with the group. I would have been happy to find a better spot to camp but no one said anything to me until after they were gone and I had set up camp. If I'm going to camp with Ron and Mike I don't need to pay \$40 a year and spend hours typing up newsletters and reminders. (Stepping down from soap box)



After setting up camp we checked out the creek (cold), played horseshoes, and enjoyed the nice weather under the canopy of Ponderosa's. Mike and Ron were getting wheelin withdrawal so the three of us piled in the only available real 4x4 and took off looking for a road they had seen on the way in. I enjoyed the smooth ride of the big Swampers gliding over the washboard road that shook the Suburban to death on the way in. We found a couple interesting roads one of which was FR489 which ended up leading us to some of Loren's family that were also camping in the area. The big Bronco cruised over the unmaintained road in 2wd and we ended up at a bluff overlooking Roosevelt Lake. There were the remains of an ancient steam shovel down below us and later we found out we were at a large mining area. We returned to camp, played more horseshoes, and the kids played in the creek again. As evening approached we had dinner and sat around the campfire. The next morning we all shared experiences of sliding off our pads due to the various slopes we were sleeping on. Strangely quite a few people left camp Sunday morning so Ron, Mike, Becky and I picked up our tent and moved it to a nice flat spot 50' away. Jordan, my family and I piled in the Suburban and drove a couple miles north on 288 to Hell's Hole (hiking trail).



Hell's Hole is a natural depression caused by falling water that is usually a nice swimming hole. It's 6 miles one way to the Hole but we made it about half way and turned around. It was a beautiful trail winding through heavily forested hills and canyons. After we got back to camp the kids put there swim suits on and did some serious creek exploring slipping, falling and worm digging. Mike took off up the creek to reach the falls later saying something about sore ankles. We sat around camp, ate, sat around the campfire, and basically enjoyed life.

The next morning we packed up and just as we were leaving camp, in rolled the rest of the group. So together as we had arrived we made our way back to civilization. On the way out we spooked a mule deer and eventually stopped just before 188. Everyone caught up, including the water spewing Suzuki. We gathered around and determined that the fan clutch had bit the dust (literally). After Ted had filled the radiator and cooled off his truck we were on our way again. Scott and Marty stayed with Ted as he stopped for gas and more cooling in Miami. The rest of us headed for home.

The following is Scott's write up of what took place after they left the group on Saturday.

Heading up the road to Aztec peak, we kept a look out for a campsite. Most of the good ones were already taken, but we found a couple of open grassy areas that would accommodate the entire group. The Gersztyn's headed down to see if everyone else wanted to move up while we started setting up camp.

They came back with Marty following in the dually, everyone else was happy where they were at. Once we had the tent set up, Steven and Sydney went down for a nap.

Steven didn't sleep long, so I took him for a ride in the Chevy. Without a turbo, it could barely even climb the two-wheel drive road; a few times I crested hills at 3mph with the accelerator floored. I dropped into 2lo and crawled upward, with Steven in my lap fighting for

control of the steering wheel. Rounding a curve I was surprised by a young kid on an ATV. I stopped, he didn't. Slamming into my front bumper, he flew off like a rag doll. After making sure he was OK, I continued on. His father was just behind him, he seemed more concerned about my fender than his son. After assuring him I could care less about the sheet metal, but that anyone going faster than me would have killed the boy, we finished climbing. Standing on top of my bed at the peak I could just barely get cell service. I called Don Munzer to let him know where the two groups were camping while Steven threw rocks at me and admired a big two-ton Forest Service truck that drove up with a fresh batch of fire fighters.

After dinner we sat around the campfire and then tried to get at least the big hunks of dirt of Steven and Sydney using lukewarm solar shower water. They fell asleep as soon as the screaming subsided. We followed shortly after. It was perfect sleeping weather, a bit chilly but just right under a blanket and sleeping bag.

Morning came a bit too early, we would have laid there a lot longer without the kids insisting on getting up. We ate breakfast then took the kids down to the creek just above the falls to play while Marty and Michael headed to town for ice. Once Steven and Jacob had exhausted the supply of throwing rocks we drove down to the lower campsite to see what everyone else was up to. They had already taken off to play, so we drove back to camp for Steven's naptime while Ted and Loren went to meet her sister who was camping off of FR489. After lunch Sydney and Lynn turned in, so I went for a long hike. Spooked a white tail in the woods.

Walking around camp I began noticing hunks of dark, hard rock (obsidian?). Then I noticed a few broken pieces of pottery. It wasn't long before I realized I was standing in the middle of an old Indian arrowhead factory. Lots of discarded, half formed arrowheads and sharp edged rocks that had been hand worked littered the ground. After the kids woke up and Marty got back, we all loaded up in the Chevy for another trip up to the top. We admired the view for a bit, stopped to play on some rocks, and then drove back to camp to fix dinner. About the time we sat down to eat Ted got back with a steaming Suzuki and tales of cool old mines up FR489.

As soon as it got dark we showered the kids again, even more screaming this time. Michael got off easy with a hot bath in a Rubbermaid tub. Steven lay in bed for a while competing with the coyotes to see who could howl the loudest. The coyotes won. I threw a bunch of wood on the fire to keep warm, when it began to burn down Lynn and I went to bed. No idea how long the others stayed up, I fell asleep as soon as I hit the pillow.

Another early morning, made breakfast and broke camp. Drove down to the lower campsite just as everyone there was pulling out. I followed the Suzuki to see if it would overhead again. Sadly, the tiny 'zuki pulling a trailer was able to out pull my wheezing 6.2 diesel on most hills. Just before the 188/288 intersection we caught up to the rest of the group. Ted pulled over to top off the radiator. A group cooling system investigation ensued; final verdict was a fried clutch fan. With two more stops for water and one stop for fuel in Globe we made it home.

Created by Charlie Babcock and 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

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 Runs

Miner's Revenge - on the 14<sup>th</sup> I'll be leading this run south of Superior. We'll meet at the Texaco just past Florence Junction at 7:00am (it's going to be hot). The trail is a short boulder filled loop with a waterfall at the end. If we get an early start we can be done by lunch. I'd recommend at least a rear locker and 33" tires. Bring lunch and plenty of cold drinks.

Sunflower Mine – Ron Couch will be leading this scenic trip on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Meet at the Intersection of Bush and Beeline at 8:00am. Ron says the trail is a 3.5 and to call him for more details at (480) 726-8509.

### Member Of The Month

Name: Roy Conner

Age: 38

From: Arizona, Born in Ohio but have lived in AZ for 33 years

Lives in: Mesa

Work: Purchasing agent for a Landscape/Irrigation distributor. I also work with my father in a backflow business.

4x4 #1, make/model: Jeep Wrangler (YJ)

Year: 1994

Engine: 4.0L

Transmission: TF-999

Transference model and gearing: NP-231 (2.72 Lo Range)

Axle gearing: 3.73

Front axle model: Reverse Cut Dana 30

Front differential: Detroit E-Z Locker

Rear axle model: Dana 35C

Rear differential: Detroit NoSPIN

Wheel brand and size: 15 x 10 Rockcrawler's

Tire brand and size: 33 x 10.5 BFG M/T

Suspension and body lift: 3-1/2" Suspension Lift (Super Lift)

4x4 #2, make/model: Jeep Liberty (KJ)

Year: 2002

Engine: 3.7L Power Tech V-6

Transmission: 45RFE

Transference model and gearing: NV231 Command Trac

Axle gearing: 3.73

Front axle model: IFS with Dana 30 center section

Front differential: open

Rear axle model: Dana M35/194MM solid rear axle w/trailing arm suspension

Rear differential: open  
 Wheel brand and size: 16 x 8 Rockcrawler's  
 Tire brand and size: BFG A/T LT245/70R16  
 Suspension and body lift: 2-1/2" Daystar coil spacers



### Land Use Issues

IMPORTANT MEETING..... RED SHIRTS.....

Monday, June 2

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Forest Service DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement)

1515 N. 44th Street (Corner of 44th St & McDowell)

This is the last of the public hearing meetings before this plan goes to FINAL.....

basically it's simply closing most of the "cross country" OHV use in five of the six National Forests in Arizona. I'm now hearing lots of comments and news reports about CLOSING a number of trails, along with Sycamore..... If you all want to SAVE your recreation areas you MUST ATTEND THIS MEETING. If you're not HEARD, if you don't HAVE TIME, if you're TOO TIRED..... DON'T COMPLAIN when you've lost your favorite trail or riding area.

Submitted by Sandy McCullen

Updated information on the LUP (Land Use Plan) amendment and environmental assessment process will be posted on the BLM Arizona State Offices Internet site at: [www.az.blm.gov](http://www.az.blm.gov).

You can also send your questions or comments via e-mail to:

[AZ\\_STATEWIDE\\_LUP@blm.gov](mailto:AZ_STATEWIDE_LUP@blm.gov)

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**

This month I've included the Member of The Month. I'll select a member that is fairly new each month so everyone can learn a little bit about them. I found this section while looking through old newsletters and thought it would be good to reintroduce.

If you take any pictures during a club run please email, snail mail, or hand them to me and I'll include them in the newsletter.

**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 - 1995 Dodge Ram, ready for wheelin', for details call Scott Nixon at (602) 482-8973.

1 285-75-R16 AT, 40% tread left, on 16"x8" chrome steel wheel, 8 lug, \$40.

2 30-spline axles from a FF Dana 60 rear, \$30 each or \$50 for both.

4 15"x8" steel GM 4x4 Rally wheels, 6-lug, with center caps and trim rings, \$100.

Call the Babcock's at (480) 812-9101.

**Quote**

Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in one pretty and well-preserved piece, but to skid broadside, thoroughly used up, worn out, shouting "GERONIMO".  
(Source unknown)

Enthusiastically Created by Charlie Babcock