

March 2007



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

My K5 just after I backed out of a stuck in the snow/mud. I was plowing the way when the front end dropped into a ditch with almost three foot of snow in it and mud underneath. It doesn't get any better then that.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Marty Boetel, Mary Boetel, Boetel children, Steve Smith, Ed and Nancy Lyons, Matt Parkes, Scott Nixon, Ted Gersztyn, Lars Ambrose and Son, Charlie Babcock, and Steve Graham. Guests present: John Griffin and Don Munzer.

Ed said that we're light by two members but we got \$4000 in the kitty. Scott gave a trip report of the snow run on the Rim. Matt's running Highway to Hell end of March, he'll run Upper Woodpecker before HTH. Don mentioned the Coke Oven's trail is closed, private property. Everyone talked about a run for March. Lars mentioned 4 Peaks Trail. Steve Smith mentioned Sunflower Mine Run on March 18th for club run. Meet at Bush and Beeline at 9:00 a.m. Ed mentioned being stuck in the mud on Sunflower Mine run. Lars mentioned talking to Don Hicks about marking some of our trails as historical roads. Charlie mentioned that Sean Murphy family and the Babcock's are going to Moab October 1st-6th, 2007. Charlie announced that the Table Mesa clean up and BBQ sponsored by Lost Offroad, AZ rat pack, BTG, and AZ Rock crawlers March 3rd-4th they're cleaning Terminator, Annihilator, Collateral Damage, Predator, Twisted and the shooting area, go here for info <http://azrockcrawler.com/images/2007/3-3-07tmcleanup/3-3-07tmcleanup.html>

Motioned to adjourn, meeting closed at 7:40 p.m.

Calendar of Events

March 18 – Sunflower Mine Club run call Steve Smith @ 480-838-5394

March 28 – Meeting at 7pm location La Belle Pizza

March 30/31 – Charlie's annual birthday campout run call me @480-231-4565

April ? – Club run

April 25 – Meeting at 7pm location La Belle Pizza

Trip Report

Snow Run on the Rim 2/17/2007

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

1980 Scout II – Steve Graham

1989 K3500 – Scott Nixon

1993 Toyota Pickup – Nick and Tara Sesma

Guests

1997 S10 Blazer – John Griffin

2006 H3 Jennifer and Cory (son) Cline

As I pulled into Payson I noticed Steve's Scout a couple cars back. I pulled into the meeting spot just before 10am and topped off the tank. Scott and Nick were already there, John Griffin a guest that saw our run in the newsletter posted on the internet pulled into line soon after with Jennifer right behind. We took off down the SR260 thinking there wouldn't be much snow because Payson was dry. Once on the rim the snow was everywhere in fact all the roads off of 260 were blocked off. The Young Highway was open and plowed so with Steve's suggestion we headed south until we found an open forest road, turns out it was a 4wd road on the Topo which paralleled the rim (see map below).

I plowed the way for a few hundred feet before the H3 got stuck. To its credit it had pretty mild street tread and the snow was deep. We decided to load Cory and Jennifer in the Big Ugly and leave the H3 until we returned. Off we went, I was having a blast, I could barely make out the road but there were reflectors on the trees every once in a while. John's Blazer got stuck and Nick tried to pull him out but couldn't get traction so hooked up to Nick's Toyota and we both tried to pull and couldn't. We finally got the hang of the proper amount of digging out snow and pulling to keep the troop moving. I found a nice spot to stop so we had lunch. The kids played around the big kids had a snow ball fight.

Everyone wanted to go on so we pressed on. I got ahead of everyone at one of the stops where I couldn't see the others right before I fell into a 3 foot deep snow covered water crossing. After much digging and blurry tire speed the Blazer pulled itself back out of the ditch. During the fury the gang had caught up to me and watched the show. Nick kept offering to winch me out but I vehemently refused, insisting that I would get myself unstuck as a matter of pride. After seeing the problems I had no one wanted to go on. So we turned around which was also a problem. Turning around involved driving through deep unK5 plowed snow. Everyone eventually succeeded. Scott mentioned that I should have put some kind of plow on the front of the Blazer to knock the center down better. The Scout and S10 had a much narrower track than mine and so had to partially make their own tracks.

During the return Scott provided the following anecdote about the strapping incident that I didn't witness; I was up ahead plowing a path and getting stuck myself.

“Dunno if I was a witness technically, you can't witness much with a 1/4 mile of truck behind you. :)”

John was stuck pretty good, so we hooked up the tow strap. Didn't want to use the tow ball so we used a clevis to hook the strap to one of the two metal loops that are welded to my bumper/box. Pulling the strap tight and trying to tug was pointless, my tires just spun. I backed up three feet, pushed down the throttle and jerked the strap tight. There was the sound of metal giving way suddenly as my truck jumped forward. At first I thought the somewhat frayed strap had broken. Turns out the metal loop had broken off, snapped back and hit John's bumper. It left a fist sized dent in the chrome bumper and then ricocheted up

taking out part of the plastic grill. I was really surprised it gave way; I've used these to tug on people numerous times. Sean even used them to pull me backwards out of the big ditch I fell into on Log Corral. We went ahead and used the pintel-hitch tow pall and John popped right out of the snow."

I got back to the H3 and there was a strange scene. There was a 4 door Tahoe parked between me and the Hummer, no one around. Then I saw chains in front of the Hummer, branches everywhere, beer bottles, pieces of carpet padding and lots of tracks. Then I could see several people out in the trees and another Chevy closer to the road. Two Chevy's and an F350 had followed our tracks onto the road and become stuck at various places. When I stopped the people came closer and it turned out they had been stuck for 3 to 4 hours. The F350 was nearest the road and made it out on it's own after creating a giant mud hole right after I pulled up. The Tahoe nearest the road made it out while we got the other one out. Digging out the tires the Tahoe eventually drove out under its own power. We got the H3 turned around with some good driving by Cory. I made my way to the road through the mud pit for fun. Unfortunately the H3 followed me out and got stuck in the mud hole. I should have had them follow the road. A quick tug got the going again. Nick then came into view towing the S10 Blazer and decided to try fresh snow instead of the mud pit. He was making great progress until he hit some really deep snow. I backed the Blazer up to the edge of the road as an anchor and Nick winched his Toyota and the S10 Blazer behind it right out of the snow. During this last extraction an original Hummer shows up to help the Chevy's and F350, he had driven from Phoenix to tug them out and had just arrived.

I had more fun on this run then I have in a long time. Scott, Steve and I have tried to set up a snow run for several years. Steve Graham went one year all by himself near the same place. Thanks everyone for coming, I'm going to try and make this an annual thing. It's tricky to plan a run and have snow be available.



Jennifer's H3 made it this far under it's own power.



John's S10 did great even with the small tires.



Steve's Scout only needed a tug once or twice, it did great in the mud and snow.



Here Scott had to make his way around the H3 in unplowed territory.

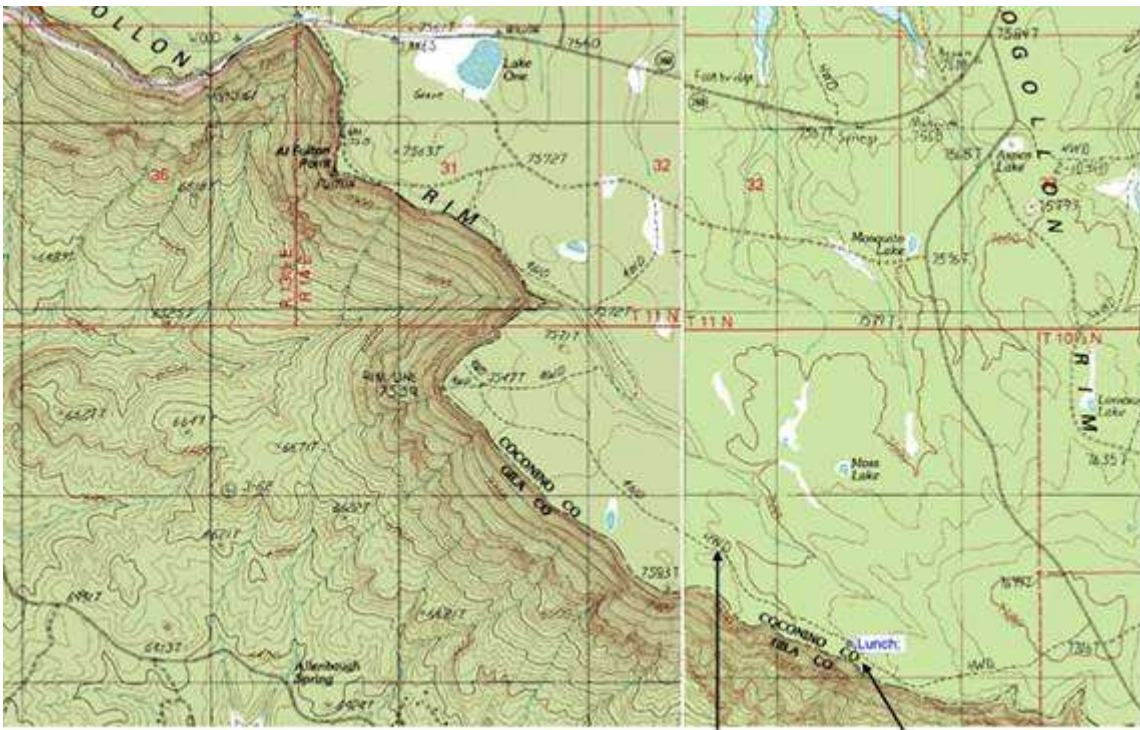


Nick almost made it to the road through some deep snow pulling a load.



The group stopped here because it was too deep and messy.

John Griffin sent me this map of our location.



Turn Around Lunch

I took a GPS fix when we had lunch, about 1 ¾ miles from the start of the trail. Although I'm just guessing at where we turned around, I think it would have been a long way out.

But then, I had the most fun on the way back!

Submitted by Charlie Babcock

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.

Remember to re-member dues are due. Bring \$40 to the next meeting or send a check to:
Ed Lyons

11039 E. Neville Ave.

Mesa AZ 85209-2963

Make sure you tell him what it's for.

March run

Steve Smith is leading a run on Sunflower Mine trail Sunday March 18th. Meet at Bush and Beeline at 9:00 a.m. It's fairly easy run so any 4 wheel should do fine. The weathers still beautiful so get out there and enjoy it.

Ed. Sorry about the late newsletter, I sent out a reminder before this run.

April run

I'm leading a campout run to the Coves of Saguaro Lake March 30th through April 1st. Some of us are going to be at the green gate between 4:30pm-5pm Friday March 30th. Come and join us any of the three days or come for the weekend. I'm providing dinner on Saturday evening; bring meals for any other time. Call me for details at 480-231-4565.

Land Use Issues

Editors Stuff

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

Warn 9.5ti winch complete except for mount. Used three times
New \$1,050; will take \$800

Back Rat hand winch; 3,500 pounds pull with snatch block.
Never used.
\$400 new; will take \$200

ARB Portable Air Compressor (RDCP) Just rebuilt.
\$200 new; will take \$100

Master Flow Q89 chrome dual piston compressor puts out 150 psi and 72 Liter per Minute.
Two months old.
\$170 new; will take \$120

One Goodyear MTR 245x75r16; less than 1,000 miles.

\$200 new; will take \$80

E-mail stephenssmith@msn.com or call afternoons or evenings 480-838-5394

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

It is possible to store the mind with a million facts and still be entirely uneducated.

[Alec Bourne](#)

Created by Charlie Babcock