

May 2006



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

Steve Smith's Rubicon Unlimited negotiating the tight turns in the boulder strewn trail in Martinez Canyon.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. members said the pledge, Steve brought a flag. No guests were present. 14 members currently paid up. Scott gave an animated account of the Martinez Canyon trip last weekend. Charlie gave a rendition of the birthday campout. Scott gave out the State Trust permits. May 20 – 21st Scott's birthday campout will be up north near Chevelon Lake. If you are interested in going call Scott and he will let you know where and when. Marty has reservations at campground near Pritchett Canyon in Moab. Ted is going as delegate. We asked him to inquire about the opening of Trail 42. Steve Graham reminded everyone about the Mingus trip in August. We have the family campground reserved for that weekend.

Meeting adjourned and everyone went home.

Calendar of Events

May 19-21 – Club run/camp out near Chevelon Lake call Scott @ 602-361-1517

May 31– Meeting at 7pm location La Belle Pizza

June – Club run to Bullhead City? Toasty, just kidding.

June 28 – Meeting at 7pm location La Belle Pizza

Trip Reports

Martinez Canyon 4/21-22/2006

1966 FJ40 – Matt Parkes and Friend

1973 K5 – Charlie Babcock

1976 K5 – Sean and Lynette Murphy

1980 CJ5 – Aaron McCarthy, wife and son

1989 K3500 – Scott Nixon

19?? XJ – Eric and son

2005 Rubicon Unlimited – Steve Smith

Scott stopped by my house Friday after work, I threw everything in the Blazer and we headed for Florence Junction. The parking lot at Cottonwood Canyon road was deserted and we didn't see a soul on the way in. I made one wrong turn detouring through the Jamboree

site but quickly led the large party of two trucks back to the road. The road to Box Canyon and beyond is terrible, I told Scott it was a 3.0 trail now. We picked our way through the tight section just before the cabin and Scott blasted his air horns to let Sean and Lynette know we were coming. He didn't want to interrupt anything. Scott was temporarily stuck on the last turn; rear differential hung up but maneuvered around the rock.



What a beautiful place to camp.

The Murphy's had only arrived a couple hours before us. They started a nice camp fire; Sean had gone out for fire wood before we arrived. We talked for a couple hours then turned in. The next morning I got up before everyone and took a hike up Broke Back Mountain to the Luge. The bottom of it was washed out with a gully 2' deep by about 2' wide where water had run through it. I hiked back to camp and ate breakfast listening to swarms of bees in the mesquite trees. The others eventually woke up. Aaron pulled in with Matt, Erik and Steve close behind. Aaron had come in from near Florence and made good time, Scott and I vowed to leave by that path having never tried it.

Matt lead the way down the trail, we made it over the easier stuff, Steve decided to try the trail out in his Rubicon.



This is some big rock.

We came up on the 4 obstacles of which the 3rd one from the left always claims a victim. I drove around this obstacle wanting to make the whole trail.

Matt tried the hardest line through the giant boulders and was rewarded with a flop on the passenger side. As I walked up Matt's Cruiser was lying on its side. Matt climbed out the top, his passenger dropped out the bottom and the rear seat passenger was lifted out. Aaron strapped to the roll bar to help flip him over. Matt backed the cruiser onto all of its tires and lined up with the "Blazer steering breaker obstacle". Matt dove right in getting stuck for a short period, but with a little spotting maneuvering he was able to get past it. Aaron tried the same path and just when I thought he'd breeze through it he got hung up in 3 or 4 places. His passenger rear tire was completely captured by a boulder above and the other three tires floating. With Erik's Jeep pulling from behind and Matt's FJ pulling from the side got the CJ out of its predicament. Sean and Steve followed me up the easier route and Erik took the little bit harder 4th path.

We continued down the trail without much trouble stopping for some lunch and enjoying the surprisingly green canyon. There was a couple Toyotas, very new, lifted with maybe 33" tires, nice looking following right behind us. Steve had a little trouble here and there but made it over the tougher stuff with a few tugs from Sean's K5 and help from a Jeep owner that was following us. Up the switchbacks we went higher and higher.



Aaron's CJ stuck where the Blazer broke it's steering arm the month before.



Scott helping a passenger out, Matt could have driven out of this but the windshield was hooked.



Eric in his slightly modified Cherokee.



The Mill.

Matt pulled over to a mine he had been talking about. We all stopped to explore the mine it went back a 100+ feet, nice and cool but smelled like dirt, imagine that. The mine dropped down further, but no one had drunk any liquid courage or brought their stupid-hat with them so we went back to the entrance and enjoyed the bit of shade.



Macaulay Culkin had joined us on the trip.

We continued on and popped over a ridge above the Luge. We got out and surveyed the obstacle. It didn't look doable so we took the bypass which is a steep slope on the side of the mountain that covered with loose rocks. It's nearly impossible to hike up it, I know because I did it that very morning (I only fell once, it was a three pointer). We all made it to the cabin and got out for a break before the long dusty trip to pavement. We discovered that Steve had broken his passenger taillight and put a dent in the sheet metal below it, hardcore. Sean took off for home with me, Scott and Steve close behind. We all went the other way back, not down Cottonwood Canyon Road. I was flying down Box Canyon exchanging leads with a couple of ATV's. They relinquished their lead once we left the canyon and hit the open dirt road not for lack speed but probably for fear of being runned over by the Blazer.

I stopped at Aaron's trailer to air up the tires, Sean passed me here. Steve and Scott caught up and stopped. Steve led the way out and was flying. I was behind him and couldn't catch him even sliding around each corner. I met my match on the dirt roads. We hit the pavement and headed for home.

Written by Charlie Babcock

Items of Interest

Remember the club meeting is the last Wednesday of every month, 7:00pm at La Belle Pizza & Pasta (used to be Round Table Pizza), north west corner of Rural and Ray in Tempe.

Marty Boetel is going to Moab September 3-9? That's Memorial Day weekend and the week after. Call him @ 480-926-3977 if you're interested. If you've never been it's an amazing place to wheel.

May run

Scott's leading a run/camping trip to Chevelon Lake for his birthday May 19-21. Scott and I are heading up Friday night and coming back Sunday afternoon. The Lake is deep in the pines, it should be beautiful up there this time of year. Call Scott @ 602-361-1517 for more details, directions, to RSVP, and for meeting spot.

Land Use Issues

Editors Stuff

Ed Lyons sent me this, it's a beautiful thing!

Think about this: If you don't want to forward this for fear of offending someone-----
YOU'RE PART OF THE PROBLEM !!!!

Will we still be the Country of choice and still be America if we continue to make the changes forced on us by the people from other countries that came to live in America because it is the Country of Choice??????

Think about it!

All we have to say is when will they do something about MY RIGHTS?

I celebrate Christmas.....but because it isn't celebrated by everyone.....we can no longer say Merry Christmas. Now it has to be Season's Greetings.

It's not Christmas vacation, it's Winter Break. Isn't it amazing how this winter break ALWAYS occurs over the Christmas holiday?

We've gone so far the other way, bent over backwards to not offend anyone, that I am now being offended. But it seems that no one has a problem with that.

This says it all!

This is an editorial written by an American citizen, published in a Tampa newspaper. He did quite a job; didn't he? Read on, please!

IMMIGRANTS, NOT AMERICANS, MUST ADAPT.

I am tired of this nation worrying about whether we are offending some individual or their culture. Since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, we have experienced a surge in patriotism by the majority of Americans. However..... the dust from the attacks had barely settled when the "politically correct!" crowd began complaining about the possibility that our patriotism was offending others.

I am not against immigration, nor do I hold a grudge against anyone who is seeking a better life by coming to America. Our population is almost entirely made up of descendants of immigrants. However, there are a few things that those who have recently come to our country, and apparently some born here, need to understand.

This idea of America being a multicultural community has served only to dilute our sovereignty and our national identity. As Americans..... we have our own culture, our

own society, our own language and our own lifestyle. This culture has been developed over centuries of struggles, trials, and victories by millions of men and women who have sought freedom.

We speak ENGLISH, not Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, or any other language. Therefore, if you wish to become part of our society, learn the language!

"In God We Trust" is our national motto. This is not some Christian, right wing, political slogan... We adopted this motto because Christian men and women.....on Christian principles.....founded this nation.....and this is clearly documented.

It is certainly appropriate to display it on the walls of our schools.

If God offends you, then I suggest you consider another part of the world as your new home.....because God is part of our culture.

If Stars and Stripes offend you, or you don't like Uncle Sam, then you should seriously consider a move to another part of this planet. We are happy with our culture and have no desire to change, and we really don't care how you did things where you came from. This is OUR COUNTRY, our land, and our lifestyle. Our First Amendment gives every citizen the right to express his opinion and we will allow you every opportunity to do so! But once you are done complaining..... whining..... and griping..... about our flag..... our pledge..... our national motto.....or our way of life....I highly encourage you to take advantage of one other Great American Freedom.....

THE RIGHT TO LEAVE.

It is Time for America to Speak up!

If you agree -- pass this along; if you don't agree -- delete it!

AMEN

Things you need but didn't know it

Nothin!

Quote

When all think alike, no one is thinking.

Walter Lipmore

Created by Charlie Babcock