

November 2004



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

Matt's Cruza making its way through Martinez Canyon on one of Arizona's beautiful autumn days.

October Meeting Minutes

Don Munzer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance: Ron Couch, Scott Nixon, Dan and Jennifer Egge, Charlie and Becky Babcock, Ted, Loran and Jake Gersztyn, Glenn McConnell, Don Munzer and kids, Ed Lyons, Marty Boetel, and Stephen Smith.

Guests in attendance: Ron Price from Indiana

Don Munzer gave the treasurer's report: \$3,900.00 (approx.) balance in the checking account. The t-shirt order was delivered and handed out to those members present who ordered shirts
Trip Reports:

Charlie Babcock reported that Matt Parkes lead a trip to Martinez Canyon on Sunday, October 3rd to try out the new suspension on his truck before Jamboree. There were 8 or 9 vehicles in attendance and some of them camped at Martinez Cabin overnight.

Scott Nixon let a wildcat run to FR42-Telegraph Pass on October 24th. Four vehicles attended. Fun was had by all.

Glenn McConnell reported on Jamboree. There were 112 registrants, the new location was great. Outdoor Outfitters were the caterers and did a super job.

Scott Nixon made a motion to combine the November and December business meetings into one and schedule it for Wednesday, December 1st. Motion was seconded and passed. Upon trying to schedule with Round Table Pizza it was discovered that the meeting room is already booked for that evening.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 31ST AT 7:00 PM.

Scott Nixon made a motion that the Christmas party be scheduled for Saturday December 11 at the Coves. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Charlie Babcock will lead the club run for November to Log Corral on November 20th and 21st. Meet at Saturday at 9:00 at the Bush and Beeline Highways.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:42

Calendar of Events

November 20/21– Club camp out/run to Log Corral call Charlie @480-812-9101

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

December 11 – Christmas party at the Coves of Saguaro Lake call Don @480-839-9096

No club meeting in December, see ya next year.

January 1 – New Years Day run?

Trip Report

Martinez Canyon 10/3/04

Lo-Rangers

1966 FJ40 – Matt Parkes, Aaron McCarthy, Aaron's friend

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

1999 Denali – Jerome and Logan Gill

Other people that attended

1966 Bronco/buggy – Jason and sons Derek and Sammy

19?? Samurai/buggy – Jeremy and wife

199? Toyota/buggy – Dan Dunaway

199? S10/buggy – two young guys

199? YJ – one guy

199? YJ – one guy

2004 Tube buggy w/Toyota drive train – Roger and wife Renee

We woke up at 7am and scrambled to make the 8am meeting time. At 8am I called ahead to let them know we were running late. We turned onto Cottonwood Canyon road at 8:30am where Matt, Roger, and Jerome were waiting. Thanks again guys for waiting up for us. We drove down the road to a suitable trailer parking spot next to a couple of huge front loaders and unloaded the 2 Toyotas.



Then we made our way to Martinez Cabin to meet up with the rest of the group who had camped out. With some spotting by me at the one rocky ledge the Denali made it no problem. We did the usual wheeler talk while some gawked at Matt's new suspension and others climbed trees. Jerome and Logan hopped in with us (7 people in the Blazer) and we all made our way down the canyon for some fun

Everyone easily made there way past the boulders until we got to a section with 3 choices, the easy way, a narrow (wider then a K5) pass, and a no way could someone drive through that path. Matt with a little work, Jeremy really worked it, and Roger easily made it through the impassable path. I took the middle difficulty path and got hopelessly hung up on my driver's side rocker panel. After a couple Hi-lifts's, rock stacking and human force I got through the pass. The Bronco buggy and a modified YJ followed behind me making it look easy. The next major obstacle for me was optional also. There was the bypass, a rock ramp something less then vertical, and a big v-notch. Several people motioned for me to take the v-notch so I obliged them and crawled forward in the K5. With Dan spotting me I felt I had a good chance of making it.



If I'd kept the Swamper on this ledge I would've made it, doh!

The first attempt wasn't going well so I backed up and realigned the Blazer. Just as I got to the make it or don't point, the driver's side tire slipped off the wall and the truck slid into the notch on its side taking out that tail light.



I drove out of this with Dan's winch pulling the front end into the rock to give it traction. Shelby and I climbed out to survey the damage. It looked pretty hopeless on getting the truck out. Dan hooked up his winch and pulled the K5 towards the tire side of the wall and out. I got in and pretty much drove it out of the predicament. The sort of Samurai and the Toy tube buggy made it through this obstacle without any trouble. The rest of the group took bypasses.



Jeremy gettin' it and no he never did need a tug. Roger enjoying the Samurai stinger ride.

Jeremy found an interesting obstacle to really get jammed up in and battled it for a while. Some of us had lunch while we watched the fun, several times he almost flipped and always made his way back out. Some of the group moved on and Roger tried his hand at this obstacle. The tube buggy was soon lying on its side with the stinger hung behind a boulder. Matt gave him a strap and we were on our way again.



Roger's Toyota powered tube buggy fresh from the garage shop.

Up ahead we could see the switchbacks against a panoramic view of the canyon walls rising up to the sky. With each turn on the switchbacks we could see a little further out across the green valley (yes I'm talking about a desert canyon in Arizona). Around one more corner and we were at the infamous Luge. Jeremy made his way over to the entrance to the Luge. It was a sharp drop off ninety degrees to the path of the Luge and nearly a vertical drop. He entered fast and just about hit the other side of the embankment before he backed up and pointed the buggy down the slope. Jeremy cruised down the Luge without any problems. I walked back up the slippery hill and got the Blazer. Jerome and his son wanted to ride along. The rest of my family wisely decided to take the bypass on foot to reach the bottom. First they stayed to watch the K5. My plan was to just drop down the embankment, turn left and head down the hill. Big deal! The Blazer dropped down and crash the Dana 60 cover plowed into a bowling ball sized rock.



It was stuck! Each time I tried to back up the bank the rear end went a little further down hill. Eventually the truck would have flipped over down the Luge. Dan got his Toyota over behind my Blazer and hooked a winch cable onto the back. Putting tension on the rear allowed me to back up just enough to turn and then careen down into the Luge. Suddenly everyone was yelling stop because I was dragging the Toy towards the drop off. They unhooked us and I squeezed through a gap just an inch narrower than the Blazer. Luckily the walls are just compacted decomposed granite so I made it through with only a small amount of junk landing in the bed.

Matt was the only other person, wanting to try the Luge but he insisted on a strap to let the FJ40 enter nice and slow. Once in

the Luge his taller truck leaned hard into the over hanging gravel giving the floor of his truck that desert landscape look.



Back at the Cabin, left to right, Dan's Toy, Roger's Tube buggy, S10 truggy.

We quickly made it down to the cabin area again and everyone got out to talk about there adventures. Jerome and I had enough so we loaded up the kids and took off. The Denali made it back up the one and only rock ledge back in the canyon and we made it home safe and sound. I can't wait to run this trail again, next time I'll bypass the two obstacles that tore up my sheet metal.

Submitted by Charlie Babcock

Upper Ajax (Jamboree on Thursday) 10/14/04

1949 Chevy/buggy – Dan Archer

1966 FJ40 Matt Parkes

1973 K5 – Charlie Babcock and Chip Linthicum

1977 K5 – guy and a girl

19?? YJ – two guys

19?? YJ – One guy

I arrived at the meeting spot and there were a bunch-o-buggy's there. I found the trip leader and introduced myself. He said no one had showed up and he thought he'd like to leave. I informed him that some of the assembled vehicles didn't look capable of Highway to Hell but they were set-up to good for Coke Ovens. These were the three trails being run for the Jamboree at FJ. We decided to head down to the trail and meet up with Matt who had signed up to run a trail that day. I went on ahead and played around on Ajax until the rest of the group showed up. Matt was with them.

Just as we were about to run the trail, half of the group that was going to run HTH drove into the trail ahead of us. Banging and crashing their way down the trail they were soon out of sight. They were in a big hurry to go somewhere. What ever, I was there to enjoy the beautiful weather and the fun trail. As Matt came back to his vehicle he commented that it was just the two of us? The trip leader and the rest of the group had just followed the buggy group down the trail at high speed and left us behind?? The Jamboree isn't what it used to be. I can't imagine going through a trail like that unless someone needed emergency care. Matt, Chip and I had a great time watching each truck make its way through the obstacles. Near the end of the trail Matt used a 6' high boulder to flex out his new suspension. It works incredibly well, good job Matt! If you see a picture beyond this point then Matt got the pictures to me, otherwise he didn't. I was home by noon!

Submitted by Charlie Babcock

FR42 Wildcat: October 23, 2004

Participants:

Scott Nixon, 89 K3500 Crew-cab (aka ole-faithful)

Charlie Babcock and girls, Monster Blazer

Jerome Gill and kids, 99 Denali luxo-barge

Roy and Terri Conner, 95 Jeep YJ

Kirk Rundle, Flaming 73 Ford Bronco

With the rest of the family in Iowa I got the bug to go wheeling. Charlie and I decided to run FR42 and put out the word. The last minute email rounded up two more participants and off we went. We waited a bit at the meeting spot for Kirk to show; he had called Charlie and told him he was coming but unknown to us, he was still down in Chandler watching the gas he just pumped into his tank running out onto the ground via a cut fuel line. Ask Kirk yourself if you want to know how it got cut.

We gave up on late arrivals and headed for the trail head. After airing down we headed for the river. The recent rain had filled in a lot of the holes and ruts, so it was smooth going. We made good time down to the water and jumped out to stretch our legs and let the kids play. A few of the peppier vehicles took the opportunity to crank some donuts in the soft sand; they wound up rousting a sleepy rattle snake who probably wishes he never met us.



After a group of four Jeeps headed past us on down the trail we waited a few minutes and followed. We caught up to them sooner than I thought we would at a short six or eight foot high hill. They were "winching" one of the Jeeps up it by tightening the cable with the motor and then backing up, using the cable as a snatch strap. We chatted with them a bit, briefly described safe vehicle recovery, and declined their offer to pass. Who turns down free entertainment?

The now eight vehicle long convoy headed for the big hill. One of the Jeep group was brave enough to go down it, the rest took the bypass. I went down and up in the Crew Cab. Jerome went down in the Denali while the jeep guys stood by with jaws dropped. Roy went down and back up.

We had lunch down near the water. The Jeep guys took off pretty quickly, claiming they were getting bugged by mosquitoes. I didn't get bit, but they looked like they bathed more frequently than I do. After the kids played for over an hour we took off. I figured the Jeeps were long gone, so it was surprising to round the first corner and bump into them again. One had broken a front hub and needed winched. The open front and rear Jeep behind it running street tires needed winched too. I made the hill easy with a smug look on my face until I heard an ominous clicking from under the hood. When the clicking ended suddenly I started to smell antifreeze.



Popping the hood confirmed the worst. Two bottles of stop leak and all the water we could round up got it mostly under control. I blazed ahead to Indian Springs wash and the river. We let the kids play some more and headed up.





Two tube buggy jeep things were playing on the hill when we got there. They couldn't make it due to lack of throttle. After Charlie blazed up they tried again and made it no problem. Nothing like peer pressure to red-line a tach!



Some pin head on a quad decided it was a fun spot to spin around in circles, throwing dirt all over the kids playing near the parked trucks and climbing the now empty hills. Even after Charlie asked the guy to make use of some of the other hills in the area he persisted. Deciding we'd had enough we headed home. It took one more stop for water to get me home but I made it.

Its never much fun when you have to limp your vehicle home, but is was still a nice day on the trail. Weather could not have been better and other than a few beer cans the trail was nice and clean.

Submitted by 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.



JB Conversions, Inc. is working on a 3:1 low range for the NP205 transference, read more at <http://www.jbconversions.com/pages/products/lomax205/index.html>

Land Use Issues

Please send any land use issues that you want included in the next newsletter "in electronic format" to the editor at: <mailto:charles.h.babcock@intel.com>.

Editors Corner

Make sure you go vote Tuesday!

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: Chevy TH350 transmission \$50 obo call Scott for more information @602-482-8973

For Sale: Pro Comp X-Terrains 35 X 12.5 X 16 mounted on American Eagle 589,8 lug, Chevy 1 Ton , Set of 5. 750.00, contact Don Munzer @ 480-839-9096

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

"When you're racing, it's life. Everything before or after is just waiting."
- Steve McQueen in LeMans

Enthusiastically Created by Charlie Babcock