

November 2008



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

The two K5's loaded to the gills making our way back to civilization Log Corral trail after 3 days of camping on Bartlett Lake.

Meeting Minutes

There was no meeting in November due to the combined November and December meetings.

Calendar of Events

November ? – Club run

December 3 – Meeting at 7pm location TC Luigi's

December 7 – Club Christmas Party at Willow Spring contact Charlie @ 480-231-4565

January 1 – New Years Day run call Charlie @ 480-231-4565

Trip Report

Log Corral October 10-13/2008

Attendees:

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

1976 K5 – Sean and Lynette Murphy, Emma and Hannah Lyman

Sean and crew arrived at my house and I wasn't finished packing, it was 2pm on Friday. I soon finished and we were off, stopping at Fort McDowell and SR87 for gas. We continued and soon were pulling off the highway to air down. Moving down the trail we spotted a rattle snake just past the fence. Everyone jumped out to see. Making our way through the canyon there was more water flowing through it then I've ever seen. We noticed Sean's rear shock was broken off the rear axle and hanging down. It looked like it wasn't in the way so we continued on. With his extra clearance Sean straddled a boulder near the end of the rocky section that would later turn out to have dented his gas tank enough to just leak a drop once in a while. The water flowing over the roots of the big trees gave us both a little traction trouble but just enough to be fun. Every huge branch I drove under caused me to check for clearance over my pop-up shade that was strapped to the top of the roll cage.

We made quick work of the trail and were amazed that the recovery the desert made from the fire. East of the lake was blackened by a fire a couple years ago. Last year the whole area was barren right down to dirt. This year there was no sign of fire brush and trees as tall as my truck. We picked up the pace to make it to the beach ahead of darkness so we

could set-up camp and eat dinner. When we arrived the sun was just setting, we had the place to ourselves.

Next day it was nice but windy which lasted long into Saturday night. We sat around enjoying the weather, watching the kids and chatting. The kids built a teepee and some horse and riders stopped by and asked the usual "how did you get here?" I aired up the 3 inner tubes with the OBA and they were in the water before we could say geez. Sunday was cool and we had a morning fire too (I know but we're Arizonans). But it warmed up requiring the two pop-up shades to be set-up giving us 10' x 20' of patio. The kids played in the lake some more. I worked on getting the gravel out from under the bead of my front tire, it went flat over night. High speed in the sandy wash + low tire pressure + lots of weight = gravel under bead. Sean worked on setting up his new hot water shower. It worked super, runs off a small propane bottle and he had a pop up shelter to shower in. Around 4pm a Jeep Rubicon, Chevy Suburban and an older Forunner popped out of the brush. We went over and talked to them. They had started from the highway at 10am that morning. The Suburban had broken its rear driveshaft in the rocky canyon and all of the trucks had to be High-lifted multiple times to make it through. They said their plan was to go back up the power line trail to SR87, drive north to the trail that heads back to the Verde and cross the Verde to get back into the north-west valley. We told them that was crazy talk because it was 4:30pm by this time and they'd be crossing a pretty high Verde in the dark if they made really good time. There were crews working on the Powerline trail some it might be improved since the last time I was on it.



The girls built a teepee from the driftwood.



Sean's Blazer needs no spotting; the 4d's roll over everything.



I have to go high right to avoid catching the diffs on that center rock.



I love this trail, it's beautiful in all the varied terrain.

Monday morning we got up and repeated the previous day's schedule. Just before lunch we started packing up, had lunch finished packing and headed out. There was no new

damage and we again made our way out quickly. We stopped at the usual gas station at Fort McDowell and SR87 for ice cream and sodas. Unfortunately the Blazer would not restart with a jump or with a swapped in battery so Sean towed the beast to my house with his Blazer. Towing a 7000 truck on Swampers with manual power steering and manual power brakes his something to experience in your lifetime and then never again. We made it home safely, thanks Sean!

As I'm writing this in April I'm already looking forward to our next fall Log Corral trip. Hopefully we'll get a bigger turnout.

Charlie

Items of Interest

December run

The Club Christmas party is on Sunday the 7th at 10:00 a.m. Let's meet at the gas station just north of the 60 on the east side of Idaho Road. I.e., take the Idaho Road exit off the 60, turn north, go under the underpass and turn right into the gas station parking lot (don't remember but I think it's a Texaco). We're heading for Willow Springs. Everyone planning on attending has to get a Bulldog Canyon OHV permit from the Mesa Ranger District 5140 E. Ingram Street, Mesa. It's just west of Higley and south of McKellips. The permit is free and is good for 6 months. Its very light 4 wheeling so any rig will do. The club will provide burgers, dogs, buns, soda, plates, cups, and plastic utensils. Members are responsible for bringing a dessert or side dish. Call Becky at 480-812-9101 to let her know that you're coming and what you're bringing.

Arizona State Association Of 4-WD Clubs Jamboree

Join us April 17-19, 2009, for 3 days of off-highway fun near Florence, AZ. With Off-highway trips for all skill levels, be sure to be an exciting weekend for all 4WD owners. Check the website for more info: <http://az4wdjamboree.com/index.php>

Land Use Issues

It's still there nothing to report

Editors Stuff

Things you need but didn't know it

This stuff is going to set some kind of record for longest running classified ad.

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

Quote

To be one's self, and unafraid whether right or wrong, is more admirable than the easy cowardice of surrender to conformity.

Irving Wallace

Created by Charlie Babcock