

October 2003



# Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

## Cover Picture

The cover picture is Cameron Couch; he's the newest addition to the Lo-Rangers club and to Ron and Brenda's family.

## September Meeting Minutes

Members: Scott Nixon, Marty Boetel, Greg Boetel, Micah Coleman, Ron and Brenda Couch, Dan and Jennifer Egge, Norm and Carol Harris, Ed Lyons, Aaron McCarthy, Don Munzer, Matt Parkes, Nick Sesma, Glenn McConnell.

Guests: Jim and Andrea Sanford, Jeremy and Shannon Greathouse

Meeting was called to order a little after 7pm. We said the pledge using the flag on Marty's shirt. Treasury report was read, we have over \$4000. Matt recounted his latest trip to Cottonwood creek. Ron talked about Mike and his last trip to FR42. They ran into a group of stock Jeep Rubicon's. They all bunched up behind an abandoned rig that had a busted four link that could have been better engineered. The Jeep group had winched it a bit, then everybody drove around it. Glenn drove to Page for a cheap Dana 60, had to four-wheel around a rolled Swift semi-truck.

A list of drivers confirmed to be trip leaders at the Jamboree was circulated. If you signed up to lead a trip make sure they know that, some email addresses bounced. A show of hands and the meeting seems to indicate we will definitely not be winning the attendance award this year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.  
Submitted by Scott Nixon

## Calendar of Events

October 25&26 – Camp near Seven Springs, for details call Scott Nixon @602-361-1517

October 29 – Club Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm, northwest corner of Rural & Ray

November???

November 26 – Club Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm northwest corner of Rural & Ray

## Trip Report

Cottonwood creek 9/21/03

Trip leader: Matt Parks and Aaron McCarthy, Toyota Land cruiser

Participants: Ron Couch 76 Jeep Cherokee  
Mike Tutor 78 Bronco  
Jeremy Greathouse 86 Suzuki  
Damien Bustamante 81 Toyota Pickup  
Justin 94 Jeep Wrangler  
Jason Jeep Wrangler

Everyone made good time to the first nasty obstacle. After a valiant effort, Mike snapped a rear Dana 60 shaft. Having enough, he parked the Bronco and began plans to cut off most of the body so as to turn it into a light weight buggy. Everyone else made it to the water fine. Driving through 3+ feet of water to reach the widest part of the beach attracted quite a few boats. So many, in fact, that they were blocking the trail. On the way out, Matt narrowly avoided hitting one boats propeller.

Jeremy in the Suzuki managed to snap the pitman arm on the way out. Two optima batteries and two sets of jumper cables were hooked up for an impromptu welding session. Several bolts were welded in for braces, and the obligatory duct tape and bailing wire were added for good measure.

Apparently some of the other guests had been drinking heavily. One of them managed to roll his Jeep, damaging the top pretty badly. All told: one rollover, one snapped pitman arm and one snapped axle shaft, which makes this the most successful trip to Cottonwood creek yet!

Written by Scott Nixon by memory from Matt's verbal report.

(Ed. Note) I sure wish I could've been there. There's something about that canyon that keeps drawing me back, even after the carnage my truck receives. Oh well next time.

### **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.

### **October Club Run**

Camp out near Seven Springs, meeting time will be 9:00 AM at the intersection of Bartlett Dam Rd/Cave Creek Rd. Four-wheeling will be doable in a stock 1 ton crew cab. No particular destination in mind, will head up, find a camp site, and then do some exploring. This kind of trip is one of my favorites, camping out, light wheeling, no schedule or destination, just having fun in the wild and relaxing.

**Member of the Month**

Name: Nick Sesma

Age: Older than most hills

Born in New Mexico

Live in Gilbert

Work at Motorola - MOS12

1993 Toyota XtraCab, V6, 5 speed

1988 Toyota transfer case with Marlin 4.7 gears

4.56 ring and pinions (front AND rear)

Detroit Locker in the rear, Eaton/TRD posi in front

Tires BFGoodrich, 32" All Terrains

5" Trail Master suspension

Heavy duty torsion bars in front

Double shocked the front end.

Moved the oil filter to a more convenient location, which also gave me an extra quart of oil capacity

Second gas tank, behind the axle for traction

9500i Warn

Rock protection all under and around

The picture is of Nick a few years ago. He goes to the Tierra Del Sol Desert Safari every March (19 years in a row). It's held near the Salton Sea in the southern California desert below Indio. That particular year, he decided to bleach out his hair. He said it's hard to make his truck get air (like the 500 jeeps at this run) but he managed to get this picture.

**Land Use Issues**

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

### Presidents Corner

I'll admit it. Sometimes it takes awhile. Things rattle about inside that big empty space between my ears, bouncing back and forth until one day they collide, sparks fly, and something hits me. That happened the other day. What was bouncing around, you may ask. Beer cans strewn about almost every trail I've ever been on. Grown men tearing up the road on ATV's, dirt bikes, and off-road rigs like misbehaving children. And, what finally triggered it all, a little sticker nestled between other stickers espousing various off road products and that little cartoon guy who urinates on things. A simple, two word phrase: "No Fear".

"No Fear"? Why tell someone that unless you are afraid? It suddenly all made sense. The people tearing up the trails while guzzling can after can of beer weren't alcoholics; they were scared little children doing what they did in a desperate attempt to numb the fear. They've been raised to believe that "real" men enjoy the outdoors and that "real" men aren't afraid of anything. When those two come into conflict, a six pack or two of liquid courage is the only solution they know.

What I don't understand is, if you aren't afraid, and least a little bit, where's the excitement? If climbing big hills at full throttle or inching a rig across boulders the size of small cars didn't get the adrenaline flowing, if it didn't crank up your pulse, if it wasn't a little bit scary, why bother? Without the fear, heading out into the desert would have all the excitement of brushing your teeth. If that was the case, I'd stay home. Toothpaste is a lot cheaper than truck parts, that's for sure.

Scott

### Editors Corner

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.

### Quote

There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot.

**Steven Wright**

Enthusiastically Created by Charlie Babcock