

October 2005



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

Steve Smith captured this shot of the Blazer in its element crossing one of the many pools of water in Black Canyon. Did I mention that this canyon was beautiful? Next time I'm definitely camping out and exploring more of the canyon.

Meeting Minutes

9/28/05 Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

Ed was the only officer in attendance. Marty a former officer stepped up and presided over the meeting.

Ed has donated a GPS unit to the club. His son got the unit as a gift from a Cadillac dealer. The club may either raffle this unit or keep it so that trip leaders can plot the trails.

Trip Report: Charlie told us about the trip to Turkey creek. There were digital pictures available to watch. The trip was about 11 miles it took 4 hours and is rated a 3.

Next trip will be a club attendance at Trail Dust Days.

One guest was in attendance. He drives a 2004 Nissan Crew Cab equipped with a winch, skid plates, 31 in tires. Most of his four wheeling has been done on the "rim" area and usually by himself. He also ran several of the local favorites, (IE Bull Dog wash, Montana Mountain, and the back road to Crown King. The desire to have companions and to see other trails is why he is interested in joining a club.

November run will be November 19th. We will be running a trail to Needle Rock in the area near Camp Creek Wash on the way to Bartlett Lake. Meeting spot will be at the Forest Service pay stations on Dynamite road. Meeting time is 9:00 am.

Marty has some free Jeep parts available CJ5 tub, frame etc and some CJ6 parts too. Contact him if you're interested.

General political discussions ensued. No specific actions items.

Motion to adjourn at 7:55 PM.

Respectively submitted by Ted

Calendar of Events

October 7-9 – Tucson Rough Riders Trail Dust Days club run

October 26 - Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray

November 19 – Club run to Needle Rock call Marty @ 480-926-3977

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

Trip Report

Turkey Creek Run 9/24/05

1973 K5 – Charlie Babcock

1996 XJ – Jim Sanford

2005 Rubicon Unlimited – Steve Smith

2005 Liberty – Rick and Diane (guests)

I hit a gas station near my house and filled up; the K5 was shaking pretty hard on the way there. I had tried some new balancing beads on the inside of the tires. It wasn't working so good. On the way to the West Side the tires warmed up and the shaking improved but was still much worse than the lead balancing weights. I arrived at the Denny's on Bell and I17 at 8am and was the first there; Steve pulled in right behind me sporting his new Warn winch. Just as I was calling Jim he pulled in with his friends Rick and Diane in the Liberty. It's got a 4" lift and 31" BFG mud terrains, very nice. These guys hit the obstacles as hard as anyone; nobody took a strap on this run.

Jim wanted to top off before we left and my truck's not one to pass a gas station without stopping so we pulled into a Chevron. It turns out you can't buy gas there unless you get a car wash. There was no place to put a credit card and a guy walks up and tells us "no wash, no gas". On the east side of I17 there was an Exxon we filled up at and then drove north. Soon I pulled off at exit 248 to Bumble Bee, approximately 4 miles down this road we pulled off west onto FR687 it was about 9:15am. We stopped to air down, stretch and what not. A ½ mile down FR687 we made sharp drop down into Black Canyon and turned right (north) up the wash. There were large pools of water here and there but no consistent running water. There was a small group of campers down the wash who stood up and strained to see the trucks as we passed.

The virtual Jeep club had run this trail the week before and left really good tracks so it was easy to find the way. The trail followed the canyon upward in the wash crossing it and through tight brush along the sides out of the main wash. Several times I consulted with Steve who had mapped what he had guessed what the trail would be on his GPS. We had no exact coordinates. Steve's calculations were right on the money. As the wide body Blazer pushed through the brush a giant walking stick (the insect) landed on my hood. I watched the 4" long creature walk along the hood and I snapped a picture. Jim played a little in one of the many sandy wash outs where water had swirled and left a pit.

The trail was a good challenge for the 2 open differentialed (Traklock) rigs in the group. Rick stopped us to trim some of the plastic molding that stuck into the wheel well on the Liberty. The 31's barely fit and he confided that he didn't think the flares would last the trip. One river crossing turned out to be a couple feet deep surprising us. There were many silt embankments we drove up that were fun.

One spot we were up high above the creek bed and came around a rock outcropping and dropped down a steep ledge. The trail was about 4' wide here which put the passenger side tires on a down hill slope and pitched the vehicles towards a 10' drop into an ominously deep looking pool. I made it around and out of the way but after seeing where my tracks were I was a little unnerved. I guided Steve through no problem, the Unlimited working beautifully. Rick asked if he could go down the streambed instead but the deep pool would have to be traversed. I spotted him through the obstacle without an incident. He did mention something about his underwear getting stuck somewhere. Jim was last and came around with his driver's side rear tire almost leaving the ground.





Steve's Rubicon in motion, getting on it in one of the few open sections of the trail.



Jim having fun in the dirt

I found some shade along the trail so we pulled off and stopped for lunch about noon. We sat on the rock formations that made up some of the trail. Steve had his ice chest to sit on, there was a nice cool breeze blowing up the canyon. After lunch we were soon on our way again and immediately found two perfect lunch/camping spots under giant old sycamore trees shading wide gravelly sandy spots, oh well next time. The Rubicon got hung up once on the front of it's rear link but realigned and drove right up the ledge. Soon after we came to the intersection of Turkey and Poland creeks, this was our exit spot. The trail went right up the 'Y' between the creeks and up the side of the hill. The rest of the trail was rolling hills heading off towards the town of Cleator. I stopped when the town was in sight in the distance. We took a short break and enjoyed the view of the Bradshaw Mountain range on one side and the tiny town on the other.

Cruising through the town of Cleator, literally less then a dozen buildings, we waved to the few people we saw.



They seemed to be quite friendly but I couldn't tell the difference between visitors and home team. The road back to Bumble Bee is wide and graded, perfect for high speed running. As I passed a couple of ATV's I waived just before they entered the rolling cloud of dirt that was chasing me. I blinked and missed Bumble Bee and soon saw I17 in the distance. I pulled off just before the highway to air up and waited for the others. After a few minutes I called back to Steve, they had stopped just around the corner from me to air up. I must have smelled worse then I thought. I aired up grabbed a drink and drove back to the gang. Everyone said they had a great time and we talked about running the trail again in the cooler months and staying longer. We talked for a while and then I headed for home being the slowest highway cruiser, it was 2pm.

Written by Charlie Babcock

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.

To get a state trust permit go to:

http://www.land.state.az.us/programs/natural/rec_offroad_permit.htm at the bottom is the link to the form at: http://www.land.state.az.us/programs/natural/rec_permit.pdf.

October club run

Tucson Rough Riders Trail Dust Days (Oct 7-9). This is a great club sponsored 4-wheeling event that is now in its 12th year. It's a great way to see other parts of Arizona and to check out some trails near Tucson.

Here's the link to the registration form.

<http://www.tucsonroughriders.com/Files/TDD%202005%20Reg%20Form.doc>

The Arizona Rough Riders are having their annual Spook Rally October 28th, 29th, & 30th. Go to: www.arizonaroughriders.org for more information.

Land Use Issues

Marty mentioned that the a Ranger from the Forest Service told him that all Forest Service land was going to change to closed unless posted open. We then had a lively discussion about what this would mean to wheeling.

Things you need but didn't know it

For Sale: 1948 Civilian Willy's Flat fender, front narrowed Dana 44 with locker, rear narrowed Ford 9" with locker, Dana 20 Transfer case with adapter (\$450), SM420 Tranny-new rebuild, power steering, hydraulic clutch, 33" TSL tires, complete soft top plus bikini top, Rhino lined tub, diamond plate rear corners, 2 1/2" body lift, new springs all around, and a 350 Chevy - some assembly required, hood and fenders needed to be extended 3", asking \$2500.00. Call Ken Phillips @ Work- 520-432-1203 or Home- 520-432-3679

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

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.

For Sale: 1976 Jimmy, 35" tires, new 383 engine, rebuilt Xcase, Torsen front dif, gov lock rear, runs good, the air works good, \$2500 Call Charlie @ 480-812-9101

Quote

Traditions are group efforts to keep the unexpected from happening.

Barbara Tober

Created by Charlie Babcock