

September 2003



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

Here's the gang that went on the August club run to Mingus Mountain. It rained a lot so we hung out under the canopy and enjoyed the cool weather.

August Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m., followed by the pledge. Where is the official flag?

Members present were: Charlie and Becky Babcock, Steve Graham, Ron, Brenda, Jordan, and Cameron Couch, Norm and Carol Harris, Ted, Loran, and Jake Gersztyn, Matthew Parkes, Nick Sesma, Glenn McConnell, Don and James Munzer, Sean and Lynette Murphy, Ed Lyons, and Scott Nixon.

Treasury Report- Ed reported that we have \$4024.87 in our checking account.

Old Business- Scott reported on the Mingus Mountain trip. Ron reported that he, Mike, and Jordan had a good time on the Crown King run. Glenn reported that Mark Kenner had an accident after the Jeep Jamboree. There will be a couple fundraisers to help him out. For more info contact Glenn. Matt and a neighbor went to Lower Woodpecker, Upper Woodpecker, and attempted Highway to Hell. Matt had output shaft trouble. He said that he would make it through Highway to Hell next time.

New Business- Matt agreed to lead Cottonwood Creek trail sometime this month. Contact him for more info. Quarterly meeting was at Clint's Well. While Ted went to the meeting, Loran went mud running in their Colt, which in turn allowed Ted to do some CV Joint repair work on the front axle before they could drive home. See Wheeldust for a full report of the meeting. The Wheeldust will now become a quarterly paper. Jamboree 2003- the registration papers will come out soon. You need to register so that they know how many people are going to attend but you register for the trails the day prior to the run. Ray Jenkins is chairing this event. They are still working on getting permits and getting trails approved from Tucson BLM. Two raffle prizes were needed per club. Steve made a motion to donate two \$50.00 checks and Charlie seconded it. They will be camping off of Mineral Mountain Road. Web page is still being emailed back and forth.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Becky Babcock

Calendar of Events

September 21 – Cottonwood Creek run, call Matt Parkes @ 480-888-9581

September 24 – Club Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm, northwest corner of Rural and Ray

October???

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

Trip Report

Mingus Mountain/FR 143 August 15-17, 2003

Participants:

Nixon's: 89 Chevy K3500

Babcock's: 99 Chevy Suburban

Graham/Luik: 92 Dodge W250

Steve and Linda graciously agreed to leave the 100+ degree heat a few hours early to stake out good camping sites in the frigid 70 degree weather up above Jerome. The rest of us met up at Coco's at 5pm and pulled out promptly at 5:05pm to head north. Progress was brief however, due to an accident on I17. After slogging along at a blistering 35mph, we pulled into Camp Verde for some KFC. One wrong turn later we were headed in the right direction, that is, directly into the gathering storm.

Topping off our tanks in Clarkdale and continuing on, we came to Jerome and the winding switchbacks. We took our time in town; dark twisty streets, rain slicked pavement, and one ton steering all make for a fun ride. Once we started seeing National Forest signs I slowed down and strained my eyes at every side road looking for the right carsonite sign. Jumping out a few times to check side roads did little good, and we were soon headed down hill toward Prescott valley. We turned around yet again, and consulted the maps one last time. Noting that the road we were looking for did not, in fact intersect 89, we headed back to the correct road. A short while later we pulled onto FR 143 and soon found the lantern Steve and Linda had left on for us.

With their help we set up our tents in the rain. As soon as they were up we threw in sleeping bags and sleeping kids. The sleepy adults were last. The rain continued on and off, and it got down into the fifties. Dawn came, and a few hours later we all roused up for breakfast and some serious relaxing. A brief morning shower forced us to bunch up under the Babcock's awning. The kids enjoyed the mud; the adults enjoyed the cool air, lawn chairs, and snack foods. Steve and I attacked a rotted log in search of carpenter ants.

After lunch I took Steven for a ride to try and get him to nap. I followed the main road up top past some communication towers and found a Hang Glider launching pad at the summit. Steven never got drowsy, but I sure did. Back at camp we gathered wood for a nice fire and started cooking dinner. We lit the fire even before it got dark and enjoyed its warmth as the night once again cooled off. Around about 8pm I had enough and crawled into my tent. I could hear the others talking around the fire as I drifted off to sleep.

As soon as morning came, we packed up and headed back to Clarkdale for a fast food breakfast. Everyone else stuck around for hiking and camp breakfast. All in all it was a great trip. Didn't do any wheeling, but it sure was nice camping in the pines. We'll have to make this a yearly trip. There are lots of nice spots and good cell coverage if we need to meet up in the dark.

Scott





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.

September Club Run

9/21/2003 Matt has volunteered to run the infamous Cottonwood Creek trail from Cottonwood Camp to Saguaro Lake. Meet at the intersection of Bush and Beeline at 8am Saturday morning. This trail is a nice easy run until you get to one particular quarter mile stretch. It then becomes a boulder filled canyon with a 4.5+ rating. As we found out last attempt the greatest danger is the chance of flash flood. You'll need large tires, lockers, lot's of clearance and a total disregard for your sheet metal. Make sure you bring lunch, water, drinks and dinner (just kidding). Call Matt Parkes if you're going @ 480-888-9581.

Member of the Month

I didn't get anyone's information and I ran out of time.

Land Use Issues

The BLM called one evening and asked me to do a 15 minute survey over the phone. It was questions about how they're doing and what my perception of the way they do their job.

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

Editors Corner

The newsletter was late because my hard drive on my computer at work crashed. It took the caring experts over a week to get all my information off the disabled hard drive. I type up the newsletter while listening to phone meetings (yawn) and during breaks at work.

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

Let us so live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.

Mark Twain

Enthusiastically Created by Charlie Babcock

If you take the time to fill out this form and bring it to the next meeting or email it to me along with a cool picture of your rig you'll be famous, at least in our club.

Member of the Month

Name:

Age:

Where you are from:

City you live in:

What you do for a living:

#1 4x4 make:

Model:

Year:

Engine:

Transmission:

Transercase model and gearing:

Axle gearing:

Front axle model:

Front differential:

Rear axle model:

Rear differential:

Wheel brand and size:

Tire brand and size:

Suspension and body lift heights:

Other mods:

#2 4x4 make:

Model:

Year:

Engine:

Transmission:

Transercase model and gearing:

Axle gearing:

Front axle model:

Front differential:

Rear axle model:

Rear differential:

Wheel brand and size:

Tire brand and size:

Suspension and body lift heights:

Other mods:

