

September 2006



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

Marty's big Ford making his way down part of the Great Western Trail on Mingus Mountain. I think they get plenty of water here.

Meeting Minutes

Andy Armstrong, Steve Smith, Scott Nixon, Charlie Babcock, Ted and Loran Gerzten, Steve and Linda Graham, Matt Parkes- 5 Diesel and 2 Gas engines.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. We said the pledge. Linda gave a trip report of the Mingus Camp-out. Jerome, Marty, and Steve M. ran part of the Great Western Trail, Woodchute Trail (Smiley Rock Trail). Charlie told about Nick Sesma's medical issues and the club sent him flowers. Matt broke a leaf spring on his service truck and drove it home. Ted wheeled to his sons boy scout meet at Mormon Lake. It rained and a 2wd F350 truck got stuck so they built a road for it moving trees and boulders. To get it going Ted was standing on the rear bumper and once the truck got going it sped off forgetting Ted was on the back. They lost the fan off the front of the engine of their forerunner. Ted gave a very animated explanation of how they fixed the fan with 12-inch crescent wrench and some needle nose pliers. Log Corral run September 30th camping until October 1st. October run Mud Springs. Jeremy is going to do Skull Crusher near Payson. Steve described Paet Draw and said it was nominated as 1 of 10 top trails in the US by BFG. And they are going to run all then and have a big event. Linda wanted to vote whether we should be members of ASA4WDC. Everyone beat the dead horse to death about whether to be members. Scott motioned to adjourn. Everyone seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Calendar of Events

September 16 – Club run on Log Corral call Scott @602-361-1517

September 27 – Meeting at 7pm location La Belle Pizza

October ?? – Club run

October 25 – Meeting at 7pm location La Belle Pizza

Trip Reports

5th Annual Mingus Mountain Camping and 4-wheeling trip
August 25-27, 2006

In attendance: Steve and Linda Graham, Steve Smith, and the Babcock, Gill, Boetel, and Nixon families. The final count was 10 kids and 8 adults.

After "roughing it" the last 3 years I finally got smart and put in a reservation for the Playground Area site for this year's trip. You have to put in a request 6 months in advance, you can't do it earlier, and chances are if you try to do it later you won't get it.

Steve and I headed up early Friday and decided to take the western route up the mountain instead of going through Jerome. It's a little faster going this way and we were hauling our new Casita camp trailer up the mountain for the first time.

The Playground Area is become less and less of a playground. The first time we used the site there was a swing set with 2 swings and a teeter-totter. This year there was a single swing. But the USFS did upgrade the pit toilets.

Steve and I had just got set up when Steve Smith came rolling into camp. Steve isn't much of a camper and this year he reserved a hotel room in Cottonwood. Scott Nixon had scheduling problems and also ended up getting a hotel room for him and his kids instead of camping.

While the camp site doesn't have water, it does have electricity. Marty Boetel took advantage of it and hooked up his off-road ready 20ft tent trailer.

The Gills and the Babcock's tent camped.

Every year that we have done this trip we have been rained on, this year we had perfect weather. It made it difficult to want to anything more than just hang out in camp and watch the kids wear themselves out.

On Saturday a group went out on the Great Western Trail for a little 4-wheeling. Steve in his WB Rubicon and Marty took his modified Ford SD Crew Cab. At one point the trail got too narrow for the big Ford so the group turned around and headed back. Getting back to the top of the mountain took a little more effort than going down into Martin Canyon. The little Jeep and the Ford both had trouble getting up the steep hills. Marty ended up bashing in the steering stabilizer on his truck to the point where he had to take it off in order to be able to steer. On the way back to camp, they spied a Land Rover that had been mangled on the Great Western Trail and had been driven back to the parking lot minus one tire.

All in all, it was another great campout. I hope we can do it again next year.

Linda



Steve's Dodge marking the campsite.



Talking trucks after Scott arrived.



Steve Smith blazing the trail with Marty.



Marty working his big Ford through the tight trail.



Funny place to put a steering dampener, it had to be removed to continue on the trail.



The trail winds it's way along the creek bed through heavy forest.

Items of Interest

Remember the club meeting is the last Wednesday of every month, 7:00pm at La Belle Pizza & Pasta, North West corner of Rural and Ray in Tempe.

September run

Scott's leading a Log Corral run Saturday September 30th. Meet at 9am at the intersection of Bush Highway and Beeline (SR87). There's a dirt lot on the north east corner. Scott and I are camping out at the lake and coming back Sunday. Other people will probably be coming back Saturday late afternoon. Call Scott for more info @ 602-361-1517.



This is what the hardest part of the trail looks like, not to bad.

Land Use Issues

Editors Stuff

Things you need but didn't know it

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

For Sale 800w generator call Steve Graham @ 480-834-1171

Quote

Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought.

Albert von Szent-Gyorgyi
Created by Charlie Babcock