



# Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes 4/24/02

7:05 Call to Order by president Marty Boetel

1 guest present – Steve Buzas drives a couple of Toyotas

Club Run: tr42 – Fun time had by all, great turn out. See Scott Nixon’s report.

John Tash did a pre-run in Four Peaks area and followed a trail that was hard to categorize, except that it was “... rough” He expects to lead a trail soon, will advise to bring rain gear.

Matt Parkes made Top Truck Challenge, but could not go due to monetary constraints.

Motion was made and passed to pay gas bill for club members who make it and go to Top Truck in the future.

Ed Lyons had triple bypass surgery unexpectedly. He is home, but is still too tired to make it to the meetings. Sends his thanks to all that spoke to, sent flowers or visited with him. Becky took up a collection for the flowers sent on behalf of the club. Overage will be donated to club in Ed’s name.

Club Runs for May were set:

1. Scott Nixon’s B-Day bash at Red Creek May 17-19 (weekend before Memorial Day weekend). Camp near Cinders. Contact Scott Nixon for more details.

2. Mud Springs Adopt a trail May 11. Ron Couch leading. Meet at Beeline hwy and Saguaro turn off at 8:30 AM

Glenn reported on clean up that took place in Mesa (backside of 201 area). Small turn out, but a lot of garbage removed. Almost 100% compliance with State Land Permits.

Warned to be careful of Pinal County Sheriff’s, as they are writing \$500 tickets for non-permitted persons.

Permits are available at State Land Dept, Tammy Pike, Sandee McCullen or 4-Wheeler’s Supply for \$15-individual or \$20-family. YOUR ASA PERMIT DOES NOT COVER YOU UNLESS YOU ARE ON A CLUB RUN OR PRE RUN.

7:44 PM Adjournment

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## Calendar of Events

May 11	Mud Spring Road	Ron Couch
May 18 –19	Cinders	Scott Nixon
May 18-19	ASA4WDC Convention Tucson	
May 29	Club Meeting	

## Items of Interest

### FR42 Trip Report

April 20, 2002

#### Participants:

Scott Nixon, Dodge Pickup (trip leader), Gersztyn family, Suzuki, Munzer family, Jeep, Eric Rool, Jeep, John Tash, Jeep Cherokee (new kind), Couch family, Jeep Cherokee (old kind), Mike Tutor and Dawn, Toyota

Tacoma, Blanford family, Suzuki, Charlie Babcock, Blazer, Rundle family, Bronco (old kind), Boetel brothers, Willy's Panel Wagon

Pulling into the meetings spot, I was happy to see there were already two vehicles waiting. As we stood around talking eight more pulled in. Last to arrive were the Boetel brothers, who had to make a stop to purchase ammo for their 'tater gun. After the Willy's was off the tow bar, we headed for Rattlesnake cove and the start of the trail to air down.



(Airing down for the trail)

The first part of the trail has become quite rutted and twisty. At the first good twisty spot I heard the unmistakable sound of swampers remodeling the side of my truck. A quick glance convinced me it was at the front of the rear wheel well, so a few whacks with a five-pound sledge and we were on our way. Finally reaching the river, I was surprised to see quite a bit of water flowing in the river. Without any mud to play in, there was little reason to stick around. A few vehicles did high-speed romps through the soft river sand, and a few spuds were launched out into the river.

After the river, the trail starts climbing. Another twisty spot and more swamper noises. Marty confirmed it was the bolts holding my mud flaps on, so off they came. I wasn't the only one having twisty problems, Charlie's recently relocated engine was having an argument about where the fan should end and the plastic shroud should begin. We kept climbing up and down the ridges, with only one nasty spot. Well, for me anyway; it was a narrow, really off camber spot with a deep wash on the low side. With Marty shouting words of encouragement I clenched up the seat cover and idled through. Everybody else was either braver or narrower than I was.



(Just passed the pucker spot)

I pulled up to the big hill in the middle of the trail and got out to take a look. By the time I edged my bumper over the lip, everyone else was lined up to watch. With brakes groaning and seat cover clenched, we crept down. I dropped off Marty, got turned around, and headed back up. With my new swampers and a Detroit in the rear, I idled right up. Most everyone else went down, with some trying the climb. John Tash gave it a valiant effort, but without the front end locked up he could only get about half way up. A few vehicles decided the easier bypass was the more prudent option. A quick trip down the wash led us to the river again, which made a nice spot for lunch. I tested out my tires on a sandy bank while everyone else started eating and launching 'taters. Afterwards, the Boetels climbed into Charlie's Blazer for his obligatory trail 42 swim. He made good progress across the hub deep water until just before the far bank. The water got deep, the mud got soft, and the big swampers started digging. Wisely, Charlie backed up and took the bank at an angle. A bit more speed saw him to the far shore. A quick trip east and another ford with Marty spotting "rat patrol" style got him to "Boulder Beach".



(Twisting up before lunch)

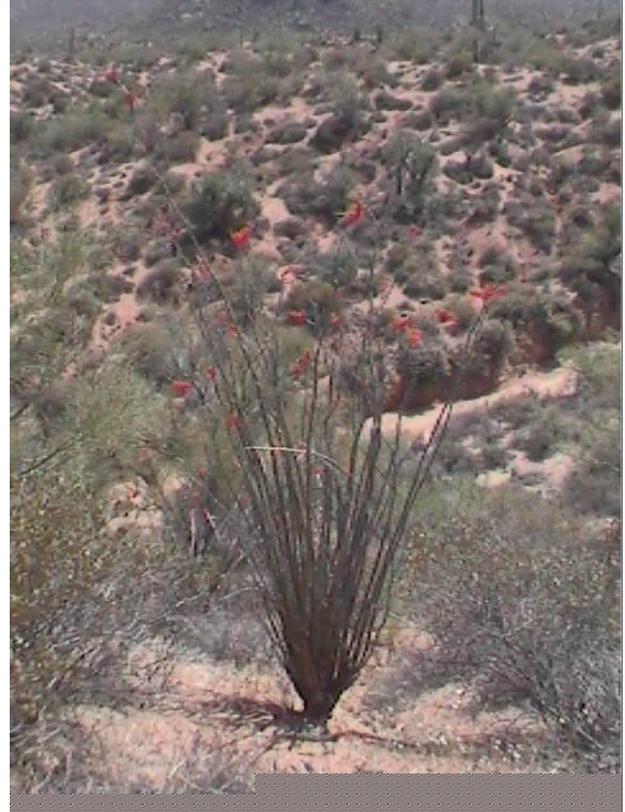


(36's fit in a Dodge wheel well, but only if you remove your mud flap wing nuts!)

Once everyone stowed the coolers and lawn chairs we headed out to finish the trail. A few more good hill climbs dropped us onto FR42. A quick romp down the wash led us to the river. "Flex rock" seems permanently buried under the sand, but the river was flowing nicely. Marty directed me up river towards a couple of fords, but the second one looked a bit deep for some of the vehicles we had with us. We got out and enjoyed the beautiful area for awhile, and said goodbye to Mike and Ron, who were going to camp out there overnight. The rest of us headed up the wash in search of hills to climb. Half way up we passed a lone gentleman in a Chevy Lumina. Yes, that's right, a car. While we stopped to play on the first optional hill, he came back up with wash with three passengers, several of whom were carrying AK-47's. We let him pass. Everyone who tried the hill climb made it up and over, except for Ted's Suzuki. The ruts were just a half-inch too deep for his tires. A quick tug from the Bronco saved him from having to back down a rather nasty hill.

Further up the trail we reached the next play hill. Charlie and Don were already up on top. I went up the middle line and climbed up easier than I thought. Yes, I like my new Swampers! Feeling confident I tried the climb to the right that ate my antenna last time. I made up it most of the way, but just couldn't get over the last rut at the top. Some spotting from Ted and yells of encouragement from everyone else led me to bump my way up and over. Once everyone had their fill of climbing, Don fired up his York compressor and aired up everyone's tires.

All in all, it was an awesome day on the trail. The weather was perfect, we had the trail practically to ourselves, and no one broke anything. I'd like to thank everyone for coming out, and I hope they had as much fun as I did.



(Blooming Ocotillo)

### Jeep Game

Have you ever wanted to drive a Jeep in Moab? Have you ever wanted to attend Camp Jeep? Do you want to drive the new Rubicon Wrangler? Do you own a computer?

If you answered yes to the questions above then I have a game for you! Jeep has released a computer game called Jeep 4X4 Evo. This game has good graphics, fairly realistic performance and several models of Jeeps for you to drive.

How much is this Game, well it is FREE! Yes Free. Go to [www.jeep.com](http://www.jeep.com) for all the details about this game.

You can download a trail version or you can order a CD with a more enhanced version. There are several tracks available and you can post your scores on line if you are so inclined. You can even buy and use a winch. Select either a manual or automatic transmission put the transfer case into low ranges and crawl through the rocks. On the Rubicon model you can even lock the front or rear differential.

Although not a full featured as 4X4 Evolution, it is entertaining and challenging. Finesse counts as much as speed and if you too out of shape you can roll. Log on and hang on. You're in for a wild ride.

## Land Use Issues

OHV Enthusiasts.....

It's about time!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Hopefully all of you will take a minute and write a letter to Congressman Kolbe and support him in getting this bill passed. The Endangered Species Act is beyond it's limits. Kolbe will NEED YOUR SUPPORT LETTERS!!!

Sandee

A toll free # for Congress 888-223-4066

FROM Casey Jones, Mayor Pro-Tem, Sierra Vista, AZ

The attacks on Fort Huachuca by environmental activists led by Dr. Robin Silver's Center for Biological Diversity continue unabated. Utilizing the provisions of the Endangered Species Act in a manner which almost certainly was not envisioned by Congress, but which Congress, has not seen fit to correct, the Center and its followers are acting from a position of significant strength.

Until there are changes to the ESA, radical environmentalism abetted by sympathetic judges and governmental bureaucrats will continue to enjoy success in their efforts to advance their agendas at your and our military's expense.

There is an effort currently underway in Congress to add language to this year's Defense Authorization Act which would relax the strictures of the ESA and other environmental laws and regulations which are having detrimental effects upon the U S military's ability to effectively conduct their activities and train the men and women of our armed forces to meet today's daunting challenges.

Arizona Congressman Jim Kolbe is leading this effort. I talked with Jim this morning. He is fully aware of the importance of this legislation to Fort Huachuca and all military installations subject to the current onerous environmental requirements. Jim has submitted language to advance this effort and insure that Fort Huachuca would benefit therefrom

As might be expected, this effort is being strenuously opposed by a significant coalition of environmental groups. That notwithstanding, there is a growing sentiment in Congress to grant this relief to our military forces. Those members of Congress favoring this relief need reinforcement in their belief that this is an appropriate course of action. To that end, I encourage you all to consider phoning or emailing Congress, especially members from the Eastern and Northeastern states with the following message:

"I urge you to support Congressman Kolbe's efforts to include language in the Defense Authorization Act (HR 4546) to address off-base impacts from critical habitat or listed species outside military installations."

This our opportunity to stand up and be counted for Fort Huachuca and our men and women in training throughout the country's military forces.

I commend this to your thoughtful consideration and action.

Regards,  
Casey Jones  
Mayor Pro-Tem  
Sierra Vista, AZ

Forwarded by Scott Riebel  
Director of Environmental Affairs  
United Four Wheel Drive Associations

## Editors Corner

I would like to apologize to all the club members for delay in the publication of the Newsletter. After Scott retired I waited to see if anyone else would volunteer for this lofty position. When no one else volunteered I told the president that I would take on the editor duties.

Some of the old members will remember that I was the editor for several years when the club was pretty new. New day same problems. I NEED CONTENT!! The most difficult part of being the newsletter editor is finding stuff to fill the pages. I plan to borrow liberally from the volumes of email that is sent to ASA4WDC board; I am on the same list. I will badger trip leaders for trip reports, in writing. And I will accept and publish just about anything that the members submit. Jokes, stories, articles you send it I publish it. You can send it to me via email at [tedg1@mindspring.com](mailto:tedg1@mindspring.com) or snail mail at Ted Gersztyn 6604 S. Lakeshore Unit D Tempe, AZ 85283.

I want you all to know that this is your newsletter. I just collect and format the content. Without you input I will be left to my own devices to decide what goes in your newsletter. So please send me some content so that I can fill the pages with Interesting stuff.

Respectfully Submitted



