



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our meeting place has changed. We will be meeting at:
Round Table Pizza
9920 S. Rural Rd
Tempe, AZ.
On the North West corner of Rural and Ray

Meeting Minutes

Meeting June 27, 2002

In attendance: Don Julies and Kids Munzer, Becky and Charlie Babcock, Scott Nixon, Steve Graham, Aaron McCarthy, Marty Boetel, John Tash, Noram and Carol Harris, Tim and Trish Kennedy, Don and Jennifer Egge, Mat Parkes, Ted Loran and Jake Gersztyn, Micah Coleman.

Meeting called to order at 7:05

Treasurer reports we have money. I did not get the total (sorry) contact Ed Lyons for details.

Discussed the legality of "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. Loran gave a pre-report for the Independence Day celebration in Bisbee. (See details later). Charlie gave a report on the night run to the coves (see report). Night run to Cottonwood Creek for July 5 was discussed. Newsletter editor asked for content. Discussed the degree of closure on all public lands. John Tash talked about a pre-run on BLM land in the Wickenburg area, a trail that runs near an old observatory. More details to come later.

Several possible July trips were discussed. Final decision was Trail 42 at night Sat July 20. Meet at Bartlett Dam parking lot at 6:00pm. Camping may be an option.

The club voted to try a new meeting place, some comments about food quality. We will be meeting at the Round Table Pizza on the North West Corner of Ray and Rural in Tempe. Becky will post signs and maps at the old location. Web site will be changed ASA4WDC willing.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Submitted by Ted Gersztyn due to absence of Secretary.

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Calendar of Events

July 20	Trail 42 at night Bartlett Dam 6:00 PM
July 31	Monthly Meeting Round Table Pizza
August 17,	ASA4WDC Quarterly Meeting Pine?
August Run	OPEN
August 29	Monthly meeting Round Table Pizza

Items of Interest

Coves Night Run Trip Report 6/22/2002

1973 K5 – Charlie and Carl Babcock, 1995 Ram - Scott Nixon, 1976 Cherokee - Ron, Brenda, and Maggie (dog) Couch, 1998 Tacoma - Mike Tutor and Roseanne, 1976 CJ-7 – Don and Sam Munzer, 1954 Willy's

M170 – Greg Boetel, 198? Bronco - Tracy and Sarah

The trip leader (Charlie) arrived at Butcher Jones beach about 7:00pm after dodging several drunken boaters making there way back to town on Bush highway. Most of the group was there and we all aired down, chatted and then headed for the hills. I made a wrong turn and headed left up the main wash missing the first moguled hill but climbed up an alternate path to the first ridgeline declaring it was planned. It's good to be the trip leader. We made it to the first play hill and proceeded to ... play. Everyone tried various paths according to their vehicles/drivers abilities. Greg and I got turned away several times by one particular nasty ledge that refused to let us pass.



First play hill at the Coves

I know this wasn't from this trip but I didn't get any pictures developed and I like this picture.

Next we headed for the first Cove to try the infamous hill climb to the left onto the ridge between Coves one and two. I pulled up to a crowd of people and trucks at the base of the hill climb, there were more people waiting at the top. The people at the base told me to try the hill, as if we had come to watch. I waited for the others and then cruised up the hill uneventfully until I reached the top. I made the hard left turn to stay on the ridge and then had trouble getting the drunken bystanders to move.

Up came the rest of the group, Ron with a bit more speed then the rest putting on a nice show. I don't think this crowd was used to seeing 7 well-prepared rigs in one group.

On the way to the fourth Cove somebody on the CB yelled, "Charlie you have a flat tire". Sure enough the passenger side rear tire was flat. I stood there for a while staring at a flat Swamper wondering what it takes to puncture a TSL. We used Greg's tank to put air back in it and discovered that the bead was leaking in several areas. OK then, the picture in my mind of the impervious Swamper is still intact. We threw around the idea of trying to take the tire off the bead to clean out the junk but I decided just to change to the spare. With everyone pitching in it was a quick job. Thanks everybody!

We were off again with only one more wrong turn, I mean alternative route and we made it to the fourth Cove. We all parked by the water, got some drinks, watched the jet boats and talked trucks. Life was good!

We were all getting tired so we made our way back with another, uh, alternate route. Ron pointed out the correct trail and we were on our way again. Greg decided we were driving to slow and went off on his own path. It was a beautiful night, big moon and near the water probably 20 degrees cooler then in town. I had a great time.

On the way home my power steering belt came off and let me tell you, a truck with 38" Swampers at 10psi with no power in the power steering is really hard to steer.

Enthusiastically submitted by,
Charlie Babcock

Land Use Issues

Press Release

Committee Approves ESA Reforms that Require Federal Agencies to Use Proven Science, Peer Review in Major ESA Decisions

Reforms will better protect species and people who coexist with them Washington, D.C. - The House Resources Committee today passed H.R. 4840, a bill to reform the Endangered Species Act, by a vote of 22-18. The bill, The Sound Science for the Endangered Species Act Planning Act of 2002, requires the federal government to rely on field-tested and empirical data in making major decisions under the Endangered Species Act, including the listing of species and determinations regarding critical habitat.

Similarly, the bill establishes a higher scientific threshold for petitioners wishing to list a species. There must be clear and convincing evidence the species is in peril. The bill requires that science used in major ESA decisions be peer-reviewed by a panel of scientists. Finally, the bill requires the federal government to take into an account the impact of an ESA mandate on the economy of a region.

Chairman James V. Hansen's Statement: "This legislation is a first step in fixing the Endangered Species Act, which over the years, has been blatantly abused by federal agencies and environmental groups alike. This law has impacted millions of people and has caused ruin for thousands more. One recognizable problem corrected by the bill is the ESA's lack of good science when making decisions that ultimately affect both the species and the people. This bill ensures the use of sound science through peer review and improves interagency cooperation between the federal agencies and states. As I have stated before, this will not fix everything that is wrong with the Act, but this is a common sense step in the right direction."

Rep. Richard Pombo's Statement:

"Passage of this bill is an attempt to ensure that the agencies charged with implementing the Endangered Species Act base their decisions on sound, peer-reviewed science. The Act is failing to protect and recover species, and is a major source of conflict with property owners. We hope this bill begins the process of resolving the shortcomings of the current law."

Rep. Greg Walden's Statement: "The crisis forced on the farmers and ranchers of the Klamath Basin is a tragic example of why the peer review of Endangered Species Act science is absolutely essential. The devastation that resulted in that community from the unjustified shut-off of irrigation water might well have been avoided if this bill had been public law two years ago. Peer review of data is a concept that is widely recognized within the medical and scientific communities, and it's time it is incorporated into the Endangered Species Act. Any time the federal government may undertake an effort that can have profound effects on people and communities; it should strive to make sure the data it uses is as close to definitive as possible. One of the most effective ways of doing that is to allow independent, unbiased scientists to review the work of government biologists and evaluate

whether their data supports the actions they're recommending."

The bill's specifics include:

- Requires federal agencies to give greater weight to scientific or commercial information that is empirical or has been field-tested.
- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to determine a species is threatened or endangered only if data collected in the field supports that decision.
- Revises the contents of a listing petition and establishes a higher scientific threshold for the petitioner to meet before the petition can be considered, including clear and convincing evidence that a species is in peril.
- Establishes a peer review process for numerous federal ESA activities, including listing a species, delisting a species, recovery plans and jeopardy opinions.
- Requires a peer review board to be empanelled on jeopardy opinions if the Secretary finds significant disagreement or significant economic impact in said opinions.
- Requires peer reviewers to be qualified individuals who meet the National Academy of Science standards.
- Mandates a panel of three appointees by the Secretary and two appointees by state governors who must submit a report within 90 days to the Secretary regarding the jeopardy opinions, including scientific validity of the decision and the panel's recommendations.

Scott Riebel

Director of Environmental Affairs

United Four Wheel Drive Associations

www.ufwda.org

Interesting & Entertaining Article

By: Marianne M. Jennings, a professor of legal and ethical studies at Arizona State University

From the eye of the storm

Heigh ho, from Arizona, land of first-hand smoke and fire. From the eye of the storm, I offer, in stylishly Martha Stewart fashion, the good thing of an insider's view.

The national media were not prepared for Arizona's idiosyncrasies. Our wildfires have presented phonetics problems. For all you national reporters, it's Rodeo (ROW-dee-o) Fire. The Row-DAY-o Fire is in Beverly Hills. It's said "Eager," not "eee- GAR," despite the "Eagar" spelling.

Several national correspondents gagged while trying to eek out "Chediski Fire." While no one here knows how to say this one either, one thing is clear: ignore Polish-American tendencies to say Che- DIS-ski. Choose any of the following, gleaned from helicopter pilots, anchoresses and U.S. Forest Service spokespersons: SHED-ih-sky; Che-DESK-I, or CHED-ih-ski. Many reporters wondered aloud what Chediski means. Literally translated, Chediski, an Indian term, means "dumb broad who lights flare in tinderbox forest."

For 2 days running the New York Times felt compelled to explain how "Show Low" got its name. Did I ask

about SoHo or Tribeca when I covered 9/11? The Times reporter seemed incredulous that a man could win a town in a poker game of low card stud. We still play this game, with sports franchises. They get stadiums and we taxpayers, with a streak of bad luck, draw the high tax card.

National reporters seemed comfortable with Heber, although a few used a short "e," producing a "Hebber" sort of sound. I provided translation for several correspondents on "Heber" which is "Excuse us, Forest Service and Governor Hull, but the fire is over here." Overgaard means, "What are we? Chopped liver?" The Show Low vs. Heber/Overgaard fire focal points found reporters conflicted. They were all entrenched in Show Low with its motels while all the homes burned in the Heber/Overgaard area. However, the only thing in Heber is June's Dairi-Delight. June permits smoking in her combination fried food/ice cream stand. The national media can't stand second-hand smoke, which is why they have now left smoke-infested Show Low.

Many of the local TV reporters stood before the cameras, running 24/7 for the first time in their young lives, and stammered when anchors handed off to them, "I can't think of anything more to say." One reporterette, who realized Show Low had second-hand smoke, said, "You guys, I am like having a really hard time breathing." The Red Cross was here in our time of need, busily replacing its computers with fire money raised just so far. And in the midst of the blazing inferno, our 9th Circuit Court of Appeals pushed us closer to brimstone by declaring the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional. "Ninth Circuit" is Indian for "black muumuu-covered liberal loons."

I had a wooden stake in these fires because our cabin is located in Forest Lakes, a name many believe comes from the fact that it is located in the forest between 2 lakes. Thus far our cabin has survived, something we have learned only from smoke signals because the media continue to await the fire's descent into Show Low. Our longstanding ownership in Forest Lakes has provided a first-hand look at the rustic forest folks. They are environmentalists, but not latte environmentalists who litigate to preserve forests. Latte environmentalists can never have these residents' perspective because they prefer not to experience the challenges of living in areas where the roads are dirt, cable is non-existent and the wind kills the contact lenses. Latte environmentalists have a litigious admiration of the forest from afar. Our Forest Lakes neighbors have the weathered faces of those who dare the elements to conquer them. These

hardy souls will have nothing positive to say about the management of the forests, the fires, or the allocation of fire resources. They resent being subject to the whims of a judiciary inclined to follow the desires of environmentalists who dwell in cities with silly notions of idyllic forest primeval. These indigenous peoples know that forests are beasts to be tamed, not pets to be pampered. The management of forests by scientific opinion, litigation and bureaucracies is a formula that has brought us to this disaster and the forest peoples to their knees.

But the upside of this down draft is that their voices will finally be heard. The environmental groups, conspicuous by their absence and failure to provide aid in the Great Arizona Wildfires of 2002, have finally shown their true mettle, something the residents of these rustic towns have long known. The din of environmentalists will finally be banished from the forests. Peace at last. Those who know the forests will now have the authority to manage them. Even the elk breathe a sigh of relief despite the second-hand smoke risk.

JWR contributor Marianne M. Jennings is a professor of legal and ethical studies at Arizona State University.

Editors Corner

I hope you like the selections of articles I have picked for this month's newsletter. Since I am on the ASA4WDC email distribution list I get many articles forwarded by Scott Reibel and others in UFWDA and Blue Ribbon Coalition. Quite honestly I get way more articles than I can read. I try to pick the ones I feel you, the members, would be interested in. I hope I am hitting the mark. I would like to thank our Trip Leaders for sending me the trip reports. This allows those members who did not attend the trip to enjoy it vicariously.

If anyone has any items to sell please let me know and we can have our own Classified section. Send them via email to tedg1@mindspring.com or snail mail to: 6604 S. Lakeshore Dr. Unit D Tempe, AZ 85282

Due to vacations and work this newsletter is a little late. I hope it gets to everyone in time. Be sure to note the new meeting location. See you at the meeting or on the trail.

Respectfully Submitted



