

April 03



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

Sean Murphy's K5 hitting the rocks on the Cottonwood Creek club run 3/16/2003. Welcome back Sean.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. A moment of silence was held to honor those serving our country. Followed by the pledge. Thanks to the Egge's for supplying the flag. A guest was recognized, Nick Sesma. Welcome! Members present were: Charlie and Becky Babcock, Steve Graham, Mike Tutor, Ron and Brenda Couch, Norm and Carol Harris, Dan and Jennifer Egge, Aaron McCarthy, Matthew Parkes, Marty Boetel, Sean Murphy and Lynette Lyman, Glenn McConnell, Ed Lyons, and Scott Nixon. Welcome back to Sean Murphy.

Treasury Report-

Ed reported that we have approximately \$4000.00 in our account. The secretary was not paying attention to the exact amount. Sorry. Make sure to send in your dues.

Old Business-

Ron reported on the trip to Cottonwood Creek. See newsletter for full report! There was lots of laughing, chuckling, and giggling when the report was given.

New Business-

April Trip- Mud Springs- Meet Scott Nixon at Bush and Beeline at 8:15 a.m.

Matt Parkes will lead a group into Martinez. Meet on April 26th at the Texaco in Florence Junction. Where are the club camera, metal box, and first aid kit? If you have it please return it! Glenn will purchase first aid kit; Scott will take care of new metal case.

Send Charlie your email address if you want to get reminders of runs and meeting.

Motion made to give \$20 to the trip leaders for gas. Glenn seconded the motion. Motion carried with a show of hands. After much talk Marty mentioned that he had the blue bag and hammer. He will bring it next month. May Trip- Cherry Creek

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Calendar of Events

April 19 – Mud Springs Club Run – Call Scott @ 602-482-8973

April 26 – Martinez Canyon Run – Call Matt @ 480-888-9581

April 30 – Club Meeting At Round Table Pizza, 7:00pm, northwest corner of Rural and Ray

May??? – Cherry Creek overnight Club Run

May 28 – Club Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7:00pm, northwest corner of Rural and Ray

Trip Reports

Cottonwood Creek - 3/16/2003

1979 Bronco - Mike Tutor and Ron Couch

1973 K5 – Charlie, Becky, Shelby, Hailey, and Reilly Babcock

1966 FJ-40 – Matt Parkes and Dave Jeremy

19?? CJ5 - 2 Minnesota guys and Ron Bender

1976 K5 – Sean Murphy and Lynette Lyman

1980 CJ5 – Aaron McCarthy and Guest

1995 Ram - Scott and Robert Nixon

1995 YJ – Norm and Carol Harris

1994 YJ – Roy and Terri Conner

1980 Scout II – Steve Graham

Daring the elements we left the house with no doors or hardtop on the K5. After picking up donuts and topping off the tank we hit the Beeline. It was cold but not raining, yeah! Arriving at Bush Highway most of the gang was already there. Once the stragglers arrived we took off for the Four Peaks turn off. At the Four Peaks out house the trailered rigs were unloaded while the rest of us aired down.

A quick trip down the road, one wrong turn and we were at the Cottonwood ranch. From here we dropped into the Creek and headed towards Saguaro Lake. Mike set a good pace with the Swampers barely noticing the boulders strewn about in the sandy wash. We stopped a couple of times to let everyone catch up, grab drinks or ... what ever. It still hadn't rained on us. The wash was wet but no standing water. Soon we arrived at the tough section and some of the group decided to walk the trail. Mike drove through the first section with some good spotting from Ron.



I was next and had no trouble with Sean's excellent spotting. Aaron tried next but got hung up.



With some rock stacking and Hi-Lift action he made it through. During the extraction the rain began, but just lightly. The Minnesota CJ cruised through with out too much trouble. Most of us were eating lunch by now. The kids were having a great time playing in the wash, climbing over & sliding down boulders and finding a millipede. While I was scouting out the next section Sean made a valiant effort at sticking his Blazer in the rocks.

With everyone pitching in and Roy's winch we pulled the K5 back the way it came. To get a good pull on Sean's K5 we hooked a pulley to it and ran the winch cable back to Steve's Scout sitting 50' away. This allowed for more pulling force using the last wraps of the cable. This time Mother Nature gave us a good down pour. There was still no running water in the creek.

The Bronco, my K5, the FJ, and the Minnesota CJ decided to press on. With some more, good spotting and Matt driving over whatever was in his path we made it to the really gnarly boulders. Mike dove in but instantly jammed the front pumpkin between two rocks. After some rock stacking he realized the shifter wasn't quite in 4wd and backed out of the stuck. He had had enough and that was good enough for me too. I flipped the K5 around and made room for the big bad Cruiser.





Matt drove over some 4' tall boulders to line up for the attempt. Looking over the next section with the "by now" very wet rocks he made a good decision and turned around.

About this time it started to really rain again. We drove back through the second tough section and caught up with Aaron hopelessly stranded going back through the same area he was stuck in before. While we got Aaron's CJ through we were noticing the beautiful waterfalls forming around us coming down the cliff walls. Everyone had a new urgency, to get out of the creek! The Minnesota CJ was already out so he flipped around and winched on Aaron's stuck Jeep. While this was going on water came around the bend and gurgled past our feet. Becky and the kids got in Sean's Blazer and he drove them to higher ground. Aaron did a great job of banging his Jeep over the obstacles to get it out of there in a hurry. The Toy, Ford, and my truck made quick work of sliding through the wet, sand covered boulders. It was still raining.

Once through the rocks we all took off with Aaron in the lead. I blasted along with Aaron and then stopped to grab the rest of my family. The creek was almost a foot deep and maybe 20' across. Luckily we quickly made it to the wider section of Cottonwood Creek.

I lost track of Aaron ahead of me and out paced the group behind me. All I wanted was to get out of that wash. Several times I hit holes 2' deep. As I blazed through the water the Swampers threw fans of water, mud, and rocks 10' to each side, none of it coming in the door less body. It was still raining.



I could see Aaron's CJ5 a quarter mile up ahead climbing on the road out of Cottonwood Ranch. Calling on the CB everyone was still moving a short distance behind me. I made my way to the road up out of the creek and could see the others winding there way up the creek. As soon as we crested the high point out of the creek a nasty cross wind blasted me in the side of the head filled with sleet and icy rain. Reilly started screaming so I drove like a mad man back to the parking lot sliding around every corner. It was still raining.

As the kids changed into drier clothes I stood shivering waiting for the others while watching ATV's loading up to go home. Mike was the first to arrive and ramped his Bronco on Matt's trailer. Matt arrived followed closely by Sean and the Minnesota CJ. We decided to load the kids into Sean's K5 for the trip home, warm and toasty. With hurried good byes we hit the road. It was still raining.

On the way home I drove slow because of the low tire pressure. Sean said he had got pulled over once for doing this. Just then he got pulled over. The Sheriff was looking for a forced hitchhiking in a gray Blazer. We finally made it home and ... it quit raining.

We had a great turn out and it reminded me of the club that I joined a few years ago. While I was helping people get unstuck or watching someone wheel I noticed the rest of the group. They were talking, laughing having a good time. I was soaked down to my underwear, so cold my teeth were chattering; my hands were raw from lifting sand covered icy wet rocks and my shiny new bumper had a couple of gashes in it. I can't wait to go out and do it again. The people that had battered rigs battered them some more. The people that had nice looking trucks stopped when they reached their limits. It looked like everyone had a good time. Come out and join us on the next run.

Thanks Ron for leading a great trip!

Submitted 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

Located on the northwest corner of Rural and Ray. If you visit www.roundtable.com you can get discount coupons on pizza to use at the next club meeting. Come early and eat with the gang.

April Club Run - We'll be hitting the club's adopt-a-trail this month, Mud Springs. Scott Nixon has offered to lead the run and said to meet him at the intersection of Bush and Beeline Highways. That's the turn off to Saguaro Lake from SH87. Be there at 8:15am Saturday morning April 19. The trail is suitable for stock 4wd vehicles until we reach the infamous hill. There's a nice parking area there for those who don't want to continue in their own trucks. You can hop in with someone else (I'll have a few extra seats) to finish the trail. The road leads into the ranch and back out the same way so you can pick up your vehicle on the way out. The tough section probably requires at least a rear locker and 33"+ tires. We'll be doing a clean up of this trail but I've never seen it very messed up. There's trash at the start of the trail but by the time you get to the boulders it's pretty clean.

Matt Parkes will be leading a run through beautiful Martinez Canyon on Saturday April 26th. He said to meet at the Texaco at Florence Junction. I didn't catch the time so call him @ 480-888-9581. This trail is tough and requires lockers front and rear and big tires.

This is the coolest diff cover I've seen. Crane High Clearance Diff Covers are: High strength Chromemoly alloy (not iron or aluminum!), heat treated, lipless, weld able, bulletproof (as tested by [JP Magazine](#)), highly abrasion resistant, and guaranteed. Now the bad part: Dana 30 cover: \$185 plus shipping, Dana 44 cover: \$196.42 plus shipping, Dana 60 cover: \$215 plus shipping. I guess I'll just reinforce the Dana covers on my K5 with some steel plate.



Land Use Issues

The following was submitted by Steve Graham for Linda Luik.

About 3 weeks ago the State Legislators raided the OHV fund. I was as guilty as everyone else for not understanding how much we had to lose due to this. In this e-mail I will try to give you all the info I can and two sample letters that we can use together to send an e-mail and letter to everyone's State Senators and Representatives. I would suggest that we also send them to the State Land Director and the Governor I will supply those addresses also. This is a large blow to us and if not addressed could get even worse. We need Thousands of letters

not just the usual group that always gets involved. I would suggest you get any friends and family to do this also. I will try and make it as easy as I can. Do not just send a copy of either of the sample letters combine them or add a couple lines of your own. This is a small price to pay to keep our form of recreation. Many thanks to Stu Olson for his help. Jim F.

State Senators http://www.arizonasenate.org/find_your_senator.htm

State Representatives <http://www.vote-smart.org/index.htm>

Governor
Office of the Governor
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone: 602-542-4331
Fax: 602-542-1381

State Land Department
Mark Winkleman,
Land Commissioner
& Richard R. Hubbard,
Deputy Land Commissioner (602) 542-4621
The Arizona State Land Department is located at 1616 W. Adams,
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Sample Letters, remember to change a line or two then cut and paste them.

To: Senator, Representative, Governor, or State Land Director

From: _____

Date: 3-21-03

RE: State OHV Fund

I understand that at this time the State Finances are a difficult subject. I would like to address the State OHV Fund that was raided this year. This fund is built by a feed off the gas tax to fund OHV issues. This is a realistic if not small amount of the gas that is used in this activity. The OHV community has and will spend a lot of money in this state to build, buy and use all types of OHV vehicles. With the loss of this fund the OHV community will lose in the area of trails on the ground for all of us. This is a growing community and they are just learning to stand up for their rights.

At this time the fund is needed to complete a State trails inventory that has been under way for some time. With the loss of this the local areas will be reviewed without an inventory

and result in a large amount of trails being closed for no real reason other than agencies were not aware of them. In the Inventory monies is included Maps and Signing. This basically means that OHV education will now be nonexistent. The loss of these funds will also result in failed attempts at land use clean-ups as at this time the fund pays for dumpsters to facilitate these activities.

There will also be losses in staff positions for enforcement and management of land use. Many of these positions had just started to make an impact on the misuse of State land and other areas. This fund also pays for grants to OHV education such as the Pima Motor sports Park in Tucson. Without the money this area cannot be completed which pushes the ATV and ATR riders back into the public lands, which will now be understaffed in the enforcement area.

The OHV community has pushed long and hard for education to keep our lands open to multiple use. The loss of these funds will set this program back. The State Land Department will lose its OHV Director who has worked well with the OHV community to build trust and continuity in land use.

I urge you to reconsider striping this fund of all its money. We will only end up paying more in the future.

“Your Name”

“Your Address”

“Your City, State and Zip”

RE: State OHV Fund

As a resident of the state of Arizona, I am all too aware of the budget crisis that our state is experiencing. It is my understanding that the monies in the State OHV Fund have recently been redirected to other areas and thus leaves the entire OHV community without funding for enforcement, education, and grant opportunities, to name just a few.

Reports from last year's National Off Highway Vehicle Conference indicated an OHV growth rate of some 30% per year. It is, without a doubt, one of the fast growing sports in the southwest. With the State Trails Inventory project well underway, it is essential that the OHV fund monies be returned so that the inventory may be completed. This is the first step in providing the necessary base line trail information for the new resource management plans that are being developed to manage our lands in Arizona. We are currently operating on plans that are well over 10 years old. The OHV growth rate has made these plans obsolete.

We in the OHV community have struggled in past years in an attempt to provide educational material to new OHV users. An educated OHV user helps prevent the misuse of our outdoor resources. Cutting the funding for this will set this effort back years and could result in a backslide that may never be recovered. The money to support OHV grants for such things as interpretive signs and OHV parks will cease to exist. Without the OHV Fund monies, the State Land Department will lose its OHV Director. It has taken a long time to establish the current working relationships that exist between the State Land Department and the OHV

community. This loss of staff, like in the education area, will effectively negate all the work that has been done with the OHV community to date.

As residents of this state, neither you nor I can afford to let this happen. The OHV community will recreate on public lands and they will have fun. Without the monies from the OHV Fund, the chances of the public doing so in a controlled and responsible manner are decreased. None of us can afford to let this happen.

Please reconsider your actions and allow the money from the OHV Fund to be used in the manner for which it was conceived.

Thank you,
"Your Name"

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

If your name is highlighted on the address label on this newsletter it means you haven't paid your dues for this year and you won't receive a newsletter after this one.

By request I changed the format a little. I think it's easier to read down the page this way. As always let me know what you think, I'm open to suggestions.

If you take any digital pictures during a club run please email them to me and I'll include them in the newsletter. If you have a new modification to your truck and you're really proud of it send me a picture and I'll put it in the newsletter. If you don't have a digital camera scan the pictures and send them to me. If you don't have a scanner bring the pictures to the meeting and I'll scan and return them. If you don't come to the meetings then mail the pictures to me and I'll scan and return them. The point is if you have some cool wheelin' pictures, let's share them with the club.

Make sure you take the time to send a letter concerning the OHV fund raiding, talked about in the "Land Use Issues" section.

Classifieds

If anyone has anything for sale or wants something just type it up and email it to me at <mailto:charles.h.babcock@intel.com> and I'll put it in the newsletter.

New 60" Hi-Lift jack never used. \$45. Call the Babcock's at (480) 812-9101.

1 285-75-R16 AT, 40% tread left, on 16"x8" chrome steel wheel, 8 lug, \$40. Call the Babcock's at (480) 812-9101.

2 30-spline axles from a FF Dana 60 rear, \$30 each or \$50 for both. Call the Babcock's at (480) 812-9101.

4 15"x8" steel GM 4x4 Rally wheels, 6-lug, with center caps and trim rings, \$100. Call the Babcock's at (480) 812-9101.

MAKE SURE YOU PAY THE CLUB DUES.

You can pay at the next meeting or send your \$40 to Ed at:

Ed Lyons

936 E Wesleyan Dr

Tempe, AZ 85282

Make sure you tell him what it's for.

Enthusiastically Created by

Charlie Babcock