

August 2003



# Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

## Cover Picture

This month's cover is again Ed Rosas and his Jeep. Normally I like to change up who's on the cover but this picture deserves to be on the cover. Ed performed this feat at Loren's parent's house near Bisbee.

## July Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m. Followed by the pledge. Members present were: Unavailable. Sign in sheet didn't make it home. Guests were asked to stand. Gary Bennett introduced himself as the guy who bought Linda Luik's Cherokee from a third party.

Treasury Report – was unavailable.

Old Business - Ted relived the Bisbee adventure. Steve Graham, Linda Luik, and Ed Rosas showed up. They played in the dirt pit. Ted was putting Lock-right's and spring over on his Jeep. Ed got airtime and Steve broke a U Joint. They went shooting; Ted got the job done Wednesday night. Micah humorously described Matt's "Upper Woodpecker" and "Highway to Hell" trip. Don Munzer went on a trail in Colorado in a friend's 4x4 Ranger. Ted needs to make phone calls to get website up.

New Business - Ron volunteered to lead Crown King, meet at Coco's at Bell and I-17 at 8 am. Dave Pike and Jack McCullen are fighting cancer so everyone please keep them in your prayers. Micah described his bad experience with Offroad Unlimited. Micah knows a guy who will sell Optima red tops for \$89.00 and blue tops for \$112.00

## Calendar of Events

August 9 – Coves of Saguaro Lake run, call the Babcock's @ 480-812-9101

August 15-17 – Mingus Mountain campout call Scott @ 602-482-8973

August 23-24 – Crown King campout call Ron @ 480-726-8509

August 27 – Club Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm, northwest corner of Rural and Ray

September??? – Club Run

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

## Trip Report

Upper Woodpecker & Highway To Hell 7/19-20/2003

1966 FJ40 – Matt Parkes, Tim Kennedy (guest) and Dave Jeremy (guest)

1973 K5 – Charlie Babcock and Ron Couch

1980 CJ5 – Aaron McCarthy and Guest

1998 TJ – Micah Coleman, Jonette and son Christian

2000 TJ – Ray ? (Guest), guest 2, and guest 3

Ron and I arrived at the Texaco near Florence Junction sometime before 7pm the appointed meeting time. Soon after the rest of the people arrived and we stood around and bench wheeled for a while to make sure no one else showed up. I took off first with the rest following me until I turned east on US60 everyone else followed Matt down the Florence Highway. Oh well I decided to just meet at the intersection of Mineral Mountain Road near the trailhead. I stopped to air down, then made quick work of the gnarly dirt road to the Charlie meeting spot. Ron and I got out saw the last of the light fading away and waited for the others. The temperature was bearable out in the desert without the sun pounding on us. Soon we heard engines and the group passed us and we pulled in behind them.

I'd never run Upper Woodpecker and was excited to try the opening obstacle. Matt drove through followed by the 3 Jeeps and then the K5. I didn't have any problem and continued on. We made our way to the Firehole and Matt again drove over it without any effort. The Jeeps all made it across without mishap with great spotting by the crowd. Ron spotted the Blazer through and to the left so I could drop off the 3' ledge. I took it at an angle with everyone yelling warnings that I was going to flip over. Sometimes the full width axles and low center of gravity are a good thing, I drove right over. I didn't see if Matt drove over the next optional obstacle but Micah and his friend's Jeep made short work of it. It was a giant boulder up against a rock wall. As you drove over the boulder it leaned the vehicle into the wall. It's not a problem with shorter vehicles but with my truck I got good and stuck. The front tires of the K5 made it over and the rocker panels started to hang up on the boulder. As I lurched forward and reverse the passenger side rear bed rail became lodged under a rock overhang. Both front tires were locked up in the rocks and as I tried to turn out of the stuck the selector shaft seal on the steering gear box gave out started leaking. A few more pieces of my passenger side taillight fell off, the outer shell of the gas cap broke off and I received a few more dents on the rear fender. Once I couldn't move forward or reverse anymore I asked for help. Aaron tried to tug the Blazer forward with out an iota of movement. The CJ5 drove around behind me and pulled at an angle to get the truck out from under the ledge. I backed off the boulder and we continued on our way.

We hit the rest of what Upper Woodpecker had to throw at us without any incidence. We all drove up to at least see what Highway To Hell had to offer us. Aaron pulled aside to let me by saying he wasn't going to try it without a front locker. Matt drove right through the first wedge waterfall obstacle. Both the TJ's made it through with some good group spotting. I measured the opening in the wedge with my arms and then walked back to my K5. It was too close to call, so I asked Ron if he wanted to go home. He said he didn't care either way so I went for it. We discussed a strategy of possibly keeping the passenger side tires up on the ledge so the K5 would go through at an angle to fit through the wedge. I decided to drive in flat and straight and see if the truck would fit, if not then I'd call it quits. I drove into the wedge and the front end started to lift. For some reason I didn't notice that the passenger side was riding the ridge like Ron and I talked about. Maybe because it was 12:30am and dark that I didn't notice, I don't know. Ron thought I had changed my mind so he was spotting me to stay up on the ridge. By the time I heard his cry's to stay right I turned the wheel and I slid off the ledge into the wedge. It was only a couple inches narrower then my truck, doh! The rocks smashed every piece of sheet metal on the passenger side and locked the front wheels in place.

As I tried to back up the wheels wouldn't rotate. I was stuck good. With some cranking of the wheel and some skinny petal action the Blazer lurched backwards. The driver's side front tire came off the bead and as I backed up that wheel came crashing down about a foot. I looked at it and decided I couldn't damage it much more so I maneuvered the K5 backwards to a better tire changing spot. Tim helped me change the tire and I was good to turn around.

While this was going on I could see the FJ40 highlighted by its rock lights making it over giant boulders until all of a sudden it lurched over and smashed into a wall. I could hear the impact like a gunshot. Later I learned that Matt had torn off the gas cap, dented some panels and bent up the massive rocker guard.

Everyone decided they'd had enough and turned around and followed me out to civilization. My passenger side front tire was pretty bent up too but still held air. I drove home at 45mph and had no mishaps. We pulled into my driveway just before 3am.

Thanks Matt for leading a great trip, next time I'd like to attempt to run Highway To Hell by itself during the day.



The picture below is my selector shaft from the steering gearbox. It looks like we made it home by the skin of our teeth. It's cracked in several places and the splines are twisted. I guess I'll change the steering gearbox with the other regular maintenance like oil changes and tail light lens replacement.



Created by Charlie Babcock

#### Wildcat run to the Coves of Saguaro Lake 7/27/03

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

Becky called a bunch of people from the club late Saturday afternoon and invited them on a run to Saguaro Sunday morning. Everyone was tied up so we went anyway. We drove to the first cove and it was loaded, several trailered rock buggies were there, strange. So we drove through the water that's still across the normal path to the big hill in cove 1 and then we went up it with water pouring off the truck. We could see down into cove 2 from the ridge and there were only a couple people so we made our way there. The kids played in the lake for a few hours during which time a bunch of Virtual Jeepers cruised in. They jumped in the lake and then took off. Some friends of ours met us by boat near noon and then we headed for home. Next time we'll try to give more notice, but then it wouldn't be a wildcat run.





Created 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 <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.

The Babcock's are going to Moab October 3-7, 2003. Anyone is welcome to join us but we're going there for a K5 get together. Other vehicles are invited but expect to see a bunch of GM's. If this offends you, you probably shouldn't go.

### August Club Runs

8/9/2003 Let's all go to the Lake! The Babcock's are going to the Coves of Saguaro Lake Saturday morning August 9<sup>th</sup>. Meet inside the green gate at the back of the Butcher Jones Beach parking lot at 7am. Our plan is to wheel to each Cove starting at Cove 1 until we reach a cove that's not too crowded. Then we'll set up chairs and shade and spend a few hours cooling off in the lake. Any 4wd vehicle can make it to the Coves. Bring chairs, drinks and snacks. Call us with any questions @480-812-9101.

8/15-17/2003 Scott's leading a trip up to Mingus Mountain to camp out for a couple days. We're going to meet Friday August 15<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at the Coco's at I17 and Bell Rd. He's

planning on finding a camping area Friday night and staying there until Sunday the 17th. We'll do some wheeling Saturday so come join the fun. The road there can be driven by anything and the trails are in the 2.0-3.0 range. Call Scott @ 602-482-8973 for more information.

8/23-24/2003 Ron's leading a run on the back way into Crown King from Lake Pleasant Saturday August 23rd and camping out to Sunday August 24<sup>th</sup>. The trail takes less than a day so you can make it a day run or hang out with Ron and Moose for the night. Meet at 8am at the Coco's at I17 and Bell Rd. The trail is about a 2.5 with up to about 3.5 optional obstacles. Call Ron @ 480-726-8509 with any questions.

### Member Of The Month



Name: Steve Graham  
Age: More then 18 but less then 100  
Where you are from: AZ  
City you live in: Mesa  
What you do for a living: Engineer  
#1 4x4 make: Dodge  
Model: W250  
Year: 92  
Engine: 5.9 L I6 Diesel (Cummins)  
Transmission: 5 speed  
Transercase model and gearing: NP205  
Axle gearing: 4:10  
Front axle model: D60  
Front differential: D60 Powerlock  
Rear axle model: D70

Rear differential: D70 Powerlock  
Wheel brand and size: Eagle Alloy 16"x8"  
Tire brand and size: 315-85-R16 BFG Mud  
Suspension and body lift heights: 2 in spring 1"body tilt  
Other mods: Flatbed

#2 4x4 make: IH  
Model: Scout II  
Year: 1980  
Engine: Cummins 4BT Diesel I4  
Transmission: NV4500 5 Speed  
Transercase model and gearing: Atlas II 4:33  
Axle gearing: 3.37:1  
Front axle model: D44  
Front differential: Powerlock  
Rear axle model: D44  
Rear differential: Powerlock  
Wheel brand and size: black steel  
Tire brand and size: 33X10.5 BFG Mud  
Suspension and body lift heights: 4" spring  
Other mods: Lots of rust

### **Land Use Issues**

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 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**

Imagination is more important than knowledge...

**Albert Einstein**

Enthusiastically Created by Charlie Babcock