

June 2007



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

Steve, John and Dennis in the picture found a great place to stop for lunch in the shade.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Andy, Ed Lyons, John Griffin, Steve Smith, Scott Nixon, Steve and Linda Graham, Nick Sesma, Lars

Called to order at 7:01pm by president Steve.

We all stood for the pledge.

No guests were in attendance.

We had been expecting a gentleman by the name of David who bought a white Jeep with one of our stickers on it; he is interested in the club.

Treasurer's report: we have 17 paid members and \$4102.28 in the bank.

Steve Smith gave an Edwards Peak trip report. Bathroom at Four Peaks turnoff was heavily vandalized to the point of being unusable. Trail itself was a 3.5; right at the limit of what the stock vehicles on the run could handle. At one stop Steve Graham explored a vertical mine shaft; it was 65 degrees inside. He followed the narrow gauge train tracks using his cell phone flash as a camera. Near the top of Four Peaks was a severely burned area blanketed with wild flowers.

Steve Smith reported on the ASA convention. The run was the Hassayampa River Canyon. Trail was harder than some of the stock vehicles were comfortable with, but everyone made it including a brand new stock Jeep JK (Jeep code for long and wide!). Along the trail was the "Mistake" mine; at one time a source of manganese. Numerous quads with loud exhaust systems were also on the trail.

Convention itself was business as usual. A historian spoke about the founding of the town of Wickenburg. The OHV Ambassador program was introduced; see elsewhere in newsletter for details. Tonto rangers spoke about the court injunction brought about by an environmental group that has forced them to use the older OHV rules from 1982 until the judge renders his decision.

We need a new delegate as Ted and Marty are both MIA. Steve Smith was voted in as delegate with Ed Lyons as an alternate.

TC Luigi's was voted in as new meeting spot. Scott will update the web page accordingly. A discussion ensued about how many restaurants have gone out of business from underneath us; including two that did it twice each!

Phoenix was voted number one city to live in for four wheeling according to a national magazine (Four Wheeler or Peterson's???)

For June Andy is leading Sycamore creek at night. Meet at the Bush/Beeline intersection at 6pm, Saturday June 16th. Contact him at 623-694-0727 to let him know you are coming. Channel 7 was chosen as the club's official channel for the start of runs; once everyone arrives a different channel may be chosen. All members are strongly encouraged to have a working CB. Working is defined as able to receive **AND** transmit. Cheap handheld units work just fine.

Scott mentioned that HAM radio licenses have changed, you no longer need to learn Morse code. Nick corrected him; it hasn't been called Morse code for decades.

Meeting was adjourned around 7:45pm (sorry, secretary neglected to check his watch).

Respectively submitted by Scott Nixon

Calendar of Events

June 16 – Club run Sycamore Creek at night call Andy @ 623-694-0727

June 27 – Meeting at 7pm location TC Luigi's

July ? – Edwards Park run contact Steve Smith @ 480-838-5394

July 25 – Meeting at 7pm location TC Luigi's

Trip Report

Edwards Park Run 5/19/2007

We all met at Bush Hwy. & Beeline and left at 08:30. We had four rigs with Steve Smith, Steve Graham, John Griffin, and a guest Dennis Etzenhouse with his Son, plus Melissa his fiancée.



I think this should have been called then AC equipped 4X4 run, I'm jealous.

Dennis found out about our Club by having a Lo-Rangers decal on his Jeep when he bought it.

We made the short trip to the Four Peaks turnoff and stopped in the parking lot to air down and use the facilities. Forget using the facilities (vault toilets) as someone has wrecked them beyond use. The side ventilation slats had all been busted out, leaving you exposed to the world and they tried to destroy the seats. There were several empty shotgun shells in the one I walked into.

When we were stopped in the parking lot a man with a pickup that wouldn't start asked if we could give him a jump. John pulled his Blazer over to the pickup but they had other troubles besides a dead battery. One of the guys from the pickup crawled under the truck and did something to get it started, so now we could leave.

The ride to the Edwards Park trail took about an hour. The road is graded and easy to drive, saw a few regular cars on it, but it's bumpy in spots.

Just before you get to the communications towers there is a turnoff to the North (FR422) this is the Edwards Park trail. This is a graded road too. There are several hiking trails off this road. You can stay on this road and go all the way to the end, or do like we did and take the rougher trail that starts about two miles up FR422. It's like a dogleg to the East and is FR463. The trail isn't graded and gets a lot tighter. There are some small rock shelves and loose rock climbs with an uphill section with many washed out parts before you rejoin FR422. Along FR465 are a few mines and many pine trees. We stopped at the El Oso mine. Steve Graham and Dennis took a flashlight and went back in the tunnel a ways. They said it went back some then branched out. The tracks for the ore carts are still there.



“SilveradoMine”



Steve G making his way down the trail, I can almost hear his Scout just looking at the picture.



Dennis's Jeep crawling up the road, I believe this used to be Roy Conner's Jeep.

After rejoining the main trail we went a few more miles before stopping at a camp site beside the road. This part of the country has been burned within the last couple of years and the charred pine trees look kind of eerie. But even with all the blacken trees they were carpets of wild flowers as far as you could see. Very pretty. We had lunch at the camp site which had been spared from the fire. The only bad thing was BUGS. I guess all the flowers attracted many flying insects, had to check your sandwich before you bit into it. Melissa collected at least one of each flower she could find and made a nice arrangement in a vase whose first life was a large drink cup from McDonald's. We didn't go all the way to the end of the trail as it was getting late. We headed back to the parking lot near Beeline. Was a very nice day.

Submitted by Steve Smith

I took more pictures of landscape and flowers than anything else. I also really enjoyed the visit to the "Silverado Mine"... Steve said he would take me to the Blazer ZR2 Mine real soon!

It was really a very nice trip!

John Griffin

Items of Interest

New meeting spot!!!

Remember the club meeting is the last Wednesday of every month, 7:00pm at TC Luigi's, 1805 E Elliot Rd, southeast corner of Elliot and McClintock in Tempe.

Land Use Issues

Editors Stuff

Scott Nixon's done an excellent job of putting pictures up from our previous runs. Check out the webpage at: <http://www.azlorangers.org/images/index.htm>

Things you need but didn't know it

Warn 9.5ti winch complete except for mount. Used three times

New \$1,050; will take \$800

Back Rat hand winch; 3,500 pounds pull with snatch block.

Never used.

\$400 new; will take \$200

ARB Portable Air Compressor (RDCP) just rebuilt.

\$200 new; will take \$100

Master Flow Q89 chrome dual piston compressor puts out 150 psi and 72 Liter per Minute.

Two months old.

\$170 new; will take \$120

One Goodyear MTR 245x75r16; less than 1,000 miles.

\$200 new; will take \$80

E-mail stephenssmith@msn.com or call afternoons or evenings 480-838-5394

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

Quote

Whatever you can do or dream, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.

-Goethe

Created by Charlie Babcock