

March 2005



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

I don't know what Mike did that was so amazing that it held our attention for so long but it must have been good. Mike's Bronco on Upper Terminator February 7th.

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2005

Ron Couch called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance: Matt Parkes, Aaron McCarthy, Jerome Gill, Scott Nixon, Nick Sesma, Steve Graham, Jim Sanford, Ted, Loran and Jake Gersztyn, Ed Lyons, Ron Couch and Charlie Babcock.

Guests in attendance: No guests in attendance.

Trip Reports:

Charlie Babcock gave trip report for Upper Terminator/Predator.

Jim Sanford gave a trip report for his trip through Box Canyon on February 13th.

Scott Nixon reported that the Ajax trail is mostly creeks at this time.

Ron Couch and friends went to Sycamore area only to find that it was closed so proceeded to Four Peaks area and played around decided to drive to Roosevelt Lake along the Apache Trail and found that road closed at Tortilla Flats, had to turn around and come back the other way.

Future Trips:

March 19th – Matt Parkes is going to attempt the backyard potluck again. Contact him for further information.

Sierra del Sol is happening next(?) weekend. Nick Sesma is attending, contact him for more information.

April 2-3 – Camping/Birthday trip for Charlie Babcock to Trail 42. This trip is always 'fun!'

April 16th – Mud Springs adopt-a-trail club run. Look for more details later.

May 21st-22nd – Chiva Falls – Scott Nixon, trail leader.

Treasurers Report: Ed reported that we have \$4,049.70 in account.

Charlie Babcock noted that there is a cleanup scheduled for March 5 for Highway-to-Hell. Contact him for more info.

The Arizona Trail people are looking for 4 wheel drive assistance to get their people and equipment to the trail to do building of the trail. Contact him for more information.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52.

Calendar of Events

March 19 – Matt’s backyard rock garden contact him @ 480-888-9581

March 30 – Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray

April 2/3 – Charlie’s Birthday run/camp out on Trail 42 call me @ 480-812-9101

April 16 – Mud Springs adopt a trail run

April 30 – Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray

May 21/22 – Scott’s birthday run/camp out on Chiva Falls

Trip Report

Upper Terminator/Predator 2/6/05

1979 Bronco – Mike Tutor and Maggie (dog)

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

1976 Cherokee – Ron, Brenda, and Cameron Couch

1989 K3500 – Scott and Steven Nixon

1995 YJ – Roy and Terri Conner

200? Ranger – Steve Smith

We left our house a little after 7am and shivered all the way to the Outlet Mall exit off I17 near New River where I filled up for gas. It was a little chilly, 43° without the doors or hard top. We then drove down the highway to the meeting spot off of Table Mesa Road. We were the first ones there at 8:45am. Everyone else showed up soon after with Scott bringing up the rear in arrivals. Mike led the way down to the river crossing and then over to a better (lower water level) spot to cross. The water was about hub deep here but Mike had said a couple weeks ago he had barreled into the normal crossing and had water flowing across his hood.

We wound our way past the entrance and then the exit of Lower Terminator and finally came to what looked like the beginning of Upper Terminator. None of us had run this trail so anyone’s guess was good. Scott and Steve parked their trucks here and walked and rode with the rest of us. I lost my remaining tail light on the first rock that came along. The first major obstacle we came to turned Mike away, so Roy and I had to try of course. Eight foot high rock face on left, water filled sand pit next to that and an angled slope of rock on the right. As I climbed the slope on the right with my passenger tire trying to avoid the rock wall on the left, the driver’s side tire sank into the sand pit pitching my K5 into the rock wall. After several different angles I gave up and followed Mike up and over the well used by pass. Ron seeing three capable vehicles ahead of him fail decided to skip the in between step and take the bypass. We made the rest of the obstacles. Roy went through most of them without touching either side of his Jeep. We stopped before noon at a wide sandy spot and had lunch. It was beautiful in the canyon, calm, sunny just warm enough for shirt sleeves, life was good.

We continued on down the trail trying the hardest lines we could find. The full size trucks had a challenge at every obstacle but that’s why we were there. We came out on a road and decided that it must be the end of the trail. It wasn’t very late so I suggested we head over the Predator and try out a few lines. We all got a few dents off the first little obstacle and then I tried a line I had tried on a previous trip.



Who stole my taillights! The first obstacle we had to bypass on Upper Terminator.



Ron showing off the body armor.

The front end just wouldn't quite make it over the top so I backed up and gave the throttle a blip, hehe. The K5 hopped (literally) right over the top. A few days later Scott emailed me and said, "Dude, that small block sounded swaaaaaeeeet wound up on Predator. Wish I had my vid camera. Almost makes me wanna build a gas motor. Almost! :)"

There were two non bypass obstacles that almost got us. The first was a Z-turn and the next was a deep v-crack. The z-turn caught the 3 big trucks on the passenger side front and rocker area and the driver's side rear at the same time. A bunch of maneuvering got the rigs through. Roy made it seem easy as far as missing sheet metal but got hung up several times through out the day on undercarriage. The v-crack was too deep and narrow to drive in and too wide to straddle. Mike had run the trail before and led us down one side and then dropped into the end of the crack. This was pretty hairy but worked out well.

The end of the trail had a rock in the center and an easy route to the left or tight spot on the right. Mike, Roy and I tried the right but we all took the left. Roy got his only body damage of the run, 20' from the end.



We decided to walk up to the first falls on the Annihilator trail; it's one of those insane obstacles. A group caught up to us and checked out the falls. We waited to see if they were going to put on a show but they decided another day would be better. We drove back to the 2 left behind trucks, Steve and Scott jumped out, and we made our way to the Table Mesa parking area. While airing up I noticed oil leaking from the YJ. Roy hadn't made it through

the trails as cleanly as I thought. He tried to patch the hole in his oil pan with some radiator putty borrowed from Ron. He said he'd be alright so I started the family on our long journey home. Mike and Ron followed Roy home.

Submitted by Charlie Babcock

Lower and Upper Ajax Wildcat run 2/20/05

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

1989 K3500 – Scott, Lynn, Sydney and Steven Nixon

I called 10 people I thought might want to go check out the water flowage in the Florence Junction area and the above showed up. If I didn't call you and you would have come, sorry I got tired of calling. It was a little chilly in the convertible but not to bad. After passing 25+ military vehicles heading west on US60 we arrived at Mineral Mountain Road at about 9:30am. Right off the road the parking area was a muddy mess. Scott and the family pulled in right behind us. I aired down and headed for the trails. The road in was full of puddles and the road in between had a thin layer of mud on it. Scott hit the puddles at full speed. In 2wd if I hit the throttle the K5 would go into a drift pointing off the road. The kids were laughing until the mud started landing on them. On the way in most of the wash crossings were dry. When we dropped into the creek connecting Upper Woodpecker with Lower Ajax and the water was a few inches deep. Water poured out of Upper Woodpecker. Sorry we forgot our camera but it looked kind of like this.



Picture courtesy of Fred Wilson from Arizona Jeep Club on the date shown.

After the kids played for 30-40 minutes in the frigid water we dragged them out to move on. We met up with a Toyota that had just finished Upper Woodpecker. The truck was un-dented except for a crushed in driver's side fender and door. He said he slipped while

crossing the Firehole. I did that and there wasn't any water there then. We drove along the road that parallels Lower Ajax until we saw some nice waterfalls below in the trail. We then back tracked to the next dropping in point and drove up the trail to the falls. We had found our lunch spot. The falls were quite a roar for the small amount of water coming over them. We ate lunch watching the numerous vehicles rolling by on the road above us and the kids swam in the crystal clear ice water.



Firehole, picture courtesy of Fred Wilson from Arizona Jeep Club on the date shown.

Scott and Lynn wanted to get back so we made our way back to the road and they headed for civilization. The family and I were still in the adventuring mood so we drove on towards Upper Ajax. We ended up at the end of the trail and drove back down it for a ways then came back to the mining operation there. We looked at the mostly destroyed mining operation then headed out towards the south. The road eventually met back up with the main road and we worked our way over to Cottonwood Ranch road to change the scenery. The main road past the old Jamboree sight was smooth and dry. After a stop to unlock the hubs I could see the giant lug pattern of really big Michelins. I was guessing the Military vehicles took this route back. I never saw any of the wash outs I was warned about and we made good time out to the highway.

Submitted by Charlie Babcock

WEROCK in Globe 2/13/2005

Kirk and his wife made it to the ~~mud~~ rock crawling event in Globe. I chickened out cause of the rain. Here's a couple of the pictures he took.



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

It's 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.

Just thought this was something to pass along.

I knew about the red light on cars, but not the *677. It was about 1 PM in the afternoon, and Lauren was driving to visit a friend. An UNMARKED police car pulled up behind her and put his lights on. Lauren's parents have 4 children (high school and college age) and have always told them never to pull over for an unmarked car on the side of the road, but rather wait until they get a gas station, etc. Lauren had actually listened to her parents advice, and promptly called *677 on her cell phone to tell the police dispatcher that she would not pull over right away. She proceeded to tell the dispatcher that there was an unmarked police car with a flashing red light on his rooftop behind her. The dispatcher checked to see if there were police cars where she was and there weren't, and he told her to keep driving, remain calm and that he had back up already on the way. Ten minutes later 4 cop cars surrounded her and the unmarked car behind her. One policeman went to her side and the others surrounded the car behind. They pulled the guy from the car and tackled him to the ground. The man was a convicted rapist and wanted for other crimes.

I never knew about the *677 Cell Phone Feature, but especially for a woman alone in a car, you should not pull over for an unmarked car. Apparently police have to respect your right to keep going to a "safe" place. You obviously need to make some signals that you acknowledge them (i.e. put on your hazard lights) or call *677 like Lauren did. Too bad the cell phone companies don't generally give you this little bit of wonderful information.

*Speaking to a service representative at **Bell** Mobility confirmed that *677 was a direct link to OPP Dispatch. So, now it's your turn to let your friends know about *677.

Sean Murphy

March club runs

Jim Sanford is heading to the Tierra Del Sol March 5th&6th, 2005. Its \$45 for the weekend if you pre register. I've seen this in the magazines every year and it looks like a blast. If you're interested call Jim @ 480-225-5770 or go to <http://www.tds4x4.com/>.

Saturday March 19th Matt Parkes is having a backyard potluck and BYORC (bring your own rock crawler) to try out his offroad park. You don't have to bring a wheeler just show up, eat, and watch the fun. He said to show up anytime after 10am. Contact Matt for more information @ 480-888-9581.

Trail 42 birthday run/camp out April 2&3 Saturday and or Sunday. I'm leading a run for my birthday on Saturday to one of the stops along the Verde River. We'll set up camp there and go play around on some of the other hills. I'll provide hotdogs, hamburgers, and cake for dinner (evening meal). Bring drinks and any side dishes you want to share. If you want to make it a day trip you can leave any time or stay and camp with us. We'll meet at the intersection of Bartlett Dam Road and Cave Creek Road at 10am Saturday. Sunday we'll leisurely break camp and head out, stopping at any spot that looks like fun. Call Charlie if you want to go @480-812-9101.

Land Use Issues

Editors Stuff

If you need any Lo-Rangers shirts, hats, etc. call Loran @ 480-678-7272 she'll be putting in an order soon.

Anyone know where I can get a couple 38/13-16 TSL tires cheap?

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.

Things you need but didn't know it

For Sale: Chevy TH350 transmission \$50 obo call Scott for more information @602-482-8973

For Sale: 3 camper jacks 1000 # capacity that I had for my Alaskan camper, they'll lift high enough for a 4x4 truck. Also have a 36" cab high sleeper that fits a full size Ford '75 - '97, or Dodge up to '84, or Chevy / GMC up to '87. It's solid, has a roof vent, 4" foam mattress, and a lift gate. Made of 1"x1" framing, 3/8th Plywood, and covered with .030 silver aluminum, & lockable. Best offer on them. Want to get them outta here! Call Ed Lyons @ 480-921-1171.

Quote

After an access cover has been secured by 16 hold-down screws, it will be discovered that the gasket has been omitted.

De la Lastra's Corollary

Created by Charlie Babcock