

November 2006



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

I didn't have any pictures from new trips so I grabbed one from 2001. It's Don LeClair's Toyota on Lions Back in Moab Utah. Yes the path is as crazy as it looks, very narrow, steep and high. You can barely make out some of the other LoRangers standing on the ground, they look like ants.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes- October 25, 2006

Members present: Marty Boetel and three kids, Sean and Lynette Murphy, Don Munzer, Steve and Linda Graham, Scott Nixon, Steve Smith, Nick Sesma, Matt Parkes, Charlie Babcock, Ed and Nancy Lyons, Will Martin.

Marty had to leave due to family problems. Sean and Lynette ran Sycamore Creek and Rocker Panel pass with older kids. \$3877.50 in the kitty. Scott described the Log Corral run. Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Steve described why no one ran Mud Springs. Matt described a run he did with Eric and Dave, friends of his to test out a FJ that he built up for Dave. They ran toward Upper Woodpecker and Upper Ajax. Steve and Linda went to Tucson Trail Dust Days. 70 people were there. They did Walnut Canyon trail. Martinez Canyon run through Box canyon. November/December Meeting 29th of November. Christmas party will be on December 2nd. Exact location to be decided – Matt's Rocks or Coves at Saguaro Lake. Steve described the Florence Junction road closure fiasco. Christmas tree Run? Trip for November 24th – 26th at "China Camp" Chiricahua Mountain trip. Christmas tree run 9th of December if Scott is the chosen one. 7:56 p.m. meeting was adjourned.

Calendar of Events

November 24-26 – China camp @ Chiricahua Club run call Scott @ 602-361-1517

November 29 – Meeting at 7pm location La Belle Pizza

December 2 – Club Christmas party run at Matt's backyard

No club meeting in December

January 31 – Meeting at 7pm location La Belle Pizza

Trip Report

Mud Springs club run was canceled, people were busy with life.

Items of Interest

Remember the club meeting is the last Wednesday of every month, 7:00pm at La Belle Pizza & Pasta, North West corner of Rural and Ray in Tempe.

November run

Scott's leading a camp out run to the Chiricahua Mountains in south eastern Arizona. Camping at China camp. It'll be easy wheeling and a lot of relaxing enjoying the outdoors. Call Scott at 602-361-1517 to let him know your going.

What causes the washboard effect on dirt roads?

Why aren't there just ruts in the road instead of a continuous ridge across the road?

Keith Mather, a researcher at the Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, figured this out a few years ago.

This is how the Institute's Science Forum explained it:

"Bumps in the road surface cause the tire to hop in the air. When the tire crashes down, it forms valleys by spraying sand and gravel forward and sideways. The moving tire ramps out of the valley and hops again. Thus, the wash boarding process repeats itself. The washboard design spreads across the road when other cars repeat the action of the car that initiated it.

"Mather pointed out that bumps cause vehicles to react in the same way even though vehicles come in different weights and sizes and with various suspension systems."

Submitted by Linda Graham



A built in air compressor on the winch, Warn makes it in 9500 lb and 12,000 lb pull winches.

Land Use Issues

URGENT NOTICE: Florence Junction Trails

Florence Junction Up date.....

The task team from the MGCP, (Middle Gila Conservation Area) developed, with the help and guidance of Advanced Resource Solutions and their Evaluation Tree process, three alternatives for the 986 miles of trails that were inventoried in the pilot area (north of Calvin-Florence Hwy to Hwy 60. Hwy 79 on the west, Hwy 177/77 on the east) of the Florence Junction area.

The three alternatives (recommended a primarily OPEN concept; the environmentalists of course CLOSED 95%+; and the "tweeners" group recommended an in-between alternative. BLM was then going to develop a Preferred Alternative. This would give 5 alternatives to the public at the time of "scoping". THAT is not going to happen for 3-5 years from now.

BLM has now come back to the MGCP asking to form a special Task Team to "develop a Preferred Alternative". This is NOT GOOD FOR OHV.

As it stands right now is G&F (of whom want EVERY WASH; EVERY TRAIL other than the major roads CLOSED because "we're fragmenting habitat") and the environmentalists want EVERYTHING CLOSED in this area. Too many roads/trails; NO CONSERVATION; no habitat protection; too much noise etc etc etc.

BLM is taking "names" of all groups (don't know the specifics yet) but each "group" is suppose to have representatives to review all the trails that G&F and Sir Francis have not identified to be "approved as open by all three alternatives". That leaves less than 100 miles out of 986. I'm told BLM will "appoint" the members.

IF OHV are involved we can hold BLM's feet to the fire in that they are mandated to produce "DATA" that signifies reason for closure..... G&F & Enviro's will simply use personal opinion or THEIR TRUMPED UP DATA OR STATISTICS as reason for closure. They (enviro's & G&F) have almost gotten Martinez closed to us under an emergency closure. We heard of this proposed closure by accident and hopefully got it stopped for the time but they can do an Emergency Closure without any notice to the public..... REMEMBER Jawbreaker???? Wilderness Society have already written to D.C. DEMANDING an Emergency Closure. I know of only ONE Emergency Closure (supposedly a max time of 3 years for rehab) that has ever been "re-opened". HOW MANY DO WE HAVE TO LOSE BEFORE IT GETS OUR ATTENTION?

Between now and the first of the new year BLM will be working at putting a Task Team together. Jan March this task team will meet 2 or 3 WEEKENDS to review the 800 + miles of trails and hopefully reach some kind of compromise or agreement. The reason this is being done is G&F have wanted a MAP of trails for 6 years or more so they can cite any of us OFF any road/trail that is not identified on the map in his hand.

There are several issues yet to be clarified..... If the trails we cannot agree on (Those listed above will be a certainty) and they go back to BLM for designation are they eliminated from this urgent map until BLM does their designations (remember..... 5 years from now) or do they remain "open" until the designations are done?

The existing RMP states: "OHV is allowed on all existing roads/trails except at Remert. OHV use is not excluded in or around the riparian area in/near Martinez or the River.

What this means to OHV if we're not at the table: GUARANTEED CLOSURE of Lower Woodpecker; Martinez Canyon (ALL of it, not just the extreme portion); Woody's Wash; OverDose; most likely Upper Woodpecker; H2H; Axle Alley and Broken Ankle. Many more will be on the hot seat!! This is not a threat. It will happen.

Please send your name, contact info, and a short bio reflecting how long you've been involved in OHV recreation. What do your drive/ride; family involved; how well do you know the FJ area.

Sandee McCullen
sandee@mccullens.com

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>

For the record, Map Quest says that Matt's house is 21 miles and 37 minutes from my house.

Things you need but didn't know it

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

For Sale 800w generator call Steve Graham @ 480-834-1171

Quote

It's a dangerous business going out your front door.

J. R. R. Tolkien

Created by Charlie Babcock