

October 2007



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

SteveS guiding SteveG over the rocks on Martin Trail on Mingus Mountain. You can tell by the surroundings that Mingus is a beautiful lush forested area

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Member present were: Sean and Lynette Murphy, Charlie and Becky Babcock, Steve Graham, Nick Sesma, John Griffin, and Matt Parkes, the guest present was Anthony.

Old Business- Ed reported that the club bank account was at \$4102.28. Steve Graham gave a report on Mingus Mountain. If you are interested in going next year, put your vote in as to what weekend you want to be in the tall pines. Smiley Rock was the trail that was run.

New Business- October 13 – 15, 2007 we will be running the Log Corral trail and camping by the lake for a few days. John Griffin discussed the “Squeeze” in Sycamore Canyon.

Future Runs-

Matt is having a Backyard Run on October 20, 2007. This will be a bachelor type potluck and BBQ.

November/December Meeting will be combined due to Thanksgiving and Christmas. The date will be selected next month when the President is there.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

ED: If the newsletter editor runs the meeting it's going to be short.

Calendar of Events

October 13-15 – Log Corral run and or campout call Charlie @ 480-231-4565

October 20 – Matt's backyard boulder party call Matt @ 480-888-9581

October 24 – Meeting at 7pm location TC Luigi's

November ? – club run

November 28 – Meeting at 7pm location TC Luigi's

Trip Report

6th Annual Mingus Mountain Campout

September 7-9, 2007

Attendees;

Linda and Steve Graham; Scout II & Venturcraft Pop-Up Tent Trailer

Anthony; Jeep TJ

Nick Sesma and daughter; Toyota truck

Don Munzer, kids, and girlfriend (sorry Don! I forgot her name); 2WD Ford truck (a car with big trunk)

Jerome Gill and kids; GMC Denali

Stephen Smith; Jeep TJ

Steve and I were the first to arrive at the camp site and had just finished setting up camp when Anthony arrived in his new (new to him) Jeep TJ. A little later Steve Smith showed up after securing his deluxe 3-star campsite down in Prescott Valley. Jerome and his family made it up just after dark. Nick and Don came up Saturday morning.

The Playground Group site on Mingus Mountain is a great place for a large camping party. This year was no exception. The site was clean and the outhouse didn't smell. The weather was about the best you could ask for. I didn't want to leave. Nothing really much happened in camp, except we had a couple of really nice campfires with the wood Anthony and Jerome brought with them.

For the first time since the club started the Mingus Mountain campout we actually did a little 4-wheeling. Stephen Smith led us on the Mingus Mountain section of the Great Western Trail (aka Smiley Rock and Martin Canyon). When we did this trail 6 years ago you had to rely on little GWT markers to find your way. This time, the trail was very well established making it easy to find our way. We ran the trail down the mountain. On our way out we ran into a group of about 20 4x4s making their way up the trail. We were in a place where it was easy to get out of the way and let them pass. After that we had the trail to ourselves. Going down the mountain is easier than going up. I would rate the trail going down at 3.0. The trail was dry. It would be more of a challenge if it was wet. Everybody took tons of pictures of the trail and I am sure most of them will be posted on the AZLR4WDC website pretty soon. For the most part the trail was uneventful. Anthony put a small dent in his TJ's front bumper. Jerome banged up his Denali on some of the larger boulders on the trail. When we got to the end of the trail we opted for the 18-mile slow dirt road back to Jerome. There is another way out of there going west, but none of us knew the directions.

On the way back, Jerome shot off like a speeding bullet back to the camp, while the rest of the group took in the scenery at a slower pace. Saturday night we had a roaring fire that kept us all up pretty late. Sunday morning came too soon.

For the trip home we recommended taking General Crook's Trail (260) and then south on 87 through Payson to avoid the usual I-17 traffic jams. We took that route back and only got hung up in Payson at a couple of stop lights. They were having lawn tractor races at the local rodeo ground.

Fuel mileage report: Steve reports he got 18.6 mpg going up to Mingus Mountain with a loaded Scout and towing the trailer. The Scout got 29.2 mpg on the way home which included some time in 3rd gear on the governor (wide open throttle) going up some of mountain grades on the Beeline. Average fuel mileage was 23.9 mpg for the trip.

FYI: I found out we can now reserve the Playground Group Site up to a year in advance. I would suggest that we pick a date for next year pretty soon. It's a very popular spot.

Linda Graham





Items of Interest

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.

October runs

The editor is leading a run on the Log Corral trail from SR87 to the east side of Bartlett Lake. We're meeting at 8:30am on Saturday October 13th. Drive past the Four Peaks turn and then up and over the ridge. At the bottom of the hill you will see a sign for Mesquite Wash (it's the first bridge at the bottom) Mile Marker 212 and turn left just after crossing the bridge over the wash. Cross the south-bound lanes and follow the dirt road on the West side of 87 down into the trees. For those that want to this can be a one day trip, if Steve Smith goes he'll make it a day trip. The Babcock's and Murphy's are camping out at the lake Saturday and Sunday night, driving out on Monday October 15th. Everyone's welcome to join us camping or just come for a day run. It's a challenging trail and a lot of different wheeling, rocks, canyons, sand, brush, and the works. The worst spot is shown below, so let that be your guide in whether your vehicle will make it or not. It's not for stock vehicles and modified rigs might still need a tug to get through. Call Charlie at 480-231-4565 if you're going to go.



Sean Murphy taking an alternate line catching a little air.

Matt is hosting a boulder crawling party in his backyard on October 20th, everyone is welcome and you can get there in any vehicle. If you bring a wheeler you can try out his rock garden. He's got lines through to challenge stock 4wd rigs or the biggest rock buggies.

So come to watch or try it out. It should be beautiful weather to hang out outside. For directions call Matt @ 480-888-9581. If I can get the directions I'll send them out by email.

Land Use Issues

Here's an email I got from the Pirate board in the odd case that you don't frequent that page. Hey, azk5,

As you know, I rarely send emails to all of you. However this is of extreme importance!

U.S. Forest Service Land Use Restrictions Imminent

Did you know that our access to the entire United States Forest from coast to coast is in jeopardy?!?!?!?

We are at DEFCON FIVE with the environmentalists and the U.S. Forest Service!

Now is the time to act!!!

I am very proud of the readers of Pirate4x4.com lately. Our Land Use forums have doubled in traffic over the past couple of months due to the outrageousness of what is going on out there. If you haven't been to our Land Use forums lately, I challenge you to take a look. I guarantee you will get pissed off! When I saw the Draft Plan the Forest Service put out for travel management on the Eldorado National Forest (where I happen to live, and where the world famous Rubicon Trail is) that was the last straw for me. I got pissed off and decided to do something about it.

And it isn't just the Eldorado National Forest. Travel management planning is going on in everyone's backyard whether it's Forest Service or BLM. Anti-access extremists are out in force pressing for closures everywhere. Tellico is threatened by an anti-access lawsuit. Moab access is threatened by overzealous BLM planning. Wilderness bills are rampant in Congress. Road less area management is still being pushed in the courts. Even the little recreation that there is available in our Parks is still under attack. Check out the fight in Yellowstone.

It really is time to put up or shut up. I threw down the challenge last month to donate in the forums, and we were able to raise about \$8,000 for BRC. While that is fantastic, I think we can do a lot better. Remember, without folks like the BLUERIBBON COALITION fighting for our rights to use public land, we might as well take up basket weaving. Join the Blue Ribbon Coalition and donate to the BRC Legal Fund. The beauty of BRC is they combine all the user groups into one big fist. I stuck \$500 of my own money in the fight and you need to do what you can. If it's \$20 or \$5000, anything helps!!

While you are at it, get busy with your local club. Local involvement is where BRC does some of its best work. If you don't belong to a club, get off your butt and join one. You really CAN make a difference!

You can join BRC and donate to BRC Legal Fund online at a secure web location, set up just for Pirate4x4 at <http://join.sharetrails.org>. It only took me just a couple of minutes. If you aren't comfortable with that, then call them at 1-800-BlueRib. If you can't afford to do both, at least join BRC now and donate when you can afford it.

The members of Pirate4x4 can and will make a difference!

Lance Clifford
Pirate4x4.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>

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

Quote

Eccentricity is not, as dull people would have us believe, a form of madness. It is often a kind of innocent pride, and the man of genius and the aristocrat are frequently regarded as eccentrics because genius and aristocrat are entirely unafraid of and uninfluenced by the opinions and vagaries of the crowd.

Edith Sitwell

Created by Charlie Babcock