

July 2004



Trail Tales

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA LO-RANGERS 4WD CLUB

Cover Picture

This month's cover is the newest edition to the Murphy household. It's not very new but I have to work with the pictures I have. If I wanted to put a picture of my own truck on the cover every month I'd be set for several years. This is Lynette's

June Meeting Minutes

Don Munzer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance: Don Munzer and kids, Charlie, Becky, Shelby, Hailey and Reilly Babcock, Scott Nixon, Dan & Jennifer Egge, Ted, Loran & Jacob Gersztyn, Ron Couch, Steve Graham, Linda Luik, Glenn McConnell, Ed Lyons.

Guests in attendance: Stephen Smith, Jasper Palma and father, and Carl Feague

Guests Jasper Palma and father were introduced. He drives a Dodge Pickup. Guest Stephen Smith was introduced. He owns a Ford Ranger.

Ed Lyons gave the treasurer's report: \$4,032.31 balance in the checking account.

Trip Reports:

June 19, 2004 Forest Road 42 – Telegraph Pass. Charlie Babcock never made it to the trail head. His truck broke down. Scott Nixon gave the trip report. 5 vehicles showed and did the trail. Fun was had by all.

July 17, 2004 Club run – Trip Leader Ron Couch – Lower Ajax – Meet at 6:30 pm at Mineral Mountain Road (mile post 216) and Highway 60.

Don is still working on getting the Concealed Carry Weapon class scheduled for August 7/8. The cost will be approximately \$65 for the class. The state permit is in addition to the class fee.

ORBA – Shannon Campbell

Scott Nixon motioned that the Arizona Lo-Rangers pay the first quarter dues of \$250.00 to ORBA for Campbell Enterprises with a maximum of \$500.00. Charlie Babcock seconded. There was discussion among the members. Scott amended his motion to say that the Lo-Rangers would pay quarter 3 2004, skip quarter 4 2004 and then pay quarter 1 2005. With the intention that another 'donor' would be located to pay the other quarters.

Ron Couch seconded the motion. Vote was called. There were 9 votes for and 2 against. Don Munzer will discuss the out come with Sandee.

Charlie Babcock proposed we get new t-shirts. A list was passed for requests. Loran Gersztyn will check on prices and availability. We would like to have a complete list of requests by next meeting. It was decided that we would pay for the t-shirts in advance.

Jack McCullen delivered the Peatsorb to Glenn McConnell. Glenn will divide the Peatsorb into the nylon bottles he has collected and will have them available to the club members at the next club run and the next meeting.

August Club Run – Linda Luik proposed to do Mingus Mountain campground on August 21-22, 2004 as a camping trip and then running the Great Western Trail through Mark Canyon. Guest Carl Feague was introduced and then voted in as a new member. He drives a Bronco II.

Meeting was called to a close around 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Loran Gersztyn

Calendar of Events

July 17 – Ajax trails and Upper Wood Pecker, call Ron Couch @ 480-726-8509

July 28 – Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray

August 21/22– Mingus Mountain wheelin and camp out, call Linda Luik @480-834-1171

August 25 – Meeting at Round Table Pizza, 7pm NW corner of Rural & Ray

Trip Report

Trail 42, Saturday night, 6/19/04

I finished up packing the Blazer just as Jerome arrived, he was to ride shotgun. The family doesn't like the night runs. Dan Egge and his brother John arrived in Dan's K5 ready for wheelin. We left to get gas for Dan and then headed north on the 101. Near Cactus on the 101 road construction forced us to leave the loop. Just then Jerome and I noticed a clicking sound coming from the front passenger side corner of the truck. I thought it sounded like the caliper. We wound our way around the maze of streets trying to find Pima Rd and we passed Steve and Linda in the Dodge going the opposite way. We had just driven past the Pima intersection trying to diagnose the clicking sound that was getting louder. Just then my K5 started jerking to the right. Next the tire stopped spinning entirely while we were still going about 45mph. The truck slid over to right and then the tire started rolling again. I slowly made my way down the road looking for a place to park and check out the problem. We finally stopped at Cactus and 124th street near some very expensive homes. I called Scott and told him we had a problem and I'd call him back in 20 minutes. We Hi-lifted the Blazer and took the now wobbling wheel off. After a few minutes we discovered water had got into the bearings, destroyed the outer bearing, and the race seized to the spindle. We couldn't get it apart without knocking the truck off the Hi-Lift, so I called Becky. Becky loaded the kids, picked up Jerome's trailer and headed for the stranded K5. I called Scott back and told him to go ahead and lead the trip; Dan didn't want to leave me stranded so declined to go to the meeting spot.

90 minutes later the rescue crew arrived. I lined the Blazer up and drove the front tires up onto the trailer (I told Becky to leave the ramps behind because they're heavy and wouldn't fit into the Suburban). Dan was standing on the front of the trailer guiding me. Suddenly Dan was thrown several feet in the air as the trailer hitch popped off the ball. Dan landed safely on his feet as if he had planned it. The wrong sized ball had been brought for the trailer, 2" instead of the trailers 2 5/16". We got the Blazer off the trailer and Becky left to buy a bigger ball. Once installed I drove onto the trailer but the fenders were too close

together for the Swampers. Dan, John, and Jerome scrounged up enough cinder block and boulders to pile next to the fender so I could drive over it. With one tire inside the fender and one tire up on the rock I did my only rock crawling for the day. We strapped the K5 down and with the trailer bowed under the weight we headed for home. Just down the street I pulled over to check on a crashing sound which turned out to be one of the boulders we forgot to remove. I took side streets all the way home at 35 mph.

Big thanks go to Dan and John Egge, Jerome Gill and Becky for helping me get my junk home!

FR42 night run, June 19

Participants:

Charlie Babcock, Blazer (MIA)

Dan Egge, Blazer (MIA)

Scott Nixon and Brent McDonald, Chevy 1 ton

Steve Graham and Linda Luik, Dodge 1 ton

Ron and Brenda and Cameron Couch, Jeep Cherokee

Mike Tutor and Gale, Ford Bronco

Phil ? and Chip Linthicum, Jeep

Pulling into the meeting spot I was surprised to be the only one there. I jumped out and aired down. Some dirt bikers came over to chat after they got done tearing around the parking area raising dust. They complained there weren't any good places to ride?!?! Just then my cell phone rang. It was Charlie, off the side of the road in Scottsdale with a seized up wheel bearing. He said he and Dan had everything under control, so I told him I'd lead the trip. Once the group assembled and Phil de-trailer'd his Jeep we set off for the trail head. We had to stop at the pay station to wait for Phil; with aired-down beadlocks and no sway bar his Jeep was a bit of a handful on the twisty paved road down to the lake. We had some fun along the way listening to Mike try and hear his CB over his noisy Bronco:

Mike: "Hey, that guy in the Jeep is falling behind, what's his name?"

Me: "Phil"

Mike: "Hey Bill, you OK?"

Me: "Not Bill, Phil."

Mike: "Bill, you back there?"

It's probably funnier over a CB speaker though...

Anyway, we pulled off the pavement and aired down. The trail down to the river was easy enough for everybody, just a slow twisty rutted road. We got to the water right after the sun went down. We sat around and talked, enjoying the cool evening air and wishing we had brought tents and sleeping bags along.

Back on the trail, we came to my least favorite spot. It's a short hill climb that tilts you left toward a deep wash. It's really rutted and washed out on the side by the wash; in fact its gotten so bad people have started stacking rocks in it. My city-block-long wheel base made short work of it though; nobody else seemed to mind or even notice the spot. The rest of the trail was straight forward. I drove down the big hill, made a twenty seven point turn and climbed back up. Phil drove down the big hill, showing off his Jeep's flexi suspension. Everyone else took the bypass, as did I the second time down. This bypass used to be a bit tippy, but ever since somebody went off into the wash and re-routed it down low its gotten easier. The old path in the middle isn't even usable anymore.

We took another break down near the river, chatting and listening to the fish jump.

The dark sky showed a lot of stars, a few meteorites and a really cool flare off of a satellites solar panels. No body had any problems on the remaining hills; they seemed smoother than they usually are. Just before we dropped off the last ridge into Indian Springs Wash Ron called out over the CB that he had a broken axle. We tried jacking it up where he stopped, but it threatened to slide off the hill, taking the sleeping Cameron with it. We shuffled vehicles and tried again. After checking both sides we took a guess and pulled the axle. It was rather reluctant to come out. Brent was levering on it with my big four-way lug wrench when it suddenly came loose sending the axle, the four-way and Brent toward Steve's rather stout front bumper. Phil managed a quick save and caught him before his spine paid the price. The axle was relatively intact, but the splines looked a bit chewed up and the gear lube was full off metal shavings. Apparently the spool stripped out. After reassembling it, cleaning up the gear lube, and congratulating Ron on some magnificent carnage (who would have ever guessed you could break a spool!?!?!), we headed for pavement.

I let Brent drive the rest of the way out. He had fun blasting my truck up the wash. So much fun in fact, we soon left everyone behind. After they caught up we drove on to the play hills. He tried the left hand hill and soon ground to a halt. Just as I was turning toward him to offer advice he backed up and floored it, launching my one ton up and over the crest. In true "drive it like you stole it" fashion Brent drove my truck up and down the play hills having the time of his life.

Two other vehicles came up the trail, a small pickup (Ranger?) and a primer gray Chevy pickup with no hood. We followed him up the big hill and I was surprised to see a custom five link coil sprung suspension under what at first appeared to be just another Chevy truck. It really soaked up the ruts smoothly, which was fortunate for the young woman who decided to ride up the hill in the bed of the truck.

By now it had cooled off so much I was shivering in my tank top and shorts. We said our good byes and headed home. FR42 is always fun, can't wait to run it again.

Scott Nixon

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.

July Club Run's

Saturday July 17th club run to Lower and Upper Ajax, and possibly Upper Wood Pecker at night. Trip Leader Ron Couch says we're meeting at 6:30 pm at Mineral Mountain Road (mile post 216) and Highway 60. If you get bored with the trails you can always look for Gila Monsters, last time we ran this trail at night we found two of the little devils. On that note bring flash lights, snacks, and plenty of water. Call Ron @480-726-8509 if you'd like to attend.

Maintenance tip #1: If you make any water crossings you should probably pull the hubs and check for water. I learned the hard way that brand new Warn hubs and bearings seals don't keep the water out. I'll be checking for water after every trip where I cross water (every other trip). It only takes me about 10 minutes for both sides. It took a couple hours and \$220 for new bearings, a seal, grease, and spindle

Land Use Issues

Please send any land use issues that you want included in the next newsletter "in electronic format" to the editor at: <mailto:charles.h.babcock@intel.com>.

Editors Corner

I was happy to see the club stick together under the email assault from one of our other members. Don stayed cool under fire and discussed the ORBA issue with everyone. After all if there's no club we can't support 4wd issues.

If you're going to go on a club run make sure to call the trip leader. If the meeting time or location is changed or canceled then he can call everyone that's going and let them know. If you don't call then it's your own fault if you miss the run.

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: 1976 blazer 12 bolt rear axle 3.73 gears, lock-rite locker, complete drum to drum \$500, contact Sean Murphy @ 480-821-4549

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

"If everything seems under control, you're just not going fast enough."
-Mario Andretti

Enthusiastically Created by Charlie Babcock