



Tales from the Trail

APRIL 2008



2nd Annual Devil's Highway Expedition is a SUCCESS !

We had to do this in groups due to the new and tighter regs for the Cabeza Prieta NWR but we were up to the task.

The East to West Group led by George & Diane (Number 7) met in Ajo at the LaSiesta for a pre-run BBQ on Friday night. Saturday they danced with the devil and camped that night at Tule Well. Sunday they looped the southern end of the Tinjas Atlas came thru Expedition Pass and exiting at Welton. Some of the group met up with the East to West group for an optional day 3 on Monday.

The West to East Group led by Jim Galbraith (AZJeep4Me) set out Saturday morning in Fortuna and headed east. Some exploring at the Fortuna Mine & Expedition Pass and then back on the trail to their 1st Camp at Christmas Pass. On day two they met up with Georges group and took a group picture then headed towards the moon dust and night 2's camp. Monday morning those who needed to get their video stamp for Area B and they and a few from the other group spent the day exploring new areas before heading home.



Just one of the many old gravesites of the Devils victims !

Upcoming Expeditions:

Sea of Cortez-Yuma to Rocky Point—April 18th -21st Explore the coastline
Moab—May 17th-25th Trails suitable for Stock Jeeps and challenges too !
Sedona—July 19th & 20th A favorite in AZ & great family trip !
Flagstaff—August 16th & 17th—Another fun weekend hosted by Number 7

Send articles and suggestions for the newsletter to: Newsletter@JeepExpeditions.org



.....from the Founder and Chairman of the Board

It has been just 3 months since we filed our incorporation papers, became an "official" club, joined the ASA4WDC and UFWDA. Members completed our 2nd Anniversary Devils Highway run and in just a few days 20 of us will be doing our 1st Mexico adventure lasting 4 days. To all that we can add that we also had our 1st Day Trip and even a few Wild Cat runs. Who could ask for more. We could that's who! We have been instrumental in getting the ASA Annual 4x4 Jambo resurrected after a soon to be 4 year hiatus and nearly half the Jambo committee is made up of, you guessed it, JE members! We have taken a lead role.

In this time we saw the need for changes to our Forum and made them to simply trip sign ups and discussions. We have added to and improved our website which by the way had a record 486,000 hits in February and has consistently had 400K plus hits each month of 2008 so far! I get emails from all over complimenting us on a great club and a great website. I get complaints from the non-Jeep owners who want to belong to a group like ours. Jeep Expeditions is growing and for many of us becoming a 2nd family more than a club. The word is getting out about us and we are signing new members every month.

Recently I received a PM from a new member that made me swell up with pride that I will share:

"Mike,

It's pretty amazing what you have put together. Everything I have read, seen, and heard about this group makes me feel like I struck oil when I found you guys. The rules are reasonable, and protect the club and its members. I love that this group has a goal of protecting our use of the trails. I appreciate that we have the ASA group liability policy in place. This club is SMART, and organized!

When I wheeled with AZVJC I pretty much did runs that Stu Olson ran (I still keep in touch with Stu), even then there was the occasional bonehead that would show up, drink through the entire trail, and totally trash his jeep because the alcohol took away his common sense. I don't enjoy watching someone do that, or being around that. I remember one trip like that where there were a couple people like that and someone threw a lit cigarette in my jeep and burned a hole in the seat.... irritation.

It's funny how passionate some people can be about club dues... it's like homeowner associations, some love them, and some hate them! I don't like the fact that I have to ask "permission" if I want to put a chair on my front porch, but I do like the security of knowing that my neighbor can't paint his house pink, or if he gets mad at me, put a sign in his front yard that says "my neighbor's an asshole". It's a principal kind of thing which is weird. I think the reason for the dues is a very good one - the money is going to good use. Individually and as a club we should be fighting, be a voice, for keeping access to the public lands and trails while others are trying to remove our access to them. I live in an area surrounded by state land and have been involved on cleanup days where we go out and clean up dump sites not far from our development - you certainly can't expect anyone else to do it. This club fits me because I believe not only in putting my money where my mouth is, I believe in going out and doing things like clean ups as well.

That Alaska trip sounds amazing...I know there is no way (short of winning the lottery) that I could take a month off and do that, but I am going to live vicariously through your trip and pictures.... I have a High Def video camera I could lend you if you want to take some nice movies of the trip!

One last thing about the Jamboree in 2009..... let me know and I will see what I can do.

Ugh I have written another novel; I better stop and get back to work! Looking forward to meeting you Mike!

What more can you say. Be proud of your club and get the most out of it by participating ! Thank you ALL for a GREAT beginning and a GREAT 1st quarter !

Mike



.....from Lance “Moondust” Wilson-Vice Chairman

My contribution to the second edition of our newsletter is to ask our club members for more help and participation. Now some of you are undoubtedly saying "Who me? I'm signed up for 4 or 5 runs this year, I've been a trip leader, I'm helping to organize an expedition in the future, I've done an exploratory run, and I'm helping out for the ASA4WD Jamboree! What more does crazy ol'

Moondust want from me,.....blood?!!!"

Well this letter isn't really directed to those of you who see yourself in that statement, you all know who you are, and for that matter so do I. What I'm wanting to see is the new names we haven't seen yet volunteering to help your club move forward. I want to see our new members stand up and take an active part in this club.

This is your club and even if you think you have nothing to offer, come forward, we can point you in a direction that will be fun for you and your talents, and beneficial for the club. You see, we are not only just a Jeep Club, we are becoming a "family" now. I have made so many good close friends now, that when we all get together anymore, whether it be an expedition, a one day or wildcat run, or even a meeting it's more like a family reunion instead of just a club function. I see the same names and faces every time we ask for help or volunteers for whatever activity is being planned, and although I love seeing these same faces and names time and again, I want to invite the others into our "family".

I know some of you don't live here in the valley, so logistics plays a part in whatever you can do to help, but we are planning many different runs and expeditions to different parts of Arizona, as well as to the surrounding states where some of you may live. We now have 74 members, and we have been able to count on roughly a third of those to actively take part in our club. We are a very active club, not afraid to "take the bull by the horns" so to speak and we pride ourselves upon the fact that we do have a lot of active participation. So my call goes out to the two thirds of our members who have yet to take any active participation as of yet,

"Come on out and play with us !" We are a group who loves to have fun and show the other Jeep Clubs around here what a real Jeep club is ! We are the best damn Jeep club in the country, but we need the rest of our members to help us stay that way. Here's to a successful Jeep Expeditions 2008, and I hope to meet many of you I have yet to meet !!

Lance "Moondust" *Wilson*



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.....from Director Michael Bethel – the Logo Guru !

Like myself there are most likely a few of you that really would prefer for politics to stay out of your lives. Unfortunately there are many more out there who have absolutely no such compunctions. Like it or not if we want to be able to pursue and share our life passions we must enter the arena.

I once had a coworker who was totally absorbed into just about every conspiracy theory you could imagine. One day I asked him if he had ever written to his Congressman or Senator about his concerns. He admitted he had not, to which I responded, "this is still the United States of America where you have the privilege and right to voice your opinions and concerns so don't tell me about these things tell them".

The battles currently taking place in the political arena for the most part are not some cloak and dagger conspiracy such as my coworker feared but these are blatant assaults on just about every front and from every angle they can find.

In addition to that this is not some "shock and awe" attack on our sport but it is an assault of attrition hoping that we will weary of the battle and they will be able to step right in and do as they please.

This is the message I want to express to all of our club members today. We can whine and complain all we want to each other on our forums but we are preaching to the choir. If you are not making your voice heard by expressing your passions and concerns to the powers that be then they will hear only the voices of those who do. And these voices are running counter to yours.

It doesn't take much, it doesn't take long, but it does take something. It takes you acting on your passions. If you haven't written to any of these committees, Senators, or Congressmen yet then please take a moment of your time to do so.

By taking an active role in this process you will be able to stand a little taller knowing you have done your part and your discussions with others regarding the issues will have true meaning because you have invested part of yourself into the process.

See ya on the trails

Michael "azwillys"



know the other

.....from Director Diane Zalman – “Number 7”

Getting to Know You

I’m not really sure how this happened, but during our 1st year of expeditions we didn’t really get to know very many of the people club very well. I mean, we knew some names, and lots of ours, but that was about the depth of our relationships. One day it really struck us that we felt we were missing out on a very component of being in a new Jeep club; getting to know the other members.

After we volunteered to take a 2nd Group on the El Camino del Diablo Expedition in March, we realized what a great opportunity we had been given. So we purposely set out to get to know our expedition group on a more personal level by organizing a ‘mandatory’ Pre-Expedition Barbeque and Driver’s Meeting in Ajo Friday night. It was a wonderful success.

It started out with everyone standing around in the parking area talking about their Jeeps until I pointed out that we had tables and chairs at our disposal; an area set up for the festivities. Soon everyone was sitting around snacking and sipping beverages and telling some of the best camping and Jeep stories I’d heard in a while. We got to know spouses’ names, how many kids and their names, what we all do for a living, where each others houses are, how long in Arizona, where we’re from, how we each found out about JeepExpeditions.org, how long we’d had our Jeeps, how many we’d owned before, and some of the trips we’d been on. We trouble-shot each others’ Jeep quirks, learned of clever inventions and quick fixes we each have and talked about the mods we each have and or want.

What a great way to start a trip! We’ve always had a good time on all of the expeditions we went on, and people have always been friendly, but somehow this trip felt different. Along with the usual excitement, joking around and CB chatter, there was a deeper sense of camaraderie. That’s really the only way to put it. The simple act of cooking and eating together allowed us to get to know each other better, which apparently makes people care about each other more, because I felt like we embarking on an expedition with a bunch of close friends.

Certainly we as a club have a lot in common, and I know a little bit about some of you, but I would really like to get to know more of you better. That’s why I recommended a Pre-Expedition Barbeque on the Sea of Cortez trip next month. I’m going to recommend doing this on all the expeditions George and I are signed up for, and for the expeditions we lead, the barbeques will be ‘mandatory’, because I’m really enjoying getting to know you guys!

See you on the trail!

Diane & George Zalman

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.....from Director Mark Engdahl –
Transrock2

Team work and Jeep Expeditions:

Over the past year, one of the unexpected benefits is the total team and family atmosphere that has grown in the Jeep Expeditions group. I have developed over 20 friendships which I would have never had, and I feel as if these are the kind of friends with whom I will stay for life. Today I had lunch with a member who I had just met on our last trip and we have already been able to help each other with projects. What a great feeling to know that all these people are there to help and give advice when you need it. I am very proud to be associated with such an honorable bunch of people. Another aspect of our family atmosphere is the fact that we don’t always see eye to eye on issues. We also have disagreements from time to time, just like any functional family (OK, we ain’t the Osmonds) but hey - that’s part of the fun as well. To date, I don’t know of anyone that has picked up their toys and gone home and without returning. This also says something for the character of the group. Anyhow, I don’t mean to get all mushy, but I thought it needed to be said and I wanted you all to know how I feel. So there you have it for this time, until I see you on the trails.

Mark Engdahl

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.....from Director Jim Pribbeno – “ScramblinJim”

Looking back on this last quarter of 2008 can you say you have some of your goals that were set for the New Year? In reaching success comes from planning and then following thru on the our plans. It often is not easy due to so many other for our time, some unexpected or not planned for higher priority. Was one of your goals this year to Expeditions Group trip? Have you put off signing thinking you have plenty of time left this year to

do so? Or maybe you've told yourself "as soon as I get that new modification done to the Jeep, then I'll make plans for an expedition."

I am writing to encourage you to follow thru on your Jeep exploring goals. You have come to the right place to fulfill them. There is no better group of enthusiasts around to help you have fun exploring the great southwestern United States and Mexico. Each month we continue to grow in membership and with that growth has also come more trips to choose from for your next adventure. And as for your modification project for the Jeep, we have gain several new vendors as sponsors to help stretch your purchase power more with club discounts to JE members.

Need help with a technical or mechanical problem, our forums are full of great help and willing members to offer a hand thru a wrenching party or insightful posts; just post up and let all of us know. Or maybe your Jeep is in the shop and a run or trip is coming up. Several members have offered me the shotgun seat so I won't miss out on the fun.

As for my Jeep goals this year, I am well on my way to achieving most of them already. I've planned on 3 trips and taken one thus far. I've accomplished adding a 4-inch lift to my Scrambler and in the middle of some other work at the moment that will probably take several months to complete. But that won't keep me from not going on the pre-Rubicon Trail Trial #2 coming up in a few weeks as I am going along as a passenger and hopefully gain valuable experience by watching others drive and maybe learn some spotting techniques.

I encourage you to carve out some time for you and your Jeep, you'll be glad you did. Hope to see you out on the trails in the near future.

Come and “Live the Adventure”!

Jim Pribbeno “Scramblin’ Jim” a/k/a “The Reverend”
ScramblinJim@JeepExpeditions.org

MEMBER OF THE QUARTER

I would like to start by thanking everyone for the honor of being voted Member the Quarter. It was unexpected and I am pleased that you considered me in your decisions.

My name is Tim Lewis and I live in Yuma. My family moved here when I was 1 and except for a few years in Flagstaff at NAU, I have been here ever since. I me my wife Devon in Flag, and we have been married 27 years. We both teach, Devon is an Elementary school Librarian and I teach Auto mechanics at Yuma High. We have 2 beautiful children who both attending U of A right now. Melis will graduate in May with an Education degree and Greg is studying Business.



I am fairly new to the Jeeping/4x4 community. As a lifelong car guy, I have always been interested in cars, mostly GM cars of 50's and 60's. I decided that owning a jeep might be fun, so I started looking and found my Jeep on Ebay. My students started teasing me about the jeep because of its color (Teal) and the fact it was bone stock. They kept asking me when I was going to get a real jeep and get rid of that “Barbie jeep”. So that's how my jeep got its name. Barbie has changed a little since then, and I have some plans for better gearing in the future.

I joined AZVJ right after I got Barbie, and even attended a Trail Repair 101 that was held at a Phx shop. I was looking for a group to go on trails with, and I saw Mikes post on the original Devil's Highway run. We went on that run, and had such a good time, that we followed the development of the club and became charter members. I would describe myself as a 2.5 trail kind of wheeler. I love going to places I have never been to before and exploring those areas. This club has given me the opportunity to do those things in the company of some great people. I look forward to many more trips with everyone.

Tim - better known to us on the forum as “Curly”

Future Members of the Quarter will be nominated by members in the 30 days prior to the publishing of the newsletter

**Picture of the Quarter:
Devils Highway from
high atop the Tinjas Atlas
taken by Russ Chung:**



On the lighter side of things.



Who was that masked man ???



Uh, take me to your leader !



**The don't ask, don't tell motel that
our Death Valley pre-Expedition
scouting team stayed at ?!?!?!?!?**

The picture is worth 1000 words 😊

**I had a story to go along with it but
we are out of room for this issue,
but I think it can be part of the trip
report.**