



# Tales from the Trail

## JULY 2008



### *More great trips completed this year !*

For the 2nd quarter we can add 3 more completed Expeditions for the year. In April we did the Sea of Cortez Expedition, our 1st ever in Mexico and a wonderful experience! The Sea of Cortez trip got published in the Summer 2008 issue of JPFreek magazine. To read more you can visit our trip report at [JeepExpeditions.org](http://JeepExpeditions.org) or [JPFreek.com](http://JPFreek.com) and download the Summer 2008 issue.

In May we spend a week in Moab doing both the easy and challenging trails. Who would have guessed that the most excitement yet would have been on one of the easy trails where one of our members slid off the side of the trail and down the mountainside about 75 feet coming to rest on a big rock, probably the only thing standing in the way of another 1000 foot to the bottom. And who can forget the pictures of #7 with the front wheels nearly pointing straight up to the sky on Hells Revenge and other members running to the rescue to pull the front end back down to earth again. And how about the gourmet “chuckwagon” in Moab by Chef Mark of JeepGrille Adventures! Then just this month we completed our 1st 3 day weekend in Sedona together with a number of new members and our members from Holland, Chis and Beatrise. What a great start to 2008 with more to come !

(picture of The Beast with Moondust following in Sedona)



### **Upcoming Expeditions:**

Flagstaff—August 16th & 17th—Another fun weekend hosted by Number 7 Flag to Grand Canyon Stage Coach trail— pre-run Aug 30 & 31 (tentative)  
The Trail of Cochise—September 12, 13, 14. A trip into history  
Sea of Cortez II—Return of the Gringos—Sept 26—29. More fun in Mexico

Send articles and suggestions for the newsletter to: [Newsletter@JeepExpeditions.org](mailto:Newsletter@JeepExpeditions.org)



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

It is hard to believe that the year is half over, or is it only half started.

We have had 4 successful Expeditions this year so far with another 7 planned for the rest of the year. More than 20 of us did our 1<sup>st</sup> trip to Mexico, an adventure lasting 4 days. We had a few Wild Cat runs. The calendar for 2009 has 11 trips scheduled and it looks like another two might be added. We even have trips already in the planning stages for 2010 and 2011 ! We have had a few “wrenching parties” where members help members install lift kits and do other modifications to their Jeeps. 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, nearly half the Jambo committee is made up of, you guessed it, JE members! We have taken a lead role. The Jamboree is coming together and thanks to the hard work of members like Grunt, we have an excellent piece of land to hold it on. The Jamboree is now scheduled to be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in April, 2009, just before we leave for a two week Baja Expedition.

As we see the need, we continue to make changes and improve the members forum. We have added to and improved our website which by the way continues to get 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 continue to 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 2<sup>nd</sup> family more than a club. I get PMs and emails from new members quite often saying how much they love the club and are glad they found us. The word is getting out and we continue to attract new members.

We continue to sign on suppliers/sponsors because of our broad appeal and our presence in the Jeep/OHV community. The money you can save with just one discount can more than pay for your membership.

And we continue to try to plan new and exciting trips that appeal to a broad spectrum of our group. Yes You will notice several week long trips scheduled in the future but there are plenty of weekend trips too. While are aren’t going to be one of those very few and very small groups that make Expeditions from Alaska to the tip of South America, from the top to the bottom of Africa or from Paris to Hong Kong, we are going to be the group that the average person can join and still get that “Expedition” feeling without spending many weeks and a small fortune to do so. And we are going to continue to do that driving the best 4x4 ever made, the Jeep!

As for our venturing out more in the public eye, our Sea of Cortez trip in April became a 12 page article in the Summer 2008 issue of JPFreek Magazine. Our Mojave Desert trip will soon be showing up on the pages of 4 Wheel Drive & Off-Road Magazine. Look for more articles about our Expeditions in JP Freek and other magazines plus in-depth equipment reviews in the coming months and year !

While we sometimes experience a growing pain or two, our membership will soon reach its initial maximum of 100 members, members from every state in the US Southwest and even Holland (that’s in Europe for you Greenhorns out there) ! We don’t want to be the biggest club, we want to be the best !

Be proud of your club and get the most out of it by participating ! Thank you

*Mike*



.....from Director Mark Engdahl –  
**Transrock2**

**Title How to prepare for the big Expedition**

Greetings to you all, I hope this summer is treating you all well. I thought I would go thru how I prepare for an expedition and what I bring with me to be prepared.

First of all I find it helpful to use a checklist. If you are like me in my rush to get ready to go if I don't write it down I stand a good chance of forgetting that one key item that I need.

Next I divide my list into major categories, such as Tools, food, medications, camping, survival, personal protection, first aid, spare parts, communication, and GPS. My list will change depending on the trip and where we will be going, what the rules are, time of year, any unique risks.

This is an example list, you will need to make yours:

<p><b>Tools</b>          Craftsman Tool Kit          Adjustable Wrenches          Misc Wrenches          Small Sledge Hammer          12" length of 1" Pipe fits over          Fuel siphon hose          Rubber Gloves          Leather Work Gloves          Voltmeter          Small grease gun          Tire Pressure Gauge          Coiled Airline          Ratchet Strap          Screw drivers          Hex wrench kit          Funnel          Impact Driver          Pliers          1/2" breaker bar          Channel Loc Pliers          Tire repair kit with plugs          Single edge Razor Blade  <b>Repair Supplies</b>          ATF          Engine Oil          Oil Filter          Brake Fluid          Gas Tank Repair          JB Weld          Gear Lube          gear lube          Rags          Bailing wire          Hose Clamp Kit          Plastic Cable Ties          Roll of 12 or 14 ga wire</p>	<p>Wire Ties          Electrical Tape          Duct Tape          Fix A Flat (couple of cans)          -or- OBA or CO2 Tank  <b>Repair Parts</b>          Engine belt(s)          Ujoints axle and drive shaft          Tierods with ends          Spare Axle Shafts          Spare Drive Shafts          Halfshafts          Spare Brake lines          Fuel filter          Fuel Pump          Fuses          Bulbs          Upper and Lower Rad Hose          Heater Hose          Fuel Line hose  <b>Jeep Equipment</b>          CB or Amateur Radio          GPS          Spill Kit          First Aid Kit          portable cell-phone with cig          Winch          48" Highlift Jack          Fire Extinguisher          Heavy duty winch kit          Yank strap and or Tow rope          Hatchet or Axe          Bow saw (for tree branches)          Shovel          flashlight          Hatchet or Axe          Bow saw (for tree branches)</p>	<p>Shovel          Jumper Cables          Spare Tire 1 minimum          Bungee cords          Hand Cleaner          Paper Towels          Coveralls  <b>SURVIVAL SUPPLIES</b>          Water 3 days +          Food 3 days +          First Aid Kit          Space Blanket or Blanket          Water purification Tablets          Toilet Paper          Tarp          Waterproof Match Case          Sunblock          Knife          Rain-jacket          Insect repellent          GPS or Compass          Maps and Marker Pen          Sleeping bags/blankets          Sun Glasses          Spare Glasses          Spare Keys          Scissors          Binoculars          Boots or hiking shoes          Mirror for signaling          Weapon ?  <b>Personal Items</b>          Medication for X days          Food for X days          Camping for X days          Water for X days  <b>Anything else you think might be necessary !</b></p>
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I hope this helps and will get you started on your way to your own list. I look forward to seeing you all out on the trails. As always don't hesitate to call if you need anything.

Your Friend,

*Mark Engdahl*

mark.engdahl@JeepExpeditions.org





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

Wow! Jeep Expeditions is now nearing 100 members strong, not only from Arizona, but every other state in the Southwest USA and even Holland !. Our by-laws allow a total membership of 100 members with the ability to go 150 members if we feel the need to expand. What I have seen in the first 7 months of our clubs existence is a lot of new members who are becoming very active, a lot of new members we have yet to meet, but we are waiting for them to join in the fun of joining an Expedition. I have also seen the "older" members taking a more active role as trip leaders on our expeditions, and also finding fun ways to

educate some of our less experienced members as to "what to do and what not to do" as they learn more about wheelin' in their Jeeps. As for the Expeditions this year, what can I say....the ones I've participated in have been a blast, and the ones I've missed....well, after hearing the stories from the members who have participated in them, I just wish I could have been there ! We have had our fair share of mishaps and breakdowns, but the camaraderie of all our members pitching in to help get that Jeep running again, or towed out of trouble has been outstanding to say the least. We have definitely lived up to one of our club creeds, which is "No one is left behind."

The Jeep Expeditions Group has become the fastest growing and most active Jeep club in the Southwestern United States and I dare to say the whole continental United States! The Board of Directors have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our club focused and moving in the right direction, enabling our members to enjoy a Jeep club free from the politics and drama associated with other clubs. Jeep Expeditions is now spearheading 4X4 Jamboree this coming spring, the first 4X4 Jamboree held here in Arizona in the last 5 years! We have many dedicated members working on and with the Jamboree committee, and we will be looking for more volunteers to help with the logistics of such a monumental undertaking, as the time grows closer for the Jamboree in April of 2009. Do you have any special talents? Chances are we can use them, so don't be afraid to speak up! To sum Jeep Expeditions.org up for our first 7 months, these five words come to mind; participation, dedication, motivation, enthusiasm, and FUN!!! What lies ahead in our future will be due in no small part to the ideas and input from all of our 91 members, not just a few. The possibilities are as endless as our dreams as we continue to be....The best damn Jeep club in the United States!!

See you on the trail !

*Lance* "Moondust" *Wilson*



[Lance.Wilson@JeepExpeditions.org](mailto:Lance.Wilson@JeepExpeditions.org)



**.....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"



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

Carnage: not a word you want to hear in the same sentence with the word Expedition, but the truth is carnage happens. Sometimes with no real rhyme reason, something will go out on a Jeep that leaves it completely and utterly motionless. Lately we, as a group, have experienced a notable amount of carnage, which has gotten us thinking about doing some Jeep maintenance clinics/seminars. Now, don't get us wrong! We don't think that all the carnage that we've suffered as a group is due to lack of maintenance. This is simply a topic we get asked about a lot, and would enjoy sharing our knowledge on. With that in mind, there are a few tidbits we've picked up

**Golden Rule Number One** – take a preventative step in Jeep maintenance, and visually inspect the underside and engine compartment before and after every run (local or distant). Look for loose bolts, and inspect welds, brackets, brake lines, breather hoses and wires. When we picked up our first Jeep from the shop that lifted it, the service manager told us to get underneath it after a week or so, and then to get underneath it every time we take it out. And you know what? You find loose stuff under there!

**Goop Trick:** After tightening all nuts & bolts, put a pea-sized dab of Goop on your finger & smear it on the threads. This serves two purposes. First of all, you can easily determine if a nut is loose after it's been Gooped, because you can see if the thread marks have moved. Second, we haven't lost a nut or bolt since we started doing the Goop Trick. A lot of them came loose on the Rubicon, but we didn't lose any.

**Golden Rule Number 2** – Keep your Jeep clean (mainly the engine and undercarriage). This is the best way to notice when something leaks, there's a cracked hose or wire, or something's loose, and it's a lot easier to work on! Not only that, you save yourself the humiliation and embarrassment of your buddy's clean white t-shirt being ruined while helping you get your junk running, along averting the stink-eye from said buddy's girlfriend because of said t-shirt.

**Golden Rule Number 3** – Follow the recommended fluid changing schedule in your owner's manual. If you run off-road a lot, you might want to step that schedule up a bit. Remember: lube the vehicle every time you change the oil, including the U-Joints! If your Jeep has un-greaseable U-Joints, change them out for greaseable ones. A few dollars now might save you a bundle on down the road.

**Power-Steering and Transmission Fluid:** The owner's manual doesn't mention it, but your power-steering fluid needs to be changed at about 50K miles. This is especially true if you are running oversized tires and/or you do a lot of technical trails. The power-steering fluid heats up so much (it actually boils!) that over time it's worthless. Same with the transmission fluid, it gets heated up a lot more on the trails than during highway use.

The best part of any great Expedition is getting back home again under your own power, and a little bit of extra TLC can go a long way toward that end. The maintenance of Jeeps which are used for the kind of travel we do needs to be performed religiously and often. You never know what crazy thing might go wrong, but you reduce the chance of being stranded when you perform regular maintenance and do a quick double-check before you leave the garage.

See you on the trail!

*Diane & George Zalman*

DianeZ@JeepExpeditions.org

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## \*\*\*MEMBER OF THE QUARTER\*\*\*

### Jim Galbraith – AZJeep4Me

Many of us met Jim for the 1<sup>st</sup> time on our very 1<sup>st</sup> Expedition, The Devil's Highway in February 2007.

One thing you quickly realize about Jim is that he will go out of his way to help anyone, is generous, has a great sense of humor (sometimes :-)) and is the ONLY member so far to participate 100% in every trip this group has ever made! Now that Jim is “officially retired” it will be much easier for him to continue with his perfect attendance record !



Jim lives in Mesa with his furry “son” Baron who some of us had had the chance to meet.

The above picture was taken on our Mexico trip of Jim “trying to find water in the desert by digging deep holes in the sand”.





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

Looking back on this last quarter of 2008 can you say you have achieved some of your goals that were set for the New Year? In reaching any goal, success comes from planning and then following thru on the execution of your plans. It often is not easy due to so many other elements competing for our time, some unexpected or not planned for and seemingly taking higher priority. Was one of your goals this year to go on a Jeep Expeditions Group trip? Have you put off signing up for an expedition 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

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\*\*\*\*PICTURES OF THE QUARTER\*\*\*\*

There were so many great pictures this quarter that it was impossible to pick one !



Number 7 almost rolling over backwards  
On Hell’s Gate, Hell’s Revenge, Moab



Russ Chungs slide off the trail on White  
Rim Trail Moab at Murphy’s Hogback

**JUST FOR FUN.....**



**A WV fish we found in Mexico**



**Sushi on the beach – Sea of Cortez Trip**



**George doing his Road Warrior pose**



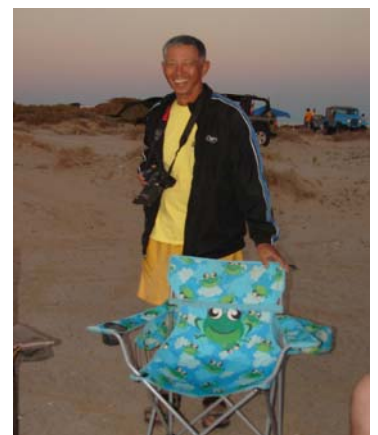
**Good friends, beer & a private beach !**



**Tweedle Dee and.....**



**Escaping the sun- in the  
Outhouse ?**



**My daughter gave it  
to me, honest !**