



Tales from the Trail

OCTOBER 2008



More great trips completed this year !

Now that we have nearly a full year as an organized/incorporated club behind us and this our 4th newsletter, it's hard to believe that 2 years ago I was planning our very 1st trip on the Devils Highway. Since our last publication we have completed 3 more trips or a total of 8 so far this year compared to our 1st year of just 5.

Our Flagstaff Expedition in August was received well and attended by a number of our newer members who all had high marks for the trip. More recently Michael Bethel, one of our Board members, led his 1st trip on the Trails of Cochise and the Apache. The Cochise trip was full of history and scenery with side trips to Ghost Towns, Tombstone and camping under the stars at the Cochise Stronghold where the Apache Warrior Chief kept the cavalry at bay for many months. Another trip that was attended by yet more new members and was well regarded by all !

And finally in the days before the release of this newsletter, our second trip to Mexico to the 1st Annual Rocky Point 4x4 Event hosted by our sister Jeep club in Mexico.

There are still a few trips left for 2008 and it's not too late to live more of the adventure this year.



Upcoming Expeditions:

Canyon De Chelly—Oct 18-20: Halloween Devils Highway—Oct 31-Nov 2:
Mojave Desert/Kit Carson Trail—Nov 14-16: Area B—Nov 29-30: Hunters
BBQ—Dec 6: Devils Highway Anniversary Run Feb 28-Mar 1: Death Val-
ley—March 21-28: 32nd 4x4 Jambo April 17-19: Baja MX—April 20-May 4

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



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

One advantage to doing the newsletter is the fact that I get to be the first member to see what everyone else wrote. Then after the rest of the board says most of the stuff that I was going to touch on I need to figure out what I am going to say without duplicating what I already said on the front page.

I read Lances article and saw the passion, dedication and loyalty to our group. I read Michaels and saw how in spite of his being “volunteered” for his 1st tour of duty as a trip leader gained a ton of experience, confidence and satisfaction. I read Marks comments this month and see excitement, pride and his visions for many more trips in the future. And last but not least, Jim P. Our modern day Paul Revere this month and I could not have said it better, support those businesses who support us, wear your colors proud and be a part of something bigger than all of us, Jeep Expeditions.

While reading Lances article I reflected on the good times and the trying times. I thought about how everyone came together in Moab when Russ went off the edge, how that hardy group in Moab pitched tarps between my WJ, ZJ Woodys ZJ and AZJeep4Me’s Wrangler to form some protection from the rain and sharing food with each other under less than optimal conditions while we all considered what a lucky day it was for us and Russ. I looked back at the Great Marshmallow Race in Sedona between Grunt and CopaTJ and quietly laughed. I thought about the absolutely great time we had in Mexico in April, a trip that Mark “Transrock2” said was his favorite so far and I thought about some of the great trips we have planned for the future. I also reflected on the great new friends that it has been an honor to spend time with from the board of directors to my good friend Jim Galbraith who I have always been able to talk to when I needed a friend, to the many members who have helped me and others out on the trail, given me and others advice, confided in me as a friend. To the new members how email me and tell me how excited they are and to those who have volunteered to help me get the TJ on the road again. I would love to name everyone but I don’t have the room so I just want to thank everyone for everything! I also reflect on the fact that I miss those who are no longer with us. Some have moved cross country, some to other states and some just moved on. Yes we have had our growing pains, we have had our trial by fire and now with the help of the board and many of you I think we have left the problems all new groups experience in the past and are moving well ahead into the future.

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. I encourage you to look at the website, I have made lots of changes since the beginning of the summer. There are more equipment reviews with more coming, we have more sponsors/suppliers in the suppliers/sponsors section with more coming. Our members rigs section has doubled but there is still room for more for those of you that have been shy so far. We are also getting more exposure in magazines with articles on our trips and equipment reviews.

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 we aren’t going to be one of those very few 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!

For those with all the time in the world or at least some of the time we have our big Baja 1000 2 week trip in April, our 30 day Alaska Trip in July 2011 and in the fall of 2012 Phoenix to Panama and back in 30 days. And of course all of our regular weekend and week long Expeditions for most of the rest of us. 2009 is full of trips and now we start planning for 2010 and beyond. Anyone up for a snow trip from Flag to Williams this winter ?

We are not going to be the biggest club, just the best ! *Mike*



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

This time around I would like to talk about something important to me, the Jeep Expeditions “traditions” if you will. Before we became a club, a loose knit group of about 30 of us did the first El Camino del Diablo or “Devils Highway” run. Two days across the southern Sonoran Desert from Ajo to Yuma, it was the first time for all of us. We all camped together at Tule Wells, had our first “chuck wagon style” dinner, and started forming the beginning of many very good

friendships. A tradition was born, and now some of our club members are preparing for our third expedition across the Devils Highway on Halloween, with our fourth trek across that same stretch of desert in the spring of next year for our third Annual El Camino del Diablo Expedition. I’m proud to say I will be one of the trip leaders for that traditional spring time expedition. We also have had a few other expeditions that have been very popular with our club members, and those expeditions are being repeated too, more of the Jeep Expedition traditions that we all enjoy, such as Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, the Kit Carson Trail across the Mojave Desert. All of those “traditional expeditions” had something in common; we all traveled together as a group, camped together as a group, and had a chuck wagon dinner as a group.

When we decided to become an organized club about a year ago, the current and first Board of Directors of the club pledged to keep the clubs direction, which included our “tradition” in focus. Over the past few months there seemed to be a drifting away from the group togetherness that brought the core group together in the first place. A few if our expeditions had part of the club camping, while another part drifted off to civilization to stay in hotels. This even got to the point that the club was being divided into 2 different groups during an expedition. This was not what I had envisioned for our club, nor was it the direction I had pledged to keep as a board member.: to make sure our club stayed focused on that direction. Other board members as well as many members were not pleased with the way they saw the club drifting apart and we even started seeing, what some referred to as, club “cliques” starting to form. The board decided it was time to rededicate ourselves to the original direction and “traditions” of Jeep Expeditions.

Jeep Expeditions was formed for basically two reasons, the love of exploring and wheeling in our Jeeps and the love of camping out under the stars and “roughing” and doing this all together as one big happy family. We know that there are instances and expeditions that we will not always be able to adhere to those 2 basic philosophies but we want to strive to stay as true to our clubs original intent as possible. I for one did not like to see our club divided. I know that we will not always have the pleasure of a chuck wagon style dinner on every trip but we can all still camp together, eat together, tell “war” stories together, talk about our Jeeps together. Well you get my point, the operative word here is TOGETHER ! So as we all head towards the end of our 1st year as Jeep Expeditions, Inc., let us all rededicate ourselves to do as much as we can do TOGETHER, as a club and let’s all hold on to those Jeep Expeditions “traditions” that brought us all TOGETHER nearly 2 years ago and continues to bring us TOGETHER today.

Lance "Moondust" *Wilson*



Lance.Wilson@JeepExpeditions.org



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

Wow, runnin’ lead in a pack of Jeeps. What a different perspective of an Expedition that is. I can still remember asking Mike Fissel last year on the Mojave Road if he had ever considered a run in Cochise Country. A week after we got back from that Mojave run there magically appeared a calendared event for a Cochise run with yours truly as trip leader..... whoa! That was a year ago in October and after having just

completed this run it was certainly one of my life's top experiences.

I've driven many trails with no one in front of me but I have never done so with 16 Jeeps showing up in my rear view mirror. Sixteen Jeeps with sixteen very forgiving and patient drivers behind the wheel.

If you're going to lead any group for the first time there is no better group to have backing you than what we have here.

If you've never been part of an expedition before, again, there is no better group to have backing you than what we have here. On either side of the fence this group has you covered and that goes a long, long way to building confidence.

Just yet another fantastic benefit of being part of something like JeepExpeditions.

See ya on the trails

Michael “azwillys”



.....from Director Mark Engdahl – Transrock

It's coming to the end of our first full year as a real club and I thought that I would spend a few words reflecting on it.

We have done several memorable trips and have had some close calls. All in all it's been an adventurous and safe year. My most memorable trip was the Yuma to Rocky point trip. We met some new friends and I know I had no idea of what we were in store for

in the dunes. OMG this boy from the mud of Washington State was not prepared for that much sand. I do have a genuine appreciation for how easy our friends from Mexico made it look to negotiate those great dunes.

Another trip that I just love is the annual trip to the El Camino. There is something about being out there in the harshest of environments that brings out the team work and true spirit of our club. It's about knowing that we will all be there to help if something goes wrong.

Yes it's been a great year and I look forward to many more!

Your Friend, *Mark*

MEMBER OF THE QUARTER



The Member of the Quarter for the third quarter is Michael Bethel (azwillys).

Michael is one of the original members that traveled on the very first Devils Highway expedition in March of 2007, and a Charter member of the Jeep Expeditions Group. In addition Michael is proud to represent the membership of our club as one of the Board of Directors. Although Michael has a laid back approach, his enthusiasm and dedication to the club speaks volumes.

Michael and his trusty Jeep Cherokee, "Babe Blue" led the club on the Trail of Cochise Expedition just 2 weeks ago, his very first time as the trail leader. Michael proposed the expedition, set up the exploratory pre-run, and put together the itinerary, so it was only natural that he lead the expedition.

Michael is an Arizona native who grew up in the Willcox area, so his knowledge of Southeastern Arizona was invaluable to the success of the expedition he led so capably, and Michael will be leading the Trail of Geronimo Expedition slated for next year.

We are all very proud of the Jeep Expeditions Logo that adorn our Jeeps, well you can thank Michael for that, as he designed our logo! Michael works quietly behind the scenes helping to shape and direct our club, but his efforts are much greater than his soft-spoken demeanor would have you believe.

Let's all congratulate Michael on a job well done, a job deserving of the Member of the Quarter.

Our next issue we will feature both a Member of the Quarter and Member of the Year.

Start thinking now of the two people who have contributed to our club and send PMs on the Forum to: Member of the Quarter (use spaces) and Member of the Year (use spaces) with your choice and the reason why. Winners will be picked from submissions.



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

Support the businesses that support us!

If you're like me, you have many plans for improvements on your Jeep. And as pressures from fuel and other items in our budgets increasing in their costs, it's nice to find discounts to help offset the price increases

Remember the advertising slogan of a local credit card company?

"Membership has it's benefits". Well membership in JE has it's benefits!!! We have suppliers giving us discounts for doing business with them. The Board of Directors are always working on adding new business who will be interested in giving us discounts on their products and/or services. Check out these business by going to our SPONSERS page off our web site's main page.

If you don't recall what a business is offering in the way of discounts or how to ask for the discount, read the DISCOUNTS AND GROUP BUYS in our forum's Resources for Club Members - Discounts, etc. section. You'll find discounts as high as 30%. Good stuff!

Also explore our club's "Expedition Store" where you'll find trip decals and banners, clothing with the JE logo, and business cards and calendars. The Expedition Store link can be found from the web site main page. Show your JE colors by wearing the logo on your Jeep or on your shirt. Give out business cards to potential new members or as you visit Jeep related business. Use the cards to help spread the word about JE.

See you on the trail.

Scramblin_Jim

Come and “Live the Adventure”!

Jim Pribbeno

“Scramblin’ Jim” a/k/a “The Reverend”

ScramblinJim@JeepExpeditions.org

****PICTURE OF THE QUARTER****



This was taken by Russ Chung on the Cochise Expedition. Russ has an eye and a talent for photography and this is at least the 2nd of his pictures to be named picture of the quarter. It really doesn't get any better than this. The full moon rising over the Cochise Stronghold, our Saturday night camp, a camp site that is right up there as one of the best of all the camps we have had on an Expedition. Second only maybe to our Friday night beach camp along the Sea of Cortez in Mexico.

LOOKING BACK.....



The “Motley Crue” ready for Cochise



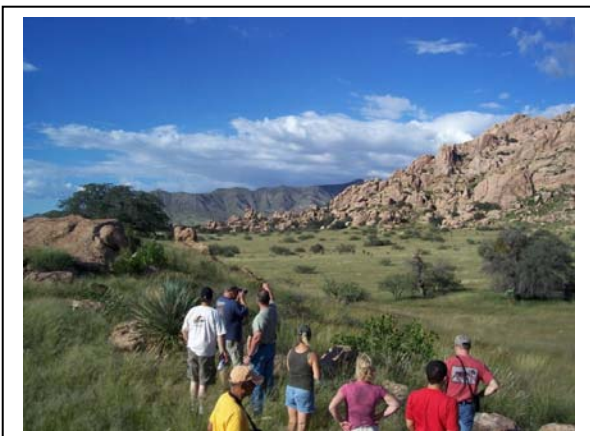
Clean air, clear skies and Jeeps !



What a collection of “stuff”



Marshmallows brings out the kid in all of us !



Mike Bethel gives a history lesson under nothing but beautiful blue skies



Some Baja planning at a stop

....and now from the lighter side ☺

Think hard about the movie Platoon with Charlie Sheen, William DaFoe and other big names.

Now image that scene with the black Corpsman/Medic is telling the FNG's (can I say that here?) the techniques of proper hygiene.....

“proper hygiene has been proven to prevent a number of illnesses including *this, and that and this and that*, dysentery and crotch rot”.....

Now look at this picture of Steve “Ob1....” and determine if this shower would be approved by our movie Medic:

Nice “dry” shower with “digital soap” in his left hand.

And a singer in the shower too !

And look at the antique plumbing, Steve is a true pioneer !

(so who will be our next victim for the lighter side next time ?)

