



TIRE TRACKS

Jeep Expeditions, Inc. PO Box 12862, Scottsdale, AZ 85267
www.jeepexpeditions.org



Chairman's Corner

Welcome to the first 2019 publication of **Tire Tracks**, the official newsletter of Jeep Expeditions. We plan to publish an issue quarterly to keep you up to date on all the activities of the club – completed trip reports, pictures, schedules and plans for upcoming expeditions, member's rigs, pictures of the latest mods to your Jeep, new members, birthdays and anniversaries. Another new section will be our Corporate Sponsors page featuring Jeep related services, parts and accessory suppliers.

This is **YOUR** newsletter so any ideas, suggestions or things you would like to see included as we go forward are welcome.

Please join with me with a big thank you to Matt and Amy Casillas who stepped up and volunteered to be our Tire Tracks editors. What a terrific job they did on our new Quarter 1 Edition newsletter!

Your Chairman,
Bill Solley



Founder's Forum - Mike Fissel (SteelPonyCowboy)

2019 begins 13 years since I started working on our very first Devil's Highway trip. Things have changed a lot in those 12 years. Then the TJ was king of the club, now it is the 4 door JK. Our first year we had if I remember correctly, four trips that I planned. This year we will have nearly a dozen plus day trips.

We have had many members since 2006. We've had lots leave for many reasons, death, health, moved to Florida, sold their Jeep, can't do all the trips and such.



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Board Members

Chairman - Bill Solley

Vice Chairman & Treasurer - Philip Taylor (Nightcroft72)

Secretary - Kevin Thornton (gouacats)

Director California Chapter - Russ Chung

Director Texas Chapter - Seth Trout (troutseth)

Director & Founder - Mike Fissel

Membership - Bill Solley & Philip Taylor

Join Today - <https://jeepexpeditions.regfox.com/jeep-expeditions-new-member-registration>



Founder's Forum (Continued from Previous Page)

At the same time we still have a pretty respectable number of those members who have been with us for more than five years and about 15% of the original Devil's Highway participants. Not bad for a group of volunteers who blazed the way to become what we are today - **The Number One Jeep Adventure Club in the country, perhaps the world!**

One thing that has remained constant for the last ten years is membership, where we continuously have had 110 to 120 members on average each year. At one time we were close to our 150 maximum. Twenty members leave on average at the end of the year, and on average twenty more join to replace them. Last year we had a record number of new members join the club.

Someone asked me one time "why should I pay \$40 a year in dues". The simple answer is adventure and trips you can't get anywhere else! What else do you get? A free decal when you join, free trip decals when you go on one of our expedition trips, discounts at 4Wheel Parts/4WD.com that can and will pay for your membership cost year after year, discounts on Midland GMRS (in fact if you participated in the big Midland Group Buy in 2019, you saved more than what you paid in dues for the year). We also cover the first \$15 of your annual Cal4Wheel dues if you join each year (no other club does that), and if you give up just one Jeep Jamboree you will save enough to pay for more than ten years of membership in JEO.

There is a "BUT" and I say this every year. If you don't take advantage of at least one trip per year or any of our discounts then you haven't got your money's worth. If you don't stay active on the forum you'll not realize the value of membership because you will have no idea what is going on with the club. The members who get the most out of their membership visit the forum at least once a week and in about half the cases, several times a week. Now the club can't be everything to everyone but we try to offer something for all. We are like Cheers, where everyone knows your name. It's true, we are big enough to give you a lot, but small enough that we know everyone's name. You won't find that in the big forums or huge "online clubs" that have 5K, 10K, 20K or more participants. We have all made new friends and continue to make new friends. We truly are FAMILY.

Now as you have read in this newsletter, I decided two years ago it was time to pass the torch. I have spent countless hours working for the club. Bill and Philip will tell you that being officers, especially the top officers of the club, is a full time job. I've spent twelve years at the top and I've been weaning myself off of all the responsibilities, many of which have been taken over and shared by all of the Board Members but especially Bill and Philip. It was because of my trust in them and their dedication, that I have been able to make time to do things, more things. As you know I'm finally getting married this year and Carol will be retiring in the next ninety days. We'll be buying an RV and becoming snow birds. I won't have the time to run things after that, so the torch has been passed to dedicated, well deserving members.

So what's my future with the club? I'll still be a Board member but my "executive" responsibilities will be few. I plan on developing EPIC trips as you can see by the future schedule. In addition, I'll still design and order decals, maintain the current website and forum, continue working with the Facebook page, maintain a few business contacts, and be on the lookout for group buys. I will also be close by to be a consultant and offer information on club history.

Well I think I've used up my 400 to 600 words, (+340) but I always do, so until the next newsletter and the next post on the forum, see you on one of the four to six trips I'll be on this year.



NEWS OF THE QUARTER

Founder Mike Fissel Steps Down As Chairman

After more than 12 years of building and expertly managing Jeep Expeditions to be the #1 Premier Jeep Expeditions club anywhere, our Founder Mike Fissel aka SteelPony Cowboy, has decided to start easing toward a more restful and deserved retirement. If you call managing the JEO website, handling group buys, designing trip decals, planning and leading some EPIC trips...Restful! Mike has done an amazing job building the club to what it is today. Its foundation is solid for success well into the future guaranteeing all current and prospective members to be able to "Live the Adventure"

Another adventure he is embarking on after 16 years of co-habitation and 10 years of being engaged, Mike and Carol have decided to tie the knot. A date is not set but will probably be either late February, sometime in March, but no later than mid-April. This key milestone will take place in Tombstone, AZ and the happy couple will be dressed up in the theme of the old west and have one of the locals perform the service.



Jeep Expeditions Annual Membership Meeting - January 19, 2019

Location: Painted Mountain Golf Resort Meeting Room – Mesa, Az.

Board Members: Mike Fissel, Bill Solley, Philip Taylor, Kevin Thornton
Appointed Director of California Chapter: Russ Chung

Members: Larry Blau, Al Andrus, Terry Curtis, Mike Rubio, Tony Benevento, David Mendenhall, Chuck & Christine Orebaugh, David & Allison Hixson, Larry Rasmussen, Chris & Margie Brown, Doug & Patty Wright, Matt & Amy Casillas, Rich Hosterman, Tim Call, Suzy & Terry Johnson.

Meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM by Chairman Mike Fissel

Round table member introductions followed by drawing of names for door prizes. Mike Rubio won the "Best Video of GMRS Install" award and a 20" LED light bar. Larry Blau won the 2nd place award

No old business was brought up for discussion and for new business Mike discussed our 2019 trip plans and how he is going to concentrate on his "Epic" expeditions in the future. He talked about how the club was formed back in 2006 when he was a member of another Arizona club and members began talking about doing longer trips with overnight camping instead of just day runs. Mike found some information about the Devil's Highway, put a trip together and 28 Jeeps showed up for the run. From that first "expedition" Jeep Expeditions was created.

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Membership Meeting Minutes (Continued from Previous Page)

Mike then explained how he has been working developing the club, membership, website, forum, trip leading and handling all of the other functions for the past 12 plus years. While he still enjoys it, he is anxious to ease toward a little less daily involvement and start enjoying life with his significant other Carol when she retires this year. In order to be able to do this, Mike is going to step down from his position as Chairman effective immediately and Bill Solley will become the new Chairman of Jeep Expeditions. A confirming Board vote will be taken the week of January 21 with Philip Taylor becoming Treasurer and Kevin Thornton Secretary. Mike as Founder will retain a Board seat per club By-Laws Article VI #6.3. "The Founder will have a permanent seat on the board unless he voluntarily vacates the position or no longer meets the requirements for membership"

Mike turned the meeting over to Bill Solley who thanked Mike and all of the members present for their past support and that he was looking forward to working with everyone in the future to keep Jeep Expeditions the premier expeditions group that it has become. Bill stated that while he has only been a Jeep owner and JEO member for the past 4 ½ years he has made a lot of new friends and learned so many things about Jeeping. With a lifetime in management being his strongest asset as Chairman, he will need to depend and call on all of our long time Jeep members for their knowledge and experience.

A group discussion was had about developing trip leaders and using the co-trip leader system to bring more members into leadership roles with the club.

Bill gave a 2018 year end membership report that showed we had 52 new members join in 2018 taking our membership levels to 134 at its peak in early December. We had 17 members that did not renew for 2019 so current membership stands at 117.

Mike discussed the efforts to upgrade our website to a new Word Press based site but lack of knowledge and experience with Word Press has been a hindrance. Suzy Johnson (Crazy Suzy) from Tucson is the webmaster for Cal4WD and offered to assist. David Mendenhall (ZonaJP) also offered to help in our social media efforts on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.

Bill discussed that we are exploring developing a quarterly newsletter focusing on showing past and future trips that would be accessible to anyone visiting our website. Matt Casillas (acasillas) offered to help with this project.

Before adjourning the meeting, Bill passed out Cakes on Sticks to everyone that were donated by Andrea Macias (Andimac) sister's business, Cakes on Sticks.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM and many members convened in the parking lot to swap GMRS parts, look at the latest new mods and talk JEEP.



Jeep Expeditions
Our organization affiliations that help
promote stewardship of our public lands



Promoting responsible recreation through stewardship, education and communication. Plus we get out there and live it.
<https://www.treadlightly.org/>



Cal4wheel was formed in 1959 by some four-wheelers who were getting tired of their trails being closed. Fast forward 50+ years and the battles are the same. The desire to play on public lands is as strong as ever, and more people than ever before have some form of off-road vehicle. Our opponents have also been busy those 50+ years and are just as strong now as they were in 1959.

<https://cal4wheel.org/CA4WD/Default/CA4WD/Default.aspx?hkey=20744bcb-0dd7-4804-b243-08f5bfa1b5d6>

As a Jeep Expeditions member, when you join Cal4Wheel the club will pay \$15.00 of your yearly membership fee for you. To join or renew your 2019 membership and receive the club discount, please send your \$35.00 payment to us using one of our 3 methods of payment:

PayPal@jeepexpeditions.org

Zelle@jeepexpeditions.org

Or Mail Check To: PO Box 12862, Scottsdale, AZ 85267



DEVIL'S HIGHWAY TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – 2018

After several years of effort we were finally awarded a grant in 2016 to install signage along the Devil's Highway, our official "Adopted Trail". We soon discovered that was the easy part, as the government attorneys, environmental departments and every other bureaucrat in Washington got involved. It took us until January of 2018 to finally receive all the clearances, have signs made and set an actual date for installation.

On January 18, 2018, five of our members, SteelPonyCowboy, Russ Chung, Bill Solley, Red Ruby and rslagle met Margot Bissel with the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge office in Ajo. We loaded up the signs, tools, entered GPS sign location coordinates and headed out. (Minus the promised Wildlife Service crew and their gas powered auger!)



Desert Rat Toy Patrol JEO Bike Donation Dec 2018

Desert Rat Off Road in Tempe hosted their 2nd Annual "The Sheriff's Toy Patrol" at Coffee & Crawlers, Saturday, December 8th.

This event is organized to benefit disadvantaged children identified by the Sheriff's office, Military Families and St, Vincent de Paul. Desert Rat also was giving away free raffle prizes worth \$1,000's of dollars from many of the major Jeep aftermarket parts manufacturers.

It has been several years since Jeep Expeditions has participated in a seasonal toy drive. In 2018 the tradition was renewed and we joined with Desert Rat Off Road and many of the other Arizona Jeep clubs that participate in this event by donating as many kids bicycles as possible. Two U-Haul trailers later filled with 45 bicycles we crushed our goal of 20 bicycles. Thank you for your tremendous support of this cause and a good time was had by all.

Desert Rat off road centers



Q4 2018 Past Trip Recaps



Death Valley Expedition (November 3 to 11, 2018)

Trip Leader: Russ Chung

Attendees: Calvin Masuda (Trekking), George Atwood (GeorgeA), Greg Barrett, Mark Yang (Mark)

Trip Recap:

Another great visit to Death Valley National Park in the Fall with another great tie into Cal4Wheel Panamint Valley Days Event. This trip started immediately after the SEMA show which ended on Friday November 2. The trip started at Panamint Springs Resort and covered Hunter Mountain, Hidden Valley, Teakettle Junction, Steel Pass, and Eureka Dunes. The expedition explored Stateline Mine and Gold Point, NV and then returned to Mesquite Springs Campground. The Cal4Wheel Panamint Valley Days was another great wheeling event.



Q4 2018 Past Trip Recaps (continued)



Jeep Beach West 2018 - Pismo Beach (October 5 to 7, 2018)

Trip Leader: Mike Fissel (SteelPonyCowboy)

Attendees: Russ Chung, Winfield May (General May), Chelsey Marts (Wendy Wrangler), Andrea Macias (Andimac), Larry Szopinski (DharmaInitiativePhx), Jason Fontana (AZ Cat)

Trip Recap:

The Dunes never disappoint. Nothing like airing down and playing in the sand. A highly attended Jeep event with a chance to see all kinds of rigs on display. Nothing like a Jeep Parade on the beach!



2019 Q1 Past Trip Info

Table Mesa Day Trip - January 27, 2019

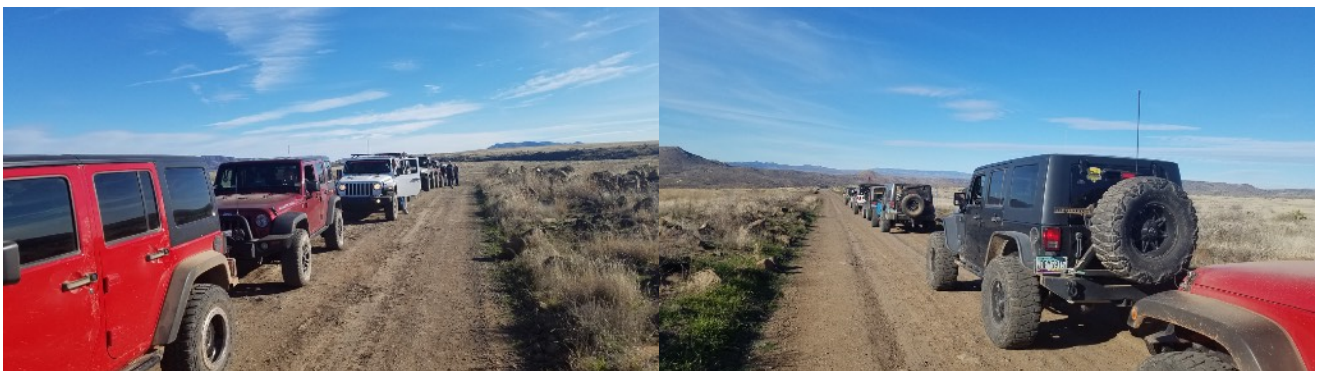


Trip Leader: Mike Fissel (SteelPonyCowboy)

Attendees: BillSolley, Igocommando, ZonaJP, Nightcroft72, CraigH, G Rios, SGTSTUBBY, DBO, Tony, Via, Andimac, mynr1, Terry, Jstep, acasillas, Ramjet, Buffalo

The GMRS shakedown run with 18 member Jeeps participating. This trip introduced everyone to GMRS on the trail. This trip was for members who installed new Midland Micro mobiles and to give them a real work out on the trail and demonstrate how much better they are on the trail than CB. Several loaner GMRS handheld units were made available to those who had not installed GMRS in their Jeep. Performance was solid even on the handheld units! A nice trail ride with a few small water crossings and a few small rock crawling obstacles made for a fun ride on portions of the great western trail while testing our new gear.

We took some pictures for Midland for their social media account and some members may become almost famous! Safe to say it was a fun day had by all and some folks will be running out to spend some money to install the GMRS units.



2019 Q1 Past Trip Info (continued)



13th Annual Devil's Highway (February 16 and 17) Optional Days - Feb 15, Feb 18 to 20

Trip Leader: Mike Fissel (SteelPonyCowboy)

Attendees: AZJeep4Me, RedRuby, JeepCanJim, Greg Barrett, Fire Dog, jeep_TX, Vader, Tin Shanty, Alan, G Rios, ZonaJP, ronnacabin, CaveCreekJeepMan, Andimac, Ramjet

Trip Details:

A club favorite going on it's 13th year!!! Along the way the group made a side trip to see the border "fence" across the Organ Pipe Cactus National Park. Stops at Papago Well, and several other points of interest like O'Neils Grave. The optional days featured stops at Fortuna mine and the Patton Museum.



2019 Q1 Past Trip (continued)

Trinity Alps President's Day Trip

February 18, 2019

Trip Leader: Russ Chung

Attendees: curt_JK, Peter Huang (usjeeper)

Trip Details:

Short President's weekend trip up to Shasta - Trinity Recreational Area in Northern California with a little snow mixed in made for some fun jeeping and some chilly rooftop camping the night before the trails the following morning.

The crew made a run up Bowerman Ridge in the morning only to find knee deep snow at the ridge. The crew had to turn around and headed back to Weaverville for lunch and decided to try Hobo Gulch trail in the afternoon. The trail was 15 miles long and dead ends at a wilderness boundary. After that we had a few hours of daylight and went on the Deadwood Road Trail that starts near Lewiston. After climbing to an elevation of 4000 feet we descended down and ended our day and headed to refuel and eat in Redding. We arrived back in Sacramento at 2 am with everyone tired, cold, and very happy to be back home!



2019 Q1 Trip Info



Anza Borrego Expedition with 2019 TDS Desert Safari (optional) February 24 to 28, Optional Days - March 1 to 3

Trip Leader: Russ Chung

Trip Details:

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the largest state park in California. Five hundred miles of dirt roads, 12 wilderness areas and many miles of hiking trails provide visitors with an unparalleled opportunity to experience the wonders of the California Desert. The park is named for Spanish explorer Juan Bautista de Anza and the Spanish word borrego, or bighorn sheep. The park features washes, wildflowers, palm groves, cacti and sweeping vistas. Visitors may also have the chance to see roadrunners, golden eagles, kit foxes, mule deer and bighorn sheep as well as iguanas, chuckwallas and the red diamond rattlesnake. **Our base camp for this year's Anza Borrego Expedition will be the Agua Caliente County Park**



2019 Q2 Trip Info



Mohave Road Expedition (April 12 to 14)

Trip Leader: Mike Fissel (SteelPonyCowboy)

Trip Details:

A perpetual favorite of the club and by the time of the trip will be two years since our last one. Follow the footsteps and wagon tracks of Kit Carson, Settlers, 49ers, Indians, Cavalry and more. Ruins of old forts and lots more to see.



Friday will be our travel day when we meet up at the Avi Casino in Laughlin, NV. We will stage from the Casino Saturday morning for an 8 AM departure time for the trail. Be sure to gas up Friday night as we will not be going anywhere but the trail Saturday morning.

The Expedition will finish in Barstow, CA around 3 PM Sunday. Drive home like we did in other years or stick around and camp at the Afton Canyon Campground.



2019 Q2 Trip Info (continued)



Hell and Back MOAB 2019 April 28 to May 5

Trip Leader: Philip Taylor (Nightcrot72)

Trip Details:

This will be two weeks after Easter Jeep Safari (EJS) and still very busy, so we highly recommend you make reservations as soon as possible. Please take special note---some of the campgrounds are NOT pet friendly, so choose accordingly.



Here is a list of some of the Trails we hope to run during the week in Moab. Using the latest trail ratings by the Red Rock 4 Wheelers club in Moab listed below, we will mix up the difficulty ratings from 3 to 6.

There could potentially be additions or deletions for consideration between now and the Trip date. (we will make final determinations as we come closer to the actual dates).



Just some of the possible trails listed in order of increasing level of difficulty, not by scheduled days:

Fins & Things - rated 4 Seven Mile Rim - rated 4
Backwards Bill - rated 5 Porcupine Rim - rated 5
Tip Toe Behind the Rocks (verifying rating)



2019 Q2 Trip Info (continued)



Ancient Ruins Route to MOAB April 28 to May 5

Trip Leaders: Bill Solley & Jim Galbraith (AZJeep4Me)

Trip Details:

We might see snow in the mountains (remember our 2018 Utah trip and 15 degrees in Bryce), established campgrounds and/or primitive camping, pavement, gravel, dirt and 4x4 opportunities on any given day in any order, as this is new territory for us. Being a new area and with no pre-run, we will take each day 1 at a time. We may get ahead or fall behind the plan as we go, but we will try not to by-pass important cultural, historical or scenic sights if at all possible.

April 28 - Day 1 - Walnut Canyon National Monument and Homolovi State Park Puebloan Indian ruins by Winslow, and Second Mesa & Hopi Cultural Center

April 29 - Day 2 - From Second Mesa we go to Keams Canyon and Canyon de Chelly

April 30 - Day 3 - Continuing north and east from Canyon de Chelly to visit Hatch Trading Post and camping at Hovenweep National Monument

May 1 - Day 4 - Leave Hovenweep heading west/northwest on Montezuma Canyon Road and up into the LaSal mountains

May 2 - Day 5 - Break camp and head north into up into the Fisher Valley out through beautiful Onion Creek Trail to Dewey Bridge Camp

May 3 - Day 6 - Start at the Dewey Bridge group camp site where we will plan to meet up with the JEO "A" Team and run the Dome Plateau Trail

May 4 - Day 7 - Run scheduled TRIP A trails with the Moab JEO group

May 5 - Day 8 - Leave Moab and travel home or start the Red Rock Adventure trip



2019 Q2 Trip Info (continued)



Red Rock Adventure Tour May 5 to May 15

Trip Leader: Mike Fissel (SteelPonyCowboy)

Trip Details:

By popular demand and right on the heels of the Beauty of Utah trip. If you are doing the Utah trip you can start this trip on the 5th and continue seeing even more beauty of Utah. We'll be done in time to hit the Overland Expo which starts on the 17th in Flagstaff if you plan on going.

We will meet at the City Market in downtown Moab at 8 AM on May 5th. The preliminary itinerary is as follows:

May 5 - Day #1 Arches National Park - Will include the off-road sections AND we'll camp in the back country of Arches on Night #1

May 6 - Day #2 Canyonlands National Park - camp there for the night

May 7 - Day #3 Capitol Reef National Park - camp there for the night

May 8 - Day #4 Utah Petrified Forest - camp there for the night

May 9 - Day #5 Bryce Canyon National Park - camp there for the night

May 10 - Day #6 Zion National Park -camp there for the night

May 11 - Day #7 Grand Staircase-Escalante Nat'l Monument

May 12 - Day #8 Grand Canyon N. Rim (western boundry) - camp near the rim that night

May 13 - Day #9 Glen Canyon N. Rec Area, Lake Mead National Recreation Area & Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument. Camp there that night

May 14 - Day #10 Grand Canyon South Rim - trails to Flagstaff - Camp there that night

May 15 - Day #11 Arrive in Flagstaff late afternoon



2019 Q2 Trip Info (continued)



North Rim Grand Canyon Sam White Memorial Expedition June 7 to June 12

Trip Leaders: Bill Solley and Jim Galbraith (AZJeep4Me)

Trip Details:

Sam White was a Charter Member of Jeep Expeditions. He planned to lead a run to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon — one of his favorite summer destinations — when he passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in May 2015. In June 2019, Bill Solley and Jim Galbraith (AzJeep4Me) will lead our 4th trip to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon in memory of Sam.

The following quote is Sam's description of the run he planned to lead in July, 2015 and we did in his memory:

There is plenty to do on the North Rim. One of the days we will drive out on the paved road to Point Imperial and Cape Royal.

One day we will drive out to Swamp Point and view the Powell Plateau up close. We will also try and get to Point Sublime (roads permitting).

One of my favorite places is the little known Kanab Creek which is the largest tributary to the Grand Canyon.

Another day we will drive out to the east and drop down to view Marble Canyon and Marble View Point.

A trip to the North Rim is not complete without a stop to the North Rim Lodge and Kaibab Lodge which is on the way to many of the sites.

If nothing else come up and camp in the cool forest rather than swelter in the Valley. I hope to see you all there.

Sam

2019 Q1 Non Expeditions

Day Ride 4 Peaks, Roosevelt Lake, and Apache Trail March 3

Trip Leaders: Bill Solley and Philip Taylor (Nightcroft72)

Trip Details:

Looking at another leisurely run in the beauty of Arizona's desert to Four Peaks, Trail #49 Wells



We will meet at the McDonalds on NW corner of Shea Blvd. & N. Saguaro Blvd. in Fountain Hills at 8 AM, meet & greet, driver's meeting and depart no later than 8:30. Please have your gas topped off. We'll take Hwy. 87 up to 4 Peaks Road (FR143) (48 miles total). We will exit the trail onto AZ 188 and Roosevelt Lake, south to the Apache Trail (RT 88) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apache_Trail and Mesa. (40 miles).

This will be a full day trip, about 100 miles total. Pack a lunch, snacks & whatever you will need for the day. We'll watch the weather and temperatures but the altitude is over 7,400' so warm layers would be prudent.

Weekend Trip Harquahala Mountain (March 8 to 10)

Trip Leader: Mike Rubio (Igocommando)

Trip Details:

I have done a trip to the Harquahala Mountains in December the past 2 years. It's about 1 and 45 minute drive west of Phoenix. The plan is to leave Friday after work camp Friday and Saturday night come home Sunday. If you don't want to camp you can drive out Saturday morning and still come home same day. Saturday morning 9 AM we will hit the trail. We will visit the Black Rock Mine (Little Horn Creek) then head back towards camp site and head up to the top of the Harquahala Mountain. We will visit the Smithsonian shack that was used from 1920-1924 to study the sun. On the way back down to camp we can take a detour to another mining shack. Sunday can be a have fun shooting or explore some more day.



There is a public restroom at the staging area. I have camped here several times. Depending on group size we can go in more to bigger spots. I will be taking my popup trailer and camping out of it. Plenty of room at the staging area. If you camp bring wood to burn and share. The past 2 years I have seen some strange light in the distance that can't be explained. Family friendly trip.

2019 Q2 Non Expedition

Day Trip Chocolate Falls (Grand Falls)

April 7, 2019



Trip Leader: Bill Solley

Trip Details:

Grand Falls is one of the five highest waterfalls in Arizona. At 185 feet high it is taller than Niagara Falls (183 feet) though not nearly as wide (est. 200 feet). Grand Falls is part of the Little Colorado River and its headwaters are in the White Mountains in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico. Most of the year the Little Colorado River does not flow so you need to plan ahead or be lucky to see the falls when running. Grand Falls is so muddy it is also known as Chocolate Falls or Muddy Falls.

Our last visit to Chocolate Falls on the Little Colorado river was on April 7, 2017 as we began our run to the Mohave Trail. There is no guarantee that the water will be flowing but mid- March to mid-April the odds are 33%+. The average number of days in April that the river flow exceeds 400 CFS is 24.3. We are linked into the daily CFS flow reports for the Little Colorado at Winslow and the falls flow hits 3 days after the Winslow levels. 400 CFS is the minimum number we will be watching for. Today it is 2,000 CFS after all the rain so it is probably quite a sight. (As a reference, the Salt River flood of January 1993 that took out the new Mill Avenue bridge that was under construction, was flowing through Phoenix at 120,000 to 140,000 CFS)

Navajo Permits - 2/7/19 Grand Falls Navajo office confirmed we do NOT need permits to visit the falls.

We will have an alternate plan to do something between Cottonwood and Flagstaff if the snow melt and runoff fail us.



Expedition Toolbox



CLUB TRANSITION TO GMRS COMMUNICATION by SteelPonyCowboy

Why GMRS? Because CB just doesn't provide the quality communications that we need to keep in touch and most importantly safety. GMRS frequencies are just above the Ham 70 cm band and are FM delivering quality and clear communications that are consistent for miles on the trail. GMRS will be the radio of choice by all off-roaders in the future and we will be on the cutting edge of the future now.

Why Midland? Midland is the ONLY manufacturer of Micro Mobile GMRS radios.

Why Mobile Radios and not Walkie Talkies? It's simple, a small 5 watt radio inside the cabin of a Jeep just does not have the range of a 15 watt mobile. It's a matter of safety so that EVERYONE in the group can talk and hear every other member of the group no matter how far apart we end up getting on the trail

Why a fixed antenna over a magnetic mount? Magnetic mount antennas have a limited range compared to a 6db gain fixed mount antenna. Magnetic antennas have a very small coax cable that is prone to damage. A magnetic antenna can also be caught by a branch and ripped off your Jeep. We have the same policy for CB radios for the same reasons.

Why the Midland 6db gain antenna? Midland is the ONLY manufacturer that offers a 6db gain antenna. The Midland antenna is pre-tuned from the factory which makes it plug and play (no SWR issues) and is designed for GMRS. A 6db gain antenna will give you much greater range over other antennas.

Do I have to have a GMRS radio to do a trip in 2019? No but you will be in the minority. GMRS will be required for ALL trips beginning January 1st, 2020.

Why GMRS over Ham Radio? Ham radio is great as 40% plus of our club members have them, but the issue with getting people to go ham is two fold: 1) having to study and take a test for the license, not everyone will pass the test on the 1st try though many do 2) Ham gear is expensive. A good quality name brand dual band radio with removable face plate will set you back about \$400. A good antenna can cost \$70. Some of us have ham radios that cost \$600+

Isn't GMRS expensive? Not really. A good Micro Mobile radio isn't any more expensive than a quality CB with our Midland club discount. The cost of the Midland 6db gain antenna isn't any more than the typical Firestick antenna.

So is GMRS that much better than CB? You bet, no interference that causes you to turn the squelch so high you can't hear the driver a few Jeeps behind you, and no more not being able to hear or understand another driver in the group. GMRS is very close to the quality of Ham 70cm.

Do we have to buy GMRS Walkie Talkies too? No but they are great as a radio for spotters on the trail for clear and positive instructions, for family events outside of the club, or if you go hiking away from the group to maintain communications.



Member Installation Zone

GMRS INSTALL PICTURES



Member Spotlight (Rigs of course!)



Mike Rubio's Rig (Igocommando)

2016 Jeep Wrangler Sport Hypergreen

My Jeep was built to handle all types of wheeling. I'm not into the rock crawling but having a rig that can handle whatever I find on the trail, was my ideal build. I have equipped my Jeep with the best equipment I feel will handle daily driving and off-road. We have wheeled trails in California, Arizona, California and Utah.

Modifications:

3 inch TeraFlex Suspensions Outback springs.

ST3 front upper arms and all rear arms. Front lowers are TeraFlex monster flex arms adjustable.

Falcon Shocks 3.1 piggyback shocks

37/12.50/17 Toyo RT 5 Tires with Rev 17inch Wheels

Doetsch Off-Road aluminum steering with Falcon Nemesis adjustable stabilizer

JcrOffroad Mauler Front and rear bumpers with cube A-hole lights.

JCR Mauler narrow front and rear fenders.

JCR classics sliders

488 gears

ARB front and rear lockers

ARB 4x4 Accessories - USA Office On board air

ARTEC Industries front Dana 30 Truss with skids

Riddler Mfg. LLC Dana 30 and Dana 44 dif covers

S-POD 6 switch red backlight

Cobra 75stx CB radio

Midland USA MXT400 40Watt

GMRS Radio

Insane Audio JK2001 radio with backup/rock cam

10inch Rockford sub and amp hidden box

Rugged Ridge 9500 winch with synthetic line

Factor 55 Flatlink

RotopaX gas and water on each side.

Magnaflow ORPS exhaust



Member Spotlight (continued)

David Mendenhall's Rig (ZonaJP)

2018 White Jeep Wrangler JLU Rubicon - "The Falcon"

This is my 5th Jeep, had one Grand Cherokee (WK2), and then 4 Wranglers (YJ, TJ, JKU, and now the JLUR). I enjoy all types of off roading from rock-crawling to easy scenic dirt roads to overlanding. As for my specific JLUR build, it's my daily driver and off road warrior, and it's a work in progress (as it always is, right?). I'm very picky when it comes to choosing mods on my Jeep - I want it to look almost as if it was designed OEM, but want it to be better, more capable, and stronger than OEM stuff. Want it to be capable to tackle anything off road that it will come across, but at the same time, when I'm driving down the freeway, don't want it to look like a dedicated off road vehicle that shouldn't be on the road either.



Having said that, here is the list of my mods I have up until now:

- 2.5" Metalcloak Gamechanger Lift (with all MC control arms)
- Teraflex's Falcon adjustable 3.3 piggyback shocks
- Teraflex's Falcon Nemesis adjustable 2.2 steering stabilizer
- 35" Nitto Trail Grappler tires
- 17" Fuel Offroad Vector wheels in matte black
- JCR Front inner Fender liners
- Maximus-3 Roof Rack mount system
- RhinoRack Pioneer full roof rack with rail
- RhinoRack Batwing Awning
- KC HiLites Rear Trace Bar (has red, amber and white lights I can turn on for increased visibility when needed)

Continued on next page



ZonaJP Modifications Continued:

- Ace Engineering rock sliders
- Smittybilt Atlas door steps
- 67 Design JL Rail system which mounts in the center part of the dash and holds my iPhone, iPad mini and GoPro
- GAIA GPS app on iPad mini/iPhone is what I use for maps
- Garmin Inreach Explorer+ for messaging/hiking and it's also the GPS unit that connects to the GAIA app
- CMM A-Pillar interior ball mounts for KC Trace Bar controller and GPS unit
- Powertank 10lb for airing up
- Hothead Headliners with Sound Assassin strips
- Done Right LED bar across the interior side back window to give light when the back window is open
- Old Dominion Offroad Stealth Storage system - interior storage for Hi-Lift, full size, ax and Krazy Beaver shovel (keep that stuff out of the elements so it works when I need it)
- Mopar Rear tailgate table (but will be replacing soon with the Outback Adventure tailgate with bamboo board)
- Comms: Midland GMRS radio, Uniden CB radio, handheld HAM
- 4 gal rotopax i mount to roof rack (when needed)
- 2 Maxtrax that mount to roof rack (when needed)



A few things that are on the horizon:

- AEV Front and Rear bumper w/ tire carrier (still not released for JL, but "soon")
- AEV Fuel caddy (still not realized for JL, but "soon")
- Warn Zeon 10S winch with synthetic line and Factor 55 link (will go on when bumper is available)
- Aux lighting (6" amber bar upfront, and a few flood/spot pods likely on A-pillar)
- AFE Cold air intake (not high on the priority list at this time)
- Exhaust (haven't looked too much into this yet, again not too high on the priority list at this time)

Member Appreciation

Welcome New Members!!!

Dave Simons (Soilant Green)

Dale Wente (42trax)

Amanda Craig (Trinity)

Q1 2019 Member Anniversaries

3 YEARS

January:

Jerome Smesny (Starkness)

February:

Dan Anghelescu (JKUR)

Bob Miller (Shortcut)

Steven Bruckerhoff

Q1 Member Birthdays

Jan 1 - Jasen Wright (Jawright)

Jan 1 - Suzy Johnson (crazysuzy)

Jan 2 - Bill Solley

Jan 3 - Roger Adams (Ramjet)

Jan 8 - Steve McQuestion (McQ)

Jan 10 - Jeffrey Reagan (ThunderChicken)

Jan 11 - Russ Middleton (GR8PMKN)

Jan 18 - Robert Hutson (Red Mountain)

Jan 20 - Kelly Zapara (KraZee)

Jan 26 - Larry Blau (RedRuby)

Jan 28 - Randy Stockberger (Stckbrgr)

Jan 31 - Rob Golden (GoldenFamily)

Feb 1 - Dirk Knoblett (DirkRocks)

Feb 7 - Mike Rubio (Igocommando)

Feb 9 - Chelsey Marts (WendyWrangler)

Feb 10 - Jim Galbraith (AZJeep4Me)

Feb 27 - Mike Fissel (SteelPonyCowboy)

Feb 28 - Greg Barrett

Mar 1 - Dan Cash (Carrera95)

Mar 1 - Tim Woodson (ZJ Woody)

Mar 4 - Mark Gilmer (Lorax)

Mar 17 - Chris Linford (chrislinford)

Mar 29 - Doug Ramsey (Fire Dog)

Mar 29 - Ron Baade (ronnacabin)



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