



TRAILS & TALES

May 2005

GEAR GRINDERS 4WD CLUB, INC.

Volume XIX, No.5

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

George Graham

VICE-PRESIDENT

Warner Fellows

RECORDING SECRETARY

Mary Kus

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Mary Grimsley

TREASURER

Jim Kenney

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andy Couch

Bill Maddux

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

BLM STEERING COMMITTEE

Bill Maddux

Mary Grimsley, alternate

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Gary Bartlett

HDMUC REPRESENTATIVE

Mary Grimsley

HISTORIAN

Karen Schortzmann

SAFETY

Dan Burkhart

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Mary Grimsley

CLUB ADDRESS

P.O. BOX 32

Ridgecrest, CA 93556

IN THIS ISSUE

Slate Range/Lookout City

Rover run to Isham

April Meeting Hilites

Recipe & Aliens

National holiday for Cowboys

Upcoming meetings/events

Club Calendar at a Glance

SLATE RANGE & LOOKOUT CITY *By: Mark Pahuta*

On Saturday, April 16, members of the club visited two sites east of town. Participants were: Bill & Samela Dorey, Warner & Pamela Fellows, Jerry Grimsley, Jim & Donna Kenney, Gary Luckeroth, and Mark Pahuta. We left the Park and Ride at 9AM drove through Trona, and then headed east on Quarry Road.

It was the first time on this road for everyone in the group except for yours truly. The dirt road (easy, 2-wheel drive) winds gently up the Slate Range culminating in great views both toward the west from where we came and to the east and Panamint Valley overlooking the Briggs Mine site.

About 3 miles up the road we stopped at what is very likely an ancient Indian path that heads out from both sides of the road. We briefly scouted out the area then continued on our trek up the mountain to some enigmatic and fascinating rock alignments. One alignment looked like a snake. Several were merely piles of rocks in definite oblong or slightly curved shapes. The coup de grace was a large, sort of rectilinear shape about 30-feet across that was divided into several smaller "chambers." There was much discussion as to what they all meant. But, as always when it comes to these sorts of things, there were far more questions than answers. In fact there were only questions. No answers at all.

While we were looking around, Samela spotted some rocks that spelled out TALBOT. Just below the name were some rocks forming an arrow that pointed east. The formation looked old. It didn't look like a kid's prank.

We left the site at about 11AM and headed to our next stop, Lookout City. Because Jerry had to be home early, he decided to stay behind and do a little more scouting of the Indian trail. He walked down the path to see where it led. The path became very vague after about one quarter mile, so he turned back and left for home, photographing wildflowers on the way.



"TALBOT" spelled out with rocks and arrow.



Vehicles lined up at Lookout, overlooking the north end of Panamint Valley.

Click [Here](#) for a Quicktime panoramic created by Mark Pahuta (Requires Quicktime)

By this time the rest of us were on the Minietta Road airing down preparing for the rocky climb to Lookout City. Jim took over as trail boss. I asked him how long it would take us to get there. He said, "about an hour." About an hour later, we were there. (Sometimes Jim DOES know what he's talking about!) On the way up, Jim had pointed out many areas of interest—other roads, mining areas, etc.—that made the drive up, dare I say, very educational.

We drove all the way to the top of the mountain to see the upper part of the "City." We scouted around a bit, had lunch, then headed down to the lower part of the city. The area was filled with the remains of rock buildings, mine tunnels, a large scale, tin cans, broken glass and porcelain shards, and paraphernalia of all kinds scattered everywhere. And of course the area had a spectacular view of the north end of Panamint Valley.

We left the mountain at about 3:30 and drove back to Ridgecrest. Throughout the day there were no technical difficulties except that Gary started out with his soft top on and ended up topless (?) We met up with Jerry at Sizzler for some sparkling conversation and the best food that Sizzler has to offer.

APRIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We welcomed back as guests, Kevin & Denise Serpa, and new guests Jason & Sandy Maddocks & their kids Parker & Allison.

Warner reported that the trail inventory project for CA4WDC web site has been down, so the project for our club is suspended until they resolve their problems....

Warner reported on the Web Page for Trey. There are new pictures on line, and he reminded everyone to email their vehicle pictures and info to the address on the web page, so that can be entered.

Andy reported on the trip he led for the Southern Calif. Land Rover club.

Mary reported that the WEMO plan is out, all 17 pounds of it. If you didn't receive the plan and were going to use the internet, it has been down for over 3 weeks now. She will write for an extension.

Mary will be turning in an order for t-shirts for our new members. If you need one, email her for details at maranjer@verizon.net or call 446-3458.

LAND ROVER'S ATTACK ISHAM *By: Jerry Grimslev*

On Saturday morning, April 16, George Graham, Bill Maddux, & Reid Wackermann and myself in my Cherokee, Dennis & Brice, and Andy & Lisa Couch met at the Park & Ride for a day trip through Isham Canyon.

Andy had agreed to lead a group of Land Rovers through the canyon. Only Andy, in his Cherokee, and Dennis, in his Land Cruiser, from the Gear Grinders would actually be driving up the canyon with the rest of us along as trail crew and observers. We arrived at the turnoff north of Trona considerably ahead of our guests, so we had plenty of time to enjoy the excellent wildflowers while we waited. Our guests were from a Land Rover owners event being staged out of Panamint Springs.

It turned out that only 2 Land Rovers were up to the Isham Canyon challenge, even though 4 had registered for it from the "Rover Rendezvous V", an annual event of the SCLR and the Land Rover Club of Las Vegas. A Discovery driven by Randy Banis of Deathvalley.com with his brother Tim from Hershey, PA, and Carey Steiner with Kevin Baldwin of Land Rover World magazine and his photographer. Carey is an LA City Firefighter and travels the country participating in rock crawling contests in her Rock Rover, a heavily modified Defender. Also, spectators Tina Niksic, SCLR Secretary and owner of Trek Outfitters, and her daughter Jennifer, caught the action on foot.

Andy led the way followed by Dennis, Carey and Randy. There are about 6 major obstacles along the trail. Gas-Cap Rock continued to claim its victims. Andy got hung up trying a different line around the rock. He ended

up having to winch out and sustained some "minor" sheet metal damage (At least those were his words). Dennis once again sacrificed a gas cap to the Gas-Cap Rock gods (I think that is 3 now, but who is counting). Carey tried Andy's line, and although she had her share of troubles, she was able to escape without having to resort to the winch. Randy tried the normal (nothing about this trail is normal) line and was able to get through unscathed through the pushing and shoving efforts of the trail crew.

The final obstacle was the infamous V-Notch. The trail guides say that this canyon cannot be done by a sport utility. Andy once again demonstrated his mastery of this trail, taking a perfect line through the V-Notch. Dennis looked like he had the right line until the left front tire started going up, up, up, and up. . . . so high that I put my camera on burst mode just in case there was any extra-curricular activity. He got the front end under control but did slip into the V-Notch, getting some sheet metal damage in the process. Both Carey and Randy made very clean passes through the V-Notch with the help of spotters.

Everyone was happy to have completed the canyon, but Carrie was having too much fun, so she made a u-turn and drove back down the canyon with the two British visitors.

It was a good ending to a good day. Carey's driving skills were very impressive in her highly modified (read "expensive") Defender. Randy also had a right to be very proud, since his Discovery is near stock except for ARBs front and rear, which made the difference for him. Our British visitors promised us a copy of the magazine article when it comes out. Thanks to all those who helped out.



Andy & Lisa Couch in their XJ.



Dennis Ambrecht in his Toyota.



Carey Steiner in her Defender.



Randy Banis of deathvalley.com

NEWS BRIEF of ALIENS in OUR AREA

CALIFORNIA, EL PASO MOUNTAINS - Below Iron canyon and Goler, NW of Garlock [over a dozen miles north of Mojave, California near the El Paso Mountains], there have been reports of alien beings who control deadly "machines" which stalk the surface, especially near Iron canyon, at night. Also reports of secret government monitoring activity and also a major electromagnetic 'vortex' energy field in the area. source: UFO ANNUAL magazine [year uncertain]; Garlock Fault Zone - El Paso Mts.

There are more mysterious tales regarding China Lake. Stay tuned.

Check out

Club Calendar at a Glance for Show 'n

Shine schedule.

CHEESE DIP *Barbara DeVries served this at Dumont.*

- 1 (8oz.) pkg Philadelphia cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 pound sharp or medium sharp Cheddar cheese, shredded
- 3/4 pound Jack cheese, shredded
- 1 (10 1/2 ounce) package taco seasoning mix
- 1 (8 oz) carton sour cream
- 1 cup chopped green onions, including tops
- 1 (10 1/2) can bean dip
- 20 drops hot pepper sauce or to taste

In large bowl beat cream cheese until smooth and creamy. Reserve 1 cup shredded Cheddar and Jack cheeses. Add remaining cheeses to cream cheese. Mix in sour cream, bean dip, taco seasoning mix and green onions. Season to taste with hot pepper sauce.

Place mixture in 13 X 9 inch glass baking dish and sprinkle with reserved cheese on top. Bake at 350 degrees 30 minutes.

Note: If making the night before, do not add onions until ready to bake. This recipe is ideal for any leftover cheeses.



The red Mariposa Lily of the El Paso Mountains.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY

Bingaman helps pass National Day of the American Cowboy.

Here is the text from the Congressional Record .

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 138, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A resolution (S. Res. 138) designating July 23, 2005, as National Day of the American Cowboy. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The resolution (S. Res. 138) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to. The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. Res. 138

Whereas pioneering men and women, recognized as cowboys, helped establish the American West;

Whereas that cowboy spirit continues to infuse this country with its solid character, sound family values, and good common sense;

Whereas the cowboy embodies honesty, integrity, courage, compassion, respect, a strong work ethic, and patriotism;

Whereas the cowboy loves, lives off of, and depends on the land and its creatures, and is an excellent steward, protecting and enhancing the environment;

Whereas the cowboy continues to play a significant role in America's culture and economy;

Whereas approximately 800,000 ranchers are conducting business in all 50 of these United States and are contributing to the economic well being of nearly every county in the Nation;

Whereas rodeo is the sixth most-watched sport in America;

Whereas membership in rodeo and other organizations surrounding the livelihood of a cowboy transcends race and gender and spans every generation;

Whereas the cowboy is an American icon;

Whereas to recognize the American cowboy is to acknowledge America's ongoing commitment to an esteemed and enduring code of conduct; and

Whereas the ongoing contributions made by cowboys to their communities should be recognized and encouraged:

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate--

(1) designates July 23, 2005, as "National Day of the American Cowboy"; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Here are the cosponsors:

Sen Allard, Wayne [R-CO] - 5/12/2005 *

Sen Allen, George [R-VA] - 5/12/2005 *

Sen Baucus, Max [D-MT] - 5/12/2005 *

Sen Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM] - 5/12/2005 *

Sen Burns, Conrad R. [R-MT] - 5/12/2005 *

Sen Craig, Larry E. [R-ID] - 5/12/2005 *

Sen Crapo, Mike [R-ID] - 5/12/2005 *

Sen Dorgan, Byron L. [D-ND] - 5/12/2005 *

Sen Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY] - 5/12/2005 *

Sen Inhofe, James M. [R-OK] - 5/12/2005 *

Sen Martinez, Mel [R-FL] - 5/12/2005 *

Sen Salazar, Ken [D-CO] - 5/12/2005 *

Sen Stevens, Ted [R-AK] - 5/12/2005 *

GEAR GRINDERS 4WD
CLUB
P.O. BOX 32
RIDGECREST, CA 93556

PROMOTING PUBLIC LANDS FOR RESPONSIBLE MULTIPLE USE