



TRAILS & TALES

MAY 2007

GEAR GRINDERS 4WD CLUB, INC.

Volume XXI, No. 5

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

George Graham

VICE-PRESIDENT

Gary Luckerth

RECORDING SECRETARY

Samela Dorey

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

Bill Maddux

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

Pole 19 Trail

April Meeting Hilites

POLE 19 TRAIL *By Randy Schortzmann*

On Saturday the 30th of April we all gathered at Albertson's Mini Mart. We had a large turn out which included Matt & Nikki Gardepe, Carl Dorey and his future wife Michelle, the dog Rocky??? and myself Randy Schortzmann.

At 0830 we headed out down to Garlock Road and headed into the hills two turn outs south of Last Chance Canyon. We aired down and started up the canyon/wash. In a very short period we came upon several low steps. These steps range from a foot or so to over five feet high. Between the steps and numerous large rocks it gets quite exciting.

We did well until about the third step (4 or 5 feet) at which time Carl could not get enough traction, so we had to strap him. The steps keep coming until you reach the last one, which is rather steep and high. This one gets your heart pumping and blood flowing. I topped it with no problem, but once again Carl needed the old yellow strap. Actually he only needed a slight tug to get over. Matt, in "Godzilla", still had a little difficulty; of course the wrong line is always harder.

Once at the top, we stopped for lunch, where on top we had a nice breeze, as the weather had gotten quite warm. As we started up to leave the lunch area it was discovered that Carl couldn't start his Jeep. He had a dead battery, so jump-start to the rescue. From here we preceded down to Last Chance Canyon for a game of Follow the Leader.

We held our line pretty good until we came to the "V" notch. At this point, I was the only taker to run it from top to bottom. No problems at all, but Matt & Carl promised me they would follow through it next time.

Back down at Garlock we aired back up for the road home. We did meet a Park Ranger for a quick chat.



Matt Gardepe in "Godzilla".



Randy climbing what looks like may be the last step???

She was going up Last Chance Canyon in her park pick-up Hope she made it.

After all the daily adventure we got together at Carl & Michelle's for a delicious Tri-tip BBQ. It was great and the run was fun too.

APRIL MEETING HILITES

Our Vice-President, Gary Luckeroth, again conducted the meeting.

Guests were introduced or introduced themselves: returning were Carl Dorey and past member Barry Thompson and our new guest was Frank Deits.

No one missed the mail that I completely forgot about picking up.

The usual business was taken care of: minutes read & approved, treasurer's report.

There were no committee reports. Jim Kenney reported on an impromptu run that took place in April to the White Swan Mine, Darwin, and Panamint Springs.

Mary asked if anyone had been to McIver's and if they had seen the vandalism to the cabin and springs. Bob Ferenes had contacted her. It seems the motorcycle/quad crowd are responsible for the damage to the spring (tracks) & most likely the cabin.

Jim also reported on the most recent burning of a historic building, which occurred at the Ruth mining. The nicest of the buildings stands no more.

Bill Dorey won the 50/50 drawing, so you know whom to hit for that loan.

Upcoming trips will include: Randy leading a trip on April 28 to Pole 19 Trail; Jim is leading a trip for the Historical Society on May 19 down Fish Canyon, Jacob's Freight Road, & the Neadeau Freight Road.

Matt & Ashley will be wed on May 5th.

Donations were also made to Miah's Fund and will be mailed by Jim.

PROMOTING PUBLIC LANDS FOR RESPONSIBLE MULTIPLE USE