

# THE WHEEL DUST

SUMMER 2016

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ASA4WDC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



ASA4WDC WEBSITE

<http://www.asa4wdc.org/>



treadlightly!

ON LAND AND WATER



## JEEP TRACKS

Becky Antle, ASA4WDC President, 2014—2016



This happened on a trail repair run at Charouleau Gap in the Tucson area. A nifty trail always changing with the weather. Rheal's Jeep was winched back on all fours in no time at all. A bit more body damage on the Jeep but it kept right on going!



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## ASA4WDC MAY 14, 2016 QUARTERLY MINUTES WICKENBURG, AZ

**Called to order:** 1:45 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** to the flag led by Phil Strittmatter

**Quorum met.**

**February 20, 2016 Minutes as printed in the Spring 2016 Wheel Dust.** Motion to approve as printed, seconded, approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ray Jenkins read the report. Motion to approve as read, seconded, approved.

Chad Chaney has been making monthly payments to the association for money spent for his safety instructor's class. Unfortunately he had to give up his position with the association as safety instructor but continues to pay us back.

**Proposed budget:** Rheal Tetreault read and discussed the proposed 2016 budget. Asked for questions. He will send out copies of the proposal. Need motion to approve the proposed budget. Motion to approve, seconded, accepted.

**Wheel Dust:** No comment but thanks to those who contribute to the newsletter: Mesa 4 Wheelers, Tucson Rough Riders, Bullhead 4 Wheelers.

**Membership:** Ray asked Becky how to get club membership information on the website. Becky asked that clubs send her the information in Xcel and she'll handle it. Send the forms to Wayne Ash and to Becky. The member lists will be on a protected part of the website. It's important to keep the rosters updated.

**4x4 Safety and Awareness:** We need a volunteer.

**Adopt-a-Road:** Doug Larson. No new information. Joan explained that the B4W plans on adopting several roads/trails in the Bullhead City area – it has been approved. BLM is waiting on approval from ADOT. Questions: Why is ADOT involved? Joan explained proposed new highway may interfere with our trails. Becky suggests we do not let this go beyond a year without some questions to ADOT/BLM regarding the delay.

**Event Coordinator:** Chari was absent. Becky took over. She reported that the three day Game & Fish Expo was awesome. Several hundred people showed interest in our clubs and the association. We had a booth with pamphlets and flyers. There was a very popular rock crawl. Next year Becky would like to see more participation from the clubs – maybe some rock buggies too. Game & Fish was very happy with our participation and want us back next year. We were covered by the ASA4WDC insurance—mandatory for G&F. Our VP Ted Nunez in his fairly stock Jeep entered the rock crawl, was spotted by Allan – he performed flawlessly, had a great time and drew a huge crowd.

**Lobbyist:** Nick Simonetta can't get a report out until the end of the legislative session in a few weeks. Buried in one of the bills he found an action to rob our gas monies. That's since been changed. Nick asked us to financially help: Sonny Borelli and Gail Griffin, AZ Senate; Bob Thorpe, AZ House of Representatives. All three are very supportive of the OHV community.

**Updates from Jeff Gursh:** Working on gas tax for OHV fund. Working on grants he's had before. Needs to know anything that needs repair on public lands—he has the grants and the equipment to make the repairs.

He's working on grants for staging areas. He's looking to connect trails that may be a few yards wide to several hundred yards across; i.e. join a BLM trail to State Trust land. Money is available, it can be done.

Ray Jenkins mentioned that some areas are gating roads/trails to control wild cat trails.

Jeff is also working on the Boulders OHV area; Tonto Forest, Cochise County area; Mesa Area and may have something going in the Kingman area.

**Grant:** State Parks approved a grant for Becky to purchase one of their older information trailers that she'll tow around the state to shows, events, schools, gun shows, 4x4 events. Wherever there's a need to inform the public on the benefits of responsible four wheeling. She took it to the G&F Expo and it was very well received. They want her back.

Becky will be learning how to write grants.

**Region II:** Phil Strittmatter. There's a new UTV club in Lake Havasu City with close to 400 members. The Walapai 4 Wheelers recently held an event, quite popular with groups from the Las Vegas area. The Arizona Peace Trail from Yuma to Bullhead City is making huge strides in cooperation with BLM. They are already getting portions of the trail signed. Still a long way to go.

**Region IV:** Rheal Tetreault. Coronado Forest has a new Forest Supervisor. He seems more interested in working with user groups than did the past supervisor.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Becky needs to order new T-shirts. Black or gray. The sizes need to be extra large and extra, extra large--\$18.00 each. Must order at least 60. Motion that Becky order the shirts seconded, passed.

**Florence Property:** Ray asked when we can use the property? The land is not useable right now, although there's an area to park on the west side. Need to form a committee and go down to map out exactly where everything will go—RV parking, etc. Doug Larson has a friend who will check the accuracy of the past survey and place survey markers where needed.

Decision made to meet on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. at McDonald's in Florence then caravan to the property. After that they will get together at a restaurant in Florence (Ted Nunez will find one for us), then sit down to map and put together temporary plans.

One of the Tucson Rough Riders has volunteered to donate his time to make the two property gates – we will pay for the material. The gates will be wide enough for RVs, rigs, etc. approx \$2,543. Discussion followed.

Need to come up with by-laws for the property and its use.

**Roster Update:** Becky asked everyone to update their club rosters and turn them in to her ASAP. She will put them on the ASA4WDC website—it's secure; only accessible by members.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**By-laws/SOP updates:** The by-laws and SOPs are out of date and need to be reviewed. The by-law committee members are: Ted Nunez, Roland Silva, Rheal Tetreault, Phil Strittmatter, Chari Ainsworth, Wayne Ash. Get the information to Becky by June 15<sup>th</sup> PLEASE.

**New clubs:** How to increase our membership. How about bringing in UTVs? Not ATVs though. Anything wider than 50 inches would work as they fit on our trails. We can not afford to lose any more trails. UTVs need to belong to an organized association/club. We'd have to change the by-laws. Ray said they would not necessarily join our member clubs but become clubs and then join the association. They'll have the benefits of insurance yet still do their own thing. They must be registered, titled and wear helmets. Lengthy discussion.

**Information Trailer:** The overland Expo is coming up next week—20—22nd near Flagstaff.

It is one of the world's largest events for do-it-yourself adventurers: Over 6000 attendees from around the world enjoy classes taught by over 100 of the world's vehicle and motorcycle overlanding experts, plus over 180 exhibitors, vendors, authors, and filmmakers. Camping for all. Becky will be there promoting AZ wheeling.

**Event request form:** Discussion and suggestions—copies were circulated.

**Waiver of Liability forms:** Any questions/suggestions – send comments to Allan. If you have a large event (not simple trail rides) let Allan know.

**Waiver release forms:** Run sign-in sheets. Change wording from “print to: sign and print.” As long as a run roster is signed on club runs those who sign are covered with ASA4WDC liability insurance for damage against an agencies land.

### **Announcements:**

**August 13<sup>th</sup> Sat. Quarterly. Fat Olive Restaurant in Flagstaff.** Camping off of Elden Spring Road just past the Mall on the left side as you go past the big shopping center. Then go just beyond the Horse Camp. Planning a trip on Sunday—Diablo Canyon Creek bed. Pot luck Saturday night in camp.

**September 23—25<sup>th</sup> Trail Dust Days, Tucson Rough Riders.**

**October 28—30<sup>th</sup> AZ Rough Riders Spook Rally.**

**November 5<sup>th</sup> Sat. Four Peaks Cleanup.**

**November 6<sup>th</sup> Sun. ASA4WDC Quarterly After Four Peaks Cleanup,** either at camp or in Fountain Hills.

**November 10—13<sup>th</sup> Parker Desert Splash.**

**Bronco Stampede—will be next year, details next issue (maybe).**

**Correspondence:** Ray Jenkins received thank you letters from Blue Ribbon Coalition and a sticker. Also a thank you from Share the Trails Program. BRC Membership is \$20.00 individuals. Received an insurance brochure for social clubs. Not for our type of sport.

**BLM** is currently studying information on power poles, etc.

**Becky:** Comments needed for trails in Utah, Montana, Colorado. Comment period up for Sedona Trail—Soldiers Pass they want to close every vehicle trail except for the Jeep Tours.

**Rosters:** Discussed once again. Becky needs everyone's latest club updates.

**50/50** Pat Jenkins rolled the carrier and drew a ticket for the big winner, Rheal Tetreault.

**Becky announced happy hour back at camp.**

**Meeting adjourned 4:55 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joan Beck, Secretary**

# Rail X Ranch Adopt-A-Ranch (3/26 Rheal Tetreault)

We had a very large group for the Rail-X run last Saturday [ed. note: 3/26/16], somewhere around 40 people.

We had participants from a Davis-Monthan 4-wheel club, SaddleBrooke 4Wheelers, SaddleBrooke ATV club, SaddleBrooke Ranch 4Wheelers and SaddleBrooke Ranch ATV club as well as the Tucson Rough Riders.

Matt, the G&F guy we work with, said we picked up 1.27 tons or about 2,540 lbs. of trash.



March 26, 2016. Rail X Cleanup crew. This is only 1/2 of the group. The rest are still at work.



## Warsaw Canyon Follow-Up (4/3 Steve Archer) What an Amazing Rescue for the TRRs!

Steve and Gwen Archer and Larry Narcus were the last to depart the air-up location at the end of the Warsaw Canyon & California Gulch run led by Jim Molter on April 3. En route to Amado and I-19 on Arivaca Rd, we rounded a bend around 4:30 pm, and at the edge of the road there appeared a tiny little girl, waving her arms and clearly wanting us to stop. We immediately pulled over, scanning the surroundings for any sign of buildings or the child's parents or companions – but there was only vast desert on both sides of the road. Our minds raced as we tried to sort out possible explanations for this most startling event – would she speak English? Had something happened to those who *must* have been with her? Was she a decoy for banditos hiding in the brush?

Larry was behind us, so he reached her first and had her in his arms as we came together. She said she was looking for her mommy, did not know where her house was. She calmly answered questions showing no outward sign of fear, but her little body was trembling. We were near the Border Patrol checkpoint so we decided to go there first, and since I had a lap for her, she rode with Steve and me. Her little lips were parched and a little cracked, and she was hungry, so we gave her water, yogurt and string cheese. She said her name was Elle.

The Border Patrol Agent thought we were joking when we said we had found her on the side of the road a few miles back, and he made a joke, saying he needed some yard work done, and could she handle a rake. When we impressed upon him that we were not joking, he excused himself and went to fetch his supervisor. The supervisor told us this matter was out of their jurisdiction and directed Larry to go to the Amado fire station to get the EMT stationed there. While waiting for Larry to return with the EMT we asked Elle if she knew her mommy's name, to which she said something like "Kahwa", but after several attempts to verify (Karla? Kayla?) she decided that her mommy's name was just Mommy, and her daddy's name was just Daddy. She also said she had a baby at home.

When Larry returned with the EMT, little Elle remained calm and allowed him to get her vital signs; opened her mouth and said "ahhh" – not a tear or any squirming – only "I'm still hungry", so she had another snack. We told the EMT about our futile attempts to learn the name of her parents. The EMT turned to Elle and asked her, "Oh – is your mommy's name Kara?" and she said, "Yes." He said he thought he knew who she belonged to – said they had a new baby brother, which all started to mesh. We backtracked down Arivaca Rd a few miles to a house on the ranch where the EMT believed her parents lived. The man there told the EMT that her family lived on the other side of the ranch, gave him her daddy's name and phone number, and then we were on our way to deliver her back into her parents' arms, during which time she fell fast asleep in Gwen's lap.

Following the EMT, we returned to the BP checkpoint, continued on to I-19, took the frontage road a half mile south to a ranch road gate, and proceeded about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the ranch house. There we met Elle's parents and a group of people who had been looking for her. She had been gone since 1:30 pm, so it appears that she had wandered several miles cross-country in the desert for three hours before she wiggled under the fence and appeared to our astonished eyes on the side of the road. Elle's parents had called in help and a Border Patrol agent had tried to search for her using dogs, but when the dogs signaled that she had gone in a direction the searches believed to be impossible (which was actually the way that she *had* gone), they ignored the dogs and were in the process of launching a helicopter search.

This sweet little 3-year-old girl never felt the fear that we adults had felt for her, not knowing the potential peril she had been in – not knowing the anguish her parents would be feeling, as we DID know. When she waved us down from the side of the road, our Jeeps must have looked as gigantic to her as the tininess of her body appeared to us. Looking back on this event, we still thank God that ours were the arms she happened to walk into and that she continues to wake up in her own bed every day.



# M4W Annual Adopt-a-Ranch Cleanup

I want to thank everyone who participated in last Saturday's successful Adopt-a-Ranch project on the Rafter Cross Ranch. The AZ Game and Fish Department was very appreciative of the time and effort the Mesa 4-Wheelers Club puts in on an annual basis. I know John Fowler was surprised by the number of M4W volunteers that showed up for Saturday's workday, and he was very pleased, since you all accomplished way more than he expected. I hope you also realize that your efforts result in more than whatever project you all complete each year. Your efforts help build a good working relationship between the rancher and the AGFD – for example, John and the AGFD just recently cooperated to complete a water project which will benefit both cattle and wildlife. And M4W's workdays have impact beyond the Rafter Cross Ranch – when I was working in Sonoita recently, I heard Bill Brake talking to a group of people about all the things M4W has accomplished on the Rafter Cross over the years. This definitely helps improve relations between ranchers, the public, and AGFD and it helps maintain public recreational access.

You all should be very proud of your accomplishments.

Thank you, for all you do!

Troy Christensen, AZ Game & Fish"



Above two photos—repairing fences and readying them for primer.



Above: They started out with four gallons of primer—not enough to complete the project. That's a lot of fencing!



We were rewarded with good food from Guayo's Restaurant.



Right: Aleksa can't resist this beautiful horse?

# Log Corral Adopt-a-Trail Cleanup



Sand rail with a ripped sidewall gets helped by the M4W.

A dirt biker ran out of fuel—another rescue by the M4W.



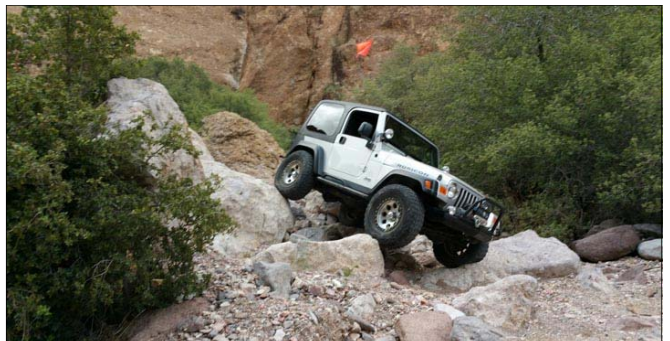
Mike gets a bit bloodied from trimming thorn bushes.



Lots of trimming; lots of work; lots of fun!



# B4W—SECRET PASS MAY 2016—photos Bob Seibert, Joan Beck





## B4W—MILE HIGH LOOP—photos Bob Seibert, Joan Beck

Our stalwart trip leader Bob Smith loves rock crawling adventures in addition to weather challenges. A week ago, he provided us with heavy downpours on Bull Mountain and on this day found us winds in the 40—60 mph range. Eight rigs with 14 eager participants enjoyed the new-for-some-of-us trail. We made a perfect loop starting in Golden Valley toward the old county seat of Cerbat, then up to the top of the Cerbat Mountains and back down—about a six hour run.



## Update from Jeff Gursh on Grants Work Projects—May 2016

- Working on OHV park in the Buckeye area; Miller Road/I10, would be OHV park similar to Table Mesa plan, Mountain trails, main staging areas near I10—kids, beginners area. *Will not do thru* State Parks grants, all outside private investors and city.
- We tried to get OHV users to let us know what they wanted to see as far as OHV development and or repairs or improvement on BLM lands, really did not get anything but “I like your examples.”
- Need your folks to actively participate. Currently, State Parks is holding long distance OHV connectivity meetings. Need groups to look at how to connect OHV areas. Know you have folks trying to connect stuff in Kingman and Tucson areas.
- OHV work at the Capitol went very well but consumed a huge amount of both Nicks and my time this spring. The SB 1398 bill was modified and both the OHV gas tax and SLIF boating dollars were saved. FYI that is almost half of the OHV fun dollars in most fiscal years.
- Tonto National Forest EIS (environmental impact statement) final draft comments will be coming out soon. We may have to protest the plan due to all the missing OHV trails (existing OHV trails removed from FS maps!) and how they lumped all type of motorized trails together.
- BLM lost Tom Bickauskas to the Alaska BLM in April. Kelly Scarbrough is the new Travel Specialist at BLM PDO. We have been working together for about a month now and doing well.
- Would like to meet with your folks or if you would rather work with another group such as TRAL (Tonto Recreation Alliance), in any case, 4x4 will be left out of plans if you're not on the list for comments or who is a club or organization with Parks. Parks is basically talking to organizations like TRAL because they (TRAL) are in their face.
- Most of our grants are doing well; late 2015 dust abatement project at Table Mesa for the staging areas still passes but damage from kids drifting their cars thru the parking area within days of work damaged the surface and loose gravel is an issue now. Will have to redo with more fines and re-compact this year.
- Table Mesa. Though rock crawlers and most jeeps have little trouble using the 2nd river crossing (just north of Little Pan staging area) the second crossing is getting over used and dust is becoming an issue. And for all those that blame the land owner at the 1st crossing for the closure of his property for access across the river: Over a quarter of a million dollars in damage to his equipment, trails and pumps was the cause of the closure. The public blamed him for closed river access when it was and has been a closure by the BLM to protect the riparian river areas north and this allowed the BLM to keep open rock crawler routes such as Collateral Damage and Lower Terminator. Still working on purchasing the road easement!
- Boulders OHV Area: A new dust abatement project is on my list for here; additional dust work to parking area and roads along with LP6. This will help us to continue to comply with PM-10 dust rules and keep the area open. Also have sign replacement and minor road repairs to do if we get some rain.
- I could use GPS track logs of any and all of the routes you like/use in the Tucson area. Also in the Cochise County area. This year's SB 1398 sponsor was from Cochise County and she really wants OHV in her district, she rides too. BLM there has not gotten to Travel Management yet so...need your info for our comments.

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Above are copies of the volunteer patches you'll receive from Doug Larson our Adopt-a-Trail Chairman. The larger of the two is for the first 25 hours of volunteer work and the smaller patch you'll receive for each additional 25 hours. They're slightly larger than shown above, multi-colored and very attractive. They'll look great on jackets or shirts. Be proud. Be a trail volunteer!

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