

HAW



Volume 25, Number 3

The Havasu 4 Wheelers **TRAIL TALK**

YOUR MONTHLY CLUB NEWSLETTER



Arizona
March 2017

A FAMILY FOUR-WHEELING CLUB DEDICATED TO THE MOTTO "TREAD LIGHTLY!"

President's Message

Our nation went through an election process in November and now it is time for our club to do the same. I want to thank the members of the club who were willing to step forward and offer their services for the upcoming year.



This month starts out with the "Award Banquet" where we honor those who have supported the club by being run leaders or assuming a committee chair position. The club would not function without their support and we would not have an opportunity for this get together without the hard work of Rodger & Diana Delk who put this event together.

Later in the month we will be enjoying a couple more fun activities like the "Hot Dog" run, the "Chicken in the Park". We can't party all the time, so as a way to show we have pride in our community, we will be doing a "Highway Clean Up".

I always like to learn new things.....may not always remember all of it.....so if you are like me you have probably heard the phrase "The Ides of March" which is a day on the Roman calendar that corresponds to 15 March. It was marked by several religious observances and became notorious as the date of the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BC. The death of Caesar made the Ides of March a turning point in Roman history, as one of the events that marked the transition from the historical period known as the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire.

Have a great month and hope to see you on the trail,

Willie



March 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Happy Birthday

<p>If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed or listed on the wrong date, please let us know so we can correct our records. Thanks, Tim & Pat Maskell</p>			1 Trudy Bales	2 Jerry Lueking	3 Byron Pohlman	4 Donna Kunz Mel Peterson Oni Studler Early West
5	6	7 Trice Holloway Carla Perala	8	9 Kenny Lusk Nancy Mrozoski	10	11
12 Ro Beets	13 Pete Baumann	14	15 Garnett Collins Craig Dittel Myrna Larsen	16 Alan Pepper	17 St Patrick's Day 	18 Fred Still
19 Bruce Joy	20 David Billick Peter Collis Cindy Urban	21	22	23 Tom Bunnell Diane Durham Sharon Husted Frank Lopez Bob Torson Jay Wolcott	24 Dennis Sigurnjak	25
26	27 Rick Holloway Peter Lamont	28 Constance Still	29 Carolyn Anderson Debbie Greadle Joanne Malara	30 Paul Hamilton	31 Jerry Kuhnle John Rawls	

Egilske's - H4W "Club

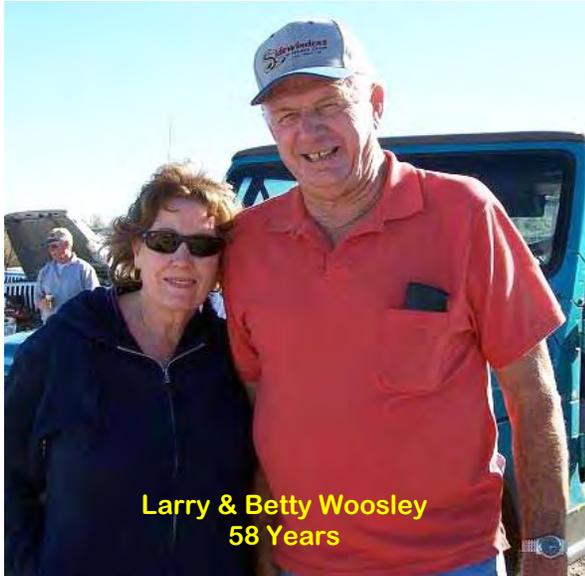
Happy Anniversary



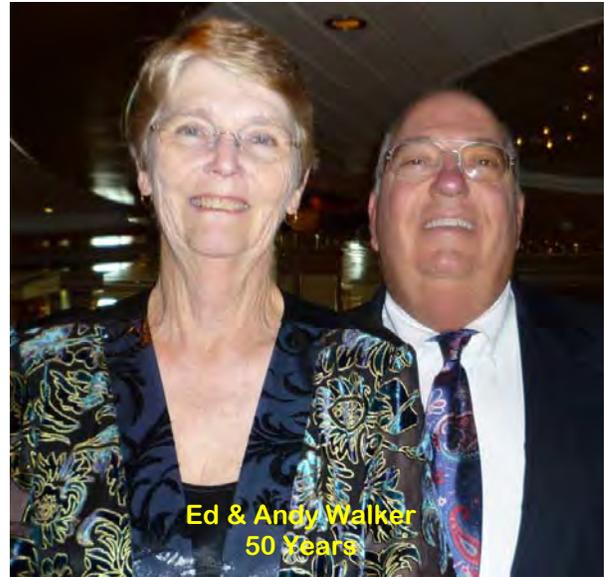
- March 1st—Larry & Betty Woosley
- March 2nd—Tim & Karen Becker
- March 2nd—Loren & Sheila Bruns
- March 3rd—Michael & Linda Gephardt
- March 5th—Jim & Ginny Frush
- March 5th—Larry & Julie Lutz
- March 10th—Pete & Mary Monia
- March 11th—Paul & Peggy Hamilton
- March 12th—Mike & Nancy Mrozoski
- March 13th—Craig & Darlene Dittel
- March 13th—Chuck & Sue Guibord
- March 17th—Mike & Debbie Selby
- March 19th—Ed & Andy Walker
- March 19th—Mike & Cheryl MacLean
- March 20th—Len & Cindy Martin
- March 23rd—Gary & Carol Wiskus
- March 28th—Tim & Pat Maskell
- March 31st—Tony & Annie Planas

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

50 Plus Years



Larry & Betty Woosley
58 Years



Ed & Andy Walker
50 Years

February New Members



Kris & Beryl Winchak



Jim Rank



Patrick & Jane O'Brien

Also; Bruce & Sue Frieman
No Pic Yet

Voted In at the February Membership Meeting

By-laws Change

ARTICLE XIII

1. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

A. No individual will consume alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs or be under the influence of these substances during Club sanctioned off-road events. Any individual not complying with this rule will receive one warning and, if a second occurrence, his/her membership will be suspended, or dismissed from the Club.

1. USE OF INTOXICATING ITEMS

A. No individual will consume intoxicating items or be under the influence of these substances during Club sanctioned off-road events. Any individual not complying with this rule will receive one warning and, if a second occurrence, his/her membership will be terminated from the Club. Intoxicating items are defined as alcoholic beverages, illicit and prescription drugs and marijuana, even if prescribed.

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The advertisement features a blue Jeep Wrangler in the foreground, angled towards the right. In the background, there's a desert landscape with red rock formations. An inset photo shows a white Jeep being worked on in a garage. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with various fonts and colors to highlight different parts of the service.

A Special Thank You

Linda and I would like to extend a big Navy Bravo Zulu (well done) to all those who helped with the Havasu 4 Wheeler's garage sale...to those who braved the first day's cold, contributed items for sale, brought tables, categorized items into displays, priced and placed stickers on each item, those who collected and counted money and helped customers carry items to their cars, and so on. I especially would like to thank the big stout men who moved heavy items and carefully determined prices for the Jeep stuff. I noticed that they would occasionally stop and huddle and discuss how best to crawl 'wet pants hill' or what is the best gear ratios for Dana 44 rear differentials...and then cheerfully go back to work. I also thank Linda for her tireless efforts to try to make the sale a success and for graciously volunteering me to help.

Again, thanks to all of the Havasu 4 Wheeler crew! You're the best!

Leland and Linda Lott





Upcoming Club Runs (1-5 rating)

El Supremo, 3.5.....	March 2nd, 8:30am	Snake Williams
Black Mesa, 3.25.....	March 5th, 9:15am	Sue Guibord
Swansea, 3.0.....	March 6th, 8:30am	Willie Williams
Hot Dog Run.....	March 7th	
HDR Paloma Wash / Cabin, 4.0.....	March 7th, 8:00am	Ladell Olsen
HDR Planet Ranch / Cabin, 3.0.....	March 7th, 8:00am	Bruce Speirs
HDR Gold Springs / Cabin, 3.0.....	March 7th, 9:00am	Snake & Willie Williams
HDR Lost Trail / Cabin, 3.25.....	March 7th, 9:00am	Gary Wiskus
HDR Red Line / Cabin, 3.5.....	March 7th, 9:00am	Mike Jahrmarkt
Turquoise Mine 3.0.....	March 9th, 9:30am	Andy Lucas
Planet Mine, 3.0.....	March 10th, 8:30am	Willie Williams
Turkey Trot , 4.0.....	March 10th, 9:00am	Bob Drew
Alamo Road, 2.0.....	March 12th, 6:00pm	Willie Williams
Golden Shores Geocache Run, 3.0.....	March 14th, 8:00am	Steve Riley
B & D Roulette Mine, 3.0.....	March 17th, 8:30am	Willie Williams
Boulder Gulch, 4.0.....	March 17th, 9:00am	Bob Drew
Visit the Army Camps, 3.0.....	March 22nd, 8:30am	Andy Lucas

Please Note: Please be at the departure location
20 minutes before the departure time.
Call Trail Boss if you are unable to attend.

Check the Havasu 4 Wheelers Website for updates and
meet
places on runs.
www.havasu4wheelers.org

Other Club Happen'ns

Morning Coffee.....	Mon—Fri, 7:30-9:00am	Schlotsky's , Gene Hobday
Awards Banquet.....	March 3rd, 5:00pm	Rodger & Dianna Delk
AED Class.....	March 8th, 3:00pm	Andy Lucas
Chicken in the Park.....	March 13th, 3:00pm	Jim & Janet Lund
Highway Clean Up.....	March 15th, 9:00am	Randy Harrison
Ladies Luncheon.....	March 16th, 12:30pm	Refuge, Diana Delk
Trail Boss Meeting.....	March 20th, 9:00am	Genealogy Library, Charles Leipart
H4W Board Meeting.....	March 20th, 1:00pm	Residence of Willie Williams
Cook's Night Out.....	March 21st, 5:00pm	Place To Be, Rodger Delk
Men's Breakfast.....	March 23rd, 8:00am	Bad Miguel's, 1841 Kiowa Blvd, (by Food City), Gary Wiskus
H4W Membership Meeting	March 23rd, 7:00pm	Realtor's Hall, Willie Williams
7th Annual Ranch Field Day	March 24th, 7:30am	Jim Bowen
Tombstone.....	April 2nd to April 7th	Charles Leipart
Moab.....	April 23rd to April 29th	Cheryl MacLean

Check the Havasu 4 Wheelers Website for Updates and
Locations
www.havasu4wheelers.org

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Havasu 4 Wheelers Conduct Desert Clean-Up February 7, 2017

Seventy club members from the Havasu 4 Wheelers (H4W) teamed up to conduct a desert clean-up annual effort Tuesday, February 7, 2017. The group concentrated on two popular illegal dumping & unregulated shooting areas on the north side of Lake Havasu City.

These clean ups are conducted as part of the clubs' conservation efforts to 'give back to the desert areas we all use and enjoy' and the responsible use of our public lands.

The club also joined forces with the BLM Lake Havasu Field Office and Tread Lightly, an off road nonprofit organization with a mission to promote responsible outdoor recreation through ethics education and stewardship programs.

Randy Harrison, H4W clean-up coordinator surveyed the area prior and stated "I knew we had a challenge waiting for us considering the size of the area and the amount of trash scattered all over the terrain." Willie Williams, club president stated "We had a great turnout and a successful day."

The club members set out first thing in the morning collecting trash and various materials strewn throughout the area. Discarded furniture, TV's, appliances and other trash was found either shot to pieces or burned and left to rust. The day's work resulted in filling two 40 cubic yard roll-off trash containers with 9,580 pounds of debris.

Bruce Speirs, another member, stated "As an off road enthusiast and sport shooter I am dismayed at what we keep finding. It's not OK to shoot stuff to pieces and then just leave it in the desert. This gives both activities a black eye and leads to land closures. A few will wreck it for everyone.

Please help keep our desert areas clean and open for family OHV and shooting sports."

We were assisted by Deputy Kevin Hartmann, Mohave County ERACE. Republic Waste Services provided the trash containers at no cost and About Time Portable Toilets supplied a portable restroom for the day.

The clubs will be continuing their desert conservation efforts in conjunction with the BLM by installing route markers on the area's numerous off road trails and fencing off dangerous mine openings.

Desert Clean-Up 2017

Thanks to Kurt Beach for bringing his Bobcat



Found by Linda Gephart while conducting the Havasu 4 Wheelers desert clean-up 2-7-2017. Baby snake was about 18" long. "It's springtime in the desert and more than the flowers are coming out."



Black Mesa
Feb 8, 2017

Great day for a run and all the participants did a super job traversing the hills and rocky terrain and avoiding all the cholla in the area. We had lunch on the cliff overlooking the Mineral Wash area.....what a view. After lunch it was onto the other two lookout spots.....ones looks down on the Bill Williams Bridge with all the dead reeds and the last spot, which I consider the best, looks down on the Lake with the city in the distance, Gene pump plant and runway, and the Colorado River in the direction of Parker. Feels like you are on top of the world taking in the sights.

A big Thank You to Steve & Shelly Stelling for being tail gunners.

Trail Boss, Willie Williams



JEEP

Where we're going we don't need any roads.

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Slot Canyon 2-15-17

We took the long dusty road to Slot Canyon but along the way we had to stop and look at the Joshua trees. It takes a freeze and the right amount of water for the blossoms to come out and I think this was the perfect year.....all of them were loaded with flowers ready to open up.

After the little horticultural stop we made it to the scenic slot canyon, which as you gaze down the canyon you would swear it is dead end but it opens up just enough for a jeep to get through. We got our exercise for the day by hiking up two canyons. The first is very narrow and not meant for anyone who is claustrophobic. The second starts out wide then narrows down to the point that very little sun gets to the area which means it is much cooler. We couldn't go all the way to the end as we were stopped at an area with about 12 inches of standing water but that didn't stop Craig Eggerman's son.....OH to be young again.

For the trip home we took the Old Alamo Rd which offered no problems and gave us a chance to see a different part of the desert.

A big Thank You to Dave & Sandy Merrill for being trail gunners.

Trail Boss, Willie Williams



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DESERT GAZETTE



ALL THE NEWS WORTH PRINTING AND THE RUMORS TOO IF THEY'RE ALMOST BELIEVABLE.

By Ima Kidinn, Desert Gazette Staff Writer

Larry Olson – One Man Economic Stimulus Has Arrived!



Larry Olson celebrates his work stimulus program coming to Ladell's garage.

The little brother that could, Larry Olson, arrived in Havasu like an Iowa twister, kicking up excitement everywhere he went. Ladell got him fired up first thing in the morning with a big fresh apple fritter and a large cut of coffee at Food City. Once fortified he and Ladell were off to go wheeling. And the abundant energy was very evident once they were in four wheel low range in Blueberry Jamb. Larry was expertly piloting his big brother Ladell's Jeep when he found a challenging obstacle. The track line was certainly impressive but the results were even more memorable. Stop, turn around and go away? No way! It was forward, forward, ever so steady. And then suddenly calamity! Just when he was going to show his big brother "how it's done down on the farm" the impossible occurred – the jeep just flopped over! How or why remain a total mystery but it certainly isn't the first time for this poor old jeep. Now as the jeep hardtop was broken and cracked beyond salvation Ladell worried that the damage would include the loss of his coveted "2016 flop over" rear window sticker. No worries as Ladell was able to quickly get a replacement hardtop the next day and swapped rear windows so he could keep the sticker. But does this now mean he is in line for "2017 flop over"? Is the rear window big enough to display all these and we're sure, future awards?

Bullhead Geocache Run VI

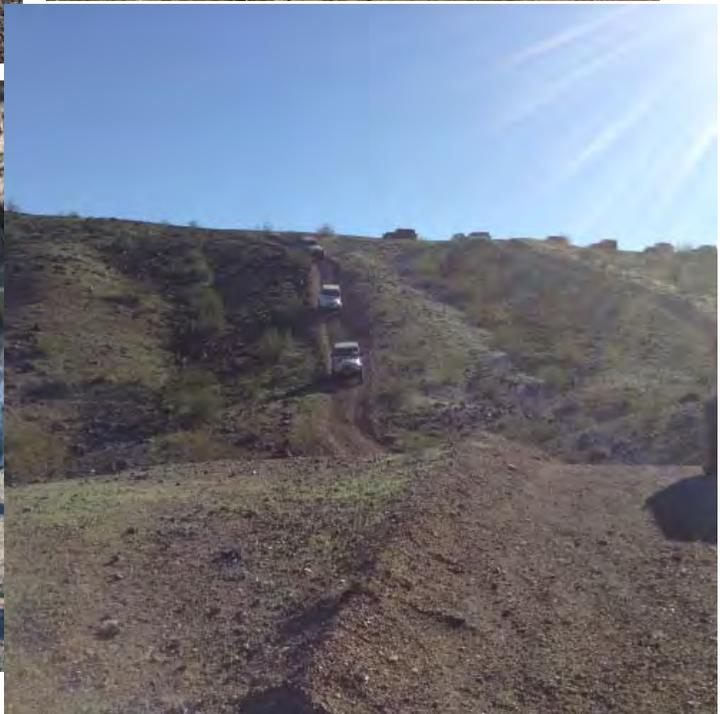
On Friday February 10, we had 5 Jeeps with 8 members and 2 guests travel to the Silver Creek area east of Bullhead City. We searched for several geocaches while we traveled to the lower Secret Pass area and the Narrows slot canyon. We encountered another Jeep group from California several times during our day. This provided us some excitement as one of the encounters blocked the road as they had to extract a Jeep that slipped into a washout spot. We also saw many burros along the way. We also explored several roads that were dead ends. After a long day we finally made it back to the air-up spot. Thanks to Donna Warren for tail gunning.



<<< Blueberry Jam, Made it without a scratch
Bob Drew

Chalk Hills 2/13/17

Great day for a jeep run along the lake. 16 jeeps went past Havasu Palms and Roulette Mine, climbed the hill to get one of many views of the city and lake. We had lunch at the cave in Chalk Hills, then left for a scenic drive to Havasu Landing. We returned on the Powerline road. Fun run, Thanks to Jim Lund for tail gunning. Mike Yahrmarkt





DUES - VOTING - AWARD BANQUET

It is that time of the year to make some decisions. In the February newsletter, you will notice 3 different items:

Dues: in the amount of \$45.00 are payable beginning Mar 1st (can pay now if you want) and become delinquent on Apr 1st which means you will owe \$60.00. If dues are not paid by the end of the month the By-Laws state, you will be dropped from the club roster. Also, check the club roster and if any of the information is not correct please let us know.

Voting: Who do think has contributed the most to the club over the past year and deserves the “4 Wheeler of the Year” award? To refresh your memory, here are some of the activities that happened last year:

jeep runs, webmaster’s contributions, newsletter editors work, events (ladies luncheon, cooks night out & award banquet), men’s breakfast, turkey roast, hot dog run, highway & desert clean up, Moab trip, first aid class, winch class, driving 101, AED classes, ranch day, veterans day parade, pizza in the park.

Awards Banquet: Do you want to attend this fun filled banquet to visit with fellow club members, play some games, see how lucky you are when it comes to the raffle and watch as the awards are presented to the trail bosses and “4 Wheeler of the Year”.

Now you have 2 options of how to handle this:

Bring your money for dues and the Award Banquet, plus you ballot for the “4 Wheeler of the year” to the Feb membership meeting.

If you are not able to attend the meeting you can mail the money and ballot to:

Havasu 4 Wheelers

P.O. Box 1486

Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405

If you have any questions just let me know.

Cars hauled out of the desert by Bruce Speirs, Gary Wiscus, Steve Perry, and Mark Corder

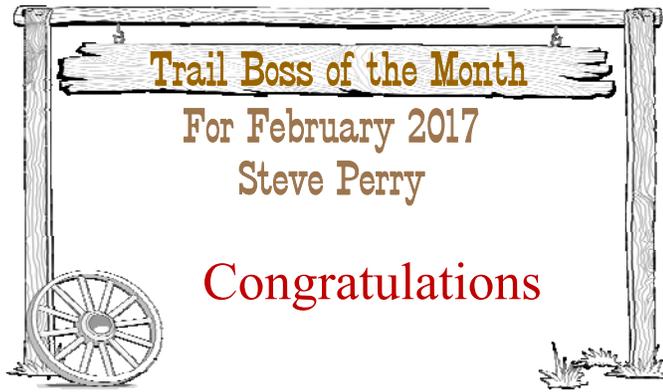


South of town off SR 95 - Burned two door located south of Mile Marker 175. Turn east on paved road and it is just past the gate. VIN 1100



North of town off SR95 - Two VW bugs, one a homemade dune buggy the second just the front clip. Turn west exactly at Mile Marker 192. Located at end of paved exit 100 feet from SR 95





February Happenins

Ladies Luncheon at Juicy's had 21 in attendance and Karla Perala was the lucky winner.

Cooks Night Out at the Golden Horseshoe had 40 members in attendance

Men's Breakfast at Bad Miguel's had a record of 45 men in attendance with Marv Adams and Tom Bunnell winning a free breakfast

H4W Yard Sale brought in \$2790.05 for our charities

Desert Clean-up collected 9,580 lbs of desert trash

Incoming H4W 2017 / 2018 Board Members to be voted on

President.....Willie Williams
 Vice President.....Ron Anderson
 Treasurer.....Rodger Melton
 Secretary.....Cynde Choate
 Membership.....Janet Drew
 Run Chair.....Charles Leipart
 At Large.....Dave Merrill
 At Large.....Peggy Federici
 At Large.....Peter Raventos
 At Large.....Bob Drew

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Jeep Transmission Shifter Cable Connector Failure and Trail Fix

By Mike Yahrmarkt

This happened to me so pay attention mister! I was out pre-running the “Ridges” east of Bullhead, stopped in the wash approaching Thumb Butte. Thumb Butte, you know the one, the one that looks like its flipping you the fickle finger of fate. Well it got me. I had stopped and shifted my transmission into park. When I wanted to go I discovered the shift lever had become disconnected. Now this is different than the shift lever and cable in the handle breaks. This is the other end – the shifter cable connector falling off the selector arm on the side of the transmission. Fiddlesticks! I threw my trusty trail work blanket down and got under the jeep. A quick look confirmed that the connector securing the shifter cable to the transmission gear position lever had fallen off. This allowed the cable end loop to come off the lever stud. I was able to do a temporary fix by zip tying the cable end onto the lever. Got me home. I recommend everyone carry this \$5 part as a spare. See my broke & fixed pictures.



A couple of pics from Diamond Back on Feb 1st with Bob Drew

Coveted Awards



The "Roll Over Award" goes, this time, to Ladell Olson for his flop on Python. Then soon after Todd Flesner rolled Python on an adjacent run to Python



Cow Bell Award

Cow Bell Goes to A.G. Fiddler for leaving a run with Tom Bunnell's lug nuts in his pocket



Mikey got the Gold Wrench award



No Bell Award

No Bell goes to Ladell Olson for loaning his Jeep to his brother twice and the second time, his brother rolled it



NORTHWEST PASSAGE – POWDER PUFF 1-18-17

What a perfect day for a jeep ride.....sunshine instead of clouds and only a slight breeze. With the ladies behind the wheel, off we went to explore the desert. They climbed the hills, drove up to the mine, went through the rock squeeze area and over the small waterfalls like pros. Some side by side riders pulled over to let us by and they seemed to get a kick out of the fact that it was all women drivers. I have to say the ride along husbands did a great job of supporting their wives.

A big Thank you to the tail gunner Linda & Jamie, OH excuse me, Jim Young.

Willie Williams, trail boss



FREE DIGITAL MAPS FOR LHC AREA OF APPROVED ROUTES

I mentioned at the last membership about the fact that the BLM had just posted on their website that very day the route maps for our local area.

What does this mean to our club members?

1. If you have a “device” **cellphone or tablet** (Android or Apple) you are able to load an app and maps and follow yourself in your Jeep in the desert.
2. **IT’S FREE.** The app and the maps are free.
3. It’s not possible to load one of our club tracks—but you will have an electronic map on your device that will show you your location.
4. Tracks—You can make a track of the trip you are on that day, and follow it back if you need to.

What is involved?

1. Download the app. Called AVENZA MAPS (search in your app store)
2. Go to the “store” in the Avenza app and search for the maps:
 - a. BLM ARIZONA HAVASU ACCESS GUIDES
3. You will find the 7 maps for the Havasu area—their free—get them
4. Once the 7 maps are downloaded and installed—open and play with them!

SUMMARY

The BLM will have paper maps of the same areas in the future. This is a neat way to have them on your phone or tablet. The app and the maps do NOT take up much room. Load the app and the maps up—play with them—be patient. If you goof-up, just back up and try again.

Good luck,
Jim Bowen
jdbowen123@gmail.com

MINUTES
TRAIL BOSS MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2017

Items discussed were:

There were 14 runs led by 11 trail bosses; There were 39 runs completed so far this year.

The revision to Article XIII of the Club by-laws was discussed by all members present. It was decided that the article should be reviewed by the membership at the next H4W meeting.

Criteria of what constitutes a run was reviewed and clarified. This item was described in the minutes of the September 2016 trail boss meeting.

Trail bosses were reminded to stay on established trails and not to "explore" on their own.

Part of the area south of I-40 and west of Highway 95 (Northwest Passage) is closed and NOT open as relayed by BLM personnel.

Trail bosses were told that shirts ordered were determined by run sheets turned in and that if a run was scheduled and run, but no run sheet was submitted, no shirt was ordered for that run leader.

Jim Bowen related to us that there are 15 off-road clubs involved in the opening of Planet Ranch. The process was shortened by several months by the participation of these clubs. There is also work being done to open Planet Ranch road off of south Highway 95 to Mineral Wash. When that road is open, there will be a need to "manicure" the trail.

We were reminded that trail bosses need to fully complete run sheets before turning them in for charting. The main areas that need to be complete are those of mileage and hours (from home and back). Those two are what the BLM looks at for trail monitoring and for keeping trails open.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45.

Charles Leipart, Run Chair

ALAMO/SLOT CANYON/HOWLING @ THE MOON

Feb. 9th. 2017 a beautiful morning, perfect day for a long jeep run. Yes Alamo Rd. was its usual dusty self, all 52 miles to the turn off for Slot Canyon. Once in Sand Trap Wash, the pace was much slower and one could now really enjoy the scenery. As we neared the mouth of the canyon, the terrane began to change, and the red/brown cliffs came into view, and ultimately narrowed into what is known as Slot Canyon. In several places the canyon is just wide enough for a jeep to pass through. There are also two side canyons that can be hiked, the first one is barley wide enough for a person to walk through in several spots, and is also quite scenic, to which a number of folks took advantage. The second canyon was wider but just as scenic with two areas with honey combs hanging from the canyon walls....one large one, high on the wall and a smaller one at a lower level.

After lunch, we continued on to Huffman City, which was a small mining community, now abandoned. After doing the Slot Canyon from the other directions half of the group, led by Howard Mathe, headed back to I-40 via the way we came and the other half headed out to attend "Howling at the Moon". The concert group took the power line road which turned out to be probably one of the most scenic areas of our desert. Upon arriving at the Planet Ranch Rd., and traveling South to Shay Rd. and on to the location of the Howling at the Moon concert in the middle of the desert. There were 18 club couples in attendance, among approximately 200 other fans of Mr. Kelly Hughes. And for those of you who did not attend, you made a big, BIG, **BIG** mistake. This gentleman put on a 3 ½ hr. performance, that was second to none, that consisted of country/western/comedy music.

A big thank you to Ron & Sally Satterfield for tail gunning, and also Howard & Donna Mathe for leading half of our group back out, that did not attend the concert.

Snake Williams, Trail Boss



COPPER BASIN / MONUMENT PEAK

Feb 22, 2017

This run was uneventful.....no broken jeep parts....very good thing. We looked at the “Horsehead” and old radio microphone “Nick at Night” in Bowman Wash and then proceeded down the trail to explore the head works at the “Copper Basin Mine”, have lunch near Monument Peak and look at the core sample sheds which continue to deteriorate.

After lunch the trail gets a little more challenging but everyone did a great job with the washouts. From there it was onto what I consider the most scenic part of the trip.....the red rock sandstone which could be call a mini Moab.

Thank you to Cynde Choate for being tail gunner.

Willie Williams, trail boss



Ridges: Mike Yahrmarkt, 2/27/17



AND...
The winning number is...

February 50/50
Winner was

Way To Go! Beryl Winchat

\$137.00



March Sunshine

ANNOUNCEMENT

I hate to be the bearer of sad news but I just found out that Linda Gephardt mother passed away.

Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.
Willie

With Heartfelt
Sympathy



“Sunshine”

If you know of anyone in the club who might need some cheering up, please contact Trish Reister at trishreister@gmail.com. She will be happy to send cards on behalf of the entire *Havasu 4 Wheelers* membership. ❖

DONE RIGHT



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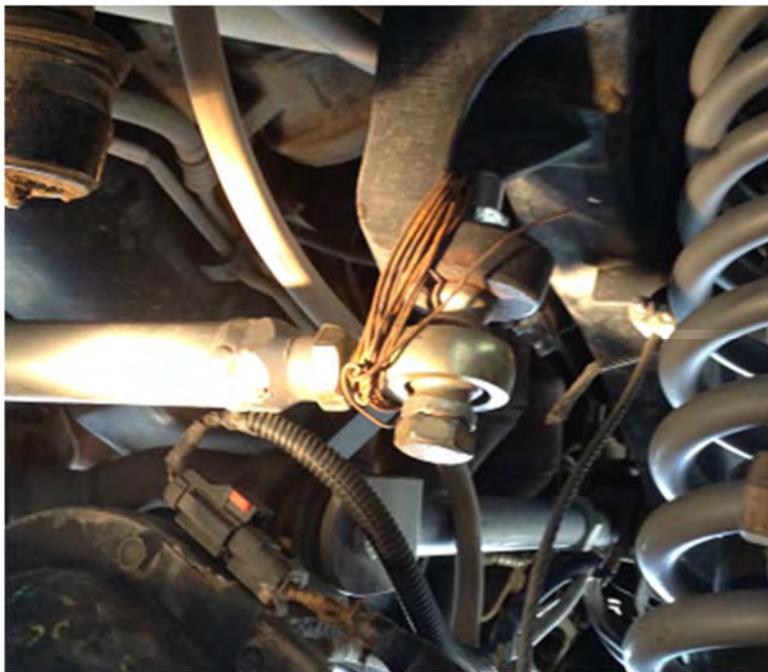
High Tech Heim Joint Trail Side Fix

By Mike Yahrmarkt

Editor's note – This is the third in a series of seeming unending mishaps that Mike will be personally reporting on and that hardly anybody else experiences. This follows Mike's first article "Jet Age Aerodynamics - Economy clothesline hood tie downs" and the recent "Tie wrap transmission fix." Mike performs most of his mechanical research in Ladell Olson's garage and can be found there most mornings pontificating. Per Ladell it is not too bad, much better than when the verbose Bruce Speirs shows up and starts his usual lengthy diatribe on aging and hair loss.

OK listen up. I was in Blueberry Jamb and all done. I stood around yakking and everyone left so I did too. I started going down the wash real fast and when suddenly I realized my steering wheel had become disconnected. I was out of control and need to do something right now. Thinking quickly I used my body weight and threw it left in the seat when I wanted to go left and right for right. It was touch and go, back and forth, seemingly forever but I eventually made it out of the wash. Enough of that silliness I figured so then I used my brakes and stopped.

I got out and looked around and discovered the drag link heim joint had become disconnected from its attachment point to the frame. The nut came off and the bolt had fallen out. Fiddlesticks!



Actual photo of baling wire field fix

Computer research tells me "Heim joints are attached to steering linkages with straight bolts. The leverage exerted on the Heim joint can cause the bolt to wobble and loosen. The best way to combat this is to mount the Heim joint in double shear, where it is captured above and below. As they are subjected to enormous loads use the highest-quality fasteners you can find."

I had some good baling wire. It had a pleasing patina of surface rust which fit right in with my dusty trail ride. Ten wraps and a final twist later I was like Willy Nelson sings "On the road again" and off to Ladell's. You need baling wire mister. Get some.

Mike's future articles include a report on breaking Dana 44 axles "Why I rate Lowe's parking lot a 5," and CB Radio problems "The radio signal leaks out if your coax is chewed through."

Havasu 4 Wheelers fight illegal desert dumping

By BRANDON MESSICK Today's News-Herald
February 14, 2017



Submitted photos courtesy of Bruce Speirs

Havasu 4 Wheelers members, from left, Mark Corder, Gary Wiskus and Mike Yahrmarkt discover the burned remains of an automobile in the Havasu desert.

There are old graveyards amid the rolling dunes and jagged cliffs beyond Lake Havasu City. The skeletal remains of old appliances, vehicles and trailers rest in the desert sand, forgotten.

The Havasu 4 Wheelers club is working alongside the Bureau of Land Management and off-road nonprofit organization "Tread Lightly" to secure these remains and give them a proper burial – at the local landfill. About 70 club members ventured into the desert north of Havasu last week, where they collected about 9,500 pounds of trash.



The bullet-riddled remains of automobiles lie in the open desert north of Havasu, a favorite unofficial spot for local marksmen to target-practice.

“This is a recurring problem,” said Bruce Speirs, who has been a club member for 10 years. “We’ve found Jet Skis out there, boats, RVs, trailers...if it can be wheeled out into the desert and dumped, people will do it. It’s unfortunate.”

The club’s “Desert Clean-up” is an annual event, bringing dozens of four-wheel-drive vehicles to the desert surrounding Havasu for the purpose of recovering some of the waste left by Havasu residents and visitors, often on BLM land.

Club members set about their task at about dawn on Feb. 7, where they recovered discarded furniture, TV sets, appliances and vehicles. Republic Waste Management, of Havasu, helped the Havasu 4 Wheelers by donating a pair of 40 cubic-yard roll-off trash containers for use in the cleanup.

Last week’s trash cleanup took place north of Bison Boulevard, which is a popular, unofficial shooting area for Havasu locals. “Some people dump their trash there, or they bring things that would make fun targets, like washing machines. Every year we go out, and it’s the same old thing,” Speirs said.

The club’s members were assisted last week by Mohave County Deputy Kevin Hartmann, Mohave County ERACE, Republic Waste Services and About Time Portable Toilets.

“I joined the Havasu 4 Wheelers about 10 years ago,” Speirs said. “The club has grown in size, and the effort has grown as well. We do this every year as a way of giving back to the desert areas that we all use and enjoy.”

For the next several weeks, Speirs said, the club will be removing the remains of automobiles from the desert surrounding Havasu, in coordination with Havasu’s regional BLM office.

According to BLM spokesman Lee Tucker, the agency maintained communications with the Havasu 4 Wheelers for several months leading up to last week’s cleanup, and coordinates with similar organizations throughout the Southwest.

“Unfortunately, this is a bigger problem than we’d like,” Tucker said. “Debris and trash on public land is a problem, and we work closely with our partners to keep it clean. We enjoy being able to partner with groups who enjoy our public land. We rely heavily on these groups, and we’re extremely grateful for the help they provide.”

The Havasu 4 Wheelers hold meetings on the fourth Thursday of every month. For more information about the Havasu 4 Wheelers and upcoming activities, visit www.havasu4wheelers.org.

Mohawk Spring Run + Hike

On Friday, February 17, 10 vehicles with 17 members and 3 guests left for Mohawk Spring in the Turtle Mountains. Though we were concerned about the weather, it turned out to be a great day for a hike. We stopped at Brown's Cabin on the way in to the trailhead where we explored the camp, which has now fallen completely down. We then hiked to the dry Mohawk Spring and continued on the loop around Mexican Hat peak for a 3-mile loop. We returned to the parking area for lunch. From there we headed back to Turtle Mountain road. Everyone did a great job with no problems. I want to thank Della Russell for being my tail gunner.

Steve Riley, Trail Boss...2/17/17



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Havasu 4 Wheelers & the wisdom of traveling with company

Seems that over the last two months several Havasu 4 Wheelers have happened upon stranded motorists out in the desert. Ladell Olson was on Mike Yahrmarkt's Buck Mountains run in January when he was alerted to a sand rail buried up to his axles in Franconia Wash. He had been there for hours, stuck, stranded, and alone. Ladell strapped him out in no time.

Then early February while on a hike in the Needle Mountains, Steve Riley and group that included several Havasu 4 Wheelers, were stopped by a lady seeking help. Her husband in his side-by-side had taken a stranded young man to see if they could get his pickup unstuck from some sand. They had been gone an hour and she was worried he was now stuck too. Steve went off in search of them followed by 2 other Havasu 4 Wheelers. Not much later he found them in the side-by-side heading back out as they were unable to get the truck free. They followed them back to where the pickup was buried in the sand. The young man said had been stuck there for 3 days and was now out of food. The rescue party shoveled and pushed but to no avail. Finally Steve strapped his Jeep Liberty to the truck's rear frame and pulled the pickup free. Yes STEVE'S JEEP LIBERTY! The young man immediately left to get a burger at Pilot. Steve, feeling wonderful that he had such a capable off road vehicle, proudly drove back home to Havasu. Submitted by Bruce



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Automatic External Defibrillator

If you want to carry one of the club's Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) on a run, please contact Bob Drew and make arrangements to check one out before your run.

Thanks, Charles Leipart
Run Chairman



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Havasu 4 Wheelers

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- HAVASU 4 WHEELERS TRAIL RATINGS -

- Mandatory Vehicle Equipment - All vehicles on *H4W* runs must be 4-wheel drive & equipped with a CB radio, fire extinguisher, first aid kit, tow straps, and front and rear tow hooks or safe hitching point all in working order.

RATING	DESCRIPTION
1	EASIEST: Passable by stock vehicles. Gentle fairly wide grades.
2	EASY: Use of 2 wheel and some 4-wheel drive. Trail may have some rocks, loose road surface, and ruts but a reasonable line for driving.
3	EASIEST MODERATE: 4-wheel drive with aggressive tire treads. Expect a rough road with rocks and sand that requires lower tire pressure. Substantial sections of single lane.
3¼	MODERATE: Some 4 wheel driving experience needed. Same as above with some use of high and low range gearing. These trails have a rough, rutted surface, rocks and deep sand. Sections may be steep enough to cause traction problems, narrow shelf roads with steep drop-offs and tight clearance between rocks.
3½	HARDER MODERATE: For experienced drivers. At least a 2" lift and 33' tires with aggressive tire tread, one locked differential, high and low range gearing. Potentially dangerous, large rocks, ruts, steep slopes, loose surface and narrow clearances that need to be negotiated.
3¾	HARDEST MODERATE: Skilled experienced drivers only. Same as above with both differentials locked, some strapping/winchng. Very challenging sections, extremely steep grades, loose surfaces, large rocks, deep ruts and tight clearances.
4	DIFFICULT: Highly skilled experienced drivers only. Same as above with belly up, 4 to 1 transfer case or equivalent, skid plates, beefed up axles and suspension system. Probable strapping/winchng. Vehicle width and wheelbase should be considered. Possible body damage.
5	HARD: All of the above. Probable body damage.

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