

AZGFD recognizes Havasu 4 Wheelers

By JAYNE HANSON
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The efforts of a local off-road enthusiasts club, Havasu 4 Wheelers, recently were recognized by Arizona Game and Fish Department officials for its exemplary dedication to the ongoing improvements to wildlife resources.

With at least 160 family memberships, Havasu 4 Wheelers regularly works with state and federal agencies to organize desert cleanups and fence open mine shafts in the desert lands surrounding Lake Havasu City.

According to club members, the group's most notable wildlife resource improvement effort continues to be its annual involvement in the AZGFD "Adopt-A-Ranch" program, which focuses on improvement efforts directed at resource problems on Arizona State trust lands. The improvements benefit ranching industries and wildlife resources.

"It's been an ongoing mandate by our club to give back to those public lands and other desert areas we all use and enjoy," stated Bowen in a prepared statement. "Yes, it's work, but

we have a fun time doing it."

In other news, a handful of at least eight Havasu 4 Wheelers members, who ventured together into the San Juan Mountains, north of Silverton, Colo., rescued a stranded 85-year-old man on Aug. 26 after coming upon him during the "Jeep Run" outing.

"The group noticed the man's truck which had slid off the road and was stuck," stated club member Bruce Speirs in an email to Today's News-Herald. "They checked and discovered that the driver, who was 85-years-old, was alone and had been stranded for two nights."

The stranded man was out of food and water. His left rear tire was flat, and



Submitted Photo/Courtesy Havasu 4 Wheelers member Wanda Scholl
From left, Arizona Game and Fish Department officer Lanie Antolk presents an appreciation award to Havasu 4 Wheelers club president Jim Bowen Sept. 26 during a monthly club meeting.

the truck nearly was out of gasoline after keeping it running for warmth while at 11,000 feet elevation at night in the mountains.

Some of the group's members provided water and food for the man while others winched and snatch-blocked the truck to

pull it back on the road. The tire was changed for the man, too, according to a Speirs. The group is planning their next round of cleanup efforts for desert areas near Havasu.

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