



SONORA DESERT SCOUTS

AN ARIZONA 4WD CLUB FOR INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER ENTHUSIASTS

100 years of Statehood!

February 2012

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Exploring AZ, Part 1: Castle Hot Springs

To celebrate Arizona's Centennial Year, Sonora Desert Scouts presents a 12-part series highlighting historic sites and trails around Arizona.

Just a short drive north of the oasis in the desert known as Lake Pleasant, nestled in the Hieroglyphic Mountains along a dusty graded trail, sits a diamond in the rough known as Castle Hot Springs.

The resort predates Arizona's statehood by many years, originally constructed in 1896 by a developer named Frank Murphy. The first visitors to the resort traveled there by stagecoach, which took five hours to reach its destination from nearby Morristown. By the 1920's, Castle Hot Springs was considered one of the top resorts in the US, and people flocked there to relax in the naturally heated hot springs.



Influential families, several Presidents and many famous actors and actresses of the time spent time at the resort, basking in the warm Arizona winters and the reportedly healing waters of the three natural pools. The resort installed Arizona's first phone line to accommodate its guests - the phone number was "1". During World War II, the resort was briefly converted into a hospital for wounded soldiers, including a young John F. Kennedy.

The resort closed in 1976 when a devastating fire burned the main structure, the Palm House, to the ground. Since then, the property has changed hands many times, and remains closed to the public to this day.

It's an easy drive to Castle Hot Springs, north from Lake Pleasant on Castle Hot Springs Rd. From the road, you can see the *(continued on Page 4...)*

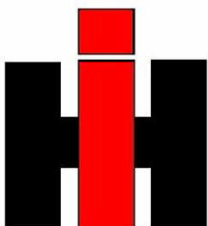
Club Officers

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January Minutes: Phoenix

7:11 Dan calls meeting to order. Microphone was passed around for intros and rig descriptions. In attendance were: Jerry Stewart, Denise Quick, Dan Heath, Jennifer White, Jason Pfeifer, Stef Trujillo, Bill Collier, Peter & Emily Evans, Mark Guatney, Steve Graham, Michael Smith, Jayson Lafrance, Thad Fleming, Chad McNeil, Bob Tripp, Patrick Backaric, Scott Johnson, Pete Acosta, Armando Verdugo and last but certainly not least, Ron Rasmussen.

Dan stated that he was grateful all the officers had been re-elected thanks to club member vote. Hope everyone had a good holiday and now we are entering into New year. Please note that dues are due. Please pay if you haven't and thank you if you have. Mark Guatney is seen digging in his wallet, which is a good sign. Mark was one of the original members of the club which began in Spring 1993.

By-law committee is working on updates and making club more accessible to our out-of-town members. The meeting will be at Jennifer White's house on 1/29/12 at 11:00. Please contact Jennifer for directions. Tucson meeting will also be a bylaw committee meeting and all are welcome to come. Jennifer will be driving down and has room for 5 people in her car.

AZIHR went up \$5 after 12/31/11 so registration is up to \$45 up until 3/19/12 when it will go up again to \$50. 2nd vehicle registration will be \$15. We need volunteers to sign up with Denise for different activities and remember its only 2 months away so get your rigs ready. Rustic camping is available behind the ring for free. The actual camp ground has a fee you pay to City of Wickenburg.

Dan mentioned that vehicles 76 and older do not need emissions as per law passed through Arizona legislature, however the state is still waiting for EPA approval. Pete mentioned that he doesn't need emissions due to his insurance but policies differ depending on Insurance agent and personnel.

December run was for Wheelers for Warriors. Dan and Jason rode together with Stef and the first part was a little rough but closer to Crown King snow got about 8 inches deep and temperatures dropped 40 degrees from when they started. Armando was already there and had things set up. Armando said they had around 40 vehicles and the last vehicle arrived at Saloon around 8:30pm. Jerry attended reveal and it was very emotional for everyone to witness return of soldiers Jeep after it sat for awhile and he had his many surgeries. We want to thank Armando again for allowing us to be a part of such a rewarding experience. Dan and Jason went exploring through 5 feet of snow. It was colder than cold with the icicles on the towers up to 5 feet long. It was really nice to see the green of the trees against the white of the snow. Everyone thought Dan was a local and kept buying him drinks. 2 miles from Saloon 16 vehicles were left behind on skating rink. After 4:00 the snow turned to ice and everyone kept sliding. Pete said it was the scariest 2 miles he and Emily had ever been through. Even the off road recovery guy had problems.

FYI: Do not follow hand-painted rigs with Arizona pinstriping if you have a nice Scout. Do not believe hand painted rig owners when they say "you can get through - no problem". Tech Tip: do not leave choke on in hot weather & do not leave dip stick at home when traveling. 4-wheelers had article on IH's. Repeat bought Pete a cool sticker: Scout, built not bought.

FOR SALE: Jason has parts for sale and some are in his truck. Jayson has a 70 pickup and a 345 2WD. Pete has 5 gallon Jeri cans for sale. Brandon has 2 trail tires \$100 35X12X15, Bill is looking for 31 mud Terrains.

This months trail run is to Coke Ovens,. Meet at Canyon Offroad 8:00 am in Apache Junction. Take Ironwood North off 60 and look for Scouts. Februarys trail run - Desoto mine trail, or table mesa, or Sheep's ridge depending on weather, Poulin creek , Cleator bar. Meet I-17 & cave creek Hwy 8:00 at Chevron. Jerry mentioned that we have several cool trail runs coming up in January and February. This is the perfect time to take out your rigs. Just want to remind everyone this is why we live in Arizona. Its is beautiful weather to come out and meet with our rigs, and be out and about.

8:21 Pete made a motion to adjourn and Repete seconded.

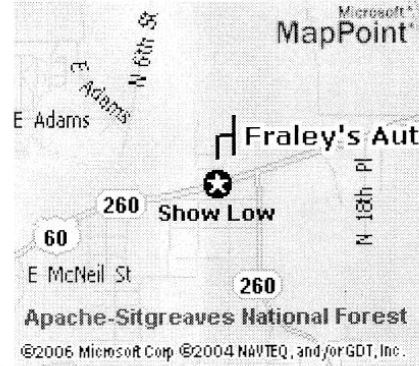


Jayson LaFrance
281 S. Ironwood Dr
Apache Junction, AZ 85120
(480) 265-5393



Fralely's Auto Service (928) 537-9691

1021 East Deuce of Clubs, Show Low, AZ 85901
Specialties: Domestic, Foreign, Shocks, Tune Ups, Towing. Additional Information: The Most Affordable In Town, Cross Country AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE, Complete Auto Repair Services, UNITED STATES AUTO CLUB MOTORING DIVISION INC, Allstate Motor Club, EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE 24 HOUR SERVICE, Coach Net, We Tow For Insurance Co's



FIFE'S SCOUTWORKS

Jason Pfeifer
602-527-0560

Remember to renew your corporate membership for 2012 to retain your ad in future newsletters!

Upcoming IH Events

Arizona IH Rendezvous 2012
March 23 - 25, 2012
Everett Bowman Rodeo Grounds
Wickenburg, AZ

If know of or are having an event and would like it to be listed here, email Jennifer White at wyndfire@gmail.com

REMINDER:

If you haven't paid your dues for 2012, now is the time to do it!

Please contact Denise Quick at dqscout@gmail.com or see her at one of the Phoenix meetings.

You can also pay dues by mailing a check to:

Sonora Desert Scouts
P.O. Box 62421
Phoenix, AZ 85082-2421

(*Exploring AZ, Part 1, continued from Page 1...*) remaining structures, and dozens of Washingtonia Palm Trees. Those Palm Trees are the originals, planted in the early 1920s! The bathing pools are hidden from view behind the mountain. A caretaker lives on-site, to maintain the aging buildings and to keep out the curious public.

When road conditions are good, a 2 wheel drive vehicle is all you need to visit this Arizona landmark. If you have a 4 wheel drive vehicle, take some extra time to explore the many trails and roads that crisscross the area. Castle Creek runs parallel to, and sometimes crosses, the road and often runs with a trickle of water. The area is also rich with cattle and mining operations, so take care to observe all signs and close gates behind you as you pass through them. Remember to bring your camera and enjoy the scenic overlooks along the way! - *Jennifer White*



January Trail Run: Coke Ovens, Pinal County, AZ

Very fun run! Here's the "damage report": Mike's transmission mount and motor mount decided to give us some problems early on the trail, but after a few tie down straps attached to the transmission we were back on the trail. Not quite to the last steps into the ovens, a 4-runner that happened to be on the same trail broke a rear track bar. Also on the same trail as us was a stock GMC Z71..... very interesting, but he made it to the ovens without damage. By the time we reached the ovens it was around 3:30 or so, and with a group of 16 this would be a long trip back out, so Bob and Eric took the other group (5 Scouts and the others) through the river. and on to Florence. At the ovens, we found two guys with side-by- sides; one of which was broken. A friend of ours, Thad, had his '79 Chevy long bed with us, so we loaded the side-by-side into the bed of his truck to haul it back to the Cottonwood entrance via the trail we came in on. Our group leaving the ovens was 4 Scouts, a heap, and the Chevy with a side-by-side in the bed. The trail out.... Once we reached the step coming out, Chad and Mike made the step look easy so I followed and my front drive shaft pulled out just as I crested the ledge. A quick fix and we were moving again ... until we reached the top of the rock hill, the Heap was having a hard time staying running and Thad's truck (with its extra load) needed a break for a few. The last step..... We approached the last step with Chad up front. After making the 90* turn, he took the lower route and in a fraction of a second, the Scout flipped onto it's side and into the large boulder. We were able to get everyone to push him back onto the wheels and the damage was very minor. We made it to the Highway at around 9:00pm, delivered a broken side-by-side and finally headed home. GOOD TIMES!! - Jayson LaFrance (*More on the next page!*)

(Coke Ovens Run continued from page 4...) Part 2 of this run should be titled "We followed a Jeep." (Sorry Louis, had to go there with the rivalry and all.) When we split at the Coke Ovens, I told Jason L. that we had opted for the easy way out and were crossing the river. He said, "I've never been that way, I just hear stories about Jeeps sinking in the river." I'm not making this up, that's what he said. Pretty damn prophetic, is what I say. He also said, "Wave at us when you go by the staging area" indicating that they would beat us there. Again, he was right. Who knew?

It was some of the tightest brush I've been through, exceeded only by following Dan when he was towing a F-250 along the banks of Sycamore Creek. We also went through some deep ruts on a very muddy trail. There was no way to steer out of them. It was like a giant slot car track or one of those amusement park rides on go-carts that you can't steer.

I missed the actual floating and sinking of the Jeep. When I arrived, wondering "What's the hold up this time ?", I saw a Jeep submerged in the river at a slight angle, nose down, and water up to the windshield frame. It was then winched out and a recovery plan formulated.

We all got out alive, and it was a true adventure

Eric, thanks for your efforts in the river and beyond. Also, your repair kit and Bob's tweaking of such rescued the Toyota that later towed the Jeep. The latest word on the wounded Jeep is that it has been drained of all fluids, oil, lube and water. It hasn't been started yet. Louis, the owner, did have the presence of mind to kill the engine as soon as it started to sink . I hope he gets it going soon as it's his daily driver, as well as weekend toy. - Jerry Stewart



Jayson LaFrance's Words of Wisdom

1. Don't follow a Jeep
2. The easy way out ain't always the easy way out

Mark your calendars!!

AZIHR Planning Committee Dates:

February 15th (after regular meeting), March 13 (after regular meeting), March 17 (place TBD) - additional meetings to be held as needed

By Law Committee Dates:

February 12 (at Tucson monthly meeting) - additional meetings to be held as needed - we are hoping to present the amendments in March or April, stay tuned!

All SDS members are welcome to participate on and attend committee meetings. Please come join us and get involved in your club! If you have any questions regarding a committee, a meeting date/place, please contact any board member or the head of any committee.

Thank you!!



Call for VOLUNTEERS!!

Our 2012 Rendezvous is nearly here, and we need a crew of volunteers to help out!

If you would like to volunteer at AZIHR, please contact Denise Quick at dqscout@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

Main Club Account Balance - Ending December 31, 2011	
Deposits	\$ 476.87
Misc. Withdrawals	\$ -
Debit Card	\$ -
TOTAL:	\$2,705.34
Arizona Rendezvous Checking Balance - Ending December 31, 2011	
Deposits	\$ 869.21
Withdrawals	\$ 258.00
Balance	\$4,345.48

January Minutes: Tucson

No meeting in January. See you in February!!



Have you registered for the 2012 Arizona IH Rendezvous yet????

Newsletter Highlights:

** Castle Hot Springs ** January Trail Run **

** Meeting Minutes ** Pictures! **

Upcoming Dates:

PHOENIX

March meeting is March 13, 2012

April meeting is April 10, 2012

TUCSON

March meeting is March 11, 2012

April meeting is April 8, 2012

Sonora Desert Scouts
P.O. Box 62421
Phoenix, AZ 85082-2421
www.sonoradesertscouts.com

To: