

Trail Tales

September 1, 2002

The Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

<http://www.nm4w.org>

Minutes, Club Meeting – August 10, 2002 at Chuck and Ethel May Peeples' home, Los Lunas, NM. Taken by Marcia Duggar, filling in for Michelle Kimbrell.

Vice President Pat Brady called the meeting to order at 6:20.

Members in attendance: Jeff & Lauri Rector, Bobby & Susan Miller, Glenn & Susan Bontly, Tim & Sarah MacNab, Ed & Lyn Lausche, Pat & Sue Brady, Paul & Mary Thompson, Preston & Melissa Garner, Michael Kyle & Tyler Hratt (sp.), Don & Bonnie Tyler, Leon & Marcia Duggar, Mark & Joan Wolf, Jack & Stella Sierra, Rich & Camille Capener, Ron Hyman, Andy Schulze, Check & Ethel May Peeples, Joe & Robin Wilson, and Dave Trappett.

Guests: Bill Wallis has a '00 TJ; Mike Sterling has an Early Bronco; J.D. & January Porter have a '66 Scout; Erica Downing has an '83 CJ7; and Dottie & Glenn Stone have a YJ. Susan Probst and Jane Bell also attended.

A motion was carried to dispense with the reading of last month's meeting minutes.

Treasurer Susan Miller announced our balance is \$2438.92 minus some outstanding charges from the Salida summer quarterly event.

Sheriff Brady went through his list of fines from Salida, in an apparent effort to replenish our coffers. First Pat fined himself \$1 for a broken drive shaft. Robert Clarke was fined for broken brakes, environmental damage (tire carrier vs. tree), and dog barking for a total of 75 cents. Rich Capener was fined for violating the laws of physics (2 objects occupying the same space simultaneously: a front fender and a rock) and for requesting tools from Pat to beat his axle back into his Bronco. Jeff Rector was fined for various items, including oil leaks, leaving paint on rocks with his rear diff, a leaf spring covered with liquid and dirt, a water pump leak, and something about "shrinkage" (actually relating to wire insulation), for a grand total of \$1. Glenn Bontly was fined for environmental damage when tree parts were found inside his Jeep, for "coyote baiting" when someone let out the Bontly's cats and then the search party used a spotlight to find them, and for attempted starvation of a club member (Andy never got his meal ticket but we're pretty sure he got some food) for a total of \$1. Jason (last name?) got fined for breaking something on his vehicle coming INTO camp. Marcia Duggar got fined 25 cents for taking a

wrong turn as (reluctant) trail leader. Mark Wolf was fined for a flat tire in a gas station. Mark was also fined for having a flat on the trail and having tree parts in his Jeep. Andy Schulze was fined 50 cents for "cultural confusion" when his Bronco repeatedly put out smoke signals and for inappropriate use of bonding material (duct tape around a leaf spring). Bob Norton was fined \$1 for a driver side door that is falling off so badly that he has to go out the passenger door. Someone mentioned Bob should call Chuck Peeples who has doors for sale.

Program Chair Paul Thompson sold lots of raffle tickets.

SWFWDA delegate Marcia Duggar reported on the Salida summer quarterly meeting. Although there were not enough clubs present for an official quorum, the President, Homer van Zandt, declared one. There were not enough clubs present at the spring quarterly to have a meeting. SWFWDA's lawsuit against the BLM is at an interesting juncture. The defendants (government and Wilderness Society) want to have the case dismissed and have filed a motion for summary judgment. We have responded but won't get a ruling until the end of September. Homer does not expect the case to be dismissed. Then the motions will be done and we will start preparing for trial, which will require more lawyer and legal assistant time, and therefore more money. Las Cruces FWD will host the 2003 winter quarterly Feb 19-23. Rock Garden 4-Wheelers will host the summer 2003 quarterly at Farmington. There was some discussion about Superlift's offer to host the fall 2003 quarterly at Hot Springs, Arkansas. However Superlift would need a club to sponsor it. Southern High Rollers already had submitted a proposal to host this event in Gilmore, Texas, and this was accepted. Homer mentioned that we are supposed to have a "club challenge" in addition to 4 quarterlies every year, and the challenge is supposed to be hosted by the club that wins the previous year. (Michelle, this next part was not mentioned at the meeting but I wanted to include it. I leave it up to you to edit as you see fit.) The next big land use issue for SWFWDA will be the use of public waterways in Texas. The landowners in Texas are pushing to limit or remove access despite laws that guarantee public access. Most of this issue revolves around the Uvalde area west of San Antonio and the Nueces River. Terry Rust mentioned that we are also starting to see access to Corps of Engineers areas being actively prohibited where in the past a blind eye has been turned. Homer encouraged all club members to vote and to be active on the issues. (Okay, back to what was said at the meeting.)

Elections were held by proclamation (or is it acclamation?) since there was only one person for each open office. The new president of SWFWDA is James Clark of FWD-FWD. Bob Norton is the new United FWDA delegate. Bob also wants to resign as newsletter editor so if you're interested in working on some desktop publishing skills and have some energy to spare four times a year, contact Bob. Marcia had the SWFWDA Treasurer's Report available for perusal.

The historian Anita Ransom was absent but had arranged for Marcia Duggar to fill in. The scrapbooks are now up-to-date and we need photos of events from the first part of the year to fill in the gaps. Salida photos were on the bulletin board.

Trip chairman Mark Wolf said he appreciated the help at the quarterly even though we had poor attendance overall due to the fire situation. He counted 14 – 16 club families present.

August 11 Tom Hurt will be leading a Jemez trail cleanup on the Hill & Dale trail.

August 18 will be an exploratory run to Mountainair led by Don & Bonnie Tyler. Meet at the Belen Walmart, north Belen exit of I-25, at 8:00.

Sept 6-8 is the annual Mt. Blanca run, led by Mark Werkmeister. Meet Saturday at the bottom of the trail. Bonnie & Don Tyler are going up to the same area two days before. Contact them if anyone wants to run in that area.

Sept 21-22 will be a Jemez campout, with Paul Thompson as leader.

Sept 28-29 will be the Red River run, with Tom Hurt leader.

Robert Clarke will be leading an exploratory run in the Jemez October 12.

Bonnie Tyler volunteered Brandon Rickerman to arrange the fall highway cleanup in early October. Robert Clarke suggested that we do only the north portion this time since the south portion looks good, and then do the south portion in the spring, re-adopting a section of the road that we had previously forgave but that signs are still posted on, saying we are responsible for it.

Mark mentioned that we need volunteers to lead runs for October, November, and December.

The President, Brandon Rickerman, was absent. The Environmental Chair, Mark Werkmeister, was absent.

Old Business: Paul Thompson said the fellow we've been talking to for T-shirts only does 4 colors and Paul is skeptical about changing our logo for that. He'll report on this at the next meeting.

Mark Wolf asked if we had enough money left to pay for club decals after Salida. A motion was passed to order decals at the next meeting.

Dues are due this month!

New Business: Susan Miller is changing the signatures on our bank account as part of filling her role as treasurer and she suggested moving our account to First Financial Credit Union to avoid paying the fees that Bank of America is charging us. Our account at B of A must maintain a minimum balance of \$1000 or it gets charged \$7.50/month. It is a business checking account and earns .20% interest. She recommended moving to 2 accounts, one savings, and one standard checking. The savings account would earn 1.10% interest with a \$25 minimum balance and there are no fees for the checking account. A motion was passed to change the account per Susan's recommendation.

A motion was passed to accept Kim and Randy Ammons (present) for new membership.

Phil Kennicott spoke about the last BLM Resource Advisory Council (RAC) meeting that he attended. He mentioned there is an "Off Highway" roots program resource management plan starting up that New Mexico Wilderness Alliance will be submitting info for. He said we should be prepared and we need to submit input also. The public comment period for this ends at the end of August, and only 7 trails in Farmington are designated in this latest plan. Phil would email more info, and encouraged members to contact the ABQ and Farmington BLM field offices.

Mary Thompson mentioned that for anyone not going to Mt. Blanca, Melissa Garner would be having a Pampered Chef party on Friday, Sept. 6.

Thanks were given to Chuck and Ethel May Peebles for hosting the meeting.

Guests Joe and Robin Wilson won half of the raffle purse of \$84 and donated the winnings to the club.

Meetings

During the winter months*, meetings are held at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Rd NE (east of Wyoming on Academy at the southeast corner of Moon and Academy). Park in the back lot of the Church. While facing the Church (towards Academy) we are in the back room of the wing to your far right. **The meetings are held at 7 PM on the second Thursday of the month.** The Host will provide refreshments and snacks for the meeting.

**October thru November and January through April.*

During the summer months and our December Holiday gathering, meetings are held at various members' homes. It is pot-luck affair, usually held on the second Saturday of the month at 5:30 PM, but don't hold me to that...it is up to the hosting family (or wife) to decide the "when". For these meetings, please bring some food to share and don't forget your chair, plate and utensils.

Aluminum Cans

Our club saves and recycles aluminum cans. Bring your aluminum cans to each meeting, and Tom Hurt will take them to the recycling center. Money from the sale of the cans goes into our club treasury.

Note to Guests

If you've been receiving the *Trail Tales*, you may have noticed a number beside your name on the mailing label. We send the *Trail Tales* to prospective members for three months, and we number them. When you see a "3" by your name, that should alert you that you'll be dropped from our mailing list unless we hear from you. Visitors are always welcome at any New Mexico 4-Wheelers event or outing. So check us out!

Submission Due Date

Articles and planned events should be submitted to Trail Tales, PO Box 90154, Albuquerque, NM 87199-0154 as far in advance as possible. This newsletter is mailed by the 1st day of each month. Information should be received by **the last weekend of the month** to insure publication in the next *newsletter*.

Wanted

Set of five 30 X 9.50/15 tires with 15 X 7 steel rims, 5 on 5-1/2 bolt pattern. Also a 5,000 to 6,000 thousand pound winch. Contact Keith Chapin at 505-379-6110 or e-mail rosie16@outdrs.net (posted Jul 02)

For Sale

1975 Jeep CJ-5 New Paint, Viper Yellow Basecoat/clear coat, new universals throughout, new tank, new sending unit, fuel lines, fuel pump, coil, solenoid, balast resister, plug wires, plugs, rotor, cap, condenser, points, new clutch, clutch disc, remanufactured pressure plate and recently turned the flywheel. Reconditioned Holly 2 barrel carburetor, new bikini top, new full soft top, new tires, new brakes, new rear seat, new front axle components including seals, bearings and Dana Spicer universals, new TeraFlex revolver shackles, new nitrogen shocks, 2" add-a-leaf, new urethane body mounts, 2" body lift. Dana 30 with Powertrax locker front, Dana 44 rear. New engine, new pistons, oil pump etc. 258 bored 30", 3 angle valve job and RockCrawler RV cam. T-18. I have a Detroit Locker for the rear but haven't had time to install it yet but the Jeep still did EXCELLENT at this years Moab Jeep Safari (Runs include, Steel Bender, Hell's Revenge and a night time run on Poison Spider Mesa). Jeep was built for Moab but found out that I am being transferred and won't be able to enjoy the hard work. Needs a good home. Call Eric at 505-897-9008 or cell 321-9993 ("New" means less than 9 months old) \$6400.00 OBO

1985 Toyota Parts: Brake calipers, heavy duty tie rod, steering arms, adjustable torque rod, and power steering box for a 1985 Toyota. \$150 for all, or make offer on individual pieces. Contact Jason Martinez @892-9411

Hill & Dale Trip Report, August 11, 2002

By Tom Hurt

First I would like to thank everyone that showed up. Six vehicles lined up at the Texaco for a fun day of 4-wheeling in the Jemez Mtns. Sorry for the short notice I wasn't sure if I was going to have my Jeep back together in time. The Johnsons left a little earlier than the rest of the group as the CJ3-B has 5.38 gears so 65 mph is out of the question. We met them in San Ysidro and headed up to the Gilman tunnels in the Guadalupe Box to air down and take a break.

Drove up FR376 to the Peggy Mesa Rd. About halfway up the Rd we took a little bypass thru a fuel wood cutting area. A couple a vehicles had problem on some of the erosion control berm's getting a little high centered. Bonnie had to play on the rocks at the end of the bypass. I think she was getting a little bored. Got back on the main Rd and headed back to Deer Creek where we turned right to the start of the Hill & Dale Trail.(This trail was founded by Charlie & Joel Wilson)

The first part of the trail was pretty uneventful except for the Miller's putting a couple of dents in the passenger side rocker panel and bottom of the door. Evidently on one

of the berm's there were rocks on the downhill side of the that are little hard to see. They weren't to upset about the damage. We finally made it to wet part of the trail (It was pretty Dry) that's where we had to do a little clearing to get everyone thru. There's an old Cottonwood tree that's leaning over the trail that made for a few tight squeeze's . The Clark's said they wanted to go on the run and bring there Suburban it's a good thing they didn't come cause it wouldn't fit. We would have been there all day cutting the tree down. Got all the way thru the wet area ??? I found a somewhat shady spot and stopped for lunch. We all ate and relaxed for a little while then Bonnie gathered everyone up for a group picture then loaded back up and back on are way . We were about 1/2 way thru at this time. We got to a tight switchback and then the trail turned a little off camber. At one point I heard that Laura Johnson got out of there Jeep. She had been watching the vehicles in front of them and the passenger tire's would get in a washed out area and just wanted to push the

vehicle off to outside of the trail. The soil was pretty loose. It was kind of like trying to walk on marbles. Made it without any problems. The next obstacle was a tight right turn with a couple of tree's in the way one in each side and about a five foot washout on the driver's side straight down. The longer you were or if you had solid lockers the harder it was. I think it was about a five point turn for me. From here there abut a 900 to 1000 foot climb back to the top. This climb is on a south facing slop so during the summer it gets a little warm. Everyone's cooling system seemed to hold in there. There's a lot of loose rock big and small. There were a couple of spots that looked easy but at the angle of the hill sometime you just start spinning all four tire's. Made it to the top and back down to an open for another break and to cool off in the shade. From here on out it was pretty easy going we stopped one more time for a 10-100 break and then on back to the tunnel's to air back up. After that everyone pretty much went there way and headed home.

Once again thanks for coming along for the ride. Even Chuck Peeples said this was one of the best trails that he had been on in the Jemez. Just enough challenges to make everyone happy.

I highly recommend if you haven't been on this trail to give it a try. I know there are some people that helped start clearing this trail that haven't been all the way thru.

Attending were: Leader Tom Hurt, Chuck (Charlie) Peeples, Bobby & Susan Miller, Chris Laura Stephyn & Bayleigh Johnson, Don & Bonnie Tyler, CJ(Charlie) & Erica Downing.

Presidents Report

By Brandon Rickerman

Another month has passed and a lot has happened, for starters, I have regained the use of my foot, and it couldn't have been at a better time. The month of September has an event planed for every weekend. I only hope my boss will understand this month as well as my wife and Madison. It's hard to keep a good balance between your jeep and the loved ones in your life. Most of the time I choose my family over my jeep, after all if it wasn't for my family being so supportive of me, I would not have such a wonderful jeep. Once in a while I make a grave error in judgment and pick what I think is the most important. This is the reason I married Stephanie she has a knack for seeing past my judgment errors and making the best out of any situation. The other reason I married her is the jeep was originally hers. So my master plan worked, I got the girl and the jeep all at the same time. So now that I am done sucking up to my wife its time to go tell her about all of the events I plan on doing this month before she reads the trail tails.

It would appear that my jeep was trying to tell me something last month. Just like the four weeks I got off with a broken foot, my jeep wanted a little down time as well. With a few fatal pops my lockrite kicked the bucket. Thankfully this happened one month away from the end of my two year warranty. After spending a half-hour on the phone with the people at powertrax and a little help from my favorite parts guy Darin, I had a copy of my receipt and the lockrite was in the mail. I did decide (without my lovely wife's approval) to get a bigger better locker, well not too much bigger, after all it's only a Dana 35. I opted for the no slip powertrax locker it's a few bucks more but after looking at the assembly it is a little bit stronger. It's not an air locker but I just don't see the point in tossing money at my Dana 35 when I am going to have to go with a bigger axle soon. I also decide to give the jeep and bath and do a minor cosmetic change to the body.

Since the introduction of the jeep yj there has been a fight among jeepers all over the US, which is better round or square? Well I did something to make my jeep politically correct and to show that I give support to both. It all started with an article I read a few months back showing a set of round, flush mount, tail lights being installed in a jeep. After looking at the pictures of the finished jeep I decided to look into putting a set on my jeep. So I jumped on the internet to begin my search and it leads me to a local web site that had the lights, and someone who was willing to help me with the installation. The web site was www.mesa4x4.com . I was just going to order the lights and put them in myself but after a few e-mails Jay at

mesa4x4 said he was going to do a tech article on his website and needed a few pics of an installation. So I spent a Saturday at Jay's house working on the jeep putting round lights in the back and keeping my square ones in the front. The lights look great and the LEDs are super bright. I would like to say thanks to Jay for the time and effort he put into the lights.

Now that my foot is healed and my jeep is put back together I look forward to spending the fall and winter months on the trails. I will see all of you at the September meeting. So keep the rubber side down and may your winch cable never be to short.

Directions to Mark & Debbie Werkmeister's House for the September 14, 2002 Club Meeting

1700 Willow Rd NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124
891-0296

North on I-25, exit Alameda. Go left (west). Merge into Hwy 528 North to Northern Blvd. Left on Northern to Unser. Right on Unser to Pine. Left shortly after on Pine, & then left onto Willow.

Never A Dull Moment

By Glenn Bontly

Our trip to Salida for the Summer Quarterly was wonderful! After a very stressful 6-month period of working 2 jobs, retiring from the Air Force, looking for a new permanent job, and generally trying to adjust to civilian life, this was a long-awaited getaway for us. ***But it wasn't without its moments . . .***

We made a late decision to leave for Colorado a couple of days earlier than originally planned; on Sunday, 28 July. All packed and ready to pull out (15 minutes early, no less), I asked Susan, "Are you ***really sure*** you don't to bring CJ [one of our cats] along with us?" CJ on board, ready to go again, Susan questioned whether CJ would get lonely during the week-long trip, and asked if we should consider bringing Howard as well. Howard on board, ready to go again, and we heard a howl from back inside the house. It was Dax—he wanted to know why CJ and Howard got to go camping, but not him! So the "six" of us are now finally ready to pull out (15 minutes late now). Luckily the two girls didn't want to come, cuz 3 adult-sized people and 3 really big cats in an RV is tighter than you might think. Trust me!

Although CJ settled in right away, Dax cried for the first hour of the trip. As for Howard, I guess we forgot that he hadn't traveled with us since he was a young kitten—he freaked! Within 5 minutes of leaving our driveway, Howard had jumped down from the over-the-cab bed

and onto my head, drew blood from at least 3 separate places on my head and face, and ended up ***behind*** the brake pedal. I managed to get the RV stopped without killing the cat, and Susan proceeded to nurse me back into one piece.

Finally we were off to meet up with the Thompsons and the Clarks for the trip. Paul only agreed to caravan with us if we promised not to stop at any Wal-Marts along the way! Oh, well. At least there was a really nice Super Wal-Mart in Salida for us to visit. In fact, we ended up there at least 3 times during the week! It simply wouldn't be a Bontly Campout without a visit to at least one Wal-Mart! :o)

Not long after lunch that day, on the lonely stretch of Colorado CR 17, I heard from within the cab of the motor home a loud ***POW***, followed by a FLAP-FLAP-BURBLE-BURBLE-FLAP-FLAP-BURBLE-BURBLE sound (try saying ***that*** really fast!). I knew immediately that we had blown a rear tire. Actually, the tread had separated, causing a significant amount of damage to two of our basement compartments. At least it wasn't one of the front tires—I don't even want to *think* about that! I quickly reported my situation over the CB and Paul (who was in the lead) started looking for a place for all of us to pull over. Once safely off the road, everyone pitched in to fix the problem. Robert manned the jack, Paul removed the bad tire, and Stephen & I retrieved the spare. We completed the repair in less than 30 minutes. This is one of the real beauties of traveling in a group! Even though our insurance provides for roadside assistance, and we had the Jeep available as an alternate vehicle, it sure was nice to have friends nearby to save the day and *quickly* get us back on the road!

The next day, Monday, I noticed that the coach battery in the camper was low. I also noticed that the solar panel charge indicator light was not on. So I pulled out my meter and climbed up on the roof. Sure enough, the solar panel was only producing about one volt (it should have read around 14 at the battery). So we took the bad panel to the RV store in town. Although they didn't carry the same panel, we were able to get one that produced over 3 times the battery charging power as the old one, at only just over twice the price. Great, we'll take it. I installed the new panel that afternoon and confirmed the output at its max voltage! ***Yesssss!!***

Two days later (Wednesday) we woke up to a totally dead coach battery! ***What gives?!*** The new solar panel was still working fine, but the voltage at the battery terminals read less than two. I know it's a "*deep-cycle*" battery, but this is ridiculous! We drove the RV into town (to dump the tanks and get some fresh water); and of course back to

the RV store for a new battery. This time, we introduced ourselves to everyone, since we were now regular customers! The technician claimed that a deep-cycle marine/RV battery typically lasted between 2 to 2.5 years. Since ours was about 3 years old, I didn't feel so bad having to buy a new one. Eighty dollars later, the battery installed, we were on our way. I told Kimmer, the Parts Manager, "See Ya Later" (cuz we still had several days left in the area for more stuff to go wrong!).

That day had been a real scorcher! Me, being accustomed only to the 100-degree temperature of our hot tub at home, thrust myself into the frigid waters of the Arkansas River. I think my heart and breathing stopped for about 15 minutes (or so it seemed) until my body adjusted to sub-zero water temperature! Okay, it wasn't really *that* cold, but it *felt* like it. In fact, after a while, it actually started to feel pretty good. Of course, maybe that's cuz everything from my neck down was numb by that time! Anyway, back at camp shortly thereafter, we became concerned that the inside of the RV was over 90 degrees and the cats looked really hot. My guess is that they *wouldn't* have appreciated being thrown into the river to cool them off. Besides, I didn't want to lose any more blood! So I cranked up the generator and turned on the A/C. Ten minutes later, the generator (along with the A/C) shut itself off. **What now?!?!?** Turns out the generator was overheating and shutting itself down. The manual said to make sure the air filter was clean, and the intake was clear of debris. But being the thorough person that I am, I sent Susan back into town for replacement spark plugs, oil & air filters, and fresh engine oil. Unfortunately, the problem persisted. Apparently, this was the first time we had really put the generator to the test in such hot conditions. The temporary solution was to run the generator with the compartment door open. After we returned home, my plan would be to install an electric cooling fan and a vent cover in the compartment door.

Two days later (Friday) we woke up to a dead coach battery again! **UGH!!! I can't believe this is happening!!!** Getting tired and frustrated by now, we just "limped" through the final 2 days of the trip. To date, I still don't know exactly what the problem is . . . but I'll figure it out, even if I have to completely disassemble the entire vehicle! Oh well, such are the trade-offs between tent and motor home camping!

Despite all of our troubles, we had a GREAT time in Salida. We rode 4 trails (Mt. Antero, Iron Chest, Williams Pass, and Chinaman's Gulch). Our trip through Williams Pass was significant in that the trail is only open for 30 days each year, during the month of August. One day, we hiked 7 miles round trip to and from the east portal of the Alpine Tunnel—that was cool. We drank beer around

the woodpile each evening (couldn't light it cuz of the fire restrictions, you know). And had an awesome barbecue dinner on Saturday evening. There was never a dull moment!

Exploring the Manzano Mountains

By Bonnie Tyler

It was 8am on Sunday, August 18th when 5 vehicles showed up to go explore the mountains of Manzano. Not knowing what exactly to expect, if anything, we all met at the Walmart in Belen with coffee in hands and grins on our faces ready to get the adventure started. Don and I led the pack in our 95' Jeep Wrangler (take note, Don was driving and we *still* made a U-Turn...maybe it's the Jeep?). Next we had members, Kenny and Brenda Royce in their 91' Jeep Cherokee, guests: George Darrough in his 87' Jeep Cherokee, and Rick Mitchell in his 88' Toyota pickup. Tailgunning for the group that day was Chuck and Ethel May Peoples in their 97' Jeep TJ.

Being raised in the area, George remembered his father taking him down a trail in the area and we decided to look for it to find out if it still existed. We were able to find the trail and it proved for a great trip! Before we arrived at the trailhead, we noticed a hole in the side of a small hill that looked like the remains of a mineshaft. Upon further inspection it seems it may have been used for storage of food or explosives. I was able to walk inside and still stand up. It was in the same area that seemed like it might have been a rock quarry at one time.

After Chuck heaved a heavy rock into the back of their Jeep for Ethel May's rock collection, we headed to the trailhead. We began the trail by going under the traintracks. Brenda and I were even lucky enough to find two railroad ties lying around. Chuck and Ethel May were the lucky ones who, as they were maneuvering through the rocky area at the start of the trail, got to hear the train rumble above them! I didn't see it but I heard that it was quite scary not knowing what it was above them!

The rest of the trail gave way to wonderful scenery and lots of possible off-shoots that we're determined to go back and explore. Everyone had a great time, and we only had to use a tow strap once on a soft hill. When we arrived to the end of the trail we looked back at where we had come from to see a sign standing there stating: "ROAD CLOSED, UNSAFE FOR TRAVEL" Funny we didn't think so! (Note, there were no signs from the way we came into the trail.)

We hit the pavement and went a few miles over to see the Abo Ruins. We had a great lunch here and walked around the ruins looking for some history of the area. (Ok, really...the guys were looking for more areas to 'wheel!) It was great fun and we'll be going back soon!

Spotlight on The Clark Family

By Bonnie Tyler

The Clarks. Aka...cream colored Scrambler with Hawaiian seat covers. Or, if you made it to the last meeting, Robert was wearing an outrageous colored Hawaiian print shirt. Doreen, the sensible one of the family is the one who month after month continues to pay the many fines that are often charged to her husband for his many wrongdoings. Still don't know who they are? How about this; they have 4 boys, Cameron 14, Ian 10, Trevor 8 and Kiernan 5 and the dog Cocoa. Ok, now I've got your attention!

The Clarks have been 4-wheeling since they bought their 82' CJ8 in 1996 but always traveled the backcountry roads of NM, CA and NV in 2-wheel drive. They do it for the thrill of getting outdoors, to find the kinds of places where you don't typically see tons of people, and for the camaraderie found at the 4wd events they attend.

Robert, Doreen, and kids moved to Albuquerque in 1993 from Folsom Ca. Robert, who works at Intel in the Facilities Operations group as an Ops manager, and Doreen who works at the Albuquerque Academy in the math department teaching 10-12 grades, also own another 4-wheel drive vehicle; it's an 89 Suburban for those local easy-moderate adventures as well as towing duties for the long hauls.

The Clarks are so involved in the NM4W activities that I was surprised to learn that they have never held an official officer position! They've helped with several big events including the most recent quarterly in Salida and also organized some trail rides and highway cleanups. Their first trail ride was the Memorial Day campout in 1997 and they have been members since. You can always tell when people have a passion for our sport. When I asked them what their favorite trails were, here was their answer: "There are lots of trails we have enjoyed over the years but my favorite is the Jaws of Death because it is something the club created and has been an experimental playground of sorts for me. As a family though we really enjoy the San Juan Mountains around Silverton Co. There is something for everyone up in that area, besides the incredible view atop the 12k summits and exploring the old mining camps, *and* the Ouray hot springs pools are the best!" And with so much experience under their belts, and SO MANY FINES...their answer to the "What was your worst stuck" question was, "I have never been stuck. However there are a few times that I needed some help in progressing down the trail. The club took a late fall trip out past Santa Fe one year and we got into some snowy

weather where I slipped the jeep into a trench on the road and the boys were sitting side ways on the seats with their feet on the side windows. Once on the JOD trail I lost the starter and had to be moved along with a strap." You know what they say...you've never been wheelin if you haven't been stuck!

The Clarks really appreciate the friendships they've built over the years and the sharing of knowledge the club members have given us and have this to recommend those who are entering the sport of 4-wheeling: "Join a club, get involved and ask questions to help guide you and your family to a great recreational past time." The Clarks have been a great asset to NM4W; not only with the leadership they've taken, but also the endless laughs they have provided all of us, at their expense!!

Red River Trip Directions

By Tom Hurt

When: September 27, 28,& 29, 2002

The 29th is just an option. I am heading up Friday to get a head start.

From Albuquerque take I-25 north towards Santa Fe turn on SR599 North to US285 north to Espanola. In Espanola take SR68 to Taos go thru Taos sr68 will turn into SR522 stay on SR522 until you get to Questa. The only stop light in Questa, turn right on SR38 stay on SR38 all the way to Red River. Turn left on Mallette Creek Rd. go past the city park about one mile at this point the road will make a sharp left turn here where you turn right go in a little pass the creek (water???) It opens up into a meadow this is where the free camping is. There is couple of RV Camp Grounds in town but none of them have any tent camping. The first RV Park on your right as you come into town has showers you can buy. Also bring your fishing pole if you like to fish. Middle fork has some big fish no guarantee's though. We will meet at the city park Saturday and Sunday mornings at 9:00am for trail rides.

Saturday night there will be a potluck, bring your own meat, and a dish to share. Any questions please call me Tom Hurt at 994-2515 or 345-2666wk. Let me know if you plan on going so i can have an idea of how many people will be there.



Trail Tales
PO Box 90154
Albuquerque, NM 87199-0154
<http://www.nm4w.org>
TrailTales@nm4w.org



Date(s):	Event:	Location/Meet At:	Host or Point of Contact:
Sept 14, 2002	Club Meeting	See page 5 for directions-5:30 pm	Mark & Deb Werkmeister
Sept 20-22, 2002	Exploration/Campout-- Jemez	We'll be setting up camp on Friday night at Porter Landing and doing some exploratory trips in the area the whole weekend.	Don & Bonnie Tyler
Sep 27-29, 2002	Red River Trip	See page 7 for more information	Tom Hurt
Oct 4-6, 2002	SWFWDA Fall Quarterly	SWFWDA Fall Quarterly: Clayton, OK. For more information, visit the FWD-FWD web site at www.fwd-fwd.org	FWD-FWD