

# TRAILS & TALES

April 2019

GEAR GRINDERS 4WD CLUB, INC.

Volume XXXIII, No. 4

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## **CB Channel 1**

## **Anza Borrego Exploring** *By: Ciegi Shaw*

The Shaw's and Dorey's left Saturday morning at different times and met up at Cafe 247 in Lucerne Valley. From there we traveled together to our camp location. When we arrived, the valley was full of RVs and tents. We navigated to the dreamed camp spot, but it was occupied by one individual in a travel trailer. We walked around looking for another suitable location nearby and then decided to go meet this individual to see what his plans were for the week; fortunately, he had plans to leave the next morning so we settled in and shared the camp spot for the night. That night Grason woke us up with a fever.

Sunday morning, with everything looking and feeling great, we decided to go see the wildflowers (uh hmmm, should I say the wildlife?) in Coyote Canyon. We drove through Borrego Springs, to get an idea of the locations of the Metal Sculptures so we can find them on our way back through. There were SO many people out and about taking pictures of not only the Sculptures, but the flowers 5 feet off the road. We kept in mind that once we get on a dirt road, most of this traffic would disappear, NOT. There were people everywhere. They were piled up in trucks, cars, SUVs, and mall crawlers. We navigated through them as kindly as we could and just as we hoped, there were less people after the second water crossing, so we took the opportunity to air down & snap some photos of the flowers nearby and continued on.

We stopped for lunch at the top of a steep grade over-looking Collins Valley. After lunch, we continued on and found the hiking trail to the Palms. We decided this would be a good stop for a short hike and we were not disappointed by that decision. When we returned to the Jeeps, we noticed Grason not looking too



**Slot Canyon**

*Photos by:  
Ciegi Shaw*

**Matt Shaw  
spotting  
Bill Wight  
inch by  
inch  
through  
"The  
Squeeze".**



*PHOTO  
BY: Mary  
Grimsley*

**Wildflowers  
blooming east of  
Borrego Springs**



well; he had a fever again. We decided to continue on to the end of the trail, turned around and started our tour back to the LA traffic. The trip back was just as adventurous as the trip in. The first was an individual in a red pickup. If it wasn't for the full grown beard, we really could have believed He was a She. The next was Barbie and Friends in her 4 door Jeep who almost ran us over and wanted to know if there were any more flowers up ahead. We giggled about the wildflower they would encounter in the red pickup. We pretty much drove all the way down the canyon, darting thru traffic (which was a lot less than when we started). At the end of the trail, there was a large opening next to a Lemon Grove so we pulled over and aired up. We decided we wanted to gas up before heading back to camp so we took a detour and saw a few of the Sculptures, but Grason was still not looking so well, so we made it quick and headed back to camp after filling up. Once back and camp, we borrowed the Dorey's bathtub to see if we could get Grason's fever down to a more reasonable number. About 6:30pm, the numbers started to come down and we decided to see what the night would bring before making any rational decisions.

The next morning, Monday, we decided it would be best to have Grason checked out. We looked to see where the closest medical facility is and decided to go to Julian. The drive was beautiful. The Doctor could not find any infection and told us we were doing everything correct and suggested we cancel our plans and head home. After the visit, we walked across the street and found a nice outdoor cafe and had lunch and pie. If you drive through Julian, have pie, it was really good. We decided to head back to camp and again see what the night would bring. On the way back to camp, Samela reached out to Charlie to see what their timeframe was and with a little time to spare and with both kids were asleep in the Jeep, so we decided to take the dirt road from Blair Valley into Little Blair Valley and back around. It was a pretty little drive. About 2:30, George Graham along with Bill & Charlie Wight arrived in camp. They settled into their spots and we all settled in for the night.

Tuesday morning, we woke up and everyone was cheerful and feverless. Knowing the Grimsley's were headed in today and George wanted to work on his diesel truck, we made a short trip up Borrego Wash to The Slot hiking trail. Coming down the steepish trail George thought he could straddle a rut and somehow his shackle flipped. It fixed itself at the bottom of the trail. Neither George nor the Wight's wanted to walk to The Slot, so the rest of us made a hot lap up the trail to the end of The Slot, took some photos and came back down. That was the first of many encounters that day of the caterpillar invasion. Making good time, we decided to continue up Borrego Wash to Hills of the Moon trail. This trail had many "Truckhaven" like obstacles. We were on a hunt for shade and found it, close to the end of the trail. After lunch, we turned around and headed back. We took San Felipe Wash to Borrego Springs Cutoff Road where we aired up. The Wight's and Graham headed back to camp to work on his truck while the Shaw's and Dorey's headed back to Borrego to purchase more ice and gas. Just on the outside of camp, we found the Grimsley's pulled over. Jerry was confirming his location and making sure he was on the right path. They followed us in and settled in. That night, with the most people around the campfire, we made a cherry Dutch oven cobbler. Many of us turned in about 10pm. Mark and Helen, rolled into camp from their long trip on the Mojave Road about 11:30pm.



**George coming down Heart Attack Hill.**



**Shaw's in Sandstone Canyon.**



**All kinds of cactus grow in Arizona.**



**Full-sized stagecoach & horses by Ricardo Breceda at his sculpture garden.**

Photos by:  
Mary Grimsle.



**Deep Dish Apple Pie & 3 scoops vanilla, \$11.00. YUMMY!!!**

Wednesday morning, after greeting Mark and Helen and saying goodbye to the Dorey's we ventured out to the Carrizo Badlands. I have never seen Jerry so excited to go on a trail and be so close to some pictographs he had yet to see. I have to note, Wednesday was the gloomiest of all the days. We turned down Vallecito Creek Road and up Arroyo Tapiado Wash. Along Arroyo Tapiado, we found many Mud Caves for the group to investigate. Just then it started to sprinkle on us, but that didn't stop anyone. By the time we got to the main cave, we gave the kids (aka Mark and Helen) 20 minutes to be back so we can find a lunch spot. Within minutes, Mark popped over the tallest ridge, waved at us and they made their way back down. We continued down the wash to a dry, less breezy, spot for lunch. After lunch, we navigated

to Arroyo Seco del Diablo and headed back south toward Carrizo Creek Wash were we hooked up with Canyon Sin Nombre. It was amazing to watch how fast the canyon walls change from mud hill to sandstone to rocks. At the end of the trail, it was a mutual agreement to part ways. The Grimsley's and Wight's took off toward the Indian Hill Pictographs while the Shaw's, Mark & Helen, and George headed toward the Dolomite Mine. There was some kind of concrete structure which appeared to be used to load trucks with material. After taking a few moments to look around and chat, we headed back to the main road, aired up and headed back to camp. The rain poured on us on the way back and everyone took shelter once we returned. The Grimsley's & Wight's were about 30 minutes behind us. We all said goodbye to Mark & Helen and we hunkered down in our RVs for the night listening to the wind and rain.

Thursday morning, with a kid still having fevers in the late afternoon/evening, we decided this would be our last day of Jeeping and wanted to go on Pinion Mountain Road and experience the Squeeze and Heart Attack Hill. We informed the rest of the group and they followed, some a little wearier than others. We all made it through the squeeze with little to no tire rubbing. The next obstacle was a rock path, then onto Heart Attack Hill. We all got out and mumbled grumpy words under our breath; I unloaded the kids for Matt's sanity, and slowly made our way (on our butts) down the hill. We watched as Matt drove down the hill next to us and met up with him at the bottom. Next were Jerry, then Bill, then George. We all shook off the adrenaline and loaded back up in the Jeeps. Next short stop was at a pictograph site on Hapaha Flat Road. We continued down to Fish Creek Wash to Sandstone Canyon. Knowing time was not on our hands, I discouraged the crossing of the main obstacle and we had lunch instead. After snapping some great photos of the Jeep against the Sandstone Canyon walls, we exited and headed out on Fish Creek Wash to Split Mountain Road. It was a very windy drive back to camp only to find more rainy sprinkles once we got back at 2:30.

Instead of lounging around inside the RV asking a toddler to stop flushing the toilet all night, we decided it would be best to load up and head home. We were out of camp by 4 and home by 10 after spending about an hour at the closest RV dump getting rid of 5

days of.... well, you know. It was a quiet trip home; both kids slept the entire way and still slept until 6:30am the next morning. Friday, we took Grason to urgent care in town where it was confirmed he had the Flu. Saturday (day 7) he was running around and hasn't had a fever since.

**ANZA BORREGO**, continued, *By: Jerry Grimsley*

With the departure of the Shaw's, that left the Wight's, George Graham, and Mary & I in camp. Friday morning, the group decided to drive up to Julian for lunch. I suggested going the back by way of Oriflamme and Chariot canyons. Since the trail was less than 10-miles long and would take about an hour to run, I suggested we not leave camp until 10am so we would not get to Julian too early. Big mistake! 2 ½ hours later we reached the end of the trail. The winter storms had really torn up the trail. There were big rocks to squeeze around, rocks to climb, narrow ledges, deep ruts, and finally mud near the top of the climb. We did finally reach Julian only to find a huge crowd already there. We were lucky enough to find a small restaurant with parking for all of us. We had lunch at the one restaurant that boasted having the only deep-dish apple pie in Julian. You could purchase a whole pie for only \$56.00. We chose NOT to. After lunch, I suggested we take a different dirt road back home. Funny thing – no one was interested, so we took the pavement back to camp.

Saturday morning the Wight's departed for home leaving George to watch over us. We made it an easy day by going to view the wildflowers at Borrego Springs, eat lunch out, and do a little shopping for metal yard art (Yes, Mary bought some!).

Sunday was going to be our last day for exploring, so I suggested we visit Indian Gorge where there is a small grove of native Washington Palms. It turned out to be a great decision. Easy trail & great wildflowers.

On the way back to camp we made a decision to visit the Vallecito Stage Station. Since we were just beyond the station on the road, I made a U-turn to loud crunching noises out of the rear of the Jeep. Mary and I looked at each other with a "that's not good" kind of expression. We drove carefully back to camp with no more noises. The next day we headed for home, with George following close behind, just in case the Jeep started spitting out parts on the highway. It didn't (Later, with George's help, I replaced a blown rear differential).



## Show & Shine and Pizza Night

Meet at the Pizza Factory,  
on 1<sup>st</sup> non-flex Friday, May 10, at 6:00pm

Why cook tonight?

Instead order your favorite dinner or pizza!

Trade stories, tech info, etc.



# 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Bear Bash

**When:** May 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Where:** Big Bear, CA

## **Trail Runs:**

Friday: John Bull  & Gold Mountain  (eastbound)

Saturday: Dishpan Springs  & Holecomb Creek 

Sunday: White Mountain  (eastbound)

Monday: Butler Peak  & RC Crawling   

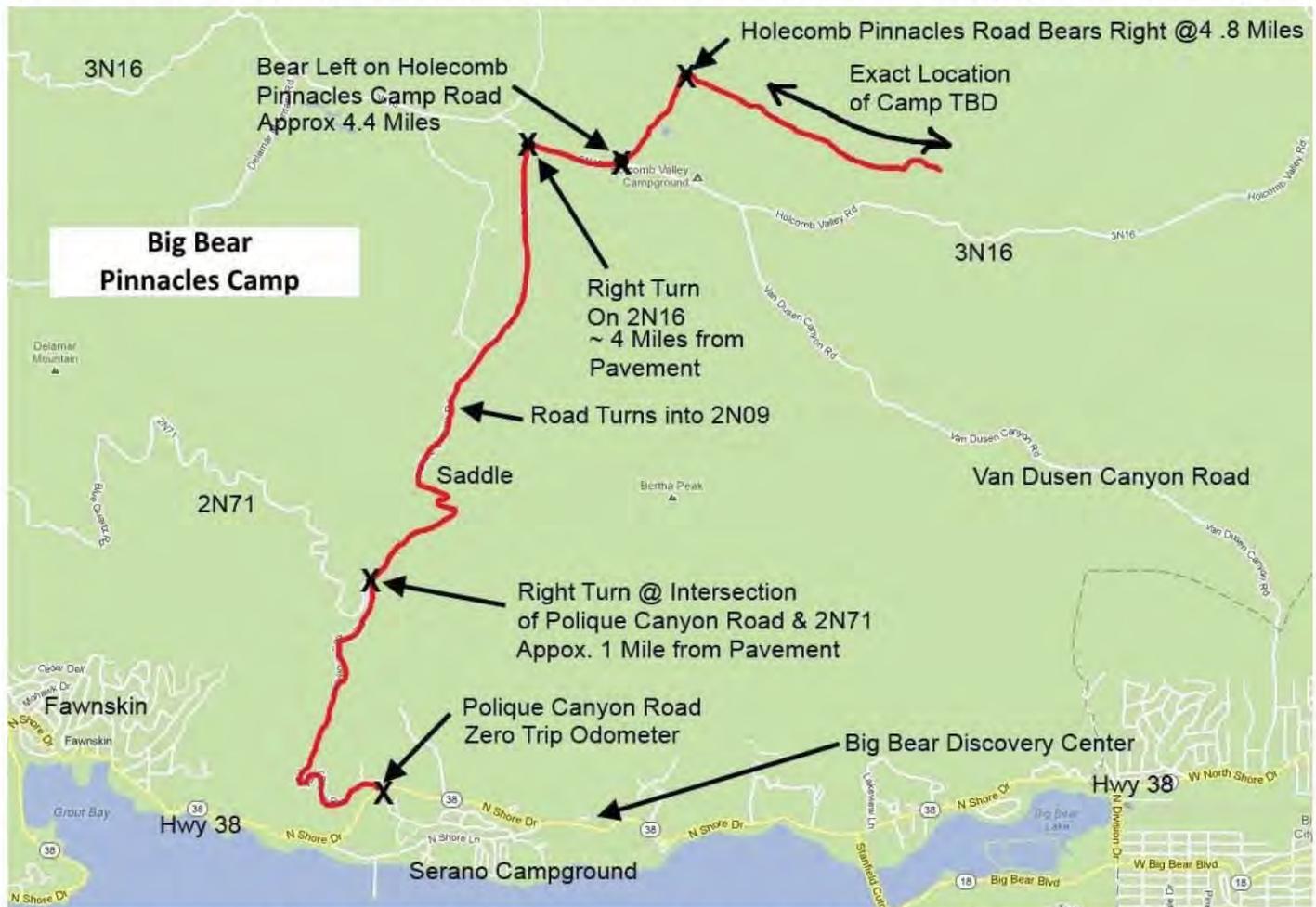
**Group Meals:** Senora Cantina Friday night / Heavy hors d'oeuvres Saturday night

**Bring:** 4X4, RV, Camping Gear & propane for campfire (in case of fire restrictions)

**Fees:** None (Adventures Pass is no longer required)

**Trail Boss:** Terry Grimsley - **RSVP via email to [tgrimsley@socal.rr.com](mailto:tgrimsley@socal.rr.com)**

**Directions to Camp:** Tentative (I'll scout out the road on May 11<sup>th</sup> and report)



Note: Camp could be moved. Without an RSVP, I don't know to get you directions.

**BRIAN REED is just a phone-call away for YOUR 4-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES PART NEEDS at 760-559-2124.**



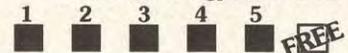
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### CLUB CALENDAR at a GLANCE

- Apr 24 Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting at Casey's Steaks & BBQ, 1337 N. China Lake Blvd., Ridgecrest.
- Apr 25 Public Lands Round Table meeting. 6:00pm at the BLM office, 300 S. Richmond Road
- Apr 26 Red Rock Canyon State Park COMMENTS DUE
- May 10 Pizza night (see above)
- May 22 Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting at Casey's Steaks & BBQ, 1337 N. China Lake Blvd., Ridgecrest.
- May 24-27 Big Bear Bash
- Jun 7 Pizza night (see above)

### 2019 TRAIL BOSSES NEEDED

- May TBD Bishop Tablelands – Wicker  
25-27 Big Bear Bash
- Jun
- Jul
- Aug
- Sep
- Oct TBD Razor Road – Grimsley's  
PVD
- Nov
- Dec 7/7 Christmas Party

### DON'T FORGET TO CONTACT

Vice-President, Earl Wicker,  
to volunteer to lead a run at:  
[ebwicker@gmail.com](mailto:ebwicker@gmail.com) OR: 760-608-7240 – cell  
OR 760-446-2121 - home

### ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL FRONT

National Public Lands News

Get updates & info at: <http://nplnews.com/>

Office located at: 941 E. Ridgecrest Blvd or call @ 760-371-1073

### CLUB WEBSITE

Please check the club Face Book page or our website for the latest information regarding meetings & runs at:

[www.geargrinders4wdclub.org/](http://www.geargrinders4wdclub.org/)

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