

TRAILS & TALES

August 2019

GEAR GRINDERS 4WD CLUB, INC.

Volume XXXIII, No. 8

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760-793-1720

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760-608-7240

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CLUB ADDRESS

P.O. BOX 32
Ridgecrest, CA 93556

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Sherman Pass Trail Maintenance *By: Jerry Grimsley*

Members of the Gear Grinders met at 0730 on Saturday, 20 July to do our annual re-opening of the Sherman Pass Jeep Trail in cooperation with The Bakersfield Trailblazers and the US Forest Service. Despite relatively short notice, we have a good turnout. In attendance were, Bill & Samela Dorey; George Graham; Matt & Ciegi Shaw; Bill Wight with guest Jerry Hinmann; qualifying member Mike Cofield with guest Nic Albrecht, and qualifying members Byron & Patty Self, and myself.

We had an uneventful drive up Nine Mile Canyon, except for the Shaw's, who were having overheating problems. After a short stop by them to let the engine cool, they rejoined us at the Kennedy Meadows Store where the group had made a comfort stop. From there, we drove on to the Sherman Pass trailhead to meet our forest service sawyer. Unfortunately, there was a miss-communication on where we were supposed to meet (Mistake #1) which cost us about 1 ½ hours before we located each other. The forest service was supposed to provide us with 2 sawyers, but it ended up being only one (Mistake #2). Since there were supposed to be 2 forest service sawyers, all of the Gear Grinders had left their saws at home (Mistake #3).

We forged ahead and soon came to the first downed tree. Our forest service sawyer fired up his saw and whoa! Plenty of smoke and no wood chips. The sawyer was as puzzled as we were until he checked the chain. Mistake #4 – the chain was on backwards. He had picked up the saw at the shop without checking it over. After correctly installing the chain, we were soon busy cutting fallen trees, dragging trees off the trail and pulling down widow-makers.



Photo by: Samela Dorey

A broken "widow maker" needs to come down.



Using Matt Shaw's winch to pull down the "widow maker", with George & Jerry helping.

Photos by:
Ciegi
Shaw

George & Jerry unhooking the chain from the widow maker.



When proceeding west on the trail, at the very last hill climb before reaching Corral Meadow, a huge tree had fallen across the trail. It was going to require too much time to try to remove the tree, so we cut away at the broken end of the tree to create a bypass. It was not a satisfactory solution in that it requires a very tight 3-point turn to get around the tree. Anything larger than a 4-door jeep would have extreme difficulty getting around the obstacle. It was recommended that the Forest service send in a team of cutters to properly remove the tree. (See left 2 photos below.)

The group was about 1 ½ miles from North Meadow when disaster struck. Our one and only saw seized up the clutch. Now you can understand the significance of Mistake #3. After a short conference, we decided to push forward in hopes that there would be no more downed trees. Fortunately, there were only about 3 more small ones that we were able to drag off the trail.

The group took a break at North Meadow. Here we learned that the Trailblazers had cleared the west end of the trail and the Embry Mine Road. We went out by way of the Embry Mine Road, skipping the Sherman Peak lookout because of a large snowbank. After airing up at the pavement, we all straggled home, some stopping for dinner at Grumpy Bears. Bill Wight, Jerry Hinmann, and I were the last to get home at about 800pm.

We ended up clearing 15 trees off of the trail. Thanks to all who came to help out on such short notice.



Photos by:
Jerry Grimsley

A several-point turn has to be done to get around the end of the large log, trying to get your bumper around the standing tree.



A mud hole was waiting for Jim K. who was unable to attend.



Photos by:
Ciegi Shaw.

Club members waiting for "Mike" to finish his cut, so they can move the log.



MOU SIGNED with DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

After 20+ years of NOT having a formal MOU with Death Valley National Park (DVNP), history was made this past Thursday, August 22, 2019, when we met with DVNP Supervisor Mike Reynolds; Deputy Chief Ranger Jessica Barr; and Erin Flanagan, Environmental Compliance Specialist, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for helping to maintain and keep open the Eureka/Saline Corridor, Pleasant Canyon, and Mengle Pass trails for 4X4/high clearance vehicle travel.

Some back history so you will understand why this is historical: Our first MOU was signed in the late 1980's and continued till the passage of the California Desert Protection Act, which changed Death Valley National Monument to a National Park. In 1995 we again signed an MOU with DVNP for the Eureka/Saline Corridor. I do not know the exact date it expired but do know it was not terminated by the park service.

However, we have been faithfully traveling the trail from the Eureka Sand Dunes, through Steel Pass to the Saline Valley Hot Springs all these years. In later years, I did not file a report, as we did not have an MOU. Through the years either I made contact with DVNP or someone from there made contact, still trying to come up with a new MOU, but personnel would change, and we would have to start all over again.

So imagine my surprise when I was contacted by Jessica Barr that they were working on a new MOU and would be sending me a draft copy. We received that draft and sent back some changes that we would like to make (like limiting our liability after we were done to "no liability" after our work was done.

Thank you Jessica Barr for working on this, and to Supervisor Mike Reynolds for approving our ability to keep these trails open.



Back row L-R: Sup. Reynolds, Jim Kenney, Scott Wood, Bill Dorey, Gary Luckeroth, Erin Flanagan, Earl Wicker.
Front row L-R: Dan Kus, Mary Grimsley, Samela Dorey, Barbara Wicker, DCR Jessica Barr, and Donna Kenney.



Supervisor Mike Reynolds, GG President Bill Dorey, & Chief Deputy Ranger Jessica Barr.

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- 3 Core radiator
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- Front DANA 44 High Pinion (4.88)/ARB & 'Parts Mike' Custom Hi Steer
- Rear DANA Super 44 (4.88)/Detroit Locker w disc brakes
- 5.5" Rubicon Express Long Arm Lift w/Bilstein 5100 shocks
- Currie Anti-Rock Sway Bar
- Goodyear S/T MAXX 35x12.5 OR15 LT
- Off Road Fab tire/gerry can carrier
- York On Board Air System
- Currie Rear Bumper
- Kilby Front Winch Bumper
- WARN XD9000iWinch
- Kilby Gas Tank Skid
- Poison Spyder Rocker Guards w/ sliders
- Rockcrusher DiffCovers
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- Bestop Upper door Sliders (Glass)
- Bestop Safari Top



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17th Annual Big Bear Bash

When: Aug. 30th – Sept. 2nd, 2019





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   

Trail Legend

-  Easy
-  Moderate
-  Difficult

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**

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



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



Show & Shine and Pizza Night

Meet at the Pizza Factory,
on 1st non-flex Friday,
September 13, at 6:00pm

Why cook tonight?

Instead order your favorite dinner or pizza!



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



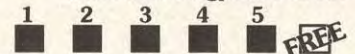
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For your 4WD part needs. Mention Gear Grinders for a club discount. At the end of the year 4WD Hardware will send the club a check for a % of the sales from members for the year.

AMAZON SMILE: For your Amazon purchases, please use Amazon Smile by going to [smile.amazon](https://smile.amazon.com) and choosing your favorite charity that is on the list and they will get a percentage donation from AMAZON for all your purchases.

CLUB CALENDAR at a GLANCE

- Aug 28 Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting at Casey's Steaks & BBQ, 1337 N. China Lake Blvd., Ridgecrest.
- Aug 30-Sep2 Big Bear Run
- Sep 13 Pizza night (see above)
- Sep 25 Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting at Casey's Steaks & BBQ, 1337 N. China Lake Blvd., Ridgecrest.
- Sep 26 Public Lands Round Table meeting. 6:00pm at the BLM office, 300 S. Richmond Road
- Oct 11 Pizza night
- Oct 18-20 Afton Canyon Run, Grimsley's – Jerry

2019 TRAIL BOSSES NEEDED

- Aug 30 - Sep 2 Big Bear – Terry Grimsley
- Sep Possible PVD pre-runs
- Oct 18-20 Razor Road – J. Grimsley's
- Nov 8-11 PVD
- Dec 7 Christmas Party

DON'T FORGET TO CONTACT

Vice-President, Earl Wicker,
to volunteer to lead a run at:
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/

PROMOTING PUBLIC LANDS FOR RESPONSIBLE MULTIPLE USE