

# TRAILS & TALES

January 2020

GEAR GRINDERS 4WD CLUB, INC.

Volume XXXIV, No. 1

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Matt Shaw  
760-475-2023

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Earl Wicker  
760-608-7240

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Patty Self  
760-375-2011

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Mary Grimsley  
760-446-3458

### TREASURER

Randy Schortzmann  
760-382-6357

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Past President:

Bill Dorey  
760-793-8747  
Samela Dorey  
760-793-1720  
Bill Wight  
760-375-2991

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

### BLM ROUND TABLE

Jim Kenney & Mary Grimsley

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

Tom Perkins

### LAND USE

Jim Kenney

### CERRO GORDO

Jim Kenney

### HISTORIAN

Ciegi Shaw

### WEBMASTER

Ciegi Shaw

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Mary Grimsley

## CLUB ADDRESS

P.O. BOX 32  
Ridgecrest, CA 93556

## IN THIS ISSUE

Spangler Fun Day

Red Mtn. area & El Paso's  
Historic Trail

Upcoming meetings/events  
Club Calendar at a Glance

**CB Channel 1**

## Spangler Fun Day *By: Ciegi Shaw*

On December 23, 2019, Scott Wood; Mark Kuttor & Helen Jones; and the Shaw family met up at the Richmond Road Park 'N Ride on a rainy Monday morning. We took off to the north Spangler and turned onto C3. This area is now open to riding.

There were quite a few walls that fell along C3 because of the earthquakes. We followed C3 to C4 and found an overlook of the Trona Pinnacles and tufa formations; both were a wonderful surprise. Once we navigated to the railroad tracks we followed them toward the Pinnacles, but decided the roads were getting too soupy, so we turned around and headed toward the Summit Range and took the canyon (RM7A) along Golden Valley Wilderness to Pipeline Road. It was super foggy in this area. That added a different sort of fun to the day. We then followed Pipeline Road and took Stephenson Mine Road and then headed north roaming around from canyon to canyon and hill to hill ending on the Navy Road. It was a fun day and nice to have Mark & Helen back for a run.



Mark Kuttor & Helen Jones  
In the Squeeze on C-3.

Photos by: Ciegi Shaw



Overlooking the Trona Pinnacles.



Helen driving  
down the  
same rock  
step as Scott.



Scott Wood  
navigating a step  
in his new Jeep  
Gladiator PU.

Supposedly Matt was  
airing up, but .....????

# RED MOUNTAIN, RANDSBURG, TO THE EL PASO MOUNTAINS RUN

By: Ciegi Shaw

On December 29, 2019, the last weekend of the year, we had a great day!!! We met up with Bill Wight; Scott Wood; and then drove to the Texaco station in Joburg to meet up with Steve & Debbie Jones.

We drove around Red Mountain the long way then made our way to Rand Mountain. We decided to try to take R83 to Government Peak. We found some snow and then some virgin snow that had not been driven on and of course we had to drive on it. However, we decided to turn around at the top of the hill when we saw the trail going down a narrow path on the other side. We turned around and took another route down toward Randsburg.

We then cut across the valley to the El Paso's. We went up Goler Gulch and took EP15 east to EP21. We decided we were not quite done seeing the snow so we found EP33 and took it up to Laurel Mountain.

On the way back we found a stranded JK on the side of the highway with his hood up and just like the great Jeepers we are, we turned around and hovered around his open hood. Turned out his throttle was stuck under his floor mat. Oops.

## HISTORIC RUN

By: Tom Perkins

For the first run of 2020, on Saturday, January 22, we met at the Richmond Road Park 'N Ride at 7:30 AM ..... Jerry Grimsley with dog Gus; Earl Wicker with son Eric and grandson Logan; Bill Wight with Jerry Hinman; Scott Wood; and myself, Tom Perkins with dog Fargo. We had a driver's meeting at 8:00 AM and drove away 5 minutes later.

After about 40 minutes of driving, we turned off at a usually-dry lake area to the west of the Panamint Valley Road and to the south of the Slate Range Crossing. Everyone aired down. The temperature was cold and a lone coyote was attempting to get a drink at the frozen lake to our west. Jerry made sure Gus didn't see the coyote and Tom left Fargo in the Jeep to save his "jumping muscles" for later in the day. Tom struggled to locate the road leading out of the lake area, but Jerry found it and we continued up the shelf road to the main highway, crossing the highway, to continue on the pioneer road.

Everyone was impressed with the construction of the road, although it was as rough as ever. I think it was Jerry who noted that it also functioned as the car highway in the 1920s before the Slate Range Crossing was constructed. We stopped at the old



Steve & Debbie Jones, Bill Wight, & Matt Shaw at the Texaco Station in Joburg.

Virgin Snow.

Top of R-83.



Photos by: Ciegi Shaw.

From R to L: Shaw's, Wight, Jones', & Wood in Goler Wash.



Chinese camp and wandered around for 20 minutes or so, admiring the construction of the more complicated rock structures.

We drove out of the Slate Range and onto the valley floor, crossing the highway again to start on the official Nadeau Shotgun Road. Shortly after that, we turned left to the Anthony Mill Mine and Reilly Town sites. We walked around for about 45 minutes while Eric and Logan climbed up the roads above the mill site. (It must be nice to be so young...)

Our next stop was the site of the old Onyx mine works, where we broke for lunch and explored the hill above the old concrete slabs. We then drove up the road toward the Kopper King Mine and were pleased to see that it was unoccupied. All of the vehicles got into the canyon above the Adopt-a-Cabin and got turned around—including Scott in his Gladiator. We looked around and left after 15 minutes or so.

From the Onyx Mine, we drove to the Panamint Crater, while discussing its origins on the way. I cautioned everyone that the sinkhole was still sinking, and it was unsafe to enter the

crater. We took pictures, picked up a few rocks and returned to the paved Nadeau Road.

At this point, Earl and his crew turned south to return to civilization for Eric's birthday dinner. The rest of us drove north on the paved road to a point just south of Panamint Valley Limestone, where we turned off to rejoin the Nadeau Shotgun Road.

The road is rough in this section and at one point has completely washed out. The bypass was easy. Jerry observed that it was quite a washout, but would soon be ready for vehicles such as ours with enough erosion. Tom said that a little more rock stacking would fix everything.

We reached the turnoff to Snow Canyon without incident and with the remaining 4 vehicles close together. After getting into the canyon and at the bottom of the road to the Golden Lady Mine, we stopped to look at the remains of the arrastra. Jerry and Bill thought that two of the flat rocks in or near the arrastra were drag stones. A third rock was upright with the iron hook easily accessible.

We continued up the narrow wash to the St. George Mine, where we took pictures and admired the construction of the head frame. Each of us drove down the short hill with the admonition to avoid using brakes. We made it to Panamint Valley Road just before sundown, aired up and returned to Ridgecrest in the early evening.

During the run, we had no vehicle problems, no first aid events and excellent weather. The burro count was six, but I can't remember exactly where they were; I'm sure they were further south in the valley than I had ever seen before.



Vehicles stopped to repair a broken shift cable ¼ mile from the end of the trail.

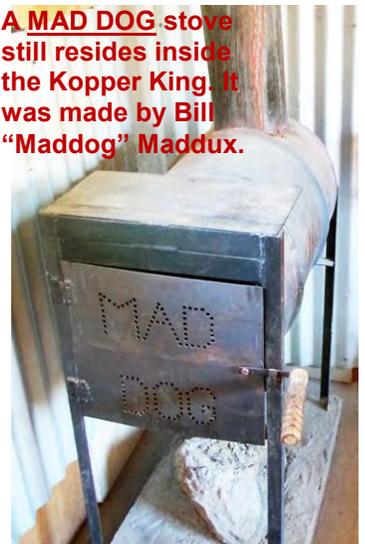
An arrastra with the drag stones still on site.



Everyone on the porch of the Kopper King Mine cabin,

Photo by: Jerry Grimsley

A MAD DOG stove still resides inside the Kopper King. It was made by Bill "Maddog" Maddux.



Another arrastra with drag stones nearby at the Golden Lady Mine.



Ore chute at the St. George Mine.



**Show & Shine and Pizza Night**  
 Meet at the Pizza Factory,  
 on the last non-flex Friday this month,  
**January 31, at 5:30pm**

Order your favorite dinner or pizza!  
**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no S&S in February  
 because the 1<sup>st</sup> non-flex is Valentine's Day.



**BRIAN REED is just a phone-call away for  
YOUR 4-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES PART  
NEEDS at 760-550-2121**



**Don't forget to visit our members who are in  
business!  
Scott & Lynn Wood have all of your pet needs  
right here in Ridgecrest!**



**FREE  
SELF - SERVE  
DOG WASH**  
Buy 5, Get 1 Free

211 N. Balsam St.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
(760) 375-7007

Email: info@desertdogpetstore.com  
Web: desertdogpetstore.com



Go to:

[http://www.4wd.com/?ppcfon=1&utm\\_source=bing&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=4WD%20-%20Brand&utm\\_term=%2B4wd%20%2Bhardware](http://www.4wd.com/?ppcfon=1&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=4WD%20-%20Brand&utm_term=%2B4wd%20%2Bhardware)

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) 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

Jan 22	Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting at Casey's Steaks & BBQ, 1337 N. China Lake Blvd., Ridgecrest.
Jan 23	Public Lands Round Table meeting. 6:00pm at the BLM office, 300 S. Richmond Road
Jan 31	Pizza night - This is the 2nd non-flex Friday this month, as the 1st non-flex fell on PVD weekend.
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 26	Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting at Casey's Steaks & BBQ, 1337 N. China Lake Blvd., Ridgecrest.
Feb 27	Public Lands Round Table meeting. 6:00pm at the BLM office, 300 S. Richmond Road
Mar 6-8	Truckhaven Hills near Salton City, Jerry Grimsley

## 2020 TRAIL BOSSES NEEDED

<u>Feb</u>	TBD	Backdoor to Darwin - Kenney
<u>Mar</u>	6-8	Truckhaven - J. Grimsley
	TBD	Lookout/Defense - Dorey
<u>Apr</u>		
<u>May</u>		
<u>Jun</u>		
<u>Jul</u>	4-6	Big Bear - T. Grimsley
<u>Aug</u>		
<u>Sep</u>		
<u>Oct</u>		
<u>Nov</u>		

## 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/)

**PROMOTING PUBLIC LANDS FOR RESPONSIBLE MULTIPLE USE**