

TRAILS & TALES

July 2019

GEAR GRINDERS 4WD CLUB, INC.

Volume XXXIII, No. 7

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Mclver's Cabin Run *By: Jerry Grimsley*

On June 29, members of the Gear Grinders met at the theater parking lot for our annual run to Mclver's cabin in support of our adopt-a-trail agreement with the Forest Service. In attendance were Bill Dorey; George Graham; Dan Kus; Mike Stone & Belinda Miner; Bill Wight with guest Jerry Hinman; and guests Byron & Patty Self. We drove to the trailhead alongside Hwy14 where we aired down, before starting the trip up Horse canyon.

The only excitement on the way up Horse Canyon was a 2' Western Diamondback rattlesnake stretched out across the right side of the road sunning himself. We stopped and took a photo of him and he wasn't too bothered, but by the time everyone got passed him and possibly took a more photos, he was a very angry rattlesnake on the edge of the road.

The group took a break at the top of the switchbacks for a comfort stop. Here a group of about 5 Jeeps caught up with us. I suggested they go on ahead of us, since we would be making multiple stops for trail maintenance. The drive to the cabin was uneventful. We did close off one bypass and picked up trash as we went along. The trail seemed a little more eroded out than the last time I ran it.

I did not witness it, but I was told that Dan had to be reminded that he had an electric locker on at least one frame twister obstacle. The cabin was in relatively good shape, if a little dirty. The spring pipe was running strong. The group had a nice leisurely lunch at the cabin before heading back down which was also uneventful. Thanks to all who came out.



Photo by: Mary Grimsley

Photos by: Jerry Grimsley



Blocking the by-pass.



Mclver's Cabin



L2R: Mike Stone, Patty Self, Dan Kus, & George Graham enjoying the beautiful day.

1998 TJ JEEP FACTORY RED

\$16,950



4.0L 6 Cyl Engine

AX-15 5sp Transmission

3 Core radiator

New Centerforce Pressure Plate, TO bearing and Flywheel

Atlas II 4.3:1 Transfer Case

Front DANA 44 High Pinion (4.88)/ARB & 'Parts Mike' Custom Hi Steer

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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

Bestop Sail Cloth Soft Top w/upper doors

Bestop Upper door Sliders (Glass)

Bestop Safari Top

**PHONE CALLS
ONLY**

760-375-9189

ASK FOR EVA

Beware the Poodle-Dog

Not the puppy dog, but the dreaded Poodle Dog Bush plant. With a long green stalk and purple trumpeted flowers this plant is often picked as a wildflower to put on the dinner table. Don't be fooled the beauty cloaks a real danger of a serious rash caused by the oil and pollen. Kind of like poison oak on steroids. It is wise to know what Poodle Dog Brush looks like so you can avoid it. There is a telltale odor like skunk to warn you off. Not everyone is allergic.

Technu scrub or dawn detergent in COLD running water should be used to clean your entire body as soon as possible after exposure. Your riding gear should be washed in hot water. Some people have little or no reaction with this being a big water year Poodle Dog is thriving in old burn areas. It has grown in many places to over five feet tall and hangs into the trail.

Stewards of the Sequoia crews often work on many Sequoia trails where the Poodle Dog thrives. This picture is after doing one of our trail maintenance projects in the Greenhorns.

Beware, be forewarned and be careful of the Poodle Dog whose bite is much worse than its bark. **Copied from: Stewards of the Sequoia "Sequoia Trail News**



Copied from Wikipedia.

Poodle-Dog Bush, *Eriodictyon parryi*, is a tall California mountain shrub with showy purple flowers, which is notable for secreting a severe skin irritant. It is an opportunistic species that grows mostly in areas that have been disturbed by fire.

The plant is endemic to southern California and Baja California. It is particularly common in the Transverse Ranges, and also occurs in the Coast Ranges south of San Luis Obispo, and in the **Sierra Nevada** as far north as Kings Canyon. It is found in chaparral, on granitic slopes and ridges from 3,300 to 7,500ft. It thrives in areas of yellow pine forest that have been recently disturbed by fire or landslides, where it helps to prevent erosion and can cover burned hillsides with attractive color.

Description

It grows into a moderate size, perennial woody shrub, branching from the base but with main stems extending for up to 2 meters. Its leaves are long and narrow, and may be toothed at the edge; they can be from 4 to 30 centimeters (1.6 to 11.8 in) long. It flowers from June to August, having clusters (cymes) of attractive bell-shaped blue, lavender or purple flowers. The plant has a sickly-sweet, minty, or rank smell (skunk) even when not in flower.

Skin irritant

Like many species in the forget-me-not family, poodle-dog bush causes severe irritation if touched, akin to poison oak. It can raise blisters lasting as long as several weeks. There may be a delay of several days before the reaction starts. The hairs stick to skin and clothing. The allergic contact dermatitis is due to prenylated phenolics exuded by hairs (glandular trichomes) of the plant. The principal irritants are derivatives of farnesyl hydroquinone and 3-farnesyl-P-hydroxybenzoic acid. Once the immune system has been sensitized to the irritant, later exposure can cause a memory response, in which previously exposed areas erupt even though they were not exposed the second time. **PLEASE LOOK UP IN WIKIPEDIA HOW TO TREAT.**



Photos 1 & 2 copied from: PCT Association webpage.
Blooming plant and close-up of leaves.



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, August 2, at 6:00pm
Why cook tonight?
Instead order your favorite dinner or pizza!
Trade stories, tech info, etc.



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

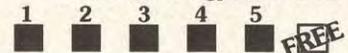
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For your 4WD part needs. Mention Gear Grinders for a club discount. At the end of the year 4WD Hardware will send the club a check for a % of the sales from members for the year.

AMAZON SMILE: For your Amazon purchases, please use Amazon Smile by going to smile.amazon 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

- Jul 24 Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting at Casey's Steaks & BBQ, 1337 N. China Lake Blvd., Ridgecrest.
- Jul 25 Public Lands Round Table meeting. 6:00pm at the BLM office, 300 S. Richmond Road
- Aug 1 New date Red Rock Canyon State Park COMMENTS DUE
- Aug 2 Pizza night (see above)
- Aug 22 Ridgecrest Round Table meeting at the BLM office, 300 S. Richmond Rd., 6:00pm
- Aug 28 Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting at Casey's Steaks & BBQ, 1337 N. China Lake Blvd., Ridgecrest.
- Sep 13 Pizza night (see above)

2019 TRAIL BOSSES NEEDED

- Aug 30 - Sep 2 Big Bear – Terry Grimsley
- Sep TBD
- Oct TBD Razor Road – J. Grimsley's PVD
- Nov
- 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