

TRAILS & TALES

March 2019

GEAR GRINDERS 4WD CLUB, INC.

Volume XXXIII, No. 3

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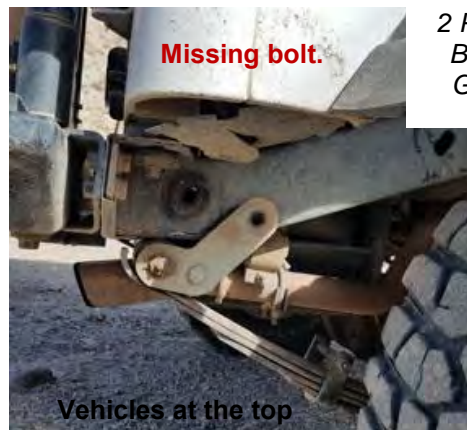
Arrastre Spring *By: Bill Wight*

On February 23, the Gear Grinders made a run to Arrastre Spring located in Striped Butte Valley in the Panamint Mountains. Participants included George Graham; Jerry & Mary Grimsley; Jim & Donna Kenney; Bill & Kathy Martin; guest Will Clayson, and me with guest Jerry Hinman.

We left the Richmond Road Park and Ride lot at 7:30 AM and proceeded to the Ballarat turnoff where we aired down. The trip down the valley started out to be uneventful with the exception of a couple of minor detours around very muddy spots in the road. Just before we got to the turnoff for Golar Canyon, Jim Kenney reported that the alternator in his Jeep was failing. He decided to return to Ridgecrest, leaving us with five vehicles for the remainder of the trip.

We continued up Golar Canyon and soon reached the waterfall obstacle which did have a small stream running over it. The first three Jeeps made it up and over the fall with no problems. Then came Will Clayson and his stock Chevy Suburban with street tires. It took him four tries to get up the falls with a lot of wheel spinning, loose rock rearranging and spraying water all over the rocks. Last came Jerry Grimsley and with the wet rocks and the wheelbase of his Jeep being a perfect fit in the holes in the rocks, it took six or seven tries to get up the falls. (EDITOR'S NOTE: You're being too kind, Bill! 7 – SEVEN – 7 tries.)

With everyone over the waterfall obstacle, we continued up the canyon until we reached the Barker Ranch turnoff and Jerry Grimsley reported a problem with his Jeep. He had lost a rear spring bolt, but fortunately he had a



2 PHOTOS
BY: Mary
Grimsley



Vehicles at the top
of Mengle Pass: L
to R: Grimsley,
Graham,
Martin, Wight, with
Will in foreground.



Photo by:
Jerry
Grimsley

spare with him. After a short delay for repairs we continued up the canyon to Mengel Pass without any additional problems and stopped for a short break. We then proceeded down the east side of Mengel Pass and across Striped Butte Valley to the road to Arrastre Spring. We saw many groups of burros in the valley with one group of forty plus animals.

We started up the road to the spring and after a short distance, one of Will's street tires decided it had had enough fun and it's sidewall failed. Jerry Grimsley helped him change it while the rest of us set up for a late lunch a little further up the road. After changing the tire, Jerry, Mary and Will joined the rest of us for lunch. After lunch, we continued up the road another couple of miles where it ended before reaching the spring.

Some of us hiked up the steep rocky trail toward the spring looking for Petroglyphs, which we found. We did not get to see the actual spring because of the rough terrain and the fact that it was getting late in the afternoon and we wanted to get back to the mouth of Golar Canyon before dark. We returned to the vehicles and headed for home. We made it back over Mengel Pas and to the mouth of Golar Canyon with no major difficulties. Somewhere along the way, Will's suburban sustained some modifications to it's exhaust system giving it a more aggressive sound. It also gained a "racing stripe" on one side.

We exited Golar Canyon just as it got dark and proceeded back to the Ballarat turnoff where we aired up and then continued towards home. Most of us stopped in Trona for a gourmet meal at the Trails Drive-in before returning to Ridgecrest.



Vehicles driving down into Striped Butte Valley.

Photos by:
Mary Grimsley



Jerry helped Will change his tire while Gus supervised.



Typical glyph at Arrastre Spring.
Photo by:
Bill Wight.

LAND USE ALERT: RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) will be holding two public meetings in late March 2019 in Ridgecrest and Lancaster to discuss the revision of the General Plan for Red Rock Canyon State Park. At these open-house style meetings, the planning team will present preliminary planning concepts for the update to the General Plan and solicit feedback from interested stakeholders and agencies.

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit display stations, review materials that describe the draft concepts, ask questions, and provide input. The open houses will be identical in content and format, and materials from the meetings will be available after the meetings are concluded on the project website. There will be no formal presentation.

Open House #2

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

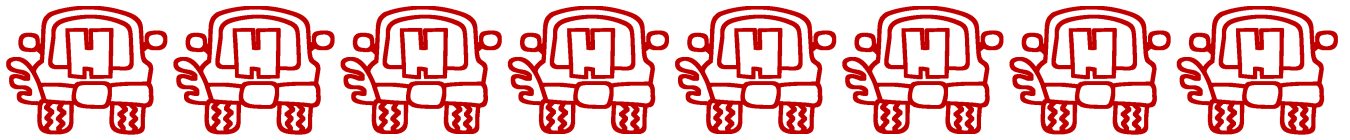
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Historical Society Upper Mojave Desert, 230 W. Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, CA

For more information on the General Plan revision process, please visit www.redrockgp.com. We hope to see you there!

PLEASE, EVERYONE ATTEND THIS MEETING!!!! Before GG mtg.

There will be forms to write a comment. PLEASE write something so there is a record of YOUR attendance so they cannot say that "no one showed up from the OHV community asking for Nightmare to be reopened." Please write how long you have been driving the canyon, that you helped maintain it, etc. Take a photo of your statement or rewrite it as your record.



LADY BUG RUN

WHEN: April 19 -21, 2019

MEET: Richmond Road Park 'n Ride at 7:45am; LEAVE at 8:00am

ITINERARY: **Friday:** Travel to Death Valley either via
Town Pass or Goler Wash.

We will end up on Greenwater Road, proceed to Deadman Pass to
Armagosa Junction, ending up at Beatty for the night.

Staying Fri and Sat nights (and Sunday night for those staying over):

At Stagecoach Casino, 775-553-2419. Book early, before they fill up.

Show proof of Ridgecrest residence and get the discount rate.

Saturday, April 20: Will set out at 0800

Travel to the Silicon mine then proceed to the Telluride mine.

We will also hit the Carrara Marble Quarry & town site.

Sunday April 21: We will discuss due to trail or road closures.

BRING: 4X4 vehicle with full tank of gas; Bring all the normal stuff; weather could be
anything so plan accordingly, i.e., hat; WATER; snacks; good shoes; cameras;
and, of course, gambling supplies (money!).

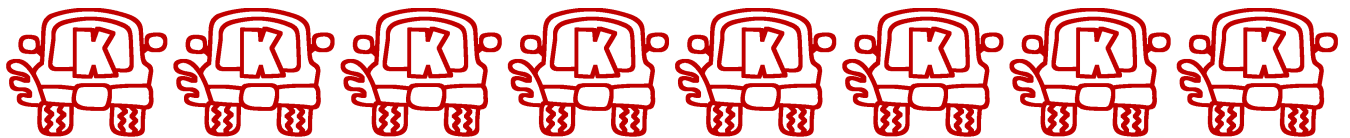
Lunches for the day trips; sandwiches are available in Beatty at Subway.

WHO: For more info **OR TO RSVP**

Call Karen Schortzmann @ 760-382-6338

or Donna Kennney @ 760-608-0013

or check on our Face Book Gear Grinders page.



Show & Shine and Pizza Night

Meet at the Pizza Factory,
on 1st non-flex Friday, April 12, 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.



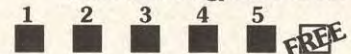
**Don't forget to visit our members who are in business!
Scott & Lynn Wood have all of your pet needs right here in Ridgecrest!**



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Go to:

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 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

- Mar 27 Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting at Casey's Steaks & BBQ, 1337 N. China Lake Blvd., Ridgecrest.
- Mar 28 Red Rock Canyon meeting, 5 – 7pm
- Mar 28 Public Lands Round Table meeting, 6:00pm at the BLM Office at 300 S. Richmond Road
- Apr 12 Pizza night – see details above.
- Apr 19-21 Lady Bug Run
- 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
- May 10 Pizza night
- May 22 Club meeting.
- May 24-27 Big Bear Bash

2019 TRAIL BOSSES NEEDED

- Apr 19-21 Lady Bug – Donna/Karen
- May TBD Bishop Tablelands – Wicker
- 25-27 Big Bear Bash
- Jun
- Jul
- Aug
- Sep
- Oct TBD Razor Road – Grimsley's
- Nov PVD
- Dec 7/7 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