



TRAILS & TALES

JULY 2020

GEAR GRINDERS 4WD CLUB, INC.

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The COOL MAMMOTH Run *By: George Graham*

I departed early on Thursday, July 11th, to try and beat the heat. Bill Martin and Scott & Lynn Wood joined me for the drive to Mammoth. Jerry & Mary Grimsley were delayed slightly by an electrical problem in their motorhome. We cruised along until just before Lone Pine where I lost Bill and Scott. After waiting what I thought was enough time for a personal break I doubled back and found them parked on the side of the road just before the RV park. I didn't see them in time to make the turn at the RV park, so I had to drive most of the way to Olancha to find a break in the divider to make a U turn. In the process of getting back to Bill, who was suffering from a destroyed left rear tire, I found Jerry on the roadside waiting for me to come back. As luck would have it, the Fords have a coded key for the crank socket to lower the spare tire. Oops no key, no spare. The solution turned out to be loading the bad tire and wheel on my trailer and taking it to the tire shop at Miller's Towing in Lone Pine for a new tire. Turned out to be an easy way to go, but time consuming, so Jerry went on ahead to find us a camp spot.

It was a good thing that Jerry went ahead because camping in the area we had anticipated was overloaded with ATVs, Razors and motorcycles. Not a good place for us. Jerry drove dirt roads one after another until he found a spot large enough for all of us. By end of day one we were all settled into a very nice spot in the trees just South of June Lake Junction. THANK YOU JERRY.

Day two we waited for the Dorey's and the Self's to arrive. Later that day Kenny Semones, his son Michael and friend Alex showed up making the group complete.



Every afternoon was spent chasing the shade & recapping the day.

L to R: George (legs), Lynne, Scott, Patty, Bill D., Samela, Byron, Mary. On the other side of Mary, but blocked are Kenney & Alex.

Day three we made the trip to the Pinnacles Overlook above the ski lifts at Mammoth. Well, we tied to make it. Because of the COVID-19 the bus to Reds Meadow was not running so they had people driving down on a one up one down schedule. The waiting line had the traffic backed up so far we couldn't get to the overlook. Instead we drove to Reds Lake, then to Hot Creek and finally to Bald Mountain Lookout.

Day four was a run to the Log Cabin Mine. This is a destination worth the time spent. Lots of old mine equipment, scenery and if you go to the end of the road a great overlook of the Mono Lake valley. You can see all the way to Bridgeport, Bodie and beyond.

On the fifth day we drove the Rock Creek Ridge. More great views with a small lake at the end of the road. Some of us decided to drive up through the pass to the Bishop overlook. Bill Martin and Scott opted for a return to camp. It's a fun side trip with lots of tight turns and big rocks in your way, but it's worth the drive to see the view. We did not take the shelf road to Wheeler Ridge. The Self's left their motorhome near Tom's Place and left for home when we got back.

Instead of coming home the sixth day we stayed and went to Kavanaugh Ridge near Virginia Lakes. A spectacular view of the Green Lake Basin. Blue lakes, green trees and red mountains. Another worthwhile place to go.

I came home on the seventh day but the Grimsley's and Dorey's stayed for a trip to Laurel Lakes. The entire trip was a series of great day trips that everyone with a four wheel drive should do sometime or sooner.

Story continued by Mary Grimsley:

Day 6, the Grimsley's & Dorey's decided, since we hadn't made up to Laurel Lakes yet, that would be the trail we'd run. We got an earlier start to hopefully be ahead of the crowd, but since it Wednesday, maybe it wouldn't be too bad. We met no one coming down and there was only 1 vehicle with 3 fishermen there. It was as gorgeous as usual. Jerry & Bill went a ways around the east end and Gus took a quick dip, but it is pretty cold. Met 5 vehicles on the way down towards the bottom of the trail where there are more pull outs.

We also made it out to the Minnerett's look out and then called it a day. We left early the next morning for home.



This peninsula jets out into Laurel Lake & makes a nice campsite or picnic site. Also, a good point to fish from.



Airing down on the Tioga Road for the Log Cabin Mine trail. LtoR: Graham, Grimsley, Self, Dorey, Wood, Semones.



Patty Self & Bella overlooking Mono Lake. This is the view on the last part of the Log Cabin trail.

Photos by: Jerry Grimsley



Much to the delight of the dogs, we visited several lakes where they got to swim. L to R: Rocky, Bill M., Patty, Bella, George, Bill D., Samela, & Scott.



Lake on the Wheeler Ridge trail had water in it. Lucky dogs! L to R: George, Self's, Dorey's, & Grimsley's.

BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT PUBLIC INPUT on Alabama Hills

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bishop Field Office is seeking public input for the future management of the Alabama Hills near Lone Pine in Inyo County. Today's release of an environmental assessment lays out three proposed alternatives and begins a 30-day public review period that ends on August 7, 2020. In March 2019, President Trump signed Public Law 116-9 (P.L. 116-9), also known as the [John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act](#), which designated 18,745 acres within the Alabama Hills as a National Scenic Area. The BLM is currently preparing a management plan for the Scenic Area and adjacent public lands in the Alabama Hills Special Recreation Management Area.

To facilitate public review and encourage public participation in the Alabama Hills planning effort, the BLM will host two virtual meetings in late July. Public meeting materials will be available on the project website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/1502669/570>. Virtual meetings will be conducted on the following dates and times:

Wednesday, July 22, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. & **Thursday**, July 23, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

To register for one of the virtual meetings, go to the [project website](#). Once registered, you will receive an email with instructions on how to join the meeting. These instructions will also include an option to call into the meeting using a traditional phone line.

Written comments on the proposed alternatives in the environmental assessment can be submitted via email to: blm_ca_alabama_hills_planning@blm.gov; by fax: 760-872-5055; or by mail to: BLM Bishop Field Office, Attn: Alabama Hills Management Plan, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 100, Bishop, CA 93514.

Before including addresses, phone numbers, email addresses or other personal identifying information in a comment, commenters should be aware that the entire comment, including personal identifying information, could be made publicly available at any time. While the public may ask the BLM to withhold personal identifying information from public review, the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

For specific questions, please call Project Manager Monica Buhler at 760-872-5000.

MONACHE MEADOWS

WHEN: Saturday, August 8, 2020, 8:00am

WHERE: Theater parking lot.

ITINERARY: Brief stop at Kennedy Meadows General Store at approximately 9:00

AM so Trail Boss can top off the Guzzler.

- Air down at trail head.
- Enjoy the trail and depending on time, we will drive over to the Forest Service cabins under Olancha Peak or head directly to River Camps for lunch by the South Fork.
- Depart River Camps mid-afternoon.
- For those interested in a burger on the way out, Grumpy Bear's Retreat will be serving meals until 7:00 PM. Plan on outdoor dining!

BRING: 4x4 vehicle with full tank; lunch, snacks & water for the day; camera; insect repellent. Don't forget your camp chairs and don't leave your dogs at home; the temperatures at Monache are forecasted for the mid-80s with a south southwest wind 5 to 10 mph. That's a lot nicer than the 109° temp forecasted in Ridgecrest.

WHO: **Tom Perkins is the trail boss can be reached at:** perthos@gmail.com
or call or text cell: 805-501-0508

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there are a lot of unknowns in our future, so we will be playing each month by ear for a while. So watch your email and Face Book for meeting announcements. We have had a couple of meeting via Zoom. Stay tuned!

CLUB DUES

Our club dues of \$20.00 were due in June. If you have not paid yet, you may mail a check made out to the Gear Grinders to GG, PO Box 32, Ridgecrest, CA 93556 or bring them to the next meeting.

**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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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

- Aug 8** Monache Meadows Run – Tom Perkins – see above.
- Aug 26** Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting to be determined. All depends on what restrictions are still in place for the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Sept 23** Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting to be determined. All depends on what restrictions are still in place for the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Oct 28** Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting to be determined. All depends on what restrictions are still in place for the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Nov 18** Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting to be determined. All depends on what restrictions are still in place for the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Nov.26** THANKSGIVING

2020 TRAIL BOSSES NEEDED

- Aug 8** Monache Meadows - Perkins
- Sep 4-7** Big Bear – T. Grimsley
- Oct 5 – 12** Moab, UT – Graham
- Oct 10 -12** Saline Valley - Wood
- Nov 12-15** Panamint Valley Days

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