

TRAILS & TALES

OCTOBER 2020

GEAR GRINDERS 4WD CLUB, INC.

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MOAB MEMORIES *By: George Graham*

The attendees traveled to Moab, Utah in small groups and on different schedules. Jerry & Mary Grimsley and Byron & Patti Self traveled with me, while Terry & Cheri Grimsley traveled with our friends Kevin & Dayna Mackintosh. The two groups converged at the Goosenecks near Mexican Hat. We spent a comfortable two days there with a day trip to Muley Point and Johns Canyon. The group decided not to travel together and left for Moab in two parties, arriving in Moab without any RV reservations. This is another story.

We found a spot off Willow Spring Rd., about ten miles north of the Colorado River. It was desert camping without any amenities but the price was good and the view was excellent, except for the near-by dirt road, which was very heavily used. After a short wait the second group arrived and finally Bill & Samela Dorey found us. Earl & Barbara Wicker showed up late in the afternoon to say hi and locate camp, however, they were staying at a motel in town.

Several members of our group were new to Moab, so we decided to do some of the obligatory first timer runs. Monday was Fins & Things and Hells Revenge; Tuesday, Back Door to Arches; Thursday, Poison Spider Mesa and a bit of Golden Spike; Friday, Top of the World and Onion Creek; Saturday, Long Canyon & Gemini Bridges. Wednesday was a free day for people to rest, shop or to do whatever they wanted to do.

The Fins & Things trip went very smoothly. The scenery on the top of the slick rock is beautiful and nearly endless, except for some West coast smoke.



Photos by: Jerry Grimsley

Dorey's on a steep climb - Fin's & Things & George Graham providing moral support



The participants: Dorey's, Self's Macintosh's, J. Grimsley's (in back), T. Grimsley's & Graham on Fins & Things.

The driving experience is pretty spectacular with all the steep ups and downs, narrow fins and the Razors to avoid. Those things are taking over the 4 x 4 areas and Moab itself. They're everywhere because they are street legal.

The Backdoor to Arches included the Eye of the Whale Trail. This is an easy, sandy scenic trail ending at Tower Arch; from there we passed over a pretty rocky ridge and then zipped down a graded gravel road to Arches National Park.

On the free day we split up. Jerry, Mary and I went petroglyph hunting. Jerry calls it hunting it's really steep mountain climbing. One of our stops was at the Amasa Back (Cliffhanger) trailhead. We looked around and decided to drive down the first obstacle and get a little closer to our destination. BIG MISTAKE. The rocky waterfall looks much worse from the bottom and the second waterfall, which we only walked down and up, is a vertical rock shelf that is about five feet high. Anyway, we managed to drive back up the first spot after I spent a little time trying to remember how to work my Jeep. Some of our group went out to Dead Horse Point and others to town.

Poison Spider Mesa is my favorite trip at Moab. It's got some hard spots, some tricky spots and nothing but great vistas. Our destination vista was a cliff edge overlook of the Moab Valley from North of the river South to Spanish Valley, and the edge is straight down to the river.

Top of the World is a 40 plus mile trip on the asphalt to the trail head, but the drive along the Colorado River makes you forget you're on a highway. The drive up to Top of the World is a little difficult and very rough, but worth every bump and tire slip. The view is straight down into upper Onion Creek. It is so beautiful you don't want to leave. And, when you do and go down the other part of the loop that you didn't come up, you wish you had stayed, or at least gone down the way you came up. It's not very long, but there is a rock shelf to fall down every 50 yards or less. I dragged my trailer hitch receiver more times on that short trip, about one mile, than I have in the last 10 years. What a fun trip. We will definitely put that on our "To do AGAIN List".

After we survived the Top of the World, we had to go to Onion Creek and see where we were when looking down. Onion Creek is a little different than the rest of Moab. The rock spires and other formations are darker red and more layered than the slick rock areas. Another must see in Moab.

Mark and Helen Kuttor came in from Salt Lake City to join us on Friday evening. What a great surprise for me.



.Kevin, Cheri, Terry,
George & Bill
overlooking the
Colorado River.

Photos by: Jerry & Mary
Grimmsley



The steps we had to climb to get out
of the Amasa Back trail.



George Graham, Byron & patty Self, Bill &
Samela Dorey, and Kevin & Dayna
Mackintosh on Poison Spider



The last day we decided to take it easy and run out to Canyon Lands National Park and then down the Schaefer Grade. We went up Long Canyon, a great view, and headed to the park. We got to the toll booth and found a long line of cars, and also, that some of our friends were going to have to pay the \$30 entrance fee, so we turned around and made a new plan. We went to Gemini Bridges and then eased our way back to camp.

Terry & Cheri left with Dayna & Kevin Saturday morning heading home and Byron & Patti went to Brice Canyon. The rest of us left camp on Sunday with Bill & Samela and I heading for home on I-70, while Jerry & Mary headed south back to Bluff to spend a couple of more days, before they too, headed for home. We had a great week of four wheeling with great people. I wish you could have come along.

The other story is that the Slickrock RV Park had some construction delays and cancelled our reservations two weeks before we were due to arrive. In retrospect they really did us a favor by getting us out of town. Not only the RV park was under construction, but Hwy 191 through the north end of Moab was also being torn up, being widened to 4-lanes. With 191 narrowing from 4-lane to 2-lane, and with the lane restrictions, the south-bound traffic backed up between two to three miles every day. What a nightmare that we didn't have to face.



Dorey's, Macintosh's, & T. Grimsley's.



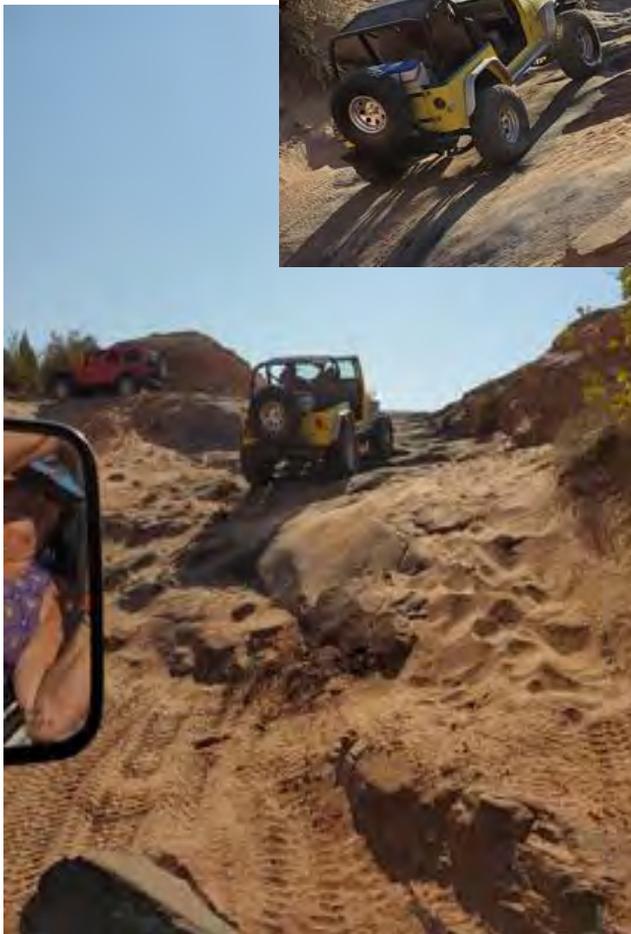
Another steep climb for Dorey's. They just keep coming at us..

Steep climb for Terry & Cheri on Poison Spider.



Photos by: Jerry & Mary Grimsley

Dorey's in ARTICULATION NOTCH.



Terry climbing up a rocky slope.



I dubbed us "the Boring White Jeep Club. Grimsley's, Mark & Helen Kuttor, Dorey's, & Graham

Top of the World trail ends at this overlook of Onion Creek.
That's Bill Dorey looking over the edge for a photo op.

This photo was taken
Down in Onion Creek. **HERE!**



EUREKA/SALINE VALLEY ROLLING RUN *By: Scott Wood*

Bob & Tiana McGowan, Kenny Semones, Randy & Karen Schortzmann (Chase was keeping his grandparents in line), Matt & Ciegi Shaw (and the boys Grason and Barhett), and myself. After Bob lead us to some petroglyphs and stopping at the Blue Marble Bathtub we proceeded down the road for Warm Springs.

We pitched camp at about 4:00pm in the lower Springs area. Dinner was a potluck and everyone out did themselves with their dishes. Highlight was Chef Matt's Tri Tip. There was enough food to feed an army and everyone lapsed into a food coma before the night was over!

The next morning found us proceeding up the Big Pine road with stops along the way to see mining claims and cabins. In the afternoon, we jumped onto a track that took us into Marble Canyon and Jack Ass Flat. As we explored this area, it immediately became clear that this area is seldom visited. Cabins had little to no vandalism and the area was completely free of trash. Later in the afternoon we decided it was time to set up camp, so we found an old cabin shaped like a single wide trailer and put up our tents. After dinner, Kenny commenced star gazing and the boys were fascinated.

The last morning found us a bit chilly, but not so cold that a hot cup of coffee couldn't warm you up. After a few more cabins, we aired up at the Big Pines Rd/Death Valley Road intersection. We made the Shell Station in Big Pines a little before noon. Everyone made this loop on one tank of gas, but Matt added a few gallons at the previous night's camp to play it safe. We broke there and everyone headed down 395 at their leisure.

The Jack Ass Flat, Marble Canyon has a lot more to explore and is such a beautiful area it needs to be visited again. Looking forward to the next trip.



**Eureka
Dunes.**



**Matt & Ciegi
going thru the
Narrows.**

Barhett, Grason, & Chase.

Kenney Semones

Karen Schortzmann



KIDS PLAYING IN THE BATHTUB

Photos by: Bob McGowan, Kenney Semones, & Ciegi Shaw.



UPCOMING MEETING

Our next meeting is this coming Wednesday, October 28th. We will meet at John's Pizza, 348 W. Ridgecrest Blvd., back in the Warehouse, 6:00pm for dinner and 7:00pm for the meeting.

Like the last time we met here, the tables are spaced and staggered so we are social distanced, with 4 people at a table or however you want to sit. If you don't have a "bubble" person or couple to share your table, please speak up. You don't have to share a table if you're uncomfortable.

It will be nice to actually have a face to face meeting. There are several things that need to be discussed that we need a quorum, so please try to attend in person or by ZOOM. Here are the ZOOM directions:

Personal Meeting ID: **286 044 0821**

Required Meeting Passcode: **GG2020**

You will enter into a **WAITING ROOM**. Matt will then OPEN to allow you all in.

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



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CLUB CALENDAR at a GLANCE

Oct 28 Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting at John's Pizza, 348 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.

Nov 12-15 PANAMINT VALLEY DAYS

Nov 18 Club meeting, 6:00 PM dinner, 7:00 PM meeting
Hopefully pandemic numbers will continue to drop and we can again have our meeting at John's as we did the October meeting.

Nov.26 THANKSGIVING

2020 TRAIL BOSSES NEEDED

Nov 12-15 Panamint Valley Days
Dec

2021 TRAIL BOSSES NEEDED

Jan
Feb
Mar Lippincott/Hidden Valley/Hunter Mountain
Apr
May
Jun
Jul

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/

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