

The **A** **B** **C**  
*Arizona Bus Club News*

May 2007

PO Box 65001  
Phoenix, AZ  
85082



**Adventure Issue!**

**On time for once!**

# The Arizona Bus Club News

May 2007

## Behind the Wheel



**F**asten your seatbelts folks; this month's issue is every editor's dream; lots of good material submitted and barely enough space to print it. (and everyone knows the less we type the more you benefit.) For starters Bruce Hilpert garnished the entire centerfold with a pair of exciting articles celebrating the hinterlands of our fair state. Ride shotgun in Bruce's 69 Westy as he conquers uncharted and marginally dangerous territory from Mammoth to the Mexican border.

Believe it or not more travelicious material is in the pipeline as none other than Gene Cornelius has promised to forward a more-detailed description of his recent split window foray into the wilds of Utah. The photo on this month's cover, which is a must-see in its original, glorious version on the club website, was taken by Gene while traversing the wilderness of Arches National Monument with his band of merry men and their ancient transporters.

We're also indebted to Darrell Pinckney, now driving the big split in the sky, for supplying a most unexpected and interesting life's story. Who would have thought that in that humble old fossil resided such a resplendent autobiography. (Fossil, get it? Darrell was a retired Geologist...) Anyway, we're teasing with considerable respect; laughter is often used to conceal pain and that's precisely the emotion our community is feeling after learning of Darrell's sudden passing. Most of us were envious of the way he lived his life and will miss him terribly. Rest in peace amigo.

Nothing makes for better reading than the adventures you send into the News and you needn't pull a fast one like Darrell to get in. Just crank out your half-baked story and we'll print every word of it. Or at least what we think you intended to say, whichever suits us better and gets a chuckle from the neighbor who by the way sent over her official dimensions for Norwegian Horseshoes after we supposedly violated the rules at Whetstone. We're fairly certain she's just being a drama queen like she was last summer when she compared the pool of oil that migrated from our driveway into her flowerbed to the spill caused by the Exxon Valdez. Besides we like the faded silk flowers she grows there now better than the ones she had before.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FLASH!** If we can come up with one more ice pick door handle we can send the whole raffle bus to Gabe for re-keying. If no one is willing to tow the bus to Texas we could just pull the handles and mail them. Either way if you have a 1963-ish bus door handle laying around and want to help out just shout at a board member. Thanks and enjoy your on time May News!

## What's in This Issue:

### Astonishing Adventures!

Climb aboard and hold on tight as bus driving Argonauts explore uncharted territory in 40 year-old SUVs!

### Darrel has left the building

"Because God needed more cool people in Heaven Sweetie."

### Tucson Trekker!

Who says the Bay Window crowd never has any fun? Follow our own Bruce Hilpert as he tackle the toughest trails in the Southwest!!

the arizona bus club

PO box 65001

Phoenix, AZ 85082-5001

Ads e-mail [abcswaps@aol.com](mailto:abcswaps@aol.com)

Articles & general e-mails

[busnooz@aol.com](mailto:busnooz@aol.com)

## 2006 Board Members

Jon Stanton            President  
Mike Wood            VP  
Katie Eberhardt      Secretary  
Mica Walker          Treasurer  
Rebecca Wiederrich   Membership  
Will Davis            Sergeant at Arms  
Debra Stanton        Events Coordinator  
Kyle Tillman         News Editor

## Phone numbers

623-877-8662  
602-722-7084  
480-251-1557  
480-345-2128  
602-277-9078  
602.418.8494  
623.877.8662  
480- 555-1212

Want to buy an Arizona Bus Club shirt? New memberships include a \$5.00 off coupon on a shirt purchase, all others are \$15.00. Contact Debra Stanton at 623.877.8662 or mail your request to PO box 65001 Phoenix, AZ 85082-5001.

The Arizona Bus Club is an official non-profit organization. That means that your donations may now be tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor, then donate till it hurts.

The club general meeting takes place on the third Wednesday of the month at Depot Cantina. The address is 300 South Ash Street, Tempe Arizona not far from Mill and University.

New membership is \$20 for the first year and \$15 for each year after that. Mail your dues to Membership PO Box 65001 Phoenix, AZ 85082 or contact our membership chick Rebecca Weiderrich.

If seeing your ABC friends at meetings and campouts isn't enough, you can now communicate with other members via the Arizona Bus Club Yahoo email group. You can plan an impromptu campout, invite everyone to the drive-in on short notice, or just talk buses. To subscribe just send an email to [arizonabusclub-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:arizonabusclub-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and start enjoying the fun!

### Disclaimer:

The views and opinions expressed in the Arizona Bus Club newsletter are those of the individual contributors (monkeys chained to typewriters! PETA, SEND HELP NOW!) and are not necessarily those of the board, general members or the editors, unless otherwise stated. No Arizona Bus Club board member or general member, past or present, shall be held liable for any damages, death, injury or harm resulting from the use or misuse of any information contained in the newsletter or the newsletter itself. Enjoy your News online at [Arizonabusclub.com](http://Arizonabusclub.com)!

**R**esearch scientist. Marine Officer. Raffle Bus Driver. Darrell Pinckney excelled in so many areas of life we feel somewhat ashamed trying to fit his obit into this small space but here we go (as lifted from the Denver paper.)  
**PINCKNEY, DR. DARRELL MAYNE**

Darrell was born in Saskatchewan, Canada on March 16, 1925 and was raised on a farm in Shenandoah, Iowa. Darrell earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of New Mexico, his Master of Science degree from the University of Colorado, and his PhD from Princeton University. He served as an officer in the U. S. Marine Corps from 1943 to 1946. Darrell was a senior research scientist with the U. S. Geological survey for more than 30 years. Darrell was passionate about community service, donating countless hours to many causes. He served on the Board of Directors for Bancroft Fire Department (now West Metro) and Lakehurst Water and Sanitation District. He was an officer for Kiwanis and several Volkswagen Clubs. He frequently donated much of his own time and resources to the needy. Darrell is survived by his four children: John Pinckney of Phoenix, AZ, Sue Kenney of Fort Collins, CO, Jane P. Fassel of Visalia, CA and Tim Pinckney of Littleton, CO. He has nine grandchildren: Etai, Tali, and Avishai Pinckney, Michael and Colin Kenney, Christina and Megan Fassel, Jeffrey and Heather Pinckney. Darrell loved camping with friends and family, fishing, hiking, sailing, old cars, gardening and woodworking. He had an encyclopedic knowledge and interest in a wide variety of topics, and people loved talking with him. We will miss him dearly.



**N**ow doesn't that sort of make you wish you'd pulled up a chair and spent a little more time with this gentleman? The same sentiment applies to all sorts of folks in your life so don't waste any more time; seek out those old folks and get to know them better before it's too late.



Half a glass, half his hair and half-baked. Nothing says *fun* like a good old fashioned Bus Party.

# *Not all who wander are lost...some are up the*

## **Patagonia or Bus(t)! Traveling the Immigrant Trail**

For nearly two centuries, folks have trekked to the Patagonia Mountains south of Tucson in search of riches. Some came for gold, some come for minimum wage, and some come in search of a rich landscape in which to drink beer. Count me and my friend Gary among the latter group!

When Sylvester Mowry first came to these mountains in 1860 to purchase the Patagonia Mine, he found a small range of rugged mountains surrounded by high grasslands. The mountains are still there (minus a few thousand tons of silver ore) along with a sea of yellow grass that fills the San Rafael valley that forms the headwaters of the Santa Cruz river.

After a quick 90-minute drive down from Tucson, we took a left turn at the town of Patagonia and drove about ten miles on a graded dirt road to the San Rafael basin. After tipping our hats to the local ICE agents scoping the valley, we headed north on some pretty good ranch roads and found a small wildlife refuge along a creek. A short hike brought us to an immigrant rest site, marked by the diagnostic scattering of trash. Nearby, we found a large pile of rocks about seven feet long, three feet wide and two feet high. Seeing that the rocks had to be carried from a stream about fifty yards away, we had a pretty good idea of what lay underneath.

We camped among the oaks in the grasses that night, only getting up once to shoo away the coyotes. Fortunately for me, Gary slept outside the bus and served as an early warning system in case the smugglers came upon us. The next morning we headed south through the territory now known as “Amerexico” to the border town of Lochiel. The US government has quite a presence there and we gave friendly waves to all the ICE agents, National Guard soldiers, and heavy equipment operators building roads and fences. Lochiel was once a small border crossing complete with entry gate and custom house, with only a few thousand border crossers each year. Now the gate is locked, the custom house is closed, and immigrants come across in hordes. Go figure....

From Lochiel we headed up into the mountains, which probably top out at about 7500 feet or so. The entire area has plenty of roads to explore - some graded and some two-track jeep trails. Just for fun, we took the Alum Creek road heading down the west side of the mountains. It started out pretty good and then sucker-punched us! About an hour and a half and seven miles later, on one of the roughest roads I have driven, we finally crept down into Patagonia. After filling our water jug, we then headed back up into the mountains to camp at the Mowry Mine site. There we found a few adobe ruins, a large stone house and a huge mine shaft, nestled beside a hill among the scrub oaks, pinon and juniper.

All in all, the Patagonias were a great, quick getaway place that was not very crowded on the weekdays in March. There are a bunch of roads and mines to explore and the nearby Canelo Hills and Huachuca mountains offer several more days of adventure. And of course, the town of Patagonia offers plenty of shopping opportunities (and a water faucet by the train station)! But, be advised that the flow of immigrants and smugglers is heavy and you need to be aware of your surroundings so you don't wind up under a pile of rocks!

# *creek without a paddle! Enjoy tour de Bruce!*

## **In Search of the Pinals or Take the Map, Dummy!**

A few years ago when I retired, I resolved to take all of those side trips that I had never seemed to have time for in the past 35 years as we drove to the White Mountains, the Chiricahuas, or various other vacation spots. Many of these trips were the result of idly musing as I drove up the highway, "Gee, I wonder what is over there in those mountains west of the highway," or "I wonder what is in that big empty space on the map between Dudleyville and Florence."

So, in the past couple of years, I have actually taken a few of those trips, discovering wonderful new spots north of Willcox, east of Safford and west of Dudleyville. Last weekend, we set out to discover the wonders awaiting us south of Globe and north of Dripping Springs Wash, just west of Highway 77 as you head north of Winkelman to Globe.

The map made it look easy. Head north of Winkelman (check), turn left on Dripping Springs Rd. (check), drive about five miles (check), turn right on solid-red-line dirt road (check), camp among the pines in the Pinal Mtns. (check), drink beer (check), rinse and repeat. The DeLorme Map showed the one solid-red road and several smaller roads along Dripping Springs Wash Rd., so I figured the main road would be easy to find (check).

You may have noticed that I did not include the part about "Put map in bus," (un-check). My DeLorme map has lived in the bus for the past ten years, but I took it into the house the night before to email a friend about where we were going so he could tell the sheriff where to start the search. About fifteen miles into the trip, Noelle pointed out that we had no map. "Not a problem," I said. "That is such a big road there is no way we can miss it!"

Well, about ten miles down the Dripping Springs Rd. we still had not found a road turning off to the north into the mountains. Where the road dead-ended at a private ranch's locked gate, we turned north on a small jeep trail. After about one-half mile, I decided there is NO WAY I am going to get all the way to the Pinals on THIS road.

So, we backtracked about three miles and discovered another little two-track road heading north. We worked our way up a steep hill and on a so-so road until we got onto a bench with another road going back down the other side. That road was worse and it didn't go where we wanted to go! So, we decided to eat lunch, feeling a little discouraged. We resolved to look for the road some more, but first decided to take a hike up the hill. What luck! We discovered a two-track cowboy jeep trail that ran up the ridge line. EUREKA! It wasn't THE road, but it was A road running in the right direction!

So, we hopped in the bus and after a few rough patches, followed a pleasant little road about five miles up the ridge to about the 5500' level. At some places, the level ridgetop was no more than five feet wider than the road. We finally reached a spot where three ridges (and roads) converged. There we maneuvered the bus around a tight, steep intersection, found an almost level place to park, and set up our chairs to catch a view that spanned about 120 miles. We may not have gotten to the top of the mountain, but we made it to the top of the world! I can't remember a better view in any place that I have camped!

Of course, on the way back home, we finally found a road that I think was THE road. When I got home and checked the map, I am pretty sure that was it. Maybe next time....Copyright 2007 Hilpert Productions Inc.

# Coming Events

## **Mt. Pinal Campout!**

May 18, 19 and 20 2007

Join Dan "Two layers of red please" Welch for a backroad romp up the side of Gila County's highest peak near Globe. Shady Pines await those brave enough to ascend to the "Matterhorn of Arizona" on this fun 3 day event. Bring your own water and food. Pit toilets conveniently located up wind of the campsite. Meet the caravan at the QT on McQueen just North of Baseline and leave at 8am Friday May 18th or just head up to Globe using the directions on page 3.

## **ABC Show N Shine**

Sunday June 3rd 2007

### **North Scottsdale VW**

7000 East Chauncey, just south of the 101 off Scottsdale Road  
If nothing else a great excuse to bring out the old bus and slow some rich folks down as the ABC is given some prime real estate to setup a booth and munch on free BBQ. 9:30am till whenever. If you get bored with the show take a \$50,000 Toureg out for a spin in the McDowells.

## **June 07, 2007 - June 10, 2007 - VTO Campout at BlackStar Canyon RV Park**

*So Cal ( Irvine ), California*

*June 2007 VW Classic Weekend Campout's Hosted by VTO*

*Tentative Schedule of events*

*Friday night Bar-B-Q*

*Even Later Friday night Raffle*

*Saturday Morning head to the OCTO SHOW Have*

*your camera's ready for some great caravan Photo's*

*For the events at the O.C.T.O. show visit <http://octo.org>*

*[After the O.C.T.O. show there are a slew of events, the toy and literature show, the berg rally, ect .ect..](#)*

*[After all that we will be back at black star for a little partying, there will be another raffle that night we ask that](#)*

*[you let the kids go to sleep before the raffle because it will most likely be adult themed those of you who have been their know...](#)*

*[the dates are June 7th – 10th](#)*

*[for more info or e-mail us](#)*

*[Stan@vtobusclub.com](mailto:Stan@vtobusclub.com)*

*[steve@vtobusclub.com](mailto:steve@vtobusclub.com)*

*[larki@vtobusclub.com](mailto:larki@vtobusclub.com)*

## **June 09, 2007 - O.C.T.O. Show 2007**

*Long Beach, California*

*It's that time again! The Orange County Transporter Organization presents the annual "O.C.T.O. Show 2007". Rain or Shine. This is our Summer Pre-Classic bus event. It is a swap & display meet for '67 and earlier Type II's. Located at:*

*Long Beach Veteran's Memorial Stadium*

*5000 E. Lew Davis St.*

*Long Beach, CA 90808*

*Parking is on a "first come-first served" basis. There will be raffle prizes at the main booth. Refreshment services will be on hand by the Grill Master "Hot Dog" Fred. For more info, please visit our website at:*

*<http://www.octo.org> or call the O.C.T.O. Info Line (714) 374-7506.*

## **Show Low Days Car Show**

June 8th, 9th and 10th 2007

Show Low Aridzona

A great weekend to spend in the cool White Mountains. Entry registration fee \$30 per vehicle, \$15 for second vehicle. Registration after May 1st is \$40. Registered entrants will receive entry for poker run, tshirt, dash plaque, burger burn, ice cream and goody bag. Don't fee the locals or pat the police on the head. About a million car classes; the only one we care about is 60-79 import but at least it should be nice up there. The organizer called and said if we got 10 or more to show up he'd find us some choice real estate so get your friends up off their duffs and head to Show Low!

Your Event Here! Feel like sharing your favorite camping spot with the club? Want to meet your friends at the El Mirage American Legion? Get on the club Yahoo list and let the good times roll!



# Swap Ads



You could pay for an ad somewhere, but why? Send it to P. O. Box 65001 Phoenix, AZ 85082-5001 or preferably e-mail it to [abcswaps@aol.com](mailto:abcswaps@aol.com) and we'll give you a nice free one. The ABC Swap Ads are free to all members and we can't decide whether to charge anyone else yet. Depends whether we decide to sell out. Hurry while they're still free!.

**Factoid:** 74% of ABC members have never attended a general meeting and 98% a board meeting. Scientists are divided on what this means but clearly bus people don't like meetings, even when they are about buses. To wit the ABC has launched a new study to help understand the causes and provide solutions for meeting truancy. The program, funded by the sale of Club Socks, kicks off in early 2008 with a series of meetings, the first of which will be held in Tierra del Fuego. Participants are encouraged to sign up early as seating is limited. No argyles please.

## Services

Bus Storage - \$1 a day (\$30 a month). Bus must roll. For a nominal fee arrangements can be made to have the bus transported by flatbed trailer. Glendale, AZ. Call Joel at 623.939.9293

**Donsbusbox.com** Ever since Melanie ran off with Antonio Don Johnson's had some free time on his hands and is now running a 1st rate Bus Tranny Store. Check out his website. Seems like a decent chap.

**Arizona Auto Care** When Chris Hardy isn't out trolling the alleys of AJ looking for rusty Vw's he's liable to be hanging out here fixing domestics and imports. 5235 S. Kyrene, suite 42 (Kyrene just south of Baseline.) (480) 820-2693



VW delivery - You buy it, I'll drive it. No distance too far. Cheaper than a hauling co. Bus must be in driveable condition. Dane Dawson- [vwdane@yahoo.com](mailto:vwdane@yahoo.com)

## Wanted

Your stories, pictures, and ideas for the newsletter. Call 602.738.2196 or e-mail [busnooz@aol.com](mailto:busnooz@aol.com), or [dclehan@qwest.net](mailto:dclehan@qwest.net)

Engine parts - Jim Burnite can use all of the engine parts you can spare. He builds the engines for club raffles and the raffle bus. If you have spare tin, cases, carbs and intakes, or whatever for 1600 engines, he can sure use it. Contact David Lehan if you can help.

In the unlikely event someone submits something, the newsletter only takes a couple of days so you will have to wait for the next one. Ads are free for nothing and a bargain at half the price. They will run for one issue only unless no one sends any new ones in which case you suffer another month. Ads may be edited due to space concerns, which means I'll have to add lots of unnecessary punctuation to fill space. Call David at 602.738.2196 or e-mail to [abcswaps@aol.com](mailto:abcswaps@aol.com)

## Mayer Vee Dubs & Restorations

13221 South Highway 69  
On Frontage Road Mayer, Arizona  
Box 335 86333  
(928) 632-1801 Dennis Farnum  
Hours Of Operation: Tuesday-Saturday  
8:00am-6:00pm



So long Darrell!