

The Rough Rider

The Monthly Newsletter of the Tucson RoughRiders, Inc.

DECEMBER 2024
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2025 Meeting Dates:

January 28	July 22
February 25	August 26
March 25	September 23
April 22	October 28
May 27	November 25
June 24	December Not Sched.

Summer Picnic	Not Scheduled
Trail Dust Days	October 23-26
Christmas Party	Not Scheduled

tread lightly!
LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION



The Rough Rider is the official publication of the Tucson RoughRiders, Inc. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 78726, Tucson, Arizona, 85703-8726.

The Tucson RoughRiders, Inc., is a rough-terrain vehicle club with the following goals: to enjoy and protect the natural environment, to provide social and recreational activities for its members, and to promote family togetherness. The Club assists the state and national resource management agencies and local community charitable organizations.

The Club's general meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the New Town Buffet, 8500 N. Cracker Barrel Road, Tucson, AZ 85743 (near Cortaro Road and I-10). The meeting begins at 6:30 PM, with a social gathering beginning at 5:30. Members, guests, advertisers/activity sponsors, and the public are cordially invited to attend.

Membership in the Tucson RoughRiders is \$50.00 annually. One name tag is included for new members; additional name tags may be purchased. To qualify for membership, a four-wheel-drive vehicle owner must attend two runs and two meetings. Anyone wishing to join the Tucson RoughRiders is encouraged to contact any of the Board members, visit our website, or write to the Club at the above address.

www.tucsonroughriders.com

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Plan to attend these activities for a great time. They are wonderful opportunities to meet new people or spend time with old friends. Don't have a ride? I'm sure someone will have a seat. Remember to take your camera!

NOTE: PLEASE CHECK THE ONLINE CLUB CALENDAR FOR THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION!

DECEMBER 2024

ELVIS AND ORVILLE'S LOOP

- Date, Time, Location: December 14, 9:00 AM. Meet in the Bashas' parking lot in Catalina (Oracle and Golder Ranch Road).
- Run / Event Leader: Jeff Merrell (520-907-0243 or azgoat7@gmail.com—text or leave a message; I'll get back to you ASAP. If you text, remember to include your name in the message.)
- Trail Ratings: Not given.
- Trail Lengths: Elvis—five miles. Orville's Loop—Not given.
- Vehicle Requirements: 4WD with low range; 33-inch tires minimum; full-size spare; front and rear tow points; appropriate lift for your tires; recovery gear. Appropriate armor for your type of vehicle—armored diff covers; fuel tank armor for JK, JL, JT and similar wheelbase vehicles; rock sliders. Winches highly recommended. Appropriate jacks and tools for your rig.
- Radio Frequency / Channel: GMRS Channel 6.

We will take Oracle Road north to SR 79, then follow SR 79 to Prince Road near Florence. We will go north on Sandman to the Elvis trailhead. Once Elvis is completed we'll cross over to Box Canyon and go up to the Orville's Loop trailhead. (This turnoff is the same as if you were going to Jack Handle, though Orville's Loop is the first left turn where Jack Handle is the second left once you turn out of Box Canyon.) Orville's Loop shares the same trail end as Jack Handle.

Elvis is a five-mile trail with five waterfalls that will challenge any light to moderate experienced drivers and rigs. The beginning of Elvis is an easy three-mile sandy/rocky wash. The first waterfall is the gatekeeper. There are multiple ways up the waterfall, ranging from moderate to extreme. Going clockwise, the further you go to the right on the trailhead area, the harder it gets. So therefore, the far-left side is the easiest ascent. The gatekeeper tends to be where most carnage happens. Waterfall Four has an optional up-and-over climb that is the trail's standout obstacle. High-centering is a common occurrence for stock long-wheelbase vehicles.

A few of our members have run Orville's Loop on the side (not a TRR run), so due to the fact that I have never done this trail before, it is listed as an **Exploratory Run**. Orville's Loop is said to be a scenic roller-coaster ride through the Sonoran Desert. Dense desert vegetation hangs overhead off the tall canyon walls. During winter, water often trickles down the canyon's walls, pooling at the base of the rocky waterfall you will have to climb. The waterfall is the trail's standout obstacle, although articles have said this obstacle does have a bypass. The climb up the steep and super-narrow ledge road provides spectacular panoramas before the trail

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

exits out the tail end of Jack Handle.

PLEASE RSVP IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THIS RUN.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE VISIT—2024. DONATIONS TO THE KIDS!

- Date, Time, Location: December 15, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Meet at Michael Gray's shop at 2430 W. Ruthrauff Road.
- Run / Event Leader: Bart Hogan
- Trail Rating: n/a.
- Trail Length: n/a.
- Vehicle Requirements: n/a.
- Radio Frequency / Channel: n/a.

Details from Bart Hogan:

12:00—12:30 meet at 2430 W. Ruthrauff Road (Michael Gray's Shop). Caravan to Ronald McDonald House for 1:00 PM arrival. Drop off donations and meet the RMH staff.

This is our opportunity to give back to the Tucson location that provides housing to those families with children with debilitating diseases.

The Rough Riders will make a cash donation to RMH. A copy of the "Donation Wish List" was sent to all members via Groups.io. If you need a copy please email Miles Weigold at milesweigold@mac.com.

Thanks in advance for your generous donations.

Note: All toys/gifts must be new and in packaging but NOT gift wrapped.

If you are unable to attend but want to make a donation, please DM Bart Hogan.

RED SPRINGS LOOP (EXPLORATORY)

- Date, Time, Location: December 21, 9:00 am. Meet at the Cow Palace parking lot in Arivaca (directions in the additional description below).
- Run / Event Leader: Jeff Merrell (520-907-0243 or azgoat7@gmail.com—text or leave a message; I'll get back to you ASAP. If you text, remember to include your name in the message.)
- Trail Rating: 3.0.
- Trail Length: 28 miles.
- Vehicle Requirements: Any stock 4WD with low range. Full-size spare. State Land Recreational permit.
- Radio Frequency / Channel: GMRS Channel 6.

Directions to the meeting place: Take I-19 south from Tucson to the Arivaca exit (I believe it's about 36 miles). At the exit, turn right at the stop sign onto Arivaca Road. At the next stop sign (about 100 feet west of the exit), cross the street and turn right into the Cow Palace parking lot. The restaurant is closed down, so don't worry about blocking anything. **Do not air down here!!**

This trail is located off the west side of I-19 off the Chavez interchange in Amado (a couple miles south of Arivaca Road). Bill Ratzlaff found this location a couple months ago. The area is a mix of grassland, scrub oaks,

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

and rolling hills. We did the lower portion of this trail about a month ago. If the whole loop is as nice as the portion we've already done, we'll have another new trail to add to the group's list. Unfortunately, there is not a lot of shade on this trail, which is why we're running it in cooler weather.

JANUARY 2025

MALCOLM LESLIE MEMORIAL NEW YEAR'S RUN

- Date, Time, Location: January 1, 9:00 AM. Meet in the McDonald's parking lot at Catalina Highway and Tanque Verde Road. When you arrive, please sign in for the run, then air down so you are ready to go.
- Run / Event Leader: Andy Sacio (520-275-9879 or nieveria@aol.com).
- Trail Rating: 3.5 (out of 5)
- Trail Length: 16.5 miles; rough loop.
- Vehicle Requirements: Not given.
- Radio Frequency / Channel: Not given.

This run historically has a high turnout. Twenty-one vehicles attended in 2024.

We will enter the trail off Redington Road at MP 7.5 by way of Three Feathers obstacles and return through the same place. See you there.

Check out the 2024 run photo album #629 on the website.

CHILITO MINE RUN (EXPLORATORY)

- Date, Time, Location: January 11, 9:00 AM. Meet in the Bashas' parking lot in Catalina (Oracle and Golder Ranch Road).
- Run / Event Leader: Jeff Merrell (520-907-0243 or azgoat7@gmail.com—text or leave a message; I'll get back to you ASAP. If you text, remember to include your name in the message.)
- Trail Rating: 3.5. (I am rating this as 3.5 due to the fact that we have not been here in six years and have no idea of the current condition of the trail. If anyone as, please let me know any trail updates you have. They would be greatly appreciated.)
- Trail Length: 16.2
- Vehicle Requirements: 4WD with low-range; **at least one locker**; minimum 33-inch tire diameter; full-size spare; AZ State Land Recreational Permit.
- Radio Frequency / Channel: GMRS Channel 6 (no codes).

This is an exploratory run due to the fact that TRR has not done this trail since 2018, according to the phot library. The trail back then was in pretty good condition; probably a light 3.0. View Photo Album 296. Most of the photos are from moving a large boulder off the trail (which is why we went there that day), but a couple of photos will give you a basic idea of the scenery. I do remember that the very top of the run had a great scenic view off the back of Christmas Mine.

The trail starts 3.1 miles north of Winkleman off SR 77 and ends 3.6 miles west of Winkelman off 1r 177. The trail itself is 16.2 miles long. Road distance to and from the Chilito Mine trail is 50 miles each way, for a total round trip distance of 116 miles.

We will leave Bashas' and take Oracle Road north to SR 77 and then on to Winkelman, AZ. Another three miles up the highway we will turn left onto the trailhead. [[Here](#)] is a link to an album of the first club run to Chilito Mine. This was never posted to the website.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 2025

32ND ANNUAL TRAIL DUST DAYS

- Date, Time, Location: October 23—26. Base Camp will be at Catalina State Park.
- Run / Event Leader: Various.
- Trail Rating: Various.
- Trail Length: Various.
- Vehicle Requirements: Various. Will depend on which trail(s) you choose to run.
- Radio Frequency / Channel: Various.

Preliminary Calendar:

- Thursday afternoon 10/23/2025. Event Setup, Registration and Tech Inspections.
- Friday 10/24/2025. Registration, Tech Inspections, four to five runs on local trails ranging from easy to hard. Vehicle technical ramp contest.
- Saturday 10/25/2025. Registration, Tech Inspections, four to five runs on local trails ranging from easy to hard. Vehicle technical ramp contest, games, dinner, and social gathering followed by a nighttime poker run.
- Sunday morning 10/26/2025. Continental breakfast, event closure and raffle.

Registration opens June 2025.

+++++

Have an idea for a run or event?

Do you have an idea but don't want to lead a trip, or you don't know the route? Don't worry! Just contact a Board member with your ideas.

Please remember these trips usually are day trips, which means to bring plenty of water.

EDITOR'S NOTE AND APOLOGY (UPDATE)

(Commentary by Dave Peterson.)



Well, this is Issue Two from here in La Paz. We finally accessed the Wi-Fi, but (naturally) it's poor where we're located. Other spots in the park work, but they require taking the computer (and everything else I'd need to put the RR together) to one of the *palapas* (covered patio or porch) on the property.

So I am continuing the temporary photo standard. As I stated last month, instead of six or eight to fill the page, I'll pick only one or two of what I think are the best ones from each photo album. When we get home at the end of January, I'll revert back to multiple photos per run. (Run reports, of course, are ALWAYS welcome and will ALWAYS be included in full. Text doesn't consume data as fast as photos do.)

I'm also changing how I represent this year's Run of the Year candidates. Last year I included the photo pages from each of the Runs of the Month, but since this year's October "Run of the Month" was the entire Trail Dust Days event, I'm only going to list the following information:

- Run Name
- Run Leader
- Run Date
- Photo Album(s)

In the meantime, I strongly encourage each of you to visit the photo albums themselves—they always include a plethora of wonderful photos that I can't include in the Rough Rider.

Gonzo

2024 RUN OF THE YEAR CANDIDATES

- Dec '23, Jan '24: Ronald McDonald House, 12/16, (no run leader identified), Collection 20, Album 627.
- February: Sunnyside Ghost Town, 02/17, Jeff Merrell, Collection 20, Album 634.
- March: Sawtooth Mountains, 03/02, Jeff Merrell, Collection 20, Album 636.
- April: Rice Peak Work Run, 04/14, Rheal Tetreault, Collection 20, Album 642.
- May: Parsons Grove, 04/27, Jeff Merrell, Collection 20, Album 645.
- June: Twin Rock House, 06/01, Jeff Merrell, Collection 21, Album 657.
- July: Mt. Graham LBT Tour, 06/29, John Hill, Collection 21, Album 660.
- August: None
- September: None
- October: Trail Dust Days, 10/18 – 10/20, Multiple, Collection 21, Albums 666, 667, 668, 669, 671, 672, and 673.
- November: Total Wreck, 11/16, Jeff Merrell, Collection 21, Album 678.
- December: None

PAST ACTIVITIES

Copper Creek (11/30 Jeff Merrell)

(Photos by Jeff Merrell. Collection 21, Album 690.)



PAST ACTIVITIES

Christmas Party (12/07)

(Photos by Tim Naylor and Lon Drenten. Collection 21, Album 691.)



HOLIDAY PARTY / MEETING NOTES

Notes prepared and submitted by Lon Drenten.

Christmas Party basic notes

Eugene and Cassie Veltre, Bill and Wendy Hyde, and their families basically brought this together and pulled off an excellent end-of-year event. Many thanks to them for this work.

Many people were taking pictures, so I hope to see these on the website soon. Thanks to all and Merry Christmas. Ho! Ho! Ho!

Lon

The event was held at Christopher Columbus Park, Ramada Two. It was great to see the adults, the kids, and the four-legged family members as well. The roster showed thirty-one members and two guests. It was a grand event. The club provided burgers, hot dogs, fixings, utensils, sodas, and water. Club members provided many interesting side dishes. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Thanks to Eugene for cooking.

The Volkswagen THING in the parking lot was the most interesting vehicle in my opinion. It seemed highly modified.

The White Elephant exchange went very well with some gifts changing hands a few times. The wine set, Soft Shackle, tools set, pry bar set, and Whiskey Shooter all made the rounds. The pry bar set changed hands the maximum number of times. Everyone seemed happy with their surprise gifts. This is usually a good time, and it was today.

I was asked about the Run of the Year list and that information is shown below.

- December '23 / January 24—Ronald McDonald House
- February—Sunnyside Ghost Town.
- March—Saw Tooth Mountain.
- April—Rice Peak Work Run.
- May—Parsons Grove.
- June—Twin Rock House.
- July—Mount Graham Telescope.
- August—No Run of the Month.
- September—No Run of the Month.
- October—Trail Dust Days runs overall.
- November—Total Wreck Mine.
- December '24—None.

MEMBERSHIP/PARTICIPATION REPORT

Charts and articles by Miles Weigold.

Participation Report

TRR Members,

Below is the Participation Point recap through 12/28/24. I've included those members who have earned points YTD. As always, if you believe I've erred here, please let me know via email to milesweigold@mac.com.

YTD Summary thru	12/28/2024
Meeting attendees - all	233
# Runs	64
Run participants-members	483
Run participants-guests	211
Run participants-all	694
Run vehicles-total	588
# Rescues	1
Rescue participants	5
Rescue vehicles-total	5
Participants-all events	932

revised: 12/28/2024

2024 Tucson Rough Riders Participation Points Summary

<u>Lname</u>	<u>Fname</u>	<u>Mtgs</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Run Lead</u>	<u>Rescue</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Merrell	Loretta & Jeff	0	22	38	0	60	1
Cauthen	Harold	8	32	2	3	45	2
Williams	Mike	1	18	22	0	41	3
Siskind	Paul	6	29	4	2	41	3
Williams	Carmen & Steve	7	17	12	0	36	4
Porter	Rena & Mark	0	18	14	0	32	5
Weirick	Lizzie & Richard	8	21	0	0	29	6
O'Campo	Jodi & Leo	0	24	2	2	28	7
Hogan	Sandra & Bart	11	15	2	0	28	7
Drenten	Denise & Lon	10	9	8	0	27	8
Veltre	Cassie & Eugene	12	12	2	0	26	9
Franklin	Shelly & Ken	9	17	0	0	26	9
Ratzlaff	Bill	8	18	0	0	26	9
Naylor	Barbara & Tim	11	14	0	0	25	10

MEMBERSHIP/PARTICIPATION REPORT

<u>Lname</u>	<u>Fname</u>	<u>Mtgs</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Run Lead</u>	<u>Rescue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bates	Pam	0	23	0	0	23
Weigold	Pat & Miles	5	12	2	2	21
Antle/Tetrault	Becky & Rheal	7	6	6	0	19
Sciuto	Al	5	10	0	0	15
Feldman	Ken	0	15	0	0	15
Hyde	Wendy & Bill	8	7	0	0	15
Archer	Gwen & Steve	2	13	0	0	15
Pearce	Jack	6	8	0	0	14
Hetrick	Lidia & Steve	1	12	0	0	13
Pyles	Mike	5	8	0	0	13
Hockwitt	Mel & Carolyn	0	7	4	0	11
Murray	Brenda & Darrell	5	6	0	0	11
Roberson	Robert	0	11	0	0	11
Caulkins	Pearl & Brian	0	11	0	0	11
Greven	Jeannie & Erwin	7	4	0	0	11
Cristia	Robert	7	3	0	0	10
Prozaki	Mark	6	4	0	0	10
Nichols	Kristi & Adam	5	5	0	0	10
Fabiano	Geri & Gary	3	7	0	0	10
Sacio	Gayle & Andy	0	4	4	0	8
Natzke	Cindi & Ken	6	2	0	0	8
Richardson	Margaret & Chris	6	2	0	0	8
Campion	Kim & Mark	3	4	0	0	7
Nezelek	Vaughn	5	2	0	0	7
Carruthers	Lee & Chuck	2	4	0	0	6
Fenderson	Jim	3	3	0	0	6
Raya	Judy & Mike	1	5	0	0	6
Virgil	Judy & Doug	2	4	0	0	6
Davis	Mary & Lou	1	5	0	0	6
Bockwaldt	Becky & Walter	2	3	0	0	5
Acuna	Hilda & Ruben	3	2	0	0	5
Jurish	Austin	3	2	0	0	5

MEMBERSHIP/PARTICIPATION REPORT

<u>Lname</u>	<u>Fname</u>	<u>Mtgs</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Run Lead</u>	<u>Rescue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Finstad	Beverly & Paul	2	2	0	0	4
Johnson	Karen & Mike	2	2	0	0	4
Zigelstein	Stephen	4	0	0	0	4
David	Gail & Phil	0	4	0	0	4
Fetherman	Janet & Stan	3	0	0	0	3
Kennedy	Jan & Kevin	0	3	0	0	3
Beyer	Hiroimi & Steve	0	2	0	0	2
Hill	John	0	0	2	0	2
Peterson	Wynne Brown & Dave	0	2	0	0	2
Baldwin	Vonnie & Andy	0	1	0	0	1
Champagne	Deana & Gordon	1	0	0	0	1
Foreman	Laurel	0	1	0	0	1
Hammers	Cheryl & Greg	0	1	0	0	1
McMahon	Nancy & Eddie	0	1	0	0	1
Palser	Jennifer	0	1	0	0	1
Di Maria	Charlotte & Mike	0	1	0	0	1
Mandoske	John & Lil	0	1	0	0	1
Mathwig	Pam & John	0	1	0	0	1
Larson	Beth & Barry	0	1	0	0	1

Membership Status

As of 12/28 we have 79 members of the Rough Riders and several who are working their way through the membership qualification criteria of attendance at 2 meetings and participation in 2 events.

I'm working with several members to develop suggestions to grow the club membership. I tentatively plan to share my ideas at the January meeting. If you have suggestions or ideas please send to me at milesweigold@mac.com. Thanks in advance for giving this some thought; I look forward to hearing from you.

Happy New Year to all!

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<u>DECEMBER 2024</u>	
Dennis & Sheryl Cole	2018
Eddie & Nancy McMahon	2020

<u>JANUARY 2025</u>	
Becky Antle & Rheal Tetreault	1987
Sherman & Jean Conrow	2008
Michael (D) & Robin (L) Dean	2003
Brandon & Jean Di Maria	2003
Mike & Charlotte Di Maria	2003
Gary & Geri Fabiano	2014
Ken Feldman	2016
Paul & Beverly Finstad	2007
Mel & Carolyn Hockwitt	2005
Mike & Karen Johnson	2020
Constance Larabee	2011
John & Pam Mathwig	2014
Ken & Cindi Natzke	2018
Bill Ratzlaff	2014
Mike & Judy Raya	2001
Al Sciuto	2021
(L): Lifetime Membership	
(D): Deceased	

Congratulations to Mike & Karen Johnson on their fifth anniversary, and to Mel & Carolyn Hockwitt on their TWENTIETH anniversary!

NOTE: These dates were taken from the (currently undated) club roster online. If your anniversary date is incorrect in any way (it's here and shouldn't be; it's not here and should be; the month is correct but the year isn't; etc.), please let Miles Weigold know so he can correct our records.

PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

2024 Rough Rider Publishing Dates:	
January: 2/9	July: 7/27
February: 3/2	August: 8/31
March: 3/30	September: 9/28
April: 4/27	October: 11/2
May: 6/1	November: 11/30
June: 6/29	December: 12/28
NOTE: Dates may vary due to travel or holiday. Date changes will be published as soon as they are known. (* indicates a changed date.)	

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Trail Dust Days 2025

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Opinion by Dave (Gonzo) Peterson.



Merry / Happy [choose your holiday(s)]

Between Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Day (inclusive), people can celebrate any, all, or none of the following holidays (among others) worldwide. This list came from an entry in a blog called "The Urban Monk" on medium.com. The entry's title is [All of the Happy Holidays Between Thanksgiving and the New Year](#). I do not claim that this is a complete list by any means. Enjoy and celebrate!

Thanksgiving (US) 4th Thursday in November
Mawlid al-Nabi (Islam) November 20th — 21st
Advent Fast (Orthodox Christian) November 28th
Bodhi Day (Buddhism) December 8th
Las Posadas (LatinX Christianity) December 16th — December 24th
Winter Solstice (Pagan) December 21st
Pancha Ganapati (Hindu) December 21st — December 25th
Chanukkah (Judaism) December 22nd — December 30st
Christmas (Christianity) December 25th
[Christmas Eve](#) December 24th
[Christmas Adam](#) December 23rd
Kwanzaa (African Heritage) December 26th — January 1st
New Year's Day January 1st

And, of course (at least according to *Seinfeld*)

[Festivus](#)—for the rest of us! December 23rd

(p.s. Since this is a holiday issue, I'm taking a break from proffreading [sic] the newsletter. If you find any typos, let me know.)

EDITOR'S CORNER