

FROM OUR HISTORY BOOK
CREATED BY MARJ TYNAN
and other sources

On August 1, 2006, Sam Giamarvo mailed a letter to Happy Trails Executive Manager, Beth McWilliams, advising her that he intended to form a 4-wheel drive club in Happy Trails. He enclosed a set of by-laws he prepared for the club.

November 9, 2006: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING The board approved the 4-wheel drive club as an uncharted club.

ADDENDUM

(Sam Giamarvo requested that the Happy Trails Board of Directors change the status of the 4-Wheel Drive Club from unchartered to chartered. Documents were provided to show that the club met all the requirements of a chartered club. After a presentation to the Activities Board, they recommended this change. The Board of Directors voted at their April 2007 meeting to change the Happy Trails 4-Wheel Club to a Chartered Club.)

On November 17, 2006, Happy Trails 4-Wheel Club held its first meeting. Five families were represented. The members voted to adopt the proposed by-laws with a few minor amendments to the Extended Rules of Operation.

On November 24, 2006, the 4-Wheel club had a trail run lead by Sam and Connie Giamarvo into the Wickenburg Mountains. Seven families were present. The trail was rated as a class 2, easy. The club visited the Monte Cristo Mine.

On December 8, 2006, Phil & Carol Kennicott led the club on a trail up to the Harquahala Peak. Five families were represented. The summit was over 5000 feet in elevation. This ride was rated as a class 2, easy.

On January 12, 2007, Sam and Connie Giamarvo led the club into the Belmont Mountains. Ten families attended. The members visited the ruins of the old Belmont mine.

The 4-Wheel club took part in the Happy Trails Resort Club Fair. Photographs and information about the club was available.

January 19, 2007, the club held its second meeting. Eleven families were represented. An election of club officers was held. Those elected were: Sam Giamarvo - President, Phil Kennicott - Vice-President, Marj Tynan – Secretary, and Judy Loomis – Treasurer.

January 26, 2007, the club was led by Sam and Connie Giamarvo on a trail run through the New River Canyon. Twelve families were present. This ride was rated as a class 3 medium.

On February 9, 2007, the club ventured on a trail run into the Wickenburg Mountains led by Sam and Connie Giamarvo. Six families were represented. This trail was rated as a class 4 hard.

On February 16, 2007, the club held its third meeting. The club traveled to Sheep's Bridge North of Horseshoe Lake led by Art Norris. 11 vehicles went on the ride which was rated a class 2 easy.

By the end of the **first season** (2006-2007) President Sam Giamarvo, the club had grown to 26 families & had 11 rides.

By the end of the **second season** (2007-2008) President Sam Giamarvo, the club was up to 40 families & drove 18 trails.

By the end of the **third season** (2008-2009) President Sam Giamarvo, the club had expanded to 44 families & had 23 trail rides.

At the close of the **fourth season** (2009-2010) President Sam Giamarvo, the club membership was 35 families & had 40 trail rides.

At trails end of the **fifth season** (2010-2011) President Sam Giamarvo, the club membership was 33 families & had 34 trail rides.

The **sixth season** came to a close (2011-2012) President Sam Giamarvo finally got a volunteer to replace him as president for the next season. We had 34 families and drove 43 trails.

The **seventh season** was another success (2012-2013) with Dave Dahl as president. Two new club functions came into being: Our monthly meetings are now being held in the evening preceded with a pot luck dinner. The club members are now gathering once a week (Tuesday) at the Great Eagle Golf Course Grill for a two-hour social. Both of these events have been very popular. We had 35 families join the club and we drove 51 trails.

Our **eight season** has come to a close (2013-202014) with Dave Dahl as President. The club membership reached 42 families and 33 trail rides.

As we complete our **ninth season** (2014-2015) with the leadership of our new President, John Shurtz, we have 43 families and have ventured out onto 44 trails.

Our **tenth season** (2015-2016) has come to a close with John Shurtz as President. We had more fun & social events this year than ever before. This included a tenth-year anniversary celebration with a pizza party, cake and ice cream. We all took part in a boat ride out on Lake Pleasant. Our club socialized every Tuesday at the Great Eagle golf course bar & grille. We ended the season with 41 members and completed 35 trail rides.

The **eleventh season** (2016-2017) with John Shurtz as President past so quickly with so many rides and social events. We finished the season with 42 families and all Jeeps. As a club, we voted to restrict our membership to only jeep owners. We completed our season with 36 trail rides.

We completed our **twelfth season** (2017-2018) with our new president, Don Phelps. We had a Christmas dinner & gift exchange, a Liberty Wildlife presentation, attended the Arizona Opry, and had a club rodeo. We had a record 47 families join and we took part in 46 trail rides.

Our club has completed our **thirteenth season** (2018-2019) with Don Phelps as our President. We started off the season with our Ouray Rally followed up with the Moab Rally. We had our annual Christmas dinner & gift exchange. We held our annual March Pizza party. The Ladies Day Ride was special this year with a BBQ provided by Dick Rice. We managed to sneak in a Kingman/Parker rally in April. We had a total of 46 families join our club. We provided 54 trail rides.

Happy Trails 4-Wheel club completed our **fourteenth season** (2019-2020) with Don Phelps as President. We again started off our season with the Ouray Rally. After the Ouray Rally some of our members met up in Moab for a week of trail riding. On Christmas day we had our dinner and gift exchange headed up by Don and Sharon Phelps. We had a club sponsored dinner in January, a Ladies Day Ride and a BBQ out on the trail put on by Dick Rice. We enjoyed a Pizza Party on our election night. We really enjoyed our Amazon Tour and Dinner Cruise arranged by Kris Miller. We had at least 5 trail rides canceled because of rain, with a total of 29 rides and 47 members. Our largest ride ever was recorded on Jan. 16th, New River Loop of 24 jeeps. On March 20, 2020 we canceled all remaining official rides and social events due to the Corona Virus.

The **fifteenth season** (2020-2021) of Happy Trails 4-Wheel Club continued through the Corona Virus with rides every Thursday. Sam Ramsey was our president and held one meeting without our usual potluck. The highlight of the season was a Howl at the Moon ride and catered dinner out in the desert at Boulders. Russ Moes led Fun at the Ranch trail and on our arrival back at Boulders Nancy Strand had a food truck waiting for us. A large bonfire was built and everyone had a great time late into the evening. One of our largest events ever. During our season we had 34 rides and ended up with 41 families.

Our **sixteenth season** (2021-2022) of Happy Trails 4-Wheel Club concluded with Sam Ramsey as our President. Again, the Howling at the Moon event was the highlight of the season, thanks to: Doug and Nancy Strand, George and Carol Carter, Russ and Karen Moes, Jeff, Cheryl and Kevin Long. We had 58 members and guests in attendance. The night was perfect with amazing weather, a great ride led by Russ Moes, and delicious burgers followed by a bon-fire and a toast to our founders. Special addresses were given to our trail leaders who gathered some feathers this season. A big thank you to Connie Giamarvo for her work on these amazing awards. Russ Moes made our remembrance tokens that were given to all club members. During the season we had 32 rides and ended up with 45 families plus 2 inactive honorary members.

The **seventeenth season** (2022-2023) of our Happy Trails 4-Wheel Drive Club “Happy Trails Jeep Club” continued growing guided by our President Jeff Long. Our club initiated several first-time events this year. We started off the season with a volunteer day at St. Mary’s Food Bank, led by Doug & Nancy Strand. It was a fun day helping out our community. Our club ventured out into the desert for our first night ride, led by Sam. We also had an overnight rally in Prescott led by Jeff Long. The Ladies Day ride was a fun event led by Karen Moes, and Chef Dick Rice prepared a great lunch. Our third year of Howling at the Moon was the highlight of the season with 61 members and guests attending and 20 jeeps on the ride. A special thanks to Doug and Nancy Strand for once again organizing this event, and Jeff and Kevin Long for helping with the camp setup and our bonfire. Thanks to Russ Moes for leading the ride. At the end of the season our club voted to change from using CB radios to GMRS radios starting next season. This season we had 23 rides and ended with 46 families.

Our **eighteenth season** (2023-2024) of the Happy Trails 4-Wheel Club was once again fun and enjoyed by all members. President Jeff Long was our leader and ensured everyone had a great time. We repeated our volunteering to the St. Mary’s Food Bank, led by Doug and Nancy Strand, with ?? members. We also had our yearly night ride led by Sam travelling to Tule Cabin with scary ghosts and spiders all around. Karen Moes led the Ladies Day ride through the Vulture Mine trail. The BBQ was postponed due to rain, but was held the following day at the club’s monthly meeting. Doug and Nancy Strand organized our fourth annual Howling at the Moon event. ?? members and guests attended. Russ Moes led the trail ride through the Boulders area. Becky Paulsen helped serve the evening meal, Jeff and Kevin were the camp fire specialists. 14 of our club members attended a First Aid & AED training put on by our Surprise Fire Department. Gary and Sharon Younger again hosted an annual pizza and wine party at their home. Followed by Gary playing the piano with the club members singing the songs. Dick and Betty Hawkings once again provided the margaritas. Everyone is in agreement the new FMRS radios are a great improvement over the old CB radios. This season we rode 23 trails and ended with 42 families.

The **nineteenth season (2024-2025)**. We are always sad to see our members of the Happy Trails 4-Wheel Club depart Happy Trails and head for their northern home states for the summer. Our club kept busy this winter season with 24 scheduled rides, including a four-day rally in Florence, AZ. We again set a day for our members to volunteer at the St. Mary’s Food Bank, led by Doug and Nancy

Strand. Jamie Hegel led the Ladies Day ride out through the Vulture Mine Trail, with a picnic at a city park in Wickenburg. The big event of the year was our Fifth Annual Howling at the Moon in the Boulders off-road park, again organized by Nancy Strand. Gary and Sharon Younger invited the club to their home for a pizza and wine dinner, with Dick and Betty Hawkings providing margaritas. John Hostettler was elected President at the March club meeting, with Larry Kerscher as Vice President, Jeff Long became Past President, Sarah Till as Secretary, and Russ Moes as Treasurer. We had our annual night ride to Tule Cabin and beyond led by Sam. We had 40 families by the end of the season.

Celebrating our 20th anniversary (2006-2026), our club experienced a memorable season under President John Hostettler, featuring numerous trail rides, social events, meetings, and potlucks. Nancy Strand, our event coordinator, orchestrated a surprise celebration honoring founders Sam and Connie, marking two decades of club history. She also organized the annual "Howling at the Moon" event at Boulders Off-Road Park, which included a trail ride, food truck, and a bonfire. Additionally, Nancy coordinated a rally near Kingman and Parker and led a volunteer day at St. Mary's Food Bank. The season concluded with 39 families participating in 22 trail rides, reflecting strong community engagement and shared enthusiasm for 4-wheeling adventures and service activities.