



LEBC Newsletter – 2017 Number 1

From the President – July 2017



Wow it's already a month into summer! It seems the LEBC Round Up was just yesterday but here we are in 100 plus degree days! What a great Round Up we had – and Ted Nugent showing up was icing on the cake! After about 3 years of rumors that he would show up the stars aligned and his schedule allowed him to come join us. He drove himself from his ranch near Waco in his black Bronco to be with his "Bronco Blood Brothers". Regardless of your political leanings it was very nice of Ted show up and mingle with us. I was very impressed how friendly and unassuming he was. He was willing to autograph anything and pose for photos with anyone who asked. That said, you still knew you were in the presence of a rock star! A big thanks to Emil Schwartz and David Posten – they were both instrumental in getting him to come join us for a few hours.

The LEBC Father's Day event was moved from Clayton, OK to Wolf Caves, Mason, TX this year. Thank you, Joe Lebowitz for taking the lead for this event. It was a big turnout and everyone had a great time! Wolf Caves is an awesome new park close to K2 and it offers trails for all levels. Talking about the heat in Texas, a group of LEBC Broncos will be going to the All-4-Fun event in Colorado in August to beat the heat! This is a big event and should be a lot of fun. I'm looking forward to getting a report and seeing the photos of Texas Broncos among all the jeeps at this event! Next on the schedule is OCBR – the Oklahoma Classic Broncos event held in Hot Springs, AR in September. If you have not been to OCBR it is well worth the trip and it highly recommended. We always get a big group of LEBC folks there. I already have my RV spot reserved!

Also be sure to plan on making the LEBC Fall at the Falls event this year! It's scheduled for November 3 – 5, 2017 at Hidden Falls Adventure Park, Marble Falls, TX. This is a fun event where LEBC hosts a free dinner on Saturday night for all LEBC members and guests as pay-back to members for supporting our Club!

Finally I would like to thank Ken Laird for stepping up to get the newsletter going again!

Hope to see you and your family at an upcoming Bronco event!

Gary Gibson

2017 Events Remaining:

- All-4-Fun, sponsored by Mile Hi Jeep Club, Leadville, CO, July 29 – August 5
- OCBR, Superlift ORV Park, Hot Springs, AR, September 20 – 23
- LEBC Fall at the Falls, Hidden Falls ORV Park, Marble Falls, TX, November 3 – 5
- Central TX area meet & greet: Save the date – August 13. More to come on this!

Please let the editor (Ken Laird) know if are additional Bronco oriented events to add. We can get them on the club website.

2017 Round Up Recap



This year's Round Up was once again just amazing fun. LEBC members make it that way and in a lot of ways, we come together as a family to enjoy each other and the vehicles we love. The setting at K2 Offroad Park is hard to beat, even with the dust we had this time. We had that range of spring temperatures with A/C on one night and heater on the next.

The bar keeps getting higher and higher for this event because it has improved notably every year. Your board of directors, led by the President, reviews how the last event went and considers what

worked and what could have been better, or what could we add for enhancement.

This year we added the Ladies Street Cruise and the Rocking Horse Challenge and both turned out to be highly successful.



We had 10 lady driven Broncos on Friday morning cruising the backroads of Mason County with incredible wildflowers and high hills that approached 2100 feet in elevation. We passed by the old Katemcy Rocks location and ended up at the Mason County Courthouse Square in Mason. There, we had a tasty gourmet lunch prepared by Miles



Frost, along with a little wine tasting. After those treats, we headed back to K2 or pursued a few supplies.



Now that Rocking Horse Challenge (or teeter totter or whatever you want to call it) was huge. It was researched, planned, and built by Todd Woods. Never before have we had an event that both stock and trail rig Broncos could compete in. So, participation in this competition was very high, as was the crowd's interest and cheering. It took two days to run all of the vehicles through whose drivers wanted to try it.



I can't remember the name of the band that played on Friday night (for some reason), but they were great and played a good mix (even a Ted Nugent song). And on Saturday, the long awaited visit of

our Bronco Blood Brother, Ted Nugent, began around lunchtime. He seemed quite impressed by the various mods and restoration or preservation efforts demonstrated by all of the Broncos parked by the pavilion. He talked it up and asked a ton of questions, while being nice enough to pose for photos and do autographs. Then he went out wheeling with Emil Schwartz. After getting back, he was pretty stoked, so he mounted his black stroker-powered Bronco and spun out of K2 with siren blaring and lights flashing. He left a nice message about us on Facebook the next day: <https://www.facebook.com/tednugent/videos/10154655755897297/>



Ted Nugent and Lisa Ballweg

After our tasty barbeque dinner, it was time for awards and the infamous LEBC raffle. Winners this year were:

Rocking Horse Challenge
Manual Trans - Chuck Abbe
Automatic - Tony Roper
Iron Butt Award - Jim Hales

Broke Award- Seth Templeton
Outstanding Youth Award - Drew Cox
Poker run

Fastest - Drew Cox
Longest – The Woods- 78 min
Time Winner - 47 min, Chris and Terry Swem
Best hand - Katy and Tom Thrall

Show N Shine Winners

Kerry Menchaca- stock unmodified
David Poston
Matt Chapman
MIKE Clouds
David Poston
Eric Schwartz
Sam Mancuso
Mike Reeder - Best in Show

President's Award- Emil Schwartz
(Please let Ken Laird know of any corrections to the above!)



LEBC honors the landowners of K2 – the Hoffmans

Well, what about the wheeling this year? Once again, it was fantastic and this year we were able to negotiate a special deal with the new Wolf Caves off road park that is practically next door to K2. That gave us something new to try as well as some interesting options. The LEBC Father's Day weekend event was held there this year and the feedback on this place is quite good. Look for a future article about that.

Back to K2 wheeling... The unyielding granite provided the usual havoc on folks' rigs, regardless of modifications. While the Poker Run was supposed to be a Level 3 and below trail event, a lot

of carnage occurred during it. There was a vehicle fire, radiator and fan destruction, bumper distortion, and other breaks. In spite of the vehicle malaise that occurs at K2 comes the spirit of camaraderie with LEBC members helping each other tow and fix their Broncos on the trail and back in camp. That really adds to the specialness of the Round Up event. (See the article submitted by Darwin Hopper below as proof.) Also, as not always seen by the hardcore experienced wheelers, there were Bronco owners who are new and/or not as experienced who upped their participation by getting on the trails the first time. And there were those who have been upping their game event after event, adding mods and taking on more challenging trails.



A few photos from Round Up are below, but see the links below as well where several folks have shared and congregated their photos.





Key Links to 2017 Round Up Photos:

Thanks to everyone who has shared their photos, but special thanks to Chris Bedock, Taylor White, Mark Havelka, Tony Roper, Lisa Ballweg, and Bill & Kathy Hudson.

<https://www.discoveroffroad.net/client-showcase>

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/lebc2017ru/> (may require Yahoo Flickr membership if you do not already have it; go to: www.flickr.com)

To get an idea of the specialness of this event and how it instigates and inspires the obsessive-compulsive Bronco mindset, read the words of LEBC member, Darwin Hopper. This was showcased in our recent Bronco Driver article and is reprinted here:

It was spring 2011 and I was a year out of rehab and a divorce and trying to figure out how to get my life back. The previous year, I had spent many, many hours in my brother's garage working on several Broncos and there was a yellow U14 that was just so cool to work on. My brother had told me about K2 and some of the pitfalls he had in the beginning. Lack of lockers was the top of the list. We grew up mudding in full size F250 and F150 Hi Boys powered by FE Big Blocks so I just didn't get the obsession with the small block small truck thing.



Darwin and the legendary Bronco known as "Tweety"

Well, spring rolled around and Damon said I should go to K2 and the annual LEBC roundup and he would let me take the yellow Bronco which was already named Tweety by a friend of ours, Tony, who was taken from us by cancer. I borrowed a trailer and with an open mind after about 4000 questions went to Mason.

I couldn't believe all the Broncos at this event from super show room clean stock to Rock. This started my brain up trying to figure out what the obsession was. Well I don't remember wheeling that day as everyone was getting prepped and a lot of bench crawling was going on (kind of like bench racing just much slower). Well the big day comes and we go to the drivers meeting and I am pumped. Now you have to understand, Tweety was a LUBER with 33 tires, lockers, long arms, and a NV3550 transmission at the time, so it was a good rig to start out in. Damon gets us with a group that I think (the dude named) Art was there, but I remember Gonzo "Roy", and we head out to School Bus. It was just a big rock monolith and it had oil on it and rubber and tracks leading up to it. It was the 3 foot minimum vertical start and it was the dug out in the front of it that impressed me. So Damon and I get out and are talking and the group of 5 or 6 pull up and are watching as Gonzo pulls up to School Bus and I made the remark, "Oh he thinks he is going up

that". My brother didn't flinch when he said, "Yeah with no problem". So I stood there and heard the motor rev and that Bronco just barely moved, I mean it was like watching slow motion in real time, the front bumper just touched the rock and I was still thinking No Freaking way, he turned the wheel and it made a little more clearance on the bumper and the tire contacted the rock face. The tire kind of collapsed a little conforming to the face then started inching up, this was getting more interesting. The truck kept climbing up in super slow motion in real time then dragged the rear bumper and I was thinking you are screwed at that point. It did not hesitate; it just kept going up gripping and the tires conforming and he was over the top.

Well this started a conversation with my brother of what kind of transmission what gears what, what, what and then I heard a new word Klune V. I thought, man if I ever get a Bronco I have got to have one of those – what did you say that was? I watched as several more Broncos went over, some using some severe skinny pedal, some with tire slippage, and some without tire slippage. I was already taking mental notes. Some more Broncos showed up and some were denied School Bus. I didn't get to go back to that run for another two years. It is just a fun place to wheel, especially as a greenhorn that has never been on anything more than a two or easy three. I found out quick that I wanted more gear. A LOT MORE GEAR and mainly to set back down to terra firma coming off the boulders as it was sometimes a kind of brutal controlled skid slip off the rock to crash to the ground standing on the brakes. I met two people that weekend that my brother had a lot of respect for, and I followed that lead and I have two more very good friends in my life now. David Posten, aka "MY Spotter, the best in the world", and Emil Schwartz, "The Mad Man King of the Skinny Pedal" If you haven't wheeled and crawled with these two, you are missing out.

I went to this event and people were talking about how they had prepped the year before. This was their vacation and I was thinking that was kind of crazy. But, call me crazy because my brother made me a deal on Tweety and a transformation started and I became one of the vacationers to LEBC in the spring and OCBR in the fall.

I wish the world would act as if they are at an event of Early Broncos – bad attitude left at the gate, compassion and helping anyone who needs a part or a hand fixing a rig, whether it is a lightly modified EB just getting into it or a severely transformed Rock Beast. I have met so many really nice people and I am so glad to be part of a group of people like this. Thanks, Family! - Darwin

Thanks, Darwin!

See LEBC in Issue #72 of

Bronco Driver Magazine!

New Newsletter Format

We want to communicate to the club more frequently so we are going to simplify on format and in the production process so we can get these out more often. Well, we're going to try, anyway!

What we need from you – INPUT! Examples:

- Feedback – what you like, what you didn't
- Ideas – types of content you would like to see along with insights to develop that content.
- Content – submit articles, announcements, technical write-ups, or event coverage.
- How about a story from those who attend All 4 Fun in CO or a story about the Father's Day weekend at Wolf Caves?

Thanks, Everybody!

Ken Laird