



THE SLO 4-WHEELER



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The Snow Run That Wasn't

By Eric F

The snow run was canceled due to a road closure at McPherson Peak. Bob O. suggested go to Pozo and see if anything is open there. After a few phone calls and emails it was decided to meet at Santa Margarita Park at 9:00 AM.

The Group that made it to the park were Eric F, Bob and Brandon O., Frank and Florence S., Randy P. and his friend Margeret; Chris and his son Jack were meeting up with us in Pozo. We all left at 9:20 and made it around the corner and all the signs showed OHV trails closed.

Um, what to do? Randy suggested running the paved road up to the radar station. The group made it way to Turkey Flats for a pit stop. After pit stopping the group made its way to 5 Points where we made the left turn and headed up to the radar station. The weather was wet and windy raining, as we made our way up the windy road near the top, low and behold, SNOW! Yes we found snow. Just a little patch on the side of the road. So yes it can be called a snow run.

The group made it to the top at the gate to the radar station and pulled into the dirt parking area. The group stopped for a few minutes break. It was very windy,

raining hard with some slush coming out of the clouds.

A quick decision was to go back to Pozo Road and run Pozo Road to La Panza camp. The group loaded up made its way back to 5 Points and stopped at the locked gate. Frank tried some magic keys on the gates; the keys were not magic today.

The group headed over to Pozo. As we got to Pozo, Randy radioed he had a electrical problem and we waited for him. Randy told Eric to go ahead he would catch us if he could fix the problem, if not he would be able to make it home.

The group made its way up Pozo road going toward Las Chicas and Pine Mountain cut off when we ran into Chris and his son Jack, they turned around to follow us. Randy and Margret had also caught up to us.

The group made it to La Panza camp ground. We did find some streams running onto the road making for water crossings. The group made it to the camp ground where we took a short break and ate lunch and rested.

The group left the camp ground and headed toward Red Hill Road. We passed a few more water crossings. Nothing too deep or dangerous, further up the road Bob was signaling to Eric to

“make a right and let's take this trial; its open”.

We made a right and took Bench Mark Trail. Eric thought he had gone the wrong way about 1/2 mile into the trail and the group turned around. The group headed back and found what we thought was another trail. We took the trail climbing the muddy hills and running along the ridge.

Going down was interesting at first. The hills were getting slippery and water ruts were appearing from the rain we had been having. At the bottom of the hill make a left and loops around to the left. There was a large wash-out. Eric thought Frank and his Ford pickup might be too large too make it. Eric and Bob made it and Frank had no problem. Well the trail ended up right where we turned around at. We were going the right way to begin with. The group made it to Red Hill Road and highway 58.

We said our good byes and made our way home.

Thanks to everyone who made it out on short notice. This was Frank's run, but some how Eric ended up trail bossing. Eric is about 80% back together again. Felt good to be able to get into and drive his yellow Jeep. Thanks again for great run.

2008 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

Officers:

President: Eric F
 Vice President: Jim T
 Secretary: Chris S
 Treasurer: Florence S

Board of Directors (includes officers):

Ways and Means: Dennis V
 Membership Director: Dave F
 Events Director: Anthony S
 Land Use Liaison: Anthony S
 CA4WDC Liaison: Suzy J
 Social Chairperson: Robin M
 Newsletter Editor: George W

Committees:

Safety Chairperson: Paul V
 Promotional Chairperson: Dennis V
 Club Scrapbook: George W
 Virtual Committee: Mark B
 Club Outside Promotions: Dave F
Adopted Trails and Campgrounds:
 Garcia Ridge Trail: Jim T
 Pine Mountain Trail: Anthony S
 La Panza Camp Ground: Anthony S

Newsletter submittals

by the weekend after the meeting to George at gw*****@charter.net

Member Rigs: The Rat Patrol Rides Again

By George W, Editor

This issues Member Rig belongs to Mike G. It's a 1978 Jeep CJ-7 Levi Renegade in its original incarnation. Mike and his wife Sharon got it in 1991 in its original tan with a white hardtop configuration.

Prior to getting his Jeep, Mike and Sharon had been to the Jamboree a few times with friends. (*Editor's note: This is beginning to sound like a virus, first Mike gets infected, then he infects me, now I have to infect someone.*)

Mike set to work making this Jeep his and replaced the straight six with a 304 Jeep V8, added a Dana 44 rear differential built by a friend, then custom front and rear bumpers, rear rack and side rails.

Their first runs were usually with the friends up to a place the friends went often between Oakhurst and Mariposa. With no locking differentials and True Track tires, Mike followed there lead and managed to get stuck in the snow. They pulled him out from behind and took pictures which were later interpreted as Mike pulling them out by most who saw the photos, as Mike had predicted.

About this same time SLO 4-Wheelers started with many common members

with the more informal Santa Margarita group.

A few years later Mike added a lift kit after playing with various lifting options and then painted it the current blazing Red we all know today. He then added the winch and winch plate to the front bumper.

A short while later a Dana 60 differential was added as part of a new rear axle assembly which also resulted in new wheels and 33" tires. Also added was a Dana 20 transfer case with a Terra-Flex gear set, and a T18 4-speed with T98 gears.

A few years later Mike decided to try more power and replaced the first V8 with an AMC 401 CID V8. Then came the body lift, 35" tires and a Truck Avenger carburetor (the Edelbrock never really worked well off road). This brings us to its current configuration.

With the exception of the Jeepers Jamboree, most trips had the kids in the back seat from a very young age. Son Matt has become Mike's main co-pilot resulting in Mike replacing the rear seat with a storage compartment and rear deck.

Now Mike is considering replacing the still factory Dana 30 locker-less front end with a Dana 44 or Dana 60. He's also been considering a small block fuel injected V8 as better performing at a variety of angles and altitudes. A replacement for his old soft top is also being looked into, but its getting hard to find parts to match his current configuration and half doors.

Mike loves going places with his Jeep. Some of his favorite places include Coyote Lake (at least 8-10 times), The Rubicon Trail (8-9 times), Dusy a couple of times and Swamp Lake (at least 4 times).

Mike thinks Dusy is one of the most challenging trails because of how long and drawn out it is to do the trail. He also feels that each year the Rubicon is also getting rougher making it more and more challenging.

Mike has had front differentials blow up on the Rubicon Trail two years in a row as the most memorable break

downs (but still made it out with "3 wheel drive"). These were both on private runs with no spotters or support staff.

He also had his on-board welder burn up while several people were trying to help fix another friends rig at Coyote Lake.

Mike's also had his share of funny things happen while Jeeping. One year while on the Rubicon, a bear ransacked all of the Jeeps in the group and then relieved itself in the middle of the camp.

Another year on the Rubicon Jamboree, guys dressed in gorilla suits jumped out at unsuspecting Jeepers. Luckily Mike spotted them before they could do it to him but enjoyed watching it happen to the friends behind him. Those friends then got even with Mike on the way out by taking the lead and then spraying mud on them at one of the many mud holes that used to be on the way out.

After a club run in the Templeton 4th of July Parade, a 4 year old Jackie didn't like getting squirted by a squirt gun and let another club member have it as she hosed them down with the majority of a water fire extinguisher.

Mike also gets a good chuckle remembering the time that someone killed a rattlesnake and threw it in their ice chest unknown to their spouse. The spouse later went into the ice chest for a drink and jumped off the Jeep screaming.



'07 Garcia Ridge (Photo by G. W)



Jeepers Jamboree (Photo by M. G)

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SLO 4-Wheelers contributes to and/or is a member club in these organizations. Visit and support, -they are working for US!



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The United Four Wheel Drive Associations also acts as your voice to keep 4x4 roads and trails open so that we can continue enjoying four wheeling in the great outdoors.

<http://www.ufwda.org/>



A varied group of outdoor recreationists who are extremely active in promoting the positive aspects of vehicular access on public lands and protecting that right.

<http://www.corva.org/>



SLO 4-Wheelers is also a member club in the California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs (CA4WDC) If your not a member, check it out,

<http://www.cal4wheel.com> or ask Suzy

SLO 4 Wheelers

PO Box 2271
Atascadero, CA 93423-2271



We're on the web:

<http://www.slo4wheelers.org/>

Upcoming Events / Runs

April 5th or 6th – After Meeting Run-
Trail Maintenance TBD at Meeting

April 11th-13th - Cal4Wheel Molina
Ghost Run- Clear Creek Area-Coalinga. It
is the Closest Cal4Wheel Event to Us.
Runs from SUV to Hard.

http://www.ingear4x4.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=222&Itemid=84

April – Possible Club Run to Calico
sometime in April.

April 26-27 — Holister overnigher. Mett
at Denny's in Paso at 7:00 AM.

May 7th – Club Meeting- Players Pizza
Atascadero 7pm

May 10th – Club BBQ & Run- Annual
Spring Fling BBQ and Trail Runs- Club
will be providing Meat some drinks, Please
bring a side dish. We will have a trail rides
before and after lunch. More info to Come.

May 23rd- 26th – Cal4Wheel Hi-Desert
Round Up- Johnson Valley OHV(Barstow
Area) See In-Gear Web Site for
Registration Info

http://www.ingear4x4.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=224&Itemid=84

June 4th – Club Meeting- Players Pizza
Atascadero 7pm

June 7th or 8th – After Meeting Run-
Pismo Run

July 2nd – Club Meeting- Players Pizza
Atascadero 7pm

July 4th – Club Run- Santa Margarita
4th of July Parade a possibility.

July 19th – Club Run- SLO4WHEELERS
2nd Annual 4x4 Cruise For Cancer. This
will be an Easy/SUV Run down to the
Coast.

July 19th- Club Run- BBQ for Club
Members following the Cruise for Cancer
at the Meaney's House in Cayucos. This is
will be a potluck dinner.

August 6th – Club Meeting- Players Pizza
Atascadero 7pm

August 9th or 10th — After meeting
run—TBD at meeting.

August 7th- 9th – Cal4Wheel Sierra Trek
– See Cal4Wheel web site.

August 16th-17th – Other- Relay for Life-
SLO4WALKERS- More info to Come!

August 15th -17th – Club Run – Annual
Coyote Lake Run- Mark your calendar
Now! We need a Trail Boss for this one
too!

September 3rd – Club Meeting – Players
Pizza Atascadero 7pm

September 6th or 7th – After Meeting
Run- TBD at Meeting

September 13th or 14th – Trail
Maintenance TBD at Meeting

October 1st – Club Meeting- Players
Pizza Atascadero 7pm

If you have any questions or events/local
runs / not so local runs you would like to
do and/or participate in, please contact
Anthony S, SLO4-Wheelers Events
Director (a*****@sbcglobal.net) or
cell/voice mail 805-xxx-xxxx