



The SLO 4-Wheeler



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THE GREAT TEFLON ESCAPE

Written by Mark B

Was cleaning out the shop the other day, found this preliminary trail report from a few years ago I started that I never finished. Though possibly not quite accurate, as I filled in the blanks from memory I tried to finish & correct but it is pretty much how the story went. Thought it was a humorous story so we've submitted as best I can remember....

Okay, so on our way to the Rubicon several years ago, as one by one members of our caravan pulled off to spend the night, Ray, Darlene and I decided to press on to the trail head. We stopped in the last little town outside Sacramento to get gas a little after midnight. Stretching our legs and topping off, I watched two sheriffs pull into the station across the street. When done, we got back in our rigs and drove up to the light. Made a left turn and then a quick right – gearing up to climb the highway on ramp...

back to Sacramento. Ray suddenly flips a 180 degree U-turn, me right on his bumper I also made the U'ee, faster than most can blink we turned both rigs around, on the on ramp!. Don't know how one of us didn't roll over!

As we pulled back onto the road to take the exit east, I looked back and saw the sheriffs were at the light we just left. As we pulled out onto the road it sank in what Ray and I had just done right in front of the sheriffs. As the words 'oh crap' in slow-motion came to my lips, it must have also come to the sheriff and he picked up his jaw and flicked on the lights. As we started to make our turn he pulled up beside me and through the PA speaker ordered "BOTH JEEPS PULL OVER". Well, Ray continued to make the left entering the on ramp. Ray saw a wide spot off the on ramp and was going to pull off there. I guess the sheriff thought Ray was making a run for it cause the patrol car literally stood

up and then launched after him. Me I had stopped, I'm sitting there in the middle of the road watching all this. It's 12:30 at night and all I can think is "oh crap" as I drive up to where Ray and the sheriff are. The second sheriff pulls up behind us but doesn't get out of his car.

The sheriff asks Ray "What do you think you were doing?" Ray looks at the sheriff and says – "Um, we didn't want to go back to Sacramento", which just threw the sheriff for a loop. "What!, you can't do that – it's a freeway entrance! Where's your license?" As Ray looks for his license the sheriff walks back to me and asks, "Do you know why I pulled you over?" I say, "Ya mean that little U'ee back there?" "What!- that's part of the highway, you can't just.... Give me your license and registration," by this time he's pissed. I said, "It's in the glove box, can I borrow your flashlight?" He looks at me in disbelief.. "Da- uh.. Okay",

(Continued on page 5)

2010 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

Officers:

President:..... Randy P.
 Vice President:..... Mark B.
 Secretary:..... Kirk M.
 Treasurer:..... Margaret P.

Board of Directors (includes officers):

Ways and Means:..... Vacant
 Membership Director:..... George W.
 Events Director:..... Vacant
 Land Use Liaison:..... John J.
 CA4WDC Liaison:..... Suzy J.
 Newsletter Editor:..... George W.

Committees:

Safety Chairperson:..... Ken B.
 Social Chairperson:..... Florence S.
 Promotional Chairperson:..... Jim T.
 Virtual Club Scrapbook:..... Mark B.
 Virtual Committee:..... Mark B.

Adopted Trails and Campgrounds:

Garcia Ridge Trail:..... Vacant
 Pine Mountain Trail:..... Vacant
 La Panza Camp Ground:..... Vacant
 Carrizo Plains Land Use..... Vacant

Newsletter submittals

by the weekend after the meeting to George at g???????@charter.net

When Worlds collide.... rock verses-metal, metal verses flex

by Mark B.

NOTE: All photos are by Mark B. except where noted.

Well you may have heard about Mikes frame on his 78 CJ7. Last outing on the Rubicon he pulled in to the repair station, thinking he had some prob-

the inner plate on both frame rails literally exploded on both sides, worst I've ever seen. Mike said you could drop quarters thru most of the cracks. They spider webbed and radiated out from the 2 holes that his front bumper bolted thru. We are fairly sure that was the source other than age, the front bumper is quite substantial, so

all the frame flex stopped at the mount bolt holes and just destroyed the frame over time till it let go completely.

To really assess the damage & decide on options (whether fixing or replacing with new frame) we proceeded to remove the engine. Once the motor was out it looked bad, really bad, but re-



Drivers Side



Passenger Side

lems. The mechanics working for the organized run to assist folks with problems confirmed... "You got problems!"

Mikes frame had several serious cracks and tears on both front frame rails. The Rubicon Trail guys did their best to weld it up so he could finish the trail. Which he did. Their repair, however, because they really couldn't get inside the rails due to motor, steering gear etc, was to weld the bumper to outside of rail and top & bottom cracks they could reach. Didn't really have any options and it got him out & home.

Once home and really inspecting the damage Mike was thinking it was new frame time. You could see the inner rails. The drivers side, looked like the Alien had burst out. The passenger side looked as bad but an entire section had fallen out. Though CJ frames cracking and tearing is fairly common,



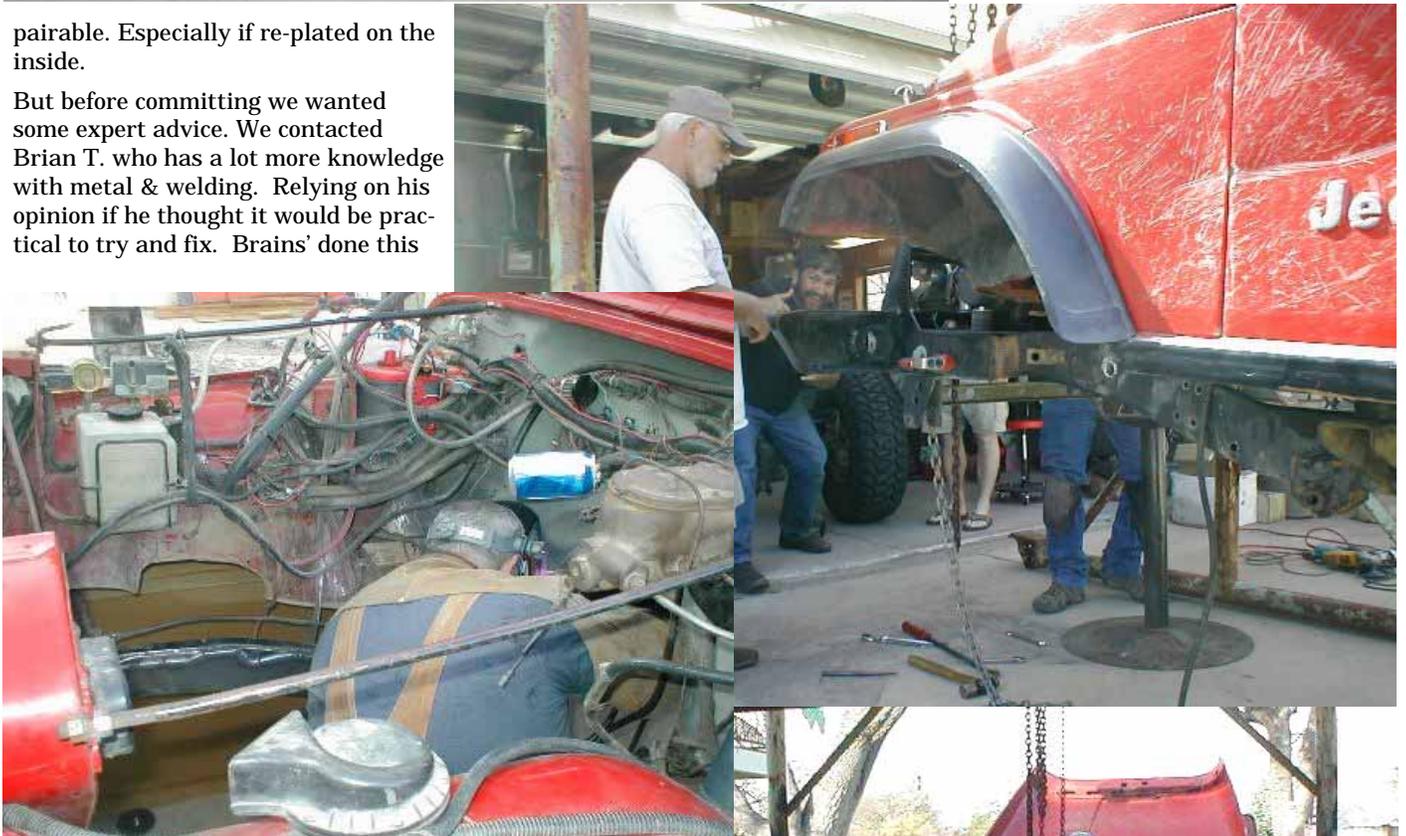


the stock axle snubber, etc., cleaned from the front horn to the rear cross member bolts.

With the engine and Trans out the only thing left in the way was front axle. So we hung the jeep from A frame and removed axle & springs to give Brain clear access to the frame so he could focus on welding. Though not necessary we welded up all the cracks and filled holes to give a good base behind the new inner plates. We also

pairable. Especially if re-plated on the inside.

But before committing we wanted some expert advice. We contacted Brian T. who has a lot more knowledge with metal & welding. Relying on his opinion if he thought it would be practical to try and fix. Brains' done this



Brian working his magic

before and has re-plated his own CJ frame.

Brian thought it was fixable, offered to make the necessary repair plates and weld them on. So a lot of prep work was performed.

The BT repair plates. 5' of 3/16" plasma cut steel for each inner side. To insure ease of welding EVERYTHING attached, bolted or near the front frame rails was removed, making way for the new side plates. Brake lines, steering, fuel lines, shock mounts, cut off the inner shackle reversal brackets,





Just a work of art....

(Continued from page 3)

took the time to tube all thru the frame holes.

With enough folks giving support even a daunting task and your jeep hanging in the air can make a difficult job become a good day.

Why we like working on each others stuff...just time to share it.

Mikes getting a glimmer of light and the end of this otherwise dark tunnel. Simple catastrophic failure can really put a damper on plans & wheeling.

We were able to minimize the required work and expense of getting the jeep back on the trail. Plans are already back on track for future upgrades/mods and trails to travel.

Certainly better than it camp from the factory. Mike re-drilled all the required holes. As it's all downhill now, the major repairs is done, just taking the opportunity to clean & repaint and reinstall components. Giving some thought before reinstalling them, making any changes/mods we can to make it better than when we removed. Also down the road is a spring over using wrangler style springs, so making some minor allowances now will insure it goes more smoothly.

All that's left is drop the motor back in, button up all connections-good for another 30 years.

Finished passenger and drivers side rails at right before reinstalling the engine. (Photos by George W.)



(Continued from page 1)

says the sheriff and hands me his light.

As I'm fumbling around looking for my papers the second sheriff walks up and asks "What's up Joe?". "Oh, I've been looking everywhere for some Teflon tape – and these two jokers decided they didn't want to go to Sacramento!" says Sherriff Joe. Still looking for my registration I turn and look back up at the sheriff, in a voice so low I barely heard it, sheepishly say, "I've got Teflon tape..." Both sheriffs look at me and say, "You do?" I say "Yes – it'll be a little hard to find, it's in the back if you want me to look for it." He says "Yes, but find it first and stop looking for your registration". He and goes back to talk to Ray.

I gathered from Ray that the Sheriff said something like "your friend might just get you out of a ticket if he can find his Teflon tape." Ray says... "Uh I've got some Teflon tape..."

The sheriff comes back to my rig, I hand him the roll of Teflon tape. He opens it up, unrolls about 8' of tape and hands me back the roll. He tells me there is a family stranded on the highway-the guy had stripped a fuel fitting. The second sheriff says to me "I hope you remember- this little bit of tape got you out of a ticket. Plus you're helping out some poor family." I said "Oh, I will" to Sheriff Joe I said "– but you need to wrap that tape around something or it will be worthless by the time you get back to those folks." So Sheriff Joe reaches into the other sheriffs' pocket, takes his ink pen and rolls up the tape on it, The other Sher-

iff gives him a funny look, Sheriff Joe says-"Its for a good cause".

So the moral of the story is – carry Teflon tape. You just never know – and be sure – the next time I get pulled over and the infamous question "Do you know why I pulled you over?" is asked.. I'll respond in a soft, sheepish voice "You need some Teflon tape?"

Mark & Margaret
'82 CJ7

How would you like to receive your copy of the "SLO 4 Wheeler"?

In order to save money with the rising costs of printing and postage, we are looking at ways of trying to cut back on one of our biggest expenses, producing and mailing the club newsletter. We recognize that some people still don't have access to the Internet or they may have a slow connection because of how remote their residence is, others may not have a computer capable to of downloading large PDF files. As a result we are looking t providing multiple options. Please review the options below and either mail this coupon to the club PO Box, bring it to the next meeting, email your preferred Newsletter delivery method to the Newsletter editor or call it in.

- I'll pick up my copy of the Newsletter at the meeting or mail it to me if I miss the meeting.
- Send me a web link to an on-line PDF version of the Newsletter (requires Adobe Acrobat reader which is free and can be downloaded from <http://www.adobe.com/>)
- Send me the PDF document version of the newsletter via email (requires Adobe Acrobat reader).
- I'll just go look for the latest Newsletter on the Club Web Site (<http://www.slo4wheelers.org/>).

To Mail your request, cut out this Coupon and mail it to:

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Club Meeting Minutes: February 2010

Meeting Minutes by Kirk M., Club Secretary

7:00pm President, Randy P. started meeting with usual member introductions.

7:10pm New Business

Treasure Report: \$ to Blue Ribbon Coalition. \$ to Cal 4-Wheel. Ending Balance of \$

Social Committee: Florence S. ie: Christmas Party.

Membership: George reports 35 paid members with the newsletter on the website/needs rigs.

Cal 4-Wheel: Suzy- Traveling currently in Ocotillo Wells and gets emails.

President to email information on Molina Ghost Run.

7:20pm Announcements

Board Meeting next Thursday 2/11/10.

7:25pm Cooper and helper picked up picnic

tables for Garcia Ridge from the BLM office in Carrizo Plains. Announced the BLM public lands day on September 25, 2010.

7:30pm George W. announced group going to pick up Mr. Carpenters truck for the family located in the Big Sur area.

7:40pm Safety Officer Ken B. gave a hand-out on battery safety and jump start procedure and a group discussion followed.

7:45pm Steve S. gave discussion on Clear Creek Closure and needs public input by 3/5/2010. A group discussion followed.

7:55pm Group discussion on Obama Administration attacking public lands.

8:05pm Garcia Ridge: Randy suggests major clean up and vegetation widening of trail. Dave to contact Poly Goats for participation, and Eric to contact the CCMA for their participation.

8:10pm Eric discussed Tread Lightly Course attended by 4 club members and

are now "Tread Trainers" for Tread Lightly. Eric explained Tread Lightly Ethics with possible future club training course.

8:20pm Upcoming Club events discussed. Eric suggested Calico Run March 26, 27, 28. Randy suggested Molina Ghost Run dates to follow. Possible Kennedy Meadows?

8:35pm Jim addressed most items discussed during meeting and gave his past experiences. ie: Congressman New York and New Jersey.

8:40pm Meeting Adjourned for Raffle.



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

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



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

Cell 226-TAPS

**Marlene
Lincoln**



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We're on the web:

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

Upcoming Events / Runs

In addition to this list, keep your eye on the club email list and web site:

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

for last minute events or spur of the moment runs.

April 10 or 11, 17 or 18, 24 or 25—Randy P. Will be trail-bossing to lead us out to our adopted trail Garcia Ridge for some much needed brush work. Plans are to spread this over several weekends. Also plant tables at trails end, retaining wall, etc. below the tree.

"I hope we can get the trail in good enough shape so all can drive their rigs to the end without any pin striping, for our Annual Spring Club BBQ in May, including planting a new 'SLO4Wheelers Adopted Trail sign' on the way into the BBQ. Plan on making at least one if not more of these planned work days." Contact/trailboss: Randy P. r???????@att.net

April 30th-May 2nd—"Ghost of the" Molina Ghost Run: Annual CA4WDC event to be held at Hollister Hills SVRA Upper Ranch near Hollister, CA. Runs include a Saturday run with one locker

required that includes harder trails and obstacles, a Saturday run with no lockers required and easier trails, and a Saturday SUV run. Registration is \$50 per vehicle for members, or \$60 per vehicle for non-members and includes one run on Saturday, one dinner, a dash plaque, and one raffle ticket.

More info for CAW4DC Molina 2010:
http://www.cal4wheel.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=89&Itemid=128

Contact /trailboss: OPEN

Tentative—Annual BBQ generally held late April early May. Contact/trailboss: OPEN

May TBD—SLO 4-Wheelers Spring Fling BBQ and trail runs.

May 5th—SLO 4-Wheelers General Club Meeting- Players Pizza, Atascadero Wednesday 7pm

May 8th or 9th—After meeting Run: To Be Determined at the meeting

May 28th-31st—Hi Desert Round-Up - Memorial Day Weekend

Annual CA4WDC "Hi Desert Round-up" is a fund raising event for California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs Inc. The event is four days of off-roading, games, food and fun. The Hi Desert Round-up takes place in Stoddard Valley, about 10 miles south of Barstow California, off Highway 247. It is a popular fun-filled getaway weekend for singles, couples and families who enjoy camping, four-wheeling, playing games, winning prizes and just going out to relax away from the city. The terrain is from sandy to extremely rocky, from flat washes to monster hills so be prepared for some great four-wheeling fun.

more info CAW4DC High Desert Roundup 2010:
http://www.cal4wheel.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=84&Itemid=122

Contact/trailboss: Randy P. r???????@att.net

If you have any questions or events, local runs, not so local runs you would like to do, coordinate and/or participate in, please contact the new SLO-4-Wheelers Events Director when they have been appointed.