



The SLO 4-Wheeler



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Paso Robles TreadTrainer Course

Written and photos by George W, Editor

On January 23, Tread Lightly!® held a TreadTrainer course at the Hampton Inn in Paso Robles. Four members of the club attended the course: Don A, Eric F, Kirk M and George W. The purpose of the course is to train outdoor enthusiasts in the Tread Lightly! outdoor ethic and assist them in empowering generations to recreate responsibly.

The training course was held in a conference room at the Hampton Inn and started at 8:00 AM after a sign-in period. With a couple of breaks we worked through to lunch, covered by Tread Lightly!, and then resumed and continued the training session until almost 5:00 PM. Among the students at the training were members of SLO 4 Wheelers, a member of the Santa Maria Four Wheel Drive club, several members of the Central Coast Motorcycle Association, a pair of National Forest rangers from the Fraiser Park office of the Los Padres

National Forest, the proprietor of Hillbilly Off-road and a members of a San Jose group that came down because their training session in the Bay area was full. Thirteen of the registered fifteen showed up for our course. The course was funded by the Federal Highway Administration and California State Parks.

The beginning of the course covered a history of Tread Lightly! and their outdoor ethic. We also saw several examples of good and bad outdoor behavior. It then went into how we can encourage their ethic through contact with other outdoor enthusiasts either in an outdoor encounter or with formal presentations and almost



every variant in between. Tread Lightly! was started by the United State Forest Service to promote responsible outdoor recreation as an apolitical group. Then were then split off as a non-profit organization. As a result, they take no political position and are often caught in the middle being called radical environmentalists by the far right to being called Hummer Whores

(Continued on page 6)

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
 Social Chairperson:..... Florence S
 Newsletter Editor:..... George W

Committees:

Safety Chairperson:..... Ken B
 Promotional Chairperson:..... Vacant
 Virtual Club Scrapbook:..... Vacant
 Virtual Committee:..... Vacant

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

Member Rigs: Faley's Cherokee Nation

by George W, Editor

NOTE: All photos of 's rig are from the owners own photos unless credited otherwise.

Eric F has an affinity for Cherokees. He currently has two of them, one for off road and one for street travel. His off road chariot is a 1987 Cherokee Laredo with a stock in-line six, and automatic transmission. From that point on in the drive train, little is stock. The transfer case is a 231 with an Advance Adapter heavy duty slip yoke eliminator.

The rear drive shaft is by Tom Woods leading to a Dana 44 with a 4.56 gear ratio and an Ected limited electric locker. The rear brakes were upgraded from drum with a TerraFlex Disc conversion kit. Rear leaf springs are Rusty's 4-1/2 inch lift springs with 1-3/4 inch lift shackles providing an overall lift of about 6-1/4 inches.

The front axle is a Dana 30 4.56 ratio with chrome molly axles and an Aussie front "Full Time" locker (similar to a Detroit locker). The front suspension uses TerraFlex long lower arms and short uppers with 6-1/2 lift coil springs. All shocks are Rusty's with the front Track Bar brace, bar, mount and steering box brace all being Rusty's as well. The steering linkage is a

Boxed in!



combination of stock and the owners own modifications; it works!

Power is delivered to four Pro-Comp wheels with Good-year 33 inch All-Terrain tires. A fifth wheel and tire is mount inside the back cargo area of the vehicle.

The front bumper is by BCB (a Land Rover oriented company) with a REW 900 Wench from Harbor Freight which appears to be a copy of a Mile Marker wench. The sliders are by Raivo 4x4 Fabrication and the rear bumper was custom built by the owner and Bob Orr.

"Rock? What rock?"



Cherokee on a roll.

All mandatory safety items are also included in the interior (CB, fire extinguisher, First-Aid kit).

Future plans could include selling this vehicle and building a new one with a high output engine. A short term goal is to replace the rear flares, or what's left of them, with flexible flares. The current rig





like desert trails like Red Lake and Calico. He recently did a few trails in Silverwood and on the Cleghorn trail you could see I-15 and CA-138 and Silverwood lake all from a mountain top on the trail.

Locally he like Garcia Ridge and as all of us know he is fond of the mini-steps there. Local night runs are also a big favorite as well providing one of the funniest being the night he had Suellen and her giggling friend ride along. They were hilarious! He enjoyed holding his CB microphone open so everyone could enjoy the fun.

"Now there's your problem!"

works well built the way it is and if he had to do it all over again he would go with a True Radius Long Arm, 35 inch tires and 8 inches of lift.

The vehicle has provided Eric with some fun times including a few flub moments. Two years ago at Hollister Hills he was in a V notch creek and wedged the rig on its passenger side. While it was technically on its side, all four wheels were still on the ground!

On the same trip he almost drove into a wash, but stopped in time only to have the dirt under the front tires sluff off causing the front end to quickly drop down and give him a bit of a scare.

His worst experience was at John Bull in Big Bear when, after going almost a mile into the trail, he broke his right rear axle and the C clip in the Dana 35 that it was equipped with at the time.

His favorite trails vary with the location.

He also likes Big Bear, Lake Arrowhead and Holcum Creek as well. Also



Front yard parking (Photos by George W.)



Rumbling of Thunder: A Whole New Sound in the Off-road World

*By Del & Stacie Albright,
BlueRibbon Coalition*

The over-paid, seldom-right weather man spoke with such animation and excitement that you couldn't help but get taken in by his rambling analysis of the on-coming weather pattern (from outer space). But he had me from hello when he mentioned the "rumbling of thunder" and how we would be hearing it for some time to come. I realized at that moment he had just described the new sound I've been hearing in the off-road skies – thunder!

Thunder is the sound made by lightning, ranging from a sharp loud crack, to a long, low rumble. I don't think there is any one reason for this "storm," but rather a culmination of people getting fed up with unnecessary closures and restrictions. Can you see the lightning and hear the thunder?

Lightning causes changes in pressure and temperature of the air which results in a sonic shock wave we like to call the clap or peal of thunder. I now can say I hear the rumbling of thunder in our off-road, OHV politics, and it's

(Photo by George Westlund)



coming from us! Lightning is striking and about to strike more!

"Rumbling" is an interesting word, oft times used to describe the noise your stomach makes when you're hungry or after a good Mexican food dinner. But for me, this weather man unraveled a riddle that's been bugging me. When he said the rumbling of thunder, he described the new surge in land use and access involvement by recreationists across the country – and we're bringing the lightning with us!

Our "noise" level, while diminishing in our machines, is logarithmically increasing in our voices and outcries. We've had enough of special-interest, anti-access folks trying to shut us out of our lands and waterways. We're "mad as hell" at unnecessary closures and restrictions to our sports. We're done sitting by and letting someone else preserve our recreation. More of us are in the game than ever before. The rumble grows by the day.

This new rumbling of thunder includes folks flying the American flag more; it includes recreationists with tea bags; it includes parents teaching kids the "right" way to do things in America and not necessarily some misshapen public schools concept of "pc." And it includes tons of new members joining organizations, clubs and groups fighting for our freedoms and access. The rumble grows.

I say, let our RUM-

BLE be heard loud and clear, from every corner of America to every office building in Washington, D.C. Let our message be clear – coming with the rumble is the LIGHTNING. With pens, shovels, our voices and our votes, we are going to unleash the beast of sound – the rumble of our power as responsible recreationists who are tired of being ignored and put down.

Some national websites to start with include:

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

The Access Army:
<http://www.accessarmy.com>

Americans for Responsible Recreational Access:
<http://www.arra-access.org>

Off Road Business Association:
<http://www.orba.biz>

Save My Trails:
<http://www.savemytrails.com>

National OHV Conservation Council:
<http://www.nohvcc.org>

MuirNet: <http://www.muirnet.net>

Tread Lightly! :
<http://www.treadlightly.org>

Get in the game. Join, renew or extend your memberships in off-road/OHV friendly organizations. Donate to good off-road/OHV causes. And let your voice join in with the choir – the rumble of thunder.

NOTE: This article is used with permission from Del Albright's article archive on his web site at http://www.delalbright.com/article_list.htm

George's Armor Update

By George W, Editor

Well I bit the bullet, took the TJ down to Xtreme Unlimited and added some things I think will be improvement over what I had going over the Rubicon trail on the Jeoper's Jamboree.

Dennis made it easy with a couple of used items he had ling around the shop, a AEV (formerly Nth degree) rear differential slider for that Dana 44 and a steel "Rockcruiser" Dana 44 differential cover for the front.

In addition, we added a brand new AEV front differential slider to the front diff and moved the Warn Dana 44 Differential Cover to the rear diff where it would provide some protection while backing.

While we were at it, I also had him service the differentials bringing them back on the factory recommended schedule I had read in the manual.

So far the Jeep hasn't been out where the new hardware could be tested. In the looks department, all of the added parts look great, in

black the sliders don't look as conspicuous as I thought they would and the new used front cover looks great! Dennis painted all of the used parts before installation so they would match the existing armor which is all black as well as the U-steer system I added last Fall.

The Warn Diff Skid Plate looks a little funky facing backwards, but it did its job bashing rocks on two trips to the Rubicon, so it deserves a break.

What's my favorite mod so far? The practical side of me loves the Magnaflow muffler, my gas miles has increased from a flat 12 in two wheel drive to 14.5 on the Freeway and up to 17 puttering on the back roads.

The wow part of me loves all of the cold black steel!

So what will be next? Only the performance of the added parts, my checking account and next years State budget will tell for sure. Hey, I'm still amazed that I haven't broken anything major yet!

Meeting Minutes

Kirk M, Club Secretary

January 6, 2010

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

7:15 PM: 2010 Elections and Nominations:

President: Randy P
 Vice President: Mark B
 Secretary: Kirk M
 Treasurer: Margret P
 Weighs & Means: VACANT
 Membership Director: George W
 Newsletter Editor: George W
 Events Director: VACANT
 Land use Liaison: John J
 Cal 4-wheel liaison: Suzy J
 Social Committee: VACANT
 Safety Committee: VACANT
 Trail Bosses Committee: VACANT
 Phone Committee: VACANT
 Sales Committee: VACANT

7:50 PM: Dan gave a presentation on 3 camping chairs with demonstrated use to the club. Also talked about Rocky Gap 4x4 Trail.

8:00 PM: Randy gave stories of his Death Valley trip over Christmas vacation. Discussion held by attendees.

8:15 PM: Reminder given on the upcoming Tread Lightly Class.

8:20 PM: Discussed Picnic Table for the BLM at Garcia Ridge Trail.

8:25 PM: Stories of the Pozo Hang Over Ride held by the CCMA on New Year's Day at Navajo Flats and Leaping Lizards Enduro of past years.

8:30 PM: Safety reminder from Dave. Watch for Black Ice. Told stories of his Oklahoma City trip via New Mexico.

8:30 PM: Membership Reported at 30 paid members at this time.

8:35 PM: 50/50 Raffle was \$74.00 total. \$37.00 to the Club and \$37.00 to the winner.

8:35 PM: Meeting adjourned.





Mary Van Buren, trainer

(Continued from page 1)

by the Extreme environmentalists. Their position on outdoor recreation is that its legal and everything should be done to promote a responsible recreation ethic to provide less ammunition to close outdoor venues. As the two rangers said, its more expensive to close trails than to keep them open. The hard part in keeping them open is

keeping people on them, as opposed to creating their own "Social trails", and using the designated trails in a responsible way. That barely touches the tip of the iceberg when it come to Tread

Lightly! What they taught is similar to what we have been promoting as a club since I joined almost three years ago. One of the things that Tread Lightly has is various levels of memberships including two levels for clubs. Member clubs have a \$100 a year membership dues with several benefits; Official Partner Clubs have a \$250 a year membership dues

with several additional benefits that include voting rights. We, as a club, may want to consider one of these levels of memberships since what Tread Lightly! stands for is very similar to what we stand for as a club. Feel free to ask any of those who attended about it!



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

Cell 226-TAPS

Marlene Lincoln



<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/>

1207 13th Street
Paso Robles, CA 93446

(805) 226-8277
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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/>

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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

Time's Running Out for Membership Renewal!

Please complete this coupon and mail it with your check for \$20.

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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.

February 3rd — General Club Meeting at Players in Atascadero at 7:00 PM.

February 6th -7th — Hollister Hills S.R.V.A. Overnight camping. Contact Eric Faley 464-1151 or faley@sbcglobal.net

March 3rd — General Club Meeting at Players in Atascadero at 7:00 PM.

March 6th or 7th — run after meeting. T.B.B. at the general meeting. Potentially a good time for trail maintenance.

March 26th-28th — Calico camp-out with the Sons of Thunder 4x4 club. Contact Eric Faley 464-1151 or faley@sbcglobal.net.

April 7th — General Club Meeting at Players in Atascadero at 7:00 PM.

April 10th -11th — After meeting run. T.B.A. at the meeting. Another good time for trail maintenance.

See cal4wheel.com for cal4wheel events and runs. There is some listed snow runs and other interesting runs listed on there site.

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 take office.

Also a big Thank you to Eric for coordinating last years events!