



# The SLO 4-Wheeler



Volume 17, Issue 3

May / June 2011

## Inside this issue:

Anza Borrego State Park	1
2011 SLO4-Wheelers Officers	1
Trip Report — Go Topless Run	2
50 Years of Off-Roading	5
Meeting Minutes	6
Sponsors	10 & 11
Associated Organizations	10
Upcoming Events/ Runs	12

## Anza Borrego State Park

*Written by Dan G.*

**It's a big place at over 600,000 square miles.** One unique characteristic is that dry camping is allowed anywhere you can legally drive. And places to drive your 4x4 abound – Blair Valley, Split Canyon and Sand Canyon, Canyon Sin Nombre and Diablo Drop Off, Coyote Canyon, Borrego Badlands, The Calcite Mine, The Squeeze, Agua Caliente Hot Springs Park, Oriflame and Rodriguez Canyons, and the Superstition Mountains (just to name a few). Some time spent hiking will only increase your opportunities for exploration.

The park is located east of San Diego and South of Palm Springs. Google Borrego Springs to get started. The small town has gasoline, restaurants, a tire store, supermarkets, a hospital, and lodging –

although I would recommend dry camping in order to experience more of what the desert has to offer, but **that's my choice.** Your first stop should take you **to the excellent visitor's center and museum** to both get information and see first hand the history of the area you are going to explore. The park has **enough to see that you're sure to return rarely seeing the same thing twice** (except for Coyote Canyon; more on that later). If you **haven't already, pick up "Southern California Backroads & 4-Wheel Drive Trails" by Wells.** Additional information can be found in **"The Anza Borrego Desert Region" by Lindsey** and **"Backcountry Adventures Southern California" by Massey and Wilson.** Lindsey leans more towards places to hike. Massey and Wilson have excellent driving maps and

historical narrative. And what you can view from **Google Earth won't be very impressive.** You'll have to go and see for yourself. Desert travel comes with its own set of challenges. It can be hot at noon and cold at sunset. Choosing the right time of year to visit will only enhance your fun factor. Deep sand, steep dropoffs, misdirection (but never lost), flash floods, cactus thorns, getting stuck, having adequate supplies, etc. are possible issues to anticipate. The same factors that contribute to any successful trip also apply here. Plan accordingly **and you'll return home with more than just pictures.** So with a well stocked rig, plenty of fuel, and an appetite for seeing **new things; let's get going.**

*(Continued on page 4)*

## 2011 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

### Officers:

President: ..... Eric F.  
 Vice President: ..... Ross H.  
 Secretary: ..... Kirk R.  
 Treasurer: ..... Margaret P.  
 Board of Directors (includes officers):  
 Ways and Means: ..... Ken B.  
 Membership Director: ..... George W.  
 Events Director: ..... Matt J.  
 Land Use Liaison: ..... John J.  
 CA4WDC Liaison: ..... Suzy J.  
 Social Chairperson: ..... Florence S.  
 Newsletter Editor: ..... George W.

### Committees:

Safety Chairperson: ..... Brian W.  
 Promotional Chairperson: ..... Kirk R.  
 Virtual Club Scrapbook: ..... Mark B.  
 Archived Scrapbook: ..... Randy P.  
 Virtual Committee: ..... Mark B.  
 Adopted Trails and Campgrounds:  
 Garcia Ridge Trail: ..... Dave F.  
 Pine Mountain Trail: ..... Mark B.  
 La Panza & Navaho Camp Grounds:  
 ..... Kirk R.  
 Carrizo Plains Land Use ..... Randy P.

Newsletter submittals contact George W. by the weekend after the meeting

# Trip Report: Go Topless Run

by Eric F. President

*NOTE: All photos are his photos.*

Julia S. attended our May meeting with a flyer about the 4th annual Jeep go topless run. The run was scheduled to be held on Las Chiches. Meeting place was Turkey Flats, May 14th at 10.00 AM.

The question was asked do you have to have a topless rig. No, anyone can join. Members of the SLO 4-Wheelers attended. Members of the Santa Margarita 4wheelers attended. Julia and Jose S. who organized the local 4th annual Go topless run.

**The participant's met up at Turkey Flats for the run.** We all aired down our rigs and prepared for the run. Julia introduced herself and thanked everyone for coming to the run. Julia then handed the group over to me Eric as I volunteered to **lead the run if there wasn't a trail boss.**



I had a short drivers meeting. The group lined up and slowly headed up to Las Chiches trail. The group stopped at the trail head to put there rings in 4wheel drive and

locked their hubs if equipped. The group made there way up the first long hill.

I stopped at the top took a quick picture and also to make sure everyone was able to make the hills. **No sweat; No problem. Everyone's rig had larger than stock tires and a lift. Some were locked, some weren't.**

The group made there way to the Las Chiches rocks where we all took a break and took pictures. Some had something to drink and eat. After about a 20 to 30 min break the group made its way down the rest of the Las Chiches trail.

The group made it to the trail end Pozo Summit Rd. We had a short meeting as where to go next. The group split up. Some had other obligations and headed to there other destinations. The Rest of us went to the bottom of the stair steps and Hiked the steps. We all





watched and Guy and a lady bring there motorcycles down the steps. They walked them. The remaining group spent about 30 minutes at the steps.

From there we headed down the trail onto Pozo Summit rd. There we said our goodbyes. The weather was windy cold at times and cloudy. All in all still a great day to go wheeling. Eric F..

P.S.: There were so many names that I did not include them in this trail report sorry .



*(Continued from page 1)*

Coyote Canyon is a must see for any respectable four wheeler in the park. The trail head can be found near Borrego Springs. The trail itself has three water crossings and some real four wheeling into an area that was once occupied by five different Indian tribes because of the year round water and abundant game. A short hike from the camping area takes you to **waterfalls and a "secret room" hidden behind another waterfall.** A second hike brings you to more waterfalls and grottos. And a third hike traverses through the heart of the prime habitat the previous inhabitants called home. The trail continues to the First Child Monument that marks the birth of the first white child in California (although records show that San Luis Obispo Mission holds this distinction). The trail was once open all the way to the town of Anza but has since had a three mile middle section closed to vehicular traffic. **It's a seventy mile drive from Borrego Springs to Anza and then to the monument.** The trail used to be rated a Class 8 (out of 10) but was repaired to fight a fire about five years ago. With time it should deteriorate and once again make **for an interesting drive.** **There's** also a year round spring with trees, frogs, and an extensive riparian habitat. And all of this in the middle of the barren, lifeless desert. I met a vacationing German couple that rented a 4x4 vehicle and parked in a wooded cove at the end of the trail just to take it all in for five days. They were truly a pair of happy campers. I make it a point to drive Coyote Canyon **during every visit.** **You'll see why** after you give it a try.

Split Mountain is another must see place. The present day desert used to be at the bottom of a shallow ocean. Remnants of that ocean can be found in Split Mountain in the form of fossilized bi-valve shells. Travelling up canyon, the **trail's namesake folds in towards** you as the walls get closer and the cliffs get taller. Avoid the big chunks of fallen mountain that have collapsed on the sides. To the left is the exit trail from the bottom of Diablo Drop-off. Take a look. Further on the trail marker for Sand Canyon appears. Turn left here. The canyon walls get really close to the point that a spotter would be a good idea to avoid tilting your rig into the wall. Just past this is a Class 8 section of trail. Back onto the main trail Split Mountain continues to the bottom of the hill after The Squeeze.

The calcite mine area is definitely worth seeing. As you drop down into the wash, turn left for about a mile and then walk up the wash. **There's a toppled sandstone pillar** to walk under and then a tight, high walled maze to walk through. At the end of the maze the trail is choked by very large rock debris. You can pick your way through and then to the dry waterfall, or return to your rig. Go back and turn left to see the calcite mine on the Class 6 trail. The calcite crystals that were discovered here were used for WWII fighter plane sights because of their optical clarity. Returning back hang a left. At the bottom drive up wash to a challenging ledge obstacle and a second high walled maze. Turn around and proceed down wash towards the Salton Sea and make an acute left to the sheep tanks. These three tanks are natural de-

pressions in the rocks that hold 20,000 gallons of rainwater and provide the local fauna with an important source of drinking water. Bees also like the water. I scrambled up the rock face to look at the second and third tanks. When I returned to the first tank, I noticed some fresh mountain lion tracks. Were the tracks there **before? I don't think so, but I'm not 100% sure.** The tracks continued next to my footprints and past my Land Cruiser. Plans for lunch in this nicely shaded spot were immediately changed. Was Mr. Mountain Lion eyeing me from a nearby ledge planning to make me his **next meal? I wasn't going to wait and see.** It can be unnerving **knowing that I'm no longer at the top of the food chain.**

Instead of printing my pictures, **check out what's available on the mighty Internet,** including video clips. A lot of the park can be traversed by SUV with some choice areas reserved for a more aggressive rig piloted by an experienced driver. Satellite views of the park **don't amount to much.** **Seeing the place with your own eyes is highly recommended.** Where else can you experience a dry, tropical breeze as the evening sky blazes with most of the visible spectrum? Or being awakened by a desert fox making his nightly rounds (a nudge to my **foot to see if I was easy pickin's**). Other driving adventures are close by at Joshua Tree National Monument and Bronco Peak. **You're almost there.** Make it happen.

## 50 Years of Off-Roading Reflecting on lessons learned and our outdoor future

*By Del Albright, BlueRibbon Ambassador*

The bikini clad Rock Zombie girls were all over my Jeep giving it the wash job of its life as I sat perched on my roof rack marveling at 50 years of off-roading. They were **raising money for landuse, so I'm** always in for a good cause. What really hurt, though was realizing the combined age of any two of the girls did not equal my number of years of trails and dirt roads!

**I guess you could say I've seen it all. I've lived in 16 states and been shot at in 3 countries. I've logged 140,000 miles on my Jeep over the last 13 years of concentrated landuse wheeling; and it ain't over yet!**

With the sun shining and the suds **a'flying, I reflected on what I** learned in those many years of backcountry adventures. From **that, I'd like to offer you some tips** that may help you prevent a stumble or misstep in your off-roading, and help us keep our outdoor sports healthy and alive.

Those five decades have included everything from dune buggies to dirt bikes to four-by-fours. **I've** used motors to do things like hunting, fishing, backpacking, exploring, geocaching, rock hounding, four-wheeling, and just plain relaxing. From those adventures over time, I have condensed those lessons **into the 5 "M's."**

Manners: My mamma taught me to be nice; do unto others, etc. And **I must say it's about the best lesson** I can impart to you. Whether **you're dealing with bureaucrats,** family, or other club members, there is nothing more powerful than being courteous and nice.

Learn to stow the ego and control the strong urges of personalities. Give others credit when you can; share the trophy; and adopt outdoor ethics that put you on the high ground of being nice. Be inclusive of your fellow recreationist when you can. Share the trails.

**Maintenance: Don't be the "drip." Don't be the break. Remember that** our image comes from not only your behavior, but also your rig. Keep your gear in top shape. Be an example for others to follow.

Mission: Figure out your purpose in life and in outdoor sports, and set about making it happen. Be part of the solution even when you might be part of the problem. Make time to include others and **especially kids. If you're a parent,** be there for your kids in the great outdoors. Get them off the Nintendo and Xbox and into the wilds. My dad took me out when I was 12 in our **"Lobster" dune buggy (read more about the "Wheels of Time" here** <http://www.delalbright.com/articles/wheels.htm>). I still treasure those days. His mission was to make sure his family respected and enjoyed the great outdoors – even without much money.

**Management: Whether you're in a** leadership role, an event role, or a club position, learn to respect the time of other volunteers. Never waste their time; never take them for granted. Get some training **if you need it? Heck, if you're just** out leading some other folks on a trail ride, learn to make it productive and worthwhile. If you have to run meetings, learn to run good ones that get stuff done. Time is precious and we should not waste it. The best advice I can offer here **is to learn to set "expectations" on**

whatever you are doing. If it makes you smile, write an expectation to achieve it. If it makes you frown, write an expectation to avoid it.

Membership: To affect change we must be part of the organized groups. Join those groups that make sense to what you believe in. If you want to keep your guns, join the NRA or other pro-gun groups. If you want to stay on the trails, join the BlueRibbon Coalition, your local club, and your regional and **state associations. It's a mistake** to think that someone else will do **it for you (and your children). It's** up to us; now.

**Well, there you have it; the 5 "M's" of 50 years of being "out there."** Sure, a guy could write a book **about these simple "M's," but I** think you get the message, albeit condensed. While we all might like to be the independent **"cowboy" riding off into the sunset, "we" are really a collective commu-** nity. We must be a team as well – working together to keep our trails open and our outdoor sports alive **and well. I'll bet you a cold one** around the campfire that if you **apply my M's, you'll find more re-** wards in your outdoor pursuits, less hassles in your clubs and groups, and more fun on the trail. What have you got to lose?

For more on leadership training, visit: <http://www.rltc.biz>.

For more on BlueRibbon Coalition, visit: <http://www.sharetrails.org>.

For more on Del Albright, visit: <http://www.delalbright.com>



# Club Meeting Minutes:

*Meeting Minutes by Kirk R., Club Secretary*

April 6, 2011

7:00pm Eric, President, called meeting to order and introductions followed.

7:10pm Officer Reports:

President – Eric happily reviewed vehicle diversity in club and outings. Club has a good mix of people, vehicles, and runs.

Vice President – Nothing to report.

Secretary – Nothing to report. Will work on T-Shirts.

Treasurer – Noted Balance

Ways and Means – Needs ideas for a fundraiser. Give input to Ken. Need to discuss who the Club will give the funds to once they are raised. Discussion Followed.

Membership – 49 paid members to date. Renew your membership if you have not. Continue to recruit new members.

Newsletter – George is looking for articles for the newsletter. Please submit your article to him. He can also interview you about your rig. Submit photos as well. Interested in any and all articles. Please do not hesitate to submit any items.

7:40pm Events – Hollister Hills is busy for the month of April. Molina Ghost Run will be held in early May. April 9th San Antonio Days. Wildflower Run set for end of April see Randy for details.

Land Use – John, Nothing to Report. Ingrid gave report on Forestry Department, Pozo Trails Meeting on 3/23/11 in Santa Maria. Discussion held.

Cal 4 Wheel – Suzy absent. Renewal coupon will be in the newsletter. Renew in June.

Social Committee – Absent.

8:06pm Trail Boss – Dan gave report on his trip to Death Valley Escape Trail. Had a great time and recommended it to everyone. Recommended two good trail books: Mitchell Guide, and Backcountry Guide Southern California Edition. Author is Wells.

Open Discussion for Club BBQ and Camp out. Details to follow. Randy offered July run to Sierras to Dinky Creek Campground.

8:30pm Meeting Adjourned. 50/50 raffle followed. Winner, Matt .



*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

**POLY PERFORMANCE**  
YOUR OFF-ROAD SOURCE  
WE GOT WHAT YOU NEED...  
SUSPENSION JOINTS  
STEERING PARTS  
DRIVETRAIN PARTS  
BRAKING  
COIL SPRINGS  
GPS & RACE RADIOS  
SEATS & HARNESSES  
SAFETY GEAR  
CD2 & MT. KITS  
ORDER ONLINE OR CALL 805.783.2060  
[www.polyperformance.com](http://www.polyperformance.com)

**MILES MOTORS**  
Quality Used Cars  
Auto Repair  
Eric Dewees  
Service & Parts Manager  
edewees@tedmilesmotors.com  
7380 El Camino Real • Atascadero, California 93422  
805-466-2411 • Fax 805-466-2491 • 800-549-JEEP  
[www.tedmilesmotors.com](http://www.tedmilesmotors.com)

## 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 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Coupon and mail it to:

SLO 4 Wheelers  
PO Box 2271  
Atascadero, CA 93423-2271

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

This Space for rent!  
Contact the newsletter editor  
for more information.



*Advance Adapters Inc.*  
4320 Aerotech  
Center Way  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
Phone:805-238-7000  
(Toll Free:800-350-2223)

<http://www.advanceadapters.com>

# SLO 4 WHEELERS

PO Box 2271  
Atascadero, CA 93423-2271



**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.

June 4th or 5th — After meeting Day Run: To Be Determined at the June meeting.

July 6th — SLO 4-Wheelers General Club Meeting- Players Pizza, Atascadero Wednesday 7pm

July 9th or 10th — After meeting Day Run: To Be Determined at the meeting

August 3rd — SLO 4-Wheelers General Club Meeting Wednesday 7pm

August 6th or 7th — After meeting Day Run: To Be Determined at the meeting

August 11-14 — Sierra Trek: Sierra Trek is the granddaddy of California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs events. It is held in northern California

near Truckee. The short wheelbase event goes over the famous Fordyce Trail, which is sure to test even the best drivers and their rigs. There are also moderate runs and an SUV historical tour. more info CAW4DC Sierra Trek 2011 Registration no online, see Sierra Trek page for registration Contact/trailboss: OPEN

September 2-4 — High Sierra Poker Run: Annual CA4WDC event . The Central District is pleased to sponsor this CA4WDC fund raiser and we hope that more wheelers will make this part of their Labor Day plans. We are experiencing growth in the number of participants and volunteers. Since the Swamp Lake Run is limited to fifty rigs, be sure to sign up early if you are interested in this run. We will have on-site registration, but our hosts, the High Sierra Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest, is very committed to protecting these trails for all to enjoy in the future. Oversized vehicles are not recommended on Swamp Lake Trail.

Camping equipment and food required for overnight run. SUV run to Bald Mountain available on Saturday or Sunday. Traction aiding differentials in either front or rear will be required for Swamp Lake Trail. more info CAW4DC High Sierra Poker Run 2011 Registration no online, see High Sierra Poker Run page for registration Contact/trailboss: OPEN

September 7th — SLO 4-Wheelers General Club Meeting Wednesday 7pm

September 10th or 11th — After meeting Day Run: To Be Determined at the meeting

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

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 SLO-4-Wheelers Events Director. Matt J.