



# The SLO 4-Wheeler



Volume 20, Issue 3

May / June 2014

## March 2014 Pine Mountain Run

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*Part 1* Written by Mark B., the seasoned perspective (unlabeled photos provided by Mark)

SLO 4-Wheelers decided at the March meeting to run Pine Mtn., Sun March 16 at 10:00. What can I say. All in all a good turn out. Though originally looked like we



might have 6-8 attendees, at one point we had 14 rigs, but only 5 made it to (almost) the end of the trail. Other than **'dropping like flies; was getting the run off the ground.**

**We didn't have a designated trail Boss**, when emails & suggestions started moving the meeting times to the point folks weren't sure when we were meeting I stepped in—hence the **'Carved in Stone'**, though actually a small pebble it did get us back on track.



Originally looked like 6 rigs showing at Santa Margarita, Kevin & Ken showed up right after this pic bringing the total of rigs meeting at Santa Margarita to 11. . Not too bad for our 1st club run of 2014.

Stopped at the the Pozo ranger station where we picked up 3 more who had camper night before at Hi- Mt d/g. Fuzzy

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## 2014 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

Officers:

President:..... Mark B.  
 Vice President: .....Randy P.  
 Secretary:.....Kirk R.  
 Treasurer:.....Devin L.  
 Board of Directors (includes officers):  
 Ways and Means: .....  
 Membership Director: .....George W.  
 Events Director: .....Eric F.  
 Land Use Liaison: .....  
 CA4WDC Liaison: .....Suzy J.  
 Social Chairperson: .....Ingrid R.  
 Newsletter Editor:.....George W.

Committees:

Safety Chairperson: .....Nathan L.  
 Promotional Chairperson:..... Dan H.  
 Virtual Club Scrapbook: ..... Mark B.  
 Archived Scrapbook..... Randy P.  
 Virtual Committee: .....Mark B.

Adopted Trails and Campgrounds:

**Garcia Ridge Trail:**.....Deque G.  
**Pine Mountain Trail.** ..... John J.  
**La Panza CampGround:** .....Kirk R./Dave F.

Newsletter submittals by two weeks before the next issue to George



picture of 14 rigs ready to roll. We drove a few miles to end of pavement where some aired down a bit.

Briefly stopped at La Panza campground before hitting the trail. 2 of the of the 'campers' decided to go home from here. As Im writing this

from memory I've either forgotten or didn't get some of the names of members. With 12 rigs left to head up the trail.

**Winding up the trail... Dans truck was** overheating a bit but otherwise a cruise to the top.



**Stopped at the top at the 'parking lot' to have lunch.** Enjoyed the vistas, lawn chairs and B/S. I was really impressed how well the trees are doing after the fire that devastated the forest up here.

After an extended lunch break we finally got motivated and headed back up the trail. I always find it funny once one the trail-no real agenda any reason to stop, getting going again always seems to be with a bit of reluctance. Folks just seem to enjoy being out there, end goal just an excuse.

Here Mike climbs the 1st small obstacle on the trail, a section that has a pretty good v wash in it, just have straddle. Though a minor challenge, not paying attention or misjudging ends up with this...

**And you're not going anywhere, or at least until Deque with seemingly too much enthusiasm calls up the strap.** Simple tug to get the tires touching back on the dirt and James drove right up. I might have forgone mentioning this except that he said last time he was up here, he did the same thing. About this time Kevin Bs pickup quit , **simple wouldn't stay running.**

Though the dogs were enjoying the shade, it was concluded that Kevin Bs truck needed to be towed down the trail. to trailer it home. Kevin C, &



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**(Unfortunately I didn't get name)** decided to help Kevin B down. Paul also decided to go down, and Casey who's jeep was acting up.

Not sure I lost count but were down to 6, the remaining SLO 4-Wheelers continue on. ...

Deque wheels his Xterra. A bit further up the trail is a small rock ledge section. **Dan's truck just couldn't get up** the ledge due to being hot, stumbling and dying. He decided to turn back.

Then there were 5. We managed to reach the overlook before the last section of trail that leads to the Stair Steps. As its now getting late we decided to just hang a while at the picnic table, relax and then turn around & head back down.

Phil brings up the rear as we roll down the V section on our way back to the trail head.

**Pine Mountain survivors: J...** Really enjoy Pine, Just an enjoyable ride, but today it took its toll.

Mark.

*Part 2 by Deque G., a new perspective*  
Pine Mountain was the chosen trail selected as the task to complete by the SLO 4-WHEELERS club. The club decided that a 10am meet up at Santa Margarita would kick of the morning in the right direction.

Ten rigs showed up at 10am and then we all mounted up and headed over to

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Pozo Saloon. On the way there the morning air was crisp and cool, local turkeys flaunted their plumes, and the **deer's played tag in an open meadow.** Once we all arrived at the Saloon, we picked up three more rigs and headed out to LaPanza camp ground to check out the conditions.

The conditions were good and we dropped two rigs off and the remaining eleven rigs headed to the trail. The trail started out pretty easy for my stock Xterra.

We got to one point of the trail where there is a deep rut in the center so I took the right side as much as I can and was close to tipping over but we made it past. The next rig (Jeep) was **not so easy. They didn't get over** enough to the left and high centered to where he had to get pulled out (by a Toyota). Once he was pulled out we noticed that the rest of the group was held up due to another rig stalling. It was already around 1pm and they **couldn't get the rig started so it was decided to tow it out. That's when six** other rigs decided that it was the perfect time to turn around and call it a day.

So the remaining five rigs kept on trucking. Arrived at a nice rocky point and the big Chevy had to bow down due to fuel pressure I think.

Once the five other rigs made it past the rocky slope we arrived at the top to an outstanding view and we all decided to eat lunch. Once lunch was devoured, we all headed back down the trail and ensured that nobody was left behind.

That was a great trail for a stock Xterra AKA The Grocery Getter!!!

*(Top photo provided by Mark B., Photo to right and on opposite page provided by Phil B.)*





# Geocaching: Something new to try

By Terry J.

Terry Johnson

If you'd like to add some variety and adventure to your next 4x4 run, consider Geocaching along the trail. Geocaches are placed along trails to encourage others to visit the area, and often direct the searcher to something of interest that they might not have otherwise known about.

For those unfamiliar with Geocaching, it's an activity that uses a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches," anywhere in the world. A smartphone can also be used as a search tool, and there are Geocaching apps available for both iOS and Android devices.

A typical Geocache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook where the geocacher enters the date

they found it and signs it with their established code name. After signing the log, the cache is placed back exactly where the person found it. Larger containers such as plastic storage containers (Tupperware or similar) or ammo boxes can also contain items for trading, usually toys or trinkets of little financial value.

Geocaching.com has the largest listing of Geocaches and a Basic membership is free. A Premium membership is available for a fee and it provides a number of upgraded benefits. This site has a very comprehensive "Geocaching 101" page that should answer any questions you might have. There are literally hundreds of caches (and thousands in larger cities) in any urban area (there are over 500 within a 13-mile radius of downtown Atascadero) and many can be found along 4x4 trails.

The next time you head out on a run (or any other time) don't forget to load the nearby Geocaches into your GPS (cell reception can be spotty) and get some "finds" along the trail. You can also put together your own container ahead of time and take it with you. If you find a good place to hide it during your travels you can create your own Geocache for others to find.

Handheld GPS devices are recommended for Geocaching, and many are made specifically for the task. They range in price from \$100 to \$600, depending on the features desired. There are also many vehicle mounting options for windshields, rollbars and handlebars.

Recommended sources:

GPS Reviews:

<http://www.geocaching.com/reviews/gps>

Mounts: <http://www.rammount.com/>



# Club Meeting Minutes:

*Meeting Minutes by Kirk R., Club Secretary*  
 March 5, 2014

7:05pm – Mark B. President called meeting to order and introductions followed.

**Club Officer Reports:**

**President – Mark B.** – Asked for volunteers for Adopt-a-trail. A short discussion followed. Volunteers still needed.

**Vice President- Randy P.** - Absent

**Secretary – Kirk R.** – No Report

**Treasurer – Devin L.** – Balance \$x0 Contribution made by Club to Blue Ribbon Coalition and CORVA.

**Ways and Means – Open**

**Membership – George .** – 41 paid members

**Newsletter – George W.** – Articles and contributions needed by Club members.

**Safety – Nathan L.** – Contact Dave F. for Safety Kit. Discussion followed to gather banners and safety kit into one tote and location.

**Events & Activities – Eric F.** Emails to follow. Short discussion on upcoming events.

**Land Use – Open**

**Promotions – Dan H.** – T-Shirts and Stickers are in and available see Dan to purchase.

**Cal 4 Wheel – Suzy J.** – Winner of the Jeep giveaway went to resident of Idaho, Thanks for all the donations. Green Sticker money is coming available to clubs and organizations, funds need to be applied for. Discussed Nipomo Mesa Community which has filed a law suit against the State Parks at Oceano Dunes OHV, Everyone needs to get involved in the local issues concerning off roading and Statewide.

**Social Committee/Christmas Party – Ingrid.R** - Absent

**Adopted Trails – Volunteers** stepped forward as follows: Pine Mountain-John J. La Panza and Najavo Flats –Dave F. and Dan H, Carrizo Plains-Open, Garica Ridge-Deque G.

**Meeting Location - Discussion** held. Several locations were discussed and Round Table

Pizza in Atascadero was chosen for the April meeting location. Other locations discussed were Central Coast Pizza, old Players location, Chinese Buffet, La Mexicana, and Coco's. **Club Secretary will secure reservations at Round Table for meeting room.**

Casey McRoberts gave report on several trail re-routes in Pozo, CCMA is working in conjunction with the forest service to manage trail difficulty and private property owner issues. Discussion followed.

John Jamrog presented the Thank You letter from the San Miguel Community Services for participation in the Christmas Parade. San Miguel is having their Sagebrush Days Parade April 26th participation is welcome.

**After the Meeting Run – Scheduled** for March 16th to Pine Mountain. 6 rigs interested.

8:05 Meeting Adjourned. 50/50 raffle held. \$30.00 total. Winner- Phil \$15.00.



*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



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# 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.

May 7th — General Club Meeting at 7 PM. Location Round Table Pizza.

May 10th or 11th — After meeting club run TBD.

June 4th — General Club Meeting at 7 PM. Location Round Table Pizza.

June 7th or 8th — After meeting club run TBD.

July 2nd — General Club Meeting at 7 PM. Location Round Table Pizza.

July 5th or 6th — After meeting club run TBD.

August 6th — General Club Meeting at 7 PM. Location Round Table Pizza.

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

August TBD — Annual club Coyote Lake run.

September 3 — General Club Meeting at 7 PM. Location Round Table Pizza.

September 6th or 7th — After meeting club run TBD.

October 1st — General Club Meeting at 7 PM. Location Round Table Pizza.

October 4th or 5th — After meeting club run TBD.

November 5th — General Club Meeting at 7 PM. Location Round Table Pizza.

November 8th or 9th — After meeting club run TBD.

December 3rd — General Club Meeting and annual club Christmas Party at 7 PM (?). Location TBD.

December 6 or 7th — After meeting club run TBD.

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.