



The SLO 4-Wheeler



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Hot El Camino Nites Cruising

Written by George Westlund, Editor

On the third weekend of August, the club gathered at the Ted Miles Motors car lot for the annual Hot El Camino Cruise Nite. Several members and their friends showed up with their rigs to both watch the cruising as well as answer questions about their rigs and the club. A few mem-

bers also participated in the cruise night by getting cruise permits and driving their rigs on the cruise route. Some of us went to Taco Bell for a quick meal before the cruise, others found other sources of diner before the cruising started. From 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM we watched various vehicles go back and forth in front of us on El

Camino Real and took breaks from that to look at other rigs as well as the hot rods and motorcycles that were also at Ted's lot. It was a very relaxing evening with other club members.



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2015 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

Officers:

President:.....Tom Burt
 Vice President: Kirk McRoberts
 Secretary:..... Kevin Burk
 Treasurer: Devin Langley
 Board of Directors (includes officers):
 Ways and Means: Open
 Membership Director: George Westlund
 Events Director: Phil Brown
 Land Use Liaison: Kelly Dodds
 CA4WDCA Liaison:.....Suzy Johnson
 Social Chairperson: Open
 Newsletter Editor:..... George Westlund

Committees:

Safety Chairperson: Nathan Langley
 Promotional Chairperson:..... Dan Hartness
 Virtual Club Scrapbook: Mark Booker
 Archived Scrapbook..... Randy Peterson
 Virtual Committee:Mark Booker
 Adopted Trails and Campgrounds:
 Garcia Ridge Trail:..... Tyler Fielding
 Pine Mountain Trail:.....Phil Brown
 La Panza Camp Ground:Open

Newsletter submittals

by two weeks before the next issue to George at gwestlun@charter.net

Coyote Lake 2015

by Kenn Burt, President

All photos are by Kenn Burt.

August 6, 2015

Participants:

- Tom Burt, 1985 Toyota P/U
- Kenn Burt and family, 1985 Toyota 4 Runner
- Jon Miller and family, Jeep Rubicon
- Robert Gonzalez, Jeep Grand Cherokee
- Gus Gonzalez, Jeep Grand Cherokee
- **Robert's friend, Jeep**
- Eric and Laura Hawley, Jeep CJ
- Brent Marangi and his dad, Dick, Jeep Cherokee
- Zack, Marangi, Jeep Cherokee
- Kevin Payne and his family, Range Rover Discovery

Jon, Robert, Gus, Their friend, Erick and myself met at Golden Hill and 46 at about 10:00 A.M. Thursday and had a leisurely trip over to Clovis. We hit In-N-Out and headed to Prather where we fueled up and headed up the 4 lane. We arrived at the Snow Park about 2:00. We unloaded rigs and set up for the next A.M. Jon and I each set up e-z-ups over our trailers. Wyatt and myself were going to sleep on my trailer and Jon's son Deegan and his friend Dillon were going to sleep on their trailer. We sat back and enjoyed the day playing cards and solving the problems of the world.

At just about dark, Brent and his dad and Zack came in and although it was

dark we met and exchanged greetings. I lowered the legs on my cover and we all hit the sack. Kenn came in around 10:30 and got settled and we all went to bed. About 4:00A.M. I hear rain drops on the e-z-up and decided I better make sure I **hadn't left anything out** where it might get wet. I lifted the flap on my cover and everything was white. The rain was actually hail. We scrambled to make sure things were under cover and everyone in the group got under cover. Wyatt and I moved into the cab of my truck. We reclined the seats and tried to get some shuteye.

Friday was cool but other than a few clouds it was clear. We packed up and hit the trail. There were 9 rigs in our group. We stopped at Sand Flats to air down and while doing so watched a almost stock Kia Sorrento head in to Red Lake with a red jeep Cherokee We were incredulous. After following them for a while we got around them and headed on up the trail. Everyone did great and we stopped at Gate Keeper for a quick break. We had 3 jeeps ahead of us and I was alarmed to see them pull right onto the beach by the

lake. They were within 3 feet of the water. Some people just **don't get it.**

We all made it up gate keeper with some spotting but because of our size it did take a little while. Some of our group were open diffs but did really well. The roots seemed bigger but we all made it without too much difficulty.

As we approached the last rock garden be-



fore the lake I glanced to my right and saw Kevin and his son Cameron hiking out to meet us. They had come in on Wednesday and secured the first campground for our group. We set up camp and ended up being spread out but that was fine. Everyone seemed to have the spot they wanted.

Robert had apparently put a small hole in his transmission pan on the last rock garden. Luckily, Eric had just purchased a welder at a great price and he was dying to try it out. Robert drained the fluid and removed the pan and Erick came over and welded it right up. It was a great job and we were all envious of **Erick's welder.**

We had a great time at Coyote and all the kids fished like there was no tomorrow. Unfortunately the fish must of known as the only fish caught were small and uninformed as to our presence.

On Saturday we were sitting in camp watching a 4 runner head out. Suddenly, we realized he was not on the trail and was driving through the woods. He backed in within 3 feet of the lake and looked like he was prepared to fish from the back of his rig. After the 3 jeeps from





waiting at a rock garden for 3 or 4 rigs that were stuck and struggling to get through.

When we got to the snow park Zack had a front brake problem. He and Brent were going to take the front caliper off **Brent's rig since he had a trailer and put it on Zack's so he could drive home.** We headed down the 4 lane and stopped in Prather for pizza lunch. Brent and Zack came by the pizza place to say they got everything

the day before we just couldn't let this go. 4 of us went over to discuss the situation with him. He got a little upset and kept saying he treads lightly but he wanted his kids to fish. He saw the error of his ways and agreed to move but it dawned on me that perhaps people don't really understand the term tread lightly. I think we as a club should have a discussion about this.

Saturday Afternoon I took Wyatt and **Dillon (Deegon's friend) out in the canoe.** After several trips around the lake with no fish we headed in. We got to shore and Wyatt jumped out to pull the canoe up. As he did so, he caught his shirt on the hook on his pole. Dillon got out to assist in unhooking him. I was waiting in the canoe not paying much attention. The next thing I know I am sitting in the lake bed with water up to my chest and the **canoe on it's side full on water. Luckily I**

had the campfire in a can. I changed and we dried my shoes, pants, wallet and misc. over the flame. Kevin lent me a pair of shoes until mine dried. Thanks to all for their assistance in that.

Robert, Gus and their friend had to leave Saturday as they had to get home Sunday A.M.. Eric and Laura also had to leave as Laura had to work Sunday so our group got a little smaller for our departure Sunday morning. We packed up and headed out about 10:00 Sunday morning. It was pretty uneventful other than

rolling and were headed home. We got home before dark and I think a good time was had by all.



Big Bear Forest Fest 2015

By Tom Burt, President

Attendees included Jon Miller and family, Kenn Burt and family and Tom Burt. We headed out at 4:00 P.M. on Thursday as I met Kenn at Golden Hill and Hwy 46. As we got towards Lost Hills the military was out in force and at the traffic light in Lost hills they had stopped traffic to have the military vehicles turn left. This made the traffic through Lost Hills past Interstate 5 stop and go and the worst I have seen for this area.

As we made it over Tehachapi Pass and out on Hwy 58, we passed several very big military rigs hauling Bradley armored carriers and they had a tow truck with them in case a truck broke down. Very impressive. We arrived at the Best Western around 10:00 P.M tired and ready to hit the sack.

The next morning (Friday) we hooked up with the Miller family who were waiting for us on the side of the road. They had come up on Wednesday and camped. We headed out to the Forest Fest and got there with plenty of time to spare. The location of the Fest was the parking lot of the Snow Valley Ski Resort. We picked a place to set up camp and then checked in. Kenn and I were scheduled to run Dish Pan that afternoon and the Millers were going to run Gold Run. Kenn and I had a great time even though the trail only had about 40 yards of rock crawling. We made it through the knarly section with no problems but just as we were getting **to the bottom we heard the CB's go off** about a roll over and sure enough there was a Jeep with 4 wheels pointing up. No one was hurt but it took quite a while to get the jeep right side up. They had to winch him around and use a snatch block and 3 winches to get him back on all 4 wheels. They had to put fluids back into the Jeep including trans. Fluid, oil and coolant. They pulled a spark plug to make sure no oil was in the top of the cylinder and after cranking a bit it started. At first it smoked a lot but the smoke cleared. He got it smoothed out. The driver had called for a trailer to pick him up and we turned around and went back up. We got back about 7:30 so it made for a long day. We had dinner and hit the sack.

Saturday was great with clear blue skies-except in the direction of the fire. John had mechanical problems with both lock-

ers not working so he was not going to run but Kenn and I were scheduled to run the John Bull trail. When we got to the original location there was no one there. We got on the CB and they had moved the meeting point, so Papa Smurf (CB handle) came and led us to the new spot. This whole event was sponsored by Poison Spider and for the John Bull run they surprised us with sack lunches for everyone and some extras like a carry bag with goodies in it.

We started out on pavement and when we got to the trail head we all aired down and headed out. This trail had a lot more rock gardens and was much more fun.

We hadn't gone very far when one of the sponsors (sway-a-way) lost a bolt on his front suspension. A couple of rigs as well as Kenn and I stopped to help. Luckily Kenn had a bolt that would fit and the other driver was able to get back on the trail. Kenn and I were very disappointed that he never said a word of thanks or any acknowledgement that we saved his bacon but I guess that is just bad trail manners. I only mention this as I hope any and all S.L.O. 4 wheelers would exercise good trail manners. We wheeled for a couple of hours until a Jeep took a terrible line and was really hung up. He had to winch off the rock he was sitting on and not long after we stopped for lunch. It was a great trail and a good time was had by all.

After the run we decided to head into the town of Big Bear and get some ice cream after which we picked up some ice and headed back to camp.

Saturday night was the festivities with a tri-tip dinner and a big raffle. They had some great prizes like a drone, winch, wheels and lots of gift certificates. Jon won several certificates that he valued at over \$600.00. The kids got to run an R.C. course and they had a special raffle for the kids. Prizes were given to every kid in attendance- they really enjoyed that.

We packed up Sunday after breakfast and headed home. As we came down the **hill my trailer brakes weren't working** and we decided it was my adapter for the trailer plug. When we got into the town of Lucerne there was a Napa dealer so we stopped and I bought a whole new plug for the trailer. After about 2 hours **in the heat we couldn't get the brakes to work** so I just left it unplugged and motored home.

We had a great time and the trails were good. It is nice to run a different area than we are used to and that far south it is different. We are looking forward to next year but will have to see what is going on. This event was put on by the Inland Empire 4 Wheel Drive Club and they do a great job. It is a fund raiser to keep the trails open as well as donate to groups such as CORVA and Cal 4 Wheel. They estimated over 400 vehicles and 1,000 people attended but with all the **different trails it didn't seem as crowded** as it sounds. I think there were about 35 rigs for each trail and you signed up ahead of time so no trail got too crowded. If anyone wants to attend next year let us know so we can put a group together. Thanks-Tom Burt.



Gold Mountain

Written and Photos By Eric Faley

My work had sent me to so.ca. For a Chrysler training class. It was a Friday class that left a window open for a 4 wheeling run on Saturday. I made a few phone calls and sent out a few emails. The trail that was decided to run was gold mountain. Gold Mountain is rated a diamond trail by the forest department. It is rated a 7-9 by the jeep badge of honor.

There were 3 rigs present. Eric Faley 2000 Cherokee. Bob Peterson 2005 LK Rubicon. Brian and his daughter Madison Soerink 2012 JK Rubicon. I will note that all rigs had lockers, some rock protection, larger than stock tires and 2 had winches. We prepped our rigs at the trail head. When we pulled up a small group was heading into the trail, there were 2 fj cruisers airing down just in front of us.

As we finished airing down a group of 5 jeeps pulled up to trail prep. We decided its time to go. Looks like it maybe a busy day on the trail today. We headed up the trail. It is a winding zig zag switch backs with a few small rocks and dirt. There are views of big bear lake and the mountains across from the trail which are spectacular. After some time we came up to the first of 2 major rock climbs. We found the 2 FJ Cruisers the first one had made it up the obstacle the 2nd was hung up on his rear diff. Bob went up to the fj cruiser and gave the guy some pointers and the fj made it up the rocks. Both the fjs pulled off the trail to let our small group go ahead of them. Nice guys. Bob was the first to attempt the rock climb. Bob started to get hung up and backed down i went up to take a look, I suggested to go to the left it was a small v notch. Bob was unsure as he stated that it was close to the trees. There tire marks on the rocks indicating other had chosen this way too. Bob made it up with some flexing the suspension. Now it was my turn. I took the same line as bob i noticed climbing up that my roof line got awful close to the trees, but never touched. I could feel the suspension working. I radioed down to Brian to take the left line but be careful of the trees. Brian took the same line and made it up with the suspension flexing pretty good. We headed up the trail to the next major obstacle, just a short distance. Bob took a look at the trail and said he would take the left line again. This section was pret-



ty wide and had many options. Bob made it up and over, you could see the jeep working like it was suppose to. My turn, i decided to take the center because it looked flatter and easier. Bob recommended the left lined. I got half way up before i was stuck spinning the front tires. I backed down and took the left line. I could really feel the jeep of mine twist and climb up the rocks. I made it up with a little spotting from bob.

It was Brian's turns. With some spotting from bob, Brian and his daughter made it up, we continued up the trail there was only a few small obstacles along the way. We had climbed the 2 major obstacles. We made our way up the trail. We came to a split. The trail map shows trail goes to the left. Bob asked over the CB do you want to go left which is pretty easy or go to the rock slag field area. we chose the slag field. You drive over rocks that were from the mining days. You hear them crunch under tire as you zig zag up the trail. There were a few more rock obstacles to climb as we made our way through the trail. Nothing like the two gate keepers. We took a short break then the group of 5 jeeps that were behind us at the trail head finally caught up to us.

We heard a loud hiss noise. One of the jeeps behind us popped a tire and were changing a tire just after the rock obstacle. We loaded up came over the crest of the trail and made our way down to the bottom trail head. Going down was some more zig-zagging but pretty much dirt trail with a few rocks here and there. We made a right at the end of the trail and passed the old gold mountain mine and made our way to the roadway. We aired up our jeeps. Reconnected any sway bars we disconnected. We said our good byes and suggested next time we will do Holcum Creak trail. Only trail damage was an off center steering wheel on my jeep. The stamped steel drag link adjusting sleeve split.

Overall weather was great. Great trail. I think the jeep badge of honor app over rated this trail. I would rate the trail 5-8.



4th of July Templeton Parade

Written by George Westlund, Editor

Several members, their family members and rigs showed up for the annual 4th of July Parade in Templeton. As usual we gathered at the donut shop on the north end of town and after stoking up on sugar and caffeine, we got our staging area number and headed off to get ready for the parade by dressing up our rigs with flags, banners and pin-wheels. Over the next hour and a half members went crazy on their rigs finding unique and fun ways of attaching as much as possible to their rigs and still be able to safely

Staging Area *(photo by Kevin Burk)*



go through the parade route. Lots of zip-ties and tape were consumed in getting the rigs ready as the photos will attest to.

Finally our turn came and we headed out on the parade route, single file until we reached Crocker Street where we doubled up into two columns. From that point on we went down the route with Kenn and Keven occasionally showing the parade watchers along the route how flexible the rigs were by Kenn placing one of his tires on one of Keven's.

After about an hour we returned to our starting point and everyone set about removing all of the decorations from their rigs before going on to other events for the 4th of July. It's always a fun event and if you haven't done it, you should give it a try next year.



(photos by Rick Evans)

Club Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes by Kevin Burk, Club Secretary

July's meeting Minutes:

Old Biz:

- 9:00am 18th Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up
- If anyone needs a sweat shirt or T-shirt we are trying to put an order together.
- Travis is trying to get a hold of Lloyd about getting some help clearing brush on the Garcia Ridge Trail.
- We have 49 paid members so far this year.

New Biz:

- There is a potential Ham Radio seminar to be held in Arroyo Grande. We would be joining members of the Santa Maria 4wd club. Date and time to be determined, but contact Eric Faley, jeeptec@yahoo.com if interested.

- Templeton 4th of July parade this Saturday.

Runs:

- July's run is the Templeton parade.
- Aug 9th is the Coyote Lake run.

We had a nice run recap from the Big Bear Forest Fest participants. Sounds like it was a good time!

We concluded the meeting with a 50-50 raffle.

Meeting minutes for August:

- So far this year we have 48 paid members.
- Newsletter- George needs your articles for the newsletter. If you have gone anywhere or done anything 4x4 related please write up a little article and submit it to him gwestlun@charter.net
- Tyler talked with Lloyd at the ranger station about getting help from the

California Conservation Corp for clearing Garcia Ridge.

New Biz:

- Atascadero Cruise Night, Friday August 21st. The club will have a display at Ted Miles used car lot on El Camino. You need to get there by 5pm because of El Camino being closed after that. Please park furthest away from the dealer ship buildings.
- Ham Radio Seminar was August 6th at Rugged Radios- Sorry, if anyone missed this, I can't get the minutes out that quick.
- Coyote Lake- was August 6-9th. Hopefully everyone had a good time!

We also had some trip reports from Eric Faley who did the Gold Mt. trail up in Big Bear, and Jon, Tom, Kenn and families who attempted the Rubicon.

Meeting adjourned with a 50/50 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 Association (CA4WDA) If your not a member, check it out,

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



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SLO 4 WHEELERS

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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.

September 2nd — SLO 4-Wheelers General Club Meeting at La Mexicana.

September — After meeting Run: To Be Determined at the meeting, may not be the first weekend due to Labor Day.

October 7th — SLO 4-Wheelers General Club Meeting at La Mexicana.

October 10th — Harvest Run. This will be the after meeting run.

November 4th — SLO 4-Wheelers General Club Meeting at La Mexicana.

November 7th or 8th — After meeting Run: To Be Determined at the meeting

December 2nd — SLO 4-Wheelers General Meeting at La Mexicana. Note the Christmas party will NOT be held instead of the Dec. general meeting as in past years, moved to a separate night)

December 5th — SLO 4-Wheelers Annual Christmas Party 2015

December TBD — San Miguel Christmas Parade. San Miguel Christmas Parade December 2015. Driving down Main Street with the option to dress your rig up with lights, ornaments, wreaths, etc.

January 6th — SLO 4 Wheelers General Club Meeting at La Mexicana.

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

February 3rd — SLO 4 Wheelers General Club Meeting at La Mexicana.

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

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.