



THE SLO 4-WHEELER



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Poker Run-February 2016

Written by Tom B.

Attendees-Dan H. and his neighbor, Dave and Lynne P., Kenn and Weston B., Andrew K., Kirk M., Casey M., Que and Me-lia G. and Tom B.

We met at the dog park on Vineyard at 12:00. The weather was just about perfect-low 70's with clear blue sky and everything green. There were plenty of "4-wheeler" dogs so the dog park was perfect. We all bought a hand of poker at \$5.00 a hand. We drew 1 card before we headed out. We took Bethel to Santa Rita Creek. There were lots of people out hiking and jogging. We lost Casey as he was on his motorcycle and took an alternate route.

When we got to Old Creek Rd. we stopped for a small break and drew another card. Turning left, we headed towards Hwy 46 West. We crossed the Hwy and kept going. It all was so green it almost hurt the eyes. We turned right on a dirt rd. and headed towards Adelaide Rd.. When we got to the top we stopped for another break and drew another hand. We were at a large clear area and could see



photo by Kenn B.

clear to the ocean. There were large areas of wild flowers with mostly poppies but also some lupine. It made for a great photo opportunity.

We headed out again and the scenery was great. Lots of ranches and the road ran alongside a creek. There were some old structures built out of stone. When we got to Adelaide Rd. we stopped for another draw.

We hit Adelaide Rd. and turned right on Vineyard. Traffic was amazing. All the tourists were looking for Wine Tasting and I for one had not been out that way for a while. I could not be-

lieve how crowded it was. We crossed Hwy 46 and turned left on Las Tables. At this point we lost Andrew as he had to head home.

We wound up at Dan's house and Casey was waiting for us. Dan got the fire going to fix Sausage Dogs. We all drew our last card and Kirk won the hand with 3 Aces. By now it is after 4 and some of us had to get going but we thank Dan for all his work and we all had a **great day. I can't wait to do it again.**

2015 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

Officers:

- President:.....Tom B.
- Vice President: Kirk M.
- Secretary:..... Kevin B.
- Treasurer:Jon M.
- Board of Directors (includes officers):
- Ways and Means: Kenn B.
- Membership Director:..... George W.
- Events Director:Eric F.
- Land Use Liaison: Tyler F.
- CA4WDCA Liaison:..... Suzy J.
- Social Chairperson:..... Open
- Newsletter Editor:..... George W.

Committees:

- Safety Chairperson: Nathan L.
- Promotional Chairperson:..... Dan H.
- Virtual Club Scrapbook: Open
- Archived Scrapbook..... Randy P.
- Virtual Committee: George W.
- Adopted Trails and Campgrounds:
- Garcia Ridge Trail:..... Tyler F.
- Pine Mountain Trail:..... Phil B.
- La Panza Camp Ground: Open

Newsletter submittals

by two weeks before the next issue to George

Rear Fender and Bump Stop Project

by Kenn B.

NOTE: All photos of rig are from his photos.

Most of us are always trying to figure out ways to improve our vehicles in some way. This project has been on my list since I bought my 4Runner 2-1/2 years ago. The rear suspension up travel was very limited to keep the tires from rubbing on the fenders. When I was loaded down for an off road trip the rear suspension would bottom out on just about any bump when traveling over 15 MPH. Once we did make it to the trail and got into

low range I could feel that the rear suspension was limited and forcing the front suspension to do more of the articulating than it should have to.

This project kept getting pushed off because on the 4Runner the inner rear fender is double wall construction and the inner



part of the fender is inside the passenger compartment. This was going to take some online research, planning and a lot more time than an easy fender trim on a Toyota pickup bed.

My first step was to use the clubs RTI ramp and figure out how much up travel I wanted to try and get out of my rear leaf springs. I used that information and tried to figure out how much rear fender I needed to remove to get the amount travel I wanted and still have something left to stitch back together and look decent when I was done.

Once I had an idea of what I thought would work I removed the tire and tried to use it as a guide and design the new fender shape to get the most



clearance possible and cut the least amount off. With tape I set my cut lines 1" to 1-1/2" less than my finished shape and put a new blade on the 4-1/2" grinder and grabbed some ear plugs and safety glasses and when to work. My plan for the 1" to 1-1/2" was to fold that material and fold it under to help create the new inner fender well and stiffen up the body panel. The grinder worked well and I left the tight work and curves to right and left hand tin snips. I used two pair of duck bill vise grips to fold the body under as best as I could. The rest was left to hammer and dolly work to stretch the metal and get it as nice as I felt necessary. It is a trail rig after all not a sema show truck. Once I had things folded and shaped the best I could I ended up with a long triangle shaped hole in the new fender well. So with

thin cardboard in hand I made a template for each side and cut out some 16ga sheet metal to weld in. I touched everything up with a flap disk and some sand paper and painted it with Dupli-color Perfect Match from summit racing.

Now that the fenders were done I cut off the factory bump stop with the added piece and removed the other plastic part from the axle side. With that out

of the way I use the travel measurements from the RTI ramp and tack welded in the new stops. Off to the ramp to check things. The bump stops made contact as soon. Knocked the stops off and cut 1" off, tack welded them back on and back to the ramp (always better to be two long than two short). Second try looks good time to finish weld and paint.

My up travel before I started was about 2-3/4" and it was a very hard sold plastic piece with no cushion. Now that the project is done I have 4" before the bump stop hits and my new soft slotted polyurethane bump stops compress around 2" for a much improved rear suspension ride and performance on the trail.



February Snow Run

By Tom B., President

Photos by Andrew K.

Participants-Kenn B. and Family in '85 Toyota 4Runner, Kevin P. and Family in Rover Discovery, Tom B. in '85 Toyota extended cab pickup and Andrew K. in Toyota 4Runner.

Kenn and Tom B. met at Golden Hill and 41 at 10:00 Friday morning and headed out. Kevin met us at the rest stop east of Shandon at 10:30 and we were on our way. We stopped in Clovis at the IN-N-Out for lunch and were at the Tamarack Lodge by 3:00. The weather was warm at about 50 so there was a lot of melting ice. We checked in and unloaded our rigs. Kevin and I backed our trucks and trailers back in a corner so they would be out of the way and Kenn did the same on the other side of the parking lot. We settled in and the kids played in the snow. Later Kenn, Kevin and I drove around the corner from the lodge and found a trail to play on. The snow was somewhat deep and looked like a snowmobile might have run it but that was all. We had to get a good run to get over the hill and on to the trail but once we got going it was fun. We only got a little ways back and it was getting dark so we headed back out. I made it out and pulled Kevin out and



helped Kenn out. We headed back to the Lodge for dinner and some heat.

The next morning we woke up to no water. The manager said he called the water company and they were going to check it out. We fixed breakfast and headed out. We had made arrangements to meet Andrew at around 9:00 at the turn off for Dinky Creek. Fortunately there is a bathroom right there **as we couldn't use the one at the Lodge.** Andrew pulled up at the right time and we headed to the turnoff for Bald Mountain. We arrived at about 10 and headed in. The weather was warm and clear and just a great day.

The snow was at least 3' deep and packed.

On the way in we passed a Yota parked on the side of the road with a large amount of empty beer bottles in the back. When we got to the left turn for Bald Mountain there were a few people taking a break so we headed on in. The first section is a steep hill and Kevin stopped which made Andrew stop and he lost his momentum. He **couldn't get going again so we had to pull him to the top.** A group of razors came up and were upset about having to wait. Andrew got hooked up and was at the top in no time. I followed him up and the carts came up right behind. We pulled over to let them go by. The next hill had a sharp turn and I slid into the bank. Kevin pulled my winch cable and after a 30 second winching my winch quit. Kenn pulled me up the rest of the way to the top and we were on our way again. In the next section before we got to the look-



out I slide into a tree. Kenn pulled me to the top and we all chained up. We had no more trouble after that.

At the lookout we parked and the kids pulled out all the sleds, disks and tubes to slide. It was crystal clear and about 50 degrees so they had a ball. It was a great place to slide as there was a wide open hill that was steep and long. There were a few rigs at this point so we talked with the owners and watched a 4 Runner and a 4 door Jeep come up. The 4 Runner was going just about anywhere he wanted but the Jeep was struggling a little and was pulled to the top.

The guys we talked to had been further down the trail and told us there was a spot where there was a 3-4 foot drop and a creek running under it. That was as far as they were willing to go. We decided to go at least to that point and headed out. When we got to that point here were all the Razors as they were not willing to try this drop. We got out and took a look. About this time the cart drivers, who were drinking Jack Daniels, pulled out a few guns and started shooting into the woods. We decided alcohol and guns were not a good combination and turned around and headed back.

We got back to the lookout point and the kids wanted to sled some more so we parked to the side and had lunch and the kids and some adults played. A short time later here came the ra-



zors again. They stopped and one of them drove way out towards a point. **He didn't make it and got stuck.** His buddies were going to leave but at the last second one of them went to give him a hand. He had his wife with him and in trying to back up and take another shot he dumped her out. We got a chuckle out of it. After they left Kenn drove his 4Runner out to the point and had no trouble. The snow was deep and untracked and it made a great photo opportunity.

When the kids had enough and were soaked to the bone, we loaded up and headed out. When we got to the Yota parked at the side of the road there was an older gentleman and his wife parked there and were getting the Yota back on the trail. It seems he and his son came out the night before alone and got stuck. Since they had no help **they couldn't get out so they left the**

rig and now he came back to get it. (It is best not to run alone.)

When we got back to Shaver, Andrew headed down the hill. His wife was in Bakersfield and he was going to go there to meet her. He got as far as Visalia when a wheel seal went out and he was pushing grease out all over. He had to be towed but luckily had frequent flyer miles so got towed all the way to Templeton.

After we left Andrew, it was after 5:00. Kim B. called the Lodge and there still was no water. We went ahead and went back and the manager gave us a choice of staying and he would give us another night later for free or he would refund our money for the night and we could leave. Since it had been a long day and we were pretty tired we chose to stay and started melting snow for water for the toilet.

Because of the warmth during the day the parking lot would start to melt and then when it cooled down it would freeze again. I parked my truck alongside the balcony and when I came out about an hour later it was parked at an angle. Needless to say it was very slippery.

Sunday morning I decided to load up and head home. Kenn and his family and Kevin and his family decided to stay and look for some sled spots by Huntington Lake. They found some good spots to play and said they had a great time. I got home by 3:00 that afternoon. A great time was had by all and we hope for a better turnout next year.



Club Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes by Kevin B., Club Secretary

February 3rd, 2016 Minutes:

Officer reports:

We have \$ in the treasury and 39 paid members.

We need more newsletter articles, so if anyone does anything please write it up and submit it to George.

Adopt-a-highway cleanup Feb 20th.

Upcoming Events:

Snow run Feb 12-14th up at Bald Mt.

Poker run Feb 27th.

Pine Mt. run and culvert estimate, March 19th

New Biz:

We are looking for suggestions on the Christmas party for next year. When and where?

T-shirts. Do we want hats or t-shirts? I think Dan is still shopping around for cost of shirts and hats.

Website. The website is down for now. Should we revamp it or just switch to something like Facebook?

We talked a bit about having a safety checklist and minimum requirements to participate on runs.

Cal Trans gave us a "Thank You" for all our work cleaning up our adopt-a-highway!

March 2nd, 2016 Minutes:

Officer Reports:

Kirk-Cleanup this weekend has been postponed.

Jon-We have \$1560 in the bank.

Kevin-Looked into CORVA for insurance. Costs about \$800 a year.

George-45 paid members.

Dan-Looked into shirt printing info.

Old Biz:

Shirt printing: Dan looked into this, and the guy has a minimum of 25 units that we have to print. We need to decide if we want t-shirts, sweatshirts or whatever. If you have a suggestion please speak up! It also looks like its possible to bring your own items to have printed if you want a different shirt or color. There should be an email list started soon on this.

Website: It looks like we are on hold waiting to talk to Suzy who has graciously volunteered to host and redo the website. We need to see what she can do and what we really need.

Membership Fees: We have been tossing the idea around of raising the dues from \$20 to \$25. We need to look at the club bylaws before we vote to see what the process is.

New Biz:

Need to find a new bank for the club account. Apparently we pay \$10 a month for our club account at Rabo Bank.

Donations: Usually at the end of the year the club donates some of the unspent money from the year to go to Cal 4 Wheel, Corva, or the Blue Ribbon Coalition. A motion was passed to wait to see what the website might cost us before we make a decision to donate money.

Santa Maria 4 Wheel Drive Club is hosting an Off Road and Safety Expo at the Santa Maria Fairgrounds on April 9th. Apparently they will have an obstacle course. They are looking for volunteer help if anyone is interested.

Spring Fling is being moved to April 23rd, with a rain date of April 30th just in case. The route will go out to Cal Valley and over to the Penny Bar in McKittrick.

Pine Mt. run: March 19th, a run up Pine Mt. to inspect what all needs to be done to install a culvert to help part of the trail that is washing out. This date may move due to rain.

Trip Reports:

Snow run: 7-8ft of snow up at Tamarack Lodge. The group ran up part of the Bald Mt. trail near Shaver lake and had a good time.

Poker Run: Everyone had a great day driving over towards Cayucos, Cambria, Adelaide, and Templeton. Kirk won \$30.

KOH: Courtney and Riley went and volunteered for the race. Got to hang out with an unhappy Robby Gordon and deal with insane amounts of wind. It sounds like they had a great time!



It's Cal 4 Wheel Membership Renewal Time!

Please complete this coupon and mail it with your check for \$45.

No check is required if you are a life time member or pay them separately (but we still need the information to associate you with our club)!

Cal 4 Wheel dues are optional and due no later than the June meeting!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Cal4Wheel #: _____

Send completed coupon along with a check for \$45 made payable to "SLO 4 Wheelers" to:

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



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



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.

April 6th — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana.

April 9th or 10th — After meeting run TBD at the meeting.

May 4th — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana.

May 7th — After meeting run, Garcia Ridge work day.

June 1st — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana.

June 4th or 5th — After meeting run TBD at the meeting.

June 11th — Miller/Lockwood Jeep Trail.

July 4th — Templeton Fourth of July Parade.

July 6th — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana.

July 16th — Dessert Run (Night Run on Las Chiches.

August 3rd — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana.

August 5th - 7th — After meeting run: Annual Coyote Lake run.

September 3rd-5th — Swamp Lake Run.

September 7th — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana.

October 5th — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana.

October 7th-10th — Johnson

Valley Run.

November 2nd — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana.

November 5th-6th — Turf and Surf at the Pismo Dunes.

December 7th — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana.
Nominations of 2017 Club Officers.

December 10th — Annual Club Christmas Party

December 17th — San Miguel Christmas Parade.

January 4th — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana. Election of 2017 Club Officers.

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.