



THE SLO 4-WHEELER



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January / February 2017

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San Miguel Christmas Parade

by George W. Editor; photos by the author

On December 17, the club participated in the Annual San Miguel Christmas Parade. The parade is an interesting event in that we start on the north end of town drive down Mission Street to the small triangular park just north of the Mission, go around the park, drive back up Mission Street to where we started. SO everyone gets to see the floats going and coming and even the partici-



pants get to see all the other entries at least once. We started gathering about an hour or so before the parade was to start and started decorating our vehicles. Most of use were using 120 volt light strings with an inverter to power them. LED strings go a long way while putting very little load on the vehicles electrical system! Those participating included John and Buzz J., Phil B., Dan H., Jim B. and family, Eric F.,

(Continued on page 5)

2017 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

Officers:

President:..... Tom B
 Vice President:..... Randy P
 Secretary:..... Kevin B
 Treasurer: Jon M

Board of Directors (includes officers):

Ways and Means: Kenn B
 Membership Director: George W
 Events Director: Andrew K
 Land Use Liaison: Eric F
 CA4WDCA Liaison:..... Suzy J
 Social Chairperson: Open
 Newsletter Editor:.....George Westlund

Committees:

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

Newsletter submittals

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

Mojave Monument New Years Run

by John J

Randy P and I (John J) met up with Jeepers we have traveled with before. We headed for Nipton Ca, which is on the highway to Searchlight Nevada.

The town has a store, motel, and RV

Park. You have to like railroads because the mile long trains go right by there, day and night.

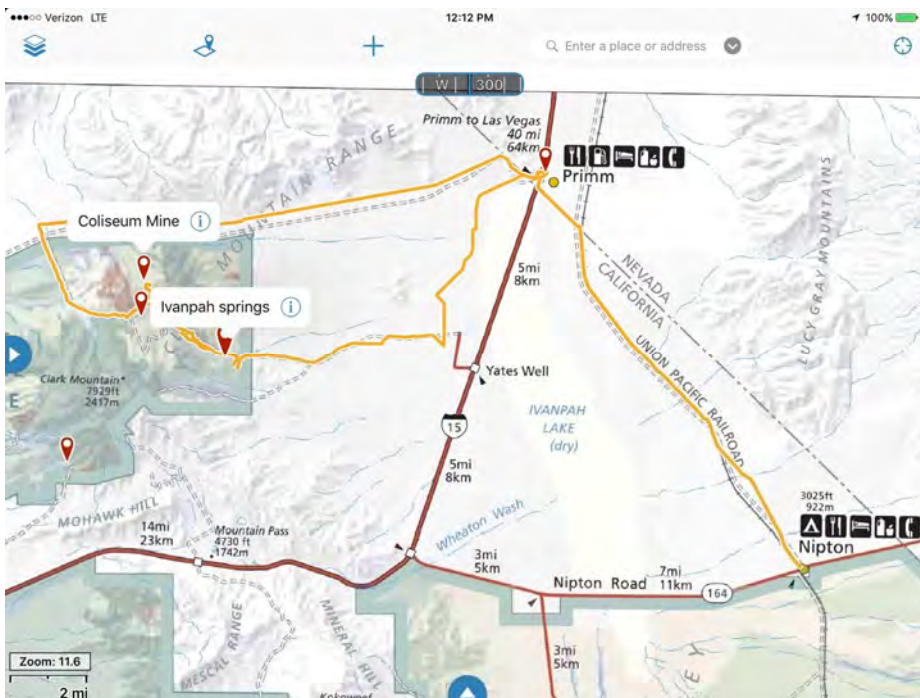
Our first outing was at Valley Wells Copper mine. This was quite Interesting because they



Johnny J. (photo by Randy P.)



Driving route below, Randy checking a mine out (photo by Brian T.)



dumped all the Copper Slag on the ground and it made quite a neat surface to walk on. It was almost like concrete, glass, black as Cole. We found houses dug in the river bank where the workers lived. This would make sense because the summer heat reaches 120 or more.

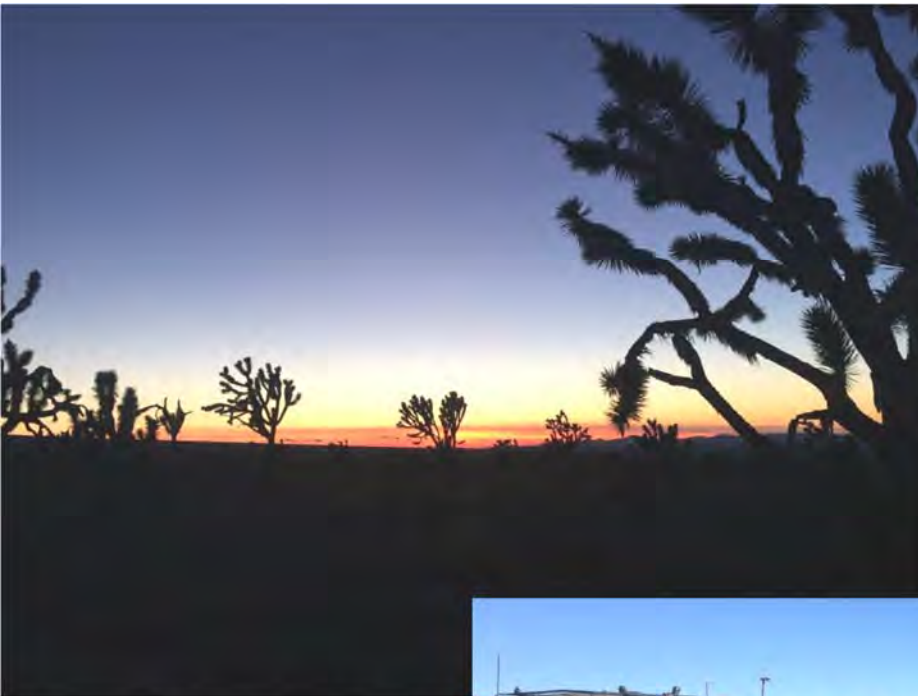
We motored to the Lava Tubes, which were a little spooky, but fun to ladder down to. They are giant air pockets in the Lava, some were 20 feet wide and 100 feet long just like a giant round tunnel.

We could see the 3 huge Ivenpah Valley Solar plant from the R V park. We drove around them on day 2, on our way to the Coliseum Mine. Boy this was a sight. It is a open pit mine about 300 feet down, with about 100 feet of water in the bottom. We went down the haul road to the bottom and it's a real trip looking back up into the sky from the bottom.

We were able to get fuel in Prim NV and Searchlight. The road we took to Prim followed the Rail Road down a sandy wash. So as Jeepers we would



Mine shaft lift system above (photo by Randy P.) Sunset below (photo by Brian T.)



off road it to town and off road it back.

The next day we went to follow the Mojave Heritage Trail, which was a wagon route, and the Ivenpah Searchlight trail.

The start of the trip we topped a hill and looked over the biggest Joshua Tree forest I have ever seen. It went for miles and thick as a forest. I have



been wheeling in the Desert for about eight years and have never seen a collection of trees like this.

Following the Heritage Trail , we went through vast canyons, and large flats with the plant life changing every five or so miles.

We skirted the Castle Mountains which are a sight. I forgot some where we wound up at the Kelso Rail Road Station. This is like stepping back in time. The state takes care of it and it's in excellent shape. A great museum to boot!

The next day we stayed closer to camp and went to the Evening Star Mine and found two old cabins that were kept in shape by someone. But if you were stranded you could hold up in them. They had wood stoves and tables and chairs.

I went back with another Jeep that was having mechanical trouble , so Randy P and the 14 other Jeeps went to look at more mines.

I didn't go on the last days run , our dog got sick and we Jeeped to Vegas to get her fixed up.

Randy P has a ton of pictures and we are going to try to get some in with this story.

Remember to ask Randy why we all had our hands up with the CHP parked in front of us!

Happy New Year Everyone

Johnny J.

CHP encounter (photo by Brian T.)

Christmas Party



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By George W, Editor; photos by the author

The Christmas Party, this year as in last year, was held at the Templeton Community Center on December 3rd.

Several members got there early to decorate and others arrived closer to the start time to participate with their pot luck dishes. A great combination of families and people of all ages from the youngest being a baby to the older ones among us.

This year we went with ham as the main dish which went over quite well with those who were there. In addition there were several other interesting dishes that members brought. All was yummy with few left overs. There was lots of conversation during dinner covering topics from rigs and trails to families and children.



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After dinner, we all settled in for the gift exchange. This year started off with thievery within a couple of gifts which made the exchange much more

interesting than the last couple of years. Often parents sent their children into the fray to either pick or steel, some had multiple opportunities

as the previous selections were stolen. One item made it to the three times stolen safety. Finally all the numbers were up and the evening settled into some conversation, then we started the cleanup task.

With all of the conflicts that limited the size of the party, the new board decided that the next holiday party will be post New Years to allow more members to participate without the conflicts of work and family parties that the month of December brings.

Thank you to all who were able to attend and enjoy the coming years wheeling and club get-togethers!

(Continued from page 1)

Casey M., Robert B. and myself (apologies to anyone I missed). Our time prior to the parade was split between decorating, socializing and looking at each others rigs.

Our staging area was slightly closer to the start this year just south of 15th and Mission Streets in front of the Shady Rest Motel. When the entries ahead of us started to move we mounted up and started out way down the route. Members waved to those on the

sides of the street waving back to the entries.

It was a very fun evening for all and as we departed we still heard the echoes of the same phrase we heard during the parade, "Merry Christmas!"



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Club Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes by Kevin B, Club Secretary

Minutes for the month of December 2016

Officer Reports:

Jon-Treasurer- \$725.67 in the bank after the party.

George-Membership- 65 paid members, 20 renewals so far.

Dan-Promotions- Gonna make another T-shirt order. Let Dan know what you want for the order.

Old Biz:

Officer elections at the next meeting. Currently we are in need of a Vice President, although if anyone is interested in running for President, Secretary, Promotions, or any of the other offices they would be welcome. You need to be a paid up member to vote in the elections.

We need a new contact for the Cal Trans Adopt a Highway in Santa Margarita. We've been doing this for two years now. There was some discussion of whether or not we should continue with this if we can't find a new contact. No decision was made.

Runs for next year. What do YOU want to do. This isn't the club for sitting on the couch. Surely I'm not the only one with ideas.

New Biz:

San Miguel Christmas parade is the 17th of Dec. Last I heard it was meet at 5pm and parade starts at 6pm. Decorate your rig in lights and come join us!

Fire restrictions lowered in Los Padres Forest.

Tom had a copy of a press release about the new forest concessionaire.

Christmas party- what to do next year. We are tossing around ideas about what to do next year. Would like more input or ideas.

There are now 2 keys for the PO box, and George has been listed as the PO box contact at the postal office.

Trip Reports:

JV-Richard- Went to the desert, crawled some rocks and got to test the 80 out. Had a good time and cruiser did well, although the rear quarter panel got messaged.

Surf and Turf-Andrew- "Had a blast". He did the poker run Saturday and cruised out to the Pozo saloon on Sunday.

Minutes for the month of January 2017

Officer Reports:

\$1015.85 in the bank

So far this year we have 24 paid members, 7 new, as of this meeting we have 9 more renewals and 1 new.

Newsletter articles due end of Jan, we need more articles.

No t-shirt order yet. Dan says he will order this week. Dune flags \$7.50-\$15.00.

Banners 3'x5' cost \$85-\$115.

Nothing on agenda for runs yet, pretty sure Pozo is currently closed with rainstorm we are currently having.

Old Biz:

Adopt-a-highway: The club carried a motion to continue doing the highway 58 cleanup and Randy volunteered to be the clubs cal trans associate.

Banners: The club approved buying 2 new 3x5 banners.

New Biz:

We had a more or less full slate of officers and we voted and elected them all at once.

President-Tom
V.P.-Randy
Secretary-Kevin
Treasurer-Jon
Mem/News-George
Weights+Means-Kenn
Forest Ser-Eric
Safety-Phil
Prom-Dan
Events-Andrew

Christmas Party: We need to think about changing the way its done to get more participation and get the cost down. There is the possibility of having it at Kenn's place after New Years.

If anyone has any ideas for runs for the coming year now would be a good time to speak up. Run suggestions are always welcome at any time, but the newly elected board will be meeting later this month to set a calendar of events for the coming year.

Meeting minutes for the Newly elected board of officers:

Budget for the year:

PO Box	\$86	
Bank Fees	\$120	
Newsletter	\$60	
Postage	\$50	
Website	\$125	
Christmas Party		\$250
Spring Fling	\$150	

Discussions:

There was a calendar of events proposed for the year, but I'll let Andrew post that up when he is ready.

There was discussion of donating the remaining funds from 2016 to off road access groups, and that needs to be discussed with the members and voted on.

There was talk of getting more large decals made and we need to look into costs.

We would also like to start putting together new member packets.

Also, the idea of moving the elections away from Christmas and summer and having them in March was brought up.

Randy proposed that we make Mark Booker a lifetime member of the club if he is agreeable to that.

The next board meeting was set for Coyote Lake, see you there!

It's Membership Renewal Time!

Please complete this coupon and mail it with your check for \$25.00.

Remember, you can only vote in the January elections if your membership is paid up into the new year!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Please indicate your Newsletter Delivery Preference:

Link to PDF (Color) via email link

Hardcopy (black & white)

Send completed coupon along with a check for \$25 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

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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.

February 1 — General Meeting at La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

February 4 — Adopt-a-Highway cleanup. Santa Margarita Park at 8:00 AM. Followed by the after the meeting run: TV Tower Road.

February 6-10 — King of the Hammers.

February 18-20 — Snow Run — Bald Mountain.

March 1 — General Meeting at La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

March 4 — Adopt-a-Highway cleanup. Santa Margarita Park at

8:00 AM. Followed by the after the meeting run: Bonfire at the Oceano Dunes.

March 18 — Wildflower run — Carrizo Plains.

April 5 — General Meeting at La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

April 8 — Adopt-a-Highway cleanup. Santa Margarita Park at 8:00 AM. Followed by the after the meeting run: Garcia Ridge for Trail maintenance and clean-up.

April 22 — Old Mojave Road Run.

May 3 — General Meeting at La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

May 6 — Adopt-a-Highway cleanup. Santa Margarita Park at 8:00 AM. Followed by the after the meeting run: Our annual Spring Fling on the Carrizo Plains.

June 7 — General Meeting at La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

June 10 — Adopt-a-Highway cleanup. Santa Margarita Park at 8:00 AM. Followed that evening by the after the meeting run: Los Chiches Trail Dessert Run.

July 4 — After meeting run: 4th of July Parade in Templeton.

July 5 — General Meeting at La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

July 8 — Adopt-a-Highway cleanup. Santa Margarita Park at 8:00 AM.

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.