



# THE SLO 4-WHEELER



Volume 25, Issue 1

January / March 2019

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## San Miguel Christmas Parade



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*Written by George W,  
Editor*

*All photos by the author.*

Again, the club members were asked to participate in the annual San Miguel Christmas Parade this last December. Three members showed up with their rigs.

John and Buzz J. with his Willys-Overland Jeep 4x4 Truck, and Casey and Loree M and myself with our Jeep TJs.

We assembled in the north end of the field that is north of the San Miguel Fire Department and started decorating our rigs.

I did my usual wreath and LED light strings to the front and rear of the vehicle. John and Buzz put a tree on a stand on boxes in the pickup bed and Casey and Loree added a wreath and light string to their rig.

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## 2018 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

### Officers:

President:..... George W  
Vice President:..... Nathan L  
Secretary:..... Steve R  
Treasurer:..... Devin L

### Board of Directors (includes officers):

Ways and Means:..... Open  
Membership Director:..... George W  
Events Director:..... DeQue G  
Land Use Liaison:..... Phil B  
CA4WDCA Liaison:..... Suzy J  
Newsletter Editor:..... George W

### Committees:

Safety Chairperson:..... Phil B  
Promotional Chairperson:..... Dan H  
Social Chairperson:..... Open  
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  
Adopt-a-Highway ..... Kirk M

### Newsletter submittals

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

# Driving in Snow with a 4x4:

by George W, Editor

**NOTE:** All photos by the Author.

In trying to figure out how I could get a newsletter out without waiting another month or two, I centered on a recent photo trip some friends and I had made to Yosemite to take pictures of the valley in winter, complete with a layer of snow.

We left on a Tuesday morning, Feb. 19, as that day and the previous day were supposed to be clear most of the time. It had snowed for several days up there with the storm ending on the morning of the 18 and resuming the night of the 19. We figured for a day trip, going the second day would give crews a chance to deal with the roads.

As the day of the trip approached, I kept an eye on weather reports, web cams within the park and Cal Trans road reports. Cal Trans had a steady snow chain requirement from just above Oakhurst to just before the park gate. Weather for the day of the trip had a predicted low of 19 degrees and a high of 42 degrees.

For the trip, we were taking a 2001 Ford F-250 4x4 crew cab pickup with a power stroke diesel engine. The other photographer's husband would be driving and was getting new street tires put on and borrowing a set of chains of the appropriate size for the tired from another friend with the same vehicle.

We left Atascadero at 4:30 AM and headed toward the Central Valley and the park beyond. Going through the valley we were greeted by an almost full super moon (it would be full the night of the 19) and Venus shining brightly in a very clear sky.

The sun came up after we left Clovis up CA-41 toward the park. This was our

third trip and the general plan, as usual, was to stop in Oakhurst for breakfast. After almost three hours of driving, it's a welcome stop.

When we left Oakhurst, we kept our eyes peeled for chain requirement signs and road crews. We were well past where Cal Trans had said the chain requirement would start and the roads were fairly clear so far. Finally, after about 6 miles we came across a Cal Trans truck with a plow and a flatbed tow truck. They looked at what we had and said that we could probably get by without chains (probably)..

Now I had driven on snowing roads a few years ago in New Jersey both with a sedan with a special icy road traction control as well as a Jeep Cherokee. While the sedan was fine in most conditions, it wasn't as easy to drive on the icy roads as the Cherokee with the transfer case in 4 wheel high. But how this much heavier pickup would handle, I wasn't sure. The driver had never driven in snow and ice before and was very cautious, a good thing.

We continued on our way taking our time as we went. A few times we got behind snow removal equipment and just stayed there until they pulled over. Over all the pickup was doing well with only a couple



of tire slips before the limited slip rear axle caught and both rear tires worked together.

Being nervous and cautious, we decided to put chains on the rear tires when we got just inside the park, using one of the gate houses as a block for us, the driver and I got out to put the chains on. Cable chains with armored sleeves actually went on relatively easy, along with chain tighteners.

Right off the bat we found the down side to the chains. Whether on dry pavement or packed snow, the truck vibrated quite a bit if you tried to get up over 20 mph. After ten miles of this, we decided to take them off and try 4 wheel drive again instead.

The main roads in the park were cleared much better than the highways outside the park had been and we soon found out why. Cal Trans was using small dump trucks with a light floating blade on the front. In the park, they were using 6x6 road graders with massive chains on all the tires and front loaders.







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feet high at the higher elevations and 2-3 feet on the valley floor.

We stopped at Tunnel View after no incidents at all. We saw several people in that parking lot chaining up as they were coming up out of the valley.

After taking several photos, we continued down into the valley making several stops around the valley for photos.

One of the first of these stops was at the parking lot for Bridal Veil Falls. While we were taking photos of the falls from the parking (most park trails were closed), we heard a very loud cracking noise followed by what sounded like long thunder. Later we found out that this was large ice

sheets cracking off the cliff sides near the falls (mostly Yosemite Falls, see photos below) and crashing down the cliffs to the rocky floor below. A week later a woman who paid no attention to the trail closure signs, hiked in below one of the falls and was killed by falling ice and rocks.

By 3:30, clouds were beginning to come in from the west and Horsetail Falls was not flowing, so we decided it was best to get out of the park before it got dark and cold, knowing a new storm was coming in.

Our drive out was uneventful except for more traffic than we had experienced coming in. Our driver, being cautious, pulled over often to let people who were following too close and groups of cars by. We didn't feel comfortable being within a few 100 feet of another vehicle and soon found we had good reason.

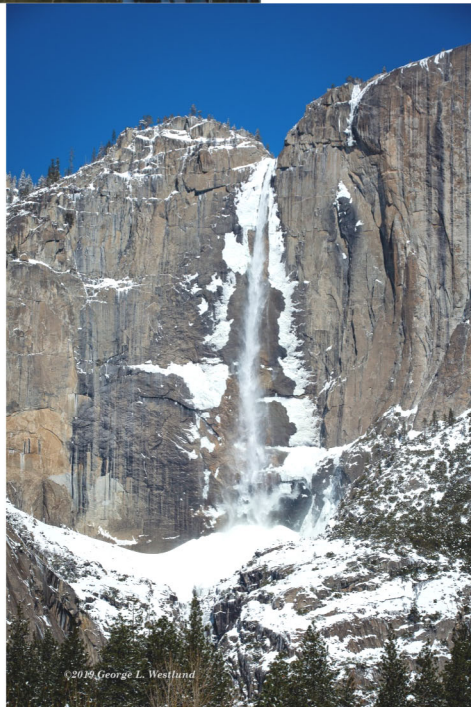
About five miles out of the park, we came across a multicar accident where someone got squirrely on the icy road and the four drives behind him were too close to avoid him or the gutter on the side of the road. The vehicle in the gutter was putting chains on his front drive wheels to pull himself out and the rest didn't look too bad except for a few bent bumpers and fenders. They were lucky, it could have been worse.

I'll always go for chains or a 4x4 on roads like that. A safe trip for us with a lot of good photos of Yosemite in the snow.

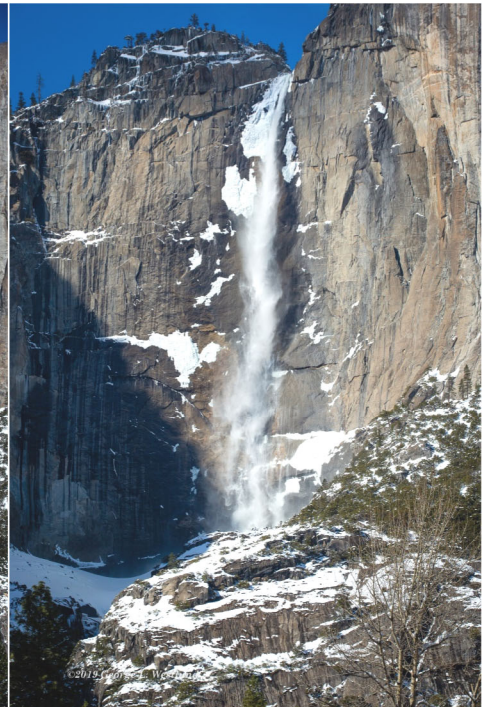
Watching the road grader was interesting. He usually kept the front wheels slightly crabbed to one side and we noticed that he was putting enough pressure on the blade to cause it to steer to the left on flat ground as it pushed what it scraped to the right side. However, very few roads in the park are flat and he tended to drift toward the downhill side of the road and corrected with his steering of the massive tires with heavy commercial chains on all six tires.

One guy, with out chains, almost took the left side of the blade as he came at the grader from the other direction in a slight drift. They missed each other by inches.

As we went along we saw that most pickup chassis vehicles did not have chains, not did vehicles we knew were 4x4 or all wheel drive (including one Porsche). This was nothing to mess with. The snow on the sides of the road was 4-5



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*(Continued from page 1)*

As you can see from the photos, Decorating the rigs took quite a bit of time and thought; not to mention a little bit gymnastics for John and Buzz to get the tree in its stand on the boxes. We were having a lot of fun poking fun and helping each other.

We then lined up in our starting position in the staging area and waited for the parade to start gabbing, taking a look at other entries and just wandering around. The parade route was about the same this year as last year. It started at Mission St. and 13th, went south to 9th, then counter clockwise around the small park by the Mission and back up to 13th on Mission St. and done. The only weird part this year was that between the park and the Mission, we were limited to a narrow lane on the north side of San Luis Obispo Rd as the south side was a detour for traffic coming in the off-ramp on the south end of town.

We then headed back to the north end of the field we had used to decorate to start taking everything off our rigs except for John and Buzz who loaded their Jeep Pickup onto their flatbed trailer. John wanted to leave it decorated to see how far he could get home to Parkfield without losing anything off the pickup bed.

I provided them some light to get their rig loaded up, we all made a few guesses on how far he would get and wished him well as they left for home.

Casey and I continued to remove all of the lights and decorations from our rigs until they were freeway ready again and

said good bye to each other and headed for home.

As I drove back to Atascadero, I wondered what it must have looked like, on the back roads to Parkfield, to see John's beautiful green Willys-Overland Jeep 4x4 Truck on the flatbed trailer with potential light strings and parts of the tree flying off as they drove along Vineyard Canyon Road. Well it probably looked pretty nice until he hit some of the rural straight-a-ways!





# Club Meeting Minutes:

*Meeting Minutes by Steve R, Club Secretary*

## December 5, 2018:

Meeting Started: 7:00 pm

Type of Meeting: General Meeting

Meeting Facilitator: George W

Invitees: Members and Family Members, Prospective Members

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Introductions – Members and Guests. 12 members arrived.
- 3) Officer Report.
  - a) President: George W  
Nothing to report
  - b) Vice-President: Nate L  
Nothing to report
  - c) Secretary: Steve R  
Nothing to report
  - d) Treasurer: Devin L  
Not available at the meeting: per George balance \$539.16  
1 deposit, 2 deposits, 1 to Suzy for doomain n ame service fee for checking account
- e) Ways and Means: OPEN
- f) Membership: George W  
Only 8 paid members for 2019.  
It is important for existing members to re-up their membership and to encourage new people to join.
- g) Events Directory: DeQue G  
Not available at the meeting
- h) Land Use: Phil B  
Nothing new to report.
- i) C4WDA Club Liaison: Suzy J with assistance from George W. Reminder for members to join Cal 4Wheel directly from their web site.
- j) Newsletter: George W  
News letter came out this week.
- k) Virtual Committee: George W  
Yahoo group, Facebook
- l) Adopt-a-Highway  
Kirk M volunteered to head up this program.

- 4) Approval of minutes from last meeting. Hillary motioned to not read last minutes. Dan seconded. Passed.
- 5) Old Business
  - a) Incorporation 501(c)(7)  
On hold. Need a committee.
  - b) Adopt-A-Highway  
Still on Hold until someone would like to take this over
  - c) Adopt-A-Trail, Pine Mountain and Garcia Ridge. Will have to look at the option of continuing with those trails this coming year.
  - d) Run Reports  
Hilary went to High Mountain trail. 18 vehicles left from Santa Margarita.  
Phil town of Coleville off Hwy 395
- 6) New business
  - a) Club involvement. It is important for the current member ship to get involved with the projects.
  - b) Reminder: membership renewal time.
  - c) Proposed Runs:
    - i) San Miguel Christmas Parade December 15th.
    - ii) Creston Christmas Parade December 22nd.
    - iii) This Friday night rocket launch. Going up TV Tower Rd. Meet top of TV Tower Rd before dark. Launch is at 8:11pm.
- 7) 50/50 Drawing...not today.  
NOTE: Membership renewals are sent out. Dues are due by the end of the year.
- 8) Adjournment  
Meeting ended: 7:27 PM

## January 2, 2019

Meeting Started: 7:02 pm

Type of Meeting: General Meeting

Meeting Facilitator: George W

Invitees: Members and Family Members, Prospective Members

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Introductions – Members and Guests. 8 members arrived.
- 3) Officer Reports
  - a) President: George W  
Nothing to report
  - b) Vice-President: Nate L  
Nothing to report
  - c) Secretary: Steve R  
Nothing to report
  - d) Treasurer: Devin L  
Not available at the meeting: per George balance November: \$539.16  
1 deposit for \$150 @current balance: 682.58
- e) Ways and Means: OPEN
- f) Membership: George W  
Only 11 paid members for 2019.  
It is important for existing members to re-up their membership and to encourage new people to join.
- g) Events Directory: DeQue G  
Not available at the meeting
- h) Land Use: Phil B  
Nothing new to report.
- i) C4WDA Club Liaison: Suzy J with assistance from George W. Reminder for members to join Cal 4Wheel directly from their web site.
- j) Newsletter: George W  
Have 1 article from parade. Would like some other articles.
- k) Virtual Committee: George W  
Yahoo group, Facebook
- l) Adopt-a-Highway  
Kirk M volunteered to head up this program. Folder with Steve to give to Kirk.
- 4) Approval of minutes from last meeting  
Phil motioned to not read last minutes. Steve seconded. Passed.

- 5) Old Business
  - a) Incorporation 501(c)(7)  
On hold. Need a committee.  
George will if IFFF he is not president.
  - b) Adopt-A-Highway  
Still on Hold until someone would like to take this over
  - c) Adopt-A-Trail, Pine Mountain and Garcia Ridge.
  - d) Run Reports  
Parade was fun. 3 from the club participated.
- 6) New business
  - a) New location. At Outlaws (south side of Atascadero).  
Vote to move location. Hillary made motion, Dan seconded motion. Passed. Meeting first Wednesday of February will be at OUTLAWS
  - b) Motion to move March meeting for the SECOND Wednesday due to conflicting schedules. Phil motioned, Nate seconded motion, passed.
  - c) Club involvement. It is important for the current member ship to get involved with the projects.
  - d) Reminder: membership renewal time.
  - e) Proposed Runs:
- 7) 50/50 Drawing...not today.  
  
NOTE: Membership renewals are sent out. Email list will be edited down after next month. Dues are due by the end of the year.  
  
Officer positions are coming up. Will be announced at the February meeting.
- 8) Adjournment  
Meeting ended: 7:20 PM

### February 6, 2019

Meeting Started: 7:00 pm  
Type of Meeting: General Meeting  
Facilitator: George W  
Invitees: Members and Family Members, Prospective Members

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Introductions – Members and Guests (21 members at meeting)

- 3) Officer Reports
  - a) President: George W
  - b) Vice-President: Nate L. nothing to report
  - c) Secretary: Steve R nothing new to report
  - d) Treasurer: Devin L  
Balance: \$815.58 includes last deposit
  - e) Ways and Means: OPEN
  - f) Membership: George W  
21 paid members. Please renew for voting next month
  - g) Events Directory: DeQue G not at meeting
  - h) Land Use: Phil B not at meeting
  - i) C4WDA Club Liaison: Suzy J with assistance from George W. sending out renewal notices.
  - j) Newsletter: George W  
Has 1 article at this point. Other articles welcome!!
  - k) Virtual Committee: George W
- 1) Adopt-a-Highway: Kirk M  
Not at meeting
- 4) Approval of minutes from last meeting  
Dan motion to dispense of reading, Devin seconded, passed
- 5) Old Business
  - a) Incorporation as a 501(c)(7) (Non-profit Social Organization, same as Cal 4 Wheel) We need someone to chair this committee other than George. George still wants to participate, he just is doing too much and needs to delegate. On hold.
- b) Adopt-a-Trails : Garcia Ridge and Pine Mountain closed due to weather.
- c) Adopt-a-Highway
- d) Run Reports.  
nothing new to report
- 6) New business
  - a) Nominations for officers for 2019 year ending March 2020.

### Elected officers:

President: .George would continue if necessary, would like someone else to step in

Vice president: Nate willing to continue

Secretary: Steve willing to continue

Treasurer: Devin willing to continue if no one else does

Ways and means: Has not been filled for 2 years

Membership: George

Events Director: DeQue (not present), by email.

Land use: Phil B (by email)

Cal4Wheel liaison: Suzy & George open for others if they wish

News letter editor: George would like to continue

Anyone that would like to participate in encouraged to volunteer.

- b) Club Involvement.  
GREAT meeting turnout!!!! Will continue to be the first Wednesday of each month EXCEPT MARCH....will be the SECOND WEDNESDAY
- c) Membership Renewal Time  
We encourage you you renew.
  - d) Proposed Runs
    - i) After meeting run?
    - ii) Dan – possible poker run?
    - iii) George – possible BBQ at Nate's.

### IDEAS WELCOME

- e) Any other New Business  
Questions regarding “hold harmless” agreements. We do have a release of liability form for events.
- 7) 50/50 Drawing
- 8) Adjournment Steve motioned to adjourn at 7:22, Hilary seconded, passed.

# 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

Know a business that is 4x4 friendly?  
With an associate membership they could have  
their business card here.



<http://www.sharetrails.org/>

*SLO 4-Wheelers contributes to and/or is a member club in these organizations. Visit and support, -they are working for US!*



<http://www.corva.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.



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/>



SLO 4-Wheelers is also a member club in the California Association of Four Wheel Drive Association (CA4WDA). If you're not a member, check it out,  
<http://www.cal4wheel.com> or ask Suzy

# 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.

**March 13** — Election of New Officers for 2019 and General Meeting. Outlaws Bar, Grill & Casino, Atascadero, CA.

**March 16 or 17** — After meeting run TBD at March Meeting, weather permitting.

**April 3** — General Meeting. Outlaws Bar, Grill & Casino, Atascadero, CA.

**April 6 or 7** — After meeting run TBD at April Meeting, weather permitting.

**May 1** — General Meeting. Outlaws Bar, Grill & Casino, Atascadero, CA.

**May 4 or 5** — After meeting run TBD at April Meeting, weather permitting.

**May TBD** — Spring Fling. May be in addition to or in place of the after meeting run. Details to be discussed at May and previous meetings.

**June 5** — General Meeting. Outlaws Bar, Grill & Casino, Atascadero, CA.

**June 8 or 9** — After meeting run TBD at April Meeting, weather permitting.

**July 3** — General Meeting. Outlaws Bar, Grill & Casino, Atascadero, CA.

**July 4** — After Meeting Run, Templeton 4th of July Parade. To be discussed at the June and July meetings.

**August 7** — General Meeting. Outlaws Bar, Grill & Casino, Atascadero, CA.

**August TBD** — Annual Coyote Lake Run. Date and particulars to be discussed at meetings before August.

**August 16?** — Annual Hot El Camino Nites cruise night. To be discussed at the August meeting. We usually park our rigs and watch from Ted Miles auto lot. Some members cruise.

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.