



THE SLO 4-WHEELER



Volume 23, Issue 4

September / October 2017

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Annual Coyote Lake Run

*Written by Dennis V,
Acting Events Director*

We left Atascadero Friday morning August, 11 to start our trip to Coyote Lake. We, Eric and Laura H, Debbie and I (Dennis V) departed Atascadero around 9:00am. Eric hauled his 1985 CJ7 on a trailer and I towed my 1976 CJ7 behind my truck.

We made good time to Fresno and Eric showed me a shortcut through Fresno. A short stop in Prather to top off the gas in Eric's Jeep and we continued on to the trail head.

Eric forgot to put the gas cap back on his jeep and proceeded to spill out most of the gas he had just purchased. It was funny to watch every time he went around a corner more gas would spill. We had to wait until we had cell reception to text them a note about the problem. Guess I should get a CB.

We parked at the snowmobile parking area just a couple miles up the road from the turnoff to Coyote Lake. We unloaded and disconnected and motored up the road to the turn off.

The dirt road heading up to the Sand Flats and the trail head was rough and somewhat washed out in spots. I had to stop and air down.



We drove on to the trail head. The first downhill was washed out and had a lot of large rocks exposed.

By the time we got to the creek at the bottom of the hill we were all smiling from ear to ear. We knew this was going to be the rock run

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2017 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

Officers:

President: Eric F (Acting)
Vice President: Randy P
Secretary: Steve R (Acting)
Treasurer: Jon M

Board of Directors (includes officers):

Ways and Means: Open
Membership Director: George W
Events Director: Dennis Van Ness (Acting)
Land Use Liaison: Eric F
CA4WDCA Liaison: Suzy J
Social Chairperson: Open
Newsletter Editor: George W

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
g*****@charter.net

Cambria Run on North County Backroads

by Dennis V,
Acting Events Director

NOTE: All photos are the author's
unless otherwise indicated

The run to Cambria was an easy fun run through the back roads of the north county to Cambria. Five Jeeps made up the group for the run on Saturday the 9th of September. We met at the park in Santa Margarita at 9:00am attending this run was Matt N, Brian T, Glen and Jan L along with Randy and Margaret P. And myself Dennis V. I forgot to write down what everyone was driving, but I can tell you there was one Red, one White, one Silver, one Black and one Orange well equipped Jeeps ready to hit the road. We left Santa Margarita around 9:15am and headed North to Paso Robles driving slowly waiting for Brian to catch up to the group as he was still bolting things on to his Jeep as we were leaving. Typical jeep, never completely done.

Rigs on the run. (photo by Matt M.)



Brian caught up to us at the Arco station on the corner of Hwy 46 and 101. From there we headed south on Vine Street to Kiler Canyon Road. The road starts out paved and then turns into dirt and then to an unmaintained road before it runs into Peachy Canyon Road. We turned south on Peachy Canyon Road heading to Vineyard Drive, north on Vineyard Drive to Adelaida Road, East on Adelaida Road, to Klau Mine Road. We stopped at the Klau Mine, a mercury mine that shut down in the mid 70's.

From there we were on Cypress Mountain Road. The sign said the road was closed in 1.7 miles. We accepted the challenge and pressed on. I mean we have Jeeps. Are any roads really closed? At 1.7 miles there was a small detour through a creek. I looked around for something to wheel on, like a pile of rubble or some rip-rap to crawl over, but found nothing but a pile of dirt. I ran over that in two wheel drive and continued on down the road.

Just passed the 7X Ranch there was an 8' tall fence to our left with pot plants growing another two feet above the top of the fence. What wasn't growing they were smoking. We were overcome by the smoke in the air. It was like driving into a pot forest fire. I guess I shouldn't complain. We should be supporting the farmers and California needs the tax money too.

We escaped the smoke and continued onto the summit of Cypress Mountain Road. We decided to stop and look at the view of the Pacific Ocean. The sun was on our backs and a cool Pacific breeze was blowing up the canyon. I could have stayed there for a couple of hours and just enjoyed the day, but we all had the munchies from the pot we inhaled while driving past the pot farm, so we made our way into Cambria.

I was too stoned to remember the name of the last road, but I do remember passing a lot of bicyclist strung out riding way to slow down the middle of the road. I swear I passed the same blonde girl on a bicycle three times. I must have inhaled more than I thought. We finally made it to the Main Street Grill and then sat there

eating way too much and talking way too long, but it was all good and we had a fantastic time.

Thanks to everyone who attended this run. Can't think of a better way to spend a Saturday!



(Continued from page 1)

we had been waiting for all summer. I thought about the people in the club that didn't come along, but not for long. We were having too much fun.

We worked our way out of the creek over foot stool size granite boulders. Both Jeeps performed like they were built for this because, well, they were. Slow but sure we worked our way through rock pile after rock pile and slim passes between trees and through some of the most beautiful mountain scenery on earth on our way to Red Lake and the gate keeper to Coyote Lake.

It took us about two hours to make it to Red Lake so we decided to camp there as it was already 4:00pm. Only two other people were camped at Red Lake. We set up camp and watched a hand full of other wheelers go by heading up to Coyote Lake.

It was cold during the night. My guess it was in the low 40s, the days where



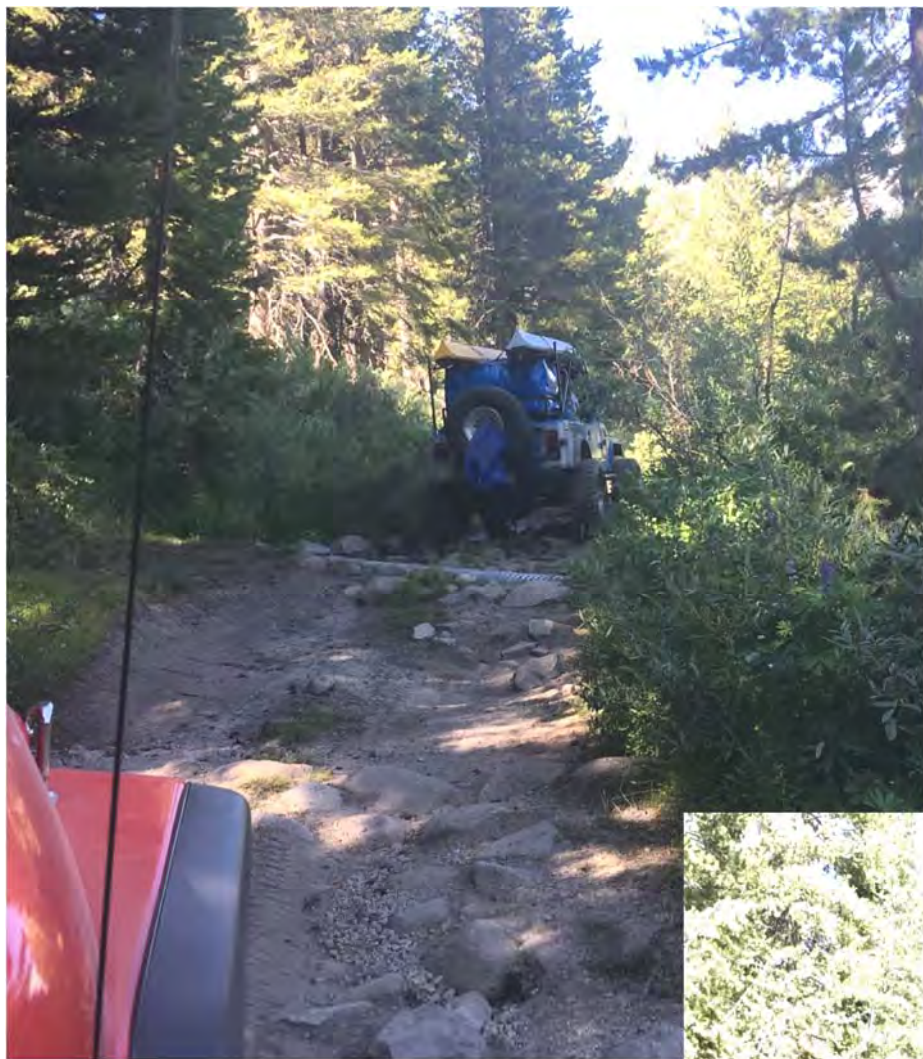
in the low 70s with a nice breeze. A refreshing break from the 100s in Paso Robles.

We were up early and started our day trip to Coyote Lake. Worked our way up the gate keeper and through root hill with more smiles and excited about our day ahead. We made Coyote Lake in about an hour and a half.

There were about 20 Jeeps, rock buggies and Toyotas there. The Bakersfield Trail blazers made up about half. They welcomed us in and we stood and talked to them for a while.

We had lunch and headed back to Red Lake. On the way back we passed another ten or so assorted vehicles ascending the trail. Clubs from Tulare, Fresno and Visalia were the bulk of people on the trail. At the root hill we stopped and let another nine jeeps and others vehicle go by. It was fun watching these people of varying degrees of skill and vehicle types work their way over the roots and rocks. Some did a good job and some not so good, but they all made it.

We worked our way down the gate keeper and back to camp. We didn't



happy we had no damage, but sad that we were back and the best wheeling I had had all year was just about over.

We drove out to the parking lot, loaded up and drove down to Prather to a Mexican restaurant for some real food that someone else cooked. I would like to thank Eric and Laura for joining us. If you don't know them I encourage you to meet them. Fun good quality people that made a really good trip even better.

I encourage you to attend more runs. Your skills and confidence in yourself and your vehicle will improve and you might make some new friends like Eric and Laura...

sit in camp too long before we were over at the gate keeper watching more people going up to Coyote or returning down the rock pile. If you don't think you have the skill to do this you need to watch the video that Laura took of the eleven year old in a rock buggy coming down the gate keeper. There were about three different lines to come down and he chose the most difficult one (Check out the video). He drove down it like someone else was paying the bills. With his dad in the passenger seat, you could tell they were having the time of their lives.

I stayed up Saturday night to watch the meteor shower. It was brilliant against the black Sierra sky. Some of the brightest one would light up the sky so bright that you could see them through the trees. Others streaked across the sky like a rip of daylight in the night, so special.

We got up early Sunday and headed back to the Sand flats. By our count, there had to be about fifty to sixty people at Coyote Lake and we wanted to get out ahead of the crowd. We made better time coming out as our skills had improved over the last couple of days on the rocks. As we climbed the last hill out of the creek to the Sand flats I was



Club Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes by Steve R, Acting Club Secretary

August 2, 2017 Meeting

Meeting started: 7:00 pm

Acting President Eric:

- Round-table introductions.
- Looking for new Secretary. Minute recording by Steve.
- General fund: \$555.05
- Current membership (50 paid members)
- Working on new newsletter. Please include both pictures and text to describe adventure to be posted in newsletters.
- Events:: Looking for someone to take over coordinating events.
– Dennis accepted responsibility.
- New stickers are in.
- New members receive 1 free sticker
- If current members would like a new sticker, \$10.00 each
- Ways & Means
- Question as to whether the Safety Checklist is on our website. George to verify.
- High Mountain still closed. Forestry says it is maintained by the county. County says “they have no money for repairs” Contacted Suzie J for assistance.

New Business:

- New Events Director – Dennis
- 8/11/17 Coyote Lake. Still questioning whether that trail is open. If not, will go to Red Lake. To be posted on email list and Facebook
- Possible Hollister trip. No date set.
- 8/5/17 Hwy 58 clean-up. Meet at Santa Margarita Park at 7:45am.
- 8/5/17 Pine Hill Rd run. Contact Dennis for details.

- 9/14-9/15 2017 Tom B is doing the Rubicon Trail.
- 9/19/17 Hot El Camino Cruise Night. If not paying for the cruise run, you will need to be at Ted Miles Jeep BEFORE 5:00pm and be willing to stay until the street re-opens around 8:30 pm. We will be parking on the North Side. There will be a benefit dinner available. Fell free to bring chairs.
- November Paniment Valley
- December San Miguel Parade
- May or may not do a Christmas party this year. Suggestion was to have a New Year party sometime in January. All suggestion are welcome.

Discuss recent trail runs:

- TV Tower Rd.
- Randy is going to Colorado. Room for 1 guest if someone would like to go. Please contact Randy for details.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45pm.

September 6, 2017 Meeting:

Meeting started: 7:00 pm

Acting President Eric:

- Round-table introductions.
- Anything from the Secretary...Nothing new.
- Anything from the Treasurer...Nothing new.
- Current membership (50 paid members)
- Next newsletter: Ready by October meeting.

Vote for new office positions. With a current membership at 50 members, A minimum of 17 members must be present. Current count at the meeting is 13. No vote could be taken.

Events:

- Santa Margarita trash pick up Saturday 9/9/17, meet at the park at 8:00 am

- Dirt road run after trash pick up
- Miller Jeep trail 9/16/17 Fraiser Park. Some may choose to stay overnight. 9:00 am
- Santa Maria Club putting on Off-Road safety expo: 9/16/17
- 9/14-9/15 2017 Tom Burton is doing the Rubicon Trail.
- November Panimint Valley
- December San Miguel Parade

Promotions:

- New stickers are in.
- Dan still taking orders for T-shirts. Have not yet the minimum order requirements.
- If current members would like a new sticker, \$10.00 ea. (large ones)

Ways & Means

Nothing new to report.

New Business:

- Cal-4-Wheel is helping to re-open High Mountain Rd. “County closure for public safety”.
- Discussion of Christmas Party.

Randy makes motion to have a “new year” party in January instead of a “Christmas party” due to everyone's busy schedule.

Seconded by Dan

Vote take: Majority “Ayes”

Looking for someone to volunteer to head up party. Please come forward if you wish to volunteer.

Discuss recent trail runs:

- Randy talked about his Colorado trip.
- Dennis talked about the Coyote Lake trip

All sounded like great fun.

Meeting Adjourned 7:57pm.

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



Advance Adapters Inc.

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Paso Robles, CA
93446
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<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.

October 4 — General Club Meeting. La Mexicana, Atascadero at 7:00 PM.

October 7 — Adopt-a-Highway cleanup. Santa Margarita Park at 8:00 AM. Followed by after meeting run: Garcia Ridge Cleanup.

November 1 — General Club Meeting. La Mexicana, Atascadero at 7:00 PM.

November 4 — Adopt-a-Highway cleanup. Santa Margarita Park at 8:00 AM. Followed by after meeting run: Dos Padres Canyon.

December 6 — General Club Meeting. La Mexicana, Atascadero at 7:00 PM. Nominations for 2018 Officers.

December 16 — San Miguel Christmas Parade.

January 3 — General Club Meeting. La Mexicana, Atascadero at 7:00 PM. Election of new officers for 2018.

January TBD — After New Year's Party.

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

February 10 or 11 — After meeting run. TBD.

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

March 10 or 11 — After meeting run. TBD.

April 4 — General Club Meeting. La Mexicana, Atascadero at 7:00 PM.

April 7 or 8 — After meeting run. TBD.

May 2 — General Club Meeting. La Mexicana, Atascadero at 7:00 PM.

May 5 or 6 — After meeting 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.