



THE SLO 4-WHEELER



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November / December 2016

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Johnson Valley November 11-14, 2016



Written by Tom B

Kenn B-'85 4 Runner, Kevin B-Buggy, Richard B-Land Cruiser, Tom B-'85 Toyota Pickup.

We met at Golden Hill and Hwy 46 at 6:00A.M. Friday and headed out. Nice clear day. We got separated in Bakersfield due to an accident on the ramp from 99 to 58. I was ahead of the group so I stopped for a B-break and the rest of the group ended up on the on ramp to 99 just ahead of 58 and I had to go around but we met back up in Tehachapi when we stopped for fuel.

We stopped for lunch at the Slash X Café just outside of Barstow. It is in the middle of nowhere and there were a group of 4 guys when we got there. When we left the place was packed. Just about all the patrons had come screaming in on dirt bikes and side x sides or Razors. They had all

been riding in the desert and this place caters to them. It is a big place with a large patio out back. The food was good but we were sure surprised at the crowd.

We arrived at Johnson Valley about 1:30-2:00. We were very surprised at how few people there were. We unloaded the rigs and set up camp. Then we headed out. Our first run on Friday afternoon was Tack Hammer. It was short and a good break in for newcomers. We looked around and played until it was close to dinner time. We went and looked at Back Door and it had filled itself in a lot since the last time we had been there. It seemed almost doable. Kevin pulled up on it a couple times but couldn't get the right line to pull himself up without really going for it. We headed back and fixed dinner. The moon was full and it was glorious.

Saturday morning we headed to Aftershock. This trail is at the outer-most area of Johnson Valley and we tried to find a short cut using G.P.S. but it didn't work out as we had hoped so it took us awhile. We finally got there. We stopped for lunch at the beginning but just as we got settled in a group of extreme jeeps came through so we had to move off the trail. We thought we were the only ones out there but guess not. The trail had about 3 really challenging spots including a dry waterfall that we had to traverse. I think we all got a little carnage but Richard wins the award for the most souvenirs. By the time we finished it was almost dark and time for dinner. After dinner Kenn, Richard and Kevin decided to run Turkey

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2016 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 at
gwestlun@charter.net

Garcia Ridge Cleanup

Text and photos by George W, Editor

On Saturday morning, October 22nd, a good sized group of members and potential members gathered at Santa Margarita Park before heading off to Pozo and the Garcia Ridge Trail. In attendance was Alex and Addison B, Richard and Patty B, Kevin and Walker B, Tom and Kenn B, Eric F DeQue G, Brit M, Casey M, Randy P, Bob R, George Westlund and Paul W.

Once we were pretty sure that there wouldn't be any more showing up, we headed out to the National Forest Ranger Station in Pozo to air down. Once everyone was satisfied with their off road worthiness, we headed south on High Mountain Road up to the summit where the Garcia Ridge trail starts. The first half mile looked pretty good as someone had been in there fairly recently and cut it back about 4-6 feet from the edge of the trail. We decided to continue on to the mini steps where some would break off and cut around there and others would continue further up the trail and work



wherever it seemed narrow.

One of our members had an issue on the first steep climb as their rig felt like it was running out of gas every time he started to head up the incline.

He was sure he had enough fuel based on the miles already driven on the tank until he realized that that he had towed another member up on the Swamp Lake trail the complete distance out and that amounted to many hours. Randy turned around and came back as he had two full cans on the back of his Jeep. With a Super Siphon the contents of one can was transferred into a grateful Tom's tank and he was back in business again. Kevin loaded Walker back up, who had been playing with his trucks at the side of the trail and those of us at the end continued on.

We came up to the bottom of the mini steps and one group was busy

working there so we continued on to the front group which was working away a couple hundred yards up the trail. Kenn was making quick work of brush and Masingita brushback about four feet from the edge of the trail. We joined in chucking the cuttings as far over the tops of the remaining brush growth as we could.

Once we reached a fairly wide spot we moved forward to the next narrow part and continued the process. Luckily there didn't appear to be any Poison Oak as the cutting went at a fevered pace. It was a pretty good workout for all involved as the branches went flying. As it wasn't looking too bad for a little ways beyond us, they figured that when that stretch was done, they would head back to the mini steps, eat lunch and play for a little bit, they cut a small area just before the top of the steps that we had passed up because it was fairly short.

At this point I took my leave as I had another two events to go home and get ready for, so I said my goodbyes and headed back to Pozo to air up and then hit the road for home.

(More photos of the Garcia Ridge Cleanup on page 6)



(Continued from page 1)

Claw. I stayed in camp to enjoy the campfire. It was incredible. The moon was a super moon and it was almost like daylight. Sunday morning we ran the lower Big Johnson and then headed to Fissure Mountain. Fissure Mountain is not a heavy rock crawling trail but has some off camber spots that make it interesting. At the top it has some amazing views and we picked a great spot for lunch. The weather was great. The temperature was very comfortable with clear blue skies and no wind. We ran a tarp between Kenn and my rigs and sat and enjoyed the views and the company. You could see forever. By the time we got back it was getting dark and time for dinner.



After dinner, Kenn and Kevin decided to check out Chocolate Thunder. This is a pretty extreme run and very steep. It is tough in the daylight but a lot worse at night. Even though it was very bright, I was not into it and Richard felt his Land Cruiser was not up for it so we drove over and watched and used our head lights to help light the way. Once they got out of sight we headed back to camp. When Kevin and Kenn got back they were extremely pumped up(rightly so) as they had a very successful run under their belts. We enjoyed the rest of the night by the campfire. Monday we loaded up and headed home. We stopped at Lenny's for lunch and fuel in Tehachapi and got home by about 3:30. It was a great trip with great weather and great company. I hope our next trip we can get more club members to experience what we so thoroughly enjoyed. Tom B



Full Moon Fever Night Run

By Eric F

July 16th was the closest night to the full moon. A flyer and group email was put out announcing a night run. There was a total of 5 rigs, a small turn out.

We all met up around 8.00 pm did a quick drivers meeting at 8.15 pm. Went over which way we were going. Our plan was to head out Pozo Road and run up Las Chiches from Pozo Road, stop at the large rocks and drop into turkey flats. We made our way to the forest sign area where the paved road ends and aired down.

The group then proceeded to the Las Chiches trail head. We all put our rigs into 4x4 low and Eric was the first one up, Maybe not. The trail was like driving on marbles. Eric's tires were spinning so bad that they dug into the loose dirt and rock and Eric came to a stop.

Oh boy its night time. No where to turn around at. I was able to safely park on the steep hill. Hmm now what? I decided to air down some more. I was at 15psi. I've done this trail with 20psi of air pressure no problem. I aired down to 10psi. I back up some what and took another shot. I got moving, still spinning but moving.

Daryn in his Rubicon also came up the trail in case i got stuck again. I found the trick was speed, the trail was so loose you could not crawl you had to move with some speed. I radioed down to the rest of the group. They decided that being the trail was so loose they would stay at the bottom and not come up. Daryn and I made it to the 3 way split on Las Chiches safely turned around and made our way down the trail. We did feel some slip coming down the hills as it was very loose. Casey did warn us that the trails were extremely loose as he had been working on the trails with CCMA. Earlier that day.

At the bottom of the trail we all decided to head to La Panza campground. We made it to the campground no problems. We all sat around eating the desserts we all brought. Being we are



in a severe drought there wasn't a piece of anything to put in the fire rings. From where we were we could barely see the full moon as it was blocked by all the trees at the end of the camp ground.

Believe it or not there was a lone camper at one of the first camp spots. We where at the rear as not to bother anyone. We hung around for quite a while then we packed up and decided to head home. We all decided to head out to Red Hill Road.

As we were leaving i noticed a for sale sign catty corner from the campground. Interesting and i think it

was close to one of the motorcycle trails. My thought the forestry department cant just close trails but if they sell the property then its no longer forest property and now new owner can close off access to his or land.

We made it to Red Hill Road no problem, we all aired up our tires, said our goodbyes and drove off into the full moon.

Members present:

Eric F. Casey and Loree M, daughter and her boy friend Larry (sorry brain is dead) Greg and Haley G, guest Daryn D.



Pre-season Pre-run Vehicle Inspection

By Eric F

We build or have our rigs built and we use them. Sometimes we use our rigs harder than other times and vise versa. Well over time bolts, bushing, etc. Wear in and settle in. The rigs get loose. Sometimes we notice the rig doesn't drive right or sometimes we don't notice. Sometimes its that new clunk or pop that we notice.

I had my jeep at my shop for a smog check. I decided after work I would put it on one of our drive-on racks as the suspension would be in its natural ride height. I did a visual inspection for anything broken, any bushing at were visually worn or failed. I found none. I also looked for signs of rust around u-joints as this indicates there is no grease left in them and require replacement. Mine were all ok as i have newer Tom Woods drive-shafts and recently replaced the u-joint in the right front axle.

I then took my toque wrench and re-torqued all the upper and control arm bolts and nuts. I found quite a few that need tightening. I'd like to point out that none were loose as in backed off; Just needed re-torquing.

I did find one of my transmission cross-member bolts loose. I went to tighten that one and found the nut in the frame was stripped. I have a lot more stress on my cross-member as mine is no longer stamped steel; its a heavy duty welded plate steel also my lower control arm reinforcement brackets bolt-in using the cross-member bolts.

I'm thinking now what I'm going to have to drill a good size hole in the unibody frame and put a nut in through the side of the frame where i just drilled the hole. Frustrated I drove my rig home as it was after 6 and needed to lock the shop up.

I got up the next day and did some research on bolt sizes. 10 mm is 0.393" there is not available. 11 mm bolt is so I looked at 7/16 that equal 0.433". I looked through my bolt supply and



found I have plenty of 7/16 course thread bolts. I went down to miners hardware store and bought a new 7/16 tap.

I used some WD-40 on the new tap and was able to cut some new fresh threads no problem. I installed the 7/16 bolts with lock washers and everything tightened right up. Nice solid cross-member now.

While i was under my rig i also installed a transfer case factory style skid plate. Better than nothing. For some reason my 2000 did not come with any skid plates at all. My rig is now ready for its next adventure.



Club Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes by Kevin B, Club Secretary

Minutes for the October 5th meeting

Officer Reports:

Kirk-VP- Highway cleanup scheduled for Oct 15th. 7:30am.

Jon-Treasurer- \$929 in the account

George-Newsletter/Membership- The new newsletter is done and out, and on the website. Thanks for all the articles! Hit a new record for membership, 61 members!

Dan-Promotions- He put in a few phone calls looking for prices of banners.

Old Biz:

Meeting Place- Round Table in Atascadero is not going to be cooperative. Looking into other ideas at this point and moving the meeting location to Paso Robles. Any ideas?

Christmas Party- We need to figure out a main dish, head count, and what everyone is bringing as a side. There is already an email list started.

The bylaws and membership forms have been updated on the website.

New Biz:

Its time for Garcia Ridge trail maintenance! I thought we had decided on Oct 22nd, but Tom put an

email out about doing it Oct 15th after the highway cleanup. Either way we NEED your help! Come on out and trim brush with us in the morning, have lunch and then we can play after that!

Get out and VOTE on Nov 8th!

Nov we also have new officer nominations for next year!

San Miguel Christmas parade is on Dec 17th. Not sure what the consensus was on the club going to this event?

Trip Reports:

Eric- Drove all morning to the Rubicon and almost rolled his jeep. Had great weather, sounds like fun!

(Additional photos from page 2)



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: _____

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Please indicate your Newsletter Delivery Preference:

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Send completed coupon along with a check for \$25 made payable to "SLO 4 Wheelers" to:

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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 you're not a member, check it out,

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

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SLO 4 WHEELERS

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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.

December 17th — San Miguel Christmas Parade.

January 4th — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana, 7:00 PM. Election of 2017 Club Officers.

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

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

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

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

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

June TBD — Club Bar-B-Que.

July 4th — Annual 4th of July parade, Templeton.

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

August 2nd — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

August TBA — Annual Club Coyote Lake Run.

August 18 — Hot August Nights Cruise Night, Atascadero

September 6 — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

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

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

December 2 — Club Christmas Party

December 6 — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana, 7:00 PM. Nomination of Club Officers for 2018.

December 16? — San Miguel Christmas Parade.

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.