



# The SLO 4-Wheeler



Volume 14, Issue 4

July / August 2008

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## Garcia Ridge Clean-up



*Written by Anthony S and Eric F.*  
 First we would like to thank Everyone who Came Out! Those present were Eric F, Jim T, Paul V, Steve P, George W, Kevin C, Bob O & Son, Mike G, Randy & Margaret P, Chris & Jack S, Anthony S.  
 The Day started with most of us meeting at the Ranger station in Pozo around 9am. We met up with Ranger M, and he loaned us an auger and got us the poles. He was going to help us with some of the work but was called away to work somewhere else.  
 We had a drivers meeting and spilt the group in half with Jim T leading the first group (Kevin C, George W, Steve P) up the Trail to do Trimming, I led the 2nd group (Eric F, Paul V, Bob O & Son) to install the rail so that



people Stop Driving up the side of the trail.

The Groups left the Ranger station around 9:30am and got to the trail head around 10. Jim's group headed up the Trail to do the trimming.

The rest of us spent the better part of 3 hours digging 3 Holes! Yes the spot we had to put it was on Solid Rock (Sandstone??? NOT VERY SANDY) . The Auger wound up taking me for a Spin and then shortly afterwards Paul V went for a Spin too. We did finally get the holes dug and the poles put in place with cement, we then installed the Railing. It looks very good and we hope that it will deter people from driving up the side of the Trail.

Mike G showed up shortly after we got there and helped us with the Railing and Randy & Margaret P also showed up and they went up the trail to Help with the Trimming.

After we were done with the Railing, those of us doing the railing had some lunch (I tried to get the other group on the C.B. but they must have been out of their trucks) Around 1pm the second group headed up the trail Led by Eric. I had to Return the Auger, Lloyd left the shed in Pozo

*(Continued on page 7)*

## 2008 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

### Officers:

President:..... Eric F  
 Vice President:..... Jim T  
 Secretary:..... Chris S  
 Treasurer: ..... Florence S

### Board of Directors (includes officers):

Ways and Means: ..... Dennis V  
 Membership Director: ..... Dave F  
 Events Director:..... Anthony S  
 Land Use Liaison:..... Anthony S  
 CA4WDC Liaison: ..... Suzy J  
 Social Chairperson: ..... Robin M  
 Newsletter Editor: ..... George W

### Committees:

Safety Chairperson:..... Paul V  
 Promotional Chairperson:..... Dennis V  
 Club Scrapbook:..... George W  
 Virtual Committee: ..... Mark B  
 Club Outside Promotions:..... Dave F  
**Adopted Trails and Campgrounds:**  
 Garcia Ridge Trail:..... Jim T  
 Pine Mountain Trail:..... Anthony S  
 La Panza Camp Ground:..... Anthony S

### Newsletter submittals

by the weekend after the meeting to George at  
 ????????@charter.net

# Member Rigs: Bullet Proof



by George Westlund, Editor

**NOTE:** All photos of Randy's rig are from his rather large archive of modification and run photos.

When I decided to ask Randy P if I could do a "Member's Rigs" article on his current rig, a 2003 TJ Rubicon, I wasn't sure what I was going to be in for. First let me say that since I joined the club Randy has always been interested in what I was doing with and to my rig. He wanted to make sure that I had a safe rig and would have a good time without getting into too much trouble.

When I drove up near Randy's newest incarnation, I, with my TJ Rubicon on

a 3-1/2" lift and 33" tires, felt like David and the big white rig was Goliath. It is HUGE! The tops of the tires came to the tops of my fender flairs. I had to do an article on this beast! Even the "auto hauler" that Randy trailers it on is massive (my bet is that its actually a heavy equipment trailer and Randy is playing it safe on its carrying capacity).

Randy's latest rig is a 2003 Jeep TJ Rubicon. According to Randy "I got the TJ Rubicon Jeep after Kathy told me she was tired of all the hours of work that I put into the CJ7 between adventures and showed me how we could buy a new one. She figured a new Jeep would require less maintenance between runs. She was right, as

usual."

"The TJ Rubi is a great jeep right off the lot. It had 31" tires, 4-link suspension with pan hard bars (pretty flexible), 4.0:1.0 low range transfer case, air lockers, 4.0L straight six fuel injected and an auto trans. But it did not match my old CJ-7 trail worthy wise. The 7 had 35" tires and the TJ needed 35's to do the trails I like with ease. So the first mechanical mods changed the suspension to RE long arm parts to make room for the 35's. It turns out that 37's also fit in the same space, so 37" were the next change up."

Randy's current rig has gone through an evolution since he purchased it from Ted Miles Jeep in 2003. It started its life as an unassuming white





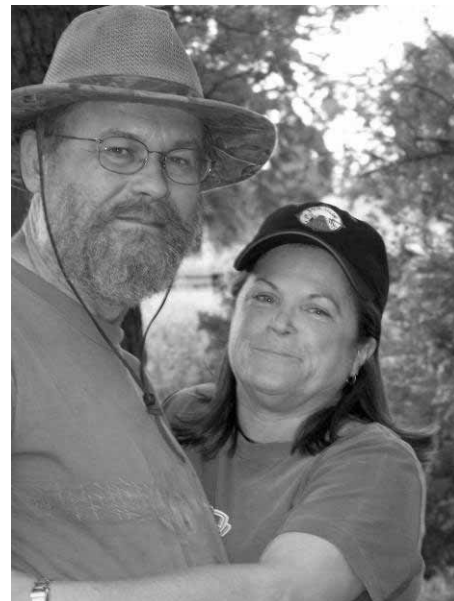
2003 Jeep Wrangler TJ Rubicon. Its initial modifications were simple and practical, floor mats and a fire extinguisher. Then it started to change a little more at a time until the more recent radical modifications.

While Randy has had other rigs in the past (his daughter Jenny has his old CJ-7, this TJ Jeep is definitely different!

Some of the TJ drive train is still original (4 liter fuel injected six cylinder engine, automatic transmission and 4:1 low range transfer case), but the rest of the drive train has undergone some radical recent changes as the result of blown limited slip worm gears in the stock Dana 44 rear end on Dusi. Pulling trailers lead to the current

axles which are Dynatrac with Dana 60s and ARB air lockers front and rear. They are hung from the chassis with an Nth Degree long arm suspension with a stinger to keep the rear pinion aligned with the transfer case and fox shocks and ORO (Off Road Only) 6" Air Bags replacing the factory coil springs.

For things that go bump in the night, or day, the Jeep has a ORFab rear bumper and a custom front bumper based on an ORFab prototype but heavily modified for the AEV (American Expeditionary Vehicles) high line hood and front fenders with AEV fender flares. The axles sit on top



Randy and Margaret (photo by George W.)

17x9 wheels with 40" Good Year MTR tires (40x13.50R172T).

With that kind of meat on the road, a little extra help on the steering is provided by a PSC (Power Steering Corp) ram assisted steering;

Body and passenger protection are provided by Poison Spider rockers and a Rockhard modular roll cage which greatly supplements the Jeep factory roll cage.



*(Continued from page 3)*

The rig is also equipped with dual batteries (one as a stand-by, just in case, and one on full time using a Kilby dual Battery kit), a Premier Power Welder and Alternator. The rig is also equipped with a Warn 8274 winch and a Genright tire rack and gas tank.

And, for the creature comforts, Randy also has a slide out refrigerator enclosed in a custom cargo compartment with spare parts. The club members have seen the refrigerator in action during the recent night run when Randy and Margaret produce several half gallons of ice cream!

But its "not all about the trail". Randy also enjoys the scenery and camping that goes along with wheeling. He loves sleeping on the ground under the stars.

Wheeling and camping have always been important to Randy and his family. His daughter Jenny would sometimes bring her bicycle and ride along the trail and hitch a ride with others in the group whenever she tired of pedaling, strapping her bike to their spare tire. One of the things that Randy wants everyone to understand is that it isn't all about wheeling. Wheeling is a means to get in touch with the out-



doors.

Randy has also been a strong supporter of the club's cancer runs. This is very personal for him after cancer took his late wife Kathy. (Many of the longer term club members fondly remember her and I was able to meet her during one of the El Camino cruise nights in Atascadero.)

More recently, Randy has found a new partner in life and in wheeling with his recent bride Margret. She too is very involved in his activities and shares his

passion for the outdoors.

Safety is another thing that Randy is passionate about. Anyone who has met him during club meetings or on a run will know that safety while on the trail is one of the things that Randy will always concentrate on and keep everyone else aware of. A good portion of my interview with him involved him making sure that modifications I planned for my Jeep would be safe and provide the greatest flexibility for my potential upcoming adventures.



# Las Chichas: A Fun "Dessert" Night Run



don, Mark B (tail gunner), Chris S and sons with guests, Myself and my friend Theresa (her first four wheel trail event) and a few others.

Everyone met at the Pozo Ranger station before sunset. We had a quick driver's meeting and then headed for Turkey Flats to air down. We finished airing down at Sunset, then drove up the canyon to the beginning of

the dirt trail. We then turned onto the trail and headed for five points.

When we got to five points we heard from some others who called out for our group on the CB wondering where we were. They had been up at the rocks watching the Sunset. We let them know we were on our way and continued toward the rocks.

When we got to the rocks everyone piled out of their rigs with their snacks and Randy and Margaret surprised everyone with several half gallons of ice cream from his on-board refrigerator/freezer. We then ate as much as we could handle and

watched the Moonrise to the east with a heavy orange glow due to the smoke in the air from all of the California fires.

A few ventured out to climb the rocks for a better view of the valleys around us. Others chatted and watched the children play with their flashlights.

The air was clear and the moon and the stars provided a great view before everyone piled back into their rigs and headed south down the trail toward Pozo Grade summit.

Once on Pozo Road the pace picked up as we headed down the hill. At this point we discovered how dry it was out there as the dust from the leading vehicles created a fog for those following making finding the edges of the road interesting.

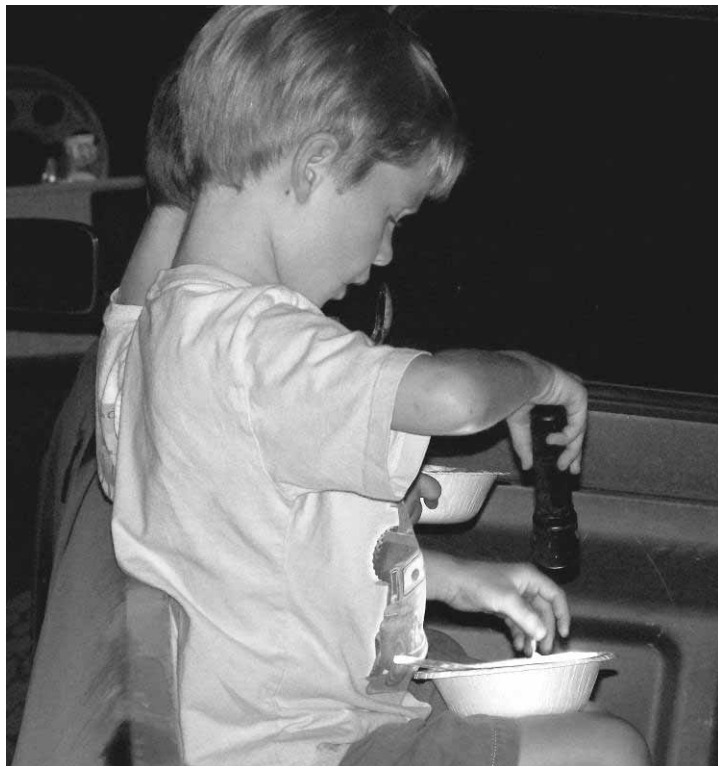
At the foot of the grade we pulled off at the wide spot and everyone started airing back up. While the hum of little compressors broke the silence of the night we talked about past adventures and adventures to come. Once everyone was aired back up we said goodbye and headed off into the darkness.

Thanks to everyone for making this a fun event for our members and guests!

*By George Westlund, Editor*

Our "easy" night run for July was a familiar one to many of the club members, Las Chichas. This time there were two twists added. The run went from north to south (Turkey Flats to Pozo Road Summit) and everyone was asked to bring a snack to share.

Attending members included, Randy and Margaret P, Eric F (Trail Boss) and friends, Bob O and his son Bran-



# Club Meeting Minutes: June 6th, 2008

*Meeting Minutes by Chris S, Club Secretary*

Meeting called to order by Eric F at 7:05 with Introductions and an "About the Club" speech. — President (Eric F)-

- Vice-President (Jim T)- Commented on how small the turnout was tonight, so the new people would know that this is not a "normal" turnout for a meeting.
- Treasurer (Florence S)- Report given by Eric — Balance: \$880.00
- Event's Director (Anthony S)-
  - June 7th After Club Run will be at Garcia Ridge for a work party.
  - Moonlight Madness June 20th-22nd- Held at Bald Mountain. need to apply and contact Jim B if you plan on going and caravanning up there or need info on it. Anthony will find out about the Templeton 4th of July parade.
  - July 19th will be the Cruise for Cancer. This year will start in Paso Robles and end with a potluck dinner at the Meaney's for members only. Anyone is welcome to go on the run. Contact Suzy if you are interested in the Cancer Relay.
  - Coyote Lake will be August 15th-17th and led by Frank S.

Everything else, just see the upcoming events flyer. Made a point about having a proper roll-cage for those that do hard trails and a 5 point harness do to many injuries on the trails this year.

- Eric- Frank found out that the Vandenburg 4x4 area is only open to the military.
- Club Membership (Dave F)- See Dave if you have not renewed or are a new member. Eric-Cal4Wheel dues are due, see Eric

after meeting.

- Cal4wheel (Suzy J)- About Cal4Wheel and what they do for us. To be sanctioned by Cal4wheel, the club needs to have as many members join. See Suzy if you have questions.
- Clear Creek was closed, and Cal4wheel is looking for a place to hold the event. Sierra Trek will be really cool this year, since it will be easier for the those who RV camp.
- Safety Director (Paul V)- Eric reported that there was almost a roll-over at the club run.
- Jim T updated the club safety bag. Anyone being a trailboss, needs to have the safety bag and then return it to Paul. Dave will hold the bag while Paul is on vacation.
- Suzy brought up the idea of having a "card" carried by members who have allergies and medical conditions.
- Newsletter (George W)- Has the latest addition for paid members. Needs material for the next addition.
- Secretary (Chris S)- Hoping to get the meeting minutes to George for the next newsletter.

## OTHER TOPICS:

- Suzy brought a couple business card proofs, as she is going to make some that the club members can hand out.
- Pam T - Has hats, shirts, and stickers
- Congratulations to Randy and Margaret on their recent wedding.
- Suzy J- Relay for Life SLO 4Walkers signups are now. Event is August 16th-17th Need more walkers this year. Contact Suzy for info and to signup.
- Jim T- High Desert Roundup (Jim didn't crash this year). Atten-

dance was about 1/2 what it was last year, probably do to the high gas prices. Weather was miserable, windy and cold, rain, etc.... Panamint Valley Days is coming up this year and Jim highly recommends it.

- Spring Fling BBQ- Dave led some runs. Anthony cooked for everyone.
- Jim T- How many members still haven't paid their dues this year? Dave, said 7 from last years list.



**Coming Soon  
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Newsletter  
near you!**

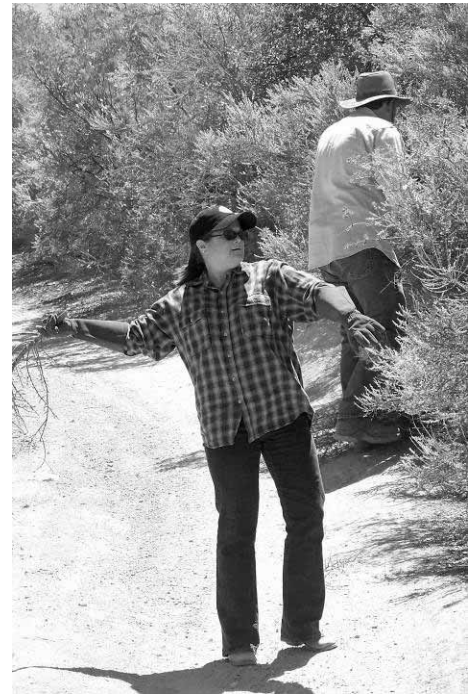
**A club tele-  
phone and  
email mem-  
ber list!**

**(As soon as  
Dave and I  
can get to-  
gether to  
create it)**

(Continued from page 1)

unlocked (so I wouldn't have to drive to Santa Maria to return it) so I didn't want it to stay that way for too long. Also there were too many "Loose" tools in my truck bed to go up the Trail so I went back to the Ranger Station and then Home. Chris & Jack S showed up before we reached the trail head and headed up the trail (Sorry I missed you guys, But thanks for coming!) Thanks Jim T for Leading the 1st group up and doing all of the trimming. Thanks Eric F for leading the 2nd group up the trail after lunch and making sure they all got off the trail safely. Garcia ridge trip report part3. Anthony had to leave to return the equipment back to Lloyd the OHV ranger. the group now consisted of Eric F, Mike G, Bob and Brandon O. Paul V. From the trail head we proceeded to the play area on our way to the trail head Eric start radioing the other group to let them know it was lunch and to come one down to the play area. Steve answered and would tell the others to come on down. The rest of the group made there way to the play area. Eric is looking

up the trail he sees Jim t on his was down the Eric sees a van yes a van coming down the trail. The whole group spotted the van we are wondering who is that and how they got there. Well it turned out to be Chris S and his son Jackson. he had bought him self an older Toyota van that was a 4x4 van. Pretty cool. Well that group consisted of Jim T, Chris and Jack S, George W and Kevin C. Randy and Margret and Steve P. decided to stay up on the trail and do more trimming. After some lunch and play time on the rocks we headed out of the trail and to the Pozo Ranger station. on the way back Kevin and George were on the side of the road. Kevin's electric fan decided it did not want to work any more. Bob O has a test light. Eric checked the fan circuit and found that the relay ground was not present and causing no fan. Eric moved the power wire on the relay one space and Kevin now had a working fan, always on with they key but he'll be able to get home. The group made it to the ranger station where we all aired up and some went to the Saloon some went home. thanks again to everyone who came out and helped on Saturday.



**Advance Adapters Inc.**  
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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 Clubs (CA4WDC) If your 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

**August 7th- 9th** – Other Club Run – Cal4Wheel Sierra Trek – See Cal4Wheel web site for more info.

**August 9th** – Club Run – 2nd Annual 4x4 Cruise For Cancer. Come Join us on a Run benefiting the American Cancer Associations Relay for Life. This will be an Easy/SUV Run down to the Coast. We are asking for a \$35.00 Donation to the American Cancer Associations "Relay For Life" to Participate. This Run is Open to Anyone...So if your neighbor has an SUV/JEEP/Pick-up Truck/Vanagon etc.. Invite them along for a Nice Scenic Drive Benefiting a GREAT Cause.

**August 9th** - Club Run- 4:00pm BBQ for Club Members ONLY. Following the Cruise for Cancer at the M House in Cayucos. Starting at approximately 4pm. THIS IS OPEN TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS YOU DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND the Cruise for Cancer. This is will be a potluck type dinner; the M's will be providing the "meat & beans" so please bring either a Salad/Side-Dish or Dessert.

**August 15th -17th** – Club Run – Annual Coyote Lake Run- Mark your calendar Now! This the Annual Club Run to Coyote

Lake. If Want Have a Great Time and Do Some Rock Crawling in the Sierras, Come out and Join Us for the Weekend. More Info to Come.

**September 3rd** – Club Meeting – Players Pizza Atascadero 7pm

**September 6th or 7th** – After Meeting Run- TBD at Meeting

**September 13th or 14th** – Trail Maintenance TBD at Meeting

**October 1st** – Club Meeting- Players Pizza Atascadero 7pm

**October 4th or 5th** – After Meeting Run – TBD at Meeting

**October 11th - 12th/13th** – Club Run – Iron & Star Lake- Columbus Day Run - Dan G will be leading a run to Iron & Star Lake. It will be his first time and he will be following Book Directions- He will be leaving from Atascadero Sat 11th at 7am and will be returning sometime Sunday. Difficulty is 3 out of 5 with one 4 section at the end going down to the lake. More Info to Come. What a Better way to Celebrate Columbus Day, than to Explore a New Trail!

**November 5th** – Club Meeting- Players

Pizza Atascadero 7pm

**November 8th or 9th** – After Meeting Run- TBD at Meeting

**November 9th - 11th** – Other Club Run- Cal4Wheel Paniment Valley Days- More Info to Come See Cal4Wheel Web Site For More Info <http://www.cal4wheel.com/>

**December 3rd** – Club Meeting / Christmas Party- Players Pizza Atascadero. More Info to Come!

**December 5th** – After Meeting Run- Christmas Parade- More Info to Come! This Event gives us a lot of Publicity Please slap on a couple Strings of lights and come join Us.

If you have any questions or events/local runs / not so local runs you would like to do and/or participate in, please contact Anthony S, SLO4-Wheelers Events Director (????????@sbcglobal.net) or cell/voice mail 805-???-????