



THE SLO 4-WHEELER



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A Letter From the Club President

Welcome to the San Luis County Four Wheel Drive club aka SLO4wheelers. Welcome 2008.

For our first time readers and new members you will find we are a diverse club. We have various makes and models of 4 wheel drives in our club. From stock SUVs and pickups to built up Jeeps, Toyotas and Broncos and other makes and models. The club also does various types of runs from beginner SUV type easy runs to hard trails like the Dusy-Ershim, Rubicon and runs to the Oceano Dunes as well.



Photo by George W

The club is also involved with the Forestry department and has two Adopt-a-trails and one Adopt-a-camp ground. The club keeps the trails maintained by cutting brush from and trash from the trails and maintaining the picnic benches on the trails. The camp ground maintenance has included repairing the bathroom stalls, fire rings and forest boundary marker/fences.

The clubs goal is to have at least one planned run after the meeting weather permitting. As of this writing our board for 2008 is putting together our budget and making plans for an exciting year. Once again welcome everyone to the San Luis County Four Wheel Drive Club.

Eric F, President

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 gw?????@charter.net

Member Rigs: From Zero to Jeeper's Jamboree in 6 Months

By George W, Editor

For the lack of anything better to write about on such a short schedule for my first newsletter, I figured I'd continue the idea of taking a look at a member and their rig. With so little time to get this issue ready (not to mention trying to figure out what I'd like it to look like), I might as well do my own (I've already got lots of pictures of it and this year has been pretty amazing).

For the last couple of years whenever my buddy Mike G and I got to do fun stuff away from our houses, it usually involved going for a ride in his Red CJ-7. That was all fine and dandy until he converted it to a two seater for the heavy duty Jeep runs. With Matt a usual passenger, that left me looking for a way to keep up.

Mike had a great idea, I could buy a Jeep! At first I figured that I'd buy an older used one and then we'd modify it so it could do what a Jeep should do. It became clear fairly quickly that the cost of the modifications and repairs would soon come close to the cost of a fairly new one. Then we found the Rubicon down at Ted Miles' dealership!

After a little bit of haggling and a lot of "Am I really sure" (this was going to be the most I'd ever spent on a vehicle before), I was the proud new owner of a 2004 Jeep Wrangler TJ Rubicon!

Now luckily for me and my pocket-book, the Jeep came with an aftermarket 3-1/2 inch ProComp lift, Micky Thompson Wheels and all sorts of Rubicon extras (Dana 44s front and rear, Front and rear lockers, 4:1 first gear, 4:1 low range and 4.10 differentials). The drive train gave me about a 65:1 final drive for crawling.

Now that I had a Jeep, Mike felt that we needed to make some changes. Over the next several months the front and rear tube bumpers were replaced with Warn bumpers and the addition of a Warn 9500ti Winch. The tube steps and stock Rubicon rocker covers were replaced with some really nice Hansen Rock Sliders. A Tuffy overhead console was added to house the CB and a Best-Top Safari top was made a new optional top to be used in place of the stock hardtop. I was quickly discovering what JEEP stood for (Just Empty Every Pocket).

Now what to do about tires. The ones on it were quickly wearing out. Goodyears were my first choice (Mark likes 'em), but thanks to military activity, they aren't available for now. So I went ahead and got Mickey Thompson Baja MTZ's. They looked neat and went on a few weeks before the Jamboree (which is a whole different part of this story).

My first off-road run with the Jeep

was a night run with the club on the Las Chichas trail. Fairly tame and not a big deal except for the worn tires I had on at the time.

The second run was with Mike G and Mark B as we drove the Pine Mountain Trail all the way to the top of the stair steps in June. My passenger for that run was Kevin C. By this time I had already registered for the Jeeper's Jamboree and his coaching and knowledge of the Rubicon Trail guided through what turned out to be a fairly challenging run for my second run. Also got my first body scratches as we trudged through brush.

The third run was the Garcia Ridge club cleanup run in early July with the new tires. Fairly minor run after Pine Mountain, but I did chicken out on the play area when I saw Eric sitting with his front end pitched up and rear wheels digging a trench just below the top rock.

Then in late July we trailered our Jeeps and headed for Placerville to drop off the tow rigs and trailers and hot foot it to Georgetown. We quickly registered, got something to eat and then high tailed it to Loon Lake just after Sundown. We slept along the side of the dirt road that night.

We were awake at 5:30 AM Thursday morning to the Santa Margarita group heading for the beginning of the trail. Following Keith M we somehow managed to make our way to the front in a hurry with barely time to air down and disconnect the sway bar. We then started a nine hour trek that would cover seven and a half miles of some of the most beautiful country I've seen in a while!

Just when I was starting to get used to the continuous terror of almost

(Continued on page 3)



Gatekeeper, photo by Matt G



The Big Sluice, photo by Matt G

(Continued from page 2)

destroying what I had spent the last few months pouring money into, the Jeep slide sideways into a rock and I sustained the only trail damaged, a cracked rim at the tire bead that, while looking horrible at the time, held air for two months before I replaced the wheel and slowly rounded back out.

We rolled into camp at about 4:00 PM and set up our camp site and spent the next two days relaxing and looking at everyone else's rigs. For the money you get good grub on the trail and in camp, you're just sharing it with about 1,200 other people, some of who really like to party.

At 4:30 AM Sunday morning we broke camp and headed out at about 6:00 AM only to get stuck in a half mile long traffic jam to Cadillac Hill.

This was the beginning of a four hour, nine mile, drive out to the air up station. A few more miles to Homewood for Lunch and we were off the Jamboree along with my Souvenir poster, bag and stickers to show for it.

After lunch we took off for Placerville to shower, eat and sleep before heading back home.

I think what got me by during this event was great coaching by Mark, Mike, Kevin and Keith. I also watched the Jeep ahead of me (usually Keith or Mike) and made adjustments for differences in vehicle structures as we went along. My basic rules provided by Mike were:

- If a rock has a scuff mark on it, put a tire on it.
- Pay attention to those around you and watch what they do that works.
- Get to camp in one piece; no showing off!



In line Sunday Morning, photo by George W



Advance Adapters Inc.
4320 Aerotech Center Way
Paso Robles, California 93446
Phone: 805-238-7000
(Toll Free: 800-350-2223)
<http://www.advanceadapters.com>

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/>

Ted Miles Jeep

A GREAT place to buy a new Jeep! Great selection of pre-owned vehicles too! *Ted offers a 15% discount on all parts (& 10% off accessories like hats) to club members!*

Ted Miles Jeep
7380 El Camino Real
Atascadero CA Ph466-2411
<http://www.tedmilesjeep.com>



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/>

—THIS SPACE AVAILABLE—

Associate membership shall be offered to interested businesses at \$50.00 per year, and shall be given advertising space in the club newsletter.



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/>

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Associate membership shall be offered to interested businesses at \$50.00 per year, and shall be given advertising space in the club newsletter.



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

February 6th:

Club Meeting—Players Pizza,
Atascadero starting at 7:00 PM

February 9th or 10th:

After Meeting Run—TBD at the
February Meeting

February 16th-18th:

Club Run- Presidents Day Run -
Calico Clean Up Saturday with a
Club Run on Sunday. More
Information about Club Run at
February Meeting. See Calico
Clean-Up Web Site
<http://www.calicocleanup.com/info/>

February 22nd-24th:

Other Club Run- CAL4Wheel
Convention. See the Cal4Wheel
Web Site for more information:
<http://www.cal4wheel.com/>

February 29th – March 2nd:

Other Club Run- Tierra Del Sol
Desert Safari- Ocotillo Wells-This is
the Biggest 4x4 Event in the
Country, More Info at Feb Meeting.
See In-Gear Web Site for
Registration Info
[http://www.ingear4x4.com/
index.php?
option=com_content&task=view&id
=215&Itemid=84](http://www.ingear4x4.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=215&Itemid=84)

March 5th:

Club Meeting—Players Pizza,
Atascadero starting at 7:00 PM

March 8th:

After Meeting Run—Trail
Maintenance TBD at Meeting

April 2nd:

Club Meeting—Players Pizza
Atascadero 7:00 PM

April 5th:

After Meeting Run- Trail
Maintenance TBD at Meeting

April 11th-13th:

Other Club Run/Club Run - Molina
Ghost Run- Clear Creek Area-
Coalinga Try and Make this One! it
is the Closest Cal4Wheel Event to
Us. Runs from Mild to Wild
Registration info at:
[http://www.ingear4x4.com/
index.php?
option=com_content&task=view&id
=222&Itemid=84](http://www.ingear4x4.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=222&Itemid=84)

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