



The SLO 4-Wheeler



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Trail Report: Annual Coyote Lake Trip



various times. This made the trail boss job easier but writing this report more difficult. On Thursday the 14th Jim and Cindy B and son Josh drove from home to Coyote Lake. They did the trail in their jeep. Also coming in on Thur., but choosing to stay at Red Lake, were Mike G and son Matt in their jeep, Mark and Margaret B with son



Written by Frank S, Trail Boss

The Trip Time Frame is August 14-18, 2008. Photos on this page by Matt G.

There were 22 people and 12 vehicles that participated in the trip. This was not your standard group trip where everyone lines up and proceeds forward. Due to a variety of schedules and desires, a number of small groups headed in and out at

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2008 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

Officers:

President: Eric F
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 Secretary: Chris S
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Ways and Means: Dennis V
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 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



Photo by Chris S

(Continued from page 1)

Matt and his wife Tracy and their daughter Mandy in 2 more jeeps. Randy and Margaret P drove their truck and flat-bed trailer with Jeep and camping trailer on board to Jim Z's property and spent the night there. Friday morning the 15th they met Brian T and friend Mary P in Brian's jeep, leaving Randy's truck and trailer at Jim Z's, which is a few

Photo by Chris S



Photo by Chris S

miles south of Shaver Lake. Just after leaving the black top road and turning onto Tamarack Creek Rd., the spindle broke off Randy's camping trailer, causing it to roll over 360 degrees, obviously doing considerable damage. They dragged it off the road and Randy and Margaret drove the jeep back to Jim Z's to get their truck and trailer. The idea was to drag the camping trailer onto the flat-bed trailer.

In the meantime Dion V and nephew

Jason W were towing their jeep to a spot on Dinky Creek Rd., leaving their truck and driving their jeep from there. Also on Friday morning myself and son-in-law Preston M and friend Don W left home at 8:15am in 2 trucks towing 2 jeeps. We arrived at the scene of Randy's accident at about the same time as Dion and Jason showed up. We all spent about an hour loading Randy's camping trailer onto the flat bed.

(Continued on page 3)

Photo by Chris S



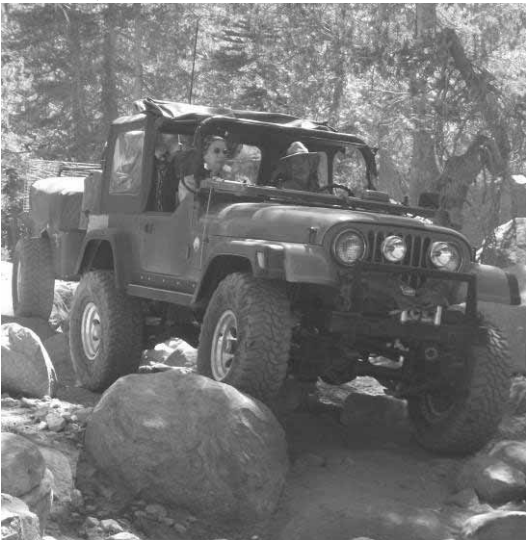


*Photo by Chris S
(Continued from page 2)*

But when we first arrived at the scene, Brian T noticed a rattling sound coming from Preston's jeep. As near as we could figure out, we hit a bump somewhere and popped something into gear, destroying the tranny.

We finally made it to Sand Flats at 4:30pm and set up camp. Shortly after, Chris S and son Jack arrived in their Toyota 4-runner. We all had a BBQ dinner and fireside chat until about 10:30pm. Very early Saturday

Photo by Matt G



morning Steve P, son Kevin and brother Jim in a motor home and jeep headed from home to Sand Flats for the 9am departure to Coyote. There at Sand Flats we pried the doors and drawers open on Randy's trailer and he packed what he could fit in his jeep. Don and Preston emptied the gear from their dead jeep and packed it into mine. We waited until about 9:20am for Steve P. Unable to raise him on the CB, we set out with 5 vehicles and Preston and Don walking in. Upon arriving at Red Lake with no problems, we met the B's and G's. After

a short chat, we headed out of Red Lake and up that pile of boulders. Chris had some problems there, as he has no lockers on his truck. A little assist from Dion's winch and we headed for the next few challenges along that stretch to Coyote Lake. Everyone did well and when we arrived we were met by the 2 hikers and the B Family. We set up our camps and had our pot luck dinner. Needless to say, everything was really good and everyone ate too much. There was an impressive amount of fish caught this

year by Preston M. and Josh B. Josh, who over the years since I first met him, is turning into a fine young man. He spent quite a bit of time Saturday splitting wood for the cook fire and bonfire. He's heavily into the Boy Scouts and is advancing rapidly up the Boy

Scout ladder. I also couldn't help noticing how Matt G has turned into a full-grown man. And Mandy B who started as a baby at Coyote Lake is now a nice young lady who is just a pleasure to be around. Then there was Jack S. He was a blast to watch. He spent the weekend playing with his blaze-green plastic sword and a shovel which he used to throw dirt up into the air and land on his head. What a pleasure to watch these kids as the years go by. On Sunday morning the buzz around camp was to leave by or before noon, and so we did. We packed up our stuff and left camp about 10:30am, except for the B's who planned to leave Monday morning. When we got to Red Lake, we had lunch and found that the Red Lake group would be leaving Monday morning also. Back at Sand Flats, everyone packed their stuff and headed home. I got home at 7:30pm. It's a long haul over there and back, but it's always worth it in the end. Thanks to all who made the trip and I hope to do it again next year.

Photo by Matt G



Member Rigs: AX-10



Photo by Matt G

By George W, Editor

"I broke the knuckles on my front axle last Monday night and had to replace them." (Man, that sounds expensive.) "I replaced the rear locker with a spool last night, that'll help me a little." "I changed my tires to Claws and I've got a lot more traction!" "I wasn't turning fast enough so I added a DIG unit, now I can turn on a dime." What the heck, I thought we were talking about 4x4s?

Actually we are, only they are the smaller variety. We're talking about Radio Controlled rock crawlers. They vary from 1/6th to 1/18th scale, come from a variety of companies and are usually highly customizable. You can buy them already put together with all of the electronics (or "Ready to Run"), put together with no electronics (or "Almost Ready to Run") or in pieces as a kit. They run on batteries and some even run on Nitro.

Several of the club members took the plunge at Christmas or after the



Photo by George W

first of the year and now regularly run their mini-rigs in their back yards and at public parks. Several members are members of a regular Monday night group that gathers at various locations throughout the county, but mostly in Paso Robles.

The RC bug first bit some of the peo-

ple last year during the Jamboree when they found an RC vendor on the vendor's day. He was just showing off what the little thing could do and attracting people. "Man I wish

Photo by George W





Photo by George W

my real rig had articulation like that!" was some of the comments that could be heard. Its a cool way to continue wheeling when you get to your destination and your tired of the other activities.

Most club members involved in this activity have chosen the Axial Scorpion AX-10, a 1/10th scale crawler with a stock three link suspension and a large variety of options from a variety of vendors. Many choose to replace many of the plastic components that are more prone to breakage with metal replacement parts. You can even have your choice of a variety of bright colors for the anodized parts as well.

Mind you this isn't a cheap hobby! A heavily customized AX-10 can set you back as much as 5-10 percent of what your real rig costs, and then there's all the repairs as you break things sort of like the real world of wheeling. A tumble the wrong way off of a rock of some size can cause some serious damage and the electronics aren't real friendly with water either, but its almost all fixable or replaceable. Great deal for the vendors; not such a great deal if the

honey starts to limit your hobby spending.

One of the cheaper components is the body. One minute you can be an old VW bug, then turn around and replace it with a Jeep or Toyota body in a minute or so. You can also choose to be radical with a rock buggy chassis or go totally scale complete with a hi-lift jack, ice chest, fire extinguisher and several other scale parts. Oh and did I mention you can



Photo by George W

also add lights?

Speaking from experience, if you don't have a lot of time and want to get into this, consider the Ready to Run option. Putting one together from a kit can be time consuming and tedious unless you have a buddy who has already done it and enjoys spending your money for you!

Photo by Theresa R



Trail Report: Garcia Ridge Night Run

By Eric F

Garcia ridge trip report. members present. Eric F and Alison E, Dave O, Jim T. Jim T. trail boss, Dave O. middle gunner and Eric F tail gunner. The meeting time and place for the Garcia ridge run was at the Pozo ranger station. meeting time was 6:30 PM scheduled to leave at 6:45.

Eric and Alison were running late and received a call from Jim T. saying he was running late and would catch up to us on the trail. Eric and Alison arrived at the Pozo Ranger station at 6.45. no one there we aired down and headed for the trail. Eric and Alison arrived at the trail head and found no one but there were fresh tire tracks so we proceed up the trail.

Several attempts on the CB were made but no answer. We made our way to the rock steps play area. we decided to go up the steps. Alison said we cant make it up those. well we did . we

drove down to the bottom of the steps and radioed several more times. Jim T radioed back said he was going to stop and wait for us on a safe pull out area. we proceed. Well on our way we handed a out a SLO4Wheeler card to Wrangler that was on the rail.

On the CB I heard another voice. it was Dave O. He also come out for the run. We met up with Jim and Dave and chatted for a few minutes and loaded up in our rigs and headed up to the end of the trail.

The group made it to the turn around point. we all go out of our vehicles for a break and dessert/snack. Well Jim came prepared. he whipped out the generator and microwave and made him self dinner. Way to go Jim.

After about half hour or so we loaded up and headed down the trail. We moved along at a pretty pace. It was a very nice night. Kind a hot at the picnic table.

The trail is overgrown. The bushes have grown right up to a tree making a tunnel in one area. The group headed to the trail head Eric and Alison made a detour and went up the steps in the dark. Eric got stuck and had to back up and take another attempt and made it up the steps. It was dark and very hard to see the Rock step with the headlights shinning in the air. The group made it to the trail head. Jim and Dave decided to take the freeway home instead of High Mountain rd.

The group headed to the ranger station aired up and said our good byes. I'd like to thanks everyone who came out and ran this trail. If you have a chance run this trail at night, it is a very fun trail.

Eric F.

CB Tips: Antenna Tuning and Placement

Source unknown, passed along by email.

When you match an antenna you are tuning it to the vehicle, not to the equipment. The vehicles metal surface acts as the "ground plane" which makes 1/2 of the antenna. Once you tune the antenna to the vehicle you can hook any CB equipment up to it.

When setting the SWR take all equipment out of line and set it with only the radio and coax in-line. An amp will just give false readings. You may or may not get a close to true reading with the amp in-line and turned off. Never check the SWR with the amp turned on. This is just a false reading and could damage the SWR meter. Radios with built in amps

can also give false readings. It is best to use a regular 2-40 watt radio to set the SWR.

If your radio has an antenna warning light that comes on only when you turn the amp on, this does not mean much. If this bugs you, you might try changing the coax length between the radio and amp. 3' or 6' is recommended. Coax length is not important. Use what you need. Coiling up a lot of extra coax is not recommended. To set the SWR most antennas have a steel whip or a screw in the top for the adjustment. You may need a cheap SWR meter and coax jumper. You can only adjust the SWR by changing the length of the antenna. The built it or external SWR meters do not adjust or calibrate the antenna, they just allow you to check

it. If the SWR is:

Lower on ch. 1 & High on 40 -
Make the whip shorter.
Lower on ch. 40 & High on 1 -
Make the whip longer. (sometimes you may need a longer whip).

A single 4' or longer antenna is recommended mounted "in the clear", meaning, no adjacent objects within 4' of the antenna. The antenna and metal surface should look like this _|_ the bottom lines being the metal surface. The roof of a car makes an excellent ground plane, metal mirror bars will make a fair ground plane. If you have another antenna or the cab of a pick up next to the antenna it will look a bit like this L_|_ . Adjacent metal objects will "kill" the an-

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tenna, cause decreased range, a poor output wave pattern and it will be difficult or impossible to match the SWR. A magnet mount placed in the center of the roof or the trunk of a car give this |_|_ type of configuration and works very well. If you mount the antenna to a vertical metal pole you will not get a "ground plane" as a pole does not have a large enough diameter to form a "ground plane surface". If you turn the pole horizontal it will form a ground plane as long as it extends a foot or so to each side of the antenna.

Note: Running over 500 watts on a magnet mount is strongly not recommended. No matter how much power the antenna is rated at, you

may damage an amp because of the lack of a solid ground connection between the magnet and metal surface. If you ran 5000w through a 5000w magnet mount antenna the antenna would not burn out but the amp would burn out due to a poor ground connection. Make sure your radio has been tuned for your amp. "Most" common amplifiers require a 1 to 2w key and no more than 50w of modulation swing.

Running a long ground wire is not recommended. The base of the antenna should be mounted directly to the metal surface. The antenna will "see" a long ground wire like it is more antenna and it will try to transmit from it. This will often make in difficult to match the SWR and will cause a poor output

wave pattern. Running a long ground wire or using a "no ground antenna" is a last resort for "box shaped" or fiberglass vehicles such as motor homes. These types of vehicles are usually very difficult to get a antenna to work well on them. You should try to run the ground wire horizontally under the antenna to try and get the |_|_ type of configuration. "No ground" and "glass mount" antennas are not recommended for cb radios, only as the very last resort.



Advance Adapters Inc.
 4320 Aerotech Center Way
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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

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.

January 7th – Club Meeting –
Players Pizza Atascadero 7pm

January 10th or 11th – After
Meeting Run – TBD at Meeting

February 4th – Club Meeting –
Players Pizza Atascadero 7pm

February 7th or 8th – After
Meeting Run – TBD at Meeting

February 13th – 16th – Other
Club Run – Cal4Wheel Convention.
Primm Nevada.

This is their 50th Anniversary!
Make sure and Reserve your Spot
Now!

See Cal4Wheel Web site for More
Information and Online
Registration.

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-???-????