



The SLO 4-Wheeler



Volume 19, Issue 2

March / April 2013

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Garcia Ridge Clean-up



Written by Tom B., President
 We had a great work day and I want to thank everyone that came out. The turnout was amazing. We had 15 rigs and about 20 people.

We got so much more done then I thought we would. I believe what we did should last a few years but we still have about 1/2 of the trail still to do. We thought we

had gotten more done but the distance in to the turnaround shows that there is still a lot more to be done.

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2013 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

Officers:
 President:..... Tom B.
 Vice President: Dave F.
 Secretary:..... Loree R. / Kenn B.
 Treasurer:..... Devin L.
 Board of Directors (includes officers):
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 Membership Director:George W.
 Events Director: Casey R.
 Land Use Liaison:
 CA4WDC Liaison:
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 Newsletter Editor:.....George W.

Committees:
 Safety Chairperson: Dave F.
 Promotional Chairperson:..... Loree R.
 Virtual Club Scrapbook: Mark B.
 Archived Scrapbook..... Randy P.
 Virtual Committee: Mark B.
 Adopted Trails and Campgrounds:
 Garcia Ridge Trail:..... David F.
 Pine Mountain Trail:..... Jim B.
 La Panza Camp Ground: Kirk R.
 Carrizo Plains Land Use.....

Newsletter submittals
 by two weeks before the
 next issue to George

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We got so much done and I think everyone had a good time. We even had Kevin B. come out who is in a different 4x4 club.

Everyone worked their *'s off.**

We had a little fun on the mini steps and even rescued a motorcyclist from the depths of hell. Speaking of that, I lent a set of side cutter pliers to that guy and did not get them back. Does anyone know his name or phone number? Thanks Dan for hauling him out.



Getting Ready to go in *(photo by Kenn B.)*



Playing afterwards *(photo by Nathan H.)*

On the trail *(photo by Kenn B.)*



William's Hill After Meeting Run

By Tom B., President, Photos by Kenn B.

We met at RaboBank in Atascadero at 8:00 A.M. Sunday. It was very chilly **but clear skies if you don't count a little fog.** I was very happy to have 10 rigs turn out plus Frank who went on ahead as only his passenger wiper was working and due to the frost he was losing the battle. We headed out at around 8:20 and headed to Lockwood. Along the way we picked up Mike G. on the freeway and he was trailing **his rig so he wouldn't get cold (wuss).** When we got to the Lockwood Store Frank was there and he said he had to stop several times as his windshield iced over and needed to be scraped off.



Mike unloaded his rig and we were ready to go.

We started on a paved road which turned to dirt. We went to Williams Hill campground which is pretty amazing in that the government spend a lot of money for a campground in the middle of nowhere. My first impression is

that "who" would camp here, but there were 3 campsites occupied. We stopped for anyone to use the facilities and to jabber a little. We picked up another rig along the way so we were up to 13.

We left the campgrounds and headed up the road to a cell tower. Not long after, we left the road and hit a trail

that was a bit steep and a lot of fun. We had a few overhanging branches **and brush but it wasn't terrible.** Deque and Melissa had their Pathfinder which is open front and rear with stock tires so we had a rig in front and back to help if needed. We had only one spot

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where the trail crossed the road and had a dip. Deque had to back up and hit it a couple of times but otherwise he did great. We arrived at the first tower and everyone got out for a stretch and to let the kids play.

We could see another cell tower across the ridge so that was our next destination. On the way, our trail went down a pretty steep section and we had a good time. We arrived at the next cell tower which was bit older and looked like it used to be a forest lookout tower. We had another stretch and headed



back to Williams Hill Campground. On the way back that steep downhill became a steep incline. A few rigs that were open attempted this section and had a hard time towards the top. 1 or 2 had to be helped so a couple members at the bottom decided to go around. It was fun going up, and those with the right tires and gears had no trouble. We arrived back at the campground and decided to call it a day. Some rigs went straight to 101 on the east and the rest of us went back to Lockwood Store. Mike loaded his jeep and we headed back on Interlake Road between the lakes and across the dam. We stopped on 24th street just before Spring and said our goodbyes. Oh- and Kevin in the Rover made the whole run with no break downs (yahoo)!!! I think a good time was had by all and hope to see as good a turnout next month. Thanks- Tom Burt



Be Seen And Be Cool

Dune flags are quite popular nowadays. You'll see all colors and styles, including the American flag, pirate flags, checkerboard flags, rebel flags, "Don't Tread on Me", and many others. While the driver may be making a statement with his flag, there is a distinct purpose for the flags, as well.

Those flags add an element of safety to the sport of four wheeling. Strange as it may seem, collisions do occur in wide open expanses we four-wheelers drive on. Those flags help you see and be seen.

This is especially true in hilly or dusty environments. Hills naturally block views. Climbing a hill or dune, you can't see what's on the other side. Is another vehicle coming toward you?

Dust and sand are another problem. While a flag is quite small, if it's bright orange or red, it often can be seen through the haze of dust. Plus, its height—perhaps six to eight feet above the ground—may place it above most or all of the dust. I've witnessed instances when the only thing you could see through the dusty cloud was a couple of flags. You'd be surprised just how low visibility gets on many trails at higher speeds. (BTW remember Tom's rule: over 10 mph is "fast" off-road! That doesn't mean we can't go fast. Just that the dynamics change.)

An added benefit is that by watching the flags of the vehicles ahead, you can get an idea of the terrain. If you see the flags bobbing up and down, that tells you may be headed for some whoop-dee-doo.

Related to that, it's easier to keep track of the vehicles behind you if they have flags. While in the lead vehicle, I typically can see back at most up to three vehicles. But I can see upwards of a half dozen flags waving behind me. Although the vehicles in my trips are always in radio contact, I also glance in my mirror or over my shoulder frequently to check on the other vehicles progress. Not all drivers travel at the same speed on unfamiliar or difficult terrain. It's a comforting feeling to look back and see all those flags trailing along knowing the group is together.

At the same time, it's easier for those in the pack to see the lead vehicle. I recom-

mend that the lead vehicle use a distinctive banner so everyone can spot the vehicle. Vehicles can disappear for a short period while going through brush or down a hill. And, as mentioned before, the dune flag might be seen through or above the dust when its vehicle is not.

Rules, specifications for dune flags

Generally speaking, you aren't required to use a dune flag while driving off road. The one exception is on public lands containing sand dunes. The Bureau of Land Management requires banners be solid red or orange in color, at least six inches by 12 inches, and placed such that at least part of the banner is within 10 inches of the top of the whip.

BLM considers a whip to be any pole, rod or antenna mounted on the vehicle that extends at least eight feet from the surface of the ground. It must stand upright when the vehicle is stationary.

Higher quality dune flags and banners (with a pole) usually run about \$12 to \$15. They can be purchased at any ATV shop, and in most stores and gas stations near off-road areas. As mentioned above, you can use an antenna or most any other whip-like object. You don't need to buy the unit. Just adhere to BLM's rules if you're driving in dunes.

One thing you'll notice is that the flag or banner doesn't last long if you use it frequently. Wind, rain, dust and the sun take their toll. My flags tend to fray and fade after about one year. The rod or whip might snap on you, especially if you drive a lot in brushy or wooded areas.



*Fish Canyon opening into Panamint Dry Lake
Flags help keep track of the group.*

How to attach a flag

Because there are so many different styles of vehicles, it would be difficult for the manufacturers of dune flags to design a universal mounting bracket. Instead, the rod or pole comes embedded in a ½-inch bolt. You need to drill a hole for the bolt; a bumper or other sturdy surface might work. If you use your flag frequently a quick disconnect is handy. You can purchase flags with a quick disconnect or you can build one from an air fitting.

Some Jeep owners tuck the pole against the inside hinge of the tailgate. Closing the tailgate keeps the pole upright and secure. You may need to tinker with your dune flag pole, but you should be able to come up with some way to secure it.

Flags serve a very important safety function in four wheeling. They also allow drivers to express themselves a bit. I encourage you to attach a flag to your vehicle and to use it frequently off-road.

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Tom Severin, President
Badlands Off Road Adventures, Inc.
4-Wheel Drive School
310-374-8047
<http://www.4x4training.com>

Club Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes by Loree R., Secretary

February 6, 2013

After Meeting Run

Sunday, February 10 – Williams Hill OHV, 45 minutes from Templeton, San Ardo/Jolan Road off-ramp, trail is easily accessible, brand new campground, great views and good cell service. According to Todd, at an easy pace and enjoying lunch is about a 6 hour round trip from Templeton. If interested, meet Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. at the RaboBank parking lot on El Camino Real next to Denny's. Todd is the trail boss, .

Items of Discussion:

Meeting place has been changed to Denny's.

Todd Juel has asked the club to consider his backyard for a "campfire" meeting if interested.

George needs items for the newsletter

Our website has a forum on it for discussions, items for sale, mechanical issues and feel free to use it.

New Business

37 paid members, if you haven't paid please do so. Please keep in mind, this is your club. If people don't participate and volunteer for things, this club will deteriorate and disappear.

Save the Hammers OHV area in Lucerne Valley – **here's a link to the petition** <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/save-johnson-valley-ohv-area-be-fiscally-responsible-stop-29-palms-marine-base-expansion-keep-public/5r0C7Xw4>

Clear Lake's road are open and accessible as long as they are not wet, also new campground

John J. is looking into the possibility of another Ranch Run and a Margarita Ranch Run – remember your dues must be current to participate.

Coast Ridge Route is open, ruts have been filled in but not packed.

50/50 Raffle - Winner Florence S.

Sons of Thunder 4 Wheel Drive Calico Run – rumored to be at the end of March but could not find anything current on their website. If you would like to contact them try this link to their club <http://www.sonsofthunder4x4.com>

Events – Mark your Calendars

March 9 – Work day at Garcia Ridge (after meeting run) – bring chainsaws, pruners and your lunch. Very important that we get a good turnout.

April 6 – Currently scheduled as a back up work day in case of rain on March 9 (after meeting run)

May 4 – Spring Fling (potluck)

June 8 – La Panza Campground inspection/cleanup (after meeting run)

July 4 – Templeton 4th of July parade

August 9, 10, 11 – Coyote Run

San Miguel Christmas Parade



It's Cal 4 Wheel Membership Renewal Time!

Please complete this coupon and mail it with your check for \$45.
 No check is required if you are a life time member or pay them separately (but we still need the information to associate you with our club!)
 Cal 4 Wheel dues are optional and due no later than the June meeting!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Send completed coupon along with a check for \$45 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 Clubs (CA4WDC) If your not a member, check it out,

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



Advance Adapters Inc.
 4320 Aerotech Center Way
 Paso Robles, CA 93446
 Phone: 805-238-7000
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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.

April 3 — 7:00 PM General Club Meeting, Denny's Atascadero

April 6 — Pismo Dunes (after meeting run)

May 1 — 7:00 PM General Club Meeting, Denny's Atascadero

May 4 — Spring Fling (potluck) considering a run to Big Falls

June 5 — 7:00 PM General Club Meeting

June 8 — La Panza Campground inspection/cleanup (after meeting run)

July 3 — 7:00 PM General Club Meeting

July 4 — Templeton 4th of July parade

August 7 — 7:00 PM General Club Meeting

August 9-11th — Coyote Lake Run

September 4 — 7:00 PM General Club Meeting

September 21 — Pismo Dunes Clean Up Day

October 2 — 7:00 PM General Club Meeting

October 5 or 6 — After Meeting Run

November 6 — 7:00 PM General Club Meeting

November 9 or 10 — After Meeting Run

December 4 — 7:00 General Club Meeting and Christmas Party

December TBD — 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.