



The SLO 4-Wheeler



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Temblor Range Run



*Written by Larry F.
(all photos are by Larry F.)*
We met Randy at the Southern Station in Santa Margarita just before 9:00 AM. Shortly the others arrived, Que and His wife Malia with Storm, their dog and Robert and his dog Shadow. We got on the road, heading towards Coririzo Plains, via Highway 58. As we were driving I thought it would be nice how long it would

take from point to point, so I did. We arrived at the Goodwin Education Center at 10:15 and spent about 15 minutes there. If you haven't been there it is very informative and will enlighten you about the history of the Corrizo Plains. We then headed South West on Soda Lake Road to Panorama Road-16035 heading North-North East. Next stop, up on the ridge.

On the way passed the south junction of Elkhorn Road, still climbing, now on Hurricane Road? At the next intersection went left up to Look Out Point, arriving at 11:15 AM, which has an amazing sign put up by the BLM. After leaving Look Out Point, we came down and then went

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2015 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

Officers:
 President:..... Tom B.
 Vice President:Kirk R.
 Secretary:..... Kevin B.
 Treasurer:.....Devin L.
 Board of Directors (includes officers):
 Ways and Means: Open
 Membership Director:George W.
 Events Director:Phil H.
 Land Use Liaison: Kelly D.
 CA4WDC Liaison:Susy J.
 Social Chairperson: Open
 Newsletter Editor:.....George W.

Committees:
 Safety Chairperson:Nathan L.
 Promotional Chairperson:..... Dan H.
 Virtual Club Scrapbook: Mark B.
 Archived Scrapbook..... Randy P.
 Virtual Committee:Mark B.
 Adopted Trails and Campgrounds:
 Garcia Ridge Trail:..... Tyler F.
 Pine Mountain Trail:.....Phil H.
 La Panza Camp Ground:Open

Newsletter submittals
by two weeks before the
next issue to George W.

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through the "Portuguese Gate", then up the hill to the right onto the ridge. After winding up, down, left and right for almost 1/2 hour we dropped down to the east side of the ridge to a nice spot for a lunch break. There just happens to be a watering trough there and Que inquired "how does this work" to which I replied "it's like a giant toilet bowl, pull up on the float and more water will come on". We all had a good chuckle.

After a nice break for lunch we got back on trail heading South at 12:35 PM, winding along the ridge. A short while later we came upon "The Hill Climb". We aired down and Randy enlightened us about the best route up. Randy lead off first and he made it up with out a hitch. Robert was next and his Cherokee also went up smoothly. Then came Que's new Extera, which I wasn't to



sure about a stock rig making as smoothly. Boy were we all impressed, with his tunes playing he left in a cloud of dust and off he went. He also had no trouble at all, it was pretty impressive. Next came my son Tyler's Cherokee, he did just as well as the others, it was pretty amazing.

After a brief stop to enjoy the view, we continued on. Soon we came upon the remains of an old radio shack, the slab of concrete is the only thing left.

After discussing whether to continue on the ridge or start to head down the East side towards Taft, it was decided to head on down, we can still make the museum. So at 1:45 PM we headed down. On pavement at 2:00 PM, Highway 33 heading towards Taft.



We stopped in Taft for gas and also aired up. Paid 2.45 per gallon! Sweet. Then at the South end of town we pulled into the "West Kern Oil Museum at 2:50 PM. I am glad that we had decided to stop here; very informative, educational with wonderful displays. The docent that guided us around was just a sweet heart. She was very patient and answered all of our questions. Well it was nearing closing time, so we said our good byes to her and made our next plans in the parking lot.

Randy was going to stop at Tina's for dinner but the rest of us decided to head on home via Highway 166 to 101, it was 4:00 PM.

Tyler and I pulled into Atascadero just a few minutes passed 6:00 PM. What a nice excursion.

I enjoyed our time with everyone, sharing stories and just getting to know each other. The dogs were a joy to have along, they behaved very well. I was very proud of my son, I am not the best passenger but I felt comfortable the whole time. I can't wait and I know my son feels the same way, when is the next outing. Thank you Randy, Robert, Que and Malinal
Larry



Rock Front Quad Run



By Robert G.

Well, my brother and I ended up going on Saturday morning.... We planned to camp but my camp stove had a freak accident ...and caught fire while we were riding.... Ran into Randy and he informed me of the situation.

I ended up with one citation which was failure to remove combustible items away from a potential fire source.....the stove was off with the cylinder removed.... Not sure how I

was to know the thing would catch on fire.

Needles to say... We ended up running the one black diamond trail with Randy.... Headed back to camp and lit up the camp fire.... After burning through some of our lumber.... We realized we would be starving by morning.... We packed camp around 8:30 pm and headed home. Turns out, it started raining pretty good so our decision to leave was a good one, LOL.

Like Randy mentioned, Rock Front would be a great day adventure. Lots of mild stuff with the one black diamond trail. Lots of fun to be had out there.... Especially with a few of those huge water holes..... I had the Viking with water flowing over my doors, LOL

Avoid Off-Road Lockout



Written by Tom Severin

Picture this: You drive for hours to a destination, and then realize that you left a **really important piece of gear back home**. It's so important that your off-road excursion is kaput without it. Has that ever happened to you?

There are numerous ways a 4-wheeling adventure can be thrown off kilter. One **cause is a secured object that you can't get to**. It could be because the lock is rusted, you lost the key, or you left the key at home. **In any case, you're up the proverbial**

creek without a paddle unless you're able to resolve the matter.

Your vehicle and gear spend the majority of the time in an urban setting where theft is **common**. We're so used to seeing the locking mechanisms on our vehicles and gear, we sometimes fail to account for them as we plan for the off-road trip. But then we go off **road for miles and need whatever it is that's locked down**. That is when we realize **there's one thing we forgot about** – the key.

As part of your preparation, make sure you review all the items that use a lock. You

may find it helpful to list them on your prep checklist.

Some items typically locked down include:

- Rims (with special wheel lug lock)
- Gas cans
- Hi-Lift jack
- Shovel and ax
- Vehicle hood
- Trailer hitch

Avoid getting locked out

Some simple steps you can take to prevent a lockout from ruining your four wheeling experience:

- Cut extra copy(ies) of your keys. Hide them somewhere in your vehicle. Sometimes one key as backup is not enough. If you have more than one off-road vehicle and switch gear between them, one day you will leave the backup key in the wrong vehicle!
- Remove all locks when you hit the trail head or better yet at home just before leaving. At home you have access to tools or professionals to cut off a lock. Of course if the lock is integral to the **device (like a lug nut), you can't remove it**.
- Inspect and test all locks at least every few months. If any are rusty, clean and oil them. The regular use of the lock keeps it freed up. Replace any that are questionable or being difficult.
- Oil the locks. A drop or two of 10w30 (or similar) in the mechanism is sufficient.
- Use combination locks if possible. **You'll never have to worry about losing a key**. But of course they can become rusted and gummed up just like any other lock. Test them frequently as well.
- Use BOLT brand locking mechanisms <http://www.boltlock.com>. Designed for a variety of accessories, they operate off your ignition key which has a high probability of being with you. Insert and turn the key, and the BOLT technology remembers your unique ignition key. These sturdy locking mechanisms are designed for Ford, GM and Chrys-

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Club Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes by Kevin B., Club Secretary

February 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes:

Kirk now has a packet from Cal Trans for the adopt a highway project in Santa Margarita.

George passed out some club business cards to give out to prospective members.

The idea of a safety checklist for members rigs was brought up with some discussion to have a night for checking rigs out.

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ler vehicles. They are available for Toyota vehicles now but mostly for later models. Check the application chart before you buy one. BOLT also has cable locks and trailer hitch locks that can retain the imprint of your ignition key. They are a bit pricy.

- New Rim Design Close up of the rim with one lug nut partially removed so you can see the splines.
- New Rim Design A standard 19mm lug wrench will not clear the opening in the rim.
- Recently, I am seeing vehicles with rims where every lug nut is fully embedded and surrounded by a narrow opening in the rim. The lug nuts are smaller in diameter than the standard ones we are familiar with and are splined on the outside. A long deep socket-like key is needed to take all the lug nuts off. Security is achieved both by the splined lug nuts and the fact that there is no space to even insert a standard lug wrench or socket.
- Carry a second lug nut key. This applies if you have placed one of the special wheel lock lug nuts on your rims or you have the special rim with splined lug nut system.

Last Resort Plan

Despite your best efforts above, Murphy's law is in full effect. You or someone traveling with you will find yourself out of gas miles from anywhere and that 5 gallon can

The club would like to put together another T-shirt order. If you would like to order T-shirts or other promotional clothing items, please submit what you want at the next meeting. It was suggested to bring your money with you.

It was voted that the club will donate \$100 a piece to Cal 4 Wheel, CORVA, and the Blue Ribbon Coalition. The club will keep the remaining \$211 of last years money in the bank just in case.

is not coming unlocked from the vehicle. Substitute gas can (in the statement above) with any of the other items locked on your vehicle. Any of which your salvations depends on removing a frozen lock. It is time **to resort to your "deep" backup plan.**

And that plan is to cut off the lock!

- Pack a bolt cutter to get past the cable or other part of the locking mechanism.
- Another option is a Sawzall and an inverter. Make sure the inverter has enough wattage to run the Sawzall. The added benefit of carrying a Sawzall is all the other uses. It makes quick work of a bent tail pipe. With the right blade you can cut firewood too!
- Carry some welding capability. This might consist of a few rods and jumper cables if you are going to use batteries. Or install a Premier onboard welder

There was some discussion about eliminating the hard copies of the newsletter, but nothing was decided yet.

There was also some discussion about updating the club website. Having a more current list of members rigs as well as a list of upcoming runs would be nice.

It was voted that Frank and Florence Simon are to be honorary members of the club from now on.

<http://www.premierpowerwelder.com>. With the welder you can burn through a lock or cable. You can possibly weld a bolt onto the end of a wheel nut lock and use standard tools on the bolt to remove the lug nut. If you have the new small diameter rim openings and splined lug nuts, you need to carry a full set of new lug nuts. Once you have welded a bolt to each one and destroyed it, you need new ones to put the spare tire on.

Tom Severin, President
Badlands Off Road Adventures, Inc.
4-Wheel Drive School
310-374-8047

<http://www.4x4training.com>

Make it Fun. Keep it Safe.



It's Membership Renewal Time!

Please complete this coupon and mail it with your check for \$20.

Remember, you can only vote in the January elections if your membership is paid up into the new year!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Please indicate your Newsletter Delivery Preference:

Link to PDF (Color) via email

Hardcopy (black & white)

Send completed coupon along with a check for \$20 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.

March 4th — General Meeting at Round Table in Atascadero at 7 PM.

March 7th — Work Day on Garcia Ridge

April 1st — General Meeting at Round Table in Atascadero at 7 PM.

April 11th — Spring Fling

May 2nd — Work Day on Garcia Ridge

May 6th — General Meeting at Round Table in Atascadero at 7 PM.

June 3rd — General Meeting at Round Table in Atascadero at 7 PM.

June 13th — Dessert Run, a full moon night run with desserts at the mid-point.

July 1st — General Meeting at Round Table in Atascadero at 7 PM.

July 4th — Templeton Parade

August 5th — General Meeting at Round Table in Atascadero at 7 PM.

August 8th — Coyote Run

September 2nd — General Meeting at Round Table in Atascadero at 7 PM.

September 5th or 6th — After run meeting TBD at the September meeting.

October 7th — General Meeting at Round Table in Atascadero at 7 PM.

October 10th — Harvest Run

November 4th — General Meeting

at Round Table in Atascadero at 7 PM.

November 7th or 8th — After run meeting TBD at the November meeting.

December 2nd — General Meeting at Round Table in Atascadero at 7 PM.

December 5th — Christmas Party. Note the move to the weekend.

December ?? — San Miguel Christmas Parade. Waiting for the date of the parade to be set.

January 2nd 2016 — Annual Election and General Meeting at Round Table in Atascadero at 7 PM.

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.