



The SLO 4-Wheeler



Volume 18, Issue 4

July / August 2012

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Dessert Run—Las Chiches at Night

Edited by George W., Editor

The following are two reports from the July Full Moon Desert Run on Las Chiches provided by the original trailboss and the on-the-fly secondary Trailboss.

From John J.:

For those of you who didn't make the run it was quite interesting. We met up in Margarita and 12 rigs showed up.

We made it to Turkey Flats and aired down. Well we made it to the trail head and everyone made it up on the trail.

A few miles in one of the rigs spun a drive line. So 6 rigs were kinda together so we all stayed to help. At this point the group got separated. So we got the drive line off and decided to turn around because we had a rig with 2 wheel drive.

We put 2 rigs in front and 2 or 3 in the rear. We lost communications with the front group. CBs are ok but are limited.

So we made it back to the pavement, and on down to Turkey Flats. By this time it was 11:30 PM or so.

We got all the goodies out and had a great time. Around 1:00 AM we started to head for home.

Now my question is how did the first group do? I hope you made it out with no problems. We kept the CBs on Ch 4 but never could hear any one.

Anyone from group 1 please let us know how it went. I hope everyone made it home ok. We don't get separated very often, but we figured 6 in one group and 6 in the other everyone had plenty of help.

Thank you John J

From Kirk R.:

The front group followed the instruction to carry on and we did. We traveled to the rocks at the top of Las Chiches for dessert. We had variety of sweets, although I didn't partake myself, and Casey even made a pot of coffee. We arrived back in Santa Margarita at 12:45AM and also didn't

hear any radio traffic from the second group.

Casey and myself discussed frustration and concern not knowing about the group we left behind hoping all was well we said our farewells and parted ways.

Glad to hear everyone made it home safe and sound as could be.

Kirk R.

Editor's Note:

CB radio's have been likened to Black Magic by some club members. There are several variables that contribute to the performance or lack of performance of a CB radio.

Most communication is limited to a few miles and usually almost line of sight.

Just buying the radio, antenna and antenna cable won't guarantee good performance unless you're real lucky.

Make sure that they are well matched and that the SWR (Standing Wave Ratio) have been adjusted properly.

2012 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

Officers:

President: Tom B.
 Vice President: Dave F.
 Secretary: Ken B.
 Treasurer: Devin L
 Board of Directors (includes officers):
 Ways and Means: Ken B.
 Membership Director: George W
 Events Director: Randy P.
 Land Use Liaison: Dave F.
 CA4WDC Liaison: Matt J.
 Social Chairperson: Mike G.
 Newsletter Editor: George W.

Committees:

Safety Chairperson: Dave F.
 Promotional Chairperson: Randy P.
 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: Mark B.
 La Panza Camp Ground: Kirk R.
 Carrizo Plains Land Use Randy P.

Newsletter submittals
 by two weeks before the
 next issue to George at

Templeton 4th of July Parade

by George W., Editor

NOTE: All photos are George's photos except where noted.



The 4th of July parade started early for those of us in the club who would be participating in it. Many of us gathered early to fuel our bodies at the donut shop at the point where the parade route started on the north end of Templeton. After filling ourselves with parade food, we obtained our parade entry numbers and participant ribbons and headed for our staging location.



One of the things that became very evident during our preparations is the number of children in our group. The parade is one of the times that we really get to see a lot of them as they were everywhere in our group! Great to have the little people!

Our number put as near the end of the parade, so as we continued to decorate, other parade entries started past us at 10:00 AM past. We got to see the majority of the parade go by which included many interesting entries. One of our own members, Kevin C., was driv-



Once we reached our staging location we started decorating our rigs for the parade as more members and their rigs trickled in. Flags, banners, bunting and garland appeared and was affixed to the rigs in every way imaginable affixed with zip ties, tape and whatever else would hold them in place for the duration of the parade.

During the preparations we even had a "trailside repair as Keven Paine had to add air to one of his kid's stroller's pneumatic tires. Even with the noise of the air pump his son continued to nap. It never fails, there is always at least one repair.





Many of our members began other preparations as we watched the entries that preceded us go by. They prepared for the almost guaranteed water battles that accompanied this parade. Some were very prepared with multiple squirt guns after last years hosing.

As the numbers of the parade entries passing approached our own number, we mounted up, started out engines and prepared to join the parade of slow moving entries heading south down Main Street. This got a little complicated in that we had to cross the returning entries who were finishing the parade coming north on Main Street.

We headed south on Main St. in a single file configuration, the as we turned onto 2nd St. west bound, we changed over to a side-by-side configuration with Tom and Karen B. in front with club banners flanking both sides of the Toyota. Tom was followed by his son **Kenn with Kenn's son Wyatt preparing**

ing a military vehicle for the Estrella WarBird Museum.

We saw painted horses, cool cars and antique vehicles of many varieties.



(Continued from page 3)

his water firepower for the potential attacks. Kenn's wife Kim would join them shortly along the route with their newest family member.

We turned south on Crocker following the parade toward the park and the elementary school waving to many parade watchers along the way. We then turned east on 8th St and then north on Main St. Kim B. took advantage of the left hand turns to squirt her father-in-law from the passenger seat of Kenn's Toyota as the anticipated water war with the parade watchers did not materialize this year.

We continued up Main St past our staging area and, breaking into multiple groups, found places where we could park and remove the decorations from our rigs. Several of us ended up at the Beef Palace to perform this task. Once the rigs were street legal again, we went our different ways, so for home, some for other functions and



(photo by Rick E.)

some continuing the celebrations in Templeton. All in all a great outing!

Did anyone check to see if we won any of the parade awards? I don't know, I think everyone just had too much fun participating! We had a large turnout

with somewhere between 17 and 19 rigs, several more than last year. That was a strong showing for any of the motorized groups!



6-7 Reasons Why Your Spouse Should Learn to Drive Off Road



Four wheeling is often viewed as a **man's world. For the most part it is.** Women are increasingly joining our hobby, however. Some of these women are single, but others are introduced to the hobby by a husband or friend.

In either case, it's always best for her to take an off-road driving course. And **if you haven't taken a course, I encourage you to join her.** It can be a fun and rewarding experience for you both.

Here are some good reasons to consider enrolling your better half in a 4WD training course.

1. She can be a back-up driver: If something happens to you, your wife could drive out. Chances are, the training course will teach her how to overcome most of the challenges **she'll face on trails. Even if you're out cold, she should be able to drive you out or at least get you to an extraction point.**
2. Building confidence: Learning to drive off-road entails mastering new skills. It involves unusual terrain, special driving techniques, and different equipment, like standard transmissions. Experiencing all these while under the watchful guidance of a trained instructor builds confidence.
3. Better all-around driver: Off-road skills are put to use in the city during bad weather, such as a snowstorm or heavy rain. In the aftermath of an earthquake or tornado, there could be sinkholes or debris in the roadway. Drivers need to **negotiate around those obstacles. That's**

standard procedure in four wheeling. Someone who has taken a 4WD course is better able to handle these difficult and stressful situations.

4. Additional spotter: The best spotters are also good drivers. Having gone through a 4WD course, your wife will be able to read the trail as well as you, providing you a valuable second set of eyes. One catch, guys: If your wife starts to enjoy off-road driving, you may end up the spotter. **But that's OK, right? On the other hand, your wife may still just want to sit and enjoy the ride.** Encourage her to get behind the wheel on occasion to keep her skills sharp. Wait - one more catch: You may end up buying another 4 wheel drive vehicle just for her!
5. An extra driver to spell you: Driving off-road, as you know, is very demanding. Fatigue can set in after **just a few hours. It's a comforting to know that a skilled driver can take over if needed.**
6. Companionship on the trails: **Fishing buddies are great, but you can't beat having your spouse along.** You experience the adventure together, share great memories, and really bond while outdoors.
7. One of my readers, Louise, sent me two additional suggestions. They are good, and I'd like to share them with you." Valuable Team Member: When your spouse is able to drive a vehicle off-road by herself she becomes an important member of a team that may be assembled to aid another driver. Consider this situation: You and your wife are sharing driving. Another driver is solo, gets injured and is unable to drive his vehicle; he might even need to be removed from the scene for medical care. Because your travel companion knows how to drive off road, one of you can take **charge of the injured person's vehicle** while the other continues to drive your vehicle.
8. Keeper of the Extra Keys! Regardless of who you are travelling with

and whether or not they have learned how to drive off-road you should each have a set of keys to the vehicle. While you lock the vehicle to keep all your stuff safe it also inconveniences your travel companion to access their belongings. They may need access to the vehicle at any time for a comfort item, to get out of the weather, extra clothing, water, food or medical/emergency supplies for you or someone else. With their own set of keys for the duration of the trip they can freely do this without the inconvenience of having to find you each time they want access. Consider this situation: You are away from the vehicle which you have locked. You slip, fall and become injured and need to be removed from the scene for medical treatment. With the one set of keys in your pocket, and you away for medical treatment no one can access your vehicle to drive it for you or for your travel companion to access their own items.

You both now share a new common interest, which can open a world of possibilities for you. Sitting around the house one day wondering what to do? Go off road!

Four wheel driving is more than just **learning how to drive the trails. It's** also about enjoying the great outdoors with family. Enrolling your spouse in a 4WD training course builds her skills and confidence, and helps her better enjoy your outdoor adventures together. Sign her up today, and start planning your next off-road adventure.

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Badlands Off Road Adventures, Inc
4-Wheel Drive School
310-374-8047
<http://www.4x4training.com>
Make it Fun. Make it Safe.*

Club Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes by Ken B., Club Secretary

SLO 4 wheeler meeting June 2012

7:00 p.m. INTROS

Secretary's report: see previous minute reports

Treasures report:

Ways and means: nothing no club interest in fundraising

Newsletter: New letter is out now / please see George for input. We also urge the members to get the email version if possible.

Cal 4 wheel: Pismo car show / possible donation to the club for manning the barricades

Social chair: absent

Safety: Dave F. has the kit / see him if you are trail boss for a club run to get it

Promotional: t-shirts and stickers

Scrap Book: not this meeting

Web site: Nothing

Membership: 50 paid members

NEW BUSINESS

Work Day suggestion / find a vineyard pruner 3pt pto over hyd

Tom B. read a article about 2500 miles of trail closure in the El Dorado national forest. Discussion followed was about trying to get local clubs to band together. Motion by Eric find other clubs to band together, Second ?, Passes

4th of July Templeton parade: Tom B. trail boss. Possible 10 rigs by show of hand at the meeting

Possible safety check list fundraiser around the 4th of July

TRIP REPORTS

Spring Fling / 6 rigs and 13-16 people / out to California Valley – tri – tip lunch then on to Taft for ice cream @ fosters freeze

Rock Front / Randy - Eric – Dave – Green tj / Randy broke down and limped out and home (rear diff problems) had to pull axle shafts to drive home in sports car mode (front wheel drive).

50/50 Raffle.

SLO 4 wheeler July 2012 minutes

7:05 meeting called to order with introductions

Secretary's report: see minutes from last month

Treasures report: in club fund

Membership: 51 paid members

Newsletter: George is always looking for articles. Anything that you think might interest someone else in the club would be good for the letter. Camping / hiking / fishing / hunting / outdoor anything / interesting repairs or up-grades to your vehicle.

Events

Lockwood creek run did not happen

July 4th Parade in Templeton starts @ 10am anyone who is going to participate needs to try and be to the staging area at least by 9am earlier the better. Meeting place is north end of Main Street by the doughnut shop some place. More info on that to come once we get it from the committee. Channel 4 on the CB to guide people in might work. Tom B. is the trail boss and randy is bringing the new signs.

July 7th night run to las clichés / full moon / bring a dessert to share with the group. Meet @ 8pm at the margarita park or 9pm at Turkey flats / Eric F. trail boss

HYW 4 run with Dan G / out of Stockton over the mountains into Nevada / date not set looking for input

Aug 18th Hot August nights Atascadero cruise night / possible stage at Ted miles

Aug 25th weekend Coyote Lake Run / some will be going for 4 days Thursday the 23rd – Sunday the 26th and all other combinations in between volunteers are available to lead groups in and we will coordinate leaving once we all get in.

September - Labor Day weekend / Dusy Ershim trail with Randy P. / **built rigs only (2 lockers with 33" tires**

and low gears minimum) suggested. Talk to Randy to see if other specs will work less locker bigger tires flexible suspension lost of experience ext.

Fall run / Death valley-saline valley over steel pass looking for input

Winter run / Mojave rd

Cal 4 wheel: no report

Work Day on Garcia ridge / postponed to Fall

OLD Business

Eric F. sent out email regarding last meetings discussion about getting club to possibly work together to support one larger group

Still lots of discussion on the best path to do the most good / money seems to be what is the most needed

New Business

George was contacted by the Ventura 4x4 club to see if they could be included in some or all of our events? Motion / 2nd / passes

Victor Valley 4-wheelers has sent the club 2 free registrations to there event in Johnson Valley event for Oct 12-14 / possible raffle for the club members or put a group together to participate at a good event / see vic-torvalley4wheeler.com for more info

Possible road side clean up for the adopt a hwy sign to try and get more club recognition

Kirk is going to see what he can find out and get back to up at the next meeting

After the meeting run is going to be the 4th of July parade see events for details

Does anyone have ideas on how to bring in new members / More hands make lighter work and more fun

50/50: Raffle

How would you like to receive your copy of the “SLO 4 Wheeler”?

In order to save money with the rising costs of printing and postage, we are looking at ways of trying to cut back on one of our biggest expenses, producing and mailing the club newsletter. We recognize that **some people still don't have access to the Internet or they may have a slow connection because of how remote their residence is**, others may not have a computer capable to of downloading large PDF files. As a result we are looking t providing multiple options. Please review the options below and either mail this coupon to the club PO Box, bring it to the next meeting, email your preferred Newsletter delivery method to the Newsletter editor or call it in.

- I'll pick up my copy of the Newsletter at the meeting or mail it to me if I miss the meeting.
- Send me a web link to an on-line PDF version of the Newsletter (requires Adobe Acrobat reader which is free and can be downloaded from <http://www.adobe.com/>)
- Send me the PDF document version of the newsletter via email (requires Adobe Acrobat reader).
- I'll just go look for the latest Newsletter on the Club Web Site (<http://www.slo4wheelers.org/>).

To Mail your request, cut out this Name: _____
 Coupon and mail it to: _____

SLO 4 Wheelers Address: _____
 PO Box 2271 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 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
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 (Toll Free: 800-350-2223)

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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.

August 1st — SLO 4-Wheelers General Club Meeting: A-Town Deli, Atascadero Wednesday 7pm

August 4th or 5th — After meeting Day Run: To Be Determined at the meeting

August 9-12th — Sierra Trek
Sierra Trek is the granddaddy of California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs events. It is held in northern California near Truckee. The short wheelbase event goes over the famous Fordyce Trail, which is sure to test even the best drivers and their rigs. There are also moderate runs and an SUV historical tour. more info CAW4DC Sierra Trek 2012
Contact/trailboss: OPEN

August 17th — Friday, Hot El Camino Cruise Nite Tentative

The City of Atascadero's is hosting the 20th annual Hot El Camino Cruise Nite, from 6:30 - 8:30pm. Hot El Camino Cruise Nite is a closed, controlled cruise route on El Camino Real from Curbaril to Traffic Way in Atascadero. Thousands of spectators come out to watch this fun, entertaining, and family-oriented show. contact:OPEN

August 25-26th — SLO 4-Wheelers Annual Coyote Lake Run- Run to a beautiful primitive camp at a pristine High Sierra lake. One of the clubs premiere runs. Contact trailboss: Tom B.

September 1-2 — High Sierra Poker Run: Annual CA4WDC event . The Central District is pleased to sponsor this CA4WDC fund raiser and we hope that more wheelers will make this part of their Labor Day plans. We

are experiencing growth in the number of participants and volunteers. Since the Swamp Lake Run is limited to fifty rigs, be sure to sign up early if you are interested in this run. We will have on-site registration, but our hosts, the High Sierra Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest, is very committed to protecting these trails for all to enjoy in the future.

September 5th — SLO 4-Wheelers General Club Meeting: A-Town Deli, Atascadero Wednesday 7pm

September 8th or 9th — After meeting Day Run: To Be Determined at the meeting

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.