



The SLO 4-Wheeler



Volume 18, Issue 6

November / December 2012

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SLO 4-Wheelers now has an online forum.

<http://slo4wheelers.proboards.com>

Open to all- to post requires you to join. Its an informal open discussion area to share info. You can post questions, pictures, trip reports, planned runs, projects, buy & sell or post generally about anything.

Unlike email list that is used to contact all subscribed members,

Newsletter submittals by two weeks before the next issue to George

Miller Jeep Trail Run



Photos by Vernant C.

Written by Randy P.



Saturday morning Verent & I met at Louisas Place in SLO about 6:30. Had breakfast and started out for Lockwood Valley about 7AM (already had topped off gas tanks).

Drove 101, 166,33 to the Pistachio Ranch gas stop on 33. That was the 100 mile point of driving. Topped off gas tanks. Drove on to Lockwood road and then the turnoff for the Lockwood creek trail head.

Arrived t at the Trail Head at 10AM as panned. Dan was there waiting, as he had camped out there Friday night.

Aired Down, started up the trial after 10 AM. Quite a few motorcycles started just ahead of us, one Toyota mini truck and a suburban also. We drove into Yellow Jacket canyon without mishap. Visited with the motorcycles group there. Decided to drive up Yellow Jacket canyon past the two meadows and check out a campsite I like up there. The fire that went thru a few years ago burnt all the trees. The brush is coming back, but the area is a good stage set for a Halloween event.

Back down Yellow jacket to Lockwood Trail. Ate Lunch. Meet the Pt Mugu 4-Wheelers group there.

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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 We
 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 ScrapbookRandy 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 UseRandy P

(Continued from page 1)

They left first headed south on Lockwood trail. Continued South on Lockwood trail. The Cruzer, Grand Wagoneer and TJ all climbed the hills and wound thru the brush without mishap. Encountered some motorcycles having trouble with the uphill. Area is scenic, recovering from a severe fire, and very dry this fall.

found it vacant. Nice site, table, fire rings, oak trees. Used to be called sunrise camp, no longer designated but still there. I went with Verent up the Miller Jeep trail to the Top of Alamo mtn where we stopped for a break. The Pt MuGu 4-wheelers were there soon after we arrived. Varent traveled with them back to I5 and then home Sat night. I drove back down to the camp next to Piru Creek and Dan & I camped there

Drove out thru Hungry Valley to La Bek and the flying J truck stop for gas and lunch. Home Via Lockwood Valley Road. Got home about 4PM or so. A great trip on a good trail. Thank you Dan for organizing this trip. Thank you Verent for making the trip and taking pictures, I had a great time. Looking forward the DV adventure the week before Thanksgiving.



The drop into Piru Creek/Lockwood creek confluence was steep, rocky and some off camber spots. But no problems for the three of us.

Arrived at Piru Creek to find the Pt Mugu 4-wheelers taking a break at the campsite on the N side of the creek. We checked out the campsite on the S side of the creek and

Sat night. Weather was 88 deg F Sat afternoon, warm into the evening hours, cooling off about the the full moon rose in the sky.

Probably got into the 50's that night.

Got up about 8AM, breakfast, rollup cap and left camp about 9:45. Drove up Miller, good trail, no problems (but challenging for sure). At top about 11 AM. Took a break.



Hollister Hills Run Photos



apart the first day made some calls to another club from up in that area (section8krawlers) came up with nothing till the next morning. Called the local wrecking yard and picked up a rear axle for \$100. It had started raining the night before so this was all in the rain....so we get Derriks truck back together only to find when the axle broke it screwed up his Detroit also, so he was done for the trip. Instead of heading home he jumped into Levi's samuri and we had a blast wheeling the rest of the day.

The last day the rain stopped but the trails where nice and wet and yes it was so much fun doin the same trails when super slippery. hahaha made my day definitely.....Levi and Derrik had



By Paul B.

Derrick, Levi, Jeremy and myself (Paul) took a trip to Hollister Hills and camped it was a great trip with some bummer things hap-pening. One being that Derrik broke a rear axle in the new obstacle coarse about fifteen minutes into the first day.

Then we helped Derrik tear the rear end

a close call at the top of the jungle where 2 trees saved them from rolling over.

All in good fun.....we proceed up the trail again and for some reason my daughter and i felt it was our turn to end up on our side and well the rest is history. hahaa great time!

it.....and despite what my truck looked like i drove it there and i drove it home.....thanx 4 looking and hope some of u can make it with us next time.....Paul



All in all it was a great trip we learned a lot and had a great time doing



Alot more pics can be seen on our forum under Hollister trip report.

Frameless Soft Top Review

By George W., Editor

Photos by George W.

For my first trip to Coyote Lake, I was trying to figure out what to do for comfort while crossing the valley floor towing Mike's Bantam trailer behind my Jeep. Face it I'm a wuss and if I have A/C, why shouldn't I figure out a way to use it when I'm not on the trail?

So I started looking and found out how expensive it would be to get a factory soft top plus accessories. The frame was several hundred dollars along with all of the mounting hardware, let alone another several hundred dollars for the top itself.

In addition to that I had to get door surrounds, upper doors and a tailgate bar no matter what I did. Luckily I already had a windshield header from my Safari top. These items ran about \$400, so whatever else I spent was going to determine how expensive it got.

In looking around I found that Rampage had a frameless top that converted to a Safari top when the side and back windows were removed and it had a pocket to put them in within the back half of the top. **Well that's kind of cool. It was about \$450 using sail cloth which would last longer.**

I checked around and almost everyone was the same price, then a special phone only sale notice came in email from 4 Wheel Drive Hardware. So I called them up to see what they could do for me.



I ended up getting all of the parts from them, although I did end up with Best Top door surrounds instead of factory Jeep door surrounds, that saved about \$50. Since my uppers were also going to be Best Top Element Upper Doors, that made a certain amount of sense.

I also purchased a five year unlimited warranty for the top itself for a little under \$60. With that warranty, if anything happens to the top fabric or windows, they replace it no questions asked. Considering the possibility of trail damage on any given run, it made a lot of sense.

Everything started to come in a week later, with one exception which I will get to later.

The tailgate bar went on surprisingly easy, just had to drill four small holes for the screws that hold the clips on, on either side of the tailgate. The door surrounds were a little more of a challenge. Two people would have made it go much faster as you had to put pressure on the surround to get the bolt hole to line up and get the bolt started properly.

The top itself went on fairly easy except that the channel in the top of the tub **wouldn't accept the plastic bar in several places.** Mike notices that the channel itself was crimped slightly in a couple of places making it a breeze to put on. Then there was a certain amount of tugging and stretching to get the side windows on, then the rear window.

A pocket for the windows was then inserted under the back half of the top where the top was constructed of two layers. Putting the window pocket in that position makes it readily accessible and also adds several layers to the fabric helping to provide some insulation between the outer surface and inner surface.

The window pocket is held in place on its leading edge by several Velcro strips. Access to the pocket is achieved by loosening and unclipping a strap on each rear corner (the strap is visible in the photos on the following page).



The top itself is help on with channel strips, strategically places Velcro and a liberal amount of what appears to be very sturdy zippers.

Now for the doors. My lower doors are Best Top Element sport tube doors with a pocket system. By themselves they fit loose and rattle quite a bit. BUT, for a nice finishing touch that also gets rid of all of the rattling, I also installed Best Top exterior Door plates painted to match the Jeep. With weather stripping they seal very well and did not rattle at all. They are topped off with Best Top Element mirrors which looks just like the factory mirrors.

The uppers, also Best Top Element, are built to mate with the lowers. Each door comes with two adjustment collars that allow you to adjust the pin height to make the door upper fit properly within the door surround. You then bend the uppers frames just about the door pin adjustments to close properly.

Only problem was on the first drive, the uppers pulled away from the door surrounds when you got above 45 mph. The problem was that the upper pins were smaller then the holes they fit in allowing them to flop in and out about an inch at the top.

We tried to figure a quick and easy fix since Coyote was coming up soon and found that clear plastic tubing with the same inner diameter and the diameter of the door pins made a good sleeve making the uppers much stiffer. The only problem is the amount of playing that must be done each time the doors go on to make sure they fit properly. However , adding the upper doors makes the doors shut so tightly that you have to apply force inward on the door to get them to open.

The final item that didn't make it in time for Coyote was a pair of Rampage half door arm rests. It took them another two and a half months to show up. Their pins were also loose fitting, but the same fix should work with them, although I am communicating with Best Top for a better solution.

The reason for the arm rests is that the steel tubes and the door plates can be rather hard on the underside of your arm while your hitting and dropping over rocks, even at the slowest speeds.

The new roof system worked well on the road. The AC had no problem keeping up with the heat. Although it did still heat up quite a bit with the engine turned off, but



not much more than with the hardtop. Road noise was also quite tolerable.

On the trail, I ended up only removing the upper door halves and left the side and rear windows on. A result of this seemed to be

slightly less dust in the back of the passenger compartment. It also made a trail camp cover un-necessary when park at the camp site.



Club Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes by Kenn B., Club Secretary

October 2012

7:02 pm Introductions; 32 people in attendance

Secretary's report : see newsletter

V.P. : Nothing to report

Treasurers report : 1052.64

Membership : 54 current members

Newsletter : the new letter is out now for Aug. and Sept.

Web site: is being updated with a forums page open and a password protected page

Trail maintenance:

Garcia ridge – has possibly been graded? Yet to be confirmed

Trail maintenance to be scheduled

Social chair

Christmas party: Proposed to be at **Mike G's**. Possible catered or something like that so we can all just hang out and not have to work too much. Wednesday December 5th?

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas parade in SLO: Dec 7th. 4-5 hands up as possible participants. Hopefully we can muster double that or more by Dec 7th. 30.00\$ to enter the club. Motion by Ken B, Second by Kirk M

Adopt a HWY: Kirk had to info, NO fee. Club needs to fill out an application. Request a section of HWY / possible waiting list for a given area or find an area that work for the club that is open now. Mark B and company thought that HWY 58 might be a good spot. If the club is going to sign up for this we must fallow through and do the work. Kirk will get additional info and post it on the email list for further discussion next meeting.

TRAIL REPORTS

Erik F: Had a trip up near big bear / Holcomb Creek? / It has been closed

due to fire damage and is now back open. He had a good trip the trail is easy now because of the fire traffic but it was still fun and He said it was great to get out and just go

Kirk: Hollister run on the 21st of September. 5 rigs. The playground has new obstacles and was a lot of fun. Most all played it safe with nothing to gnarly was attempted. They stayed 2 days and 2 nights.

Paul (new member), Hollister: 2 days 1 night. They hiked the new trail that is being built. To possibly be open in November. Looks to be very VERY hard. The report is harder than the tank trap for those of us who know what that is. (see tank trap Hollister Hills OHV on YouTube). Hollister Hills OHV is on FACEBOOK and you can get updates on the park and what is going on and when.

EVENTS

Paul and Derrick are headed back up to Hollister this weekend for a Sunday Monday stay the 7th and 8th

October 12th-14th the victor valley run @ Johnson Valley. Randy P was going to attend and the club was given 2 tickets and He got them because He is going to attend.

November: Run with Dan G possible death valley around Thanksgiving

December: Parade in SLO

Christmas Party

November 2012

INTRO @ 7:02

V.P. – no report

Secretary – see last months minutes in the newsletter

Membership – 57 paid members / membership renewal is due now and you will need it to be nominated or vote on new board for next year

Safety – no report

Web – see new addition to the web site

/ forums page

Events – no randy / see last months minutes and watch the email to keep up with what is going on currently

Cal 4 wheel – nothing see web site if needed all of there events are posted

Pine mtn. / Mark B has not been up to check it out

Garcia ridge – nothing

La Panza campground – nothing

OLD BUSINESS

Christmas parade SLO: Kirk will get app and donate the entry fee. Devon will turn in the application

Adopt a HWY: Kirk has been trying to get calls made. Discussion was all over the place at the meeting. Kirk is going to try and get more info for next meeting so that we can make a decision

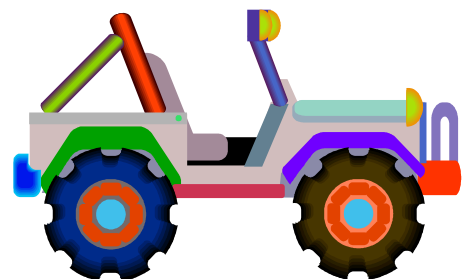
Club Christmas party @ Mike & Sharon G.'s home: **There will be walk** around food. Gift exchange \$10.00 max for the white elephant exchange some donation will be made

RTI ramp repair: Motion to fix the ramp \$60.00. Motion by By mark B, 2nd George W.

NEW BUSINESS

Please be thinking about the new club staff and club direction for next season

TRIP REPORTS



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



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SLO 4 WHEELERS

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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.

December 5th — SLO 4-Wheelers Christmas Party 2012 - NOTE, General meeting will be at party. SLO 4 Wheelers Christmas Dinner/Party will be held at Mik & Sharons G.'s home Wednesday Dec 7th 6:00pm Brief general meeting including nominations for 2013 officers Bring a gift for each person to participate in the Gift Exchange Raffle for prizes If you haven yet responded check your email for note from info@mailva.evite.com R S V P TO EVITE WITH NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING – PRIOR TO 11/28/12 or Contact/trailboss: Mike G

December 7th Friday — After Meeting Run-San Luis Obispo Christmas Parade. This Event is a lot of FUN. Decorate your rig and/or slap on a couple strings of lights and come join Us. Any updates, follow up info will be posted thru the clubs email list. Line up at 6:00- inspection 6:15. Parade starts at 7:00. Contact/trailboss: OPEN

If you have any questions or events/local runs/not so local runs you would like to do and/or participate in, please contact fellow SLO 4-Wheelers via the clubs email list, CONTACT: OPEN.. -SLO 4-WHEELERS Events Director at or attend the meetings! Its where we plan most our runs and events

THE SLO 4-WHEELERS ARE LOOKING FOR YOU! YES YOU, TO BE A TRAIL BOSS/ RUN LEADER.

GIVE THE CLUB IDEAS/ NEW RUNS AND EVENTS. CONTACT US WITH THOUGHTS AND IDEAS.

Don't forget! Send details on your scheduled /impulse SLO 4-Wheeler event if you want it on the calendar! Email: Mark AnEv942@aol.com

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.

