



The SLO 4-Wheeler



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November / December 2014

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Las Chiches Night Run

Written by Thea B.

From Santa Margarita via Pozo Road, head past Pozo Forest Service Station and past Pozo Saloon to Turkey Flat. Within the Los Padres National Forest in the La Panza Range. **It's not too far** outside of Santa Margarita. Perfect for a night run, keep it interesting. SLO 4-Wheelers, consisting of a handful of 4x4 trucks, took this trail in October. The nights start early now, so we met up around 6:30 in Santa Margarita and headed out. By the time we got to Turkey Flat, it was dark. This is when lights along the lower rails and near the tires come in handy, or lights that can be moved manually to see tight corners or see low when your truck comes up on a ridge. We hit the trail around 7:00 along Navajo Road and took a sharp right turn up into the Las Chiches road. Starts off straight up where a lower gear is needed. There is a blurry line between **what people see as an "easy", "intermediate", and "advanced"** trail, and depends on who you are asking. Not sure what this trail is rated, but you could probably escape without needing to put your truck in 4x4, if needed. I **would call this an "easy" trail.** Again, perfect for a night run, so there are other challenges than

what you wouldn't typically encounter during day light hours. Its dark along this trail with blurry glows from the cities nearby, so your visibility is confined by where your lights are pointing. When coming up to the tops of the ridges, your lights are pointed to the sky. It is a steep trail with lots of ups and downs, so there are several times where all you see are your headlights in the sky and the top of your hood. The road is also pretty slick, so traction could be an issue if your tires have a lot of wear, or too much air. This run may get really challenging after some rains. The brush is pretty tight to the trail so expect some body scratches. We stopped at the top of a ridge near some large boulders and had a break to chat and eat some cookies waiting for the moon to rise. It was a sight to see. The



Photo by Deena M.

trail meets up with another dirt road that heads back down the hill back to Pozo Road. We ended up getting back around 10:30. I would recommend this trail for an easy day/night run to enjoy some peace and quite, expanding views, and a reason to put your truck into 4x4 without having to get too far out of town or beat your truck up.

2014 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

Officers:

President:..... Mark B.
 Vice President:Randy P.
 Secretary:.....Kirk R.
 Treasurer:.....Devin L.
 Board of Directors (includes officers):
 Ways and Means:
 Membership Director:George W.
 Events Director:Eric F.
 Land Use Liaison:
 CA4WDC Liaison:Suzy J.
 Social Chairperson:Ingrid R.
 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:.....Deque G.
Pine Mountain Trail. John J.
La Panza CampGround:Kirk R./Dave F.

Newsletter submittals
 by two weeks before the
 next issue to George

Trip Report — Cleghorn Trail

by Eric F.

NOTE: All photos of 's rig are from his photos.

My boss thought it was a good idea to send me to Chrysler training. Not a bad thing but wait on a Saturday. I'm thinking this may work out after all.

After making a few phone calls I was able to round up 3 other takers for a Sunday morning run. The plan was to meet up at the McDonald's at 8.00am at the 138 /115 junction. Of course it was one of our hotter days. My phone showed 92 degrees at 8.00 am.

Well every one was on time. TONY in his V8 powered TJ. BRIAN and his daughter Madison in his JK, Bill and his wife and 3 grandkids in a Cherokee, I in my YJ.

The group made its way to Cleghorn trail about a 20 min drive on the 138 east. I let Tony lead us to the staging area where we all aired down and those who had removable windows and or tops off they came. Did I mention it was hot.

I must say Cleghorn trail in its self is an SUV trail but it's the bypasses that is the challenge. Even though I put the run together I elected Tony the trail leader. He had the most capable rig. Tony lead up the trail and missed the left turn onto the trail. We all piped up on our CBs "**Tony you missed the turn**". Tony comes over the CB "I



think I missed the turn. I did that last time I was here he says. Oops."

Up the trail we went. We came to the first small challenge an uneven up and down section. OK time for 4x4 low and lock the front axle Tony made it no problem. I went second all I get is 2 tires spinning 1 front and 1 rear. After some pulling on the front disconnect cable the axle locked and then no problem. Brian made it through no prob-

lem. Bill was next. He had trouble but was able to make it but that is where he found out his ARB was not working.

We made our way through all the bypasses with no problems leading us up to the V notch section. The V notch has washed out some but still very challenging and a spotter is highly recommended.

We all stopped at the V notch and looked at the line to crawl through it. Tony was first he was able to make it through the with little spotting. I was next i took a bit of spotting as this was my first real run with the Wrangler. I was able to make it through. Brian was next. Being he had the lowest and longest Jeep he attempted and was unable to make it up the V notch first attempt. Brian backed up and got high centered. Good job. After some rock stacking and rocking we able to **get Brian's Jeep off the rock. He took** at the different line and made it up with spotting and some under carriage beating and banging. Bill declined the V notch as he ARB was dead.





After the V notch the trail turns into a canyon wall on your left and hill side on the right Tony made it through no problem. I was pretty close to the wall as it did fold my left mirror in for me. Brian made it through no problem. Bill me us on the main trail after the canyon.

From there the trails continues with more by pass hills with some smaller rock climbing and a couple of hills that have smaller obstacles that are dead ends turn around points at the top.



On one section you have to go over a deep rut and then get on the crown of the trail and make a sharp left. I watched Tony cross the rut and make the turn no problem. I then crossed into the rut and felt my Wrangler tip towards the left. I backed up fast. This did not feel comfortable at all. After some couching I retried the rut with the Jeep falling into the rut and right rear wheel off the ground. It was white knuckle but the left front tire pulled out on to the crown of the hill and i made the left turn after that. The longer wheel base Jeeps had no problem the longer wheel base made them more stable.

We continued down the trail taking every by pass we could find. There is one somewhat sharp somewhat off camber turn that takes a 2 point turn. Tony went through no problem. I must have taken the turn way too sharp: I felt the rear of my Jeep lift off the ground and the Jeep lean toward the left. I thought I was done; going over. Well I was only barely on the brakes as the Jeep slowly



pulled through the and rear tires were back on the ground. Then I felt the Jeep come up in back again and my foot was off the brakes and pulled through. Brian said he saw 3 feet between the ground and rear my tires. What a ride. The other 2 Jeeps made it through no problem. I never had this happen with my Cherokee as it was a longer wheel base.

The group made its way down the trail uneventful to Highway 138 and crossed over to the scenic look out. Everyone aired up and said their good-byes as I had at least a 5 hour drive in 100 degree heat with no A/C. All in All a great morning run. It took us about 4 hours.

ERIC F.

Trip Report — Swamp Lake Trip

Written by Tom B.

October 10-13, 2014

We ran Swamp Lake as our last Sierra Trip this season. Kenn, Linn Wyatt and Weston B. in their "85 Toyota 4 Runner, Kevin B. in his awesome custom buggy, Randy P. and his friend Brian in his "Super Jeep", James L., Kody and Kia in his "White Beast", Robert G. in his Jeep Grand Cherokee and myself in my '85 Toyota 3rz.

We left 46 and Golden Hill by 6:15 P.M. Friday, stopped at Kettleman City for dinner and on to Prather. Randy had gone ahead as he was ready early so it was the rest of us. We fueled at Prather and arrived at the snow park by 10:30.

Saturday A.M. we unloaded the rigs and headed for the Northern end of the trail. Randy knew a shortcut so off we went. We made a wrong turn once or twice but managed to find our way. Kenn and I had never come in from the North as we enjoy going up Rooster Rock, but the trail



photo by . Tom B.

is really different going the opposite way. My truck started to get hot so we stopped and Brian noticed the fan shroud had shifted and stopped the fan. We put a couple of zip ties on to hold the fan shroud better and

it cooled right down. We got into some pretty big rock gardens and stacked a few rocks for Robert as he is on 31's and Randy got a little sideways at the top of Winch Hill but we all made it in.

There were quite a few tents and Jeeps at the top by the green room so we drove about half way down and found a great spot. Not too far from the green room but not too far from the lake. Weather was fantastic. We set up camp and mellowed out. Wyatt went down to the lake by himself and caught a nice trout from the bank. He needed help getting it off the hook though. The moon was really full and in the middle of the night it seemed like daylight.

Sunday the Tents at the top packed up early and left and we had the place to ourselves. Robert and James had to leave but they hung around for a little in the morning.

photo by . Tom B.





photo by .Robert G.

They were going to keep going south and go down Rooster Rock. We gave them some directional help and off they went. We assume they **made it home as we didn't see them** on the side of the road when we left the next day.

photo by .Robert G.

Those of us that stayed decided to go to Little Doris Lake which is right above the cliffs of Swamp. We drove up to the ridge between Swamp and Grouse Lake stopping to inspect the mine along the way. At the top, we left the vehicles and hiked across the ridge. When we got to where we could see Little Doris Lake we decided not to hike to it as it was about

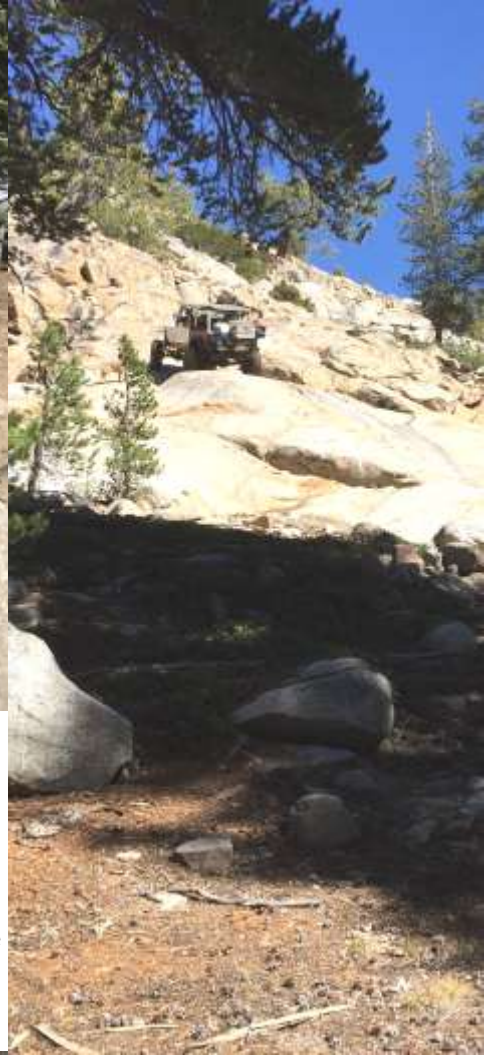


photo by .Robert G.

200 feet down and what goes down must come up. We had lunch overlooking Little Doris and Swamp and headed back to camp.

When we got back, Wyatt and I blew up the 4 man raft I had brought and headed for Swamp. I had 2 oars so we trolled the lake and caught several really nice fish. We put them back so we can catch them again next year. We spent the rest of the day running the RC cars.

Monday morning we packed up and headed out the same way we had come in. At winch hill we all had to stack rocks to make it over except Kevin who just crawled right over.

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After we made it over we figured the right line which was to the right and over a huge granite rock. We stopped for lunch just after that in a really nice spot under some trees. We got back to the trailers around 4:00 and headed home. We stopped for Dinner in Kettleman and were home by 8:00. Great trip with great people.



photos on this page by Kevin B.



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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!

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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



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SLO 4 WHEELERS

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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.

November 5th — General Club Meeting at 7:00 PM at Round Table in Atascadero.

November 8th or 9th — After meeting run to be determined at the meeting.

December 3rd — General Club Meeting and Annual Christmas Party, time and date to be determined. This is an annual event that tends to draw a large number of club members and their families. A quick round of nominations for 2015 officer is done before other Festivities start

including the annual gift exchange and stealing.

December 6th or 7th — After meeting run to be determined at the meeting.

December 20th — San Miguel Electric Light Parade and Christmas Street Festival. The club entered last year and it was a lot of fun.

January 7th — General Club Meeting at 7:00 PM at Round Table in Atascadero. This meeting includes the annual election of club officers

January 10th or 11th — After meeting run to be determined at the meeting.

February 4th — General Club Meeting at 7:00 PM at Round Table in Atascadero.

February 7th or 8th — After meeting run to be determined at the meeting.

March 4th — General Club Meeting at 7:00 PM at Round Table in Atascadero.

March 7th or 8th — After meeting run to be determined at the meeting.

April 1st — General Club Meeting at 7:00 PM at Round Table in Atascadero.

April 4th or 5th — After meeting 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.