



THE SLO 4-WHEELER



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How to Over Build a Trailer

*Written by
George W., Editor*

Photos by the author.

After borrowing John J's Backhoe trailer in 2007 to get my rig and stuff up to the Jeoper's Jamboree, I figured I needed to get my own trailer. I checked around and most of the open trailers available needed a lot of modification to secure the Jeep, plus they were not a

length that worked well with the Jeep; it would either have it backend hanger over the end of the trailer with the front bumper hanging over the trailer tongue or there'd be way too much trailer. Capacity would be an issue as well. some of the trailers were real heavy themselves and others were too light weight.

At about the same time,

my friend who had moved to Oklahoma, was wanting to get rid of a Carson Racer box trailer that he had used to move back there. The trailer was actually designed for race cars with a dove tail back and the rear door doubled as the loading ramp.

It also was big, but didn't seem real heavy. The interior dimensions were relatively spacious. It is about 6'6" tall, 8' wide and 18' long, all the inside dimensions. The height was a little concerning since the Jeep was a little over 6'2" with the top on. There were also some things hanging down from the ceiling rafters such as a vent crank and a light.



(Continued on page 2)

2010 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

Officers:

President:.....Eric F.
Vice President: Ross H.
Secretary:.....Kirk R.
Treasurer:.....Margaret P.

Board of Directors (includes officers):

Ways and Means:.....Ken B.
Membership Director:George W.
Events Director:.....Matt J.
Land Use Liaison:.....John J.
CA4WDC Liaison:.....Suzy J.
Social Chairperson:..... Florence S.
Newsletter Editor:George W.

Committees:

Safety Chairperson:Vacant
Promotional Chairperson: Kirk R.
Virtual Club Scrapbook:Mark B.
Archived Scrapbook Randy P.
Virtual Committee:Mark B.

Adopted Trails and Campgrounds:

Garcia Ridge Trail:..... Vacant
Pine Mountain Trail: Vacant
La Panza Camp Ground: Vacant
Carrizo Plains Land Use Vacant

Newsletter submittals

by the weekend after the meeting contact George

(Continued from page 1)

I was a little worried about that when I first started.

The first thing we had to do was figure a way to secure the Jeep. The floor was about 3/4" plywood over 2"x2" steel box beams (every 18 inches front to rear) and flexed a little bit when you walked over it (and I'm going to drive the Jeep into here?). We bought several 10' lengths of E-Track, a bunch of plywood, a lot of glue and nails and a pail of liquid rubber. We laminated the plywood together to match the thickness of the box beams, cut them to fit between the box beams, then we created the sandwich.

The track was laid out on the floor in three runs. One under each Jeep tire line and one down the middle of the vehicle. They were then screwed into the top plate of



the small box beams thru the flooring to hold them in place. The rubber coated plywood laminate that

we created was then placed underneath the floor between the box beams directly under the eTrack.

The bottom of the sandwich was finished off with an 8' length of 3/16" steel plate. We then drilled through every other hole on the eTrack all the way down through the plywood floor and plywood we had created to the steel plate and bolted the whole thing together. The floor started to stiffen up as the sandwiches got bolted together. When that was all done (there were some moments where we had to transition to the dovetail that made it a little tricky), we brought the Jeep in and started to strap it down. The initial tie-down plan was to put a eTrack tire strap over each time and ratchet them down tight. Then we ran ratchet straps diago-





nally from the bumper D-rings to an eTrack D-ring on the opposite tire line, two in the front and two in the rear (we were worried about hitting a bump and the jeep bouncing off the ceiling). Strapping the tires down took all of the play out of the sidewalls and, believe it or not, the Jeep would not move! No sway, no bounce, nothing! As a result the diagonals were a little over kill (someone asked if I was a loadmaster securing a Abrams tank).

The trailer hauled the Jeep real well that first year, other than the truck being a little, ok a lot, undergeared for the hills. But we ended up with a lot of loose stuff tossed on the floor or over the twin spare

tires that were tied down the eTrack as well. One of the things we never got to do the first year was mount the tongue tool box I had bought. So the main project for the second year would be to mount a tongue tool box that I had purchased but we had run out of time to install it. It was a diamond plated locking toolbox angled to sit on a large trailer tongue.

Mark's idea was to put two angles spanning the tongue from side to side in front of the cargo box with the flange down. One angle under the front edge of the tool box and the other at the rear of the box with the box shifted forward to where it kind of matched the outside of the tongue frame rails. We

then secured the box to the rails with bolts, five on the front rail and seven on the rear. A couple of weeks later we added a sheet of heavy plywood to the bottom of the box so items dropped wouldn't dent the aluminum. Mark did all of the welding and assisted with the painting and bolting that tied it down.

In addition, before the last Jamboree, we mounted a flashlight holder, a paper shop towel roll dispenser and a rack for ratchet straps. The second year with the trailer was great as a lot of blocking and chocks were removed from the trailer box and moved to the tongue box for storage.

Just to make sure a friend arranged to take the truck, trailer and Jeep in various combination onto a scale to determine the towing weight and the appropriate place to stop the Jeep inside to get the best tongue weight to limit trailer sway. We found that the trailer weighed almost 2,800 pounds and the Jeep was a little over 5,000 pounds. Mt total weight of truck and trailer was about 14,000 pounds; no wonder the truck was grunting on the mounting grades.

Coming modifications include finishing out the front underside of the floor eTrack, adding eTrack on the walls for other uses such as hauling taller objects, moving the two spare tires from the floor to the wall (eTrack mounts), mounting an ATV wench to assist in loading should the Jeep not be running and then do something so the backside of the trailer doesn't resemble a large empty white eraser board.

My next trailer will have a higher towing capacity and so will my next truck.



Odds and Ends:

Editors Note: This is a new column that will appear when they is room in an issue. It's a place for pieces of information, product reviews and other useful information. If you want to submit something remember that reviews should be from a neutral point of view. Emotional based comments will be removed or the article rejected.

Lead Wheel Weights

All of us should know that lead wheel weights were outlawed as of Jan 1st 2010. Our alternative is Zink or steel.

Well i ran across something that linked me to the 3M page and found its not just California. So far its California, Washington state, Illinois, New York and Maine. Legislation pending in Maryland, Rhode Island, Iowa and Wisconsin. There are 4 other states looking at lead alternatives.

Some more useless info i found.

Eric

Liquid Weights

Your getting ready for the big camping trip or wheeling trip and are packing up your stuff and trying to even out the weight as much as possible. Your trying not to make the back end too heavy as to squat the rear springs. Also make the front end too light climbing that steep hill. Well here is some info I found while surfing the internet being bored:

Water 8.3 lbs per gallon
Gasoline 6.1 lbs per gallon
Diesel Fuel 7.3 lbs per gallon
Propane 4.2 lbs per gallon

Eric

Cordless Rechargeable Work Lights

The Sears Craftsman 35 LED cordless rechargeable stick like work light works well off road. It comes with both 110 Volt AC and 12 Volt DC chargers and the charge last for a long time. It has two lighting surfaces (edge and end face) which can be turned on one at a time or together. It also comes with a hook on the end and a magnet that is strong enough to hold it in place on most metal surfaces. It also has a rubber plug to seal the charge port.

I bought two of these for the Jeep and first used them on the 2009 Jeepers Jamboree. We spent the first night on the trail and had to rebuild one of our parties locking hub. We did this at night at the side of the trail and the owner of the rig with the hub liked the results so well he bought one himself soon after.

The only negative that I have found to them is that one of the two has the spot end coming off which could be easily cured with a little silicon sealer.

They normally list for about \$34 and are regularly on sale for about \$20 and makes a nice addition to your off road repair kit.

Another work light that Sears has that looks like it will work well is an 80 LED cordless rechargeable that more resembles a folding omelet pan. Its brighter than the other two I have and because the wings can be adjusted, the two beams can be adjusted to cross at a specific point, making a hot spot that's twice as bright as the 35 LED model. The price for this baby is usually \$49.99 and goes on sale fairly regularly for \$39.99.

Another LED light we tried on the trail last year was a clip on light John J. found for our caps to help us find our way back to our camp site from the main camp. It provided a fair amount of light, but having it so close to your line of sight removed any depth perception. Worked best combined with a handheld.

George

Cheap Protection

Well we've all had it happen. We have a day at the wrecking yard scouring for that special part or a day on the trail. You found the part you want or your rig or someone's breaks. Next thing you know your on the ground in the dirt ruining your clothes. When your all done putting away your tools, parts and what ever treasure you found. You hop in your rig and off you go home, next wrecking yard or finish the trail. you get to where your going and realize besides ruined clothes you made a huge mess of the seat in your rig.

Well going through Lowe's i found some light weight coveralls heavy duty material. They are white and made with TYVEK with zipper in the front. One size fits most (not all) trim arms and legs as to fit. The package also says washable in cold water. They were under 20.00 bucks. A great item to put in your rig for a trail emergency or a day of wrecking yard scouring.

Eric

Editor's Note: After reading this information I checked around and there seems to be a variety of these things available in a variety of materials. Some of them also include hoods.

Club Meeting Minutes:

By Kirk R., Secretary

SLO 4 Wheelers –Club Meeting Minutes:

December 1, 2010

7:00 PM: Christmas Party was called to order and dinner was served.

7:55 PM: Randy P., President, called meeting to order to take nominations for 2011 Club Officers. There are 10 positions; Randy encouraged nominations for all positions. More nominations will be taken next month and then elections will be held. Nominations were made as follows:

President – Randy P. is ready to move on and is looking for someone to take over. Mike G. was nominated.

Vice President – Randy. was nominated.

Secretary – Kirk R. was nominated and is interested in continuing in this position.

Treasurer – Ingrid R. was nominated.

Nominating Committee – Matthew volunteered to be on the committee.

Ways and Means – John J. was nominated.

Membership – George was nominated

Events – Eric was nominated.

Land Use – John J. was nominated.

Cal 4 Wheel – No nominations made.

Newsletter – George was re-nominated and is interested in continuing in this position.

8:07 PM: Emblems are available for purchase for \$5.00 each.

8:10 PM: After meeting run will be San Luis Obispo Christmas Parade. Kirk R. gave report. Club is entry #68. Meet at Monterey St parking lot at 5:30 PM:. Randy encouraged everyone to be safe and watch for the kids along the parade route.

8:15 PM: Newsletter Report - George stated newsletter is available electronically if you do not wish to receive a paper copy. Please take photos to submit to newsletter.

Membership – Pay your 2011 dues now. Must be a paid member to vote or to hold an office.

8:16 PM: Christmas Gift Exchange. Lots of great gift and everyone had a good time.

8:45 PM: Eric sold Raffle tickets for the 50/50 drawing Winner was Tom

9:00 PM: Meeting Adjourned

SLO 4 Wheelers –Club Meeting Minutes:

January 5, 2011

7:00 PM: Randy P., President, called meeting to order and introductions followed.

7:10 PM: Officer Reports:

President – Randy wished everyone a Happy New Year and gave report on his trip over the holidays to Paniment Valley.

Vice President – No Report

Secretary – Absent

Treasurer – Balance & balance forwarded from 2010.

Ways and Means - Vacant

Membership – Please renew your membership now.

Newsletter – George requests members submit articles for the newsletter as well as photos.

Events – Vacant

Land Use – Absent

Cal 4 Wheel – No report

Social Committee - Florence S. was given a big Thank You for a great Christmas Party.

Trail Boss – Vacant

Safety – Absent

Sales – Kirk will inventory merchandise and would like to place an order. Short Discussion help. Board of Directors will discuss budget for order.

7:11 PM: Nominations – Discussion held. Matthew made a motion to ask that positions be described. Randy read bylaws to explain each position and its duties.

7:22 PM: Nomination Committee Chair, Matt, opened the

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floor for additional nominations.

Nominations were as follows:

President – Eric F., Mike G., declined nomination.

Vice President – Ross H.

Secretary – Kirk R.

Treasurer – Margret P., Ingrid R., declined nomination.

Membership – George W.

Ways and Means – Ken B.

Cal 4 Wheel – Suzy J.

Events – Matthew J.

Land Use – John J.

Newsletter – George W.

Sales – Kirk R.

7:29 PM: Motion made to vote the slate as a whole. Motion Carried. Vote held and slate approved.

7:30 PM: Randy thanked everyone and turned the meeting over to Eric. Ross said he is very much looking forward to being the VP.

7:33 PM: Run after the meeting – Discussion held. This month will be Swap Meet in Paso Robles on 1/8/11. Matt would like members to give him suggestions for future runs or events.

7:41 PM: Ken sold Raffle tickets for the 50/50 . Winner, Tom.

7:45 PM: Meeting Adjourned.



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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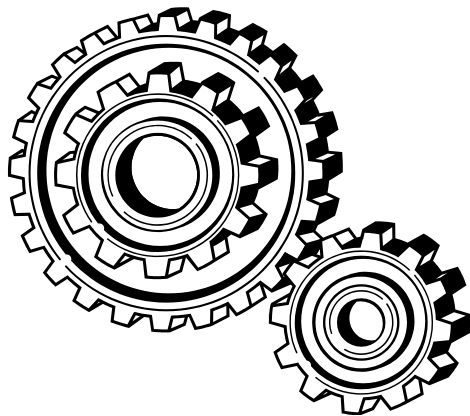
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We're on the web:

<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.

Feb 2nd - SLO 4 — Wheelers General Club Meeting- Players Pizza, Atascadero Wednesday 7pm

Feb 5th or 6th — After meeting Run: To Be Determined at the meeting

Feb 25th-27th — California Association of 4WD Clubs' annual convention. The CA4WDC 4 Wheel Drive Expo and Trade Show (convention) to be held this year at the LampLiter Inn, Visalia, CA. Hospitality, dinner/awards banquet, vehicle show, and manufacturer displays. Registration: online. Contact/trailboss: Suzy J.

March 2nd — SLO 4-Wheelers General Club Meeting- Players Pizza, Atascadero Wednesday 7pm

March 5th-6th — After meeting Run: To Be Determined at the meeting

April 6th - SLO 4 — Wheelers General Club Meeting- Players Pizza, Atascadero Wednesday 7pm

April 9th or 10th — After meeting Run: To Be Determined at the meeting.

April TBD — "Ghost of the" Molina Ghost Run: Annual CA4WDC event to be held at Hollister Hills SVRA Upper Ranch near Hollister, CA. Registration is \$50 per vehicle for members, or \$60 per vehicle for non-members. Registration: online. Contact /trailboss: OPEN

May TBD — SLO 4-Wheelers Spring Fling BBQ and trail runs. Tentative-Annual BBQ generally held late April early May. Contact/trailboss: OPEN

May 4th — SLO 4-Wheelers General Club Meeting- Players Pizza, Atascadero Wednesday 7pm

May 7th-or 8th — After meeting Run: To Be Determined at the meeting

May 27th-30th — Hi Desert Round-Up -Memorial Day Weekend Annual CA4WDC "Hi Desert Round-up" is a fund raising event for California Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs Inc. Registration online. Contact/trailboss: OPEN

June 1st — SLO 4-Wheelers General Club Meeting- Players Pizza, Atascadero Wednesday 7pm

June 4th or 5th — 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, Matt J.