



The SLO 4-Wheeler



Volume 18, Issue 3

May / June 2012

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The Ranch Run

Written by George W. Editor
Mission Outline:

Saturday, May 5th, 2012 at 0715 hours: The exploration team gathered at the designated point to leave for a previously described objective. The team was to depart the gathering point at 0800 hours in convoy to head for the objective. Well kind of. We all went down to McDonalds to get some food before heading off for this once in a lifetime run on a historic local ranch. 4x4s kept rolling in every few minutes or so until there were thirty plus rigs sitting in the back parking lot. You name it, just about, and it was there. TJs, CJs, JKs, flat fender, Rovers, Toyotas and a couple of pickups. After everyone had gotten some McD grub, we all got together for a drivers

meeting with John J. and a ranch representative. After all of the questions were answered, we got ready to mount up and head out.

The ranch representative lead the group with George W. leading the club rigs behind him and John J. acting as tail gunner. We headed out of McDonald's and drove for a couple of miles, during which we got passed illegally by someone who didn't like the fact that the group was travelling just under the speed limit (the left turn lane is not a passing lane). It wasn't too long before coming to a no-descript gate on a rural side road. As we crossed the gate boundary we entered the ranch. We drove on a ranch road across a field for a ways, spotting deer numerous times, and then turned on to a less used trail that headed up to a ridgeline.

On the way up to the ridgeline, one of the Rovers had a coolant hose cut loose requiring a repair stop. With about 34 vehicles total, the front of the pack made it up to the high point of the ridgeline where you could see a local highway and some of the rural residential area of



Atascadero. We waited at that point for a short while those

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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 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

Contact George two weeks before the next issue

Keeping Your Ice Chest Cold

by George W., Editor

Ok, I want to start out first by saying that I'm no expert on this. I've done some research as well as made some simple logical observations in the few camping runs I've been on. This article describes some of what I've found out on-line and by trial and error and by observing friends.

First you have to start with an efficient ice chest, unless, of course, you want to spend the money on an electric model, in which case you can pretty much ignore most of this article. However, some of the tips on keeping it cold will still apply as opposed to draining more of your battery power.

So far the model I've found that I like is the Coleman Extreme. The larger the ice chest the higher the rating in days. Makes sense, you can put more ice in it. But there is more to it than that. Here's some of what I've found out with on-line research:

- Refrigerate everything your taking a head of time. Don't waste ice cooling down what you need to keep cold.
- You can also freeze some of your water bottles, but that means opening them and pouring out a small amount to gain expansion room for the ice.
- Place the coldest items (e.g., the frozen bottles) at the bottom of the ice chest and the cool items on top. A lot of sites recommend layering with the bottles horizontal with crushed ice between layers.
- Blocks of ice will last longer than crushed ice because they have less surface area, but that also means they cool what's around them less. A mix of block and crushed can provide a good cooling solution.
- Freezing jugs of water can also provide a lower cost solution than blocks of ice, but are less efficient because the storage material doesn't transfer temperatures well to what's around them.

- Ice is at 32 degrees, no lower. Salt water ice freezes at a lower temperature and therefore stores what's around it at a lower temperature. If you use the water jug model add about a quarter of a cup of salt per gallon and shake often until frozen to prevent the salt from coming out of the solution. Downside, you can't use the salt water for anything, but it can be reused; ice water in a jug is still useful.
- If possible, drain ice melt water and restock the ice right before hitting the trail.
- Dry ice almost always comes up. My dad made a dry ice freezer for his hunting trips. but only dry ice went in it. The reason? Anything warmer than the dry ice will cause it to go from a cold solid to CO2 gas until the stuff around it reaches the same temperature. So mixing dry ice with ice has issues unless you insulate the dry ice. It will help keep the ice frozen, but ice is warmer than dry ice causing it to warm fast and flash to the cold gas that dissipates quickly. My Dad always wrapped the dry ice in aluminum foil and used

weather stripping to seal the lid which was bolted closed. It worked, but it was cumbersome and only lasted about as long as some of the more efficient ice chest which were not around back then.

Ok, that's what you start with to keep things cold, but what can you do to help keep it cold and prolong the life of the ice? Here's some additional tips I've gathered and tried:

- Only go into the ice chest to get something you want, the longer its open the more of the cold inside you're loosing. Just poking around to see if there's anything in there you want is just warming it up.
- Do not use cold water to make coffee. Sounds simple, but I've seen people go into an ice chest for bottles of water for making coffee.
- Restock the ice chest in the early morning when the water bottles have been outside all night long and cooled down by the cool night air. Putting warm bottles in during the warm part of the day will only accelerate the melt rate.

Some of my ice chests, left to right, top to bottom: Coleman Classic Steel-belt, Igloo Playmate Maxcold, Coleman Extreme 70 quart, Coleman Extreme 58 quart (yes, I have several more).



- Cover the ice chest with a well insulated blanket. I use an emergency blanket with a reflective surface and hold it tight to the ice chest with bungee cords. I've also seen some custom made space blankets.
- Keep the ice chest in the shade and move it with the shade. Shade from an opaque object usually is cooler than something that lets the sun through. I've used the underside of the Jeep, the opposite side of the tent from the sun and under thick trees.
- Man made shade has issues, a dark color tarp will increase the temperature under it, not lower it. A silver colored tarp is better as it reflects more of the sun's heat. Also make sure that the shaded area is well ventilated, this will prevent heat from building up (remember how

warm your tent can get when its in the sun).

- Unless you have fresh ice to replace it, do not drain the ice melt in the bottom of the ice chest. If ice still floats in it, the water is still close to the temperature of the ice; draining it only replaces it with warm air. Water can absorb more energy than almost anything else, meaning that it warms up slower than almost anything else. The last time I went to the Jeepers Jamboree, my ice was gone by the last day, but the water was still cold and the water bottles were still cool and refreshing.

I have two sizes of the Coleman Extreme. A 58 quart and a 70 quart. The smaller works for short trips, the larger works for longer trips, but fully loaded is much heavier and becomes a two man operation to take off the jeep and put it on, let alone moving it with

the shade in camp. I also have an old fashioned Stainless Steel Coleman I would use for a short trip of a day or two and a couple of Igloos which are good usually for one day and maybe over night.

The newer Igloo Playmates had a problem in that they made them easier to open by moving the button from the hinge side to one end of the top, the problem is that they open too easy, every time they get bumped they open and they are real difficult to tie down and still allow you to open them, if you want to use one of these for a day trip, **I'd suggest blue ice instead of regular ice. It won't cool as well, but then again its won't spill or leak all over the inside of your rig.** The new model is also called the Maxcold and does seem to hold the blue ice longer and freezes condensation to the blue ice blocks.

Anyone else have any ideas?

Symbols We Care About

To the right, our National Flag with the historic first Navy Jack flying below it.

Below, one of the two new spare tire size club emblems that were acquired for club runs as well as a larger banner.

You'll be sure to see these during future club runs and events!



(Continued from page 1)

near the rear of the group repaired the Rover and got it going again. Once we heard they were rolling the front of the group got rolling again.

We reached the end of the ridge and made our way down a the face of the hill on a ranch trail. On the way down we saw more deer near watering troughs. We continued down to the bottom of the little valley to a live creek and followed it upstream through a lot of growth, crossing the stream before entering a small canyon where the creek actually made a small waterfall. Those of us at the front didn't get a chance to stop and look as the ranch representative wanted to make sure that we got the entire run done in the allotted time.

As we went along the creek we started seeing more and more poison oak along with a wide variety of bushes, trees and rock formations. We crossed the creek several more times and then left that valley when the trail met a road and continued on that road around a small mountain. From there we entered another valley with dense tree growth that included redwoods among other varieties of trees.

Along the way John relayed information from the ranch representative about the features that we were passing as well as warnings about rattlesnakes. "We should probably warn them about the poison oak as well" I thought to myself as I tried to remember to keep contact with the sides of the Jeep to a minimum until I could get it washed.

From there we came into a wide clearing where we all went to park for a group shot. While we waited for stragglers and the tail gunner, we started to look around the area including the man made lake just above where we had parked. This wasn't your average ranch pond, it was a good sized lake large enough to support fish and a couple of row boats that were at the shoreline near the dam. While not as big as some of public lakes in our area, I was surprised at how big it was, it definitely was not a pond. The lake and the surround oak trees provided a great view as it would back into a valley and a back drop for some of the pictures we would take when everyone had arrived.

The Rover was continuing to have temperature issues, but now it apparently



affecting its ignition system. When the last seven or so rigs arrived, we got the rigs all set up for a group picture of the rigs. It looked like a large parking lot with green paving which was actually about knee high grass.

The late arrivals and almost everyone else made their way up to the top of the dam along with Frank's flat fender for several more pictures. As usual, Frank and Florence were entertaining! After the photos were done, we went back down to the base of the hill where the rigs were parked and resumed our run. We continued around the hill we'd been circumnavigating when we came to the dam and then at the top of a saddle between it and the next hill we made a hairpin turn up another trail and headed south east winding up the face of the hill to another dam and a much smaller pond. We drove across the dam and across a few other fields and up another ridge. Everywhere you looked green grass and trees! We finally came across some cattle out on the range, the majority of their stock was getting ready to ship out. We passed them after making quick work of a few fresh cow pies (there's still some on my tires after going to the car wash to get rid of the poison oak oils). We then started back down another ridge and then doubled back on the face of a hill as we made our way to the eastern edge of the ranch. We then turned north following the eastern boundary. After a few minutes we came across a group of wild pigs and their piglets on a hill side. We continued on along the eastern boundary and joined up

with the main road just inside the ranch's main gate.

In the mean time the Rover that was having the thermal problem had come to a total stop and would not start again. The remaining rigs proceeded to tow him out as the ranch rep gave them alternate directions to our location that would save a lot of time and risk while towing the disabled rig. Unfortunately for them, one of the landmarks they had to navigate past on their way out was a dead cow that they had to approach from down wind (there's not much that smells worse than dead cow). After several minutes they approached the main gate down the main road toward the main gate.

We then took the club tire covers off the lead and tail vehicles and get ready to hit the road. Everyone said their goodbyes and thank you's to the ranch representative for a great morning drive.

Several of us then headed down to Coco's to top off our internal tanks and talk about what we had seen that morning. Usually there is plenty of room for the names of the drivers, their passengers and what they drove. But with 32 rigs attending, most filled with people, there isn't going to be room for that this time (it would be easier to list those who didn't go on the run). Now what can ever do locally to top this run!

A great big *thank you* to John J. for arranging this event and to Matt, the ranch representative, who guided us through all of the local natural beauty!
Photos by George W., Matt and Sharon G.



Club Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes by Kenn B., Club Secretary

SLO 4 Wheeler April Meeting

INTRO'S @ 7:10

V.P. Dave F. ran the meeting for Tom B

Treasure's report – none

Secretary's report – see minutes from march meeting

Membership – 38 paid members we are on track as compared to last year

Newsletter – The new newsletter is out see George W.

Next letter in 2 months - please contact George with anything appropriate that can be put in the club news letter any help would be appreciated

Events – Matt J. has resigned as Events Director

The club is officially looking for someone to step up and fill in

Do to lack of members at the meeting we will postpone nominations until the April meeting

Safety – Dave F has the club first-aid kit – if you need it for a run contact Dave

Merchandise – see Randy P

Stickers come with club membership or \$5.00 for small pair and \$10.00 for large pair

Randy is hoping to have the new banners by the 4th of July for the parade

Club business card up for discussion at the **April meeting do we need them and \$'s ?**

Garcia Ridge trail maintenance

Sat March 14th 9:00am

Bring lunch and water / long pants and shirt recommended

Pine MTN. – Mark B. Has not been up to have a look

La Panza Camp ground – Kirk will check into it more closely

Rumor is bathroom needs attention – boarded up? Need to talk to Lloyd

EVENTS

Carrizo Plains the flowers are starting run?

Coast ridge run?

May 19th Spring Fling

Kirk will get sign up on the email going

Dave offered his cooker

Possible AM and PM run

June 3rd / Boys and Girls benefit poker run

Sign up 8-10 AM

70 miles + or – open to all vehicles

Other cool sounding runs

Wrights lake / Barret lake 9000ft elevation extreme in places need friends and good equipment that is in good repair

Blue lakes off HWY 88 and 8 ?

Slick Rock / hot spring 7000ft elevation ?

Randy brought the club scrap book from 1994 if you did not get a chance to see it you missed out.

50/50 around 50 dollars total and we did have a winner

SLO 4 Wheelers –May Minutes

Meeting Minutes by Kirk R.

7:00pm Tom B., President, called meeting to order and introductions followed.

7:10pm Officer Reports:

Vice President- Absent

Secretary – Absent. Kirk took minutes.

Treasurer – Devin gave Account Balance .

Ways and Means – Absent

Membership – 46 paid members. Dues for Cal 4 Wheel are due by June meeting.

Newsletter – George asked everyone to keep articles coming.

Safety – Absent

Virtual Website – No report

Events – Matt not able to continue position. Elected Randy P. to office.

Land Use – Absent

Promotions – Randy brought new Club banners. 2 wheel cover sized and 1 full sized banner. Everyone thought they looked great.

Cal 4 Wheel – Suzy – Volunteers need for Pismo Car Show Fathers Day weekend.

Contact Suzy for details. Discussed membership drive and upcoming events, Molina Ghost Run on May 12th.

Social Committee – No Report

Trail Report –

Adopted Trails – Pine Mountain-No Report, La Panza-No Report, Carrizo Plains-All County Roads are open.

Upcoming Club Runs – John J. gave instructions for the Ranch Run. Run to take about 4 hours. Meet up at 8:00am. 24-28 rigs signed up. Must sign club vehicle requirement sheet.

Garcia Ridge Work Day – Rescheduled. TBA.

Dan G. discussed Summer run in August near Hwy 4. Details to follow.

Loon Lake Run report given by John J. discussion followed.

Coyote Lake Run- Discussion held for annual run in August.

Spring Fling – Kirk announced upcoming Spring Fling-Clubs annual picnic run. Spring Fling May 19th to Carrizo Plains over to Taft and back on Hwy 58.

Future Events – Mid June Miller Lockwood Run was suggested by Eric. July Summer Run suggested by Dan G. August annual Club run to Coyote Lake. Night Run was suggested on the next Full Moon, tentative date July 8th, Full Moon Dessert Run details to follow.

Discussion was held regarding the date of the July general Meeting date, to be changed from July 4th. Decision was made to move July meeting up one week to June 27th.

Meeting location - Discussion held about possible new meeting locations. There are few restaurant locations in Atascadero large enough to accommodate meetings. Decision made to continue meeting at A-Town Dinner. Will discuss again in future.

8:00pm Meeting Adjourned.

Next Club Meeting June 6th – A-Town Diner

July Club Meeting moved up one week to June 27th – A-Town Diner

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 Coupon and mail it to: Name: _____

Address: _____
 SLO 4 Wheelers 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



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 Center Way
 Paso Robles, CA 93446
 Phone: 805-238-7000
 (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.

June 27th — SLO 4-Wheelers General Club Meeting: A-Town Deli, Atascadero Wednesday 7pm. NOTE: This is the July meeting one week early as the first Wednesday is the 4th of July.

July 4th — 4th of July Parade: The local event in Templeton, celebrates our Independence Day with a parade. Tentative... Members of our club will be participating in the parade. As an application must be sent in with a number of participants, Details; meeting place & time to be added
Contact/trailboss: OPEN

July — After meeting Day Run: To Be Determined at the meeting

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. For more info CAW4DC Sierra Trek 2012 Contact/trailboss: OPEN

August 17, 2012 Friday — Hot El Camino Cruise Nite Tentative: The City of Atascadero's is hosting the 20th annual Hot El Camino Cruise Nite on Friday, August 17th, 2012, 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. Contact:OPEN

August TBD — SLO 4-Wheelers Annual Coyote Lake Run: Run to a beautiful primitive camp at a pristine High Sierra lake. One of the clubs premier runs. Date tentative BUT Stay tuned and plan on this! contact trailboss: OPEN

September 1-2 — High Sierra Poker

Run: Annual CA4WDC event . The Central District is pleased to sponsor this CA4WDC fund raiser. 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. Oversized vehicles are not recommended on Swamp Lake Trail. Camping equipment and food required for overnight run. SUV run to Bald Mountain available on Saturday or Sunday. Traction aiding differentials in either front or rear will be required for Swamp Lake Trail. For more info CAW4DC High Sierra Poker Run 2012 Contact/trailboss: OPEN

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