



# THE SLO 4-WHEELER



Volume 22, Issue 5

September / October 2016

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## Coyote Lake Run

Written by Jim B  
Photos by the author or his wife, Cindy, except where noted.

The B's and H's pulled out of A-town on Friday around 11am headed for Tamarac Ridge Snow Park. We had an uneventful trip across the valley other than traffic on a Friday afternoon. Pulled into the snow park unloaded the jeeps from the trailers and headed to sand flats. During the drive to sand flats the I noticed a sound coming from the rear end on the R/H side of the jeep, same area where we had previously found the axle flange bolts loose. (Yes we had tightened them up prior

(photo by Laura H.)



to this trip.) We spent some time at Sand flats checking bolts and again found these bolts a little loose so we tightened them again and during the drive in the sound went away. Eric followed and reported he could see what appeared to be my shock twisting in a strange angle but did not see any other con-

cerns. We started our journey from sand flats at 4:30 and came across a group from Big Bear coming out, they did not talk but were cool to move off the trail for us.

The trail was loose and had some big holes to red lake and a couple of re-approaches to rocks here

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## 2015 SLO 4-Wheelers Officers

### Officers:

President:..... Tom B  
Vice President:..... Kirk M  
Secretary:..... Kevin B  
Treasurer:..... Jon M

### Board of Directors (includes officers):

Ways and Means:..... Kenn B  
Membership Director:..... George W  
Events Director:..... Eric F  
Land Use Liaison:..... Tyler F  
CA4WDCA Liaison:..... Suzy J  
Social Chairperson:..... Open  
Newsletter Editor:..... George W

### Committees:

Safety Chairperson:..... Nathan L  
Promotional Chairperson:..... Dan H  
Virtual Club Scrapbook:..... Open  
Archived Scrapbook:..... Randy P  
Virtual Committee:..... George W  
**Adopted Trails and Campgrounds:**  
Garcia Ridge Trail:..... Tyler F  
Pine Mountain Trail:..... Phil B  
La Panza Camp Ground:..... Open

### Newsletter submittals

by two weeks before the next issue to George at gwestlun@charter.net

# Swamp Lake Run

by George Tom Burt, President

Kenn Burt and his 1985 Toyota 4Runner, Kirk and Ingrid M and their 1st Gen. Toyota Pickup and Tom B and his 1985 Toyota Pickup.

Kirk and Ingrid headed over to Shaver Lake Friday morning. Kenn and I got away at about 2:30 Friday afternoon. We stopped in Prather for dinner and got a call from Kirk. We agreed to meet at the snow park at Tamarack Summit. We were surprised at the number of people at the snow park but with the Cal-4Wheel Poker Run and deer hunting season I guess it is understandable.

Kirk and Ingrid were already there and had unloaded and set up camp. We did the same and sat and visited until time to hit the sack. There was a lot of vehicles coming through all night and not very aware that some of us were trying to sleep but that's the way it goes. Saturday morning we got up and got set to head out. Kirk had to run into Shaver for fuel so Kenn and I finished up and were ready to go. Kirk came back with fresh coffee and we

(photo by Kenn B.)



(photo by Tom B.)

headed out. There was lots of people camping and driving on the road from the snow park to the turn off for Swamp.

When we arrived at the trail head we aired down and I lifted my hood to investigate a knock against my firewall I heard coming in. We found both my front shock shafts had pulled out of the bottom shock bracket. I removed both shocks and away we went. There were several hunters driving along the side of the road so we had to be wary until we got to where the trail was getting a little more off road. We didn't see any hunters after that but we did see some deer. Funny how they seem to know!

It was a beautiful day and the trail was fun. We passed a group that included 3 1st. gen. Ford Bronco's and 1 Jeep. All were well built with big v-8's. As we were climbing the last hill before the top of the ridge, Kirk's truck quit running. By now the Bronco's had caught up to us so the lead Bronco strapped up to Kirk and pulled him to the top. He struggled mightily but finally made it. We thanked them profusely and they went on their way.

Kirk, Kenn and I jumped on Kirk's truck and determined it was not get-





(photo by Kenn B.)

ting fuel. We dropped the tank and found the fuel pump on the bottom of the tank not attached to the intake tube. I had some fuel line so we cut a new piece and used 2 hose clamps for extra pressure. We put it back together and it fired right up. We weren't sure if we could make Swamp Lake before dark since we spent 3 hours with the repair but decided to go as far as we could and stop when we got tired. We headed out and made really good time even stopping for photo opportunities on Rooster Rock. We made swamp by 6:30 to 7. There was only 1 other group camping at Swamp so we had lots of choices as to where to camp. We had just enough time before dark to set up. camp. We had dinner and sat by the campfire (in a can) enjoying the company and the surroundings.

The next morning we found Kirks dog had gotten sick and didn't want to walk. After breakfast we kind of went our separate ways. Kenn went for a hike to Swamp Meadow with his two dogs. Kirk was going to drive up to the ridge between Grouse Lake and Swamp Lake to see if he could get cell service to call his Vet for any ideas as to what to do even though June, the dog, was doing better. I hiked up to the main trail to watch the rigs that

were on the poker run. I saw quite a few rigs and talked to several people. There was a surprising amount of rigs from San Luis Obispo County. When I got back to camp, Kirk's truck was not running again and he never made it up to the ridge.

After lunch, Kenn, Kirk and I tried to diagnose his truck problems. We felt it was not getting fuel again and I had an extra fuel pump so we dropped the tank and replaced it. It would not start. We flushed the fuel line and removed the filter and blew it out. We got some pretty bad stuff out but it still would not start. We worked until almost dark to no avail. We decided we had no choice but to tow him out the next day (Monday).

Monday we got up early grabbed a quick breakfast and broke camp. Kenn strapped to Kirk and I strapped to Kenn. We figured if we could get Kirk up the hill from swamp to the main trail, we would be successful getting him back to the snow park. We had no problems there so we headed out. We pulled, towed, winched and jerked for the next 10 hours. Before we got to Winch Hill we had to climb a pretty big rock garden which is also up a steep hill. I pulled cable and strapped to a tree at the top and between winch-

ing and towing we managed to make it.

Then we came to Winch Hill. I unhooked from Kenn and wheeled over the top. Then Kenn hooked cable and winched to me pulling Kirk until we got Kirk to the top. We struggled to get him over the top but finally made it. We popped the bead on 1 of Kirk's tires but Kenn pulled out his tank and it filled back up. We spent almost two hours getting over Winch Hill and were pretty tired but continued on.

The rest of the way had some rough spots but we managed pretty well. We thought we were home free as we were not too far from the end of the trail and the gate. By now the trail is just steep switch backs of dirt and some loose material. We were going around a sharp turn. I looked in my left Mirror and Kenn was in good shape. I looked away for a minute and looked in my right mirror and Kenn was on two wheels. Before I could stop he went over and his 4Runner was on its side. He was smart about it and shut the engine off immediately. I pulled over to his side and we hooked a strap to his rock slider. I pulled him back on all 4's and we lifted the hood. He hadn't even lost any fluids from the engine. He gave everything the once over, started it and it ran fine with no smoke. He had some body damage and a cracked windshield but otherwise we were good.

We continued on our way and finally arrived at the snow park by 7:00. We winched Kirk on to his trailer and loaded our own rigs. Kirk and Ingrid had reservations at Dinkey Creek Camp Grounds and Kenn and I headed home. We stopped again in Prather for dinner and got home around 1:00 A.M. Tuesday. Kenn and I agreed this was the most grueling difficult and learning off road trip we have had up to this date.

*Additional photos by Kenn B. can be found on page 6 below the meeting minutes.*

(Continued from page 1)

and there we arrived to Red Lake at 5:30 and stopped at gate keeper as we heard vehicles that we thought were coming at us, but they were not. We both climbed straight up gate keeper to the left of the tree and as I went up looking at the sky, Cindy let me know she was not comfortable at this angle, so we stopped and calmed her down and on we went. Eric came up the same way and Laura has some video of both of us to be shared later on a link. We now continued to Coyote and Root Hill had bigger holes than we had the previous month but no problems just climbed on up and through obstacles until we found Tom sitting on a tree watching us come in. When we hit the rock garden and pinch point at Coyote here we both just picked our lines and went through without a glitch. I would say the trail is torn up from both rock bug-



(photo by Kevin B.)

gies and RZR's, but this does keep the challenge we want. We got into Coyote and set up camp on Booker point around 6:30 we with the small group we found at camp. Saturday morning I looked at the jeep and realized that the front revolver was destroyed and needed replaced. I had a spare shackled that would at least work to help get me out and Tom loaned me a ball peen hammer as my claw hammer just did not work well. Fixed the shackle and did not see any other issues and hiked to Perkins Meadow with the H's and Tom to meet the others all at Perkins. The meadow was drop dead beautiful and had plenty of water.

hit the trail at 8:30, Eric started having trouble with right turns, when we got to Red Lake we noticed his steering box bracket was broken. The decision was to head on and only do a repair if absolutely needed. We got off the trail at sand flats with no other issues and headed to Tamarac Snow Park to load the jeeps up. The H's headed home and we went for a run on bald mountain.

Thanks to Tom for making this weekend happen as we had a great time with good company.

(photo by Kenn B.)

The kids fished and ate snacks and we headed back to camp in separate groups. Saturday night sat around the fire in the can as campfires are not permitted in the Forest with the high fire danger. Sunday morning Erik and I



(photo by Laura H.)

(photo by Kevin B.)



# Building a Toyota Land Cruiser



it sucks because we are missing all the summer runs. But someone has to bring home the Kibble.

*Article and photos by Richard B.*

Brett and I started our Toyota Land Cruiser Build by replacing the head gasket then stripped off all the flares mud flaps stock bumpers and hitch. We then started on the front axle tore it down to the bear housing cleaned and painted it installed all new OEM parts, RVC chrome Moly axles and 5.29 gears front & rear. Next was the OME 2 1/2" lift & shocks, Cousin off road skid plates, 35" creepy crawlers. It all so has factory front and rear locker. We the in stalled a Costa Fabs front bumper, warn winch with factor

55 thimble with a synthetic line and a zero dark lite bar. Next up was the 33% lower low range gears for the transfer case. I know there more that I missing but that all I can think of right now. We were working on the rear bumper and rock sliders when I got deployed to Hawaii



# Club Meeting Minutes:

*Meeting Minutes by Kevin B, Club Secretary*

## Meeting minutes for the month of August 2016

### Officer Reports:

Kirk-Adopt-a-highway cleanup possibly August 20th

Jon- \$896.71 in the treasury

George- 58 paid members

Dan- People need to pay for and pickup their ordered items.

### New Biz:

We had a brief talk about fire restrictions in the Sierra National Forest.

Christmas Party- The club discussed making a reservation at the Templeton Community center for the upcoming Christmas party. The club voted on and ok'ed securing the hall for the 3rd of Dec.

Cruise night is the 19th of August. Ted Miles will allow us to display on part of the lot. Be there early! Roads typically close around 5:30.

George brought up the idea of getting flags printed for the club.

Tom brought up a discussion about the direction of the club and whether or not it was going the direction the club members wanted? We are trying to get the club attendance to events, up. Are you having fun in the club or is there something we should change?

Coyote was this past weekend. If you didn't go you missed out!

Swamp Lake trail is planned for Labor Day weekend.

### Trip Reports

Rubicon trip- Tom-> "Had a ball!" They were also able to see the old rock house at the Rubicon springs.

## Meeting minutes for the month of September 2016

### Officer Reports:

Highway cleanup Sunday, Sept 18th, 7:30am. Meet at the park in Santa Margarita.

\$914.88 in the treasury.

59 paid members.

Newsletter- George gwestlun@charter.net needs articles and pics for the newsletter. The deadline is Sept 26th for the next issue.

It looks like we will be doing another T-shirt order in a month or so.

Check out the new website and please go use the forum. Also, if you haven't done so already please submit a few pics and short bio of your rig for the members rigs page. You can email info to: crazysuzy2003@gmail.com

I didn't catch all the runs that Eric mentioned. Maybe we can get an updated list.

### Future Runs:

Johnson Valley in Oct. Date not yet nailed down.

Santa Maria 4 Wheelers are doing a beach cleanup at Pismo Dunes

SVRA on Sept 17th. They are meeting at Pier Ave at 9am. I'm not sure if this is just something they are doing, or a beach cleanup day? Either way it would be a good idea if the club had a strong presence there and helped out.

### Old Biz:

The club has reserved the Templeton Community Center for Dec 3rd for the annual Christmas PARTY! We need to decide on a main dish. Everything else will be potluck.

We have no new info on getting flags made.

### New Biz:

It looks like Kirks wife Ingrid has volunteered to go talk to Round Table Pizza about using their back room again. It appears we are outgrowing La Mexicana Restaurant. I have reserved La Mexicana for the October meeting just in case.

### Trip Reports:

Coyote Lake- Everyone had a good time. A few people had some small issues, but overall a smooth trip with good weather.

Swamp Lake- This trip was literally a flop for some! Kirk had issues with his fuel system and had to be towed out. It sounds like it was quite the experience!

Randy once again was driving all over the country exploring the back roads and helping weld up jeep track-bar mounts. Sounds like fun!



*Please note the change in dues. The amount is now \$25.00 for new memberships and renewals!*

# It's Membership Renewal Time!

**Please complete this coupon and mail it with your check for \$25.00.**

**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 link

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 Association (CA4WDA) If your not a member, check it out,

<http://www.cal4wheel.com> or ask Suzy

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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.

**October 5th** — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana.

**October 7th-10th** — Johnson Valley Run.

**November 2nd** — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

**November 5th-6th** — Turf and Surf at the Pismo Dunes.

**December 7th** — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana, 7:00 PM. Nominations of 2017 Club Officers.

**December 10th** — Annual Club Christmas Party

**December 17th** — San Miguel Christmas Parade.

**January 4th** — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana, 7:00 PM. Election of 2017 Club Officers.

**February 1** — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

**March 1** — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

**April 5** — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

**May 3rd** — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

**June 7th** — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

**July 4th** — Annual 4th of July parade, Templeton.

**July 5th** — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

**August 2nd** — General Club Meeting, La Mexicana, 7:00 PM.

**August TBA** — Annual Club Coyote Lake Run.

Please keep your eye on email from the club list as dates are picked for additional runs as well as Adopt-a-Highway trash pick up days.

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.