



The SLO 4-Wheeler



Volume 18, Issue 5

September / October 2012

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I say Coyote, you say Coyota ---



Tom and George's rigs on the rocks (photo by Kenn B.)

Written by George W., Editor
I made my first trip to the annual SLO 4 Wheelers Coyote Lake run at the end of August, with club President Tom Burt serving as the trailboss. Several club members made their way up to Coyote taking different time schedules. Three Toyota Rock crawlers with prospective members from Atascadero left early Thursday morning. Later that morning, Mike G. Jim M., Mark B. and myself left for the Sierras with our three Jeeps. Even later in the day Tom and Kenn B. left in their Toyotas.

On Friday Jim B., his wife and his son left with their Jeep and their Sons Toyota 4Runner. Mike and Mark were trailering their Jeeps and I was towing Mike's Bantam Jeep trailer. Our intent was to get to the trail head early enough to make it all the way in to Coyote Lake or at least as far as Red Lake. Our plans were going to change. Things went well for the first two thirds of the trip. My Jeep was pulling the little trailer well and most of the time I didn't know it was there until I looked in the mirror.

Mark led, followed my me, then Mike as we navigated our way through the Fresno and Clovis areas. Then we got the word that Mike had blown a tire on the trailer. Mark and I pulled off the Freeway immediately and tried to raise Mike on CB and phone to no avail. Finally we heard from Jim on the FRS (Family Radio Service) handset I had given them. They were changing the tire on the shoulder and would catch up with us when they finished. Luckily, it was the passenger side tire and Mike had a spare on each side of the trailer. They were able to change the tire between the trailer and the guardrail. When they joined us, we went to find a place for them to cleanup. We resumed and continued to head up CA-168 to Prather for our second scheduled fuel stop before heading up the four-lane grade to Shaver. Prather was my first experience on how hot the engine could get even though the gauge didn't show much of a change. We stopped for fuel and when I restarted, the temperature climbed into the beginning of the red and the Check Gauges lamp light up. I kept the RPMs up for a few seconds and the temperature

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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

Newsletter submittals
 by two weeks before the
 next issue to George

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soon fell back to normal. I had never encountered this before as there was always a few minutes of cool down after a climb. With that new knowledge in mind we started up 168 toward Shaver with me keeping a close eye on my temperature gauge. I even shut the AC off to give the engine all the energy it could muster to pull the trailer up that steep grade. The gauge rose a little, then stabilized as we headed up the grade. When we crested the top it was a nice cool down for several miles to Shaver Lake where I refueled again (6 MPG, file that away for later, towing sucks gas!). We also stopped to refuel our stomachs at a burger place (massive burgers).

We also talked about our changing schedule as we were now at least two hours behind schedule and getting later. We choose to drive into Sand Flats and camp for the night. The last several miles from the Corals to Sand Flats were rough and slow going. We were glad to camp the night at Sand Flats when we got there. I make the mistake of trying to sleep in my Jeep (we choose not to set up tents except for Mark). Mike slept on the back seat of his truck with Jim in the camper shell. I felt that with the lack of sleep the night before I would fall asleep quickly. I was so wrong. I started Friday with a total of about five hours sleep over the previous two nights (Note to self, do not try to sleep in the rig unless the seats can recline, even then there's not enough leg room).

We got up in the morning, stowed the tow rigs, moved the Bantam trailer to Mike's



Mike Garnet, the CJ and the Bantam trailer *(photo by Kenn B.)*

Jeep and got ready to head in. We drove up to the signs and encountered a Jeep with a couple from Paso Robles who had a cabin in Shaver. While we were talking with them, Tom and Kenn arrived and we all chose to go in together. We headed down Red Lake trail into new territory for me.

Following Tom got to be interesting as he would occasionally take the more difficult route to play. We both found the same rock

the hard way on our left rocker cover (I had a nice mark where the rock impacted the steel armor). The trail was fairly uneventful and fun through to Red Lake.

The trail challenges started just after Red Lake with the Coyote Lake Gate Keeper. Tom and Kenn spotted for everyone and most made it up on the first attempt after backing up and repositioning with one or two requiring a second attempt. We went on for a while and came to what I was told was the Root of all Evil. A short area with exposed tree roots. I had been on the Rubicon three times, the Gate Keeper there goes on for a while and the roots on the way out of Rubicon Springs go on for a while as well. Like Mike told me, this wasn't near as bad. The last big challenge was a rock garden right before the Coyote Lake camping area. Kenn spotted the second part through a V and Mike spotted me on the first part over several large rocks. All went well. In between the Red lake and Coyote we heard from Jim & Cindy B. who had gotten to Red Lake but decided to stay as Josh's 4runner didn't the right height and angle of attack and departure to get through the gatekeeper.

Once we were in, the couple from Paso Robles chose to turn back to return to their cabin. We provided them with club information and they came to the September meeting.

We set up camp near the guys with the rock crawlers that we knew were coming. We set about getting camp set up and getting some chow going after taking a quick glimpse at the Lake. Tom came over and

Kenn Burt at the Coyote Gate Keeper *(photo by George W.)*





Dawn at Coyote Lake and a view of the mountain on the right that was the subject of a hike (photo by George W.)

gave me a hand setting up my tent since my passenger had to cancel at the last minute and I only had a large tent. This last minute cancellation also meant that we ended up with more supplies and gear than Mike, Jim and I really needed, but we already had it packed. Turned out to be a good exercise in testing some of my new gear. We made good use of a roll-up collapsible table, a two burner stove and a new lantern.

After filling our stomachs, we sat down with our camp neighbors and enjoyed a camp fire with the exception of an interruption from a group from San Diego who piloted an RC 4x4 over with an illuminated inflatable sheep on top of it. They were a little different, but we were tolerant and that was the last interruption we had from them. I then turned in and caught up on some sleep I'd missed the previous two nights.

I got up at 6:00 AM, grabbed my cheapo camera and took some pre-dawn shots of the lake and the camp area. then went back to the lakes edge and shot a series of pictures during sunrise. Others started to stir and we mapped out the days activities in Camp. There was a Granite dome on the south end of the lake that Mike had climbed in he past years and Mark, Jim and I chose to accompany Mike on a several hour hike around the lake and up the 600 foot dome. We started the hike around the north side of the lake and found a set of three rock recliners that someone had made, Flintstone style, just north of the northern edge of the camping area. We continued around the lake and broke into two groups to find a good route to the top. Jim and I scaled the northern face of the dome following every

crevice we could slowing working our way up. Mike and Mark circled the dome toward the east and found a gentler, but longer route to the top that bypassed the first hill. Mike and Mark arrived at the top a few minutes after Jim and I did.

From the top of the dome you could see Dog Tooth peak and the Three Sisters to the East and South and some large Granite formations several miles to the Northwest, not mention Red Mountain and in the far distance, the Sierra divide. Between us and Dog Tooth peak was the First Dinky Lake, and between us and the Three Sisters is Mystery Lake. Another nearby lake to the west of where we were on the other side of a hill was Beryl lake. After enjoying the view we headed back down the dome following the easier path that Mike and Mark had come up. We returned to our original path when we got to the edge of the lake and returned to the recliner rocks and took a short break.

When we got back to camp, Randy and Jenny had arrived after camping further south the night before having arrived at 4:00 AM. They moved their camp closer to ours for the second night. We had also found out that while we were on our hike, Jim and Josh had hiked in from Red Lake and returned to their camp. Again, we all set about fixing our grub and cleaning up before settling in around the camp fire.

The following morning, we got up and struck camp and headed out back on the trail toward Red Lake. The same path in the opposite direction generates new challenges. The V and the rock garden went well. Then I quickly got hung up with my Right rear locked against a rock causing my

left front to rise suddenly. I backed up and with a little help from Kenn behind me got around the rock. Later my rear differential slider managed to find a rock just perfectly to grind me to a dead halt, again, with a few directions from Kenn, I was on the move again. The gatekeeper was easier going out then in which is where we encountered the Jim, Cindy & Josh B. who had been camping there since Friday.

After a short visit with the bonds we continued toward Sand Flats. Once there, we determined who was going into Mirror Lake. I would leave my Jeep with the tow rigs since it had the least ground clearance and hitched a ride with Kenn. I always find it interesting riding with someone once I had started driving myself. Comparing methods with someone who does it a lot more gives me the opportunity to learn a little and knowing the differences between their rig and mine allows me to figure out what I would have to do differently.

We headed out the black diamond trail that was definitely rougher than the Coyote trail which was also labeled as a black diamond trail. The first part was fairly simple until we reach a radical elevation drop. Going down wasn't too bad but it was steep with a lot of rocks that would have raked the underside of my rig, going up would have be a lot of trouble. We made the first turn after the drop off and came to a Redwood with a lot of rub marks where people had misjudged themselves and got launched into the side of the tree, loosing just a mirror if they were lucky.

We all got past that when we heard that Mark had a flat ("A branch on a log just

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reached out and bit my tire!). We got the rigs on the side of the trail so some traffic returning from Mirror Lake could get through and then set about putting his spare on the right front and the right front on the right rear and the flat right rear to the rack. While finishing up Marks rig, Mike found that his drivers side motor mount was broken; those who weren't working on Mark's rig started helping Mike with his. In a short time both were ready for action again.

We continued down to Mirror Lake which was much further beyond the challenge then we thought. After a extended stop, we return back up the trail to the challenge where the fun was to begin. the challenge of going back up was to get over the rocks by the redwood without launching yourself into it (more difficult going up) and then get past the turn to the steep section which required momentum and accuracy to get up as the rocks tried to slide you in the wrong direction.

Tom went first, with a few repositions by the tree, with Kenn spotting for everyone. Mark went second, similar story. Mike was third and did well on the tree portion, but when he got to the steep section a rock slid him over to one side and locked his right rear tire, leaving him with his left front tire almost three feet in the air with guys scrambling to grab the rig to stabilize it and other guys scrambled with the winch cable. By the time the winch was engaged, as Mike put it, two cubit feet of foam rubber had gotten sucked up inside him. I still think Mike did well, he got out with the gear on his rig and it did it quickly once engaged.

One we got above this major challenge, we returned to Sand Flats where most of the people choose to leave. Mike, Jim and I decided to spend the night and drive out in the morning. So we settled end for a nice dinner and a small celebration for a good weekend.

The following morning we broke out last camp and prepared to head down the mountain to the paved road. I followed him out to the Corrals with his Bantam trailer in tow. I then went ahead to the pavement knowing that airing up my tires would take longer than Mike loading up the Jeep. Mike chose to wait until we got to the paved road to load up his Jeep on the flatbed. He loaded up while I aired up and we prepared to hit the road.

We proceeded down Highway 168 toward the top of Tollhouse grade with me in the lead. As I started down the four lane I noticed that Mike abruptly pulled over. I pulled over as soon as I could find a place to do so (snow plow parking). As I watched in my mirrors where they were about a quar-



Mark and Kenn on the Mirror Lake Trail *(photo by George W.)*

ter of a mile back, there was a lot of activity and then the Jeep getting unloaded. Finally they started moving again and I found out that Mike's front truck brakes had overheated and, taken as few chances as possible, they chose to unload the trailer to reduce the load. We continued down the four lane at a greatly reduce rate and made it safely to the base.

We continued to Prather where we ran into the Jim, Cindy & Josh B. Jim said that he knew a gentler path back to Fresno than the windy, steep, two lane 168. Following Jim, we took Auberry Road to the north

side of Clovis below Millerton Lake, then cut over to Highway 41 shortly after it becomes freeway and headed south to Fresno and beyond. We chose to keep the Jeep off the trailer with Jim driving it and the caravan of vehicles continued back to northern San Luis Obispo county.

Tom and Kenn on the Mirror Lake Trail *(photo by George W.)*



Club Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes by Kenn B., Club Secretary

SLO 4 wheeler August 2012 minutes

Introductions @ 7:05pm

Ways and means : nothing to report (if you think the club should raise money for any reason bring ideas to the next meeting)

51 paid members

The new newsletter is out now

Please make an effort to help George with the content for next months letter

Safety: see Dave F. if you need the club first-aid kit

Web-site: nothing to report

Land use: nothing to report

Promotions: the club does have t-shirts and stickers for sale see Randy P.

New business

Discussion around the adopt a HWY program / possible sign on Cuesta grade / Kirk McR. Will investigate

Jeep jamboree @ the Rubicon 60th anniversary

Mike G. attended / more people at the springs on Saturday night than He has ever seen / 600 + or – rigs including support people and the attendants / The trail has had lots of work done

Night run to Las Chichés

12 rigs

Group got split up after some trouble on the trail

Runs should have better preparation as far as what type of vehicles and driver capabilities are attending / people who have been to the

destination should help and over-see anyone who needs it. If you think you might need help or someone to look at your vehicle just ask someone would be happy to help.

Swamp lake

The trail is more challenging than ever

Great trip however lots of people at swamp lake

22 fishing poles in the lake Saturday night

Minimum vehicle requirements according to Kenn B. all info below is based on driver experience and vehicle knowledge

Short wheelbase 33” good quality tires with rear locker and winch

Longer wheelbase 35” tires rear locker and winch

Bigger vehicles 35” lockers front and back and winch

EVENTS

Aug 17th

Hot August nights A-Town

Club will be representing @ Ted miles motors

RTI ramp will be available

Aug 24th-26th Coyote lake club trip

Tom B. trail boss

23rd Mike G. and George W. will leave in the AM

23rd Tom and Kenn will leave town in the PM

24th Randy will leave in the PM and go straight through to Coyote arrive around 2am sat 25th

Sept 1st Labor Day weekend Dusy Ershim with Randy P.

Buddy system will be in place you or your buddy has problems you stay and help the rest may continue if they feel the need.

Sept 8th- 15th HWY 4 out of Sonora over to Carson river @ HWY 395 with Dan G.

Oct 12th-14th Victor Valley fun in the desert

Johnson Valley

2 gift certificates given to the club as an invitation

Motion by Dan G to give the tickets to Randy P.

2nd? / Passed by vote

If you want to go team up with Randy P. I am sure He would share and has lost of desert experience

Membership for Blue-Ribbon has expired

Motion to make a donation Blue Ribbon

2nd and passed

50/50 John J was winner

J

SLO 4 wheeler September 2012 Meeting

Introductions @ 7:07

VP report – Nothing from Dave F

Secretary’s report – Kenn B - See minutes from last month

Treasurers report – Devin F -

Ways and means – Kenn B - If you think the club should donate more money to a worthy cause or group, please bring your ideas for a fun raiser to the next meeting for club discussion and I will help with the organization

Membership – George W. – 53 current members

Newsletter – George W. – please bring or send something to George

Safety – see Dave F. for the club first aid bag if you need it for a run

Web site – Mark B – nothing new

EVENTS

After the meeting run

Dave F. will be camped out at Navajo flats in Pozo OHV

Kirk will be headed down to Pismo dunes for the better part of Saturday the 8th

Sept 8th – 15th with Dan G. up and over HWY 4 with many side trips and trails please see Dan if you are interested (to late He has already left)

September 21st – 23rd – Kirk is headed up to Hollister OHV for some much needed camping and 4X4 FUN.

September 21st – 23rd – Coyote lake trip and possible bald mtn on Sunday with the Jim B.

October 12th – 14th victor valley 4x4 club weekend in Johnson valley / organized run the club was given two free tickets to attend. The tickets were given to Randy P. because He said He was going to attend. Contact Randy P.

Fall event – With John J / Nacimiento Ferguson rd / monastery / Indian camp / saw mill run dates to come

Fall event miller lockwood trail with Dan G.

November – Thanksgiving week with Dan G. out to Death valley locations and routs to be determined as we get closer to the dates

Christmas Party – Mike G. and friends / more to come on that

OLD Business

Kirk Mc R. is going to check on the adopt a HWY signs for the Questa grade

Donation for Rachael Anne Gray (see next page)

She was the lady who was hurt in the accident during the Jeep Jam-boree

She has since passed away

Club board has agreed to make donation to help with medical expenses

Trip Reports

Rubicon – Tom B, Kenn Kim Wyatt and Weston B

Aug 6th-7th / there is a reason that the Rubicon trail is famous. If you have never been you should figure out a way to go and enjoy this historical trail. We had a great time the trail was wide open and is being very well maintained by many people and organizations. This trip does require very good preparation it is hard but passable. See newsletter for more.

Coyote Lake – Mike G, Jim M, George W, Mark B, Tom B, Kenn B, Randy P,

We all ended up meeting at sand flats Friday morning and headed in together. Know one had any trouble getting to Red Lake. We all watched each other climb gate-keeper. Mike G was driving His jeep like a pro with the trailer doing everything it could to hold him back. We all had a blast the rest of the way in. We made Coyote Lake at about 2pm. Randy P and His daughter came in Saturday around 3am. Saturday night campfire was enjoyable with every one trading stories. Sunday a.m. the parade out to sand flats. Mark B, Mike G and Jim, Tom B, and Kenn B with George W as copilot decided to go see Mirror Lake and Play on this challenging trail. The trip was also attended by 4 non-club members

who we saw 3 of the 4 at this last meeting. See more in the next newsletter.

Hennes pass trail with cal4wheel – Sacramento High landers club - John J attended / the report was a great trip well planed out. He got to see some interesting places and old mining areas in the river. Side trip on the san dusky trail

New Business

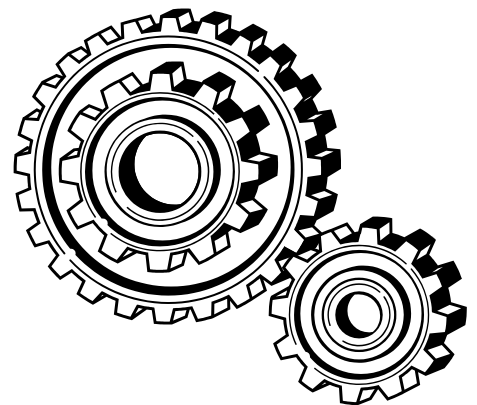
Dan G. talked about club participation and the lack of. He was looking for ideas to boost participation and or reasons why people **don't attend or why they decide not to go on organized run.**

Discussion around Dan's topic seemed to revolve around being able to plan further out in the year **and everyone's money shortage.**

Suggestion for the new incoming board was to try early in the year push more to set dates early.

50/50 If I am remembering right Dave F was the winner

Great meeting with lots of people hanging out after.



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 Name: _____
 Coupon and mail it to: _____

SLO 4 Wheelers PO Box 2271 Atascadero, CA 93423-2271
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



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

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 6th or 7th — After meeting Day Run: To Be Determined at the meeting

October TBD — Operation Desert Fun /Ocotillo Wells SVRA, Annual CA4WDC event. Come join us at the Ocotillo Wells SVRA where we raise money, not only for the association, but also for the Cal-Diego Paralyzed Veterans Association. Whether you have a 4X4, motorcycle, quad or other off road toy, we have a run for you! The 4X4 runs offer choices for all skill levels from “scenic” to “body damage

likely”.

Contact/trailboss: OPEN

November 7th — SLO 4-Wheelers General Club Meeting: A-Town Deli, Atascadero Wednesday 7pm

November 10th or 11th — After meeting Day Run: To Be Determined at the meeting

November 9-11 — Panamint Valley Days , Annual CA4WDC event. MORE info to come: An incredible weekend of trails, raffles, **and food are planned for this year's** Panamint Valley Days, being held just north of Trona, California. Contact/trailboss: OPEN

December 5th — SLO 4-Wheelers Christmas Party 2012 - NOTE, General meeting will be at party. SLO 4 Wheelers Christmas Potluck Dinner/Party will be held at TBD

Wednesday Dec 7th
Contact/trailboss: Mike G

December 7th Friday — After Meeting Run-San Luis Obispo Christmas Parade. Tentative...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, coordinate and/or participate in, please contact the SLO-4-Wheelers Events Director.