



# SUNDOWNERS 4X4 CLUB

## \*Meeting Minutes\*

September 8<sup>th</sup> 2022



**Call to Order**, A club meeting of Sundowners 4x4 Club was held on September 8, 2022 and via ZOOM. Meeting began at 7:00pm and was presided over by Tim Lamphere, with David Perigo as secretary.

### Attendees

- Tim Lamphere – President
- David Perigo – Secretary
- Paul Cochran – Trailmaster
- Linda Sholdice – Treasurer
- Kerry Robbins – IT/Webmaster
- + 6 members present + 1 on Zoom

- Club dues are \$60 (remember we all expired on New Year's Eve).
- These can be paid at any event or meeting, or visit our updated website and pay via PayPal of \$63 (Sundowners4x4.org).
- If you have recently moved, please keep us updated with your new address.



### Yearly Participation Award

This year's participation award will be an awesome recovery kit valued about \$400. Paul debuted the gear from Discovery 4x4 Adventures.

- We give out 1 ticket to each current member that shows up to a club function. That includes; meetings, runs, meet and greets, etc. At the end of the year one ticket will be drawn and one lucky winner will receive a cool prize valued up to \$400. This drawing will be held at the end of the year Christmas party.



### Old Business

- [OffroadBusinesslist.com](http://OffroadBusinesslist.com) will be a site where a customer or business can list a shop or parts store that they recommend. They are up to 350 businesses listed nationwide. Please try listing your favorite off road businesses.
- Adopt-a-highway clean-up of our stretch of US-131 Hwy between mile marker 36 and 38 (Stadium Drive and West Main/M-43) for Adopt-A-Highway.
  - Must be 3 or more people at a session. No kids under 12 years old.
- Raffle license is in the works. Still working with Gas pedal Customs for the raffle. Just waiting on the state.
- We held a Sundowners family/Meet & Greet picnic & potluck at Yankee Springs State Park. Lots of kid games and a nice trail ride afterwards.
- We participated in the annual Great Lakes Burn Camp escort-kids-to-camp parade from Wings Stadium to Pretty Lake camp in Mattawan. Club donated \$1600 this year.



### Vice President's Corner

- When I first bought my truck, I was excited to get it out on the trails to see what it could do so I headed out to visit some of the places I remembered from my youth only to discover they were all closed. What happened? I remember being able to go just about anywhere; private property such as a farmers back "forty", all over the Allegan Forest, and two tracks everywhere that I didn't know or care who owned. There was nothing left, everything was gated off or posted no trespassing. Well, now what? I had heard about the mounds in Flint so I headed up there, nope not my cup of tea. I decided to jump on line and search for groups or





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clubs in the area and gain insight into why everything was closed. I found the Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association “GLFWDA” and began reading about their efforts in keeping trails open and accessible and thought, I need to join this group and get involved. This involvement led me to joining a local club hoping to find places where I could legally play. What I learned along the way was that there are a myriad of issues and countless reasons why my favorite places were all closed. I understand the liability concerns associated with private property and the damage caused by reckless 4-wheelers and, even though it was disappointing, it made sense. What didn’t make sense was the closure of what I understood to be “public” property. If it’s “public property” how can I be banned from being there? As it turns out, there are plenty of selfish people who think their form of recreation is the only form of recreation that should be allowed and, guess what? They are well organized and well-funded with lots of political clout and a nice story to pull at the public’s heart strings. Tread lightly was the first thing I learned. Do not give them more ammunition. The second thing I learned was organizations supporting wheeled recreation were poorly supported by the wheeling community, again for a variety of reasons with the most common one being the perception that they didn’t want wheelers to have fun when nothing could be further from the truth. They were trying to help people understand how to fight against these closures and how “responsible 4-wheeling” played an important role in changing public perception. With that understanding I decided I would only join clubs or groups that abided by those principles and, more importantly, supported the efforts of organized groups such as GLFWDA. Apathy however runs rampant and those groups struggle to remain relevant or even grow their membership. I get it. I too am busy with my own life and cannot get involved as much as I sometimes want to. What I CAN DO is belong. Be one more body that is being represented by the organization even if that’s all I can do. Send them money, pay the dues, read their literature, write letters to political representatives, but firstly JOIN. Sundowners 4X4 Club has thankfully remained committed to GLFWDA and United Four-Wheel Drive Associations “UFWDA” even through their struggles and sometimes what appears to be lack of effort. What we fail to remember is that we, as members, have a voice in their activities and a responsibility to be and stay involved. Kerry’s recent post about the pending closures in Moab is a prime example. Read the article, write a letter, make a phone call, or just throw your support behind Red Rock 4-Wheelers with a monetary donation. Join the Blue-Ribbon Coalition, join any worthy group you can find that is out there fighting the good fight FOR YOU. And perhaps most importantly vote for political candidates that support our sport. Those are the people that can make a difference. Vote for common sense legislators who realize that despite the doom and gloom picture painted by some, vehicular impacts with butterflies is not responsible for their extinction. Whatever your level of availability, get involved! We need many more voices in order to be heard. Let yours be one of them.

### New Business

- Raffle license is in the works. Still working with Gas pedal Customs for the raffle. Linda submitted what was still needed to the state.
- Adopt-a-highway clean-up Sept 24-25<sup>th</sup> PLEASE try to help.
- Also on Sept 24<sup>th</sup> is the Jeep Invasion at Bundy Hill. If anyone can be there to represent us let us know.
- Amazon will donate a portion of your purchases to our charity if you use Amazon through Amazon.smile, look for “Sundowners 4X4 Incorporated” 
- Board will hold an officers meeting on Sept 12<sup>th</sup>
  - We will review our operating budget and update the by-Laws to include the new Webmaster / Social Media Coordinator position held by Kerry.





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- ELK Run coming up!!
  - Sept 14-18<sup>th</sup> Gaylord / Vanderbilt Trail Ride (Pigeon River State Forest)
- Sundowner Foreverwave flags-
  - We had the opportunity to talk with the owner, they do not charge a setup fee for club flags.
  - They have sleeves and mounts for all sorts of stuff (antenna, bumper mounts, spare tire mounts). The sleeves are a heavy mesh and zip on with velcro cover to secure them in the wind. Roll bar sleeves are \$25.00, any of the small sized flags fit on the sleeves and go for around \$25.00 as well.
  - Flags are nice quality and printed on both sides.
  - We ordered 8 to start and also ordered a 3x5' flag (\$75.00).
  - Our club logo shows up on the website so we can order at our own pace and quantity after the first 8 so any member can order when they want too.



- It's not too soon to talk about upcoming board elections if you are interested in running for an officer's board position.
- We need to come up with some solid money raising efforts for our annual Toy Drive and Burn Camp
  - Some ideas are;
    - A Rodeo, or a 4-wheel drive blessing
    - Poker run -maybe in Allegan Forest
    - Go fund me, or T-shirt/hat sales, or Swap meet
    - 50/50 goes to fundraiser instead of club
    - Car Crush (like a Rage Room) Paul can donate the first victim vehicle.
- We are working on getting 2 custom event flags like seen here >>>



### Treasurer Report

- Financial numbers were approved this month
  - Checking – \$7494.95
  - Savings – \$1561.44
  - Grant/Donation – \$175.44
  - Slim Memorial – \$985.44
  - PayPal – \$0
- Some checks cleared;
  - \$75.00 – VFW Golf Outing
  - \$1600.00 – Burn Camp
  - \$74.70 – Memorial
  - \$116.48 – Facebook Ads
- More details available upon request





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### Affiliation Director

- Please feel free to contact Adam with any suggestions he can bring up to the higher-level associations.



### Trailmaster

- Sundowners Summer Picnic, lots of kid games and a nice trail ride afterwards.
- Lake City Trail ride, great trails however didn't have many attend.
- Bundy Hill had about 12 rigs attend, all had a good time.



### New Members

- No new members

### Coming Up!

- Sept 14-18<sup>th</sup> Gaylord / Vanderbilt Trail Ride Pigeon River State Forest (Elk sighting, *members only*)
- Sept 24-25<sup>th</sup> ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY Cleanup on US-131 (2 days, public welcome)
- Oct 5-9<sup>th</sup> Drummond Island Adventure (*members only*, limited space)
- Oct 22<sup>rd</sup> Fall Color Tour and Spooky Night Run (public welcome)
- Oct 29<sup>th</sup> Silver Lake Sand Dunes Trunk-or-Treat on the Dunes (public welcome)
- Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Slim Stull 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Toy Drive (public welcome)



### Next Get-together, Meet & Greet

- Sept 14<sup>th</sup> -6pm at Louie's Trophy House,
  - 7177 West Q Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009



### Next Club Meeting

- Oct 13<sup>th</sup> -7pm at The Club Car Grill and via [Zoom](#).
  - 6225 D Ave West, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
  - For those who wish to attend via Zoom, a link will be posted on our [Sundowners FB](#) site.



### Awards

#### Turkey Award

...No Change

#### Cable Puller

Marc French for helping pull a less fortunate jeep out.

#### 50/50 Drawing

WINNER – Shari French



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### 2022 Club Events / Runs

**PLEASE NOTE: Our events are private (CURRENT MEMBERS ONLY) or by invite, unless listed as PUBLIC WELCOME.**

- ~~Jan 8<sup>th</sup> Slim's ride at Rouch World from 10a-4p preceding the Party (members only)~~
- ~~Jan 8<sup>th</sup> Sundowners Christmas Party at Cowboy Up in Mendon (members only)~~
- ~~Jan 29<sup>th</sup> Doug's Birthday Run at Allegan State Game Area (members only)~~
- ~~Feb 12-13<sup>st</sup> Evert Winter Run, Evert Michigan (members only)~~
- ~~Mar 26<sup>th</sup> Run Bundy Hill (opens at 9am, public welcome)~~
- ~~Apr 16<sup>th</sup> Allegan State Game Area Trail Cleanup~~
- ~~Apr 20-24<sup>th</sup> Rausch Creek PA (canceled)~~
- ~~Apr 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Jeep Blessing in Mesick Michigan (public welcome)~~
- ~~May 1<sup>st</sup> Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup on US-131 (public welcome)~~
- ~~May 4-8<sup>th</sup> Grayling Trail Run, Grayling Michigan (members only, limited space) Canceled~~
- ~~May 7<sup>th</sup> White Cloud/Baldwin Trail Ride (members only) NEW~~
- ~~May 6-8<sup>th</sup> Jeep the Mac (public welcome)~~
- ~~May 21<sup>st</sup> Go Topless Day Jeep/Car Show~~
  - ~~o (public welcome, see Facebook or Eventbrite for more details)~~
- ~~May 26-30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Run at Bundy (members only, limited space, 13 camp spots reserved)~~
- ~~Jun 2-5<sup>th</sup> Silver Lake Sand Dunes Jeep Invasion (public welcome)~~
- ~~Jun 11<sup>th</sup> Ladies Only trail ride Canceled~~
- ~~Jun 26<sup>th</sup> Kalamazoo Growlers Sundowner's Jeep Game (open at 11:45, game at 1:35, public welcome)~~
- ~~July 9<sup>th</sup> Butler Speedway and Fireworks (public welcome) Canceled~~
- ~~July 16<sup>th</sup> Hero's on the Dunes, Silver Lake (public welcome)~~
- ~~July 23-24<sup>th</sup> Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup on US-131 (2 days)~~
- ~~Aug 7<sup>th</sup> Great Lakes Burn Camp Parade~~
- ~~Aug 12<sup>th</sup> Toledo OH Jeep Fest (public welcome)~~
- ~~Aug 14<sup>th</sup> Sundowners Summer Picnic Yankee Springs State Park (public welcome)~~
- ~~Aug 17-21<sup>st</sup> Lake City Trail Ride (members only, limited space)~~
- ~~Aug?? Extreme Off-Road Expo Jeep Fest, Ionia Michigan (public welcome)~~
- ~~Sept 1-5<sup>th</sup> Labor Day Run @ Bundy (public welcome)~~
- ~~Sept 10<sup>th</sup> Truck/Jeep Show @ Gilmore Car Museum 9a-4p (public welcome)~~
- **Sept 14-18<sup>th</sup> Gaylord / Vanderbilt Trail Ride Pigeon River State Forest** (Elk sighting, *members only*)
- **Sept 24-25<sup>th</sup> Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup on US-131** (2 days)
- **Oct 5-9<sup>th</sup> Drummond Island Adventure** (*members only*, limited space)
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**BOLD DATES** – are confirmed dates

Keep an eye on the Facebook pages (both public and private) for “spur of the moment” runs.

Links (Click on pictures to go to websites)

