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LET'S GO TOPLESS

In cooperation with Extreme Terrains "Go Topless Day" we are hosting a fundraising event to support our Christmas toy drive. O'Reilly Auto Parts on Gull Road has joined the effort and has offered to host the event in their parking lot. Please join us Saturday May 15th from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Attendance is free however donations will be gladly accepted. All proceeds will go towards our Christmas toy drive along with Extreme Terrain's \$500.00 matching contribution. There will be a limited number of swag bags available for the early risers. Come on out and see what other crazy ideas the "Go Topless" committee came up with!

IN THE NEWS

Jeep night is coming to Richland! The Dock at Bayview has teamed up with Sundowners 4X4 to create an opportunity for Jeepers to show off their rigs and/or hang out with other Jeepers. Please join us on the 1st Wednesday of every month from May through September. All 4X4 enthusiasts are welcome to attend regardless of the vehicle you are driving. Come on out on May 8th and help make the inaugural event a huge success.

In response to several requests we are moving our annual **Chili Run to Sunday**. Hopefully this move along with relocating the event from Bundy Hill to the Allegan State Game Area will help increase attendance.

June 13th is the date of our new "**Kids in the Woods**" event with the charitable group No Fences. This event is the brainchild of Earnest Spencer who has fond memories of Jeep rides with Sundowners 4X4 when he was with Big brothers/Big Sisters. We will hold the event at Rouch World in Sturgis. Look for an event to be created shortly on our Facebook page.

We have received several inquiries about a possible **recovery/safety training class** and our new Trailmaster is busy putting that together. Paul already has an instructor lined up and they are putting the finishing touches on a curriculum. He is also exploring the possibility of a first aid class if there is enough interest. We will post the details once a location and date have been decided.

Who would be interested in helping with an **Adopt a Highway** effort? Bill Johnson is gathering information for us and has already identified a possible stretch of highway to adopt. We all see the amount of trash along our nation's highways and this is a great way to help alleviate that plus, get our name out there in the public. If it is still available, and we have people to help, we are considering a clean-up of US 131 between I-94 and Center Street.

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RECENT EVENTS

Our 6th annual spring clean-up of the Allegan State Game Area is in the books and what a day it was! We had a great turnout with over 40 members and friends of Sundowners 4X4 joining in the effort. A big shout out to all those who showed up to help with special thanks to Waterboy Water Hauling and Extreme Terrain's Clean Trail Grant Program, for sponsoring the event, Marc and Shari French for once again providing us with lunch, and Doug Wine for organizing this annual event. Although there is still plenty of trash out there, we made a huge dent in it and filled a 40-yard dumpster in just a few short hours. Even though it's a game area rather than an off-road park it's still a favorite destination for many of us as well as countless other nature lovers. Our efforts are noticed by many and that goes a long way towards helping shed the negative perception of "offroaders" and 4X4 enthusiasts. Our "tread lightly" principles and our good reputation with the DNR helps keep trails, and a line of communication with the DNR open. Thank you all for your hard work!

Our April meet and greet at Fricano's was well attended and very reminiscent of our typical pre-covid meet and greets. Hopefully this translates into a good turnout for the recently announced Jeep Nights at The Dock at Bayview. Our plan is to suspend meet and greets until fall and instead encourage everyone to meet us for Jeep night the first Wednesday of May.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

This coming weekend is our Grayling area Trail ride. Contact Shari French for more details.

Jeep the Mac to Drummond Island is also coming right up. This non-club event is open to all Jeepers. This event happens the last week in April 2021.

Recap of new and old business items

- Jeep Night at The Dock on Bayview starts May 1st.
- GO TOPLESS May 15th at O'Reilly's Auto Parts on Gull Road
- Our 2020 Christmas Party died from Covid. See you in 2021.

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- Please update your address if you have moved. It's also a good idea to verify your email address and phone number at least annually.
- Our website, Sundowners4X4.org is once again functional. We will be updating and adding new features as time allows.
- Should we explore the idea of a Christmas toy drive sans the marines? Jason is checking with Menards to see if they would still host the event if we did that.
- Is there any interest in putting together a swap meet this year? We have an opportunity through one of our new members to utilize the Kalamazoo Rod and Gun Club's facility for that type of event. They suggested late spring or early fall to avoid their busy season.
- We were recently contacted by the Toledo Ohio Convention & Visitors Bureau and the organizers of the **Toledo Jeep Fest** which is now in it's 80th year. The event includes; concerts, live music, an ALL-Jeep Parade, Park and Shine, 2 home games with the Toledo Mud Hens, and of course JEEPS! If any members are interested in going, we can work with the visitor's bureau to secure accommodations and a spot in the parade. Sounds like the makings of a good time!

CLUB MEETINGS:

- Meetings are held at Travelers Cafe and Pub 5225 Portage Road, 49002 at 7:00 pm, the second Thursday of every month. Everyone is invited to meet up with the group at 5:30 for dinner prior to the meeting. meetings will also be available via **ZOOM** for the foreseeable future.

Our next meeting will commence at 7:00 PM May 13th 2021.

WHEELING WEDNESDAY/MEET AND GREET SCHEDULE:

Meet and Greets are typically held at 6:00 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. If you are in the area during one of these events, be sure to stop by and say hi. Meet and Greets are PUBLIC events. Guests and visitors are encouraged to attend!

MEET AND GREETs ARE BEING SUSPENDED IN FAVOR OF THE AFOREMENTIONED JEEP NIGHT. WE WILL RESUME OUR REGULAR MEET AND GREETs IN OCTOBER.

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2020/2021 TENTATIVE CLUB CALENDAR - BOLD = CONFIRMED DATE

<http://sundowners4x4.org/calendar/>

PLEASE NOTE; all events are private or, by invitation only, unless specifically listed as public.

- **April 23rd - 25th Jeep the Mac 2021 NON-CLUB PUBLIC EVENT**
- April 21st - 25th Grayling Run
- **May 1st - Rocks and Valleys Off-Road Park**
- **May 2nd - 20th annual Jeep Blessing in Mesick - PUBLIC EVENT**
- May 8th or 14th weekend "overlanding" run with Adam???
- **May 27-31 Memorial Day Run at Bundy Hill (13 campsites are reserved)**
- **June 4th - 6th Silver Lake Sand Dunes Jeep Invasion - PUBLIC EVENT**
- June ??? Club Run to Silver Lake PUBLIC INVITED. Coordinate with Jeep Invasion?
- June 26th White Cloud Run
- **July 10th Butler Speedway fireworks spectacular - PUBLIC INVITED**
- **July 19th + 20th Heroes On The Dunes, Silver Lake**
- August ???back to Silver Lake PUBLIC INVITED
- **August 6th, 7th and 8th - 80th annual Toledo Jeep Fest.**
- **September 2nd - 6th Annual Labor Day Weekend at Bundy Hill PUBLIC INVITED**
- **September 15th - 19th Gaylord/Vanderbilt Trail Ride (Elk Sighting)**
- October?? Jeep swap meet at the Rod and Gun Club?
- **October 13th - 17th Drummond Island**
- **October 23rd Fall Color Tour and Night Run**
- December Toys For Tots/Jay "Slim" Stull Memorial
- Keep an eye on the Facebook pages (public and private) for "spur of the moment" runs.

ALL trips are on the club Google calendar and will soon be updated.

AWARDS:

Each month one "lucky" member is awarded a prize for some special feat of humanity or stupidity. This month's winners include:

CABLE PULLER AWARD: Paul Cochran still has it.

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TURKEY AWARD: Tim Lamphere still has it.

INFORMATION CENTER:

- Club members, please send David or Kerry photos and stats of your rig to put on the public web site. No personal information will be shown.
- Contact a board member if you would like some “Spotted Your Rig” cards.
- For CB’s, CB tuning, and CB accessories we have found none better than the 131 CB Shop on 76th Street just south of Grand Rapids.
- O’Reilly Auto Parts on Gull Road offers steep discounts to all Sundowners members.

MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

April 22nd Lance Kolhoff

April 27th Adam Carr

May 3rd Shari French

May 5th Gary Eastbridge

May 18th Glenda Bowman

June 12th Melissa Perigo

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CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT

Tim Lamphere
517--819--0057
nmtim66@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Doug Wine
269-217-7863
my01tacoma@gmail.com

TREASURER

Linda Shouldice
269--420--7561
las2691@gmail.com

SECRETARY

David Perigo
269-744-6283
Stealthfightr@gmail.com

TRAIL MASTER

Paul Cochran
269-217-6180
paul_cochran42@yahoo.com

AFFILIATION DIRECTOR

Jason Bouma
269-324-7428
jbouma@gmail.com

IT/ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Kerry Robbins
269-217-1750
kerryoutside8@gmail.com

The Sundowners 4x4 email is: sundownerskalamazoo@gmail.com