

DECEMBER 2020



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TOYS FOR TOTS 2020

Our recent Toys For Tots drive was held at the Kalamazoo Rod and Gun Club and all things considered it was a huge success. We saw old friends and got better acquainted with some new ones plus, we raised over \$1500.00 and collected a pick-up truck load of toys. Not to bad for a hastily put together event! Thanks go out to everyone who made it out, and to those who donated from afar. We couldn't have done it without you!

While we are on the subject of Toys For Tots: there has been some discussion about breaking away from the marines and doing something more local and personal. There are two things driving that conversation with the first being the challenges we face every year trying to get a hold of the marines, and then getting them on site. The second consideration is that breaking away from the marines gives us an opportunity to work directly with a local, group, charity, school, or church, and give directly to people who are in need. It could also allow us to move beyond just toys and help families in a much broader way. It's all just speculation at this point but it may be worth discussing once we can all be together again.

CHRISTMAS PARTY IS BEING POSTPONED

Believing a Christmas Party would be as lightly attended as all of our other events in 2020 we have decided to postpone the party until later in the spring. Right now the thinking is March and we will confirm that as we get closer. I know there are some that will disagree and we understand that point of view. We also acknowledge the reality that more than half of our most active members are sitting out every indoor gathering we put together. It's hard to justify going through the effort of putting a party together when we know MAYBE twelve people will show up. We do still plan to run down to Rouch World on January 9th so come on down around noon and have some fun!

RECENT EVENTS

Our schedule always takes firearms deer hunting season into consideration which means there are no organized trail rides on PUBLIC land beginning mid-October and through the months of November and December. There will be the occasional small group heading out for a trail ride during hunting season and the hunters I have talked to don't have a problem with that. We just discourage large organized events. As mentioned above, Toys For Tots comes at the perfect time and allows us to actually spend time together doing something other than trail riding. It's a nice change of pace while providing an opportunity to give back to the community.

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Recap of new business items

- **DUES ARE DUE!** You can pay in person at a meeting or Meet and Greet, or via paypal at paypal@sundowners4x4.org.
- Nominations for 2021 board members are complete. We will publish the election results in next month's meeting minutes and here in the newsletter.
- Should we explore the idea of a Christmas toy drive sans the marines?
- Is there any interest in putting together a **swap meet** next 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
- With the Rod and Gun Club in mind, how else could these **two clubs benefit** each other? Think about it and share your ideas.
- Should we look at doing more **charity events**? Maybe we could make some of our most popular events fundraisers for other local organizations. Yes, no?
- Who wants to see more Allegan and Yankee Springs **trail rides**? How about Baldwin or the Manistee Forest? Bring your thoughts to us for consideration.
- We are looking for a suitable location for off-road driving and vehicle **recovery training**. Look for details to be posted here and on facebook.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Once the holidays are over we will kick off 2021 with our annual winter run to Allegan (Doug's birthday run). If this year stays true to the past you can expect lots of deep snow and lots of fun! Being in the heart of the snow belt Allegan rarely lets us down. The normally tame trails of the Allegan State Game Area can turn into a 4 wheelers paradise with 16-20" of snow. Dress warm and bring your tow straps!

Mid February again finds us in the snow, this time in Evert where we've never experienced a lack of snow. This too is an annual event that has never let us down. Again, bring your warm clothes, survivor snacks, and perhaps a shovel, and let's go have some fun.

CLUB MEETINGS:

- Meetings are typically held at Travelers Cafe and Pub 5225 Portage Road, 49002 at 7:00pm, 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 ALL BE VIA ZOOM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

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Our next meeting will commence at 7:00 PM January 14th 2021.

WHEELING WEDNESDAY/MEET AND GREET SCHEDULE:

Meet and Greets are held at 6:00 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. **Our next Meet and Greet will be held at Millers Time Out, 13261 Helmer Rd Battle Creek Michigan contingent on additional shut-down orders.** 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!

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.

- **January 9th run to Rouch World**
- **January 30th Doug's Birthday Run through The Allegan State Game Area**
- **February 19th - 21st Winter Run in snowy Evert Michigan**
- March ??? Chili Run to Bundy??? PUBLIC INVITED
- **March 20th Redbird/Badlands/or Windrock???**
- **April 10th Allegan State Game Area Trail Clean-up PUBLIC INVITED**
- **April 23rd - 25th Jeep the Mac 2021 NON-CLUB PUBLIC EVENT**
- **April 21st - 25th Grayling Run**
- May Redbird Run???
- **May 2nd 20th annual Jeep Blessing in Mesick - PUBLIC EVENT**
- May ??? Big Brothers/Big Sisters???
- May ??? Silver Lake Jeep Invasion???
- **May 27-31 Memorial Day Run at Bundy Hill (13 campsites are reserved)**
- June ??? Club Run to Silver Lake PUBLIC INVITED
- June 26th White Cloud Run ???

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- July ??? Heroes On The Dunes ???
- **July 10th Butler Speedway fireworks spectacular - PUBLIC INVITED**
- August ???back to Silver Lake PUBLIC INVITED
- **September 2nd - 6th Annual Labor Day Weekend at Bundy Hill PUBLIC INVITED**
- **September 15th - 19th Gaylord/Vanderbilt Trail Ride (Elk Sighting)**
- October ??? Drummond Island
- October Fall Color Tour and Night Run
- December Toys For Tots
- 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: Tim Lamphere for keeping other people's Jeeps running.

TURKEY: Marc French for running around with loose lug nuts.

*there were no nominations this month so last month’s winners get to keep their vests for another month.

INFORMATION CENTER:

- Club members, please send David 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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS SUNDOWNERS!

Birthdays:

The Sundowners 4x4 Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Tim @ 5178190057

WEBSITE: www.sundowners4x4.org

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December 15th Marty Eldred
December 16th Stacy Tallman
December 21st Kerry Robbins
December 26th Michael Yoder
December 30th Jon Fitzsimmons
December 31st Jason Killian
January 11th Jason Bouma

CLUB OFFICERS:

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