

# DECEMBER 2021



# NEWSLETTER

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## DUES ARE NOW DUE

That's right, another year has come and gone and it's already time to submit your dues for 2022. We are still working on next year's calendar and would welcome input from you, the members, concerning the types of runs and events you would like to be part of. Bring us your ideas and, if someone is available to lead, we will put it together. It's already shaping up to be another good year and your input/participation will only make it better. Based on the increased attendance at the last two meetings of the year it appears enthusiasm is high. Let's keep it going!

## SUMMER OF SLIM TOY DRIVE

We wrapped up our "Summer of Slim" fundraiser with the toy drive held on December 4th and were rewarded with a better than expected outcome. Our fundraising efforts netted \$2,229.45 of which we spent \$1,493.00 on toys and/or supplies. At the end of the day we loaded somewhere between 1041 and 1400 toys into the truck belonging to Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries. They were blown away and had no idea what we were capable of until we showed them. It appears we have made a great first impression and a big step in creating a lasting relationship. Thank you everyone for your involvement! If you were a volunteer you already know what a fun and gratifying day it was. If you stopped to say hi, dropped off a toy, or were involved with any of the events leading up to this day, your efforts helped make for a successful "Summer of Slim" memorial and we cannot thank you enough!

## CLUB EVENT PARTICIPATION TROPHY

As you may recall, tickets were handed out to each member in attendance at a club meeting or event during this past year. Those tickets were part of our "Participation Award" promotion which we have opted to continue into next year. During the November meeting Shari suggested a nice set of camp chairs as this year's award" and they have been purchased and are headed off to be embroidered. Look for information on the drawing and the announcement of the winner in the next month or so. We have also approved the purchase of a recovery bag (minimum \$400.00 value) to be used as next year's prize. That's a pretty sweet award for just showing up!

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## BOARD MEMBER ELECTION

The December meeting brought about our annual election of officers and, as you can imagine, not a lot has changed. All current officers will remain in their prospective positions with the exception of Affiliation Director. At the last moment Adam Doll threw his hat in the ring for that position and the vote ended with a new person in that position. We sincerely appreciate Jason Bouma and applaud his efforts in that position and welcome Adam to his new role in the club. New faces bring new ideas and we are excited to see what electing Adam means to the club. For me I'd like to take a moment to thank you for your continued faith in me and for offering me another year to serve you as Vice President, I will always have the best interest of the club in mind as I go about my duties and, I can assure you, the rest of the board feels the same way. There are still many opportunities for club members to get involved with the day-to-day operations including; trail leaders, committee members, event coordinators and volunteers, and even just active participants. Please let us know if there's anything you would like to help with.

## WINNER OF ONE OF A KIND JEEP SIGN

As part of our Summer of Slim celebration we had up for grabs a one-of-a-kind sign made by Slim just weeks before his passing. A lot of people really wanted that sign partly because of how cool it was but mostly because it was made by Slim. A drawing was held at the Toy Drive and Eric Stockwell held the winning ticket. He was overjoyed to have the sign and promised to give it a good home. Congratulations Eric!

## KIDS IN THE WOODS TRAIL RIDE

Continuing our newly formed relationship with the Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries, we are putting together another "Kids in the Woods" trail ride, this time with children of The Kalamazoo Gospel Mission's residents. Please keep an eye on our events list and make plans to be part of the fun. If we get a "bus load" of kids like they have promised we will need all the help we can get. Stay tuned as we get the details worked out with them. This could prove to be just the kind of partnership we have been looking for after the dismal turnout the last couple years.

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## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

On January 8th 2022 we will resume our annual Christmas Party at Cheers 2 located at 22046 M-60 Mendon MI 49072. The “Slim Trail Ride” will precede the party and will once again take place at Rouch Off-Road in Three Rivers. The trail ride is scheduled to start at 10:00 am to allow everyone a chance to play before meeting at Cheers 2 at 6:00 pm. We will start our evening with appetizers and a “social hour” followed by dinner at 7:00. Please bring a gift to pass for our always hilarious white elephant gift exchange. Per the bar’s request (and due to the sometimes adult nature of gifts) this will be an adults only event. Please watch here and on our facebook page for more information.

Our first opportunity to play in the woods in 2022 will be our annual “Doug’s Birthday” trail ride scheduled for January 29th which happens to be Larry “Wally” Walters birthday. Even though most everything in the Allegan State Game Area has been graded smooth we often find deep snow up there in January and hopefully this year is no exception. We will meet at Meijer in Plainwell at 9:00 am and try to leave by 9:30. Please have a full tank of gas and “survivor snacks” of your choice.

## WHEELING WEDNESDAY/MEET AND GREET SCHEDULE :

Due to the upcoming holidays we have opted to put “Meet and Greets” on hold for a month or two. Meet and Greets are typically held at a restaurant at 6:00 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month although there has been some discussion about trying different days and different locations such as a local park. These events are open to the public and visitors are encouraged to attend so we should do anything we can do to attract more people. Bring your ideas to us so they can be brought up for discussion at a club meeting. We are busy working on a schedule and a list of venues for next year and have come up with the following is a list of the possible locations. If you have any other suggestions we’d love to hear them.

Travelers Cafe and Pub  
CJ’s Pub  
Louie’s Corner Bar Texas Corners  
The Club Car Grill

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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](http://www.sundowners4x4.org)

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The Dock at Bayview  
Miller's Time Out in Battle Creek

## Recap of new and old business items

- Kerry is working on putting together a Ladies Only trail ride tentatively planned for June 11th. She will be partnering with Michigan Jeep Girls and attendance will be limited to twenty jeeps. Sorry guys (Wally) putting on a dress doesn't count.
- Show up to any event or meeting during the year to be entered into a drawing for the "participation award".
- We still hope to be part of the Adopt A Highway program in 2022 and have settled on the D Avenue interchange as our desired "adoptee" Bill is working out the details and will let us know soon if we are accepted into the program.
- Paul is still working on putting together an offroad awareness class and will be reaching out to GLFWDA for possible assistance.
- DUES ARE DUE!!!!

## CLUB MEETINGS:

- Meetings are held at Club Car Grill 6225 West D Avenue Kalamazoo, MI 49009 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 January 13th 2022.**

**2021/2022 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. **BOLD DATES = CONFIRMED**

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- **January 8th Sundowners Christmas party preceded by a ride at Rouch World.**
- **January 29th Doug's Birthday Run at Allegan State Game Area.**
- **February 12-13 Evert Winter Run, Evert Michigan.**
- **March???** Chili Run at Bundy or Allegan
- **April 16th Allegan State Game Area trail clean-up - PUBLIC WELCOME**
- **April 20th - 24th Grayling Trail Run, Grayling Michigan**
- **April 20th - 24th Rausch Creek (Pennsylvania) trail ride.**
- **April 30th Annual Jeep Blessing in Mesick - PUBLIC WELCOME.**
- **May 7th - Grayling Trail Ride**
- **May 13th 15th Jeep The Mac - PUBLIC WELCOME.**
- **May 21st Go Topless Day Car Show - PUBLIC WELCOME.**
- **May 26 - 30th Memorial Day Run at Bundy Hill.**
- **June 2nd - 5th Silver Lake Dunes Jeep Invasion - PUBLIC WELCOME.**
- **July 9th Fireworks Night at Butler Speedway.**
- **July 16th Heros On The Dunes at Silver Lake - PUBLIC WELCOME**
- **August 12th Toledo Jeep Fest - PUBLIC WELCOME**
- **August???** Silver Lake Run.
- **August???** Extreme ORV Expo - PUBLIC WELCOME
- **September 1st - 5th Labor Day at Bundy Hill - PUBLIC WELCOME**
- **September 14th - 18th Gaylord/Vanderbilt trail ride and elk sighting**
- **October 5th - 9th Drummond Island Run**
- **October 22nd Fall Trail Ride and Spooky Night Run.**
- **November 4th and 5th - Hollarwood Off-Road Park in Kentucky. Fundraiser for Daniel Boone BackCountry Byway.**
- **December 3rd Slim Stull Memorial Toy Drive.**
- **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:** No nominations.

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**TURKEY AWARD:** Doug Wine for driving off with Marc and Shari's hours old easy-up tied to his truck. The worst part is, he attached it himself.

### 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.
- I'll be there every Monday.

### MEMBER CELEBRATIONS:

We are saddened to announce the passing of club member Bill Sherwood. If you don't remember the name you certainly remember the "Patriotic Jeep" and similarly decorated Gladiator he used as a tow vehicle. His enthusiasm and presence at club events will be sorely missed by many. The club will be purchasing 10 wreaths and members will help place them on veterans graves as part of "Wreaths Across America" which was an important event to Bill. This year's event happens on December 18th all across America and you are invited to be part of it.

### **Birthdays:**

December 7th Mark Roodbergen  
December 10th Jesse Burns  
December 21st Kerry Robbins  
December 26th Michael Yoder  
December 30th Mike Tyler  
December 30th Jon Fitzsimmons

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**10 Year + members**

June 24th 1905 Greg Wischmeyer - joined day 1  
January 1st 2000 Larry Walters - joined prior to record keeping  
January 1st 2000 Tom VanTassel - joined prior to record keeping  
January 1st 2000 James McReynolds - joined prior to record keeping  
January 1st 2000 Joe Bielby - joined before record keeping  
January st 2000 - Jesse Burns - joined before record keeping  
January 1st 2000 David Sutton - joined before record keeping  
October 30th 2010 Doug Wine  
December 15th 2010 Tim Lamphere

**Antique Vehicles in the club**

Campbell's 1958 Willys Wagon  
Wally's 1973 CJ5  
Lamphere's 1981 CJ5  
Yoder's 1987 Wrangler  
Zuniga's 1988 Wrangler  
Siefker's 1992 YJ  
Cronen's 1993 Wrangler

**MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE !**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES!**

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**CLUB OFFICERS:**

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