

# JANUARY 2021



# NEWSLETTER

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## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

2021 is off to a great start and you don't want to miss out on the things we have planned! We need each and everyone of you to keep things interesting around here and hope you do not let your membership lapse. We are all aware 2020 was a shitshow but we are determined to have fun in the coming year. We hope you will be part of it! You can renew via paypal at [paypal@sundowners4x4.org](mailto:paypal@sundowners4x4.org) or simply give/mail a check to any board member.

## IN THE NEWS

We finally have our website back up and running! After nearly a year we finally have a new WEB/IT person and the first order of business was restoring our website. While there is not a ton on there it does give people a place to start with links to board member emails and our facebook pages. With the website restored our attached calendar of events is also back up and running. Please let one of us know if you are a member needing an invite to the events calendar. It is a very handy tool for keeping track of upcoming events.

Please welcome Kerry Robbins to the leadership team. We put out a call for filling the vacant WEB/IT position and Kerry responded within minutes and then hit the ground running. . As mentioned above, the first order of business was restoring the website and events calendar. There are many more items needing attention so I'm sure we will keep her busy for a while. Thank you Kerry, and welcome aboard!

We recently lost one of our own. Jay "Slim" Stull passed away December 30th 2020 surrounded by his family. While he was a member for only a short while, he touched many of us with his kindness towards others, and his boundless generosity. He left his mark and will be sorely missed. Plans are underway for putting together an annual memorial event in his honor. One idea is to name our annual toy drive the "Slim Stull Memorial Toy Drive" due to his fondness for the event, and his love of children. Regardless, those of us who were lucky enough to know him miss him deeply and will remember him for the rest of our lives. Godspeed Slim.

Great Lakes 4-Wheel Drive Association (GLFWD) is looking for volunteers to fill a couple soon to be vacated seats. They also need volunteers to serve in many less demanding but no-less important volunteer roles. If you are interested in being part of the effort to keep our sport alive and helping maintain access to our public lands please consider stepping up. Even a minimal amount of time helps with this important cause.

How about a "Beers and Brats" jeep night in Tim's garage? Since it looks like it will be a while yet before we can resume our normal meet and greets, Tim presented this option. If

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nothing else it gives us a chance to hang out together. Keep an eye on Facebook for a possible announcement in the near future.

## RECENT EVENTS

Our most recent event was a Jay “Slim” Stull memorial gathering at Rouch World on January 9th. There were a bunch of folks in attendance including some past, and seldom seen members. With carnage, smiles, a lot of fun, and a few tears it was a fitting tribute to the man we all came to know and love. It was a bittersweet way to put an end to a very strange year.

## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

We will kick off 2021 with our annual winter run to Allegan (Doug’s birthday run). I sure hope we get some snow but it’s not looking promising but, no matter the weather you can count on having a good time. Show up at the Mejer in Plainwell at 9:00 am with a full tank of fuel and a bagged lunch to be part of this popular event. There’s not much up there that will cause you any trouble but we will help you get through or around anything that feels a little sketchy to you. Come on out and join the fun!

Mid February again finds us in the snow, this time in Ewart 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. You should call the Osceola Grand Hotel and reserve your room soon, just let them know you are with Sundowners to receive our discounted rate.

## Recap of new business items

- **DUES ARE PAST DUE!** You can still pay in person at a meeting or Meet and Greet, or via paypal at [paypal@sundowners4x4.org](mailto:paypal@sundowners4x4.org).
- Our annual Christmas party has been postponed due to Covid. We are hoping to reschedule in the spring (Maybe March).
- We have added a new board member! Kerry Robins is our new IT/Webmaster.
- 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 if we did that.

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- 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?
- With fundraisers in mind, thanks go to Marc and Shari's donation of clipboards, hi vis vest, raffle tickets, etcetera, left over from the Wheeling For a Cure run.
- 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.

### **CLUB MEETINGS:**

- Meetings are typically 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 ALL BE VIA ZOOM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**Our next meeting will commence at 7:00 PM February 11th 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/>

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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 Evart Michigan**
  - **March ??? Chili Run to Allegan or Bundy???**
  - **March 8th - 13th 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 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**
  - **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**
  - **September 2nd - 6th Annual Labor Day Weekend at Bundy Hill PUBLIC INVITED**
  - **September 15th - 19th Gaylord/Vanderbilt Trail Ride (Elk Sighting)**
  - **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:**

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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 this month.

**TURKEY AWARD:** No nominations this 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**

#### **Birthdays:**

January 25th Laura Loughridge Bradley

January 27th Shelley VanTassel

January 29th Larry “Wally” Walters

January 3st Andy Campbell

January 31st Doug Wine

February 1st Joe Beilby

### **CLUB OFFICERS:**

#### **PRESIDENT**

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

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

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

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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 @ 517-819-0057  
WEBSITE: [www.sundowners4x4.org](http://www.sundowners4x4.org)

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