

JANUARY 2022



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HAPPY NEW YEAR

You are probably thinking that greeting is a thing of the past but being this is our first newsletter of 2022 it's really quite appropriate even if I am a month late in getting it done. Look for some changes next month as we try something new in an effort to keep the information timely and relevant. In the meantime please bear with me as I muddle through another edition of the newsletter with no name.

MEET AND GREET

Our first meet and greet of the year brought out more members than we have seen since before the start of the ongoing health scare. I believe the number of attendees was twenty three which was great to see. I'm hoping we can keep the momentum up and carry it through the rest of the year. I am struggling a bit to put together a list of possible venues and hope whatever I put together is agreeable to everyone else. I'll put together some type of list when I get to that part of the newsletter. Please let me know if you have any other suggestions. The main thing is, COME ON OUT AND SEE US!

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The votes are in and tabulated in and not much has changed in the way of board members. I'll take that as a sign the majority of you are happy with the direction the club is headed and a vote of confidence for your current board. For clarification I here is a list of current board members and their positions.

Tim Lamphere - President
Doug Wine - Vice President
Linda Shouldice - Treasurer
Dave Perigo - Secretary
Paul Cochran - Trailmaster
Adam Doll - Affiliation Director
Kerry Robbins - IT Development and maintenance

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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". Imagine our surprise when Shari's name was pulled at the Christmas party! She was so sure she wouldn't win that she already bought Marc the same chair as a gift which led to a second chance drawing at the Meet and Greet where one of the chairs was passed on to Tim Lamphere. It all sounds a little fishy but I witnessed the whole thing and will testify it was all on the up and up. We have already approved the purchase of a recovery bag (minimum \$400.00 value) to be used as next year's prize. Those are pretty sweet awards for just showing up!

CHRISTMAS PARTY MEMORIES

Attendance was down for this year's Christmas Party and preceding trail ride but those of us that were there had a great time even if we did slip and slide most of the way home, There were: great gifts, not so great gifts, funny gifts, slightly embarrassing gifts, and a return of the actual white elephant, which has been passed around for many years. Due to the low turnout we ordered from the menu so everyone was able to choose what they had for dinner. The night went great and was a heck of a lot of fun. Maybe we need to plan a summer party as well.???

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

I think most of you have paid your dues for this year but there may still be a couple of you that keep forgetting. It's not too late! We are very generous and forgiving and have a long grace period just for you, the procrastinators, which usually includes me. The list of trail rides just keeps on growing as does the list of community involvement events. Keep reading to see a partial list of events for the coming year and beyond. I think you'll see we have something for everyone and if we are wrong just let us know. We are always open to new ideas and especially ideas that involve another trail leader. The number one thing to do is get your dues paid so you can remain part of one of West Michigan's largest and longest running 4X4 clubs.

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KIDS IN THE WOODS TRAIL RIDE

We are looking at August as the best time for this year's "Kids in the Woods" trail ride. As you probably already know, we are developing a relationship with The Kalamazoo Gospel Mission and are planning to get the children of their residents out on the trails for a muddy good time. The owners of Rouch Off-Road wholeheartedly support the mission's work and are excited to be part of the event. We'll get the date nailed down and keep you posted as it gets closer.

RECENT CLUB EVENTS

Our first opportunity to play in the woods in 2022 was our annual "Doug's Birthday" trail ride which was held on January 29th. We had a pretty good turnout with about a dozen vehicles in attendance. There wasn't a whole lot of snow this year but we still managed to find some fun and show a few of our newer members areas in the forest they didn't know existed. I was disappointed to learn, too late, that not everyone had a radio that day. Those of you that have been out to Allegan with me know that I love to talk and am full of stories, some historical and some just to hear myself talk. If you want to learn more about the history of the trail system, the sights along the way like the POW Camp, what trails you can and cannot be on, and sometimes even the locations of the bodies, I guess you will just have to do it again sometime. We did have an unfortunate encounter with some ill-informed snowmobilers who believed the "NO ORV" signs meant us and took offense with us being in the woods with them. If you were one of those with a radio and, if you've been on other trail rides with me, you already know I try to stay off the seasonal roads that are used by the snowmobiles as connectors to their trail system, especially those that are a big part of their system. Their season is short and we can certainly yield a small portion of the forest to them during their very short riding season. There are however exceptions that we and every other user group uses out there that I have no reservation being on which was the case that day. We all need to share the forest and just like opening day of deer hunting season we need to be respectful to other user groups. Us meeting them out there did result in a visit from a DNR Officer to Marc and Shari's house and me contacting the officer to share what I just shared here. He was very appreciative of our approach to using the trails in the game area and the fact that we are a well established dues paying club with designated trail leaders who understand the responsibility we have to be examples to the less informed. I do wish I hadn't turned down that trail just to avoid the ill will it likely created amongst a small group of people who were just trying to have fun the same as us. It was a good reminder to me to be more aware and consider the consequences of my decisions as a trail leader.

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WHEELING WEDNESDAY/MEET AND GREET SCHEDULE:

Meet and Greets are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month and are meant as an opportunity both for us to hang out together and for non members to catch up with us and learn a little more about the club. We typically meet at an establishment that serves food and preferably cocktails 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. I have put together the following list of potential venues. **Our February Meet and Greet will be held at Nob Hill Bar And Grill 4218 S. Sprinkle Road Kalamazoo MI 49001.**

Nob Hill Bar and Grill
Travelers Cafe and Pub
CJ's Pub
Louie's Corner Bar Texas Corners
The Club Car Grill
Zoo City Beastro
The Hanger
Miller's Time Out in Battle Creek

UPCOMING TRAIL RIDES AND EVENTS

Our next club run is the annual Evert Run which is always held on Valentine's Day weekend. Some head up on Thursday for a pre-run and others head up Friday night with the actual trail ride starting Saturday morning. Some have even driven up early Saturday just for the trail ride. We always stay at the Osceola Grand Hotel located at 940 West 7th Street Evert MI so however you plan your stay just be at the hotel early Saturday morning to join the group. Most of us stay the night Saturday to be part of the convoy home which includes a stop at the 7 Slot Grill. The trails up there are typically lightly used and heavy snow is almost a certainty. If you enjoy snow wheeling this is a run you do not want to miss. If you plan to stay the night you should hurry and reserve a room. Mention Sundowners 4X4 to receive your discount.

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Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association (**GLFWDA**) is hosting the 2022 **Winterblast** at Holly Oaks ORV Park on Saturday February 19th. They will also be holding their Winter Quarterly Meeting followed by a Basic Recovery Clinic the same day. Go to their Facebook page for more information and to check the availability of tickets.

Recap of new and old business items

- Paul is working with a vendor and putting together a swag order.
- Our GO TOPLESS Committee is working hard on the May 21st Go Topless event to be held at Hayes Jeep on Stadium Drive. Stat tuned for more information.
- Kerry is putting together a Ladies Only trail ride 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.
- Our trip to Rouch World with kids from the Gospel Mission will be in August.
- 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.
- We are still adding events to the calendar and tweaking the schedule to accommodate them all.
- **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 February 10th 2022.

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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**

- February 12-13 Evert Winter Run, Evert Michigan.
 - **March 26th Run to Bundy Hill**
 - April 16th Allegan State Game Area trail clean-up - **PUBLIC WELCOME**
 - April 20th - 24th Rausch Creek (Pennsylvania) trail ride.
 - April 30th Annual Jeep Blessing in Mesick - **PUBLIC WELCOME.**
 - May 4th - 8th 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 17th - 21st Lake City Trail Ride**
 - 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 Adventure**
 - **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.**

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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.

TURKEY AWARD: No nominations.

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:

February 1st Joe Beilby
February 6th Greg Terrill
February 12th Stephen Bowers
February 23rd Doug Romack
February 23rd Bill Johnson
March 2nd Sarah Foster
March 9th Jennifer Wyatt
March 12th Kelli Tipton
March 12th Tim Lamphere

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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PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES!

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