

Treasure Chest

August 2011



Newsletter for the
Sierra Treasure Hunters 4WD club
P.O. Box 963, Rocklin, CA 95677



SIERRA TREASURE HUNTERS 4WD CLUB

Club Officers

President - Rich Currie

Past President - Ron Kellogg

Vice President - Will Corbett

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Treasurer - Kathy Medley

Trail Master - Lucky

State Delegate - Ron Kellogg

Membership - Matt Hoey

Ways & Means - Kimber Hoey & Leona Kellogg

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Editor - Rich Currie



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“Our lands - Use Without Abuse”



Keep Them Green, Keep Them Clean

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Rocklin, CA 95677



Treasure Chest newsletter

August, 2011 Issue XLVIII (48) Edition 2

President's Column

by Rich Currie

A round of applause to everyone that contributed to this years Disable Sports USA. A large thanks to Kathy Medley for coordinating the DSUSA trip to the Rubicon Trail. STH thanks The Sacramento Jeepers and The Hi-Landers for their support.

Sounds like the Snow Run to Meadow Lake and beyond was a blast. I can't remember this much snow this late in the year. This year at Trek you won't need to worry about ice for the cooler.

This year I'm feeling a little strange. Usually I prep the truck (s) for the trail. Instead, I worked on the shower trailer. And it's ready for action!! Who has the Club Banners? Bring them to the meeting this month or to work weekend. Can't forget the Astro turf. Also, we really need to thank Randy for keeping his cool (ha ha) through these uncertain times on whether to move forward or postpone. A lot of time and fuel spent monitoring the situation.

After Trek, we have Long Canyon to think about. We'll need to regroup and prepare for another assault weekend on our Adopt-a-trail (s).

I know there was talk in the wind about a quad run out to Sweet Water Mountains Nevada. Maybe Polecat to lead. Lets keep this one in mind too.

Well, I'll see you all this Saturday and then again on Wednesday evening at base camp w/o the girlz.

Rich

Remember!!!
The August STH meeting
CA 4WD
Thursday, August 4, 2011
Meeting time is 7:30 PM
Drinks: Corbetts
Snacks: Lucky

No Report

by V.P. Will Corbett

By-Laws..... What exactly are they anyway? Unfortunately, they are rules, and as discussed last month, I don't do real well with rules. At least if they don't make sense, or are commonly ignored by all who are supposed to abide by them. If so, then what's the point of having them.

So, ironically, I've volunteered to review the STH by-laws, to see if any need updating, correction, or best yet, deleting due to lack of use. I came up with this idea based on the assumption that in other organizations I've belonged to, the VP is commonly responsible to execute this duty. However, in beginning my research of the STH by-laws, I discovered that I'm actually NOT responsible to do so, but neither is anyone else. So, I will continue on. And, if I imagine far enough ahead, by the time this review is completed, it will probably be the VP's responsibility, and officially designated in..... the STH By-Laws. Funny how that works.

By now, you should have received a copy of the current by-laws in your email. They may be useful to you all, as we move through the process/discussion of reviewing them. That process reads as follows: *"Any amendment to these By Laws may be proposed at any regular meeting, to be reviewed at the second meeting, and voted on at the third meeting"*, again, directly from....the By-laws.

Over the next week or so (before the next monthly meeting), I'll be reading/reviewing these, and bringing any ideas for changes/updates/eliminations that I might have. I would appreciate if any or all of you would do the same. When doing so, I'd like you all to consider the following question:

Should STH conduct itself in accordance with our by-laws, or should we change the by-laws to reflect how we conduct ourselves?

It sounds pretty simple, but the catch comes in whether we are thinking purely "in the moment", meaning, as long as we as individuals like what we do now, then it's fine; or thinking "long term", meaning that we want to create/continue to follow some basic rules that endure long after the current membership is gone. I don't even have that answer for myself yet, so don't be intimidated.

I do know that I personally lean toward the argument similar to the U.S. Constitution, in that, "these are the rules, abide by them, or leave". Or, if they must be changed, it should not be so easy that it is done so often, just to fit a desired end that may be... "in the moment".

However, being one of many of us who are guilty of violating some of these by-laws regularly (albeit, partially due to a lack of knowledge, which is no excuse), I think a couple could/should probably be changed to reflect current norms. But that's just one opinion. Now we need yours.

Over the next couple of months, I'd like to discuss/vote on any changes at our monthly meetings, so I'm hoping you all will attend and participate.

Will

The Officers Expressions

TRAIL MASTER

Good run everyone....

Good turnout see everyone at the next meeting or Sierra Trek.

Lucky

WAYS & MEANS

The August meeting will be the usual first Thursday 8/4/11 at CA 4WD at 7:30 .

Please make a note that our September meeting will be held one week later as both President and Vice President are not available on Sept 1.

The meeting will be Sept 8
At 7:30 at Rory and Julie Hubers.
(Thank you!)

Hope you will try to make at least one of the above meetings.

Also hope to
See everyone at Sierra Trek!

MEMBERSHIP

STATE DELEGATE

STH Club Run: July 16, 2011 DSUSA Rubicon Trail

The Sierra Treasure Hunters, The Sacramento Jeepers and The Hi-Landers joined together on Saturday for another memorable and enjoyable DSUSA off-road adventure for DSUSA athletes, family members and caregivers. Kathy coordinated the event, Steve and Lucky shared trail boss duties, Carrol, Josh, myself and Glen, Jim & his son JD & grandson from The Sacramento Jeepers club members drove 3 participants along with Hobie for The Hi-Landers, Brian Sheckler, Program Coordinator DSUSA, and several family members and caregivers from the Ice House Lodge into Ellis Creek and back. Matt and Kimber were nice enough to let me drive their tricked out Rubicon, how quickly they forget what happened last time I borrowed a Jeep! Many thanks to Randy for representing the STH Club at the North District meeting so I could help with driving duties.

The alarm clock went off early but I was ready for another day on the Rubicon trail. What a treat, I've been "without Jeep" for so long now I'm suffering withdrawals. I am so fortunate to have great friends who trust me enough to allow me to borrow their vehicles for a day on the trail. This trip was definitely for a great cause and something I find both rewarding and enjoyable, a day on one of the most recognized and beautiful trails in the world, the Rubicon Trail, with our friends from DSUSA and members of the Sacramento Jeepers.

I find the early morning drive from Sacramento to Ice House road almost therapeutic, away from the busy City into the lush green forests and granite of the Sierra Nevada range, streams and rivers swollen with fresh snow melt. Loon lake is calm as we approach, a slight breeze and occasional fishermen in float tubes and casting from the bank. One fortunate fisherman is inspecting

catch along the bank. Andrew's caregiver, Scott is riding with me today, "Drew" is with Steve. Occasionally, we get close enough to see and talk to Drew, who's smiling from ear to ear. Carrol is behind us, a wheel chair securely fastened to the rack, "Indiana Jenny" in the passenger seat and Jon is soaking up rays in the back seat, video camera in hand.



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STH Club Run: July 16, 2011 DSUSA Rubicon Trail

The trail is in great shape between gate keeper and Ellis Creek. Just enough dampness to keep the dust down, ruby red wild flowers add color to the carpet of green between islands of granite as we approach the glacial etched granite slabs and inch our way along the familiar trail, negotiating obstacles known to test driver's skills and many a vehicle's trail worthiness. Today we have two fairly stock Jeeps in line which adds to the excitement and challenge. With a little rock stacking, guiding and the sound of an occasional air locker we all make it safely to Ellis Creek and stop for lunch and reminisce about previous trips with DSUSA participants, so many memorable moments and people that have joined us in this wonderful experience during the past ~10 years. The trip back to Loon was steady and smooth (thanks in part to auto transmission and air suspension, how can I go back to a stick?)

Eventually, we return to Ice House Lodge, unload, say our goodbyes to participants and enjoy a cool one. Another perfect day! We're already looking forward to next year. We have an opportunity to make this event an overnight activity in 2012 and may be able to stay at Ice House Lodge RV area. I think this would be a lot of fun and I encourage everyone to plan to attend. We would like to make this a multi-club activity next year to provide adequate support and bandwidth in case we get a lot of participation as we have in years past.

A great day was had by all!

Ron (aka Spiderman).

Catch a glimpse of the action on youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqlxE3vmAFs>



Meadow Lake Snow Run

July 23, 2011

article by: Cindy

The day was beautiful; everyone met in Auburn. The group. Roy in his Jeep, Craig in his Landcruiser with his daughter and two other girls; Chris and Suzy in the JeepEater; and Lucky and I in the "Sammy". We headed up the hill for our great adventure. The turn off at 89 was dry and dusty. Everyone stopped to air down the tires and battle the starving hoards of mosquitoes, it was a great start. When everyone was ready we proceeded onward toward Meadow Lake. The snow still covered the road and was a little intimidating (5 to 6 feet deep.) And who knew that snow was so durable in 80 degree weather? Rookie me....

(And my travel brochure definitely did not mention any snow. Craig's group was also outfitted in flip flops so they read the same brochure.)



Chris and Suzy were at the front and from the vantage point of the rest of the group mostly we saw the Toyota "butt up and head down" creating the "trail" through the snow. Some of the drifts it took us several tries. Pretty soon everyone aired down their tires some more. Roy and his friend turned and went back because it was a little too challenging for the stock Jeep. The rest of us cowboied it out and Craig got the hang of the extra gusto to get up the banks; where as Lucky was his usual hit it with everything and hope to jump over it with the Sammy, Steve and Linda caught up to the group in the Toyota and just ambled up and over everything easily in our path. It took a while. We met at 0700 and finally got to camp in the early afternoon.



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Meadow Lake Snow Run

July 23, 2011

article by: Cindy (cont)



Steve and Linda set up camp and the rest of us remaining decided to amble onto the trail to see what it looked like. Chris and Suzy set the pace; Lucky in the middle and Craig and group in the rear. It did not take long to hit more deep snow and before too long Craig headed back to camp with Steve.

So that left the Jeepeater and the Sammy to trek on. We hit a snow melt which made a small pond, which Chris navigated right through and Lucky decided to go around the bank which in turn collapsed and he rolled it over on its side. Something is not quite right about a vehicle that is not upright. Had it not been so scary for me

(the passenger); it would have been and was quite comical. Chris pulled it up on its "feet" and we proceeded into the rocky area. This was all dry. I guess it looked like it was supposed to, I don't know (Rookie me). It became quite evident that these boulders were not easy to drive up over and around and that the Jeepeater was very at home. The Sammy was not quite so. We went down to Winch Hill 5? Not sure...decided to turn around; it was about 1500 to go back and camp.

Yah! Food and comfort. Not so fast. Lucky's tact of hit everything 150% and hope to bounce over it worked for a while. His luck ran out and he broke an axle in the rear. Oops...Chris pulled Sammy out up and over the rough spot (a big boulder that obviously was not intimidated by the Sammy and not going to give.) They found a wide spot and Lucky proceeded to change out his axle. Suzy took a nap; Chris supervised; and I just watched. One hour repair time; not too bad Lucky.

We made it back to camp- (I was happy to make it in one piece) The campfire was already stoked and Craig and company and Steve and Linda had eaten and were visiting. We set up camp. The meadow was very beautiful; the lake very full and like a pristine glass reflection of the tree laden banks. It was very peaceful. Since not many could make it in we somewhat had the meadow to ourselves. (One other 4 Wheel group parked very close; however, and had to make noise-) but whatever- It was still peaceful.

In the morning we all started the trek back. The snow was already melting and it was easier to get back down the mountain trail. Judging by the snow melt it seems the snow will be gone by August; but it may be a little soggy.



Prospecting

The Bradshaw Trail

article by: Rich Currie

Again, one of my adventures, while working out of town, led me to the Bradshaw Trail (BT). At first I had no clue I was on a historic trail while boony crashing the desert trails.

A couple years ago, when I was scouting the Anza Borrego area West of the Salton Sea, I was scouting trails East of the Salton Sea as well. This is when I came across the 'Hotel California' a stone hideout built into the side of a wash. Or, the palm oasis's with spring fed ponds out in the middle of nowhere.

The first time I traveled the BT was just a few miles outside of wonderful Mecca CA. Thankfully, I had my Tacoma and not some cheesy rental car. There was no destination and as usually I was fighting the sunset. The trail passes Oasis ponds, retired railroads and bombing ranges. There are spots along the trail that have piles of spent ordinances. Due to the lack of sunlight I cut my trip short on the BT and took a spur (Augustine Rd) off to the east to intercept Hwy 10. That spur was very interesting as well with the mountain ranges and narrow wash passages. I thought I'd return someday and finish the Bradshaw Trail.

The second time I traveled the BT was this year in early June. I received a call from my client in wonderful Blythe. They needed me PDQ, so no time to drive down. I had to fly and rent a cheesy car. Prior to my departure I scoured the landscape via google earth to find where this BT could be reached. Well, just outside of Blythe the trail hits pavement. Sooooo, I rented an all wheel drive cheesy car to help me along this portion of the trail. I entered the trail off State Hwy 78 and took it for about ten miles in. I was driving a Nissan Rogue. Almost all wheel drive as long as the car was down on the ground with all four wheels touching. Otherwise the special features would kick in and ruin the fun. I took the trail until I figured I'd better stop cuz I really didn't want to walk out. I found a neat spot to check out the off road ability of this Nissan Rogue. Not Much!



continued →

Prospects

The Bradshaw Trail

article by: Rich Currie (cont)



Between 1862 and 1877, the 65-mile Bradshaw Trail was used to haul miners and other passengers to the gold fields at La Paz. The trail traverses mostly public land between the Chuckwalla Mountains and the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range. The trail offers spectacular views of the Chuckwalla Bench, Orocopia Mountains, Chuckwalla Mountains and the Palo Verde Valley.

Located in southeastern Riverside County and a small segment in Imperial County, the byway offers a range of activities to delight the outdoor-lover. Hiking opportunities near the byway are particularly good. But the drive itself may be the best part of all. Because the road is still not paved and area can be rough, four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended-and fun-for travelers on the trail.

<http://www.desertusa.com/mag03/trails/trails11.html>



Forbidden Love

article by: Radar Collard

I first saw her from across the meadow, sunlight dancing on the lake in the background. She was a beauty – her creamy mocha coloring – as if she had been kissed by the sun. Her name was Gina, and the attraction was mutual. Although I am an older gentleman, I have minimal experience in the ways of the heart. This didn't seem to matter to her as she enthusiastically pursued me.

Coupling is such a natural experience, yet humans are rather prudish about the subject. We canines have no issue with expressing our love openly; we enjoy playful frolicking in the great outdoors. If our friends are around – no problem – we like to share our joy. The fresh air, the majestic surroundings, the warm sunlight (okay, and the occasional mosquito or fly that needs swatting – quite a distraction from the “moment”). Being one with Nature – what could be better? Not to mention the fact that we didn't need birth control since I had surgically protected myself years ago.

Humans, on the other hand, hide in their tents and try to keep the sounds to a minimum. If they do happen to truly bask in the sun, they steal away to remote locations where no one else is around. They even make laws against “baring all” in public. Sheer madness.....

Alas, our star crossed love was not meant to be. Each time we tried to consummate our new relationship, a jealous human would interfere – to the point of tying us up to separate vehicles. It is as if they were the Capulet and the Montague's of Verona. Fortunately, Gina and I did not tragically part ways. When I approach my twilight years, I will look back on our forbidden love affair as a sweet time of my life.



New STH Trophy?

By Suzy Collard

I have a nomination for a new STH trophy to be awarded at Installation Picnic. The title is the "Not-So-Lucky" award, named after our very own trailmaster. It seems that "Lucky", although born on 7/11 and at 21 inches earned his moniker early in life.....the nickname might not quite fit on trails. Yes, he's handy with a winch and capable of all things mechanical; however, he is starting a tradition of tipping his vehicle on the Trek pre-run. So far, he is two for two. If he tips next year for a third consecutive time, the "Not-So-Lucky" award is his!

This award is not limited to just "tipping" – throw in a broken axle (he had a spare) or any other trail fix and it adds eligibility opportunities for this new trophy. I don't think these items can fall under the Problem Child, because for one reason – bringing a Samurai back upright is no problem -it is so light that a couple of strong guys could probably just roll it back. Plus, if you carry your own spare parts and do a trail fix by yourself in about an hour, it shows that you are prepared and skilled – just "Not-So-Lucky".

Editor's notes

by: Rich

Thanks to all the officers for there input to this newsletter.

Thank you to those who submitted articles or reports.

A special thanks to the Collard family. Each member of the family has submitted something to this newsletter.

Places to go see.

Check it out via Google Earth
cut and paste coordinates.

Click on Blue square for pictures posted.

33 36 08.52 N

115 48 45.40 W Hotel California

33 28 48.97 N

115 15 42.04 W Chocolate Mountains

FYI

General interest

August 6th-7th: Sierra trek work weekend

August 11th-14th: Sierra Trek

September 8th: STH meeting

September 17th: Long Canyon run



August 2011

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 CLUB MEETING CA 4WD 7:30P | 5 | 6 SIERRA TREK WORK WEEKEND |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 SIERRA TREK | 12 SIERRA TREK | 13 SIERRA TREK |
| 14 SIERRA TREK HAPPY B DAY Josh Medley | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Des & Will Corbetts |
| 21 | 22 HAPPY BIRTHDAY Cathy Stillwell | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |