

# Treasure Chest

May 2011



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



# SIERRA TREASURE HUNTERS 4WD CLUB

## Club Officers

**President** - Ron Kellogg

**Past President** - Will Corbett

**Vice President** - Matt Hoey

**Secretary** - Des Corbett

**Treasurer** - Kathy Medley

**Trailmaster** - Steve Medley

**State Delegate** - Randy Burleson

**Membership** - Rick Kerley

**Ways & Means** - Andrea Harris

**Webmaster** - Rory Huber

**Editor** - Rich Currie



Our Forests, Our Heritage



“Our lands - Use Without Abuse”



Keep Them Green, Keep Them Clean

## Web Site

<http://www.sth4x4.com>

## Mailing Address

P.O. Box 963  
Rocklin, CA 95677



# Treasure Chest newsletter

May 2011, Issue XLVII (47) Edition 11

## President's Column

*article by Ron Kellogg*

### STH Club President's Message:

Club elections are approaching. Please consider running for one of the board positions.

Not a lot of trail action this past month. Unless anyone is interested in a road trip to Baja, looks like the next big club run will be June 17-19, Rich will be leading us back to Black Rock, and he plans to visit new areas. I highly recommend making room on your calendar for this trip. Sierra Trek planning is in full swing, all of the winch hill crews are assigned, we're going to be very busy again, I'm going to dust off my hat and boots and whatever else I can find that resembles western wear for the Friday Dinner duty. I'm also interested in the newest event, quad run on Saturday.

I made another run to Reno and still mega amounts on snow over the pass, it will be some time before the high mountain trails are open to off-road vehicles. My Jeep rebuild is still "on hold" waiting for critical parts, big surprise! My newly powder coated heavily reinforced frame is partially assembled with parts neatly staged ready and waiting for the final push to the finish. God only knows when that might be. Maybe I should take up snow shoeing?

See you at the next Club meeting, May 7<sup>th</sup> elections at the Ford's

Your club president, Ron (aka Spiderman).

# BLACK ROCK

PRE-RUN

*Ala: Elefe*



After canceling our last scouting trip to Black Rock due to snow and rain we hit the road to Nevada where all we got was rain. And if you have encountered rain mixed with the Black Rock playa you know what happens. Slick, soft and nasty stuff. But that comes later. Matt Hoey was kind enough to leave his dogs at home so I could take one of their seats in his new toy. A 2010 Ford F150 SVT Raptor. Pretty cool desert racer. Took first in its class at the last Dakar Rally. About the time we hit Auburn we had caught up to Rich and two of his dogs (and Radar). This being an exploratory trip we got to Reno, took 395 North and headed for the west side of Pyramid Lake. Had lunch in Sutcliff at the only cafe/bar in town. Lots of giant stuffed trout on the walls. We got stuffed on chili cheese fries.

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# BLACK ROCK

PRE-RUN

*Ala: Elefe (cont)*

Heading north we left the asphalt for gravel and traveled on to Smoke Creek, our camp for that night. Chris had left Moab the day before to meet us there. Nice campsite for a large group. Very green, nice little creek, no mosquitoes. Cold. Had a nice bar b que, a little cerveza and tequila (thanks Chris) and woke up to rain on the tent tops. Packing up our wet tents we headed for Gerlach and the famous Bruno's Cafe, Bar and Casino for breakfast. Rich and Chris were hoping to get permission to go through some locked gates to a little known mineral spring geyser. No luck. Found the locked gate, saw the geysers in the distance but couldn't get in. Chris is going to work on the owner to see if he might make an exception for us when the club goes back in June. By this time it had not been raining for quite a while so we decided to test our luck crossing a short stretch of the playa. We were doing great till we got to a little wash. Chris got across just fine.



*continued* →

# BLACK ROCK

## PRE-RUN

*Ala: Elefe (cont)*



Rich had a little more trouble and Matt got totally stuck. Probably should not have tried to cross in the same tracks. Nasty, wet, clay like goop (see picture). A winch and a little shoveling got us out and moving again. For those you who have been there before we were headed for the hot spring below Black Rock Mountain at the northern end of the playa. Thanks to Google Earth Rich had spotted a track that looked like it went over a nearby mesa and up a behind a huge cliff face. What we discovered were two baby playas, one with an island in the middle. This led to photo ops involving high speed racing around the island, hard cornering and wishing Matt's truck had a roll bar.



*continued* →

# BLACK ROCK

## PRE-RUN

*Ala: Elefe (cont)*

It was starting to get a little late and the skies were looking a little threatening so we headed back to our next campsite at Double Hot Springs. These are not for casual hot tubing as they are 175 and 180 degrees. Perfect, however, for cooking potatoes. In a mesh bag. Tied to a log for flotation. Tied to a rope for retrieval. Took about an hour but it worked. The wagon train folks cooked their beans the same way so the inspiration was not all mine. We woke up the next day to the pitter patter of rain which shortly turned to something a little stronger. We knew there was no way we going to get back across the playa. Our hard packed, graveled campsite had quickly turned to slick mud so we knew we would have to stay on higher ground. Fortunately there is a trail that follows the perimeter



of the playa through places like Harding and Mud Meadows. No mud, fortunately, but the greenery and wildflowers were pretty special. We had all been to Black Rock many times but never at this time of year. There's a lot to be said for it. No people but lots of wild horses and antelope. Lots of snow on the nearby mountain tops. Really beautiful and worth chancing the



rain. After a somewhat worrisome creek crossing below Mud Meadow we came out on the road a little ways below Soldier Meadows. Not too long afterwards we were back at Bruno's eating his famous raviolis and garlic bread. Exploring is a tough job but has its rewards.



Despite the sloppy conditions it was a good trip. Really nice seeing some new territory. It takes awhile to get there but the journey is worth it. For those of you who haven't been there, go! For those of you who have, go back! It will be a great June run.

Elefe

*continued* →

# BLACK ROCK

PRE-RUN

*Ala: Elefe (cont)*



## Members

Matt Hoey  
Geoff Ford  
Chris Collard  
Rich Currie

## Mans Best Friend

Badger  
Fletch  
Radar



# Black Rock Canyon

**Pre-run for June 17-19**

*article by: Rich Currie*

Well, the pre-run went as planned...finally!! I called Matt and Geoff to confirm that we'd go 22-24 Easter Sunday. Some of you would be searching for eggs while, we scraped playa mud from our shoes. It actually turned out to be quite beautiful with the storming clouds above, dark green grasses and snow packed mountains. The full spring flowers weren't ready yet to flourish.

Chris at the last meeting said he'd cut out early from the Easter Jeep Safari to meet up with us somewhere near Gerlach. I offered to swing by and get Radar on the way up. The first night camp was where I hoped it'd be at Smoke Creek just North of Pyramid Lake. Nice open, flat spot near a flowing creek. This is where Chris caught up to meet us. The following morning we sped up North to Gerlach to have breaky at Bruno's. Meanwhile, trying to find the process of obtaining permission to see Fly Geyser up close. NOT!! Closed to the public. Chris tried to shmooze to no avail. (I know he'll get his way just give him time) After I ate Matt's omelet and he ate mine, we were off to see what we could see of the geyser. Since the temperature was a bit cooler, the geyser could be seen from a distance by the steam flowing out of it. Returning back to the playa we could see that it was very moist. Moist and playa means slime. Stay away unless you like getting stuck up to your axles. We took our chance crossing the playa to get to the other side where Black Rock resides. Almost got across without the shovel, strap and winch cable. But, since we tried not to make separate tracks (tread lightly) we still found mush. Just a few thousand feet behind Black Rock Point are a couple mini playas I needed to explore...and we did. Thinking on coming back to these playas on the June run to explore further on up the canyons. The weather was a bit cold and wet for this to happen at this time so we headed back down and over to Double Hot Springs. Triple digit temps 175-185 not good for swimming but good for cooking red potatoes. The wind was very strong that evening with scattered rain fall. We brought and gathered fire wood and had a nice hot fire to eat and drink near. The night brought more rain through to the morning. We packed up quickly to avoid the pouring rain. We then headed North to find a cross over trail to bring us back to the West side to head back home. We saw cute baby sheep, antelope, wild horses and awesome mountain meadow views. We saw one guy out there and the rest was ours to enjoy. In June I'd like to do pretty much the same trek. Warmer and dryer weather will make it a lot more enjoyable. See you in June!! TLTMSTR

# Trail Boss

*Steve Medley*

First of all I would like to thank everyone that does show up to what they can, that being said, I think that it is pretty sad that more people show up for a pre-run for a run 2 months off than show up for the actual scheduled run. The interest to go to Hollister was from a meeting that the club said they wanted to go someplace new to the group & we chose Hollister. Then no one shows and it was tough getting people to even respond only a couple people got back to me, so I called it because it didn't seem right just Kath the kids & I go.

The next few events please try to attend:

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** meeting is postponed to Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Fords home for the Bucket Party & Elections.

*Club Meeting/ Bucket Party* May 7<sup>th</sup> 1 pm meeting time, party to follow, at the Fords. Wear your best Derby hat; bring a dish or bottle of bourbon to share. Contact Geoff for directions.

**June 17-19** *Black Rock Canyon* Rich to be trail boss. Details to follow.

**July** Trek Pre-run, Chris to lead, details TBD

**August 11-14** Sierra Trek

# Editor Notes

**Members:** Please bring to the next meeting any past event attendance sign up sheets. Runs, meetings, events and alike. At the close of another year all sign in sheets, newsletters are filed away.

**Also Members:** To stay in good standing as a club member its important you attend the next meeting to participant in the board elections. You should attend all meetings but this one is very important and you have to be there to help the process. Now's your chance to show you care about the Sierra Treasure Hunters future as an active 4WD club.

The attendance at meetings and events have been really low. Club events cancelled do to lack of participation. It's hard to plan for runs when no one goes.

**Remember!!!**  
**The May STH meeting is at the**  
**FORDS**  
**Saturday May 7 2011**  
**Meeting time is 1:00 PM**  
**Drinks: BUCKET**  
**Snacks: POTLUCK**

# MAY 2011

| SUN                              | MON                                       | TUE | WED                                      | THU | FRI                                       | SAT  |
|----------------------------------|---|-----|--|-----|---|--|
| 1                                | 2   | 3   | 4<br>HAPPY<br>BIRTHDAY<br>Chris Collard  | 5   | 6   | 7<br>CLUB<br>MEETING<br>1 PM @ FORDS<br>Linda & Carrol |
| 8<br>HAPPY BDAY<br>Tessa & Macey | 9<br>HAPPY<br>BIRTHDAY<br>Deleaua Shannon | 10  | 11<br>Tina & Rich                        | 12  | 13  | 14   |
| 15                               | 16  | 17  | 18<br>HAPPY<br>BIRTHDAY<br>Kevin Kidwell | 19  | 20<br>HAPPY<br>BIRTHDAY<br>Kammy Burleson | 21   |
| 22                               | 23  | 24  | 25<br>Kathy & Steve                      | 26  | 27  | 28   |
| 29                               | 30  | 31  |  |     |   |  |