

FEBRUARY 2021



NEWSLETTER

Page 1 of 6

THERE'S STILL TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

There are still a handful of members who have not renewed their membership. I know it's an easy thing to overlook having put it off for a couple months myself but it's time to get it done. We need each and every one of you to keep things interesting around here and hope you do not let your membership lapse. You can renew via PayPal at paypal@sundowners4x4.org or simply give/mail a check to any board member. I hope to see you on the trail again this year!

IN THE NEWS

We have cleared the pending transactions and officially closed our Store Envy "store and returned to a local print shop for our T-shirts and other **club swag**. Orders will be put together twice a year. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and here in the newsletter for announcements and order forms.

Our annual "Big Brothers Big Sisters" event has created a lot of memories for countless children and has even drawn new members to the club as is the case with our newest member, Sarah. Although participation on the part of **Big Brothers Big Sisters** has faltered the club as a whole still strongly supports the effort. We were recently contacted by Earnest Spencer who, like Sarah, has fond memories of his time on the trail with club members. Earnest has asked if we would be interested in taking kids from his organization "**No Fences**" out on the trails this year much in the spirit of our past events with BB/BS. The idea was warmly received at our last meeting and we have reached back out to Spencer to put the details together. Please stay tuned for more information.

We have received several inquiries about a possible **recovery/safety training class** and our new Trailmaster is busy putting that together. Paul already has an instructor lined up and they are putting the finishing touches on a curriculum. He is also exploring the possibility of a first aid class if there is enough interest. We will post the details once a location and date have been decided.

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

FEBRUARY 2021



NEWSLETTER

Page 2 of 6

RECENT EVENTS

We kicked off 2021 with our annual winter run to Allegan (Doug's birthday run). Although we were a little short on snow we still put together a fun day in the woods for the 15 vehicles and their owners who showed up that morning. It ended up being a beautiful sunny day which led to multiple long breaks and a nice lunch gathering at "Slim's Point" overlooking the Kalamazoo River. We also managed to pick up a few other "Jeepers" along the way who wanted to gain a little more knowledge of the trail system out there. Nobody broke anything but we did manage to get a couple vehicles stuck. All in all, it was a great day!

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Mid-February again finds us in the snow, this time in Evart 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. This event just happened over the weekend and the pictures and stories are currently being shared on Facebook. We will recap their adventures in next month's newsletter.

In an effort to increase participation in our annual "Chili Run" we are exploring the possibility of bringing our pots of chili to Littlejohn Lake County Park and then doing a trail ride in the Allegan State Game Area. That would provide us with a good "base camp" and yet another opportunity to explore the trails up there. We will be working to put this together sometime next month.

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.
- Our annual Christmas party has been postponed due to Covid. We are hoping to reschedule later in the year (maybe July?).
- 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 the event if we did that.
- 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

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

FEBRUARY 2021



NEWSLETTER

Page 3 of 6

Gun Club's facility for that type of event. We are looking at late to mid-September or early October right now.

- 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? With the demise of the Two Trackers "Wheeling for a Cure" run there is a gap that needs to be filled there.
- We were recently contacted by the Toledo Ohio Convention & Visitors Bureau and the organizers of the **Toledo Jeep Fest** which is now in its 80th year. The event includes; concerts, live music, an ALL-Jeep Parade, Park and Shine, 2 home games with the Toledo Mud Hens, and of course JEEPS! If any members are interested in going we can work with the visitors bureau to secure accommodations and a spot in the parade. Sounds like the makings of a good time!

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 ALSO BE AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.*

Our next meeting will commence at 7:00 PM March 11th 2021.

WHEELING WEDNESDAY/MEET AND GREET SCHEDULE:

Meet and Greets are typically held at 6:00 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month although we have not been very successful in putting one together during this ongoing pandemic. We will post any "meet and greet" opportunities on our public Facebook page while we wait for things to return to normal sometime in the future. 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!

**FEBRUARY
2021**



NEWSLETTER

Page 4 of 6

2020/2021 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.

- March ??? Chili Run to Allegan
- **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 8th or 14th weekend "overlanding" run with Adam?
- **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**
- July 27th Christmas in July???
- August ???back to Silver Lake PUBLIC INVITED
- **August 6th, 7th and 8th - 80th annual Toledo Jeep Fest.**
- **September 2nd - 6th Annual Labor Day Weekend at Bundy Hill PUBLIC INVITED**
- **September 15th - 19th Gaylord/Vanderbilt Trail Ride (Elk Sighting)**
- September ?? Jeep swap meet at the Rod and Gun Club?
- **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.

FEBRUARY 2021



NEWSLETTER

Page 5 of 6

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 this month.

TURKEY AWARD: No nominations this month.

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 23rd Doug Romack
- February 28th Dan Murphy
- March 9th Jennifer Wyatt
- March 12th Kelli Tipton
- March 12th Tim Lamphere
- March 27th Elizabeth Seeger

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

**FEBRUARY
2021**



NEWSLETTER
Page 6 of 6

CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

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

TREASURER

Linda Shouldice
269--420--7561
las2691@gmail.com

SECRETARY

David Perigo
269-744-6283
Stealthfight@gmail.com

TRAIL MASTER

Paul Cochran
269-217-6180
paul_cochran42@yahoo.com

AFFILIATION DIRECTOR

Jason Bouma
269-324-7428
jbouma@gmail.com

IT/ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Kerry Robbins
269-217-1750
kerryoutside8@gmail.com

The Sundowners 4x4 email is: sundownerskalamazoo@gmail.com