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## WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE CLUB ACTIVITIES?

Does anybody actually wheel anymore? I see very few pictures and see very few posts from people who are out doing what their Jeep/Toyota/ Nissan/Etc was actually made to do. Have we just become another internet based group of Jeep owners with no interest in anything but adding another set of lights, or doing some other mod and then bragging about the vehicle's untapped potential? Is "four-wheeling" really just another victim of the pandemic? I've asked for feedback several times in this newsletter and have received none, no phone calls, no text, no private messages, and no responses to the newsletter post. I see hundreds of people reading the newsletters so I know you're still out there, but I'm at a loss as to what types of events will excite you and get you back out onto the trails. To be fair, there is still a very active group of members but they all have differing likes in the type of wheeling they prefer which results in small groups on any particular run. We still have a strong membership base and could easily have well attended runs like we had pre-pandemic but people just don't show up. We have had a good turn out for a couple of events such as the Kids In The Woods event and we had a great time even though the kids didn't show up. Should we take that to mean charity type events are what you want more of? How will we know without your feedback? I hope you will consider attending a meeting, a meet and greet, or even just making a phone call and sharing your thoughts. We need everyone's input to help keep this club moving in the direction you, the members, are looking for.

## DRUMMOND ISLAND WILDERNESS RESCUE VEHICLE

Sundowners 4X4 has committed \$500.00 to the fundraising efforts of the Drummond Island Fire Department and their goal of outfitting a side-by-side for wilderness rescue operations. The proposed UTV will carry up to four EMT's and a stretchered trauma patient in addition to emergency medical supplies. If you would like to contribute you can go to their official fundraising site at <https://gofund.me/8cb4f075> or, do it through the club to avoid the huge transaction fees assessed by gofundme. You can also donate in person or through our paypal and we will send our combined contribution directly to the fire department. If you donate through paypal please include a note indicating it is for the Drummond Island Fire Department's fundraiser. We will be sending our monies on August 1st so please send your donations in by then.

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The members that responded to the recent poll that was sent out via email overwhelmingly support our participation in the MDOT “Adopt a Highway” program. I hope that is an indication of planned participation as well since once we commit we are obligated to clean our section of highway. Clean-ups are held 3 times a year and mandatory safety training with the MDOT is involved. Trash pick-up dates are designated by MDOT at the beginning of each year to coincide with their seasonal mowing cycle. We need a minimum of 3 volunteers to be eligible. Please let Bill Johnson or any board member know if you would like to be part of this effort. We will be discussing this again during our August club meeting.

## WIN A COOL JEEP SIGN

Continuing our Summer of Slim fund-raiser; we have a one-of-a-kind rustic Jeep sign up for grabs. This sign was handmade by Slim and would be a great addition to your Den, Man Cave, or Garage. “Waffle” tickets are \$5.00 each and a drawing will be held during this year’s toy drive. If you haven’t seen it just stop at any Summer of Slim event or check out the meeting minutes from July to see a picture of it (the picture does not do it justice). This is a great piece of art that even a non-jeeper like me would be proud to own.

## RECENT CLUB EVENTS

Adam Doll volunteered to lead a run up to Silver Lake Sand Dunes on June 27th and as expected participation was low to non-existent. For whatever reason Silver Lake runs have never been really popular with this group so no one but Adam was surprised. We’ve always had a silver lake run or two on our calendar but they typically come and go with little fanfare. We thought maybe the lack of a designated “trail leader” was partially responsible and that having someone to actually organize the event would increase participation but to no avail. We may not bother adding Silver Lake to our list of destinations next year and let those runs spontaneously occur as people become interested.

Our evening at Butler Motor Speedway that happened on July 10th was again a huge hit with those that attended. Jeeps ended up on the track for the parade lap and between nearly every race for the rest of the night. The fireworks were once again incredible although I personally wish they would speed it up a little so I could get home at a decent time. The “flamethrowers” on top of turns 3 and 4 were a great addition! I felt the heat from them all the way over to my position on

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the backstretch. It was a great night and a fun event that we will continue until I retire from my duties on the safety truck. Not to worry, I have no plans of doing that anytime soon.

I'm not sure who all went to Bundy after leaving Butler in the morning but I heard a few showed up that weren't even part of Saturday's activities. Making this a two-day event is a no-brainer considering the track's proximity to Bundy Hill so that will probably remain part of this event as well.

### UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

There's not much happening in August but here's a little something for the "Jeepers".

## **Welcome back Jeepers! Join us in celebrating the 80th anniversary of Jeep!**

The Toledo Jeep® Fest is set for the weekend of August 6th, 2021! We invite you to start planning a trek to Northwest Ohio and the city of Toledo – HOME of the Jeep – as soon as possible. Due to challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to cancel our 2020 event in an abundance of caution for public health and safety. But in 2019, more than 70,000 attendees traveled from 32 states, Washington DC, Canada, the Czech Republic and even New Zealand to take part in the dynamic weekend-long event. We're optimistic about welcoming a broad spectrum of attendees in 2021 in celebration of the 80th anniversary of the iconic Jeep brand.

We have some special 80th anniversary activities planned, and you can count on Toledo Jeep Fest 2021 being action packed including many outdoor activities such as our signature All-Jeep Parade through downtown Toledo, a massive Vendor Midway, and much more.

Sign up for the parade, book a spot in our Vendor Midway, plan your stay or and sign up to receive more for the 2021 Toledo Jeep Fest!

We hope to see you in The Glass City in August 2021!

~ The Toledo Jeep Fest Board of Directors & Staff

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### October 23rd Spooky Trail Ride

It's not too early to start planning for our annual Color Tour and Spooky Trail Ride. Despite my earlier whining, this event remains one of our most popular and well attended events each year. Led by yours truly, the day starts with a color tour through the back roads of Allegan County and continues on late into the night with a "spooky" trail ride complete with goblins, ghouls, and stories of strange goings ons in our local state forest. You will want to have a GMRS radio in your vehicle so you can be part of the story telling along the way. I'm just beginning to put a route together but it's sure to be a good time. Look for more details in upcoming newsletters.

### Recap of new and old business items

- Check out our updated website, Sundowners4x4.org and let us know what you think needs tweaking.
- Show up to any event or meeting to be entered into a drawing for a cool prize to be held at the end of the year.
- Jeep Night at The Dock on Bayview continues through September with a different theme each month.
- Meetings are being held at the Club Car Grill on D Avenue for at least the remainder of the year.
- You can support our fundraising efforts by purchasing one or two of our special "Summer of Slim" stickers. All proceeds go towards our December Toy Drive.
- Please update your address if you have moved. It's also a good idea to verify your email address and phone number at least annually.

### 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 August 12th 2021.**

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## **WHEELING WEDNESDAY/MEET AND GREET SCHEDULE:**

Meet and Greets are typically held at 6:00 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. 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!

Our Meet and Greet schedule has been put on hold for the summer to allow us to support the themed **Jeep Night** at The Dock at Bayview. Jeep Nights will be held on the 1st Wednesday of every month from May through September. All 4X4 enthusiasts are welcome to attend regardless of the vehicle you are driving with reserved parking specifically for Jeeps. . . .

## **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.

- **August 6th, 7th and 8th - 80th annual Toledo Jeep Fest - PUBLIC EVENT**
- **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 4th - Jay "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.**

## **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 so Paul Cochran still has it.

**TURKEY AWARD:** No nominations so Tim Lamphere still has it.

## **INFORMATION CENTER:**

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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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- 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**

### **Anniversaries:**

July 20th Adam and Sarah Doll  
July 24th Jon and Karen Martin  
July 26th Bob and Glenda Bowman  
August 18th David and Melissa Perigo

### **Birthdays:**

July 20th Sarah Doll  
July 24th Karen Martin  
July 26th Glenda Bowman  
August 2nd Candy Boria Pounders  
August 3rd Becky Fenwick  
August 12th Scott Carr  
August 14th Elizabeth Terrill  
August 19th Rhonda Wine  
August 22nd Jim Robbins  
August 23rd Eileen Johnson  
August 24th Cleo (Roger Miller)  
August 27th Jody Siefker

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August 31st Troy Quakenbush

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