

**MAY  
2021**



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## PARTICIPATION AWARD?

Would you like a chance to win a cool prize for just showing up? Well, here's your chance. Starting with our last club meeting, we are giving out 1 ticket to each member that shows up to a club function. That includes; meetings, runs, meet and greets, etc. At the end of the year one ticket will be drawn and one lucky winner will receive a cool prize. We are still looking for ideas but want it to be something nice, perhaps valued at several hundred dollars. Send your ideas or, just watch for updates. We will come up with something everyone would love to have.

## IN THE NEWS

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.** We have moved! Our regular club meetings are now being held at the Club Car Grill located at 6225 West D Avenue Kalamazoo, MI. With the ongoing construction along I-94 access to our previous meeting location is severely restricted. When added to the recent loss of their back room for our meeting the decision was made to look for another venue. We tried the Club Car last month and it went very well so we reserved the room for the rest of the year. It is a little less centralized but hopefully it will work out for us.

The first **Jeep night** held at The Dock at Bayview was, I thought, a huge success. I'm not sure how many rigs showed up but there were over 30 Sundowners in attendance. If you missed the announcement last month, The Dock at Bayview has teamed up with Sundowners 4X4 to create an opportunity for Jeepers to show off their rigs and/or hang out with other Jeepers. 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. Come on out and join the fun!

**Summer of Slim.** Our April 15th "Go Topless" event kicked off our Summer of Slim memorial fundraiser. Proceeds from the topless event along with other yet to be announced events will be used to fund our Christmas toy drive. We think this is a fitting tribute to a man who became friends with many of us during the few short years we had with him. His enthusiasm for the toy drive and his love of children makes this an effort he would be proud of. As part of this fundraising effort there will also be opportunities to win a custom piece of Jeep themed wall art created by Slim in his final days and autographed on the back by Slim. Even though there are a few who would cherish the piece just because Slim made it, the decision was made to put it to good use just the way Slim would have wanted. Come and see it at any club meeting and put your name in the drawing for this one-of-a-kind work of art.

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## RECENT EVENTS

With less than a month to prepare our “Go Topless” committee managed to put together a fun event. Our event was held in conjunction with Extreme Terrains “Go Topless Day” which is a worldwide one day event. Extreme Terrain sponsors these events by providing shirts, banners, and other cool swag plus, offering a matching \$500.00 donation to our fundraising efforts. We selected our own Summer of Slim as the charity/fundraiser and will be submitting the required documents to receive the matching funds. Thank you, Paul, Kerry, Lecia, and Linda for your efforts in putting this together, and O’Reilly Auto Parts on Gull Road for hosting the event!

Although lightly attended, our April run up to Grayling was a blast according to those that were there. Plans for making this an annual event are underway with a decision already having been made to move it into May next year. Look for this event next year and take advantage of this opportunity to get outside of our normal play area with some capable and knowledgeable trail leaders.

## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

May 27th - 31st finds us back at Bundy Hill for our annual Memorial Day run. We have 13 campsites reserved but check with Tim to find out about availability as they typically fill up fast.

Sunday June 13th is the date of our new “**Kids in the Woods**” event with the charitable group No Fences. This event is the brainchild of Earnest Spencer who has fond memories of Jeep rides with Sundowners 4X4 when he was with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. We will hold the event at Rouch World in Sturgis. Look for an event to be created shortly on our Facebook page. Unlike our last couple events with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Earnest promises to bring a “bus load” of kids with 20 already signed up. Now we just need Jeeps to show them a good time. Take your tops off and join us for a day spent making kids smile.

## Recap of new and old business items

- Jeep Night at The Dock on Bayview starts May 1st.
- Our 2020 Christmas Party died from Covid. See you in 2021.
- 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.

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- Is there any interest in putting together a swap meet this year? We are thinking of doing something at the presidential estate later this fall.
- We are still planning to hold another off-road/recovery/safety training class later this year. Details are still being worked out with a date to be determined by the trainer's schedule.
- Paul is hard at work putting together a Sundowners highway clean-up. The "Adopt a Highway" program gets our name on a sign along a local highway and gives us another chance to give back to the community. Bonus, it makes driving on the highway a little more enjoyable.

### **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 June 10th 2021.**

### **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 April meet and greet at Fricano's was well attended and very reminiscent of our typical pre-covid meet and greets. Hopefully this translates into a good turnout for the recently announced Jeep Nights at The Dock at Bayview. Our plan is to suspend meet and greets until fall and instead encourage everyone to join us at the aforementioned Jeep Night. We will resume our regular meet and greet schedule in October.

### **2020/2021 TENTATIVE CLUB CALENDAR - BOLD = CONFIRMED DATE**

<http://sundowners4x4.org/calendar/>

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PLEASE NOTE; all events are private or, by invitation only, unless specifically listed as public.

- **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 13th - Kids in the Woods**
- **July 10th Butler Speedway fireworks spectacular - PUBLIC INVITED**
- **July 19th + 20th Heroes On The Dunes, Silver Lake**
- 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)**
- **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.**

### **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:** Paul Cochran still has it.

**TURKEY AWARD:** Tim Lamphere still has it.

### **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.

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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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## **MEMBER CELEBRATIONS**

### **Birthdays:**

May 18th Glenda Bowman  
June 12th Melissa Perigo  
June 22nd Edward Delisle

## **CLUB OFFICERS:**

### **PRESIDENT**

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

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

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