

OCTOBER 2020



NEWSLETTER

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Late again

Here I am yet again running late with the newsletter. Before I move on I will briefly share highlights of the last few weeks in my life just to help you understand why.

I was just 5 minutes into our October monthly meeting when my phone rang. Expecting news about my ailing dad I answered only to hear my little sister tell me one of my brothers was in the hospital and not expected to live until morning. Our secretary, Dave Perrigo, took over the meeting and I left to pick up my mother and take her up to see her son. Much to everyone's surprise he pulled through the night and passed 3 days later and only one day behind Dad. Death number 3 came exactly a week later with the passing of my aunt who was my mother's last living sibling. To say October was difficult for my family, and especially my mother, would be an understatement. Hopefully the end of 2020 brings a reprieve for all of us who have endured much over the last few months.

More Cancellations

As you probably figured out I cancelled the fall Color Tour and Spooky Night Run due to one of several funerals I attended in the last couple weeks falling on that day. With only a few days notice there really wasn't time to bring a stand in trail leader up to speed even if one could have been found. I was really looking forward to that run after almost a year's worth of cancelled events. Once again 2021 looms brightly with the promise of a much better year.

Another recent cancellation is our long standing Toys-For-Tots event by our host, Menards on Gull Road. Rather than scramble to find a new location it was decided to just go with it and write it off as another casualty of the Covid crisis gripping our state. This will be a huge blow to the Marine Corps Toys-For-Tots campaign considering the massive amount of toys we have collected every year. I hope you will all find a collection site and overwhelm it with donations just as we have in the past. Let's not make this any worse for the children than it has already been and hold our own individual campaign to keep the Christmas spirit alive despite the powers working against us.

As far as the club is concerned, I am very concerned about the impact 2020 has had on the club. We are all discouraged by the nearly constant stream of cancelled events and the severe lack of participation in club business. I am hopeful that each of you will continue as members and help us salvage a very fractured Sundowners 4x4 Club. Whomever you blame for this crisis whether it be the federal government, the governor, China, or some other power or entity, please know the board is scrambling behind the scenes and working hard to keep the club together. Let's all band together as the dedicated group that we are and see 2020 through looking forward to 2021 as a new year filled with a renewed hope for a return to normalcy.

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Annual Allegan State Game Area clean up

Just a reminder that we are putting the final pieces together for a trail clean-up in the spring of 2021. Thanks to Mark and Lisa Roodbergen's generous donation we already have at least one dumpster covered so we can begin to concentrate on the other work that is yet to be done to pull this event off. Please mark your calendars for April 10th, 2021 as we hold our 5th annual clean-up of the trails and seasonal roads throughout the Allegan State Game Area. Look for additional information here and on our various Facebook pages as we get closer to spring.

Recap of new business items

- Is it time for a new board or new board members? Get your nominations in for our December election which is sure to be less contentious than some others.
- We gained 2 new members at our October club meeting. We look forward to seeing Mike Tyler and Tom Fenwick at future events and getting to know them.
- 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 Gun Club's facility for that type of event
- 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? Maybe we could make some of our most popular events fundraisers for other local organizations. Yes, no?
- Shari French has turned in the last t-shirt order for 2020. Look for another opportunity to purchase club swag in March 2021.
- Who wants to see more Allegan and Yankee Springs trail rides? How about Baldwin or the Manistee Forest? Bring your thoughts to us for consideration.
- What to do about meet and greets is another topic that needs input from the members. Let's hear your ideas.
- Our club bank account is relatively healthy. What are your thoughts on ways we can benefit the members with it?
- Should we utilize Gilmore's for more Meet and Greets? Cool thought.
- As mentioned earlier, how do we increase participation in club activities? Let's find ways to build some excitement as we wind this year down.
- Should we do a club membership drive? Where, when, and how?

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RECENT EVENTS

Our run to Drummond Island continues to be a very popular event and with good reason. The island offers some, if not the, best trails in the entire state and Marc and Shari love to share their favorite wheeling destination with the club. This year's event was so well attended that we decided to hold our monthly Meet and Greet on the island. If you missed it you missed another great run! I encourage all of you to add it to your bucket list of "must do" adventures. You will not be sorry!

Scott Carr tossed together an impromptu run up to Allegan on what was supposed to be the night of our haunted night run. Considering how wet it was it was probably just as well the bigger event was cancelled. Nobody broke, and nobody got stuck but everybody had a good time. Thanks for putting it together Scott! Let's do more of those spur of the moment runs.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

November 4th through 8th is the schedule for our Lake City to Grayling run. Marc and Shari will be leading this one and have mapped out an amazing run! If you like trail rides this is a good one! Campgrounds and hotels are available nearby and there is still room for you. The event will kick off at South Higgins Lake State Park and is posted on our private facebook page.

CLUB MEETINGS:

- Meetings are held at Travelers Cafe and Pub 5225 Portage Road, 49002 at 7:00pm, the second Thursday of every month. Everyone is invited to meet up with the group at 5:30 for dinner prior to the meeting.

Our next meeting will commence at 7:00 PM November 12th 2020.

WHEELING WEDNESDAY/MEET AND GREET SCHEDULE:

Meet and Greets are held at 6:00 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. **Our next Meet and Greet will be held at Millers Time Out on Helmer Road in Battle Creek on November 16th.** If you are in the area be sure to stop by and say hi. Meet and Greets are PUBLIC events. Guests and visitors are encouraged to attend!

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2020/2021 TENTATIVE CLUB CALENDAR

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

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

- November 4th - 8th, Lake City to Grayling - meet at South Higgins Lake State Park
- January 9th Christmas Party preceded by a run down to Rouch World
- January 30th Doug's Birthday Run through The Allegan State Game Area
- February 19th - 21st Winter Run in snowy Ewart Michigan
- March ??? Chili Run to Bundy??? PUBLIC INVITED
- March 20th Redbird/Badlands/or Windrock???
- April 10th Allegan State Game Area Trail Clean-up PUBLIC INVITED
- April 23rd - 25th Jeep the Mac 2021
- April 24th Baldwin Run???
- April 21st - 25th Grayling Run???
- May Redbird Run???
- May 2nd 20th annual Jeep Blessing in Mesick
- May 27-31 Memorial Day Run at Bundy Hill (13 campsites are reserved)
- June ??? Club Run to Silver Lake PUBLIC INVITED
- June 26th White Cloud Run
- July 10th Butler Speedway fireworks spectacular PUBLIC INVITED
- August ???back to Silver Lake PUBLIC INVITED
- September 2nd - 6th Annual Labor Day Weekend at Bundy Hill PUBLIC INVITED
- September 4th Silverton Colorado???? BIG MAYBE
- October ??? Drummond Island
- October Fall Color Tour and Night Run
- December Toys For Tots
- 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.

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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: No nominations this month.

TURKEY: No nominations.

INFORMATION CENTER:

- Club members, please send David 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:

Troy Lamphere 10-26

Mike Bush 10-30

Kevin Pounders 11-19

Jerry Seeger 11-22

CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT

Tim Lamphere

517-819-0057

nmtim66@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Doug Wine

269-217-7863

my01tacoma@gmail.com

The Sundowners 4x4 Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Tim @ 5178190057

WEBSITE: www.sundowners4x4.org

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TREASURER

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

SECRETARY

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

TRAIL MASTER

Shari French
269-760-1187
sharifrench123@hotmail.com

AFFILIATION DIRECTOR

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

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