



THE GOPHER TRAP

EST: JUNE 1965

ISSUE: FEBRUARY 2020

Meetings: First Friday of the Month 6:30 pm
Wyandotte Grange, 4910 Foothill Blvd., Oroville
ophirgopherjeepclub@gmail.com

Events

- Feb. 2, 7:30-10:30 am
Grange Breakfast
\$8
- Feb. 7, 6:30 pm
Meeting
- Feb. 8
Devil's Gap Snow Run
- Feb. 12, 6:00 pm
Grange Bunco
\$5
- Feb. 14
Valentine's Day
- Feb. 15, 5:00-6:30 pm
Grange Dinner
\$8, "Soup Galore"
- Feb. 17
President's Day



From the Summit

Jerry Roberson, President

Greetings from the desk of your President and welcome to 2020. Thank you, Sharon Cherry, for hosting the annual run planning meeting. The spaghetti was fantastic as were all the side dishes provided by other members. I look forward to our runs this year. With that said, I'll leave it to our Trail Master to provide all the details of the runs.

The January run was a nice little run even though there was little to no snow. At a glance, one might think it was an invasion of the Samurai since we had three guest rigs, all in Suzuki Samurais. It was a pleasure having Charlie, Dan, Ted, Kyle, and Kylie along with us.

We need to start thinking about Feather Fiesta Days. Last year we did not have enough time to put together a booth. We need to discuss what we want to do and possibly put together a preparations schedule. Just something to consider.

I'm confident our next meeting will be filled with stories of the adventures had at Winter Fun. It's a bummer Bev and I aren't able to attend, but there's always next year. Don't have too much fun Saturday night without us. I have great memories, although some are a bit foggy, of our shenanigans there. Definitely great times.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Ophir Gopher Jeep Club. Let's make it memorable and keep the club thriving for future generations.

Thank you,

Jerry Roberson

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Straight from the Gopher's Mouth

Joie Cherry, Secretary

Minutes of the January Meeting

- Meeting called to order by Jerry Roberson, President, at 6:38 pm
- Attendees:
 - Members: Judy Bennett; Cheryl & David Casagrande; Joie Cherry & Vanessa Purdy; Sharon Cherry; Troy & Jody Jobe; Miguel Madrigal; Bev & Jerry Roberson; Keith Van Zandt
 - Guests: Gail Coleman; Charlie Miller; Dan Tiedemann
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Troy.
- Secretary's Report – Joie Cherry, Secretary
 - Motion made, and seconded, to accept the minutes of the December meeting as written.
 - Called to vote and motion carried.
- Treasurer's Report – Judy Bennett, Treasurer
 - Motion made by Joie, seconded by Cheryl, to approve the treasurer's report.
 - Called to vote and motion carried.
- Delegate's Report – David Casagrande, Delegate
 - North District Meeting
 - New bylaws proposals are listed in the current *In Gear*
- Trail Master's Report – Keith Van Zandt, Trail Master
 - Sat., Jan. 11 is the snow run to the Feather Falls area. Leave Lakeside at 9:00 am.
 - Thur., Jan.16 is the Run Planning meeting at Sharon's house at 6:30 pm. Spaghetti will be served. Bring a side dish.
 - Jan. 24-26 is Winter Fun Fest in Grass Valley.
- Old Business
 - None
- New Business
 - Motion was made by Jerry, seconded by Sharon, to purchase a Thank You card with a gift card.
 - Called to vote and motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.
- Dinner at Grande Burger.

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Off the Beaten Path

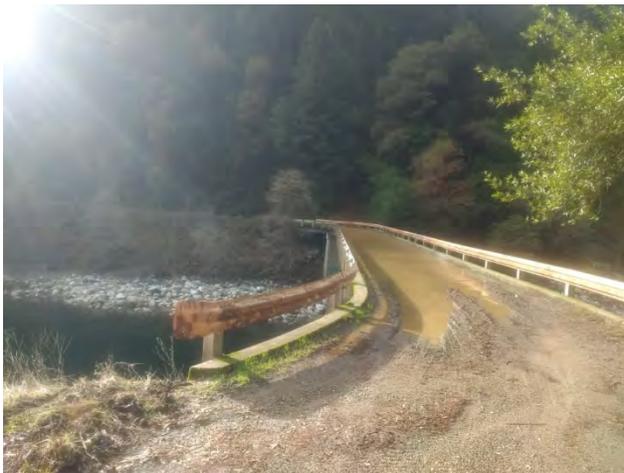
Keith Van Zandt, Trail Master

Greetings, fellow Gophers.



I would say the January run went well. Kind of a cold and damp day, a dusting of snow on the road. Not much in the way of obstacles. We had three members and three guests. At times it looked a little like a Samurai convention. We went thru Feather Falls and up the La Porte Rd. and took the Milsap Bar Road. There was a tree across the road just a few yards from the turnoff. A little chainsaw work and a skilled operator (thanks, Danny) and we were on the way again. Luckily the road was open all the way. Even made it home in time to see the last of the 49ers game.

The bad news...nobody screwed up enough to earn the bell. Maybe next time.



We had two events in January, so here is the report on the second event: Winter Fun 2020.

The event went well. There are not many vendors in attendance anymore. The kid's raffle went well, some kids really cleaned up. The adult raffle went well. Better for some than others. As usual I got zilch, but someone won the winch—or is that the wench?

The trail we were on was interesting to say the least. I assumed too much and got us on a much more difficult trail than planned. I thought, "a snow run, what could go wrong?" Signed us up for an extreme run. I figured maybe some deep snow, shoveling, some straps or winches. No problem, what could go wrong? Let the big dogs break trail and we just go along for the ride.

Wrong!

It seems we would be going on the Fordyce Trail as far as the first water crossing. This trail is rated a 5 or 5+. And we are going in the winter! Some areas of snow, but lots of water and wet muddy rocks. Lots and lots of wet muddy rocks.

With luck and lots of bumping we made it to the lunch stop at the first water crossing. It was mostly down hill to this part. The fun part came when trying to get back up the same muddy rocks. Lots of bumps, trying different lines, and using a little momentum. Just plain tough going! But we made it.

I know I was very relieved when we got out of there. I think the lack of pictures from this part of the trail is a testament to how tough it was. One tip I used over the years was to watch the rig in front of you to help figure out what to do or not do. In this case, all three of us took a shot to the license plate.



A big thanks to everyone.



Remember When

Sharon Cherry



Ophir Gopher party
January 1979



Cal4Wheel Convention, Fresno
February 1979

BLOOD DRIVE

Show your heart & **donate blood**



Oroville Community Blood Drive

Thursday, February 6 1 - 5 p.m.
Oroville Sports Club - 2600 Oro Dam Blvd.

This lifesaving event is sponsored in part by Oroville Sports Club.
For an appointment, contact Vitalant at 530.893.5433.

Please bring a photo ID. Please eat well & drink plenty of water prior to donating.

 GIVE BLOOD TODAY | vitalant.org 

Camp Food

Barbara Van Zandt

Campfire Nachos

Prep Time: 5 min

Cook Time: 10 min

Total Time: 15 min

Servings: 2 dinner or 4 appetizers



Equipment

4 qt Dutch oven
Chimney starter
Dutch oven parchment liners

Ingredients

1 tbsp. neutral-flavored oil
½ lb. tortilla chips
1 (7.75 oz) can El Pato hot tomato sauce
1 cup shredded Mexican cheese blend
1 (14.5 oz) can black beans, drained
1 large avocado, cubed
4-5 green onions, sliced
Handful of fresh cilantro, chopped
1 small lime, cut into wedges

Instructions

- 1.
2. Lightly oil the bottom of a large Dutch oven.
3. For the first layer, evenly spread 1/3 of the chips into the Dutch oven, topped with ¼ can El Pato, ¼ can black beans, ¼ cup cheese, and a handful of avocado, green onions, and cilantro. Repeat for the second layer.
4. For the third layer, use the remaining 1/3 portion of chips, ½ can El Pato, ½ can black beans, ½ cup cheese, and the remaining avocado, onion, and cilantro.
5. Cover the Dutch oven and place on a metal grill over your campfire for about 10 min, until the cheese has melted. Serve with the lime wedges.