

The Treasure Chest



July 2017

Newsletter of the Sierra Treasure Hunters 4WD club

PO Box 859, Weimar CA, 95736



SIERRA TREASURE HUNTERS 4WD CLUB

Club Officers

President - Andrea Harris

Past President - Doug Baker

Vice President - Linda Bryant

Secretary - Lili Bryant

Treasurer - Kathy Medley

Trail Master - George Knowlton

State Delegate - Vacant

Membership - Cari McCullen

Ways & Means - Penny Ford

Webmaster - Rory Huber

Editor - Doug Baker



Our Forests, Our Heritage



“Our lands - Use Without Abuse”



Keep Them Green, Keep Them Clean

Web Site

<http://www.sth4x4.com>

Mailing Address

PO Box 859
Weimar CA, 95736



A Word From the President

by Andrea Harris

It's summer and STH started it off with a bang! Achieve Tahoe was a great success and a great run. Thank you George for being our front man and trail master for the trip, and thank you to everyone who came and offered a ride to the participants. DNA rolled in the Medley Jeep and are very appreciative of Kathy's offer to use it. I'm so glad we were able to participate. Quite a bit has transpired since our last meeting: El Jefe received the order of STH flags. I have them and will hand them out at the next meeting at Casa Medley. Please bring \$15 if you ordered an extra flag and for those of you not attending the meeting or those that I will not be seeing in a while, I will put yours in the mail after the meeting.

A board meeting with the new board was held on June 10th at Kathy's. We started it off by creating a year-long calendar with the hopes that better planning may allow more participation when we schedule ahead. The calendar includes club meeting dates, club runs and other events that we participate in such as Winter Fun, Convention, Sierra Trek, Toy Run & Christmas Party and some events that support 4wheeling. Thank you to Rory for making our calendar easily accessible. Below is Rory's note about where you can find the calendar info.

There are three electronic STH calendars.

1) STH website "Future Trips"

http://www.sth4x4.com/trips_future.html

2) STH Google calendar with STH & other options that are non-STH competitive. If you are currently using Google calendar you can add the STH Google Calendar to your current Google calendar display

<http://www.sth4x4.com/calendar.html>

3) STH Facebook page. You must have a Facebook user account and be a member of our "Closed Group" on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/60783450266/events/>

The latter is your best option for last minute group notification. The Facebook page can be reached by most from home, meeting spots, trail, etc... so this may be the best spot to reach out for last minute info as you may be reaching a greater audience.

Of course, our club email should be used, too, and it is always good to have either a club roster on hand or have any phone numbers you may need in your phone.

Membership outreach was discussed and we agreed to revive our STH brochure, we last printed it during our 50th, so it is being revised and will be available soon. Simple business cards are also going to be produced to make it easy to hand to an interested party. The cards will have a space for you to write your phone/email on them. We decided that future members will receive two vehicle decals, a copy of the by-laws and a club flag included in their new member packet.

The annual budget was reviewed for clarification on donations made by the club through the year. Currently there is \$300 in the President's budget for allocation which can be used for this purpose. If we wish to donate more, we will just vote on it. This means we are not obligated/committed to any donations and can decide as we go.

I look forward to seeing you at the July meeting at Kathy's. We will be the taste testers for some of the items she plans on making for Sierra Trek dinner. Yum!! I like food.....

The Editor Speaks

By Doug Baker

Well, it's that time again. It's amazing how what was previously words overflowing in my brain turns to a deafening silence when confronted with a Word document open and waiting. I eagerly await the future AI assistant ready to take down my thoughts as they coalesce. I guess it's a symptom of my life these days. I have lots of nebulous plans floating around in the vast galaxy of my mind, but when it comes time to make those ideals into something concrete and actionable, they seem harder to capture than one of those ultra-rare Pokemon.

I'll start off with a thank-you to all that supplied some filler for this month's newsletter. Any and all input is appreciated. I'll cheat a little and write a separate article for our viewpoint on the Achieve Tahoe run that we participated in. We also have Kris's submission for a run record and a great template for writing an article for a run. It can't get easier than this! We'll also see a member spotlight on our newest member. We'll have a quick run-down on July's run. And lots of pics. I know anyone that has FB will have seen them, but this way the world outside will see our hijinks, too.

For anyone looking to submit to the newsletter, understand that however you choose to send it is fine. I'll take Word documents of any version, .pdf's, email articles, attached photos of any kind, napkin scribbles, whatever! Two sentences, two paragraphs, or two pages, it's all good!

Vice President's Report

By Linda Bryant

Ways and Means

By Penny Ford

Next meeting will be July 6th at 7:00 pm at Kathy's Kitchen Kween Casa. Be there for a taste of the Trek menu.

STH ARTICLE TEMPLATE

By Kris Bryant

When writing ANY type of informative article, you ALWAYS want to include the FIVE W's & an H. What are the 5 W's & the H I speak of, you ask? The FIVE W's are WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, and the H is HOW. When writing, you may need to rearrange the order of these, in order for the piece to flow properly. But for the sake of easy remembering (and since this is how I learned them when I took a journalism class in High School), we will keep them in this order; and for the sake of simplicity, all references will be towards writing an article for the STH newsletter, assuming it's about a run.

WHO – Who went? This would include members and guests. You would also want to include who led the run.

WHAT – What was the event/run? i.e. – DSUS, Winter Fun, Deer Valley Trail, Toy Run, etc. Pretty self-explanatory.

WHEN – When was the event? Simple, just include the dates/days of the week.

WHERE – Where was it? You want to include a better description of the trail/event location. Assume someone is reading the article that is NOT part of the 4-wheeling community, so you want to include at least a general idea of WHERE the event took place, should they want to look into the location for a future trip.

WHY – Why did STH/members participate. Include reasons why the event took place. Was it a fundraiser, or for a charitable cause (ie Toy Run or DSUS)? It always looks good when you show why we do what we do. If it's nothing more than just the monthly club run, then say that (ie – Our monthly run was to...)

HOW – How did things go? This is where you get to have “fun”. Include ANYTHING and EVERYTHING of interest. This is where you get to mention when so & so did such & such. You'll also want to keep in mind if anyone found anything of interest on the run (ie – an old bottle, an interesting rock, or some interesting artifact from the past); after all, we are the Sierra Treasure Hunters for a reason. Plus, this allows Penny (or any future board member) to properly give those fun awards that we have.

STH RUN/EVENT NOTES

WHO ATTENDED	Trailmaster		
members			
GUESTS			
WHAT WAS THE RUN/EVENT			
WHEN DID THE RUN/EVENT TAKE PLACE			
	MONTH	DAY	YEAR
WHERE (LOCATION)			
WHY (SPECIAL EVENT?)			
HOW (NOTEABLE EVENTS)			
TREASURES FOUND	DESCRIPTION	FOUND BY	
ROCK			
BOTTLE			
ARTIFACT			
OTHER			

PRODUCT REVIEW – Teva Sandals

By Suzy Collard

I've had the same pair of Tevas for about 15 years. When they aren't on my feet, they live in the original box on a shelf in my closet. These shoes have been on lots of adventures in the U.S. and around the world.

Last month, my Tevas, Chris and I traveled to Baja with a plan to visit a couple of areas with cave drawings. Near Mulege, the canyons of La Trinidad have multiple locations of centuries-old artwork. Our guidebook mentioned hikes that include river crossings which may require swimming across.

The historical sites are federally protected and visitors must be accompanied by a guide. Reservations can be made in Mulege or you can go directly to Rancho La Trinidad and arrange for someone at the ranch to take you. Chris and I opted to go directly to the ranch, preferring to go straight to the source. No problem, except when you can't find the ranch because you are in the middle of the desert and there aren't exactly any street signs. Nor are there any markers of significant value. The guidebook indicated "the drive to the ranch involves several unsigned turns" and recommended getting detailed directions from hotels in Mulege. But we were already in the desert, about 30 miles from Mulege and had no intention of turning back.



Nonetheless, with an innate sense of direction and only one turn around, my chauffeur got us on the right path, I mean 'road'. We found La Trinidad to be probably the best maintained and most organized-looking small ranch in Baja. As we pulled to a stop in front of the casa, a pack of noisy dogs came out to greet us. They turned out to be 'friendlies' and patting their heads, we waded through to the front porch. As we walked, I noticed the toe-end sole of my left Teva was separating. Lucky for me, I am married to the original MacGyver. A few zip ties later, I was good to go.

The ranch caretaker came out and we asked about going to see the cave art. At first, Jose was hesitant to take us. Between his limited English and our Spanglish, we learned that the small rowboat owned by the Mulege tour guide was chainlocked and he didn't have a key to the lock. Chris asked about the water depth and Jose indicated just above knee deep. It was a warm afternoon and wading through a creek sounded refreshing. The three of us started the hike and were quickly joined by two of the more energetic dogs. About five minutes into the hike, the heel portion of my Teva separated and made a flip flop sound as I walked along the rocky path. The zip tie portion held fast!



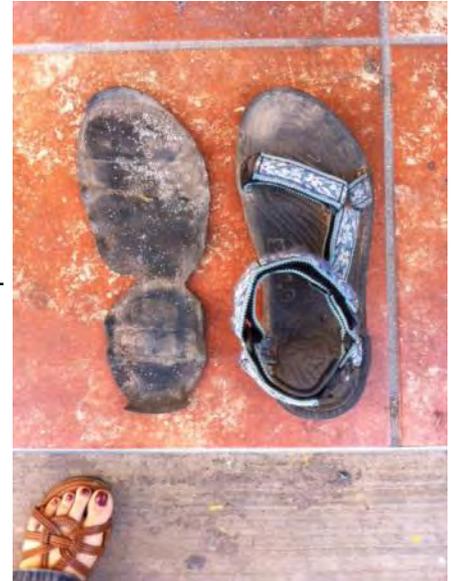
15 minutes later, we reached the creek and I stepped into the cool water. What started out as knee deep, quickly went to 'neck deep' when I found the drop off spot. (Uh Jose, you forgot to mention the drop off.) I took a few swim strokes and made my way to another shallow area. I turned to see Jose frantically using a rock to try to break the lock on the chained rowboat. That's when we learned Jose can't swim.

Product Review—Tevaa (cont.)

Once again MacGyver had a solution. Putting his camera bag above his head, he ferried the bag over to me on the creek's 'island'. (See Chris' photo in last month's newsletter showing me walking the shallow portion of the canyon creek.) He then went back to fetch our guide. Jose clung to Chris' neck and they swam the short distance to the shallow end of the pool and laughed as he made it to the safe zone. To his credit, Jose put his trust in a stranger he couldn't understand just so we could continue our journey.

A short distance from the creek brought us to an incredible mural display of handprints, humans, a deer and fish paintings. One human figure appears to have arrows piercing its body. I've never seen anything like it and it was humbling to imagine the primitive existence of these ancient artists and their determination to document their history. I wanted to know more details of the stories they were telling. How long ago had they lived in this area? How many were they? History books and anthropologists could provide theories, but I wondered about the specific artist(s) who created these images. What was he/she like and what did the artwork mean to the others in their family? (Again, see last month's newsletter for Chris' photo of this area.)

The late afternoon was turning to evening as we started our hike-swim back to the ranch. As we approached the outskirts, I looked down and came across the full sole of my right Teva (reminder to readers that Chris 'Macgyvered' my left shoe). Funny, I had lost it on the way to the canyon and never even noticed.



NOTE: This article started out to be a product review for Teva sandals and the author got a little carried away with the story that led to the review.

I originally invested \$44.99 for shoes that I had a longer relationship with than my husband, my first 4Runner and even my dog. For about the same \$50ish, I will get another pair. I can only hope the company has maintained its high quality standards and the new pair will last through many more miles of hiking, creek crossings and the like.



The End

Achieve Tahoe Run

By Doug Baker

For the second year in a row (!) Andrea and I attended the Achieve Tahoe (formerly Disable Sports USA) club run. For the first time ever, we didn't drive our own vehicle. In an effort to maximize the ability of the participants to have a seat, it was all hands on deck for drivers. Unfortunately, our rig is suffering from a transmission malady that still await funds for necessary parts. Happily, Kathy came to our rescue and offered to allow us to drive the Medfly Wrangler for the day. This would allow Andrea and I to both go on the run and still have a seat available for a participant. Until the pups are comfortable riding on the roof, they'll have to stay home for trips like these.



To ensure we would be able to make the start time, we had to get up a little early in order to drive to Kathy's and swap out the Charger for the Wrangler. A transfer of stuff from one to the other was quickly accomplished and we set out following Kathy and Merci in their white Taco. Hey! This thing drives a little bit differently from my 17 year older leaf-sprung CJ! Once the steering wheel interface calibration had some time to acclimate to the new characteristics, knuckle whitening lessened.

A quick stop at Fresh Pond for a splash of fuel and coffee, and we made the meeting point at the China Flat campground just as George was coming down the road. Soon, Darold, Matt, Carl, Jefe, Suzy, and the participants all rolled in. Chris was experiencing his first challenge of the day involving his truck. A power steering hose was to blame for this instance. Andrea correctly surmised he would arrive just as the

group was departing.

Before we left, everyone signed the paperwork leaving all their worldly possessions to me (what? You mean you didn't actually read the form?). A dissemination of tasty treats for lunch and a quick brief of the day's events and we were off. And then Chris showed up.

It wasn't long before the effects of all of the year's snowfall made an appearance. The runoff from melting snow had rutted up a section of trail just past the cattle run camp. With a little spotting, everyone made it through unscathed. Happily, this would be the rule of the day. The rest of the way to the lunch spot was spent enjoying the incredible show nature had in store for us.

Lunch was consumed with the added bonus of an outdoor view that was hard to beat. It's funny how much better sandwiches and chips taste when they're eaten outside under the canopy of a clear blue sky and tree tops. The bees even gave us a break this year and didn't seem to be as pesky as they were last time.



The real excitement was just up the trail. George had preran the trail prior to the event and had informed us that there were feet of snow ahead that might prove difficult. Challenge accepted! Carl was in the maiden voyage of his newest acquisition, a 2015 JK with quite a few bells and whistles. I think his passenger might have double dog dared him, too. After several tries, Carl finally succeeded in lifting a wheel. He did take a novel route by dropping the front passenger tire three feet in a snow drift, but, hey, results are results.



Next up was Chris, who felt one-upmanship was the name of the game. He decided dropping one tire in the empty channel of the snow bank was not nearly sufficient. Either that, or he wanted to check the underside of his rig without having to use a lift. Actually, I think he wanted to put on an impromptu winching clinic.

All jests aside, it was quite the orchestrated event. We had to use Carl's winch to put tension on Chris's up side. A try at Chris's winch in a forward direction was aborted after a few feet and Chris motored forward enough to get all four tires back into contact with terra firma. Murphy showed up early in the proceedings, hiding Chris's extraction gear on

the down side of his rig. Sometimes, you just can't win. Of course, Murphy was punching out of his class with Chris's worldwide experience, and soon conceded the fight. I mean, who else can tip their rig on its side and get out without a scratch?

That pretty much used up all the time we had for the day, and the group headed back to the campground entrance. The participants reluctantly climbed out of their rigs for the day and got back into their more mundane methods of transportation. The drivers (who could) aired their tires back up and headed home. Those of us without self inflation means drove down the highway to partake of the gas station's amenities.

Andrea and I took the Medfly rig back to its rightful home, gathered up our gear, and returned home to the puppies. We can hardly wait for next year!



Blast From the Past

TREASURE CHEST

July 2005



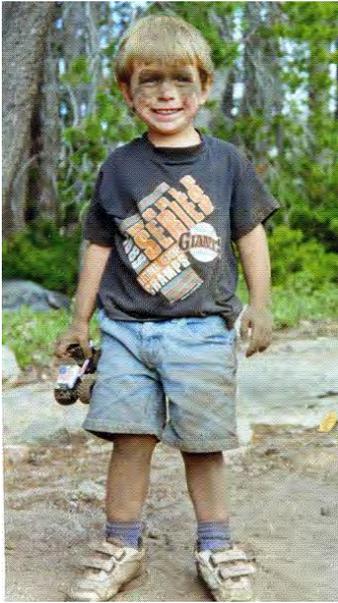
"Our lands - Use Without Abuse"
Sierra Treasure Hunters
Four Wheel Drive Club Inc.
P.O. Box 963
Rocklin, CA 95677

Who said the past doesn't
repeat itself?

Our Forests, Our Heritage

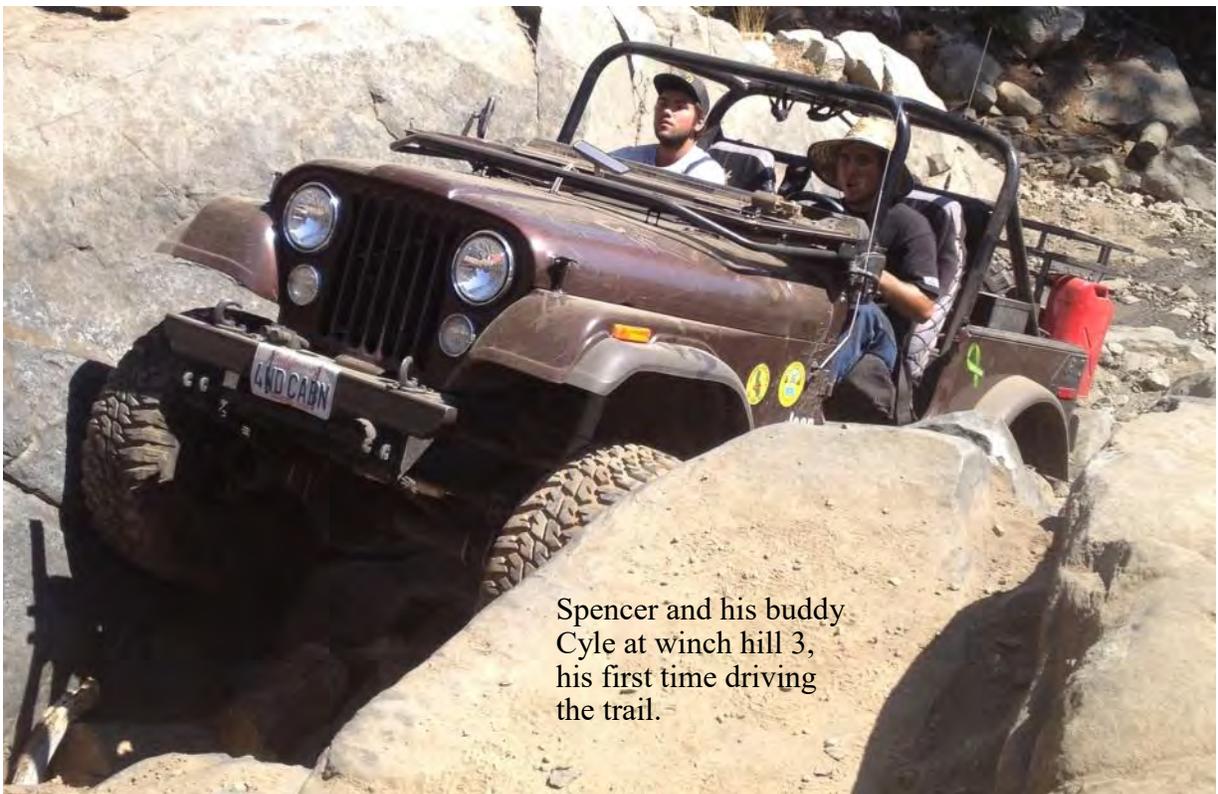
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Member Spotlight



From an early age Spencer showed all the signs of a future four wheeler.

As a proud dad I would like to welcome the newest member to the STH family: Spencer Ford. Spencer has been wheeling with STH pretty much since he could stop his head from flopping around. He learned to drive in the family Jeep, which is 14 years older than he is, and is waiting for a garage of his own to inherit it and continue the tradition. Spencer is currently living in Colorado working in construction as a project manager and exploring the Rockies in a Toyota Tacoma. That thing called work will not let him join us at Trek this year (he's the new guy) but fully plans on making it part of his future vacations.



Spencer and his buddy Cyle at winch hill 3, his first time driving the trail.

July 2017

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1
George's
Birthday

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Independence
Day

STH Mtg
7:00 pm @
Kathy's

9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Barbara's
Birthday

Kellogg's
Anniversary

Kerley's
Anniversary

STH run
Slick Rock



16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Penny's
Birthday

23 24 25 26 27 28 29

Hoey's
Anniversary

Andrea's
Birthday

30 31
