

The Treasure Chest

A red pickup truck with a blue stripe is driving on a snowy road. The truck is viewed from the side and rear, showing its large tires and fender. The background features a snowy mountain landscape under a cloudy sky.

April 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 - Suzy Collard

Treasurer - Kathy Medley

Trail Master - George Knowlton

State Delegate - Ron Kellogg

Membership - Marc Gumm

Ways & Means - Penny Ford

Webmaster - Rory Huber

Editor - Andrea Harris



Our Forests, Our Heritage



"Our lands - Use Without Abuse"



Keep Them Green, Keep Them Clean

Web Site

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Mailing Address

PO Box 859
Weimar CA, 95736



A Word From the President—no. 11

by Andrea Harris

Spring is here and is traditionally thought of as a time of renewal. The renewal of the Sierra Treasure Hunters is on my mind as I reflect back on this past year. All things have a season. Whether it is raining, cold, dry or sunny, everything goes through change at some point. The Sierra Treasure Hunters has gone through many seasons throughout our 50 plus years of history and my hope is that our spring can coincide with this year's Spring and become our season of renewal.

We have seen many challenges in recent years past that range from low attended meetings, low attended runs, low membership, and sometimes, low interest altogether. Yes, of course, we all have "things" that keep us very busy, whether it's work or family commitments, other activities, or broken vehicles. Our lives are much more demanding of our time and attention for many than years past. In contrast, there are those that, despite being pulled in five directions, make time and have committed to keeping STH moving along.

For Doug and me, it has been very challenging to keep our Jeep in continuous forward motion. This past year we were able to attend several runs and then ran into a transmission problem that we are trying to correct. You might say, "that won't take long" and you would be right if all it needed was time to install some parts, but it also takes money. Saving the money for the repair is taking time, but I assure you we are moving along and look forward to returning to the road soon. Even though we could not attend many runs in years past, we volunteered or accepted nominations to hold club office positions in order to support STH in a way that we could.

I would like to thank those that have volunteered to serve as a board member or in any capacity: attending club meetings, chairing a committee, buying toys or serving food. You are all appreciated!!

Although some may be frustrated, concerned, or nervous about where we are headed, I believe there are still plenty of members that are willing and able to keep us moving in the right direction and maybe even pick up some momentum. We have some great new members in Cari, Kris and his family.

In May, we will have our annual elections and I encourage you to consider participating. This does not mean you have to attend every meeting or every run, but it does mean you would like to see STH thrive going forward.

From the Editor

A special thank you to Chris and Suzy Collard for articles and photos for this month's edition. The cover photo is Chris driving the RAM on Ice Road.

Ways & Means

By Penny Ford

As we discussed at the March meeting - I continue to search for a central location for our monthly meeting that is convenient for most. I have not, as of yet, found a restaurant that seems suitable but will not give up hope! In the interim – if it's agreeable – we'll continue to hold our meetings at the Ford's except for the quarterly meetings which will take place at 4-Wheel Parts. As always, all ideas and suggestions are welcomed. Food for thought – literally – perhaps the "home" meetings could change from "providing dinner" to host providing the main and the rest bring sides? Just an idea.

This brings me to another topic discussed which was following the daylight savings calendar for the meetings. In other words during the winter our meetings would start at 7pm – during the summer they would begin at 7:30. I would like to get a voting consensus at our next meeting.

I also expressed a concern that the decision making process for our annual awards was getting diluted to one or two people making the selections. I personally was very uncomfortable with that process. In addition, when nothing was nominated, I felt that it was my sole responsibility to "come up" with some. It was brought to my attention that this was never the intent and that all board members should participate – including making nominations. I look forward to discussing this process in April.

Thank you all – next meeting April 6th @ the Ford's....

Treasure Trophies

By Linda Bryant

The categories for these treasure trophies are as follows: Best Photography – Best Rock or Mineral – Biggest Fish – Best Bottle – Most Educational – Most Comical – Most Creative – Most Unusual. The eligibility is: you may enter as many entries as you wish but they must have been found or taken (photo) by a club member on an official club trip between the May trip of the last fiscal year and the April trip of the present fiscal year and be registered then with the trail boss. The treasure must then be shown at any regular meeting in its original form before the annual May meeting. The treasure committee will judge the treasures at the May meeting. Junior trophies for members' children under 18 years of age will also be awarded. The same rules stated above apply to the junior division.

I am not sure if we still adhere to the “must be registered with the trailboss” clause any longer. And for the above mentioned awards I know that we changed in 2004 to a club submitted vote not a “Treasure Committee”.

Hope that clears things up.

Linda Bryant

Whistler

By Suzy Collard

As I approached retirement, people asked me what I planned to do.....hobbies....travel...volunteer...work another job? I had no specific plan in place, I only knew my philosophy would be to say 'yes' to opportunities as they were presented.

Chris and his friend Christian had an idea to drive the Yukon Ice Road To the Arctic. Details were sketchy: because of Christian's schedule they only had about a week to get from Whitehorse (the Yukon capital city) to the northern coast. Originally they discussed flying into Whitehorse and renting a car. Yes, a car. A Ford Taurus or similar model. But as the time drew nearer, the car rental seemed like it might not be a good idea.



Chris decided to drive his Tacoma and Christian would fly into Whitehorse. I saw an opportunity and volunteered to ride shotgun from Weimar to Whitehorse. Days before we were due to leave, Chris made arrangements with Scott Brown of Fiat-Chrysler to use one of their vehicles: a 2016 Dodge Ram Rebel. Bright red in color and only 6,000 miles on the odometer. He would more than double that number by the trip's end.

With the dual-cab truck packed to the roof with cold weather gear, camera and drone equipment, we started out. It was late afternoon and our first night was spent outside Portland. No worries, we got an early start the next morning and put some miles behind us. As we crossed the border,

our Canadian official was quite interested in our trip. He and Chris discussed the adventurous trip we planned and the merits of the Ram Rebel and the TRX model. The conversation continued and the line of cars behind us began to lengthen.

continued...Chris mentioned the line and the Canadian said not to worry...the people would be irritated at him and not us. Eventually he wished us Bon voyage and we continued on our way.

On another trip, we need to stop and spend time in Vancouver and the surrounding area. I've heard good things about the area and it really deserves its own trip when we have time to stop and stay for a few days. The ski resort town of Whistler was our intended stop for the night. Chris had visited Whistler on a college ski trip in the 1980s and he wanted to take a trip down memory lane. We arrived at night and had no reservations but easily found a hotel near the village. Even in the late hour, I could tell this place had its own kind of magic. Hotels outline the perimeter of the village which had streets closed to vehicles. We dropped our luggage in the room, put on snow boots and went searching for our first pint and some grub. The village has a great vibe and with the streets closed off, it's easy to do a pub crawl and sample the wares. Surprisingly, although the street was covered in snow and icicles hung from the roofs, it really didn't feel very cold. Guess I had an inner warmth from the libations!



The next morning, the streets were filled with skiers carrying their gear. I thought they were headed for a shuttle bus - but the ski lift is actually located at one end of the village. How convenient is that? Ski lifts practically outside the hotel doors! We had breakfast across from the lift and watched the experts and novices make their way down the mountain. Such a cool location!

Ice Road Rally

By Chris Collard

As many of you know, Suzy and I recently headed to the Great White North in a Ram Rebel I borrowed from Chrysler (yes, I had to kiss all the right rears...). The trip took us through Vancouver, up the Stewart-Cassiar Highway on the western side of British Columbia, and to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, where we found the Yukon Brewery. At that point she flew back to the States and my friend and co-worker Christian flew in.



The focus of the trek was to run the Ice Road to Tuktoyaktuk (Tuk) on the edge of the Arctic Ocean. You might ask why one would drive 3,500 miles (one way) on frozen roads and in sub-zero temperatures to drive 70 miles of ice to a small village with few services and no cantina? Well, why not? There is, however, a better form of logic to this madness; the Canadian government will be completing an all-weather road to Tuk this year and the Ice Road will be no more.



The dirty secret is that there is more than one ice road; another follows the Mackenzie River to a village (of equal splendor) called Aklavik. And, this ended up being a bit of a scouting run for a 2018 Ice Road Rally. I'm short on time to share an extended yarn, so a few images will have to suffice. I can say that the trip was awesome and the Ram Rebel has ruined me with regard to getting back in my Tacoma...

-Chris



April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 <i>Club Meeting The Ford's 7:00pm</i>	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 <i>Linda & Carrol Bryant Birthday's</i>	17 <i>Suzy Collard Birthday</i>	18	19	20	21	22 <i>Tina Roy Birthday</i>
23 30	24	25 <i>Matt Hoey Birthday</i>	26 <i>Spencer Ford Birthday</i> 	27	28	29 <i>Doug Baker Birthday</i>

April 6th: Club Meeting, The Ford's at 7:00pm