

Associated Wrangler Owners of Louisiana presents

Hammond 4x4 Monthly

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The Way We "GEAUX"

By Blaise Sparky Bourgeois



Another month has gone by, and we are another month closer to becoming an official club. At last month's meeting, we nominated a committee to establish club officers. After consideration, we have

Recoveries

By JD Miller

This month had a few recoveries, some made by members, and some of members getting recovered. There were a few dead batteries that needed jumping. A Rang Rover, Nissan, Grand Prix, and a Ranger. There were a few "stuckersons" as well. Paul got stuck recovering a guy in Baton Rouge. JD pulled a few vehicles that were stuck in "the Pit," as well as helping a friend out in Baton Rouge. On the beach run, I recovered a jet ski and trailer that was stuck in the Gulf. I needed to be pulled out of the clay. Travis and a Rubicon needed to be pulled. Allen also needed to be pulled. Various members aided in changing a tire that a sea shell got stuck in. If anyone needs help, give one of us a call.

decided to wait until the January meeting for nominations. This was decided to restrict voting to members who have paid their dues. January will be our first meeting as an official non-profit organization. Our main project this month is the Relay For Life benefit on November 6th. Relay For Life is an annual fund raising event to help find a cure for cancer. A.W.O.L is trying to take a significant role to help out. We have established an A.W.O.L team for Relay for Life. This event is not only fun, but very physically demanding. At the end of the day, the energy exerted by the good hearted participants shows it's rewards. Those being the fellowship of neighbors, and the money raised for a great cause. It is self evident where A.W.O.L. fits into this type of environment. A.W.O.L. would like to call upon it's members for their support in raising money through sponsorships and through direct donations. For information on how you can help, please contact A.W.O.L.'s Relay for Life team captain, Josh Randall.





Beach Run - Port Arthur to Galveston

By Travis Berger

LA4x4 hosted a beach run on October 9th and 10th, extending from Port Arthur to Galveston, Texas. The beach was flooded by a majority of AWOL members, who all pulled together for the long haul. Fortunately, we were blessed with perfect weather, clear skies, and an overwhelming sense of enthusiasm. The event started off for most of the AWOL crew in a convoy from Hammond to Sea Rim State Park late Friday evening. Upon arriving in the park late Friday night, we pitched tents and prepared to spend the night fighting off steroidal mosquitoes (while others enjoyed the Jeep life from behind closed doors). Approximately 8:30a.m., on Saturday morning, the AWOL crew met up with the rest of LA4X4 to begin the day's events. Throughout the duration of the day, we traveled along the shoreline of the Gulf, encountering many obstacles which allowed us to test driver skill and the capability of our vehicle. These obstacles included everything imaginable from massive tree trunks, large pieces of broken asphalt, slippery clay, and extremely deep water hazards. Wrapping up the days events, the entire 4x4 family came together Saturday night to enjoy the great taste of Mexican cuisine, and to celebrate the completion



of the day's events. Once again, Sunday morning, almost all of the participating members reunited to run the beach for a second time. Overall, this was a very successful trip, and we look forward to much more of the same. AWOL would like to extend thanks to LA4x4's invitation to join them, and for providing an incredible weekend.

Unimogs??

By Blaise Sparky Bourgeois



This past month, one of our members added two new vehicles to his line-up. Paul (LSU88Montero) purchased two 1962 Mercedes Benz Unimogs. A unimog, you might ask?

Unimogs started as military vehicles for numerous European nations. Through the years, they were also used for a lot more than just military duties. Some were used as rescue vehicles, fire trucks, and to transport materials and supplies over rough terrain. Unimogs are still being produced today, and are still being put to work all over the world. Paul purchased these from his boss. They were in north Louisiana, and needed to be picked up and transported down to Baton Rouge. One of Paul's neighbors owned a trucking company and was hired to pick them up for

him. The day began with Paul and me meeting the truck driver in Baton Rouge. We followed him to northern Louisiana. When we got there, we attempted to start one, but to no avail. They were in need of a little TLC. We loaded them onto the trailer, strapped them down and began the long ride home. The canvas on the back of the trucks, being old and dry rotted, did not fair too well on the drive home. One of them ripped so badly that we stopped and took the top off and threw it into the back of the Mog. We finally got back to Paul friends house where they are currently being stored, and unloaded them. We played around with them for a while. We were trying to figure out all the controls, but they are all written in German. After a little bit of cleaning of the carb, one of them fired right up. Paul and his friend drove them around, up, down, and over a small pile of logs. The Unimogs are definitely some of the coolest and most unique vehicles I have seen. I can't wait until they get fixed up and taken out on the trails.



Recovery Team Prepares For IVAN

By JD Miller

As Hurricane Ivan ripped thorough the Gulf of Mexico during the week of September 14th to September 17, 2004, 2 to 3 million people evacuated a 300-mile (480-kilometer) stretch of coastline from Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle. Meanwhile Emergency management officials were preparing Red Cross, emergency crews and power trucks to head towards the panhandle. Schools were closed across the coastline for safety of the student's and teachers. When AWOL heard that Southeastern Louisiana University was closed until further notice, the recovery team assessed the situation and started preparing for the storm. It wasn't mandatory for any of the members to stay and ride the storm out, but as it came closer they were enticed by the idea of pulling someone out of a jam. They were told parishes of Louisiana were supposed to get at least 6-10 inches of rain as anticipated by Tuesday. As the storm came closer on Wednesday, Sparky decided to do a swap on vehicles just incase. He

remounted both the skid plate and bumper, along with his warn winch for recovery. We will just have to see what the storm does before we test our snorkels, he said as he tightened the last bolts to his bumper. Other members gathered tow straps and recovery equipment along with the daily checkup of their jeeps. The storm's path was very tricky to predict. The weather patterns were indicating something totally different than the storm was actually doing. The 300 mile path was later narrowed down between Louisiana and Alabama. Surprisingly, Florida received most of the damage from the outer right side of the storm. I would say this was a prominent effort of our recovery team. A few members helped out as much as they could in the community to make an impact. They did as simple a task as carrying ice and objects for people, to boarding up windows and moving furniture to prepare for the storm. As for recovery, there were no serious local incidents pertaining to the storm.

Pic of the Month



Allen, your Jeep will forever be known as "The Muddy Pumpkin".

Quote of the Month

"I think mine (Jeep) will float after all the silicone I put underneath it to seal any holes I may have in my body tub. Hehe, i got a waterproof jeep. I think I'm ready to get an inner tube for my jeep and a snorkel of course."

JD Miller

AKA blacksheep4x4

Old Fashioned Cookouts

By: JD Miller

On Saturday October 2, 2004 AWOL hosted a tailgating party for two separate games, the Mississippi Valley vs. Southeastern game and the LSU vs. Georgia game. The fans were excited as they crowded around Josh's 14 inch screen TV. Eventually we got his bigger TV to lion's park along with nameless things we forgot we needed for the tailgate party. It was a big success that lasted all day. A total of 14 members and their significant others showed up for the event. "For such short notice this was a good opportunity to have fun", Travis said as he grabbed another hamburger from the stack. Even though we did not get to show our jeeps off in a big parking lot, we were able to sport the nature of family within the jeep club. Halfway through the party Alan and a few individuals invested a look into a club project. We possibly might have a camouflage mail jeep.

At the end of the day there was both loss and victory. LSU lost the game to Georgia with an end score of 45-16 and Southeastern won their game, almost doubling the opposing teams score, with an final score of 33-17. It was a time of laughter and also heartache for A.W.O.L. as the fans rejoiced when Southeastern won and cried when LSU lost. Thanks to all the help from various members of the club, the event turned out just as planned, with a lot of clean fun.

Blooper of the Month



Josh using his day old daughter for a pre-game workout, before the LSU-Auburn game.



4x4 Owner of the Month Joseph Daniel “JD” Miller



By Travis Berger

JD Miller has been actively pursuing the Jeep Life since September 29, 2002, when his parents purchased a 1995 Wrangler as an early graduation gift from high school. Falling into the outdoor lifestyle, as an active eagle scout and interested in environmental

research, JD’s family chose to purchase his Wrangler. He began to use his Wrangler as a universal vehicle centered primarily on outdoor enthusiasm. Immediately after receiving the Jeep from his parents, he became extremely interested in his vehicle’s aftermarket, and began to quickly develop ideas to take his Wrangler to the next level. He has quite an impressive list of modifications that he has done to enhance the performance and styling concepts of his Jeep. This list includes a fuel injection upgrade, K&N air filter, posi-trac front end, Xenon extended fender flares, Warn front and rear bumpers, 31” Cooper A/T’s, 15x7 Prime wheels, and aftermarket radiator. He also has an extensive list of performance enhancements that he has for the future, including a 3.5” suspension lift to accommodate 33” BFG Mud Terrains. JD also continues to pursue the Jeep life by helping those who are in need, especially by pulling people out of “the Pit.” JD is definitely one of the most dedicated people I know, not only to AWOL, but to his friends, family, the band, and school spirit.



If any one has a topic or picture for this publication please let us know on our website. The staff is open to all suggestions.

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