



Top of The Hill News

Volume I, Issue I

March 2008

Upcoming events in March:

- March 8 : Workday at Paradise
- March 8 - 9 : Cajun Jeep Jamboree Work Days at Tunica Property
- March 9 : Workday at Big Easley Property
- March 9 : Trail Ride at Paradise
- March 15 : Trail Ride at Sicily Island
- March 28 : Show and Shine at Bass Pro Shop - Denham Springs
- March 29-30 : Off-Roaders Expo Pre-Run
- April 1 : LA4x4 Meeting
- April 4-6: Off-Roader's Expo

Inside this issue:

Feature Property: Sicily Island	2
LA4x4 in Action: Cole's Creek Cleanup	3
Ice, Mud, Sleet, and Carnage—Gilmer Pictures	3
Coupe Rides 55 Miles for Diabetes	3
Membership Information	4
Club Officers	4
About the Newsletter	4

The 4th Annual Louisiana Off-Roaders Expo Represents Fun For All

It started in 2005 with a simple goal: To create a gathering for four-wheel drive owners.

The 4th Annual Off-Roaders Expo will be held in Hammond, Louisiana from April 4-6 hosted by Community Motors. Events included Trail Rides, a Kiddie Jeep Jamboree, Radio Control Crawling Contests, and a "Test Track" allowing people to see what their vehicles are capable of driving over or through.

Trail rides will be held at places with names such as Paradise, Big Easley, and Cole's Creek. Each trail represents different scenery and difficulties.

Paradise features obstacles known as "The Swamp Hole",



LA4x4 members working on the 101/ Test Track.

"Roundabout", and "John's Hill".

Cole's Creek contains log bridges, a mud pit, and a trail known as "One Tree Hill". It got its name from the lone tree on the hill.

Big Easley is in Easleyville, Louisiana, near the Mississippi border. It showcases scenic trails through hardwoods, rolling hills, and obstacles known as

"Baby Leg Ravine", "Turtleback", and "The Moguls Trail".

Special thanks to this year's sponsors: Jeep, NOLA Metal Buildings, Advance Auto Parts, Searchers 4WD Supply and Outfitters, Lightline of Louisiana, Community Motors of Hammond, Optima Batteries, Interco Tire Corporations, and Henderson Chrysler/Jeep of Baton Rouge.

Helping Local Communities and LA 4x4

Being part of Louisiana 4x4 gives people the opportunity to give back to local communities. That means more work, but it also means more ways to have fun. It also means working for future fun.

Between trail rides, meetings, and other

gatherings, members of LA4x4 are also involved in working with property owners to build trails, clean up properties, and fostering goodwill.

Work days provide a way to meet old and new friends, sweat a little, and ensure that we will have places to ride in the

future.

An important part of LA4x4 is being a good steward of the land. By coming together and working toward a common goal, we have the ability to show the public and other off-roaders the benefits of responsible land use.

Featured Property this month: Sicily Island

Just outside the village of Sicily Island, Louisiana, an Off-Road Vehicle park is growing.

Catahoula Recreation has four different areas encompassing 700 acres in varying degrees of development. Louisiana 4x4 is an active participant in the development of trails at Catahoula Recreation.

Area One is made up of 320 acres of hilly land. This area is designed for ATV's and motorcycles. The trails are about 50% developed, and they include a sand drag, a sand hill climb, and trails running throughout the property.

Area Two has been active since the Summer of 2007 and is designed for Off-Road Vehicles. LA4x4 has been participating with organized rides in this area on a regular basis. This area is also 320 acres situated on the edge of the flat lands with approximately 25% of the trails developed at this time.

Area Two is currently the only area that LA4x4 is helping to develop. New trails appear all the time, creating a diverse and challenging area. It combines washouts, tight and twisting trails, and many elevation changes.

Area Three is 30 acres of land on the Ouachita River that joins Fort Hill Park. At this time, only about 10% of the trails are developed.



Larry Flowers stretching out his JK at Catahoula in November.

Area Four is 30 acres of swamp land. This area features one of Louisiana's most recognizable off-road features: mud. It contains cypress brakes that hold water year round and is not being developed at this time.

Catahoula also has a camping area right next to the trailhead

and tent camping and RV parking are permitted for a fee. The campground has a restroom facility with electricity and two bathrooms with showers.

With continued efforts from LA4x4 and other supporting groups, Catahoula has the potential to become one of the premier off-road areas in the South. As the trails are created and become more developed, it will only bring more challenges and enjoyment.

The park is located about 40 miles west of Natchez, Mississippi. It is about a three hour ride from Baton Rouge. Prices for each day are \$25 per vehicle and \$5 for each additional passenger. For weekend passes covering Friday through Sunday, it is \$30 per vehicle and \$10 for each passenger, and it will give you unlimited access to the park for the entire weekend.

A ride is scheduled on March 15 in observance of the Bicentennial of Catahoula Parish. For more information, check the LA4x4 Forum online calendar.



One of the centerpieces of Catahoula is this unusual dirt formation.

Help a Worthy Cause and Win an \$80,00 Jeep

A \$25 ticket could get you an \$80,000 JK, and it will help wounded veterans.

Wounded Warrior Project has a simple but far reaching message:

“To raise awareness and enlist the public’s aid for the needs of severely injured service men and women, to help severely injured service members aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs.”

The Arkansas Crawlers 4x4 Club decided to help in their own way. They contacted Superlift and other manufacturers of Jeep products. Superlift donated a 2007 JK Wrangler, and Arkansas Crawlers built a Jeep that anyone would be happy to have.



The Wounded Warrior Project JK

The powertrain includes a 6.1 liter Mopar Performance Hemi, an Atlas II Twin Stick transfer case, Dynatrac Pro Rock High-Pinion Axles with 5.38 gears, Detroit Lockers front and rear, and Tom Woods driveshafts.

Not a bad start. They followed that with a 4” Superlift Rockrunner

suspension system, SSR Series shocks as well as other components.

To get all that power to the ground, Interco donated a set of 37” Iroks with Walker Evans Racings supplying 17” x 9” beadlock wheels. Powertank supplied the auxillary air supply, and Mopar provided front and rear bumpers. Many other companies donated time, parts, paint, and graphics to complete the project.

Tickets are \$25, and the entry deadline is November 16, 2008. For more information on the vehicle or to purchase raffle tickets, go to www.WarriorJeep.org.

For more information about the Wounded Warrior Project, visit www.WoundedWarriorProject.org.

Gilmer Trip on January 25-28: Ice, Mud, Sleet, Carnage



Ice on the gate to Barnwell Mtn.

Photo by 07FJ4x4



Dave explaining a Hi-Lift

Photo by 07FJ4x4



Eric experiencing gravity.

Photo by Itsmealang

LA4x4 Member Irving Coupel Rides for Diabetes

He became inspired by his mother’s long battle with diabetes, and now he is getting ready for his second Tour de Cure.

Irving “Coupe” Coupel will be riding 55 miles on his mountain bike on Saturday, May 31, to raise funds and awareness for diabetes. The 55 mile leg of the Tour begins in St. Francisville on Highway 66, then heads east to Jackson, and finally back to St. Francisville.

His mother inspired him to participate in the pennington Diabetes Prevention Program, Outcomes Study for ten years now. He began exercising and riding his mountain bike as part of his efforts to decrease the chances of becoming a diabetic himself.

Now, it has come full circle as he rides and exercises to help others with diabetes. He has set a goal of raising \$1,500 dollars this year, and

he has already raised \$425.

The easiest way to donate to the Tour de Cure 2008 is to visit the LA4x4 online forums, and click his post in “Off Road Enthusiasts in Action”. Simply follow the instructions to donate.

Contact John Guzzardo at either 888.342.2383 x6071 or jguzzardo@diabetes.org for further information about volunteering.

Top of The Hill News is published each month, one week after the monthly Louisiana 4x4 Club Meeting.

The deadline to submit materials for publication is at the time of the club meeting preceding the distribution of that month's newsletter. The only material that will be accepted after this deadline is material submitted by the Club Officers which pertains to the details of the club meeting, itself.

We welcome your comments and submissions to the newsletter, as they are needed and appreciated by the club.

Club Officers:

President: Lance Green
126 Marquette Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Home Phone: 225.925.1154
Email: geauxturbo@msn.com

Vice-President: Larry Flowers
957 Montgomery Lane
Denham Springs, LA 70726
Home Phone: 225.243.4928
Email: LAFlowers4@aol.com

Secretary: Jerry Graves, Sr.
4066 Fleet Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Home Phone: 225.924.4472
Email: Secretary@LA4x4.com

Treasurer: Ken Wilson
14648 Bailey Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70816
Email: Lakeband@aol.com

Newsletter: Mike Jackson
7165 Government Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Cell Phone: 225.439.9105
Email: MikeJackson@TheJaxonGroup.net

When do we meet?

Monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Ryan's Steakhouse on Coursey Boulevard (near Sherwood Forest) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We enter the parking lot at 6:30 pm and the Club Meeting Starts at 7:15 pm.

Our purpose as a Club is to share knowledge of our 4x4 vehicles and of safe off-road driving techniques for the experienced AS WELL AS the inexperienced 4x4 off-road enthusiast. The club runs are scheduled for the third weekend of each month.

For further information regarding upcoming events, go to www.LA4x4.com and click on "Calendar".



Louisiana 4x4

Membership Information

Membership is open to anyone with a functional four wheel drive vehicle and is not limited to any particular make or model. The cost of membership is \$50.50 per year with dues coming due in March. For those joining after March, dues will be \$50.50 for the remainder of the year and are not pro-rated.

Club membership includes membership in the United Four Wheel Drive Association and the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association, which entitles members to their publications as well as the Club's own newsletter (which I hear is outstanding). More important, and much more fun, is that membership entitles members to go on club runs.

About the Newsletter

Well, I am not sure how Lance talked me into taking over the newsletter. I thought he was asking me if I needed any spare parts, and all I remember is saying, "Sure".

For this issue, I wanted to start simple. If you have suggestions, please send them to me. If you have any complaints, send those to me as well. Just make sure you type "SPAM" in the message title.

Okay, don't do that. I won't actually receive it.

That being said, I look forward to bringing Club information to you on a monthly basis that is interesting, visually appealing, and occasionally informative. Also, let me know if you have any ideas or want to contribute. I know I'll need it...as well as a little bit of luck. I hope you enjoy it.

Thanks.

Mike Jackson

