



Heart of the South Cruisers, Toyota Land Cruiser Association Chapter
A fellowship for all Toyota 4x4 owners and Toyota off-road enthusiasts



May 2013 Newsletter

CALENDAR EVENTS

Next Monthly Meeting:

June 8th

9:00 a.m.

Hale Mtn OHV

Scheduled Events:

*Trail ride and monthly
meeting*

Heart of the South Cruisers purpose statement:

HOT South Cruisers is a growing group with a positive attitude and desire to have fun as we help one another in skills and projects.

Officers

Steve Lawrence
President

Roma Scosyrev
Vice President

Michael Blake
Secretary

Kyle Massengale
TLCA Rep.

Paul Howell
Trail Boss

HOT South Cruisers
122 Chatham Cir
Madison, Alabama
hotsouthcruisers@gmail.com

Next Meeting Agenda

Trail ride

From the Trail Boss

The address for Hale Mountain is

Hale Mountain OHV Park
83 Big Rock Lane
New Market, AL 35761

Here is a Google Map of it with directions from [Bill Penny](#), it is about 30 minutes from Bill Penney to Hale Mountain to give everyone some reference.

I was in contact with the owner of Hale Mountain, and she said she would be happy to cook hamburgers and hotdogs for us if we gave her a headcount. She didn't give me a cost but they shouldn't be more than a couple of bucks a piece. Please let me know if you are coming that weekend and if so do you want a hamburger, hotdog, or both and I will get the information passed on to the park. There is a \$15 gate fee and a waiver to sign.

(Right now there are only three people signed up to go on this ride. If you are going please contact Kyle so there will be enough food for everyone.)

A note from the club Secretary:

I need your MUD handle, if you're a member. I will include this info on the club roster.

Thanks,
Michael <><

Swap Shop

Parts Needed

1 used right rear tail light lens for a 76' FJ40- Michael B

Parts for Sale

Used half tub \$250.00 Kyle

78' 2F motor \$300.00 Roma

Parting out an 86'/87' FJ60's call for availability and pricing
- Michael Blake

List of Off road parks in the area: (feel free to add)

Hale Mountain, 83 Big Rock Ln, New Market AL

Stoney Lonesome, 10075 AL Hwy 69 South, Bremen AL 35033

Gray Rock, 7468 Old Mt Olive Road, Gardendale, Alabama

Golden Mountain OHV, 6338 Golden Mountain Rd Sparta TN

Morris Mountain ORV, 1524 Henry Davis Rd, Delta AL 36258

Chocoloco Mountain OHV, 1312 Louise Dr SE, Jacksonville, AL 36265

Minutes from the Mar 9th meeting

The meeting was held at Bill Penney Toyota

There were 12 members in attendance with 5 visitors.

There were 4 new members added during the meeting!

Welcome to the club: Big AL, Tucker Weir, Lowell Skidmore and Ryan Ramsay.

Topics of discussion:

Everyone gave an update of their rig with discussions on future modifications.

A request was made for more "Parts for Sale" to be listed in the newsletter.

Kyle's TLCA.

We saw and approved final logo for the club as well as business cards to hand out.

Sent off 4 members to GSMTR.

Scheduled a club "wrench meeting" at Stan Hudson's house/garage for June 29th. Time to be announced at a later date.

President's Corner:

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Hey club! I hope everyone has had a great May! GSMTR '13 was great. I preferred last years park facilities and the rougher trails. Didn't take the top off of Olivia so I stayed on the easier trails. Not as much fun:p

I won't be able to make the Hale Mtn. meeting on the 8th. I will be enjoying the comfortable amenities at Ft. McClellan, AL from the 8th - 22nd. The only good part is I will be earning my 2 new front tires and a matching spare wheel for my spare tire!

I will be going to the "work day" so I can point and supervise! I think that is on June 29, but check this newsletter for detail!

On my travels to Colorado I saw an FJ60, FJ40 & not 1 but 2 stretched and widened FJ40s used for hauling tourist in Estes Park, CO. If you have never been to the Rocky Mtns., I can highly recommend a visit!!

Hope everyone has a great time at Hale Mountain. Keep the transfer case in low or double low if you got it. Cheers!!

THE GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAIN TRAIL RIDE OF 2013



The 22ND annual Great Smoky Mountain Trail Ride was held this year at Wind Creek Park in Oliver Springs, Tennessee, located north of Knoxville and offers close to a thousand acres and forty-three trails ranging from mundane to insane. The Southeast Toyota Land Cruiser Association hosted GSMTR, welcoming over 125 trucks—nearly all of which were unique in their own right. Attendees from 15 states got together to explore what Coal Creek trails offered, enjoy the improved facilities and fantastic fellowship. The weather was picture perfect for the first few days but then turned a bit wet the last two days. Storms rolled in during the evening hours and by

Friday they stayed for most of Saturday. Joe Bama and I took Monday to prepare for six days of tent life. Joe had searched the internet for good camp recipes that would be quick and easy to concoct and cook over a camp fire. Using a Teflon skillet and a kettle, we ate like kings and cleaned up the pans with a paper towel. (It is amazing how ingenuity takes over when the wife is not around to take care of things.) Each day we woke up around 7am, ate a breakfast feast, packed a lunch, and then met fellow Cruiserheads for a day of riding.

We arrived Monday evening before dark and set up camp. The Prez had already arrived and struck camp close to the pavilion most would gather before rides. Joe and I chose a site further from the festivities and enjoyed a beautiful view of the mountains. The next day Kenny and his girlfriend arrived to set up camp at the Prez's compound. Tuesday morning, Joe and I joined a group that was to make a trek on the 'easier' trails. Joe found the trek a bit more challenging in his FJ40 that expected. Although "Eutaw" was running strong prior to the trip, a rubber stopper that was plugging up on of the vacuum advance ports on the carburetor had split and was running rough. One of the trekkers had an extra stopper but there had been some 'adjusting' going on before the problem was discovered and by then, Joe could only keep it running by keeping the engine above a certain RPMs. While we were on challenging Trail 19, a rock had grabbed one of the dual mufflers and snapped it off at the exhaust manifold. He had a time of it as he worked the brake, clutch and gas pedal at the same



time along with the deafening roar for the rest of the day. After two wrong turns and 8 hours of trail fun, we arrived back at our camp ready for brats and beans and some relaxation around the community fire and staring up at stars as we contemplated the mysteries of the universe.



After a good night of rest we awoke to picture perfect weather again. The next two days, Joe joined me in the FJC and we hitched up with Andy and his group. Andy took us back up good ole Trail 19 and then on to some other moderate trails that gave us a run for our money, literally. It

was a good experience in gaining driving skills. The trails were absolutely fantastic and the mountains were stunningly beautiful. As mentioned, it began to rain for some time on Wednesday evening making the trails drenched with rains running off the mountain the next morning. Andy took a poll of the group and we voted to try some trails with a higher degree of difficulty. We took some harrowing trails but at no time was I in fear of damaging "Cinder Block". Although, I had some doubt at a few points along the way that we would clear some of the obstacles, I think Joe and I said about a dozen times how smart it was to get a full set of skid plates if you don't have a lift kit.



I had learned that second guessing your choice of line after committing yourself is not a good idea. The trail was trenched by many rigs at one point where it made a ninety degree right turn with a step bank of trees on the right and a high mud bank on the left. By the time I but the wheels in the rut and could see what was around the bend, I thought that my 'low-ride' would be



swallowed up in the trench as we faced nothing but a wall of mud and the ruts getting deeper. I made a decision to pull it out of the ruts and tried to climb the mud bank on the left. I almost made it to the top when the wheels lost traction and started sliding sideways back down in the rut. This time the passenger tires stopped at the closest rut and we began to feel as if the Cruiser was about to make a barrel roll. It felt worse than what it really was, which the case is usually when you are in the cockpit. I stopped and conferred with co-pilot Joe who tried bailed on me at this point. The Prez was ahead of us and tossed down a tow rope knowing that I could not get enough momentum to get out of the trench at this point. 'Olivia' gave me a tug and we were once again on our way. Later in the day we hit another challenging ninety degree right turn in which you had to do exactly what I had just described in order to avoid a clump of trees just off the right bank. This time I did lose my co-pilot and deliberately pointed the nose up the bank and climbed the clay bank enough to get the rear corner of the roof rack past the tree trunk before the FJC began the slide back down toward the passenger side and safely land in the trench around the bend and past the leaning trees that would have damaged the roof. The FJ's made the turn but the larger wheel based 80s and 100s found another way around. There was another rough spot in which the Prez thought I would not make it, but...I did. Joe had to get out and spot me through the rocks (thank goodness for sliders). I could not stop the climb and pick him up so Joe had to climb the side of the mountain himself and joined me at the top.

Each day of trail riding was packed full of fun and challenges. We made many new friends, and gained a few pounds. Joe and I decided to leave on Saturday due to the heavy rain and other commitments so we left our raffle tickets with the Prez who told us he already knew that our tickets would not win anything. Oh, one more lesson...go ahead and pay the \$2 for the four minute use of the pressure washer located at the main office. You will thank me when you don't have to find one on the way home to clean out the mud in your radiator and not over heat on the interstate (lesson learned).

I for one thought that the STLCA did a fantastic job with hosting the event. On Friday night, the STLCA hosted a dinner of burgers and hot dogs in the main pavilion followed by a catered meal on Saturday night. The crew served up the beef and handed out Metal-tech glasses and Iron Pig cups. I wished I could have stayed for Saturday and the raffle. Now, Prez...seriously... did I win anything?????



On Friday night, the STLCA hosted a dinner of burgers and hot dogs in the main pavilion. There was an excellent showing. Howard Williams slaved over his massive grill, barbecuing the goods and the crew served up the beef and poured beers into Metal-tech glasses and Iron Pig cups.

Saturday was the last day of the event and the busiest for everyone. Trucks hit the trails early to try to get some trail time before the nine o'clock rock race, sponsored by Atlanta Custom Creations and Iron Pig Off Road. There were a ton of spectators who watched as the trucks were timed making their way up Trail 32. The crowd pleaser, showing just what a "somewhat" stock FJ80 series can do, was Eric Hagan from Alabama. He powered over the bottom end of the course to the cheers of all the spectators. The trucks sporting 36" and bigger tires put on quite the show with Greg Harris from Tampa in his yellow mini truck making it to the top with the best time. Harris scored an Ironman fridge from IPOR and ACC for the effort. Mike Harness of ACC was also a crowd pleaser when his 40 series flopped on the lower half of the trails—quite the spectacle.

Club Highlights and Spotlights

I'm still in need of suggestions on the type of information you want to see in the newsletter. I also need more parts to list in the "Parts for Sale" section. Don't be bashful. I can also use ideas and material for articles on a monthly basis. I can be reached at 256-508-9282 or michaelbb7@juno.com.

Visit our club page on IH8Mud's clubhouse forum <http://forum.ih8mud.com/al-hot-south-cruisers/>

"Renew your TLCA membership at <http://tlca.org/>"

"Join our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/176734685760612/>"

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Bruce Mitchell	Madison
Malcolm Grimes	Montgomery
Elbert Clarke	Cullman
Dan Blackburn	Bay Minette
Lowell Skidmore	Huntsville
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Ray Towner	Ft Walton Beach
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