



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

CALENDAR EVENTS

Monthly Meeting

November 10th
8:30 a.m.

Bill Penney Toyota

Scheduled Events

Highlighted Item of the
Month: Report from
Steve and Kyle on
CHAOS Run



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.

Swap Shop Needed

Set of leaf springs—Craig

Parts For Sale

A pair of doors 72' \$75.00

Windshield frame 72' \$100.00

Wiper motor 72' \$50.00

2 heaters 72' \$50.00 each
– Michael B

The Garage

Sloppy Steering

Let's assume it's a stock non-power steering system. Some play is not bad. But if you are real fussy and want to track down play in your steering, you should get someone to help oscillate the steering wheel left & right as you examine all the joints. If all of the tie rod ends seem tight, one common area of play is the front steering bell crank joint. Observe as it rotates precisely on its axis, it should have no side-to-side play. It's an easy fix to replace its guts, or you might be able to tighten it up by squeezing its spring tighter and obtain a bit more life out of it.

The steering box has an adjustment of its section gear. But unless the steering-box is really bad off, one should not fuss with it. Tightening that gear may help when the steering is more or less centered, but it may end up being too tight as the steering reaches its extremes of travel. Some people cry about FJ40 steering being an archaic sloppy system. It was meant to be that way. They forget Land Cruisers are intended to work & be repaired under 3rd world tough conditions. Spreading the load, so to speak, over multiple tie rod ends and spring supported steering bell crank is much easier to fix in the field than a beat to pieces steering box.

What is it about the Toyota Series?

We've all been subjected to plenty of "When I Was Your Age" stories at the hands of curmudgeonly grandparents at some point over the course of our lives, and almost all of those little tales are designed to remind us how tough the older generation was compared to our air-conditioned, microwaved, world-wide-webbed lives. We, of course, shrug these little life lessons off because it seems like old Grandpa Earl is just blowing smoke, but if you stop to look at it, I mean really stop to look at it, those crotchety old folks might actually have a point.

At AskMen.com, one of the manliest websites on the world wide web that our forebears so often complain about, they put this notion to the test by naming the old Toyota FJ40 Land Cruiser one of their Top Ten Manly Cars, even though the particular iteration of the vehicle they're talking about hasn't been manufactured since 1984.



To be clear, there's still a Toyota Land Cruiser, but it's a grocery-getting SUV designed for soccer moms that don't want to drive a minivan, and there's still an FJ Cruiser that admittedly looks and drives like a beast, but neither one has the oomph and grunt and muscle behind it that the original does. In fact, I think we could be quite certain that if a '60s-era FJ40 Land Cruiser could talk, it would start about 80% of its conversations with, "When I was your age..."

Since they can't talk, however, we'll have to let Boynton Beach used car dealerships do the talking for them, because that's just about the only place left where you could still find one of these things in working order. If you are able to get your paws on one, though, be sure to push it to its full off-road potential. It's an extremely rugged vehicle, but as reliable as you'd expect from a Toyota, meaning you should feel free to drive it to school through seven inches of snow, going uphill both ways. That's the way your grandfather probably would've done it, and then he'd spend the rest of his life telling you about how cars just aren't the same as they used to be. And again, in this particular instance, he'd probably be right.

HOT SOUTH CRUISERS

A Toyota Land Cruiser Association Chapter of Alabama

Officers

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Next Meeting Agenda

Report from Steve and Kyle on CHAOS Run

Report from Kyle on monthly TLCA phone call

Logo discussion

Progress report on club member rigs

Club Highlights and Spotlights

Hello members and friends. This is the first newsletter in the new format. Please forgive any errors or omissions you may find. I would ask that you review this newsletter and supply constructive feed back for corrections. Items I am most concerned with at this time are names and email addresses (spelling counts). If you notice a name that is not listed or an address that is incorrect, please let me know at once so that I can correct them.

For future editions I will need suggestions on the type of information you want to see in the newsletter. This is your newsletter! So don't do 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. Also remember to visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/176734685760612/?fref=ts> and our club page on IH8Mud's clubhouse forum <http://forum.ih8mud.com/al-hot-south-cruisers/> .

Club Members

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Brett Hudson Madison

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Tom Holton

Greg Kennemer

Bruce Mitchell Madison

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Dan Blackburn Bay Minette