

# NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: KERMIT WILLIAMS

Oct 2020

Because of problems with email no photo's

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: ROSE ROZMIAREK

President's Article

By Rose Rozmiarek

It was great seeing everyone at the October meeting and scenic drive. I believe it was the best weather and trail conditions we have had at the Larson Farm. No real mud to clean off this time. Again thanks to the Larson family for hosting. I think we had some steers that want to be jeepers.

Kathleen Anderson has reconsidered the secretary position and was nominated and voted back into the position for the remainder of the year. Remember our November meeting we will be taking nominations for officers for the 2021 year.

After a lengthy discussion and unanimous vote, the membership has voted to cancel the December meeting and Christmas event. This was definitely not an easy decision but we need to keep the overall health and safety of our members at the forefront. Because of the continued increase in the Covid-19 plus current state and local guidelines there is not a safe solution to hold the event. The current guidelines have restricted social gathering to 45 and we always have over a 100 attendees. We are working on an alternate voting process for officers and member of the year. We will keep you posted. We are also looking at an electronic silent auction of items donated by members. The membership has voted to donate \$750 to the Kansas Rock Park toy drive since their event was canceled due to Covid-19.

The face shield order and logo were sent to the vendor. They said it would only be a couple of days and we would finalize the order. I had not heard from them in a week so I called them. When I first spoke to the custom order person I told him how many we would be ordering. He did not indicate there was a problem. Now when I spoke to the same person he is now saying that our order was small and believes the various breakdown of selections will cause a problem and too much work for their designers plus shipping overseas. I found out they are actually manufactured in China and with Covid-19 it has increased some issues on their part. He now hesitates to fill our order. The order is on hold and we will discuss this at our November meeting.

At previous meetings Chris Stratmann advised we have a issue with our website and the use of Google search. He has spoken with our website host and they suggested a cleanup and added security. This will entail additional expenditures. We will need to discuss and vote on the expenditure at our November meeting.

We have several items to discuss at our November meeting so hope to see you then.

Be safe.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT BY: NANCY MCKEE**

### October 2020 VP Report

The fall scenic drive was another GREAT outing. There were over 30 jeeps in attendance. The weather was perfect. (We didn't even have to use the fire truck to get the mud off our rides.) And the people... if you were there, you know what a terrific group of people we have in the club. Lastly, let me say a few words about our hosts. The Larsens provided donuts and snacks, planned the route (scenic with just a few obstacles), allowed a large group of jeeps on their land, and led and tail gunned the group. They provided all that with non-stop smiles. When you have the chance, give a huge thanks to our perfect hosts.

This 2020 year of the pandemic has certainly presented many unique challenges for all of us. Our schooling, shopping, socializing, sports and much more have been impacted. The discussion in the October meeting about the Christmas Party proves that even the FHJC is affected. The club

voted to put the health and wellbeing of our membership as a priority and cancel the Christmas party. (Don't worry, Rose has a plan for December officer elections.)

On a lighter note, we still plan to have the November meeting. It is an important one since we will be accepting nominations for our 2021 officers. I hope to see you there. Whether you attend or not, don't forget to submit nominees for the FHJC member of the year. This is YOUR club. Your input is needed.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

OCTOBER, 2020

SUBMITTED BY COLLEEN STRNAD FOR KATHLEEN ANDERSON

The Flint Hills Jeep Club October meeting was hosted on October 3, 2020, at the Larson Family Farm, for the annual FHJC Scenic Drive Event.

President Rose Rozmiarek called the meeting to order at 12.10 p.m. Officers in attendance were: Rose Rozmiarek, President; Nancy McKee, Vice Pres.; Colleen Strnad, Treasurer; Vic Strnad, Events Coordinator; and Tony Smith, Safety Officer.

President Rozmiarek stated that the artwork for the custom-made gaiters has been submitted to the company and once approved it will take approx. 2 weeks for the production to be completed on the orders previously submitted to Rose. The final cost for adult size will be \$7.00 plus tax.

Discussion was continued from the October meeting in reference to nominations for the secretary position, since Kathleen Anderson had stepped down from the position for personal reasons. Nominations were again opened but again, no nominations were received. President Rozmiarek said that Kathleen had contacted her before the meeting and said that she would maintain her position for the rest of the year if no one else wanted to run for the office. A motion was made and seconded to have Kathleen Anderson be reinstated into her previous position; the vote was taken of members present and the motion passed. Welcome back, Kathleen!

Nominations for next year club officers will be held at our Nov. 14 meeting. "Member of the Year" written nominations are also due at that time and should include specific actions or reasons for the nominations. Tony Smith is chair of that committee, along with Trudy Quelch and Anna Hoepner. Written nominations can be sent to the committee any time before

the Nov. meeting. Club Elections are also held in December, but this time we may have to do the election by Ballot that will be sent to your email address on file. A current roster will be sent to all families, but in order for both you and your spouse to vote, please make sure that your spouse's email address is also listed in order that we can get a voting ballot to them also.

An in-depth discussion was done about the Christmas event and location in regards to the current Covid-19 issues. In order to help keep members safe, a motion was made to cancel the December event/meeting/lunch. The motion was seconded; a vote was taken and passed by the members. An auction is normally held at our December event, and several members that have donated items in the past have indicated that they would still be willing to donate those items for a possible "Silent Auction", to help raise money for philanthropic causes. President Rozmiarek asked that anyone willing to donate items for the "silent auction" to please notify her by email ([kdivers@aol.com](mailto:kdivers@aol.com)) and include a picture and description of the item to be donated. Please do so before Thanksgiving (November 25)

Also, our December meeting usually includes bringing "Toys for Tots" but since we will not be having this meeting, a discussion was presented about the shortage of toys that K-Rocks will be collecting this year since Wheelin 4 Toys was canceled, along with the Kansas Krawl and Creepy Crawl. K-Rocks personnel will be collecting toys at their C-19 Camp-N-Crawl event on Oct. 16-18, but a toy shortage is still expected. In order to help with this toy shortage, a motion was made to donate \$500 for them to help purchase toys; the amount was then amended to \$750; the motion was seconded and a vote taken to pass.

Vice President, Nancy McKee had nothing to report.

Safety Officer Tony Smith reminded everyone to stay safe, not only out on the trails but at home too. Send in or email written nominations for "Member of the Year" ([tswylie@cox.net](mailto:tswylie@cox.net)).

Treasurer, Colleen Strnad reported a checkbook balance of \$7,615.70 as of October 3, 2020. Eight families notified her that they would not be renewing their club membership; 13 families will be dropped for non-payment of dues. Colleen will be sending out an updated club roster to everyone that has provided an email address. Please verify the information for your family and provide your spouse's email address (if not listed), in order for them to vote the ballot for club officers and "Member of the Year".

Events Coordinator Vic Strnad – Next meeting is Nov. 14 at Randolph; with nominations for officers next year. 4x4 Land is still planning on holding a specific time period for members to order items at a reduced cost to us, so check the Events Coordinator report for further details.

Food donations will be delivered to Harvesters in Topeka by Mike and Mary Hawkins – thank you. Thank you again to the Larson Family for hosting this great scenic drive.

Meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT BY: COLEEN STRNAD**

October 2020 Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Colleen Strnad

[colleenstrnad@gmail.com](mailto:colleenstrnad@gmail.com)

Previous Checkbook Balance as of 9/12/20 was \$7,350.70.

### INCOME:

9/21/20 Deposit of \$120.00 – Dues.

9/25/20 Deposit of \$96.00 – Dues.

10/2/20 Deposit of \$49.00 – Dues in the amount of \$48.00; \$1.00 donation.

### EXPENSES:

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Check Book Balance as of 10/3/20 is \$7,615.70.

Note: 8 families notified me that they would not be renewing their membership at this time. The families removed from the roster were: Biggs; Horton/Butts; Kringen; Martinez; McGinnis; Stites; Stucker; and Wendt. In addition, 13 families were dropped on October 5 for non-payment of dues: Anschutz; Cousland; Hastings; Klinedinst; Kolling; Lively; Mankins; Morgan; Pederson; Shields; Townley; Wightman; and Wilson.

## Events Coordinator Corner: Vic Strnad

We had a great turn out at the yearly scenic drive. Believe there were 31 Jeeps total and again the Larson's showed us true country hospitality. Thanks again Kellie, Raymond, Sara, and Andy for letting us invade for the day. No mud and the weather was outstanding; it could not have been any better.

The next meeting of the FHJC will be held on November 14th at Randolph with wheeling at the ORV to follow the meeting. The location will either be at the City Park or the Randolph VFW depending on the weather. The meeting will start at 10:00 A.M. At this meeting, we will be nominating for next year's Officers, so if you are interested in holding an Office please let someone know so you can be nominated.

As I am sure you have already heard or read in this Newsletter, the Club's yearly Christmas Meeting and Dinner was canceled by a vote of the membership at the October meeting. Because of COVID-19 and the ever-changing health orders/restrictions, it was felt that in the best interest of our Jeep family to just cancel this year's event. I for one really hated to cancel but the decision was the right one under the present circumstances. Let's hope for a better 2021.

For those of you looking to make your yearly upgrades in December, do not despair as Mike Starkebaum, owner of 4x4 Land, has stepped up once again. (See following)

Hi folks. The holiday season is coming quickly. The FHJC Christmas party has been canceled this year due to health concerns however as always our special pricing for club members is in effect. We are offering everything we sell at 5% over our cost for club members from November 30 through December 19, 2020. The 5% covers our time and credit card fees. Installation, if needed, will be at our reduced club hourly rate as always. So if you have been saving up for something for your ride, this is the best time of year to splurge. Please contact either Zack Myers or Chris Canary in person, 5620 S. Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS, or at 785-862-8008, just mention the Christmas special and let them go to work for you. Thanks for your support, Mike.

The plan is still to hold the Club's yearly planning meeting on January 9, 2021, at the Kansas National Guard Museum. Based on numbers from last year it is felt that we can still make this work. Remember this is the meeting that we set our monthly meeting dates and other events like out of state trips. If you have any ideas or events you would like the Club to look into doing, this is the place and times to bring it forward. Of course like everything else this

year this too is subject to change. More information on this will be forthcoming as the date gets closer.

Just FYI to give everyone a heads up, about 6-7 families are already making plans to head to Ouray, Colorado August 1-8, 2021. If you are interested or have questions let me know. This will also be a subject at the planning meeting.

Stay safe and healthy and hope to see you at one of the upcoming meetings.

Vic Strnad, Events Coordinator: [vmstrnad@gmail.com](mailto:vmstrnad@gmail.com) (C)785-865-9957 (H)785-842-5814

## **Safety Report: Tony Smith**

Safety!!! Safety!!! Safety!!!

Trailer 101: What to Know Before You Tow

Trailer Basics

SEE ALL 15 PHOTOS

Ali Mansour Author Four Wheeler Aug 9, 2019

While modern trucks continue to dwarf torque and hauling figures of the past, there is definitely more to the towing equation than pulling power. No different than properly setting up your 4x4, making sure your tow rig and your trailer are safe for you and others on the road is equally important.

From choosing the right tow vehicle to how to properly strap down your trail rig, there is plenty to consider. Thinking about an off-road trailer to take on your next overland adventure? Have you considered all of your hitch options? How about tongue weight?

In this story, we will cover some of the fundamentals of towing. We'll also break down some frequently misunderstood aspects and provide helpful tricks that have served us well over the years.

Tow Rig

There's no doubt that modern 4x4s are seriously impressive when it comes to pulling power. However, you don't want to be at the max end of your rig's capabilities. Additionally, adding

on aftermarket bumpers, larger tires, and even aftermarket suspension systems can alter your tow rig's abilities. The best approach is to find out the exact weight you are towing (use a public scale) and refer to your rig's specifications to ensure that your rig is designed for that amount of weight. We recommend utilizing a tow rig that can haul well over the amount of weight you wish to tow. This will equate to less stress on the vehicle and an easier towing experience. The example shown here is a Nissan Titan with a max tow rating of 9,730 pounds towing an approximately 4,300-pound trailer.

### The Right Trailer

New trailers are great, but secondhand trailers can be very alluring, as some can be picked up for half their original cost. However, you want to make certain that it's well suited for your hauling needs. Keep in mind that the trailer's weight must be calculated into the equation when looking at ratings. For example, if the trailer ID tag states that it has two 5,000 pound axles, but it weighs 2,500 pounds, it can hold a maximum of 7,500 pounds. Wood deck trailers will likely need new planks every few years. However, they are often lighter than a full-steel trailer.

### Brake Controller

One of the most common standard features on new midsize and full-size trucks optioned with a tow package is an integrated brake controller. If your 4x4 doesn't have one, without question you need to get one. Many trailers have electrically powered drum brakes, which work very well. These take command from a brake controller that's either integrated into the vehicle from the factory or mounted independently, such as the one shown. A brake controller allows you to control the output of trailer braking power, so make sure you take the time to get it correctly dialed in.

### Loading Up

One of the biggest mistakes people make is too little tongue weight. Sure, getting your rig balanced on the trailer might seem logical, but too little tongue weight, and your trailer can easily push around your tow rig. Too much weight on the tail of the trailer can also result in fishtailing. Both make for an incredibly dangerous situation. If your truck starts to go nose high with only 15 percent or so tongue weight, you'll likely need some sort of overload springs or airbags out back. When in doubt, a little extra tongue weight will always be safer than weight shifted to the rear of the trailer.

### Strapping Down

There are a few schools of thought when it comes to strapping your 4x4 to a trailer. When possible, this author prefers to run the straps in the back straight and cross the front. We've consulted with tow truck operators and strap manufacturers, and many of them actually prefer to run the straps straight at all four corners. We carry a variety of different 4x4s which doesn't always make that possible. Most agree that axle and/or tire straps are the right way to go. This means you'll have a total of four straps securing the vehicle's axles or tires to the trailer. We tend to toss on body straps that we secure to our front and rear tow points on the trail rig, as well on longer pulls, to limit the 4x4's movement.



## Hitches

Receiver hitches are rated by class and correlate to the amount they are designed to tow. Just like the receiver, the hitch you insert is just as important. Again, knowing exactly how much you're pulling will guide you in this process. We prefer adjustable hitches such as this one from Curt. It has a 2-inch and 2 5/8-inch ball with a 14,000-pound rating.

## Airbags

If your truck's front end starts to go north with 15 percent of tongue weight, you'll likely need a set of helper airbags or overload springs. We prefer airbags, as there is little to no drawback when you're hauling unloaded. There are even kits that offer auto-leveling, so you can take the guesswork out of leveling your 4x4.

## Off-Road Trailers

There are scores of off-road trailers available nowadays, and their popularity is growing by the day, especially in the Overlanding world. Custom off-road trailers are also gaining in popularity, and with cool parts such as Timbren's ([timbren.com](http://timbren.com)) Axle-Less suspension now available, people have been crafting their own camping and rugged trailer setups. Aside from purchasing a proper hitch, the biggest word of caution we have is to be mindful of weight. It is very easy for these seemingly compact trailers to weigh thousands of pounds fully loaded. And, keep in mind that towing off-road puts way more strain on your vehicle than just pulling it on asphalt.

## Off-Road Hitches

You can't talk about off-road trailers without mentioning hitches. For anyone who has ever worked around heavy equipment, you're likely familiar with a pintle hitch. These are common and very durable for on- and off-road use. However, there are more specialized hitches, such as the Lock 'N' Roll ([locknroll.com](http://locknroll.com)) shown here. This gives the trailer three axes to pivot, which allows the trailer to easily conform to off-road conditions. This makes for a safer towing configuration on the trail and ultimately puts less strain on your vehicle and trailer.

Photo: Courtesy of Ram

## Gooseneck & Fifth-Wheel

If you're looking to get the most out of your truck's towing capacity, then a gooseneck or fifth-wheel needs to be on your upgrade list. A fifth-wheel is more common for recreational trailers and can even be a factory-installed option, such as the one shown here from Ram. By placing the trailer mounting point in the bed, you can safely increase the amount you tow over what's commonly referred to as a bumper-pull trailer. In addition to higher tow ratings, the in-bed pivot point makes for increased maneuverability.

## Cooling Considerations

So long as you are towing within the manufacturer's parameters, staying out of the red shouldn't be difficult on the road. Off-road is an entirely different story. We have witnessed tow vehicles overheat many times off-road. Mixing a trail with long travel times and low speeds in the dirt can overtax a rig's cooling system. Upgrading your cooling system with an aftermarket pusher fan can be an easy first step toward combating overheating. A dedicated oil cooler is also another simple but effective investment.

### Tow-Rig Prep

The same care that you take to ensure your trail rig is in good shape should be taken to get your tow rig in shape. Before every long haul we recommend completing a full checklist, including the brakes, air pressure in the tires, fluid levels, condition of the receiver, and the front end. Of the aforementioned, one of the most important things to check (and it is often overlooked) is tire air pressure. The pressure you drive with daily is most likely too low for towing. Your tire will state maximum and minimum air pressure. You want to find a balance that is suited for your hauling needs.

### Trailer Axles

For conventional single-car trailers, you will likely find either a torsion or leaf-spring suspension. Torsion setups are generally a bit more expensive, but they offer easier packaging and fewer wear parts. The big thing to note with a torsion axle trailer is that they are more sensitive to uneven loads, so you will have to ensure your trailer sits level. Leaf-spring setups are more common and a bit more user-friendly. The big downside (and common failure point) can be found at the shackles. Unlike the shackles on your 4x4, these may need to be swapped out every year or two.

### Straps

For the last 10-plus years, we have almost exclusively used a strap over a chain to secure our rig. We like that they are lighter and a bit easier to work with. For an average trail rig, we recommend straps with a 10,000-pound rating (that is each strap). We also recommend keeping these properly stored when not in use, because sitting outdoors can cause them to weaken over time. Another important thing to remember is to make sure you have at least two full wraps on the strap before cinching down your load. Bonus points for strap ties or zip ties to keep the ends from flapping in the wind.

If you trailer and want to check your tongue weight. Vic Strnad and I each have tongue scales and would be glad to assist you in dialing in your trailer.

Tony Smith

FHJC Safety Officer

## **WELCOME NEW FHJC MEMBERS:**

**Jeff & Robin Lampe, Topeka, KS. 2010 Wrangler.**

**Bryon & Myra Wilson, Wamego, KS. 2001 TJ.**

## **UPCOMING FHJC MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

**The club uses CB channel 10 for all trail events/trips. Channel 15 or frequency 462.5500 is an alternate at designated events/trips.**

### **FHJC 2020 EVENTS**

**NOVEMBER: Nov. 7th, All Day**, Kansas Rocks Park, Kansas Krawl Event and Competition put on by one of our Partners 4X4 Land. Proceeds back to Park. Fees Apply.

**Nov. 14th, 10:00 A.M.** Monthly Meeting, Randolph location TBA.

This meeting nominations will be taken for the Clubs 2021 Officers and deadline to have nominations for Member of the Year submitted to that Committee. Wheeling to follow at Tuttle ORV, bring your lunch for later.

**JANUARY 2021: Jan. 1st, 10:00 A.M.** Hangover Run, Tuttle ORV, meet in the Staging area.

**Jan. 9th, 10:00 A.M.** Monthly and Planning Meeting, Kansas National Guard Museum, 125 SE Airport Dr. Topeka, KS.

**ALSO DISCUSSED: Summer 2021**, Club Trip to WindRock Off-Road Park North of Knoxville,

TN. This trip will be discussed more as 2020 moves forward.