

CLUB NEWS

New Name, New Look, New Focus

Formerly known as "H2 South Texas", **Hummer X Club** continues the tradition of organizing **free events** for all four-wheel drive enthusiasts. With the new look, come some **new objectives**:

- Off Road Events
- Family Events
- User Groups
- Product Events

The new Hummer X Club will not only bring you **off-road action**, but will cover **all other facets** of Hummer ownership. Whether you are looking for **Hummer Xtreme** action or simply looking to show some individual **Hummer Xpression**, you'll find it at Hummer X Club.

Hummer X Club represents the **H2 Club** in Texas and all H2 Club members are welcome at our events, as are owners of the established H1 and the upcoming H3. Membership of Hummer X Club is not required to attend any event, but is required to vote for the board of directors and is encouraged. Membership costs \$30 initially and then only \$15 annually. A free Hummer X Club t-shirt is included with the initial membership fee. Hummer X Club is a not for profit organization.

Our next major event will be the "**Big Wheels Deliver**" function. We are being asked to help Meals on Wheels on **March 29th** from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Hummer owners will simply need to show up and help bring attention to this very worthwhile cause. Local celebrities will also be on hand and a few Hummer owners will be asked to drive them on deliveries for the Meals on Wheels organization.

After that it'll be time to soak up some sun down at the coast! We will be having a family friendly weekend down at **Padre Island National Seashore on May 13th – 15th**. Come for the whole weekend or just a day.

If you have any comments, suggestions or potential contributions for the club or this newsletter, please write to us at Newsletter@HummerXClub.com



PICTURE OF THE MONTH

HX Club President, Phil Day, climbing "The Launch Pad" at Devil's Den. If you would like to submit a POTM, please forward pictures to: Newsletter@HummerXClub.com

CALENDAR

Big Wheels Deliver- March 29th – 11AM-1PM

Hummer owners deliver Meals on Wheels to help gain exposure for this worthwhile cause.

Padre Island Beach Run – May 13th-15th

We will head out for a weekend at Big Shell

For more information please contact Seth Fox at Seth@hummerXClub.com

We are currently planning several other events including less formal events at Devil's Den in San Antonio. If you have an idea or suggestion for a future club event please contact us at Newsletter@HummerXClub.com

DEALER NEWS by Craig Cutcher

What's new for Hummer on the local front you may ask? Well, there is a lot happening right now. Here at **Ken Batchelor Hummer** we are right in the middle of construction on **our new facility**. We are building a 22,000sq ft showroom and office complex to house Hummers as well as Cadillacs and Saabs. This facility will have a look and feel that will compliment the awesome vehicles we are selling. Completion is expected around the end of May, so be sure to come by and visit. The other exciting news is that we have **2 new Hummers hitting the marketplace by the first of June**. The **H1 Alpha** featuring the **Duramax Diesel** and **Allison Transmission** will have 300hp and 520lb/ft of torque. The Alpha also gets a 2 inch lift, new helical cut gears, 12 inch brake rotors for quicker stops and the all new interior that debuted in 2004. On the smaller side, the long awaited **Hummer H3** will begin arriving in late May and early June. It will be 5 inches shorter in height, 5 inches narrower and about 15 inches shorter in length than the H2. A Hummer in every respect, the H3 will ford 24 inches of water, climb a 60 percent grade, and traverse a 40 percent side slope. The H3 comes in either manual or automatic transmission, is available with a locking differential, 33 inch tires, and of course underbody protection. The best part is that the price is rumored to start under \$30,000. We are currently taking deposits and will begin ordering in the next few days. If you are interested and would like more information, call us here at 210-690-0700.



TRAIL TIPS by Seth Fox

For this first article, I would like to discuss what you should carry in your HUMMER every time you go off-road. First let's discuss what should be considered "Essential Equipment".

The following are items that would be sorely missed in the event that they were needed; a good quality 3" or 4" **tow strap** and at least two 5/8" or 3/4" **shackles**, **leather work gloves**, **first aid kit**, **fire extinguisher**, and a **communications device** such as a CB, FRS and/or cell phone, obviously everyone in your group should be using the same system.

The tow strap and shackles are imperative for having your vehicle recovered from a potentially bad situation; do not assume that someone else will have this available. Leather work gloves are essential in many trail situations from cutting brush to stacking rocks. A first aid kit and fire extinguisher should go without saying.

Other equipment that we recommend you have on hand is; a shovel, tool kit, engine oil and ATF, change of clothes, tire repair kit, tire inflator, and a winch. Having the gear is one thing, **making sure it is in good working order** and that you are up to date on its operation is equally as important. This is far from a complete list of trail equipment you may need, but a good start. For a more **comprehensive list**, please visit our website www.HummerXClub.com and look for the "Extraction Gear" link under our "Tech" section.



PRODUCT REVIEW by Phil Day



Aftermarket **rear differential covers** are not only aesthetical pleasing, but they serve a very functional purpose; better cooling. With a larger oil capacity than stock, in this case 25% more, and cooling fins, aftermarket diff covers help **reduce heat** in the rear diff, especially under stressful driving conditions, such as those encountered when off-road. The added thickness also adds strength to the differential housing.

PML specialize in sand cast **aluminum covers** and offer one for the AAM 14 bolt rear diff as fitted to the H2. It is available from TrailDuty.com in **cast finish**, **black powder coat** and **polished**. The product is well made and well finished and feels very solid. The gasket surface is very smooth and the aluminum is 3/8" thick around the gasket flange and 3/16" elsewhere. There is an easy to reach **fill plug** (level check) and easy to access **drain plug**. The diff cover drain plug is at the very bottom of the diff, allowing all oil to be drained. The drain plug is **magnetic**, so that it catches any metal particles in the diff, a good way of also checking for potential issues during regular maintenance. The drain and fill plugs are galvanized and come with a copper washer. The mounting bolts and washers are all stainless steel.

Full instructions are provided and are easy to follow and installation takes about **45 minutes**. There is potential for a lot of dirt and mud to gather around the lip of the stock diff cover, so wash the whole area down very well before starting work. This reduces the potential for foreign matter entering the diff. When you have tightened all the bolts, go over and check them again, as the first ones to be tightened may become loose as others are tightened. Once installed, fill the diff with 75W-90 synthetic gear oil, remember it will now take slightly more to fill, also do make sure you have the drain plug installed first! Overall, a **very simple installation** that required minimal tools and was completed in 45 minutes.

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS... by James Thomas

OK folks, these are the basics to keeping your HUGE investment clean and therefore help retain its value. I spend hours at a time detailing mine. Not because it ever gets muddy like most of you who actually use these monsters for there intended use, but because it's my hobby. (also, because it keeps me out of trouble!)

Wash your truck in the shade. The sun and its heat don't mix well with soap. Use a soft, CLEAN wash mitt and a pH balanced car wash. **Dish washing detergent is the enemy!** It damages the finish, stripping it of vital oils causing it to dry out. Don't use a brush. This will scratch the paint. **Wet the truck down first.** This is to remove the larger debris and it also cools the paint and keeps the soap and water from drying and causing spotting. When washing, start from the top and work your way down. Rinse the vehicle often. When drying the vehicle off, you can use a chamois to get the bulk of the water, but finish it off with soft cotton towels. Though hand washing is preferred over an automated car wash, you may also use a "Touchless Car Wash" that uses high-pressure water and special cleaning agents to clean the vehicle without damaging the surface or stripping wax. These are not nearly as good as a hand wash but often are more practical for our busy lives. Because of the size of the H2, special attention needs to be considered before entering the wash itself.

These are the basics. I'll get in to the "details" next issue.



READER'S RIG

This month's Reader's Rig is James Thomas' H2. This beast of an H2 features a 6" Fabtech lift, massive 38x15.5x18 Toyo Open Country MT's.

James also has 4 Warn SDB 210 lights mounted on the Warn light bar on the front. James keeps his truck looking immaculate and is our detailing expert for the "Details, Details, Details..." column. Don't let that fool you though, James has shown that his truck is off-road functional as well as great looking!

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The Hummer X Club is a registered not for profit organization in Texas.