National Society of Collegiate Scholars

When: February 28, 2002 Where: Rudder 308 Time: 5:30 p.m.

Last meeting before Spring Break

For more information, contact us at: nscs_tamu@yahoo.com

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Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Down and Dirty

Texas A&M Off-Road's membership increases

By Kelcey Rieger THE BATTALION

David Ohendalski, Class of 1998, wanted to bring together friends to share his passion of going off-road with their 4x4 vehicles in 1998. Ohendalski found Aggies who shared the same passion for 4x4 vehicles and formed Texas A&M Off-Road (TAMOR).

"It was practically an overnight success," Ohendalski said. "Our first priority was to create a constitution so we could become a Texas A&M recognized organization. After we accomplished this, we quickly got the word out by setting up a table at the spring MSC Open House and having frequent 'truck shows' in front of Rudder Fountain."

They had more than 100 members within the first year.

Mark Shipman, a graduate student in the Lowry Mays College of Business and president of A&M Off-Road, became interested in TAMOR. like many members, after seeing a Texas A&M Off-Road

"I have a four-wheel drive vehicle. In my case it's a Jeep,' Shipman said. "One day while I was cruising around town, I saw a Texas A&M Off-Road sticker on the windshield another truck. So I did a little searching and found the club. I quickly discovered that TAMOR was a club made of good folks who were really passionate about four-wheeling."

Even though it is a Texas A&M recognized organization, TAMOR is not limited to Texas A&M students.

"We are an open organization, eager to accept folks who share in our passion," Shipman said. "We are not limited to TAMU students and we currently have a number of Blinn students as members. There are also a small and active portion of our club who were former students or not even students at all."

The time and money required to be a member of TAMOR vary according to the time put into working on a truck, "wheeling" or having an officer position in the organization.

'As an officer in the club, it does take a lot of time, but the

demands are not overwhelming." Shipman said. "Membershipman said." only requires you to show up and have fun. Most of the time with the club is on our trips or just hanging out."

TAMOR is important to many of its active members W. has it created friendships, but it has become a necessity for in off-roading.

"This club means a fot to me," Shipman said, "Most about friends I otherwise would not have met if it weren't club. Despite having 110 members, we are a pretty tier

group. But it is also about preserving our hobby. Shipman said many off-roaders are under attack as public is being closed from wheeled vehicles. He said the club's is to unite off-roaders and educate those who would further their cause by acting irresponsibly off-road.

Because of the lack of places to wheel Texas A&M Off-Road takes road tripsin and throughout the United States allows members to enjoy their in a great place without critic We abide by the

Lightly practices, mean can only travel on desitrails in a responsible Most of the areas we fre are designated as of only and are set up port a group like Shipman said.

AGGIE

THE BATTAL

Steven Wolver junior computer s major and vice pre of TAMOR, join getting in contact the organization his current room who was a men the time. Wolver several TAMOR trips under his b many off-roading from his experient "I have been or

trips including Texas, Oklahoma, Moah Montrose, Colorad

Gilmer in east Texas," Wolverton said. "I would have to say best weekend trip I have been on was when we went tol October of 2000. It was basically the first trip of the semester down on Thursday night with a buddy of mine and started On Friday and Saturday night we all sat around the campa back and had a 'frosty beverage' together. It was a blast."

ADRIAN CALCANEO . THE BATTALION

According to the TAMOR constitution, to become a min

See TAMOR on page

The Alcohol and Drug Education Programs in conjunction with the MSC **Proudly Present**



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