

Recovery Points



The Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2012

CORE Black Friday Trail Ride

The annual wheeling event continues

Mike Vincenty

MAFWDA Secretary & CORE member

It has been a tradition now for most of CORE's 10 plus year existence to do something special on Black Friday, the traditional start of the holiday shopping season and busiest day of the year. While 90% of the population heads into the city, the malls, and shopping centers, CORE members and guests head in the opposite direction; away from the hustle and bustle and into the woods for a relaxing and challenging day in the woods with our four wheel drive vehicles and good friends. This year was no exception.

Joining us this year for this annual CORE event were:

- Bob Weaver, and Dave Dorf in the blue Rubicon TJ (CORE)
- Paul Lepine in the blue Rubicon LJ (CORE)
- Mike and Donna in the white Rubicon TJ (CORE)

With only three vehicles in our group, we agreed to get
continued on page 2

...because access to YOUR public land is too important to lose

President's Message

From the desk of the President of the Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association

Preston Stevens

MAFWDA President & PA Jeeps member

Here is an update on the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area in Northumberland County.....This is going to be the newest wheeling spot for everyone. They have big plans to make everyone welcome to the area like hiking, biking, horseback riding, ATV, OHV, a zip line and snowmobiling. Check out their website if you haven't been following this you should be.....
www.anthraciteadventure.com/

I strongly recommend that you all take time to google this place. Those folks have really done their homework and are making provisions for most all trails users. I am proud to say that PA Jeeps, a club I am a member of, and is also member club of the Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association has played a major role in helping to bring this together. While still not a done deal. Everything is pointing to a very successful project.

This will likely be a huge boost to those local economies.

Reprint from: newitem.com

Northumberland County will receive \$1.5 million in state money for further development of the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area on 6,500 acres of land in Coal, East Cameron, Mount Carmel, West Cameron and Zerbe townships.

The amount is the largest sum out of \$31.5 million for 218 conservation and recreation projects designed to protect natural resources and revitalize communities across the state, which was announced by Gov. Tom Corbett in Montgomery County Wednesday.

The announcement was welcome news among local legislators.

continued on page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 CORE Black Friday Trail Ride
- 1 President's Message
- 3 Business Partners
- 4 Board of Directors
- 4 Calendar of Events
- 6 Club News
- 7 How To Write Good Letters To Your Elected Officials
- 7 Quote
- 7 MAFWDA Online Store
- 8 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) in Jeopardy!
- 9 Come New Year, We Will Pay to Drive on the Beach
- 12 Puzzle Page

■ MAFWDA Camping/Trail Ride

from page 1

a later start. Instead of the normal 6:30 AM meeting time, we chose a 7:30 AM meeting time in Urbana MD, with a planned arrival time at Rausch Creek Off Road Park (<http://www.rauschcreekoffroadpark.org/>) around 10 AM. The weather forecast for the day promised to be spectacular, sunny and temperatures in the mid 50's; a special treat for this trip as the weather on prior CORE Black Friday runs has not been as kind.



Challenges on blue 36..

We assembled at Rausch Creek and met Dave Dorf CORE club member all the way from Japan. Dave rode shotgun with Bob as it did not seem feasible to ship his four wheel drive vehicle all the way from Japan for this trip; maybe next time.

For those not familiar, Rausch Creek Off Road Park consists of 3,000 acres with over 30+ miles of trails for almost every type of 4x4; from stock to pro rock buggies. The trail system spans four different sections; East property, West, South, and Northeast. All of which vary in types of off roading terrain and obstacles.

The Rausch Creek trail network offers some of the easiest 4x4 trails to some of the toughest rock crawling trails in the country. Rausch also has one of the only manmade concrete/all natural rock crawling courses in the country to test your skills from beginners, to pro competition drivers.

Watching her struggle to get her Jeep up the rock formation made me glad that I was coming down, and would have gravity working for me.

On this trip we decided that we would explore the Northeast section of the park. This is the most recently opened section of that park. Our goal was to explore this section with the idea of covering a good portion of the trails especially the greens and blue rated trails. The Northeast section of the park is across the main roadway at the Rausch Creek park entrance. We headed in this direction and started the exploration.

We entered the trail system and turned left on green N1. The N numbered trails are a set of green trails that generally run the perimeter of the Northeast section of

the park. We proceeded along N1 and were presented with some hill descents and rocky challenges. What struck us all was that the set of green trails in the Northeast section of the park were more challenging than those in the other section of the park.



Mike and Donna on blue trail 36.

We progressed along and took a right turn onto green X2, crossed over X2, and turned right onto X4. Again small rock gardens made these trails interesting and kept us on our toes. These green trails are passable via stock vehicles with spotting required in some areas. From here we entered our first blue trail by turning left onto 36.

Trail 36 is interesting. You are presented with an uphill climb that presents you through a couple of options; in the middle is a significant rock formation that can only be navigated by the most built up vehicle; off to the right is a challenging "by-pass" that takes you over a series of rocks as you make the uphill ascent; off to the left is a less challenging "by-pass" with a smaller series of rocks. I chose the left trail and requested that Bob spot me through this section none the less. Even on this section of the trail, I could tell that my Jeep and my driving skills were being tested on the rocky terrain. Paul was next in line. He chose the harder right path and climbed this section with no issues. Bob also completed this section of the trail taking the left path.

From here we connected to blue trail 34 and hung a right. Again lots of rock littered the trail. Now we were on a general downhill descent. About three quarters of the way down, we came across another club who was on their way up. The group was congregated around one of their young female drivers who was navigating very steep and tough rocky section. Watching her struggle to get her Jeep up the rock formation made me glad that I was coming down, and would have gravity working for me.

The young driver from the other club eventually climbed up with the assistance of a little power and a spotter guiding her to the correct line. It was our turn to descend, and with Donna spotting us down, we all cleared this section of the trail with no major difficulty.

We departed blue trail via a right on green T2. Here

continued on page 3

■ CORE Black Friday Trail Ride Ride

from page 2

we pulled off the trail and spotted for a lunch next to a nicely running stream.



Paul Lepine on blue trail 36.

After lunch we proceeded along to blue 40 which included a nice uphill climb, then onto green T6. Here a side trail called Tip-Top provided Bob and Paul a nice loop downhill and back up. Pressing on the trail turns sharply right onto green T1. We could see several of the black and red rated trails in Devil's Den off to our left. A quick right onto K and an immediate left put us onto blue 39.

On blue 39, Donna got out to guide us through the trail. Here there was lots of good size boulders that required you keep your wheels on in order to prevent getting hung up. At one point Paul got this Jeep hung up on some rocks. The right rear control arm was hanging on a rock and the rear differential pumpkin was pressed against a rock. We spent the next ten minutes or so stacking rocks behind the right front tire and attempting three of us attempting to push the Jeep backwards. Just when we were about to quick the Jeep tire caught stack of rocks and it pulled back off the hanger and differential. Picking a new line, and Paul was clear of this section.

Bob Weaver on blue trail 32. Also on this trail was a very deep rut that required very us to traverse it very slowly. Spotting was also necessary as there were significant rocks that had to be navigated to prevent getting hung up. This was the last major obstacle on this trail. We left trail 39 and took a right on green trail K to continue exploring the trail network in a southwardly direction.

Green trail K became a blue trail as the terrain descended downhill. Here we met up with green N3 where we took a short right and an immediate left on green R. Trail R brings takes us up hill where I hang a right across the south end of the Roswell trail network and Bob and Paul continue on R to explore the perimeter of R and blue trail 38B and 38A. We hook up along trail R and continue right on to N3 a short bit. Next a left on an unmarked green trail takes us close to the Area 51 trail network where we see a group of vehicles stuck in deep mud attempting to be recovered using tow straps.

continued on page 6

MAFWDA Business Partners

MAFWDA has partnered with preferred local businesses. These partners offer special discounts to MAFWDA members. If you own a business or know of a business that would like to become a Business Partner contact Jennifer Watson MAFWDA Marketing Director (Marketing@mafwd.org).

Adrenaline Off Road LLC



Your one stop shop for all of your parts and service needs. Installation is available for everything that we sell. Buy, sell, trade used parts and entire vehicles. Find your lowest advertised price and we will match or beat it.

www.adrenalineoffroad.com

15201 Birmingham Drive
Burtonsville, MD 20866
301-502-6180

River Raider Off-Road



High quality off-road enhancements for the four wheel enthusiasts.

www.riverraider.com

6389 Rockhill Rd
Chambersburg, PA 17202
717-262-3079

Mount Zion Offroad



We provide complete service for your Jeep with experienced techs, specialized tools, and a knowledgeable staff.

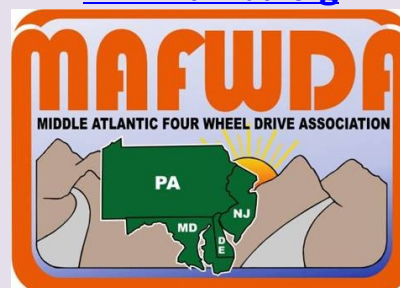
www.mountzionoffroad.com

4785 Carlisle Road
Dover, PA 17315
717-308-1844

Yes we are still on the Web!

Check out:

www.mafwda.org



DO YOU KNOW YOUR MAFWDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Your MAFWDA Board of Directors is composed of volunteer members who contribute their free time to keep the organization going. Currently we have the following folks on the BOD:

President – Preston Stevens (PA Jeeps)
President@mafwd.org

Vice President – Bob Weaver (CORE)
VicePresident@mafwd.org

Treasurer – Clair Kauffman (PA Jeeps)
Treasurer@mafwd.org

Secretary – Mike Vincenty (CORE)
Secretary@mafwd.org

Land Use Director – Preston Stevens (PA Jeeps)
LandUse@mafwd.org

Director of Marketing - Jennifer Watson (PA Jeeps)
Marketing@mafwd.org

Director of Events and Public Relations – Vacant
PublicRelations@mafwd.org

Do you have free time and are willing to help MAFWDA? If so contact one of the Board members at the email addresses above. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BIG DOGS ICE BREAKER

April 28-29

6,000 acres of private, heavily wooded legal land, 8 times a year. Near Winchester, Virginia

Contact: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com

Web site: <http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com>

BIG DOGS MILITARY JEEPERS

May 11-13

Contact: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com

Web site: <http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com>

BIG DOGS SPRING FLING

June 8-10

Contact: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com

Web site: <http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com>

17TH ANNUAL ALL BREEDS JEEP SHOW

York, Pennsylvania

July 21-22

Web site: <http://www.pajeeps.org.com>

BIG DOGS BRONCO ROUNDUP

June 22-24

Contact: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com

Web site: <http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com>

continued on page 5

■ President's Message

from page 1

"The continuing work at the Anthracite Outdoor Recreation Area is not only important for Northumberland County in terms of recreation, but also in terms of economic development," said Sen. John Gordner (R-27). "Numerous national groups have expressed interest in holding events at the site once it is more fully developed."

State Rep. Kurt Masser (R-107) said he has been working with the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to bring the project funding to fruition, formerly as a Northumberland County commissioner and currently as a state representative.

Plans call for AOAA to be used for motorized and non-motorized recreation, including all-terrain and off-road vehicles, cycling, hiking and horseback riding.

"I am pleased with the substantial state commitment to further development of the Anthracite Outdoor Recreation Area," said Masser.

Potential

Gordner said the large grant is indicative of DCNR's strong support for the project.

"Secretary (Richard) Allan and his staff are fully committed to this project," he said. "They're very excited about it."

Gordner said DCNR sees "incredible potential" with the AOAA, and he continues to advocate for it as well.

The grant allocates the money to be used for "construction of off-highway vehicle facilities, 200 miles of trails, trailhead amenities, parking, utilities, ADA access, landscaping and project sign, according to the announcement.

The county commissioners adopted a resolution earlier this month approving the master site development plan for the AOAA. The plan, which is complete and in accordance with the DCNR grant agreement, was pending final review and approval from DCNR and the state Department of Community and Economic Development.

While the park construction hasn't started yet, Jeep Jamboree USA has already added an event to its 2012 schedule in August.

Plans call for AOAA to be used for motorized and non-motorized recreation, including all-terrain and off-road vehicles, cycling, hiking and horseback riding.

continued on page 5

■ Calendar

from page 4

WEST VIRGINIA

TBA

Contact: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com

Web site: <http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com>

UFWDA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

York, Pennsylvania

July 23-24

Web site: <http://www.ufwda.org>

BANTAM JEEP HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Butler, Pennsylvania

August 10-12

The Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival is a tribute event for the father of all jeeps, the history behind it, the people who created it, and it's birthplace, Butler, Pennsylvania

Web site: <http://www.bantamjeepfestival.com/>

BIG DOGS SUMMER SLAM

August 11-12

Contact: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com

Web site: <http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com>

NOVA TRAILFEST 2012

Rausch Creek, Pennsylvania

August 24-26

Hosted by Northeast Offroad Vehicle Alliance

Web site: <http://nova4x4.org>

BIG DOGS RICHMOND 4x4 SHOW & SHINE

August 18

Contact: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com

Web site: <http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com>

BIG DOGS MAIN JAMBO

September 14-16

Contact: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com

Web site: <http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com>

CORE MOAB TRIP (TENTATIVE)

Moab Utah

September 2012 (tentative)

Contact: jfmiller72@core4x4.org

Web site: <http://www.core4x4.org>

Any additions? Contact Mike Vincenty to get them added to the MAFWDA calendar (Newsletter@mafwda.org). ❖

Do we have your email?

As a member of MAFWDA, you should be receiving periodic communications from your fellow MAFWDA members Board Members. If you haven't been receiving these messages, we probably do not have your current email address. Shoot Mike V your email address at mvincenty@core4x4.org and he will ensure you are added to the MAFWDA email list.

Also all current MAFWDA members are encouraged to post items of interest for follow four wheelers on this public email list. Simply send email message to mafwda_news@mafwda.org. ❖

■ President's Message

from page 4

Kathy Jeremiah, project coordinator and county grants manager for the county Planning Department, was unable to be reached Wednesday evening.

Money for playground

Additionally, Kulpmont received a \$40,000 grant for further development of the playground at the Terri Meriello Stadium, and the department has committed \$99,000 for the continued work in the Roaring Creek Tract of the Weiser State Forest, including comfort stations, ADA access and landscaping.

Kulpmont is in need of a safe playground area for the community's children, and the legislators were pleased to advocate for this project, Gordner said.

Since the state acquired the land for the Roaring Creek Tract of the Weiser State Forest several years ago, DCNR has been undertaking a yearly effort to improve recreational opportunities in the forest, including trail development. This year's project will involve new comfort stations, ADA access and improved signage and landscaping.

In the media release from the state, Corbett said, "The health and vitality of our communities is reflected in the quality of their parks and trails, access to rivers, open spaces and opportunities to be active outdoors. Through these grants, we're able to fund hundreds of projects to help conserve and enhance our natural assets."

Funding is provided through the Community Conservation Partnerships Program of DCNR, which provides grants through previous bond issues and through portions of recreational vehicle registration fees.

Read more: <http://newsitem.com/news/aoaa-to-get-1-5-million-1.1245144#ixzz1gzXenfpS>



Preston Stevens is the MAFWDA President and Land Use Director. He is also a member of PA Jeeps. ❖

PA Jeeps Club News

Jennifer Watson

A note from the PA Jeeps Club....

This year's United Four Wheel Drive Associations (UFWDA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) is hosted by PA Jeeps and will be held the 3 days following the 17th Annual All Breeds Jeep Show in York PA at the York Fairgrounds in July. The Jeep Show is July 21 & 22; the AGM will be 23 - 25.

More details are to come and registration will be available the first of the year.

So far you will be invited to attend the 17th Annual All Breeds Jeep Show on Saturday and Sunday at the York Fairgrounds, followed by meetings on Monday and Tuesday at the Holiday Inn. Wednesday a guided trail ride will be available at:

Rausch Creek Off Road Park
453 Molleystown Rd, Tremont PA 17981
GPS Coordinates: N40° 36.5074', W76° 26.9170'..
Phone: (570) 695-3900
<http://www.rauschcreekoffroadpark.org/>

The trail ride will be for registered participants only.

Hotel accommodations :

Holliday Inn
York-Route 74 & US
30 2000 Loucks Rd
York, Pennsylvania 17408

Book online or call: 1 877 410 6667

<http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/york/thvlo/hoteldetail>

Make sure when making reservations you say they are for the United Four Wheel Drive Association AGM Meeting so you get the proper room rates.

The York Fairgrounds Address:

York Fairgrounds
334 Carlisle Avenue
York, PA 17404 ❖

CORE Club News

Mike Vincenty

CORE plans 2012 Moab trip.

This fall CORE members are planning a special fall trip to Moab for the ultimate four wheel drive experience. Planning is currently in the early stages with the following key elements:

- Vehicles transported by professional carrier west and back east.

- Trip in the September time frame.
- Plan to fly into Grand Junction Colorado to pick up vehicles and drive to Moab.
- Estimating trip to be one week in duration.

The goal is to get eight vehicles to attend this event which allows for cheapest transport rate of approximately \$500 each direction per vehicle.

For additional information please contact CORE member Jeff Miller (jfmiller72@core4x4.org). ❖

■ CORE Black Friday Trail Ride

from page 3

From here we took a lazy ride back to the beginning of the trail head hanging a left on green N4 and continuing to N3, K2, K2, N3, a left on X1, and finally a right on N4.



Bob Weaver on blue trail 32.

On this trip we covered a lot of trails in the Northeast section of the park. We covered a new section of the park that none in the group had previously visited. The green trails have some nice interesting sections and the blue trails really tests your skills. This trip prepared us all for our next trip to Rausch Creek. Let's make sure we get back soon!



Mike Vincenty is the MAFWDA Secretary and an active member in CORE. ❖

How To Write Good Letters To Your Elected Officials

Protecting Our 4-Wheeling Trails & Riding Areas

Jim Walczak (Reprinted)

4wheeldrive.about.com

If you're passionate about a particular issue (such as protecting public lands and roads for outdoor recreation, including four-wheeling), then you'll want to contact your elected officials to encourage them to vote a particular way on that issue.

These writing tips highlight the best way to get your point across to your senators, representatives and local elected officials. Remember, these are the key people who have an impact on road closures and public land issues that pertain to four-wheelers and outdoor recreationalists. And they are *paid* to represent you!

Here's how to start a one-person e-mail (or letter) campaign:

1. Put something attention-getting into your main subject line or headline. Think about a "play on words" or a catchy phrase you've heard regarding land issues. This is just one of the [tips for making sure your letter actually gets read](http://www.delalbright.com/Articles/Bureaucrats.htm) (<http://www.delalbright.com/Articles/Bureaucrats.htm>). Here are some [more tips for dealing with bureaucrats](http://www.delalbright.com/Articles/Bureaucrats.htm) (<http://www.delalbright.com/Articles/Bureaucrats.htm>)
2. Make your point right away. The second sentence is too late. Summarize the reason for your letter (or e-mail) in the very first sentence. And include what you'd like them to do about it. For example, "I'd like for you to vote 'No' on XYZ legislation" (if you know it), or "I hope that you'll support the rights of responsible off road recreationalists in any future legislation". Be sure to mention that you are one of their voting constituents.
3. Don't speak negatively throughout your entire letter. You don't want to come across as a blow-hard who's just complaining about the way things are. Certainly address the downsides of the issue, but be sure to say something complementary as well -- either about four-wheelers as a group, or about the elected official. For example, after you [see how your representative has voted](http://www.vote-smart.org/official_five_categories.php?dist=voting_category.php) (http://www.vote-smart.org/official_five_categories.php?dist=voting_category.php) on legislation regarding land matters, you might be able to add a word of thanks for their support in the past. If the tone of your letter is negative or angry, your efforts will be counter-productive... just a

continued on page 8

Quote

Albert Einstein

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former."

Will Rodgers

"On account of being a democracy and run by the people, we are the only nation in the world that has to keep a government four years, no matter what it does."

Have An Interesting Article?

Always looking for news

Yes there is more space available in this newsletter.

Do you have an interesting article that would be of interest to the MAFWDA membership? If so, please submit it to the Middle Atlantic newsletter editor. It will be published in the next edition of Recovery Points. ❖

MAFWDA Online Store

Get your MAFWDA merchandise here!

Did you know that Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association has an online store? Here you can purchase great MAFWDA branded merchandise on the online store. Tee-shirts, sweatshirts, coffee mugs; we got it all!

<http://www.cafepress.com/mafwda>

This month's featured item.



Headed to the club for a work out? No sweat. Our Nylon Gym Bag from American Apparel is the perfect way to transport those damp gym clothes back home. Made with a water-resistant Nylon Pack Cloth construction, it's made for the rigorous demands of an athletic lifestyle. With a durable zipper (surrounded by reinforced-Nylon) and Nylon webbing straps, you'll love this versatile and durable bag.

- 100% Nylon
 - Dimensions: 20" x 9" (50.8 cm x 86 cm)
 - Easily folds into luggage
 - Dual handles
- Made in the U.S.A. by American Apparel

\$14.49

■ 9 Simple Ways to Increase Public Awareness

from page 7

waste of time. If you make your point in a logical manner, they're more likely to listen to you.

Take advantage of this great tool (<http://vote-smart.org/index.htm>)... See exactly how your federal representatives voted on key issues! This is a great way to stay informed. You can have your representatives' votes emailed to you (<http://capwiz.com/share/megavote/>) on a weekly basis.

4. **Personalize your letter** in such a way that it looks like it's from one individual who is passionate (and logical) about the issue. Someone who takes it personally and speaks from the heart. Personal calls and letters tend to have more impact than petitions or form letters. Speak from experience whenever possible. And be sure to mention any groups or clubs you're a part of, as well as the positive things you have done to protect and maintain public lands to date. Personalizing your letter in such a way reminds your representative of their obligation to represent you, as one of their constituents, and encourages them to act on your behalf. Let your passion for this topic come through in your own words.

5. **The majority of your letter should be written using indented bullet points**, rather than writing in typical letter fashion. Bullets force you to be short and to-the-point, while summarizing your overall feelings and key facts. Remember to include reasons why this is an important issue -- to four-wheelers, as well as to other outdoor recreationalists. Here are some key points you may want to include (<http://4wheeldrive.about.com/cs/ecolandmatters/a/protectrail4x4s.htm>) in your letter.

Remember, the shorter your letter, the better. Rather than trying to cover all the facts about the topic as you know them, choose to passionately make one point instead. Keep in mind that three short and to-the-point letters will have more impact than one long letter.

In your letter...

6. If possible, try to include a photograph of you, your family or friends enjoying a particular trail, or doing something positive to maintain a local riding area (not trail tampering!). Visual examples go a long way. If the form of your letter is an e-mail, then simply scan your photo

and save it on your computer, then attach it to the email you're sending to your elected official.

7. Finish your letter by restating the main point that you made in your first sentence. Thank them for their attention to this important matter. Restate your confidence in them. And again request that they vote a particular way about on future legislation.
8. Perhaps the best part: Once you fine-tune what it is you want to say, it's easy to maximize your efforts by sending the exact same e-mail (or letter) to all of your elected officials - on the local, state, and federal level - at once!

The time to start your e-mail campaign is now! Here's who to contact (http://4wheeldrive.about.com/cs/ecolandmatters/a/protectrails4x4_5.htm). ❖

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Remains in Jeopardy!

Reprint (<http://www.arra-access.com> 7/10/2011)

News alert from: Americans for Responsible Recreational Access (ARRA)

A few days ago, we sent you a special ARRA alert telling you that the Recreational Trails Program was in jeopardy. We urged you to immediately contact members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to express support for this very important federal program and thousands of you did! Thank you for being so responsive on such short notice.

Things do change here in Washington and sometimes not for the better. In our November newsletter, I provided you with a report on the legislative status of RTP and indicated that Senator Barbara Boxer, Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW), had stated publicly her support for the program and that the committee was going to keep the program intact. Literally within a day from the time we hit the send button to distribute the November newsletter, we learned that the committee leadership, Senator Boxer and Senator James Inhofe, the Ranking Minority Member, were planning to present newly drafted transportation reauthorization legislation to the entire EPW Committee. The new legislation did retain the Recreational Trails Program, but eliminated its dedicated source of funding. For some reason, Senator Boxer thinks we should be pleased with this result.

We, along with a diverse group of other recreation

continued on page 9

■ Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Remains in Jeopardy!

from page 8

groups, immediately launched a series of meetings on Capitol Hill with the offices of other members of the EPW Committee who shared our concern with the way the draft legislation treated RTP and some other transportation programs. Much to our disappointment, efforts to modify the "draft legislation" were largely rebuffed by the committee leadership prior to the committee markup session.

In recent months, the issue of "transportation enhancements" has become a punching bag of sort since funds for highway construction/repairs are in short supply. RTP is not a transportation enhancement though such items as highway beautification and bicycle lanes are considered such enhancements. Some members have questioned spending money on these other projects when our highways and bridges are in need of repair. But as we keep reminding folks on Capitol Hill, RTP is not an enhancement - it is user paid, user benefit. Unfortunately for us, RTP has been swept up in the broader debate over transportation enhancements and that is why we are in the current legislative predicament.

RTP currently receives almost \$90 million in revenue generated by those of you who pay excise taxes on the fuel you use in your off-highway vehicles. While the policymakers still want you to pay those taxes, they just no longer want a portion of what you pay to go towards building and maintaining recreational trails.

As things stand, there are many more chapters yet to be written in this legislative script. The play is far from over. The clock is ticking on the temporary authorization extension that ends in March of 2012, so this issue is not going to go away. If you, by chance, are one of the few who hasn't already used the ARRA website to contact members of the Senate EPW Committee to express support for RTP, please take a minute and do so by going to this link:

<https://secure3.convio.net/arra/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=322>

In the coming weeks, we will be expanding our legislative outreach to include the entire Senate and House of Representatives. Please be prepared to take action when you receive an ARRA alert encouraging you to do so. ❖

**For more information on the
Recreational Trails Program see the
following on-line resources**

Federal Highway Administration

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/>

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/traillfund.shtml

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/MD_Trails/Funding_RTP.asp

Pennsylvania Department Conservation and Natural Resources

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/rectrails.aspx>

Come the New Year, We Will Pay to Drive on the Beach

Reprint (<http://islandfreepress.org> 12/15/2011)

Shooting the Breeze, Island Free Press - Editor's Blog by Irene Nolan

Anyone who has followed the National Park Service's efforts to formulate an off-road vehicle plan for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore knows that far-reaching changes to the traditional use of our beaches are coming.

They are changes that will affect the culture and the economy of Hatteras and Ocracoke islands.

It's also been apparent for at least the last decade that one of the biggest of those changes will be the requirement that we buy a permit to drive on the beach.

However, these changes have always been out there somewhere on the horizon, down the road, as the rulemaking effort proceeded in stops and starts and stalls along the way.

Now we are about to reach the end of the road, and the changes are just around the corner.

Not too long after the start of the new year, we will have to buy the permit if we want to drive on the beach. All who want to drive on the beach will have to buy one – whether you have lived here all your life, are visiting for a week, or just passing through for a day.

When local reporters met with seashore superintendent Mike Murray last week, the ORV rule was the first topic up for discussion.

Murray reiterated that the Park Service will publish the final ORV rule in the Federal Register in January, and that it will become effective by Feb. 15.

We had plenty of questions for Murray, not all of which he could answer. The final rule is still under review in

continued on page 10

■ New Year Pay to Drive on the Beach

from page 9

Washington by NPS and the Office of Management and Budget, and the superintendent cannot discuss the details until the final rule is just that – final.

But he did talk in generalities about what's about to happen here as the park prepares to implement the new plan.

First, Murray said that procedurally, the rule is usually not effective until 30 days after publication, but, he said, there are ways to get it done in fewer than 30 days if necessary to meet the court-agreed-to Feb. 15 deadline. He said that there were 21,000 comments submitted on the draft ORV rule and that he would characterize them as "polarized."

"People generally thought there was either too much or too little ORV access," he said.

The published final rule, he said, will have a long preamble in which the Park Service will describe and answer the comments and identify what has been changed from the draft rule because of the comments.

Permits, Murray said, will go on sale when – or right after – the rule becomes effective in February.

The park has already placed trailers at Coquina Beach, the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and Visitor Center, and the Ocracoke Visitor Center at which the permits will be sold.

"We are not satisfied with the appearance," Murray said. And indeed the trailer parked in the shadow of the Hatteras lighthouse is pretty much an eyesore.

He said the park will eventually build new structures for permit sales, but was not prepared to do so at the start. Among other things, he said, officials may decide that those three locations are not the best or most convenient.

We will have to apply for the permits in person at one of these sights. We will watch a seven-minute educational video about beach driving and regulations and sign an agreement that we understand and will abide by the rules.

Then we will receive either a sticker for the windshield or a permit that will hang on the vehicle's rear view mirror, depending on whether we have purchased an annual or seven-day permit.

Annual or seven-day permits will be the only choices. There will be no daily permits for anyone coming to the seashore just for the day. And visitors whose vacation lasts more than one week will probably choose an annual permit, since it will probably be more cost effective.

Permits will go with the vehicle, "like a license plate," Murray said.

If you buy a permit for your vehicle, you can let friends or family drive it, but you are responsible for making sure they know the rules. If you have more than one vehicle that you drive to the beach, you will need a permit for each one.

Murray said that park officials are trying "to figure out the Saturday-Sunday rush" for permits as new visitors arrive.

There is certainly a good possibility that the weekend rush will be a nightmare scenario.

Also, he said that after the permits go on sale this winter, there will be a grace period since the park understands that not everyone who wants an annual permit can get it immediately. The first few days or weeks of permit sales, even just to locals, could be pretty hectic.

The park has not decided yet if you will have to appear in person and view the video each year to renew your permit.

Many had hoped to see the permits sold online. Certainly, the technology is available to make sure an applicant has watched the educational video before receiving the permit.

However, Murray said that traditionally the Park Service prefers face-to-face interaction for the educational segment of permitting activities.

Online sales, he said, could be considered at some point in the future.

Now what everyone wants to know about the permits is: How much will they cost.

If the park knows what the permits will cost, no one is saying so now, with maybe only two months to go before they are required.

Murray said a decision still had not been made. He referred reporters to the pages in Appendix C of the Final Environmental Impact statement, issued in November, 2010.

In its answers to public comments on permit fees, the Park Service said the cost would be similar to what is charged at Cape Cod or Assateague national seashores and mentions the range of \$90 to \$150 for an annual permit.

"We'll probably start out somewhere in the middle of the range," Murray said.

Weekly permits will cost a third or a half of the annual permits, depending on whether the annual permit fee is on the lower end or higher end of the range.

There is no limit on the number of permits that can be sold, but the Park Service has set carrying capacity for the beaches. When beaches reach the carrying

continued on page 11

■ New Year Pay to Drive on the Beach

from page 10

capacity, no more vehicles will be allowed until some leave.

The carrying capacity is described in the park's preferred alternative for the ORV plan as the linear distance of the open beach route divided by six meters (20 feet) per vehicle. This is the equivalent of 260 vehicles per mile.

In addition, vehicles will be allowed to park only one deep on the beach – stacking of vehicles behind each other or circling vehicles as a wind block will not be allowed.

Currently night-driving permits, which are available online, are required for driving at night from Sept. 16-Nov. 15. Under the permit system, night driving times and restrictions will be part of the permit, so you won't need another one to drive at night in the fall.

Also, permits can be revoked if the person who is permitted violates the rules, especially for serious offenses, such as drunk driving or driving in a closed resource area.

One complication with setting the fee is that the permits are a cost recovery program. NPS will determine all of the costs – staffing, supplies, equipment, and other non-personnel services coast – that will be necessary to run the program. This number will be divided by the estimated number of permits by type (annual and seven-day) that will be sold to reach the cost of the permit.

Murray notes that the initial cost will be subjective, based on an estimate of the number of permits the park will sell in the first year. That estimate has apparently not yet been determined.

The ORV plan also calls for infrastructure improvements on the seashore to address the new access areas, such as pedestrian-only beaches. Most of the improvements include additional ramps and parking areas.

The Park Service will begin the process of developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the improvements in January.

However, all the aspects of the plan, including beaches for pedestrians only, will be implemented when the final plan is effective.

Murray sees no problem with that, since he says most of the improvements are “redundant” – such as extra ramps that would help provide access to beaches

when a nearby ramp is closed because of nesting birds.

The EA will be subject to public scoping and the Park Service will issue a draft before there is a final plan for the improvements.

Murray says he has discussed the issue of funding the improvements with park officials at the regional and national level.

“They all agree,” he said, “that if it's in the plan, we need to have the money to follow through.”

However, he added that there is a good chance that all of the improvements will not be funded in the first year of the plan.

It seems to be a given that the improvements won't be in place the first year if the park has to do an environmental Assessment and find funding for them.

All in all, it's fair to say that the rules about to become final, especially the permits, are going to be difficult for some folks to adjust to.

For many, the changes will be a shock.

And there are many – perhaps more islanders than visitors – who have not kept up with the rulemaking process and don't know there are permits in their very near future.

Friends have been asking me just this week about the “rumor” that we will have to pay to drive on the beach.

Well, trust me, it's not a rumor. ❖

For more Information on the NPS plans for OBX beach closures see the following on-line resources

To read more about the November, 2010, Final Environmental Impact Statement, see: <http://islandfreepress.org/2010Archives/11.15.2010-NPSReleasesFinalEnvironmentalImpactStatementOnORVPlan.html>

The EIS will largely provide the framework for the plan and access to the beaches.

To read more about the draft ORV regulation, published last summer, see: <http://islandfreepress.org/2011Archives/07.20.2011-ParkServiceIsPreparingToImplementORVRule.html>

Puzzle Page

Instructions: Here you find a “word search” puzzle need to be solved. Clues are provided below. If you get stuck, you can cheat and get answers to the puzzles here: http://mafwda.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=29

Spinning Wheel

Wheel and tire related technology.

T	C	H	U	Y	E	T	X	I	E	N	P	S	A	C
W	A	S	V	G	S	P	K	M	G	P	G	H	V	T
H	C	T	A	P	T	C	A	T	N	O	C	E	T	U
E	C	U	L	M	H	S	O	C	A	L	Y	T	S	D
E	G	N	V	E	G	I	A	R	R	Y	R	I	Y	H
L	A	G	E	T	I	P	S	I	D	E	W	A	L	L
C	O	U	S	R	E	I	O	M	A	S	T	O	P	T
O	C	L	T	I	W	N	Y	D	O	T	T	N	E	N
V	X	G	E	C	U	G	E	S	L	E	O	U	E	S
E	I	B	M	J	K	C	U	H	C	R	I	A	R	C
R	H	F	E	E	N	C	P	L	I	E	S	H	H	P
R	A	D	I	A	L	Y	G	E	U	B	P	X	T	B
U	O	C	L	H	D	T	R	W	W	B	E	Y	G	I
H	J	A	C	K	G	I	M	J	C	U	G	L	T	I
L	B	F	N	Z	T	U	P	Q	H	R	J	T	U	B

Words to Find

AIRCHUCK	BALANCE	BEAD
CAP	CENTERCAP	CONTACTPATCH
CORDS	GUAGE	JACK
LOADRANGE	LUGNUTS	LUGWRENCH
PLIES	PMETRIC	POLYESTER
RADIAL	RIM	RUBBER
SIDEWALL	SIPING	THREEPLY
TIREIRON	TREAD	VALVE
VALVESTEM	WEIGHTS	WHEELCOVER

MAFWDA Newsletter
9073 Harris Place
Frederick, MD 21704

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
00000

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED