

# Recovery Points



*The Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association Newsletter*

**Volume 4, Issue 4**

**October 2014**

## Maryland Recreational Trail Program (RTP)

**Preston Stevens**

MAFWDA Director Conservation/Land Use

This year's meeting was held in Grasonville, Md., that is just over the Bay Bridge. There was a pile of applications for the Federal Recreational Trails money; far more in dollars than dollars available. Believe it or not, \$1,500,000.00 goes real fast when you have so many. I suppose, depending on how you look at it, we did okay because there were some really bad and incomplete applications. When I say bad, I mean requests for funding projects that have absolutely nothing to do with recreational trails, or some ask for say, \$40,000.00 but do not explain what they are to be actually spending it on. In other words, you can say your organization needs \$40,000.00 to build a trail and that is it. What is that to be used for? Labor, materials, tools, etc. That too needs to be broken down. How may to perform the labor, at what rate and estimated hours. In other words, there must be an accounting. This is tax payer money.

There were also some very interesting requests that

*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*

**Larry Pope**

MAFWDA President and CORE President

I hope everyone had a great summer out on the trails, 4X4 events, and other adventures. The 19th Annual All Breed Jeep Show was held July 19th and 20th in York, Pa. A couple of BOD members manned the MAFWDA booth at the show. Preston Stevens, MAFWDA Director of Conservation and Land Use, hosted the annual MAFWDA Potomac State Forest Volunteer weekend August 8th through the 10th.

I mentioned above about how our member clubs set the positive example of four wheelin' and off roading in general regardless the vehicle type. Well a few nuts from VA, PA, and MD just don't have the same scruples. There were ten individuals ticketed by the MD NRP in western Maryland for illegally riding their ATVs on state land. All ten are in their mid to late 20's and should know better. I didn't mean for my message to end on a negative note but I wanted everyone to know if someone breaks the law by riding where they don't belong they will get caught eventually. On a positive note, I know this type of behavior is not condoned by any MAFWDA member. I have inserted below the news release sent to MAFWDA by the Maryland Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance (MDOHVA).

Again, thanks to all members and officers of MAFWDA for your support and guidance. ❖

Larry



**Larry Pope** is the MAFWDA President. He is also a member of CORE. ❖

*continued on page 2*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 1 Maryland Recreational Trail Program (RTP)
- 2 Maryland OHV Stake Holders' Meeting
- 3 Business Partners
- 4 Board of Directors
- 4 Calendar of Events
- 5 Potomac State Forest Trail Ride/Campout
- 6 More Maryland OHV Stake Holders' Meeting
- 8 Member Clubs
- 9 Quick Tips for Responsible Four Wheeling
- 10 MAFWDA Online Store
- 11 Quick Bites / Quote
- 11 2014 Club of the Year and BoD Nominations
- 12 Maryland OHV Alliance on the Move

## ■ Maryland Recreational Trails Program

from page 1

deserve funding. They will benefit a lot of people. That raises the rating of a request, as to how many folks and different trail uses the fund will benefit. For new trails, unfortunately, it does need to go through the NEPA process (environmental review).

Is the trail going to be sustainable? In other words, you built it in July 2015; will it be there in 2 years? Is it going to erode quickly? Is it accessible to all public?

Maps and photos are needed to show exactly what is going in and where it is.

Motorized requests are far and few in between. Well, there were a few this year. Some were just for ORV trail maintenance. One was to contribute to a trails construction guide that will benefit anyone trying to start from scratch or redesign a trail(s).

Remember, this is your money that you contribute to at the pump through Federal gas taxes. So, whether it is in Maryland or another state, if your club has an opportunity to construct a new trail or you know of a land manager that says he cannot maintain a trail due to budget reasons, let him know about the Federal Recreation Trails Program. ❖



**Preston Stevens** is the MAFWDA Director Conservation/Land Use. He may be contacted at [pstevens122656@comcast.net](mailto:pstevens122656@comcast.net).

## Maryland OHV Stake Holders' Meeting

### Ken Kyler

MD OHV Alliance Secretary/Treasurer

1) The meeting was held 8/27/14 at the Allegany Community College. Attendees from the Alliance were Mike Twigg, Preston Stevens, Randy Beeman and Ken Kyler. Wind O'Neal was not present but Kevin Conlin (his handler) was. Kevin is a good guy. Also present were Dr Sunshine Brosi from Frostburg State (1/2 day), Kevin Dodge from Garrett Community College (sits on the Savage River Watershed Board),

*continued on page 3*

## ■ President's Message

from page 1

### **NRP Charges 10 Men with Riding Off-Road Vehicles on Protected State Land**

Oakland, Md. (September 8, 2014) — Acting on a citizen complaint, Maryland Natural Resources Police officers charged 10 all-terrain vehicle riders Saturday with illegally operating in the Youghiogheny Natural Resources Management Area (NRMA) in Western Maryland.

Officers staked out an area near Youghiogheny Mountain Resort in Oakland at 2 p.m. and issued tickets to 10 riders from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia:

David Alan Bateman, 24, Arbutus; Christopher Matthew Bryant, 27, Alexandria, Va.; Kevin Lawrence Eckart, 23, Ellicott City; Bradley Joseph Fowler, 26, Ellicott City; Matthew Thomas Fowler, 23, Ellicott City; Jeffrey Alan Santmyer, 22, Ellicott City; Joshua Joseph Sebrosky, 23, Bethel Park, Pa; William Robert Setzler, 29, Glen Burnie; Brett James Smith, 24, Sykesville; and Jason William Vizzini, 25, Severn.

"This NRMA, managed by the Maryland Park Service, serves as a protective buffer for the Youghiogheny River, the State's first Wild and Scenic River," said Col. George F. Johnson IV, NRP superintendent. "The NRMA designation ensures both the primitive character of the area and water quality. It is important to protect its integrity."

The Youghiogheny corridor offers a variety of recreational activities, including Class IV and V whitewater rapids during times of high water flow. There are public access points for hiking and catch-and-release fly fishing.

The maximum fine for the violation is \$500. The riders are scheduled to appear in Garrett District Court on Dec. 11. ❖

## 2015 MAFWDA Board Position Elections

### Mike Vincenty

MAFWDA Secretary

Many of the MAFWDA Board of Directors positions are up for nomination and election for the upcoming 2015 calendar year. The following positions need to be filled: President, Secretary, Director of Conservation/Land Use, Director of Marketing, and Treasurer (out of cycle). Please consider volunteering and contributing your time to keep the organization going.

The elections will be held at the November 8 meeting. See calendar of event below for more information. ❖

## ■ Maryland OHV Stake Holders' Meeting

from page 2

Steve Carr (DNR Trails Manager), Steve Storck (Garrett Trails - their new executive director) and a few whose names I did not write down - a fisheries guy and someone from law enforcement.

2) Paul gave a very brief recap of the Sideling Hill meetings and commented on Edward's bill to prevent OHVs at Sideling. He alluded that we might want to have Edwards do the same, but opposite, thing should the State buy Kitzmiller. In other words have legislation introduced mandating that Kitzmiller be operated as an OHV park.

3) The next topic was St John's Rock aka Red Dog Rd aka Savage River State Forest. Paul presented the preliminary design (which I have already sent out). He discussed how the State selects contractors -- essentially whomever is next in line -- and offered that the contractor had no experience in designing OHV areas. The efforts though of the Alliance to educate DNR on good OHV trails, plus the NOHCC Trail design Guide that we gave them, paid off. Paul ensured the contractor had that info. The preliminary design could have been a lot worse! DNR made on requirement to restrict development to previously disturbed areas. The two areas shown are clear cuts from earlier logging. I've personally expressed to Paul that we need to cut additional track into the canopy area. We'll need to revisit that later; it seems to be a sensitive topic. I'll come back to that. Each trail is designed for ATVs and no single-track was identified.

The 15 primitive campsites are intentionally close together to make management by DNR easier. There will be a central latrine. Kevin Dodge asked about campground capacity and after looking at the topo,

questioned whether some of the sites were level enough for a tent or trailer. DNR stated the campsites needed to be reviewed for size, location, etc. Paul stated that riders would have priority access to the campgrounds. There will also be a day parking area.

DNR will use a reservation system and limit access to 15 riders/day on the trail. We pointed out that 15 is a pretty low number and would expect that to increase. We expressed that a good monitoring program needs to be developed and implemented so that we can objectively determine what a proper user load is for the area.

Paul stated law enforcement presence will be frequent and if the campsite is full and all the rider slots use, guaranteed.

Paul stated that construction likely won't start until calendar year 2016. We asked in volunteers could start cutting in trail. DNR said no. Wade Dorsey (the forest manager) says he must have auditable documentation

continued on page 4

## 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 Larry Pope MAFWDA President Director ([President@mafwd.org](mailto:President@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](http://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](http://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.

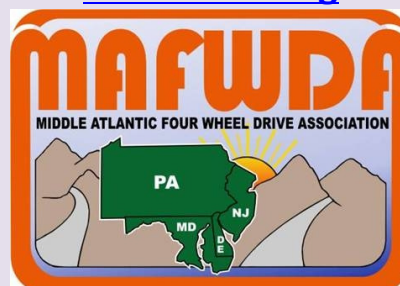
[www.mountzionoffroad.com](http://www.mountzionoffroad.com)

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

## Yes we are still on the Web!

Check out:

[www.mafwda.org](http://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 – Larry Pope (CORE)**  
[President@mafwd.org](mailto:President@mafwd.org)

**Vice President – Bob Weaver (CORE)**  
[VicePresident@mafwd.org](mailto:VicePresident@mafwd.org)

**Treasurer – Clair Kauffman (PA Jeeps)**  
[Treasurer@mafwd.org](mailto:Treasurer@mafwd.org)

**Secretary – Mike Vincenty (CORE)**  
[Secretary@mafwd.org](mailto:Secretary@mafwd.org)

**Land Use Director – Preston Stevens (PA Jeeps)**  
[LandUse@mafwd.org](mailto:LandUse@mafwd.org)

**Director of Events and Public Relations – Vacant**  
[PublicRelations@mafwd.org](mailto: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

### CORE GREEN RIDGE VOLUNTEER WEEKEND

Green Ridge State Forest, MD

October 3-5

Contact: [lpope@core4x4.org](mailto:lpope@core4x4.org)

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

### EVOR WHEELIN 4 WISHES

Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area, PA

October 11

Contact: <http://eaglevalleyoffroaders.com/wp/contact-us/>

Web site: <http://eaglevalleyoffroaders.com>

### BIG DOGS FALL CRAWL

Gore, VA

October 18, 19

Contact:

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

### 7TH ANNUAL MASON-DIXON WILLYS JEEP GATHERING

Union Mills Homestead

3311 Littlestown Pike

Westminster, MD 21158

October 27

Contact: [admin@jeepchasm.com](mailto:admin@jeepchasm.com)

Web site: [http://carrollcountytourism.org/ai1ec\\_event/7th-annual-mason-dixon-willys-jeep-gathering/](http://carrollcountytourism.org/ai1ec_event/7th-annual-mason-dixon-willys-jeep-gathering/)

### MAFWDA ANNUAL MEETING

Bill Bateman's Bistro

805 Aquahart Rd

## ■ Maryland OHV Stake Holders' Meeting

*from page 3*

on all work in the forest to support the SFI requirements. I think we need to revisit that later since the mountain bikers do volunteer work.

4) I'll get out of order and discuss monitoring. I have maintained from the beginning that there must be a monitoring program established and that all decisions about the trail system be based on facts versus personal opinions. During the meeting others also mentioned this. After the meeting, I met with Wade Dorsey (Savage land manager), Kevin Dodge (Garrett CC), and Steve Storck (Garrett Trails) to discuss establishing a monitoring program. Unlike Sunshine, Kevin likes the idea and offered to coordinate an interdisciplinary monitoring working group. Steve had great ideas from the bicycle trails monitoring he does. Wade and Kevin have ideas from the water quality monitoring they do (and can get ideas from fisheries if needed). I'm excited about this. From the research I've done with NOHVCC, there is no standard for monitoring. We have the chance to establish one. Better, by having solid and agreed upon data, decisions can be driven around fact versus personal bias. For example, after monitoring tail usage with 15 riders/day we can jump to say 30/day and continue monitoring. If all is good, jump to 60 ... etc. This becomes even more important if the State buys Kitzmiller.

5) With that segue, on to Kitzmiller aka Lupa Tana aka Wolf's Den aka North Hills. Paul gave a recap. Kitzmiller has 3,000 acres along the Potomac. It is an old mine/hunting camp/riding area. It was bought at auction by 7 local riders. Paul was at the auction and spoke with them immediately after the hammer struck expressing interest to buy the site. Paul has been in regular contact with them ever since. Paul has been pursuing this land for some time and had an appraisal done in 2008 with an acquisition in mind. He was scheduled to meet with them again this week.

According to Paul, the State must state the reasons why land is to be bought and the Land Board enforces that. In other words, as long as the State declares their intent to purchase the land as an OHV riding area, they must do that. Mike and I have discussed this and, considering this is Maryland, think we need to have Sen Edwards introduce legislation mandating the land be operated as an OHV area if purchased.

Paul also indirectly encouraged OHV enthusiasts to write the DNR, ask that Kitzmiller be bought and operated as an OHV park. I'll draft a letter and run it past Mike, then we can start another letter writing campaign.

6) Mike introduced Dan Miller and Vince Miller. Dan and Vince set up a booth and went around in Allegany county collecting signatures on a petition to reopen

*continued on page 5*

*Continued on page 5*

## ■ Calendar

from page 4

Glen Burnie, MD 21061 11 am November 8  
<http://billbateman.com/>

Contact: [President@mafwda.org](mailto:President@mafwda.org)  
Web site: <http://www.mafwda.org>

### **CORE BLACK FRIDAY TRAIL RIDE**

Rausch Creek Off-Road Park, PA  
November 28  
Contact: [mvincenty@core4x4.org](mailto:mvincenty@core4x4.org)  
Web site: <http://www.core4x4.org>

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

## ■ Maryland OHV Stake Holders' Meeting

from page 4

Green Ridge State Forest to OHVs. They collected 418 signatures and got very strong public support. Personally I'm encouraged that more local people are becoming engaged. They want to be involved and help.

7) We all discussed the liability legislation recently passed which becomes effective 1 Oct 2014. I have attached a PDF with the new language.

§ 5-1104 says landowners get liability relief if they allow OHV users on their land.

§ 5-1106 says if a landowner charges for access, they don't get the liability relief.

§ 5-1105 says land leased to the State receives liability protection. However, it explicitly states the State has that protection and is silent on other lessors. This could be construed to mean any other lessor also has that protection.

§ 5-1109 is, I think, our "get out of jail card" when the landowner charges for access to land. Paul has suggested that if a landowner gives a daily use "lease" and charges for it, then the entire statute applies and the landowner gets the liability relief.

8) I forget how it came up, but we need to write letters to our elected leaders and remind them we need OHV riding areas on public land. I'll get with Mike and come up with a draft and discuss a campaign plan.

I thought this was one of the best meetings to date. I think the "environmentalists" have finally accepted this is going to happen. They are now suggesting ways to do this responsibly and sustainably. ❖

Ken

## Potomac State Forest Trail Ride/Campout

### **Preston Stevens**

MAFWDA Director Conservation/Land Use

Sadly, we had a very poor turnout. Still, that fortunately did not detract from the fun and head way on the trail cutting. So much so, I think we may have cut past where Ramsey Road meets up with Rattlesnake Ridge Road. With so much stuff down, this truly, may be possible. If we did not pass it, then there have been some dramatic changes to the landscape from Hurricane Sandy.

In short, a lot of fuel and a lot of progress. Plus, a neat ride there. Next year, if we do this, we look to start at the top of Rattle Snake Ridge Road and work our way down. That really does not look to be that bad of a project. It was that we were just too tired.



After lunch, we did the road toward Steyer. We eventually came up to some no trespassing signs, so we respected the land owner's right and request and turned around. Unfortunately, on the way out, Tom Taylor wasted a 33" BFG Mud Terrain. Apparently that three ply sidewall was no match for this one rogue piece of wood that sliced the sidewall from rim to tread. It was an instant flat. Since Tom's spare on his vintage Bronco is a 32" tire we had to put the front tire on the rear and the spare on the front. I am not sure how he managed to ruin the back tire, but not even touch the front one. Luckily, we actually came up to a solid flat spot large enough to take on this task. It actually took very little time.

From there, we did the snow mobile trail. Due to a very bad thunderstorm in July, we had some downed trees on this route, too. So, once again, chain saws out and back to work. One tree was exceptionally hard. Still, with 2 chain saws cutting, it did not take too long. We actually had to do this about 4 times.

Still, we got back to camp at a nice time for a very nice dinner/social, if you will and time around the camp fire. Folks lasted until a little after 11:00pm. Not bad considering the day we had and that it was unusually humid for that area. But, not at all hot.

Sunday, it was requested that we do the snow mobile trail again, since it is so much fun and this time, with

*continued on page 6*

## ■ Potomac State Forest Trail Ride

from page 5

no labor involved.



Once back to camp, folks reluctantly packed up and said their goodbyes. Pam and I had been there since Tuesday and stayed until Wednesday after everyone left. The weather could have been a lot better, but it was all good. No mechanical break downs. Only a refrigerator that was not playing nice at first. But, I got that fixed. Spiders and Stink Bugs messed it up.

We did go out on Jennings/Randolph Lake twice and really enjoyed ourselves and managed to catch some fish. Very pretty and very peaceful. Amongst other things, we drive to Kindwood, W.VA. then took an paved road most of the way to Cranesville, W.Va. This is home to the famous Cranesville Swamp, which features some of the same vegetation only found in the Tundra and can have frost through mid June. Once in Cranesville, we took, yet another unpaved road back toward Oakland.

The first unpaved road was quite long, and very rough. Most certainly, not suitable for a low clearance car. We did not see any previous tire tracks on Cranes School Road, at all until we eventually crossed a black top road. While we did not need four wheel drive, there were sections that make you think about it. I am sure in some weather conditions, you would need it. Still, it was a beautiful drive, and the Jeep was the way to go there. The other road took us right through farmer Baker's property. We had to drive around one of his round bails of hay. We waved and he eventually waved back and with all of his fingers up. All good! Keep in mind, both of these are County Roads. Ah..., Preston County.



continued on page 7

## MORE Maryland OHV Stake Holders' Meeting

### Preston Stevens

MAFWDA Director Conservation/Land Use

On Wednesday, August 27th, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources hosted another ORV Stake Holders meeting. Since the closing of the Green Ridge State Forest ORV loop, Poplar Lick ORV trail, and Pocomoke ORV trail, the state been committed to find the OHV users of Maryland new opportunities. Whether on Public, Private or acquired private lands, several places have been and are under review or underway.

Let me give you a quick rundown.

The Sideling Hill WMA went through a public review and 200 locals in opposition and one OHV advocate were at the meeting. So, you know how that ended up.

Hancock was looking rather positive. But, now, the owner want to have someone else take over the property. Right now, that is on hold until the dust settles. Not a big property, but it would have a little bit of something for everyone. It is located near where I-70 and I-68 come together.

There is another piece of property in Garrett County that is not looking to promising right now.

Now, in Garrett County, near the town of Kitzmiller is around 3,000 acres of private land that is currently being used for OHV and camping. It is known by a few names. Most familiar is Wolf's Den. Then there is Lupa Tana and NorthHills. Right now, there is a \$120.00 Annual Membership fee. This property can accommodate just about any sort of OHV. Plus, there are places to camp there.

I have been to the property, but never on it. But here is what I know. First the negatives.

It can be a local popular party spot. You need someone to show you how to find the lady that is handling the membership. Plus, in my opinion, if you are only going up once, \$120.00 seems a little steep. Still, that is without actually going onto the property.

The pluses. It is very close to the Potomac State Forest. The town of Kitzmiller, and Garrett County need us bad. That part of Garrett County is rather depressed. They cannot even keep their one gas station open. More than 3 tables being used in the Coal Bucket Restaurant constitutes "being swamped." Again, there is something for everyone there. You can do a lot with 3,000 acres. It butts right up to the Potomac River. Thus, offers unique access to the river. The property has been heavily disturbed for many, many years. Thus, this property is perfect for OHV.

The Maryland DNR is very interested in this property to

continued on page 7

## ■ Potomac State Forest Trail Ride

*from page 6*

Now, if we do this next year, I have been in contact with a very long time friend of mine that I have not seen for many, many years. She lives in Cranesville and says she knows of some good roads we can access near her. We were also invited to her place to a cookout.

So, assuming we do this next year, there will be plenty of fun stuff to do, on top of what we always do.

I also would like to get more information on Kitzmiller (Wolf's Den) and form a scouting party for that

property. I am sure Tom Taylor would be game and can help us navigate the area some.

I would like some feedback on Potomac. Do you want to go next year? Pam and I will likely do something there, regardless. We simply enjoy it that much. If you all could stay longer up there, you would see what I mean. ❖

Preston

## ■ More Maryland OHV Stake Holders' Meeting

*from page 5*

be used as an OHV Park and designated as such. Of course, we all have a concern that in time, someone in the DNR would try to change its designation. The DNR has already identified a small piece of it for a unique wetland feature. Still, we were told, the reason they want it is for OHV. The current owners and there are a hand full, absolutely want it to remain for OHV use, period. They are nervous selling to the state for that very reason.

One avenue for consideration is a piece of legislation that would mandate that land be for OHV recreation. Another is a partnership with the State and the owners.

Never the less, there is a very good chance something will come of this and would be all good.

St. John's/Red Dog trail- This is actually under construction. It is located off of St. John's Rock Road on the Savage River State Forest, accessed from I-68 using the Finzel Exit. Currently, there is a road that has been pretty much completed. Now, an engineering firm is putting something together for featured trails along this road. At two locations would be Red, Blue and Green trails suitable for ATV's, dirt bikes and 4wheel drives. Also discussed was a single track that parallels the existing road and the potential for access to an existing "rock garden."

Right now, it is only a concept design. Oddly, enough,

this engineering firm has never designed and OHV area. They will use our input.

This site will also feature a camping area with the intention that it would be used by the OHV community. Right now, it is to feature 15 sites. The DNR is very open to including a group site.

Right now, I see two draw backs to this site. Right now, they are looking to limit to 15 OHVs on the trail at any given time. So, it would be on a reservation or lottery basis. This may change in time. The other thing, I may be wrong, but it does not look like this one site would be a full weekend's worth of wheeling. Yet, on the other hand, this is a start. Success here would open the door for expansion and future sites. Failure and it gets shut down. There has been a lot of thought going into this to prevent that. Even the trail design will not only be sustainable, but have enough sharp turns to hold the speed down. I could see us doing this as either a weekend in conjunction with wheeling on another site or a nice social weekend, featuring some wheeling. We will see.

Garrett Trails is very interested in us. This is very positive. Also, none of this should have any impact on our current arrangements. The one thing in our favor is it is easier for the land managers to accommodate our needs and we have developed a solid trust, as we are so careful not to mess anything up. Yet, we have a blast.

Now, will we, as licensed four wheel drive vehicles every regain access to the East Valley and Stafford Roads? I do not know. That was not discussed there, as this was a forum for all OHV. But, that has come up in the past. That is still an unknown and depending on who you ask, you will get a different answer. We can only hope and that it is done so where it is only suitable for high clearance four wheel drive vehicles, but in such a matter that it is sustainable and controls run off and erosion.

One more important piece to this. We need to put on a campaign, to quite honestly, support the DNR in these efforts by demanding four wheel drive access or OHV access. One group has already produce 400 signatures on a petition. Historically, that was not the most effective means to get your message across. But, in this case, it will help. Still, individual letters still carry some real weight. The Maryland OHV Alliance will be drafting some language soon for this. We want a consistent, solid message.

Folks, for the most part, this is great news. ❖

Preston

## Member Clubs



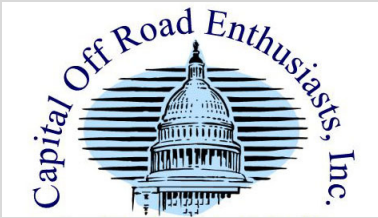
### PA Jeeps

Home of the PA Jeep show  
York Pennsylvania area

PA Jeeps, Inc  
P.O. Box 212  
Shrewsbury, Pa 17361-0212 717-309-0513  
[www.pajeeps.org](http://www.pajeeps.org)

### CORE

*Promoting Responsible Four Wheeling*



Washington DC metro area  
CORE is organized as a nonprofit organization for the purpose of providing social, educational, and recreational four wheel drive activities for its members and guests, as well as participating in and supporting civic activities for the betterment of the community.

[www.core4x4.org](http://www.core4x4.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/core4x4>  
[info@core4x4.org](mailto:info@core4x4.org)

### Eagle Valley Off Roaders



Lock Haven, PA  
Eagle Valley Off Roaders is a family based non-profit four wheel drive club open to all makes and models of 4x4's.  
EVOR is committed to promoting stronger family bonds and raising children to both enjoy and respect their environment by maintaining existing public trails and expanding trails on private lands that are open to our use. EVOR participates in trail clean ups and cuttings to help ensure that future generations can enjoy our sport.

[www.eaglevalleyoffroaders.com](http://www.eaglevalleyoffroaders.com)  
[jim@eaglevalleyoffroaders.com](mailto:jim@eaglevalleyoffroaders.com)

### Mid-Atlantic Jeep Club

### Mid-Atlantic Jeep Club

Frederick, MD  
Home of the 2013 Maryland Jeep Festival.  
[www.midatlanticjeepfestival.com](http://www.midatlanticjeepfestival.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/MidAtlanticJeepFestival>  
[midatlanticjeepfestival@gmail.com](mailto:midatlanticjeepfestival@gmail.com)

*Are you missing something? Where is your club? If you would like your club to be represented here, contact Mike Vincenty at [secretary@mafwda.org](mailto:secretary@mafwda.org) for information on how your club can contribute to MAFWDA.*



## Quick Tips for Responsible Four Wheeling

*Reprint From Tread Lightly*

### TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

- Travel responsibly on designated roads, trails or areas.
- Travel only in areas open to four-wheel drive vehicles.
- For your safety, travel straight up or down hills.
- Drive over, not around obstacles to avoid widening the trail.
- Straddle ruts, gullies and washouts even if they are wider than your vehicle.
- Cross streams only at designated fording points, where the road crosses the stream.
- When possible, avoid mud. In soft terrain, go easy on the gas to avoid wheel spin, which can cause rutting.
- Don't turn around on narrow roads, steep terrain or unstable ground. Back up until you find a safe place to turn around.
- Stop frequently and scout ahead on foot. To help with traction, balance your load and lower tire pressure to where you see a bulge (typically not less than 20 pounds).
- Know where the differential or the lowest point on your vehicle is. This will help in negotiating terrain and prevent vehicle damage resulting in oil and fluid spills on the trail.
- Maintain a reasonable distance between vehicles.
- Comply with all signs and respect barriers.
- Travel with a group of two or more vehicles. Driving solo can leave you vulnerable if you have an accident or breakdown. Designate meeting areas in case of separation.
- Choose the appropriate winch for your vehicle size.
- Attach towing cable, tree strap, or chain as low as possible to the object being winched. Let the winch do the work; never drive the winch.
- When winching always inspect your equipment, use the right winch for the situation, find a good secure anchor and never winch with less than five wraps of wire rope around the drum.
- When using a tree as an anchor, use a wide tree strap to avoid damaging the trunk of the

tree.

- Don't mix driving with alcohol or drugs.

### RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

Respect the rights of others, including private property owners, all recreational trail users, campers and others so they can enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

- Be considerate of others on the road or trail.
- Leave gates as you find them. If crossing private property, be sure to ask permission from the landowner(s).
- Yield the right of way to those passing you traveling uphill. Yield to mountain bikers, hikers and horses.
- When encountering horses on the trail, move to the side of the trail, stop, turn off your engine, remove your helmet and speak—you want the horse to know you are human. Ask the rider the best way to proceed.
- Proceed with caution around horses and pack animals. Sudden, unfamiliar activity may spook animals—possibly causing injury to animals, handlers and others on the trail.
- Do not idly ride around in camping, picnicking, trailhead or residential areas.
- Keep speeds low around crowds and in camping areas.
- Keep the noise and dust down.

### EDUCATE YOURSELF

Educate yourself prior to your trip by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes and knowing how to operate your equipment safely.

- Obtain a map, (motor vehicle use map where appropriate) of your destination and determine which areas are open to off-highway vehicles.
- Make a realistic plan and stick to it. Always tell someone of your travel plans.
- Contact the land manager for area restrictions, closures and permit requirements.
- Check the weather forecast before you go. Prepare for the unexpected by packing necessary emergency items.
- Buckle up! Seatbelts are mandatory. Know your limitations. Watch your time, your fuel and your energy.
- Take an off-highway drivers course to learn

*continued on page 10*

## News Items Wanted

The MAFWDA "Recovery Points" newsletter is always looking for interesting articles and news items for publication. If you or your club has something that you would like to share with other members of the fourwheel drive community, please shoot an email to Mike V (MAFWDA newsletter editor) at [Newsletter@mafwd.org](mailto:Newsletter@mafwd.org) and he will ensure your contribution is included in the next published edition.

"Recovery Points" is published quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul, and Oct).

## 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/mafwd>

**This month's featured item.**



### Zip Hoodie

- Heavyweight 90/10 cotton/polyester blend by Hanes
- Drawstring hood and front pockets
- Jam-resistant metal zipper
- Stretch ribbed cuffs and waistband
- Standard Adult Fit
- Machine Washable

**\$40.99**

## Do we have your email?

As a member of MAFWDA, you should be receiving periodic communications from your fellow MAFWDA 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 [Secretary@mafwd.org](mailto:Secretary@mafwd.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 fellow four wheelers on this public email list. Simply send email message to [mafwd\\_news@mafwd.org](mailto:mafwd_news@mafwd.org). ❖

## ■ Tips for Responsible Four Wheeling

*from page 9*

more about negotiating terrain in a four-wheel drive vehicle.

- Make sure your vehicle is mechanically up to task. Be prepared with tools, supplies, spares and a spill kit for trailside repairs.

### AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS

- Avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams. Stay on designated routes.
- Other sensitive habitats to avoid include living desert soils, tundra, and seasonal nesting or breeding areas.
- Do not disturb historical, archeological or paleontological sites.
- Avoid "spooking" livestock and wildlife you encounter and keep your distance.
- Motorized and mechanized vehicles are not allowed in designated Wilderness Areas.

### DO YOUR PART

Do your part by modeling appropriate behavior, leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species and restoring degraded areas.

- Carry a trash bag on your vehicle and pick up litter left by others.
- Pack out what you pack in. Practice minimum impact camping by using established sites, camping 200 feet from water resources and trails.
- Observe proper sanitary waste disposal or pack your waste out.
- Protect the soundscape by preventing unnecessary noise created by a poorly tuned vehicle or revving your engine.
- Before and after a ride, wash your vehicle to reduce the spread of invasive species.
- Build a trail community. Get to know other types of recreationists that share your favorite trail. ❖

Article contribution courtesy of Tread Lightly  
[www.treadlightly.org](http://www.treadlightly.org)

## Quick Bites

### Sustainable ATV Trails; Keeping water and soil healthy with sediment control

Recently published online, is a website linked to the USFS outlining the basics of sustainable trails and lists of resources. While aimed at ATV, the message is the same for 4x4 trails.

[http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/atv\\_trails\\_site/index.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/atv_trails_site/index.html)

#### learn

about the relationship between soil and water and how sustainable trail design can help prevent erosion and other harmful effects caused by erosion.

#### build

sustainable trails or improve existing ones using these time-tested techniques, each with detailed descriptions and photos.

#### manage

existing trails with methods for monitoring trail use and make decisions on how best to target resources for maintaining and improving trails.

### PA DCNR hosting 3 public meetings on draft plan for 2014-2018 Recreation Plan

The meetings are next week in Philadelphia (Tuesday Oct. 7), Harrisburg (Wednesday Oct. 8), and Pittsburg (Thursday Oct. 9).

Please try to get members of your home clubs to participate and spread the word to clubs and individuals who may not be on this list.

More details on the plan draft on the PA Jeeps forum:  
<http://www.pajeeps.org/forum/index.php?topic=5744.msg32326#msg32326>

Dave DeChristopher

*PA Jeeps Land Use*

## Quote

"Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated." **[Confucius]**

"It's fine to celebrate success but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure." **[Bill Gates]**

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time." **[Thomas A. Edison]**

"People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do." **[Isaac Asimov]**

## MAFWDA

### 2014 Club of the Year and BoD Nominations

A notice to all the Association clubs to submit their nomination packages for MAFWDA 2014 Club of the Year will be forth coming in the next few days. Your nomination packages are due to Mike Vincenty, [Secretary@mafwd.org](mailto:Secretary@mafwd.org), not later than October 18, 2014. Voting will be taking place at the MAFWDA Annual Meeting currently scheduled for 11 AM November 8, 2014 at Bill Bateman's Bistro (805 Aquahart Rd. Glen Burnie, MD 21061). Details and nomination template will be sent via email to all the clubs in the near future. Please ensure you capture all the great things your individual clubs have accomplished in 2014.

MAFWDA is also looking for volunteers to step up and nominate themselves or nominate someone they know for the MAFWDA Board of Directors positions of President, Secretary, Director of Conservation/Land Use, Director of Marketing, and Treasurer (out of cycle). The elections will be held at the meeting in November. ❖



Fly Damnit! Fly!

## **Maryland OHV Alliance on the Move**

One the evening of October 1, 2014, I attended and participated in the first Maryland OHV Alliance Social, held at the Shooters Bar and Grill, just south of Cumberland, MD.

The guests, amongst others, included Senator George Edwards (R) of Western Maryland and Delegate Kelly. Also there were the land owners of the old Wolf's Den (Loopatana) property just outside of Kitzmiller, Md, the Maryland DNR, the owners and operators of the Little Orleans Campground located on the Green Ridge State Forest, the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, mine owners, other business owners, and various representatives from the OHV community.

This, the brain storm of Ken Kyler, was engineered to get folks together so they can see what we really are and put faces to names, so we can tell our story and to explain the enormous benefits to having areas open to OHV recreation. Of course, the one that got the most attention was the economic benefits.

Ken moderated the event. He laid down the frame work. Each of us told our story and then fielded questions from the guests. Some very valid questions were raised and excellent responses and discussions flowed. By the time I left, there was a room full of friends and supporters.

I personally feel this event was a tremendous success! Ken did an excellent job putting this together and the folks at Shooters put on a really nice buffet. I really do not know what time the event ended, as I had to get back home so I could get up for work the next day.

This social was just one portion of a major event put on and organized by Ken. There also was a two day OHV trails workshop held at New Germany State Park one day and a field workshop and walk through at the new St. Johns Rock site that is under development. Great information was shared during this even that should result in an excellent opportunity and a great starting point. This was to educate the Maryland DNR on the design and development of desirable and sustainable motorized routes. The program was very well received.

It will, of course, take time. Still, look for some great things coming about in the not so distant future. I spoke with the gentlemen that own the Kitzmiller property. They are all about OHV and doing it right. They have offered to arrange for a tour of the property. If not before then, it is my hope that we can dove tail that into our Potomac trip that is slated for the weekend of August 8th next year. So, if you are interested, plan on staying longer. ❖

Preston Stevens

## **See Something Missing Here?**

Where is your club contribution to this newsletter? Where are your trip reports pictures and events? Folks in MAFWDA are interested in hearing what your club is up to and also in participating.

MAFWDA Newsletter  
9073 Harris Place  
Frederick, MD 21704

BULK RATE  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO.  
00000

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED