

Recovery Points

The Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 2

April 2016

Exploring Assateague Island National Seashore

Keith Holman

MAFWDA Member

Four wheel drive recreation opportunities in the Middle Atlantic area usually bring to mind trees and rocks, some mud and hill climbs. But we have access to another type of four wheeling opportunity in the form of Assateague Island National Seashore located off the eastern coast of the DelMarVa peninsula just a few miles south of Ocean City.

The barrier island has been around since the first settlers landed in these parts but it's been preserved as national seashore only since 1965. In the early 1960s, plans were put in motion to develop the island as a 5000 home resort community with houses and roads but before all the houses were built, the infamous Ash Wednesday storm of 1962 blew through and destroyed the few existing homes and destroyed the roads and other infrastructure. As several other national parks (like Grand Teton, for example), the developers realized they could salvage the remnants of their investment by persuading the federal government to buy the land for a national recreation area.

Now, 50+ years later, the barrier island boasts camping, fishing, and almost 18 miles of Over Sand Vehicle (OSV) route. Driving the OSV route requires a
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...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

You know that little thing in your head that keeps you from saying things you shouldn't? Yeah, I don't have one of those. ❖

Larry Pope

MAFWDA Spring Volunteer Weekend

Larry Pope

MAFWDA President

MAFWDA has made arrangements with the Forest Manager of Green Ridge State Forest in Flintstone, Maryland to participate in a volunteer weekend. This will be a camp and work project with those camping arriving the afternoon of Friday May 20th, volunteer work Saturday May 21st, and departing on Sunday. I have established a great professional relationship with the Forest Manager over the years. I lead several volunteer weekends at Green Ridge when I was a member of CORE. There are no actual off road trails located on the forest, those we had were closed 4 or so years ago. There are some roads that are not regularly maintained by the forest service and can be a little rough; stock rigs should be okay on most if not all roads. When the volunteer work is done I can lead a tour of the forest and travel some of the rougher roads and possible creek crossings. There are several overlooks with great views of the surrounding area and the Potomac River down in the valley.

A primitive group camp site (G-1) has been reserved for us for the weekend that will accommodate no more than 20 people. This site will not accommodate large RVs but travel trailers and pop-up camper may fit. The site has no pavilion so I recommend if you have a canopy please bring it along. I am working with forest personnel to have a porta-john placed on site. If that doesn't work out then your bathroom will be where the rest of the animals relieve
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■ Assateague Island National Seashore

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separate permit which is good for a year from initial purchase and starts at \$90 for daytime only use. (Options and other details are available at the website.) Be aware that the OSV has a 145 vehicle limit so on a crowded sunny summer weekend, you may have to wait for someone to leave before driving on.



We've gotten into exploring abandoned structures and shipwrecks and there is much to see on Assateague Island. We loaded the family up and went "down the ocean" a couple of times this past winter. Our first trip was over Veterans Day in November and we've made a return trip in early March. Both days were a bit chilly.

Veterans Day is one of the days that the National Park Service waives entrance fees so we didn't need our NPS pass to get through the gate although we still needed the OSV permit. The weather was a bit chilly but sunny. The counter at the OSV entrance indicated there were about 15 vehicles along the OSV and we saw most of them as we made the drive from the entrance all the way down to the Virginia Stateline. Along the way, we saw quite a few of the wild ponies which are a famous attraction in their own right.



The roads on the bay side of the island were closed in November for hunters and for cleanup following some of the winter nor'easter storms but we were more interested in the ocean side anyway. Our search for shipwrecks or other debris yielded nothing but we did see a couple of houses as we reached the fence at the state line. Although the NPS bought the land and structures in the 1960s, existing houses and lodges were leased back to the sellers and regularly used until

the leases expired. The structures are in disrepair and marked with No Trespassing signs but you can walk up close enough to see some of the interior. The houses appear as though the owners just walked out when the leases were up. You can look through the windows and up through the missing roof pieces. There are damages from exposure to the elements and some from vandals but it makes for an interesting sight. In several spots, you can also see stretches of pavement from the road that was put in to reach the residential lots.

While we were walking around, you can see evidence of the ocean coming up and across much of the island as well as signs of various wildlife including the ponies and some rather large turkey tracks. We headed back up the beach and stopped at the OSV gate to refill our tires. The NPS provides 8 or more air hoses with sufficient pressure and volume to make quick work of returning to highway pressures. We finished off with dinner in nearby Berlin before heading back towards home.

A second trip was in order in early March to see if the winter's storms had exposed anything else interesting along the shoreline. We knew (from reading online) that there was debris from a shipwreck in the vicinity of milepost 18, a mile or so from the OSV entrance ramp. On this particular day, the counter indicated we would have the beach pretty much to ourselves as there were only one or two other vehicles along the entire stretch.



So with eyes peeled, we went south on the OSV and checked out every scrap we saw in the vicinity of MP 18 with no luck. A couple of miles from the state line there was something in the edge of the surf! Could it be? Yes! Yes it was a major timber from an old wooden vessel. The main piece we saw looked to be part of the keel as we saw planking curving away from it into the sand. Whatever vessel we had found was upside down. We don't know how much was buried below the sand and the tide was coming in. Turns out that galoshes have a place on the beach so it didn't matter if the water was cold.

We did check out the houses from our last trip and could see that their condition was deteriorated over the winter months and we were able to see a bit more this

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MAFWDA Recommended Businesses

The MAFWDA membership recommends these local businesses for your four wheel driving accessories and services. 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).

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

Extreme Terrain



Your online retailer of aftermarket Jeep Wrangler parts and accessories headquarter just outside of Philadelphia, PA.

ExtremeTerrain is staffed with enthusiasts dedicated to customer satisfaction.

www.extremeterrain.com

7 Lee Blvd, Suite 100
Malvern, PA 19355
1-800-988-4605

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

Steinjäger Inc.



Steinjäger was founded in 2013 by principals of Midwest Control Products Corp to better serve the motorsport market with application-specific products.

www.steinjager.com

Hwy 9 West
Box 299
Bushnell, IL 61422
309-772-3163

■ MAFWDA Spring Volunteer Weekend

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themselves. The proposed work continues to establish and enhance riparian buffers along Town Creek with a tree planting project. Noninvasive tree and shrub species will be planted to establish forest buffers and enhance wildlife habitat. The recently acquired Slider Tract includes agricultural fields along Town Creek. MAFWDA and CORE volunteers are well known by forest personnel for their tree planting expertise.

I am collecting names of those who wish to participate and volunteer. I need the number of volunteers so I can provide the information to the Forest Manager so he can finalize the work plan. I hope to get about 10 - 15 volunteers. When we have that done I will send out an email with the details to the participants only.

This is a family oriented weekend event so bring the brood with you. There is a fishing pond next to the camp site that has trout, bass, and pan fish to be caught. Maryland State Fishing Regulations apply to all who wish to fish. ❖

Larry Pope

■ Assateague Island National Seashore

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time. Excited by our discoveries, we turned back towards the off ramp. As we neared MP 18, we noticed something we'd not seen before. Even with ground level, we see metal spikes about 3/4 inch in diameter - - ship-sized nails -- in rows. We had found the MP 18 wreck debris. Not sure how we had missed it on the first pass but we had found it now! Spent a little time looking and snapping pictures and then headed back to the air hoses.

We stopped closer to Ocean City for dinner and then headed towards home.

Your four wheel drive can take you to some great fishing, some terrific beach or to a spot where the winds blows and the sun shines and you can just enjoy being somewhere that not everyone can get to go! ❖

Keith

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
President@mafwd.org

Vice President – Bob Weaver
VicePresident@mafwd.org

Treasurer – Keith Holman
Treasurer@mafwd.org

Secretary – Mike Vincenty
Secretary@mafwd.org

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

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

Director of Marketing – Vacant
Marketing@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

PA JEEPS TRAIL RIDE

April 16, 2016

Contact: Jennifer Watson
Email: events@pajeeps.org
Web site: <http://www.pajeeps.org>

BIG DOGS

April 30-May 1, 2016

Ice Breaker
Email: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com
Web site: <http://bigdogsoffroad.com>

WHEELIN' FOR HOPE

April 30-May 1, 2016

All proceeds from Wheelin' for Hope go to the American Cancer Society via the Relay for Life of Nelson, Virginia.

Contact: wheel4hope@gmail.com
Web site: <http://www.wheelin4hope.com/>

MAFWDA SPRING VOLUNTEER WEEKEND

May 20-22, 2016

Volunteer work weekend, camping, and trail ride in Green Ridge State Forest

Contact: lpope@comcast.net
Web site: <http://www.mafwda.org/>

BANTAM JEEP HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Butler, PA 17404
June 10-12, 2016
Web site: <http://www.bantamjeepfestival.com>

BIG DOGS

June 24-26, 2016

Spring Fling
Email: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com
Web site: <http://bigdogsoffroad.com>

W.E. ROCK ROCK CRAWLING EASTERN #3

June 25, 2016

Email: <http://www.werocklive.com/contact/>
Web site: <http://www.werocklive.com/2016/2016-schedule/>

MAFWDA POTOMAC STATE FOREST FAMILY FOUR

WHEELING / CAMPING WEEKEND

July 6-13

Volunteer work weekend, camping, and trail ride in Potomac State Forest

Email: pstevens122656@comcast.net
Web site: <http://www.mafwa.org>

PA JEEPS 21ST ALL BREEDS JEEP SHOW

York Fairgrounds
York, PA 17404
July 16, 17
Web site: <http://www.pajeeps.org>

TOPLESS FOR TATAS

August 12-14, 2016

Rausch Creek Off Road Park
Email:
Web site: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/8th-annual-topless-for-tatas-wheeling-event-registration-18134501783>

BIG DOGS

August 13-14, 2016

Summer Slam
Email: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com
Web site: <http://bigdogsoffroad.com>

BIG DOGS

September 9-11, 2016

Main Jambo
Email: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com
Web site: <http://bigdogsoffroad.com>

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

Middle Atlantic Land Use and Conservation News

Preston Stevens

State of Maryland: The Maryland OHV Alliance has been working hand in hand with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to establish OHV areas to wheel and ride.

One such place is the St. John's Rock OHV area in eastern Garrett County, which is located in the pan handle of the state. This will be a relatively small area to start with and will be managed on a reservation system. Still, it will feature developed camping area. It will be dry camping, but will have pads suitable for anything from an RV to a pup tent. It will also have a vault, rather than having to hide behind a tree or use a spackle bucket.

There will be a riding area in the center of the camping circle for the kids. The trails will consist of single track, narrow two track and standard two track and a rock crawling area.

The DNR is looking at the local colleges for volunteer help to manage the facility. While I do not see a ton for us. I am sure if there are enough 4x4's showing interest, you will see some expansion for us. Right now, I see it as a getaway weekend with a bit of wheeling, or tie it in to another ride.

Ground breaking is slated for July. The Alliance has already put out feelers for trails volunteers. Contact Ken Kyler if you are interested. Oh, St. John's Rock is within the Savage River State Forest.

In another part of Garrett County, there is a three thousand acre plot of land that state is looking at just for OHV. I am not yet a liberty to go into more detail. Yet, it will be very much like the old Paragon with the mixed uses.

I am to be meeting with one of our Forest Managers in May. Currently, he is doing double duty, so likely not a lot of decisions could be made at that time. Still, I hope to lay some ground work for some future access and rides.

In the fall, there will be a session put on by NOHVCC for the DNR to help them get a better understanding of OHV recreation.

So, good things are indeed happening. Just, not real fast.

Sorry I do not have anything in any of our other states.

Everyone have an awesome spring and summer wheeling and being outdoors. ❖

Preston Stevens

Director of Conservation and Land Use

Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association

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 four-wheel drive community, please shoot an email to Mike V (MAFWDA newsletter editor) at Newsletter@mafwda.org and he will ensure your contribution is included in the next published edition.

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

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@mafwda.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.

MAFWDA Potomac State Forest Family Four Wheeling / Camping Weekend

Preston Stevens

This year will be a bit different than in recent years. One, short of what may have come down over the winter, Rattlesnake Ridge Road is open for us Everyone's hard work paid off in a big way. So, the road that was built during the C.C.C.'s still lives. Unless the Forest Manager has some specifically in mind for us, which it is far too early to know that, my hope is to get the old "Loop Road" re-opened. This one too, is a lot of fun and has been known to get a few folks hung up. Knock on wood, the only vehicle damage was a tire I wasted a few years back. When the road was open, it never disappointed.

So, I know there are many of you that do not want to drive that far, much less to work. I get that. What we do is not all day and the folks that go, always seem to make it a fun time. The pay backs are direct and fast. An outstanding place to wheel in a very special place (especially, to me and my family), great camping and tons of opportunities to do whatever outdoors in a beautiful area. The site is reserved from the July 6 thru the 13th. For my family, for decades, it has made for an awesome family vacation. You are more than

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welcome to share this experience with my family and me beyond the weekend. Of course, you can do your own thing, too. Sadly, when you all come up during the weekend only, you miss the other half of the reason we choose this as our vacation destination. If any of you choose to come up early, I only ask one tiny favor. Just let me know, if you can, so we know to expect you. On a few rare occasions we did have a few try to horn in our site while we are there. Again, a great family spot. Generally, great weather, great air and great people. Already, it sounds like we will have a nice size group. Not big, not so small.

DIRECTIONS: From Baltimore-Take I-695 to I-70 West (Frederick) to I-68 West (Cumberland) just past Hancock. You will exit from the left lane. Use caution, sharp turn. Continue I-68 to Exit 14 US 219 SOUTH. Stay with US 219 SOUTH on into Oakland. On the back side of Oakland, you will have to make a left at a light on a hill to stay with US 219 SOUTH. At the next large intersection you will continue straight onto MD 135 East. From this point on, you will only pass 2 gas stations known to be open. A Liberty station at the next light on your left, or the BP station in sight of the next turn on your right on 135. Please gas up before getting to the campsite.) Next you will get to MD 560 SOUTH by taking a right at the light in Mountain Lake Park.

OR

Exit off of I-68 onto Exit 19, MD 495 South. (left at end of ramp) Eventually, it will change into 135 West at a flashing light. Later, you will see a BP on your left. (gas up there). The light you will come to is MD 560, turn left.

You will cross over some railroad tracks and head up a steep hill. Follow 560 around by making a left on the crest of that hill, which will take you through Loch Lynn Heights.

Stay on 560 South for a while. You will go down a large steep hill. At the bottom, the road will start to veer to the right. Next you will make a left turn onto White Church Road. You will go up this hill and come to a fork in the road. Go to your left. The road will drop down in service level and will feature some very sharp turns and often its share of pot holes. You will go through a farm and then start down a grade. The road will soon become gravel/dirt. You will eventually come to another fork in the road. There will be a DNR sign in the middle of the fork. Take the right fork which will head you up hill. The road will swing right at the top and straighten out.

Look for a yellow gate on your right close to the road. The road will hit the road you are on at 90 degrees. Turn right there. You have arrived.

If you come up to a concrete outhouse on your left, you missed the turn.

If the gate is closed, just open it and let yourself in. You will see where to camp to your left. If you have a large trailer or motorhome, you may need to camp in the open area. Again, you will see what I mean. Please consider

other folks, as if you have a tent or small pop-up, save the larger flat level areas for the larger rigs. This is a large area to camp with lots of options for whatever you use.

For now, our camper trailer is a KZ Spree, so if we are not there at that moment, you know you are at the right place.

DESCRIPTION OF TRIP: This is a family oriented trip, which features outstanding primitive (dry) camping, in the woods, excellent scenery, very enjoyable four wheeling on old wooded CCC roads, possible swimming, fishing, unique shopping opportunities and a great chance to do some team conservation work.

We may do some wheeling on Friday. Keep in mind, we will be wheeling on some routes rarely traveled. So, if you have a chain saw or bow saw, gloves and safety glasses, please consider bringing them along. (If you bring a chain saw, please bring your personal safety gear. Remember, we want to have fun!) On that Saturday lunch will probably be at the campsite. Then some more wheeling. Dinner. Then, do some more wheeling or swimming and then some nice campfire. Sunday, will feature some more wheeling, possible swimming, etc. Monday, chill out day. Shopping, fishing and packing.

Again, I have reserved the site from July 6th through the 13th. You and your friends and guests are more than welcome to come up earlier and/or stay later. You very well may be on your own at those times. Trust me, there are far more things to do than time to do them. I very much recommend the extended stay. We have been doing that for decades, now. The most difficult time is going home.

TERMS AND EXPECTATIONS TO WHEEL ON THIS TRIP: Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a very unique opportunity. Once again, we will be wheeling on some routes that are normally closed to any motorized vehicles. Some may be open during Deer Season, some others for snow mobiles, some never open. Otherwise, they are gated closed. Please keep in mind, the only time you can have access there, is with this outing. If you venture up there on your own, you will be cited and worse than that, stand to cause all of us to lose that valuable access. This is almost too good to be true. So, let's make sure that is never becomes just that.

Historically, we do a bit of trail related volunteer work on that Saturday Morning in return for some fun, family wheelin'. Last year, we completed work on re-opening one of our favorite routes that Super Storm Sandy 4 years ago, had closed with 30+ inches of very heavy, wet snow. If Forest Manager, John Denning is still good with us getting the storm closed routes re-opened, then that is our plan. If we have a large enough group, we can break off into some smaller groups, as to cover more ground in a shorter period of time.

Everyone, again, worked very hard last year, but not as hard as the previous years. Last year, total success. Thus, the wheeling was great. This road, currently is not maintained, so really, it is up to us. While I say this every year, all the same, every year, the group has somehow

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DEMENTED DENIZENS

by Brian Zaikowski



Y'know, I'm glad I finally mustered up the courage to come over and talk to you!

Quote

"There are no great limits to growth because there are no limits of human intelligence, imagination, and wonder." **[Ronald Reagan]**

"I love those who can smile in trouble, who can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but they whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves their conduct, will pursue their principles unto death." **[Leonardo da Vinci]**

"Reminds me of my safari in Africa. Somebody forgot the corkscrew and for several days we had to live on nothing but food and water." **[W. C. Fields]**

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.



Show your colors with this made for you watch that looks great (and feels even better)!

Comes in one size, the "Sport" watch: 8.25" x 1.5"
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Modify is a member of SF Made and prints and assembles your watch on demand in San Francisco!

\$53.99

Member Clubs



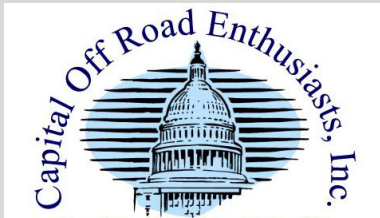
PA Jeeps

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

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
<https://www.facebook.com/core4x4>
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
jim@eaglevalleyoffroaders.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 for information on how your club can join and contribute to MAFWDA.

■ MAFWDA Potomac State Forest

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made these work details a lot of fun. Last year, you all did the very same thing. Lots of laughter, sweat, tired muscles and smiles. Each year, our folks restore my drive to keep our sport alive. Plus, this is such great image building.

DESCRIPTION OF FOUR WHEELING: The roads we plan on using are typically very tight, little used old Jeep trails, often there from either the C.C.C.'s work, old timber operations or another multiple use trail, such as a snowmobile route. Some have not seen any sort of maintenance in 20 to 30 years or more. In most cases, a stock Jeep can handle most of these roads. There are a few difficult sections that may be an issue or fun if you will. Yes, there are sections that may be too much for a bone stick 4x4. Skid plates and tow hooks are certainly a must on many of these routes. They feature some rocks, steep grades and sometimes wash outs. Most of these trails are not suitable for a large full size rig and if the conditions are not dry, some routes would not be open to full size rigs. If conditions are very wet, some routes may have to be avoided all together. The area dries quickly, so if we cannot do a road one day, we may be able to do it the next. We have never bombed out. July is almost always dry enough. Last year was different, but we went in August between the wet spells.

We will wheel on Saturday and some years on Sunday, morning. Certainly, consider a Sunday Ride. That is a nice frame of mind to leave with. Now, it filtered back to me that it is thought that the wheeling is lame. Times have changed and so has our access. Super challenging, for the most part, not really. Boring, not hardly. Worth the drive? If you are into camping, wheeling, good times around the campfire, swimming, fishing, site seeing, fresh air, boating, biking, hiking or hanging out in the woods, you can't go wrong there.

RULES: Tread Lightly! Or not at all! Everyone will air down, no exception. If you get hung, up, do not rip up the trail. These routes are typically not open. If we mess them up, they will be closed to us, too. Nothing new, No Alcohol on the trail rides. No exceptions! Pets are permitted. Owners must keep control of their pets and clean up after them, around the camp. No one enjoys a stinky land mine. No independent wheeling. (You are free to drive around and explore, just not on the gated routes.) We go as a group, only, wheeling on the Forest. Plus, you, can hike or ride a bicycle around, or go fishing, swimming, site seeing, etc., anytime you want, pretty much, anywhere you want.

FISHING: There is fresh water fishing in Laurel Run, the Potomac River or several other areas outside of the Laurel Run/Wallman area. The Jennings Randolph Lake and Youghiogheny River Lake are excellent places to take any kind of small to medium sized power or non-power boat. Jennings Lake is a beautiful, unique place to boat, swim and fish. It is rarely, if ever crowded. It is loaded with fish. They just do not always bite. Broadford Lake and the Savage River Reservoir require the use of an electric motor or paddles. You can fish from the bank

or pier at Broadford. Of course, there is Deep Creek Lake. There is a small usage fee at each location. Excellent fishing there. You must have a Maryland Fishing Fresh Water License. Also, a trout stamp to fish the River and Laurel Run, if over the age of 16.

SWIMMING: Last year was not so good to go swimming. It never got out of the 70's on the warmest day. Yet, most years, it is great. There is a nice swimming hole in the Potomac River that is a local favorite. Being as we are going in July, there is a very good chance we are going swimming.

CAMPING: There are NO hook ups. No set camping pads on our site. There is a concrete outhouse in easy walking distance from the site, but not too close. The ground is rocky. Plastic or cheap metal stakes are generally worthless there. You will actually be camping under the trees. Typically, it is 10 to 20 degrees, or more cooler than in Baltimore. Even 5 to 10 degrees cooler than Oakland.

The camping fee is for the entire site. Thus the cost will be divided up amongst the attendees, based on camping families/units. Where you camp is first come, first serve. In short, camping is really inexpensive. The more that camp, the cheaper it is. Still, if you have a smaller rig or tent, before you set up on that wide real flat, level site, remember, some folks will be coming up with a trailer or camper that requires that sort of site. Still, that does not mean you need to take a lousy site.

MOTELS: There is one right in Mountain Lake Park. I have to be honest with you. I know very little about it or how nice it is. There are a few right in Oakland, as well. The one in Mountain Lake Park is right near an auto parts store. How can you beat that?

AUTO PARTS: There is a nice auto parts store right in Mountain Lake Park and there is a Ram/Jeep Dealer in Mountain Lake Park and other parts stores and dealers in Oakland. These seem to be real good folks. Still, try to make sure your vehicle is in good, well maintained order. For yourself and others with you.

WEATHER: Garrett County is the wettest region in Maryland. So, rain is not out of the question. The temperatures may range as high as the upper 80's (rare) to as low as the low 40's at night. If it is very humid, (possible, but not typical,) Avon's Skin So Soft or a good bug repellent can save your trip. Yet, normally, they are not an issue Bring extra clothes. Trust me on that one.

ITEMS TO BRING:

Required

Your own water, camping gear or Motel reservations, food and cash to go toward the group camping site.

Tow hooks on your rig (Yes, folks have indeed needed a pull)

Tire Air gauge (Take my word for it, airing down is a huge help, besides protecting the resource)

Spare Tire and Jack (A plug kit is not at all a bad idea. Guess how I know that)

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(A full size spare tire) Please do not assume someone else will have your size tire. That is simply not fair. Still, on that note, there is an excellent tire dealer on US219 near Oakland.

Start out with a full tank of gas. (Please fuel up before getting to the campsite. There is a gas station in sight of the turn off to Route 560. You probably will not burn that much. Still, you do not want to have to cut your day short due to low fuel)

Recommended gear

31" tires or a bit larger, all or mud terrain (not a must, but you "may" have to forego one or two routes with smaller tires on some vehicles)

Skid plates (some routes are very rocky) Dragging the bottom is rather likely in sections.

Flash light(s) (It gets dark there. Real dark!)

Matches (old school, but when you need them, you need them)

Small travel cooler for trail ride snacks and cold drinks (no alcohol on trail) (I recommend a soft cooler)

Sun glasses (hopefully, they would be a must)

Hat (trust me, it can make for a better trip)

Sun screen (even in the mountains, you can get a sneak attack sunburn)

Bug repellent (usually not an issue. But, we have been known to use some) Avon Skin So Soft really can do the trick.

Extra water (Think primitive camping. You may want to wash up, as well as for cooking and drinking. Sometimes it is simply too chilly to swim)

Food Again, think primitive camping. Cooking in the outdoors is actually FUN. (Try sausage and sliced potatoes cooked on the campfire, YES!)

Camp stove Of course we all will share the campfire. But, a camp stove work whether the wood is wet or dry.

Extra toilet paper (We are not the only ones that use that outhouse. Plus, always keep a roll in your vehicle)

Air Compressor (It can make a trip just a bit nicer.)

Rain gear (That way, it will not rain. Sounds good, anyway.)

Tarp to cover your tent (Same reason as the rain gear. Besides, it is really loud in a heavy rain. LOL)

Bow and/or chain saw (please bring and use your safety gear when using the chain saw)

Work gloves (They can really make it easier to do this work and save your hands)

Extra clothes cool and hot weather clothing. Extra, because you just do not know.

Tools, especially to disconnect sway bar and a hammer for tent stakes.

(Unfortunately, I have had to use mine on numerous occasions, breakage can happen there)

Chairs for sitting around Camp Fire (To me, one of the highlights of the weekend. Being around the campfire with friends and family) It is quite okay to consume alcohol around the campfire.

CB radio (channel 34) (It is way more fun being able to communicate with each other on the trail)

Cell Phone (service has improved a lot at the campsite, maybe not so much so in the lower areas) (Stand in the clearing and point your right hand toward the satellite and lift your left foot up 6" and talk real loud)

Lantern (Hey, they are a big help there)

First Aid Kit (Just so you will not need it. Consider one with a snake bite kit. We never needed one. But, they are there. There is a reason the one road is called Rattlesnake Ridge)

Camera and even video. There are so many "Kodak moments"

Fire Wood Please note, you are not supposed to bring fire wood from more than 60 miles away. Construction wood is fine. The DNR is concerned about bringing in the Ash borer. As it is a destructive bug that targets Ash trees. Unfortunately, I believe the DNR has lost that war.

WHO CAN ATTEND: Any Middle Atlantic Member in good standing, potential member(s) and invited guests. All attendees are expected to follow the rules of Tread Lightly! And help out with the work detail, as long as they are physically able. If you are unable to help, do not let that stop you from coming up. We all understand. Please contact me (Preston) as to let me know that you and your guests are coming up, including a vehicle count. That is not required. It simply helps me to lay out the trail ride schedule. By all means, I encourage you to bring the entire family up and friends. It is an outstanding family location. There are literally tons of things to do in Garrett County.

Seriously, this is one of the nicest areas that you will ever get to wheel and camp at with your entire family. I am excited that we have a fair amount of commitments already. If you aren't sure if you are in the right spot or are struggling finding your way there, my Cell Phone Number is (Verizon) 443-605-3573. Remember, I may be in a location when you call, that has poor or no signal. Just keep trying and by all mean, leave me a message with your phone number.

I will be posting updates, as they occur. Please, do not for a moment hesitate to contact me with any questions. Oh, yes, this write up looks a lot like last year's. Sure, the only changes have been the ones for the better.

See you there! ❖

Preston

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