

# Recovery Points



*The Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association Newsletter*

**Volume 1, Issue 4**

**October 2011**

## **MAFWDA Potomac State Forest Camping/Trail Ride**

*A weekend of volunteering, fun, and friends*

### **Mike Vincenty**

MAFWDA Secretary & CORE member

Friday July 22 the weather in the Washington DC metro area was a scorching 103 degrees with a heat index approaching 120 degrees! Fortunately Preston Stevens, President of Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association (MAFWDA) wisely planned a family camping and four wheel drive outing in Potomac State Forest in western MD. This trip is an annual outing for MAFWDA. Every year around this time of the year, MAFWDA coordinates with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) for a work weekend of volunteer work in the state forest that also includes hitting various fire trail clearing fallen trees, low hanging limbs and ensuring that they are all passable; and of course camping and having a good time with friends and family.

I was really looking forward to this trip to get some temporary relief from the extremely hot weather DC and to kick back for a few days in the great outdoors in beautiful Garret County MD.

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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*

### **Preston Stevens**

MAFWDA President & PA Jeeps member

Hi folks,

Summer has disappeared, it seems. I hope all of you got in some great summer wheeling.

While I just have not been able to get out like I would have hoped to, the one trip I went on was a dandy.

The trail ride/camp out/swimming/ fishing/site seeing trip to the Potomac State Forest was once again a great time. While folks in Baltimore were dealing with 106 degree weather, the highest it got at the campsite was 85 degrees. It did reach 90 in Oakland one day and it was 89 on Back Bone Mountain; unheard of for those parts. Really, the biggest issue we had this year was the lack of air movement. Fortunately, the bugs were really not too bad. Maybe it was too hot for them. LOL.

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*The wheeling was far more challenging than it has ever been up there in recent years, at least. The straps came out numerous times.*

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The volunteer work was brushing out a mile of snow mobile trail. Short of the bee sting I got, it was quite painless and went extremely well.

The wheeling was far more challenging than it has ever been up there in recent years, at least. The straps came out numerous times. Luckily, no damage to the vehicles or the terrain.

The swimming hole was perfect this year. There were more people there than I have ever seen. Unfortunately, some, I guess, well meaning, person posted a site that gives directions to Maryland Swimming holes. Plus, there is a campground in West Virginia that seems to think it is their swimming hole. Still, folks were friendly and got along great. It was far

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## ■ MAFWDA Camping/Trail Ride

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Joining us this year for this annual MAFWDA event were:

- Preston, Pam, Emily Stevens & Dalton in the Jeep Cherokee
- Tom, Deb, Stephanie Taylor & Ben in the Ford Bronco
- Tom, Linda, and Rebel in the Jeep Pickup
- Keith Holman in the Chevy Pickup (CORE)
- Mike and Donna in the white Rubicon TJ (CORE)

We got a late start as I had to put in a partial work day in DC. By the time we really got on the road it was 6:30 PM. I watched the temperature gauge drop from 103 degrees to the mid 80's the further west we traveled. At around 9:30 PM we finally arrived at camp finding the rest of the crew was already settled in. Many thanks to Keith and Tom Taylor for helping us setup camp in the dark. Friday night was spent around the camp fire enjoying the company of familiar friends swapping stories.



On Saturday morning we awoke to a beautiful day. Signs were good for a clear day but a bit hot. After breakfast, we hit the road for our assigned morning volunteer work detail. This year the MD DNR assigned us the task of clearing a mile or so of snowmobile trails of encroaching overgrowth. The MD DNR provided a wide variety of hand tools and we provided the manpower. We cut back small trees that and trimmed low hanging branches. Occasionally, Preston utilized his chainsaw to remove larger logs that had fallen across the trail.

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*His front tire reached across but could not pull the Cherokee up the other side. Now he was stuck.*

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Work continued until about 12 noon when hit the end of the trail. At this point we all piled into the back of Tom's Cherokee pickup truck and headed down the road back to the trail head where we all left our vehicles. We headed back to camp for a short lunch break before hitting trails.

Preston took the lead and we headed to our first trail destination, Rattlesnake Ridge. To get to this trail you first had to cross a decent size creek with several large boulders strewn about. Once across, we proceeded up a rocky hill climb. Here we continued the volunteering spirit clearing fallen trees that had blocked the fire trail.

Here vehicle problems plagued Tom's Bronco. At first the starter solenoid would not disengage so his starter would remain engaged after the vehicle started. Being an expert handyman Tom figured out how to get the vehicle started and the solenoid disengaged. Starting the Bronco was now a two person job. Deb who turned the key and Tom who disconnected the solenoid wire immediately after engine started.



Rattlesnake Ridge is characterized by a steep and long uphill climb. For safety reasons we only allow one vehicle at a time to attempt the hill climb. The first four vehicles in our group made it up the hill fine. However, Tom at the end of the group started to experience a vapor lock issue with the Bronco at the base of the hill. Once the engine got hot, it was impossible to keep it running. The fact that it was in the mid 90's did not help. He was at the bottom of Rattlesnake Ridge with a vehicle that would not start.

There was nothing to do except wait the 15-20 minutes for the engine to cool down before attempting to restart the engine. Tom did get the Bronco running and quickly made a mad scramble to climb the hill. He made it three fourths way up hill before the engine conked out again due to the vapor lock issue. We debated situation and after waiting some more time for the cool down time. However the combination of being on the hill and the hot weather the engine would not cooperate. So we decided to hook a tow strap to the rear of my Jeep and the front of Tom's Bronco. We were still on an uphill climb so I had concerns that my Rubicon would not be able to pull Tom's built up Bronco with 4 passengers up the remainder of the hill. But pleasantly to my surprise with low range, first gear, and four wheel drive, the Rubicon pulled the Bronco up hill, through the remainder of trail, and back to camp.

The next planned event for the weekend was to hit the swimming hole on the Potomac River. We parked the

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## ■ MAFWDA Camping/Trail Ride

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vehicles at the end of a gravel road, walked across a creek, and hiked a short bit to the banks of the Potomac River. A few hundred yards south on the river was an awesome water hole that was well attended with lots of folks enjoying a late summer dip. We jumped in and enjoyed the refreshing swim. I watched as Preston and Emily would climb on the large boulders along the river bank and bravely jump feet first into the river some 15-20 feet below.

After our swim we had another opportunity to hit the trails. At the end of the road where we parked our vehicles, was another fire trail. We entered this trail and immediately saw the first situation; a berm crossed the trail. On the right side it was very deep and steep. On the left side it more shallow but still would be tricky to cross.



Preston being up for a challenge attempted to cross the berm on the right side. The front end of the Cherokee dropped into berm. His front tire reached across but could not pull the Cherokee up the other side. Now he was stuck. The Cherokee could not climb out forward or back. Since my Rubicon was next in line, we pulled out the tow strap attached it to the front of my Jeep and to the rear of the Cherokee. A gentle tug back pulled the Cherokee back off the berm. Preston this time took the left line and cleared the berm fine.

We all made it across this first berm and proceeded down the train a bit more, only to find a second berm; this time deeper and even more tricky than first. Recognizing that we all would have difficulty crossing this berm we shoved a mammoth sized boulder in middle of deepest section of berm in order to give the right set of tires some to ride across so they would not drop all the way in and get seriously hung up.

All made it across. Keith's longer wheel base pickup struggled more since the undercarriage would hang up after the front wheels cleared the ascent of the berm. Eventually Keith got the Colorado through with a bit of momentum and taking a different line.

We proceeded along trail and eventually came across a tree that had fallen across the trail. Again the chainsaw was put to use to clear the tree off the trail. Further

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## 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@mafwda.org](mailto:Marketing@mafwda.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.

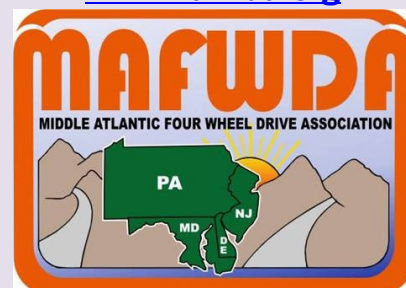
[www.mountzionoffroad.com](http://www.mountzionoffroad.com)

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 – Preston Stevens (PA Jeeps)**  
[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 Marketing - Jennifer Watson (PA Jeeps)**  
[Marketing@mafwd.org](mailto:Marketing@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.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### QUADRATEC TENT SALE

1028 Saunders Lane, West Chester, PA 19380  
October 8

Web site:

[http://www.quadratec.com/SHOWCASES/TENT\\_SALE/](http://www.quadratec.com/SHOWCASES/TENT_SALE/)

### BIG DOGS FALL CRAWL

October 15-16

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

4 large mountains, 3 large lakes, beach

67 Intermediate & Advanced trails

36 Stock & Beginner trails

Children and dogs are welcome at all events

T-shirts, Decals, Stickers, RTI Ramp

Contact: [johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com](mailto:johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com)

Web site: [http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com/html/fall\\_crawl.html](http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com/html/fall_crawl.html)

### 5TH ANNUAL MASON-DIXON WILLYS JEEP GATHERING

Historic Union Mills Homestead

October 23

This free, annual event is for Willys Jeep owners, Jeep

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## ■ President's Message

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from crowded, all the same.

It is so disappointing that more of you opt out of taking this trip. It is the way I "charge my battery" so to speak, each year. I sure hope more of you can take part in this annual event, next year.

While I certainly have not done anywhere near enough for the association, Mike Vincenty has worked really hard to keep the engine going. Clair has kept the books in order. The BOD has done some things behind the scenes to keep the ship afloat.

A few things that I was able to do, was to get involved with the "Maryland Stake Holders" group for the ORV community in Maryland. In case you did not get the word, A few ORV routes were closed. Unfortunately, I could see this happening to East Valley and Stafford Roads on the Green Ridge State Forest, at least 10 years ago. Sadly, the ATV users have simply trashed the place. This is despite efforts to get Blue Ribbon involved and to help organize those folks.

Some years back, I had submitted a letter to the editor of the Blue Ribbon bring this issue to light. I one got some flaming e-mails in return. See, I did not know what I was talking about, so I was told.

The DNR tried signage and Tread Lightly! promotion. This had no impacts, at all. Law enforcement issued tickets, only to have many thrown out in court. That was when we lost out on some awesome, unique access.

Once the State Forests went for their certification, that simply drove the last nail in that coffin. What I am truly disappointed in the DNR higher ups, for closing those roads to licensed vehicles, as well. Given the low volume of four wheel drive vehicles on those roads, that decision simply defies logic.

The Poplar Lick Road on the Savage River State Forest is a huge disappointment. While we rarely drove it, it was very popular with the sportsmen in the area and some of our own members that like to ride that road.

There was another one in the Pocomoke State Forest. I am not familiar with that one. Never was much for us there. Still, a closure is a closure.

I am waiting for the date of the next stake holders meeting as of the time I composed this letter to the membership. The last minute decision on the meeting dates has been a problem. I could not attend the last one because of that.

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## ■ Calendar

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enthusiasts, and the general public to share information and view a rapidly disappearing piece of American automotive history! Union Mills Homestead is a beautiful park setting rich in Civil War History, so be sure to take the tour! Pit Beef and refreshments will be available!

Web site:

[http://s4.invisionfree.com/CJ3B\\_Bulletin\\_Board/ar/t3023.htm](http://s4.invisionfree.com/CJ3B_Bulletin_Board/ar/t3023.htm)

### **JEEP JAMBOREE USA 18TH PINE BARRENS**

Hammonton, New Jersey  
October 27-29

There is usually an abundance of water, so expect to get your feet wet and your Jeep® 4x4 muddy in the many mud holes and water crossings.

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

### **CORE BEACH RUN (TENTATIVE)**

Outer Banks, North Carolina  
October 28-30

Trip is tentative contingent on whether NC12 will be open for traffic and availability of hotels rooms on Cape Hatteras Island.

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

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

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

Rausch Creek Off Road Park  
November 25

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

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

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Any additions? Contact Mike Vincenty to get them added to the MAFWDA calendar ([Newsletter@mafwd.org](mailto:Newsletter@mafwd.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](mailto: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 fellow four wheelers on this public email list. Simply send email message to [mafwd\\_news@mafwd.org](mailto:mafwd_news@mafwd.org). ❖

## ■ President's Message

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I will be attending the Green Ridge Annual Meeting on the 27th of September.

I also attended this year's Recreational Trails Program meeting near Maryland's Kent Narrows. It was again, a good meeting. Interesting requests for trails money, unfortunately, motorized is just not stepping up to the plate.

If something actually comes from these stakeholder's meetings, there should be plenty of requests. I am hoping something comes of this place called Wolf's Den, near Kitzmiller, Maryland. 3,000 acres of challenging terrain, near a town that really needs us.

Lastly, Middle Atlantic has some outstanding talent within our membership. I would sincerely like to see some of this talent come forward to assist with running this association. This would be especially true for the President's position. One needs to dedicate more time than I have been able to, in order to make this association take off. The potential is there.

The annual meeting is typically near the end of October or the beginning of November. We tried to link it with the Willy's Jeep Gathering in Carroll County, Maryland. Unfortunately, that did not pan out so well, as Jennifer Watson was assisting with the event and could not attend.

I will be announcing a date and location in the near future. Please try to attend. Make a difference. It is your association.

Oh, I want to leave you all with a positive note. Our own, Mike Vincenty, of CORE, was a nominee for the Four Wheel of the Year award for the United Four Wheel Drive Associations. While Mike more than deserved to win the award out right, I was pleased to see his name in the United Annual Meeting minutes. Please take time to congratulate Mike and thank him for the outstanding contributions he does for recreational four wheel drive and the Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association.



**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....*

Greetings from PA Jeeps! Hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer and also had time to visit us at the All Breeds Jeep Show that was held in July. We had a great turn out for the show this year and with the help of our volunteer staff did a great job of running it. Right now we are already planning next year's show and have a few new ideas and cool events for 2012! The dates for next year's show are July 21-22. Next year also brings the United AGM right here to York PA. We are the host of next year's AGM and it is to be held 23-25 of July right after the Jeep show. Our website will have more information as time goes on about the AGM. Other than that we are starting to have nominations of officers and board members for voting in December. New officers will be put in place in January 2012.

There is a Willys Jeep Show to be held in Union Mills MD, which was started by one of our club members, on October 23. Check our forum for this event. It is really cool to see and it is in its 5 year. There is a raffle, food, vendors and of course lots of Willys talk.

We always have lots of events up and coming on our forum under PA Jeeps Events and also under Non-PA Jeeps Events. Check it out and come join us on a trail ride or feel free to stop by a meeting and hang out after words for our social.

Happy Wheeling and keep the rubber side down!  
That's all for now folks..... ❖

### ■ MAFWDA Camping/Trail Ride

*from page 3*

along the trail there was a very nice decent with washed out ravines that made for a mild but interesting challenge. At one point on trail the Keith's Colorado got mildly high centered on an uphill berm. My Jeep was immediately in front of the Colorado, so out came the tow strap again. A gentle tug got the Colorado dislodged. From here we uneventfully continued to the end of the trail and headed back to camp for a late dinner.



That evening we enjoy another night around the campfire recounting the day's events.

Sunday I had to pull out early. We started breaking camp around 8 AM when the clouds in the sky looked ominous. We got most of the camp taken down and stowed in the Jeep except for the canopy. At 8:30 AM the skies opened up. It rained and rained. We stood under the canopy waiting and hoping that the rain would stop soon. It didn't. So after a while me made a mad dash for the Jeep and I through the canopy into the Jeep. A bit soaked, we pulled out of camp and headed out for the long drive back to Frederick.

Another good weekend with good friends, wheeling, and great scenery in western MD; what more could you ask for? Next year you should join us.



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

## 9 Simple Ways to Increase Public Awareness of the Issue

### Protecting Our 4-Wheeling Trails & Riding Areas

**Jim Walczak (Reprinted)**

[4wheeldrive.about.com](http://4wheeldrive.about.com)

Up till now, when it comes to trail riding and driving on backcountry roads, four-wheelers have gotten a pretty bad rap. We're often perceived as just a bunch of yey-hoos who are largely responsible for using and abusing the public lands across this great country of ours. The fact is, 4-wheeling drivers, ATV riders, and other offroad enthusiasts (including those who ride dirt bikes, dune buggies, snowmobiles, etc.) have done and continue to do [a lot of GOOD things](http://4wheeldrive.about.com/od/positive4wheelersactions/Positive Things Four Wheelers Have Done Of f_Road.htm) ([http://4wheeldrive.about.com/od/positive4wheelersactions/Positive Things Four Wheelers Have Done Of f\\_Road.htm](http://4wheeldrive.about.com/od/positive4wheelersactions/Positive Things Four Wheelers Have Done Of f_Road.htm)) to protect, preserve, and maintain the roads and trails that we ride on.

Come on... No matter what our interest: 4-wheeling, ATViing, hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, birding, mountain biking, motorcycle riding, backpacking,

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## ■ 9 Simple Ways to Increase Public Awareness

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nature photography, dirtbike riding, horseback riding, climbing, we ALL have a right to enjoy these lands! Let's all pull together and make sure that our children, and our children's children, will be able to appreciate and enjoy these beautiful lands of ours too.

Right here. Right now.

It's up to each us to change our image and do what we can to see to it that the sport of 4-wheeling seen in a positive light, rather than a negative one.

**Here are 9 simple ways that one person can help to increase public awareness of the issue of off-roaders' rights to use the land too:**

1. Start an **e-mail contact list** of friends and family who are interested in learning more about this issue. When you come across articles, news, or relevant information, forward it to everyone on this list.
2. Add a catchy phrase or quote that's meaningful to you into the tagline of your e-mails. A thing as simple as an **e-mail signature** will remind others of the importance of this issue. Not only would you be sharing your point of view with others who might be unaware of the problem, you'd also be opening up the lines of communication about the issue by creating opportunities for those who come in contact with your e-mails to educate themselves about the topic. You'd be surprised by the impact of such a simple thing!
3. Make your own **website** in support of the cause. Here's a [great example](http://www.otisfordsucks.com/) (<http://www.otisfordsucks.com/>) of a simple website that was created solely for the purpose of educating the public and making a point. Whether you already know how to make websites, or you've always wanted to know how, but didn't know where to start... There's no time like the present. Now you've got a focus for your new website! There are literally thousands of how-to sites on the Internet to get you started, and with all the free templates available and free server space provided by e-mail providers these days, there's no reason to put it off any longer.

You can even add a colorful "web sticker" on your website to make it easy for others to contact their elected officials. There's a [web sticker for federal representatives](#)

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## Quote

**Ronald Reagan**

"Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first."

"To sit back hoping that someday, someday, someone will make things right is to go on feeding the crocodile, hoping he will eat you last--but eat you he will."

## 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.**



Comfort? Without sacrificing style? No sweat. This soft-fleece sweatshirt from Hanes looks great, wears well, and keeps you cozy-warm.

- 10 oz. fleece blend (90% cotton/10% polyester) Double-needle coverseaming along neck, armholes & waistbands 3.75" tall, 3" diameter
- Cotton/Spandex blend at neck, cuffs & waistband

**\$30.99**

## ■ 9 Simple Ways to Increase Public Awareness

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(<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/remotecontent/>) and [a web sticker for contacting state representatives](#)

(<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/dbq/stickers/?command=statestickers>).

If you (or your club) already have a website, then do your duty and include relevant information about local land issues. Not only will you be serving as a role model, you have no idea all the people you'll be helping to educate about this topic. We all need to get the word out, and this is one way that takes very little effort.

4. Call **radio talk shows**. Ask questions. Make a statement. Be courteous and professional even if the host disagrees with you, but be firm on the issues. This is simply another way to get the word out and tell your story.
5. Put a meaningful bumper sticker on your vehicle and ask your friends, family, and neighbors if they will also put a **bumper sticker** on their cars. To get more bumper stickers, [check here](#) ([http://4wheeldrive.about.com/od/bumperstickers/Bumper\\_Stickers\\_For\\_4x4s\\_and\\_4Wheeler\\_s\\_Car\\_Vehicle\\_Decals.htm](http://4wheeldrive.about.com/od/bumperstickers/Bumper_Stickers_For_4x4s_and_4Wheeler_s_Car_Vehicle_Decals.htm)).
6. Attend **local political and community meetings**. Make friends. Without forcing your agenda on others, it's important to speak up about the issue whenever it's appropriate. When people ask for more information, have something ready to hand them.
7. If you or someone in your local 4-wheeling club is talented at public speaking, arrange to **give a presentation** at the local library, local lodge or community event. Most public libraries will reserve a meeting room at no charge where you can show a video and give a presentation. Be sure to submit your event announcement to the local media and post flyers around town so that people know about it.
8. Call or write your [local newspapers and television stations](#) (<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/dbq/media/>). The **media is always looking for human-interest stories**. Tell your story. If you have two or three others who also have a story to tell, offer to arrange a meeting over coffee with the reporter and a small group for interviews. Try to develop a friendly, professional relationship with the local media -

even if some disagree with you.

9. Create a "buzz" about land issues. **Start a word of mouth campaign** simply by telling your friends, your family, and your co-workers about local land issues. And ask them to tell someone too. Pass it on!

Next Edition: How To Write Good Letters To Your Elected Officials. ❖

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Jim Walczak is the owner of Squeaky Wheel Marketing where he does marketing & public relations and is responsible for new sponsor development for Hoosier Thunder Motorsports a multi-car drag racing team on the NHRA and IHRA racing circuit. He also produces web sites for companies and individuals with his wife, Lynnette.

## Positive outlook at final AOAA meeting

Reprint (<http://newsitem.com> 7/10/2011)

### Mark Gilger

COAL TOWNSHIP - If approved by the Northumberland County commissioners and proper funding is secured, the proposed Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA) covering more than 6,000 acres in five local townships could generate \$5.2 million and create 184 new jobs over a five-year period.

That optimistic projection was revealed Wednesday night at a public meeting attended by approximately 200 people in the auditorium at Shamokin Area Middle/High School to discuss the master plan for the AOAA.

In addition to revenue and employment projections for the AOAA, a fee schedule to use the outdoor facility, funding sources and a tentative opening date were announced by officials from Pashek Associates of Pittsburgh, who conducted the 90-minute presentation in conjunction with county planning director Pat Mack, AOAA project coordinator Kathy Jeremiah and Steve Barber, regional vice president for Pennoni Associates of Mechanicsburg.

Mack opened the program by stating, "The status quo of the property is not acceptable. In addition to providing an outdoor adventure area in the county, this project, which has been in the works for 1 1/2 years, will help alleviate dumping and burning on the property. We need to stick to this plan."

Prior to the meeting, Mack said the 332-page master plan developed by Pashek Associates cost \$238,000. He said a \$200,000 grant from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and a

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## ■ Positive outlook at final AOAA meeting

*from page 8*

\$38,000 grant from the state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) were used to pay for the plan.

The county, which was seeking \$3.5 million in grant funding for the AOAA, received \$400,000 late last year from DCNR.

The \$400,000 came from state snowmobile and ATV funds. The largest source of potential funding would have been from Growing Greener II; however, the state has not renewed that fund, which will be depleted this year.

In June, the county received a \$20,000 Yamaha Off-Highway Vehicle Access Initiative Grant for trail development, mapping and signage in AOAA. The county also was awarded a \$10,000 Polaris TRAILS Program grant for trail design and development.

Mack said pending funding applications include a \$1,500,000 DCNR grant, \$300,000 ARC/DCED grant (access road funding) and \$1,300,000 grant for an abandoned mine reclamation project at Boyer's Knob.

Mack pointed out that no county money will be spent on the AOAA.

John Buerkle, principal of Pashek Associates in charge of site planning, said the master plan contains recommendations for 6,596 acres of county-owned property in Coal, Mount Carmel, Zerbe, East Cameron and West Cameron townships that officials hope will become a formalized venue for motorized and non-motorized recreation activities.

If additional funding is secured for the project, the AOAA trailhead would be located off Route 125 on the Burnside Mountain south of Shamokin.

Buerkle said the plan includes facility and activity areas, Phase I funding and development, rules for use of the AOAA, safety and security procedures for visitors to the outdoor adventure area, a proposed fee structure to cover operating and maintenance expenses and future capital development, and the projected economic impact to Northumberland County.

He said, "We want to make this a world-class facility. The AOAA will contain 318 miles of trail, 50 of which will be for non-motorized usage."

Buerkle said the land also will have 27 miles of access roads and 15 miles of equestrian trails.

He explained 41 percent of the AOAA will be used for ATVs, 27 percent for full-size vehicles and 32 percent for off-highway vehicles.

The proposed admission fee schedule for the AOAA is

as follows:

- \$25 for a one-day pass, \$40 for a two-day pass, \$80 for an annual pass, \$10 for a spectator/non-motorized day pass, and \$25 for a spectator/non-motorized annual pass.

Buerkle said implementing the master plan will formalize and secure public access to the land for current and future residents of the county, provide a safe venue for responsible motorized and non-motorized recreation, and provide the county with much needed economic development by spurring the creation of new businesses and jobs, increasing the tax base and increasing spending in the local communities. The Pashek Associates official said economic development was the impetus for the project. He noted Bloomsburg University has agreed to study and report on the actual economic impact of the AOAA on the region as the plan is set in motion.

Bob Good, who is charge of financial planning with Pashek Associates, optimistically predicted that if everything falls into place and proper funding is secured for the project, the AOAA could open by early 2013.

Under the plan, Good said a municipal authority appointed by the county would manage the AOAA and be responsible for financially supporting it. He said the authority members would be paid with funds generated by the AOAA.

Good said the county would maintain ownership over the land and would be responsible for managing all non-recreational uses for the property.

Good said the AOAA would require hiring a full-time manager, full-time maintenance director, part-time administrative assistant, part-time seasonal maintenance staff and part-time seasonal and weekend admissions staff. He said volunteers could be used to support paid staff positions and additional staff could be hired if funds become available.

Based on his projection in comparing the AOAA with attendance at similar outdoor adventure areas in West Virginia and Kentucky, Good said the outdoor adventure area in Northumberland could generate \$5.2 million in revenue at the end of five years, while creating 184 new jobs. He anticipated the AOAA would generate \$238,000 in its first year of operation.

He said the financial objectives in developing the plan included making the AOAA a world-class facility that would attract thousands of people each year, keeping the admission fee affordable, making sure revenues outweigh expenses year after year, expanding the facility as more funding sources become available, establishing long-term stability, gaining support from local communities and having a significant positive economic impact on the area.

*continued on page 10*

## ■ Positive outlook at final AOAA meeting

from page 9

The master plan recommends providing a six-week opportunity for hunting by closing Monday through Saturday, beginning with the Saturday before Thanksgiving through the first week of January. That time frame would encompass a portion of the fall and winter small game season, bear, rifled deer and a portion of winter archery deer seasons, bobcat and a portion of the raccoon and fox seasons.

During the public input portion of the meeting, local real estate agent Joe Bressi stated, "Many years ago, there used to be a slogan that said, 'Come to Shamokin - City of Opportunity.' We can't afford to lose this opportunity. We must take advantage of this and work and cooperate with these folks who have put a lot of effort into this."

Bressi's remarks met with loud applause from the crowd, as did comments from Dick Lepley, executive director for the Pennsylvania Off-Highway Vehicle Association in Harrisburg who has 44 years of experience in the profession.

Lepley stated, "History shows that local businesses and communities thrive from outdoor adventure areas. I believe this project will rival the Hatfield-McCoy trails in West Virginia in terms of generating revenue and raising property values in the area. Motorized recreation also will preserve the great heritage of this area. It will serve as an economic engine for generations to come."

Dave Miller, president of the Lehigh Valley ATV Association, described the AOAA as a "revolutionary idea" that will become a huge attraction for the coal region. He commended county officials for their initiative in proposing the AOAA.

The vast majority of speakers voiced their support for the AOAA and one man even offered to pay his admission fee Wednesday night.

Good said the next step in the process is receiving a commitment from the county commissioners to move forward with the project.

Mack said he expects a final draft of the master plan to be presented to state officials by early December.

Vinny Clausi, who was the lone commissioner in attendance, reserved comment.

Clausi previously voiced his support for the project.

Read more: <http://newsitem.com/news/positive-outlook-at-final-aoaa-meeting-1.1172062#ixzz1YuSluVRq> ❖

## For more Information on the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area

see the following on-line resources  
Northumberland County's Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA)

<http://www.anthraciteadventure.com>

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Web Site

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>

facebook: Northumberland County OHV Park

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Northumberland-County-OHV-Park/141351402542490?sk=wall>

## Pack it in, Pack it out

Reprint from [www.uafwda.org](http://www.uafwda.org)

Pack it in, Pack it out is just a saying to remind recreationists what to do about waste management outdoors. It is not an actual "program", but a very important state of mind.

Through Pack it in, Pack it out, UFWDA asks all our members to take away from their 4x4 event or trail ride anything they brought to their 4x4 event or trail ride.

Trash cans are rarely available in the middle of the woods, out on the rocks, and deep into the bush. By removing trash and waste that recreationists take onto the trail they will leave the environment in as good or better condition than they found it.

At UFWDA we ask that you Pack it in, Pack it out by practicing these steps:

- Bring trash bags with you so you can carry out your food and paper waste. Even something organic like a banana peel can take 3 or 4 weeks to decompose. Plastic and aluminum can take 10 years or longer to decompose.
- Do not bury food scraps, pack them out.
- Remove your solid human waste. You can make this process easier when you prepared before you go. If you are not using a commercial backcountry toileting system you can walk a distance from the trail and dig an appropriately deep "cat hole" for your solid waste and then bury your waste with dirt. If you're rest area is near water buried waste is not appropriate so take your waste with you using a plastic bag. Toilet paper waste should always be removed. Remember, the fly you see at dinner is the same fly that may have landed nearby where others have left their waste!
- When you take a break to eat take a few extra minutes and remove not only your own trash but trash left behind by others. ❖

# 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://mafwd.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=21&Itemid=29](http://mafwd.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21&Itemid=29)

## Don't leave home without it!

What you should bring along.

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

### Words to Find

BATTERIES	BOOTS	BUNGIECORDS
CBRADIO	COMEALONG	ELECTRICALTAPE
ELECTRICALWIRE	FIRSTAIDKIT	FUEL
FUSES	HILIFTJACK	LINE
OFFROADLIGHTS	ONBOARDAIR	SHOVEL
SKIDPLATES	SNATCHBLOCK	SPAREPARTS
STOPLEAK	TIREGAUGE	TIREREPAIRKIT
TOOLS	TOWHOOKS	TOWSTRAP
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