

Recovery Points



The Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3

July 2012

MAFWDA Potomac State Forest Family Wheeling/Camping Weekend

The annual wheeling & camping event continues

Preston Stevens

MAFWDA President & PA Jeeps member

DATE: August 17th, 18th and 19th, 2012

DESCRIPTION OF TRIP: This is my family's favorite place to go and typically is our family's vacation location. 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. Instead of paying a fee for wheeling, we spend a few hours on Saturday morning doing a bit of volunteer work. We may brush out a snow mobile trail, paint some gates, mark some trails, or the like. Not horrible work. Plus, we get to go on otherwise routes off limits to four wheel drive sometimes. So, if you have a chain saw or bow

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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, I will try to keep this a bit more brief than normal and just hit some points.

First, I sure hope you all will be at the PA Jeeps All Breeds of Jeeps Show in York, PA July 21, 22.

Then I hope you have made plans to go to the Potomac State Forest on August, 17, 18, & 19. Even with the normal work detail that we typically make into a fun time I feel you will find this to be one of the best places you have ever been for an all around outdoor experience.

These times seem to get more and more challenging for any of us to create spare time. As you have been seeing, Mike Vincenty has done an outstanding job with the newsletter. Please show your appreciation. One of the best ways is to submit your well written article. Shoot, even commentary. Lord knows, there is plenty to talk about right now. Color pictures really make our newsletter take off. So, send them in.

I hope you have made plans to go to the Potomac State Forest on August, 17, 18, & 19.

Let's try to break the old 80/20 rule where as 20% of the people are doing 80% of the work. MAFWDA is blessed with so much raw talent that will push our sport forward. Please get involved, even if it is just token efforts. They all add up. Maybe, it is just submissions of ideas to make our organizations more interesting and fun.

Next, now is the time to pay very close attention to the news. Most important, recognize the bias in the news services. Thus, get your news from a number of sources. Many of the major networks and print media have a very hard core (left) agenda. Thus, you would miss some very important facts.

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■ MAFWDA Potomac State Trail Ride

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saw, gloves and safety glasses, please consider bringing them along. Keep in mind we will be wheeling on some routes rarely traveled.

Now if this event becomes a controlled public event, then we will just be wheeling, but hosting some new folks

Lunch will probably be at the campsite. Then we do some wheeling, dinner, and then do some more wheeling or swimming and then some nice campfire. Sunday, will feature some more wheeling, possible swimming, etc.

If you choose to stay until Monday, it can be a chill out day. Shopping, fishing and packing.

I have reserved the site from the 15th – 22nd. You and your friends and guests are more than welcome to come up earlier and/or stay later. You very well may go on your own at those times. Trust me, there are far more things to do than time to do them.

DESCRIPTION OF FOUR WHEELING: The roads we plan on using are typically very tight; little used old Jeep trails, often there from either the CCC's work, old timber operation or another multiple use trail, such as a snowmobile route. In most cases, a stock Jeep can handle most of these roads. There are a few difficult sections that may be an issue. They feature some rocks, steep grades and sometimes wash outs. Most of these trails are not suitable for a 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. The area dries quickly, so if we cannot do a road one day, we may be able to do it the next.

RULES: We have an extremely unique opportunity here. So, 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, this will be closed to us, too. No Alcohol on the trail rides. No exceptions! Pets are permitted. Owners must keep control of their pets and clean up after them. No independent wheeling. We go as a group, only. Mind you, anyone can hike or ride a bicycle around, or go fishing, swimming, site seeing, etc., anytime you want. You may explore around on normally open routes all you want.

FISHING: There is fishing in Laurel Run, the Potomac River or several other areas outside of the Laurel Run/Wallman area. The Jennings Randolph Lake is an excellent place to take any kind of small to medium sized power boat. Broadford Lake must be electric or a non-power boat. You can fish from the bank or pier at Broadford Lake. There is a small usage fee at both locations; 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 perfect for a swim. We stayed there for several hours. There is a nice swimming hole in the Potomac River that is a local favorite. There is a beach at Jennings.

CAMPING: This is what they call "dry 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. Last year when it was 108 in Baltimore, it was a high of 85 degrees at this campsite. Anything from a pup-tent to a moderate sized motor home will work

The camping fee is for the entire site. Thus the cost will be divided up amongst the attendees, based on camping families/units. The more folks show up, the less the fee for each family.

LODGING: There is a motel in Mountain Lake Park. Long Branch Saloon

1501 Maryland Hwy, Mountain Lake Pk, MD 21550

(301) 334-4533

I honestly know very little about it. So Hey, it is near a good auto parts store. There are places in Oakland, as well. 135 Liberty

389 Weber Rd, Oakland, MD 21550

(301)334-2936

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.

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 or a good place to hook up.

Tire Air gauge

Spare Tire and Jack

Start out with a full tank of gas. (Please fuel up before getting to the campsite. There is a BP station in site of the turn off to Route 560)

Recommended gear

31" tires are larger

Skid plates

Camera

Flash light(s)

Matches

Small travel cooler for trail ride snacks and cold drinks (no alcohol on trail)

Camera

Sun glasses

Hat

Sun screen

Bug repellent

Camera

Extra water

Extra toilet paper

Air Compressor

Rain gear

Tarp to cover your tent

Bow and/or chain saw

Camera

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■ MAFWDA Potomac State Trail Ride

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Work gloves

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

Chairs for sitting around Camp Fire

CB radio (channel 34)

Cell Phone (service is limited, but does exist at the campsite)

Lantern

First Aid Kit

Oh, by all means, do not forget your Camera!

WHO CAN ATTEND: Any Middle Atlantic Member in good standing, potential member and invited guests. All attendees are expected to follow the rules of Tread Lightly! Please contact me (Preston) as to let me know that you and your guests are coming up, including a vehicle count. 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.

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 on I-68 to Exit 14 US 219 SOUTH. Stay with US 219 SOUTH on into Oakland. This will take you past Deep Creek Lake. 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.

Now 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 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 it's 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.

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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).

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.

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

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717-262-3079

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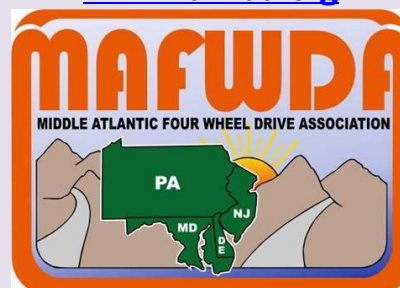
www.mountzionoffroad.com

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

Yes we are still on the Web!

Check out:

www.mafwda.org



DO YOU KNOW YOUR MAFWDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Director of Events and Public Relations – Vacant
PublicRelations@mafwda.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

17TH ANNUAL ALL BREEDS JEEP SHOW

York, Pennsylvania

July 21-22

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

BIG DOGS BRONCO ROUNDUP

July 21-22

Contact: president@pajeeps.org

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

BIG DOGS PACK IT IN

WEST VIRGINIA

TBA

Contact: johnhuntpilot@yahoo.com

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

UFWDA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

York, Pennsylvania

July 23-24

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

BANTAM JEEP HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Butler, Pennsylvania

August 10-12

A tribute event for the father of all jeeps, the history behind it,

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■ President's Message

from page 1

We have an extremely critical election coming up this fall. You know what the situation with our current President. Read up on theirs and your representative's back grounds and more recent past history and voting record. That race should be quite interesting, to say the least. Look up our history. This will help you to make an educated selection come Election Day. Read up on all of your candidates.

Next, please talk up your club and MAFWDA. Put other clubs onto the Association.

Lastly, let's consider some brain storming sessions at our club meetings. Poll your membership. What would make our organizations more inviting?

I sincerely hope everyone is having an enjoyable and safe summer season.

Preston Stevens

Happy Wheelin'



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

Quote

"Europe was created by history. America was created by philosophy." **[Margaret Thatcher]**

"An Englishman is a person who does things because they have been done before. An American is a person who does things because they haven't been done before." **[Mark Twain]**

"Insanity in individuals is something rare - but in groups, parties, nations and epochs, it is the rule." **[Friedrich Nietzsche]**

■ Calendar

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the people who created it, and it's birthplace, Butler, PA
Web site: <http://www.bantamjeepfestival.com/>

BIG DOGS SUMMER SLAM

August 11-12

Contact: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com

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

MAFWDA ANNUAL POTOMAC STATE FOREST

CAMPOUT/TRAILRIDE

August 17-19

Contact: pstevens122656@comcast.net

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

BIG DOGS RICHMOND 4x4 SHOW & SHINE

August 18

Contact: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com

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

NOVA TRAILFEST 2012

Rausch Creek, Pennsylvania

August 24-26

Hosted by Northeast Offroad Vehicle Alliance

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

BIG DOGS MAIN JAMBO

September 14-16

Contact: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com

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

BIG DOGS FALL CRAWL

October 20-21

Contact: johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com

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

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

Dealing with Bureaucrats

By Del Albright

Reprint

<http://www.delalbright.com/Articles/Bureaucrats.htm>

Here are some tips for dealing with bureaucrats in order to make a little headway with them (I speak from experience on both sides.....I was one). I served in government service for over 32 years; 26 of those in the California fire service and the related bureaucracy. I offer these as tips; not as gospel. Through active duty and National Guard time consecutive with some CDF (Cal-FIRE) time, I added another 14 years of government service. I've worked in 5 different departments of the California Resources Agency. I speak of what I know. :). By the way, we are a government of, by and for the people. You can make a difference in many ways. One thing the bureaucracy is rather good at is providing quality job opportunities. Get your masters in public administration online and do your part in creating an effective government.

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2012 UFWDA Annual General Meeting

Where: York, Pennsylvania

When: July 21st thru July 25th

The PA Jeeps Club is hosting the 2012 United Annual Convention to be held in York, PA. Our Convention Committee has planned out a week of fun in the York and surrounding areas for you and your family. Your AGM registration includes two days of spectator admission to the PA Jeeps All Breeds Jeep Show, one Jeep Show Event Shirt, one Jeep vehicle registration (if applicable), lunch and dinner for Monday and

Tuesday of the meetings and a trip to Rausch Creek Off Road Park which includes trail guides and lunch. Registration covers you, your spouse, (significant other), and children 17 years and younger.

In 1976, when United Four Wheel Drive Associations was formed, it was decided that UFWDA would hold an Annual General Meeting that was open to members and delegates that was conducted by the Board of Directors and hosted by a member organization. The Annual General Meeting would alternate either side of the Mississippi each year to ensure that the meeting was convenient for our members. Since 1976, a meeting has been held each year on alternate sides of the Mississippi.

The meeting has been held in the following locations the past 4 years:

- Manchester, New Hampshire – hosted by Northeast Four Wheel Drive Association
- Dallas, Texas – hosted by United Four Wheel Drive Association
- Traverse City, Michigan- hosted by Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association
- Little Rock Arkansas- hosted by United Four Wheel Drive Association ❖

Do we have your email?

As a member of MAWDA, 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 mvincenty@core4x4.org and he will ensure you are added to the MAFWDA email list.

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

■ Dealing with Bureaucrats

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I want to be clear that I do not consider bureaucrats the enemy; quite the opposite. We need them to manage our public lands....and we need to help them. Here are my tips for dealing with bureaucracy (government, politicians, administrators, agency types, etc.)

(For simplicity, let's say that B = Bureaucrat)

Here's my simple version of dealing with B's.

1. Seek First to Understand: Before you can convince a B of your opinion or needs, you should first consider trying to understand where they're coming from. Once you understand (not necessarily agree with) their position, you can better find ways to negotiate with them. But first you must know their platform and argument. Try hard to understand it from their perspective (so you can build a better argument for yours).

2. Listen: Probably the most important trait anyone can have for any dealings with people, but it's especially true with B's. They've got to believe that you're hearing their side of the story before they will relinquish any ground. And if you're busy showing them you're not listening, they're likely not to give any ground out of a personal reaction. More importantly, you need to play lawyer a bit. In other words, the more they talk, the more you find *loopholes and trails.*.....by trails, I mean paper or word trails that allow you room to maneuver during negotiations or meetings.

Let's take an example: suppose you want to convince the local District Ranger to open a road. During talks/letters, she says "Sorry, I can't open that road because of our Draft Travel Management Plan." You say: "I see; may I have a copy of the Draft Plan please, for my records and review?" She says: "No, it's against our policy to hand out a draft of this document." You say: "I see; may I have a copy of the policy for my records, please?"

Get where I'm going? Listen well enough to see the loopholes and methods to keep getting information and other ways to get to your desired end results. In this case, if the policy were not obtainable, you'd naturally give the B a chance to back-peddle and eventually give you the darn Plan that you wanted in the first place. Let them save face if at all possible. If you burn one, it'll eventually come back to bite you. However, in extreme cases, you may have to jump up the chain of command and give them a thorough administrative thrashing.

(The following comments were added by "Crash Gayheart"):
When talking about keeping a particular road/route open, find out if it is currently on a township or other existing (older) map. Many townships can't afford to maintain all the roads within, but must have the roads on the map to continue to receive Federal Highway money. Therefore the road is still a legal roadway.

If you meet with opposition from a B in one division, seek assistance from a township trustee (in those states where this applies).

Another good selling point to keep track of is the average spending per vehicle for a ride. Count camping fees, hotel bills, fuel, groceries and beverages, parking fees (for trailers and tow vehicles), parts if needed. On our larger events we

pass around a piece of paper and ask everyone to write down how much they have spent for the event. We add it up and divide by the number of vehicles (our average for a 3 day event is \$250).

This is money into the local economy, and many times the location of good wheeling is in a rather low level economy. Hey money talks, and it has opened quite a few doors for several clubs that I know of. Jenny "Crash" Gayheart .

3. Persist: Yes, it pays to persist. If you haven't dealt with a big bureaucracy before, it's kind of like getting a job. You've got to stay at it. Write, follow-up call, write again, ask, listen, ask, write...etc. Sometimes it's easier to give in than to fight a persistent usercome to think of it, I believe that many eco-greenies get their way with precisely this tactic!!! Another way to look at this is to admonish yourself not to accept the first three no's.

4. Respect: It always pays to be respectful with B's, even when you're ready to explode with anger. You'll win in the end. On the other hand, if you lose your demeanor and become disrespectful, they have every right to cut you off and sink your ship in the bureaucratic process. They ARE public servants; we do pay their salaries; but they're no less human than you or me. So we need to maintain our cool.....if you end up in a *hearing* of some sort and can show that a B lost his/her cool while you maintained yours, you'll gain some significant ground.

5. Deliver: If you're working with B's in a project or planning process, deliver what you promise; and don't promise what you can't deliver! Make sure if you're going to do something, you do it. You'll always look good. Expect the same of the rest of your working group.....

6. Know the Jargon: OK, this is a hard one if you don't work in the system. But to really be effective in speaking the language of a bureaucrat, you should take a little time to learn their rank system, chain of command, and jargon. Not everyone is a Park Ranger. USFS rangers are called District Rangers or Forest Rangers. Park Service folks do use the term Park Ranger, as does BLM and the Bureau of Reclamation. Fish and Game folks are Wardens or Lieutenants and Captains, or biologists, or other related terms.

The point is, learn a little about the B's you'll be dealing with. You can do some of this on web pages also..... Take Note: here is the chain for the USFS: District Ranger to Forest Supervisor to Regional Forester to Chief (Washington DC).

7. Due Dates: When you're working with or negotiating with B's, let them do their job; give them a reasonable time to do it; but PIN THEM DOWN. In the Plan example above, you might ask: When could I have a copy of the plan? The B might say: I'll send it to you. Then you would pin her down by saying: Great, when can I expect it so I can mark my calendar?

If you can do it, let the B pick the due date.....that makes it their complete responsibility and self-imposed requirement. Well, this list isn't complete by any means, but if you use these tips, you'll find yourself winning more than losing.

Good luck,

DEL ❖

■ MAFWDA Potomac State Trail Ride

from page 3

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 motor home, 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.

My Cell Phone Number is (Verizon) 443-605-3573. Remember the signal is only but so good up there. Keep trying.

See you there!

Preston ❖



17th Annual All Breeds Jeep Show July 21 & 22, 2012

**A JEEP EXCLUSIVE SHOW-N-SHINE
/ TRAIL READINESS EVENT
YORK FAIRGROUNDS - YORK,
PENNSYLVANIA**

**IF YOU'RE A JEEP OWNER, YOU AND YOUR JEEP
NEED TO BE HERE...!**

PREMIER EVENT SPONSOR



~ NEW FOR 2012 ~

**POKER-DRAW "500" (2) \$250 W INNERS
AWARDED SATURDAY**

**PRE-REGISTER YOUR JEEP AND RECEIVE A "BONUS"
WILD CARD**

**PLUS...Jeep Trivia - Your knowledge will earn "FREE"
raffle tickets!**

**The 1st 400 Registered Jeeps receive the following:
(1) "Goodie Bag" (1) Commemorative Event Dash**

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.



Our Long Sleeve T-Shirt adds an extra element of style for a casual night out, or to keep the chill off. Made of 100% ringspun cotton for maximum comfort, put on your new favorite T-Shirt from a favorite, trusted name in t-shirts, Hanes.

- 6.1 oz. 100% luxuriously soft ring spun cotton
- Standard fit
- Ribbed sleeve cuffs

\$25.99

**Plaque (1) Event Program with
(2) BONUS Prize Tickets (1) Poker Draw 500 Game
Card (1) Jeep Trivia Card**

**Vehicle Registration Gates open at 7:00 AM both
Saturday & Sunday**

What you will experience:

Dirt & Rock Driving Course - RTI Ramp - Slow Crawl
Competition - New Jeeps on Display
Vendor & Swap/Meet Areas - Family Activities Area -
Vehicle Recovery Demonstrations
Direct Manufacturers Advice - New Friends - Food -
And a whole LOT MORE...!!!

"Peer" Jeep Voting from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM on
Saturday

"Parade of Jeeps" Awards Ceremony at 3:00 PM on
Sunday - Event Raffle at 4:00 PM Sunday
**NO PETS, OR ALCOHOL PERMITTED INSIDE THE EVENT
GATES**

Spectator Admission = \$5.00 (Kids 12 and under
FREE) Gates open at 8:00 AM

Call 717-309-0513 or visit www.pajeeps.org for any
additional information needed. ❖

Five Safety Tips When Taking Your Vehicle Off-Highway

Bill Burke (Reprinted with permission)

It's 7 a.m., you hop in your sport utility vehicle, crank the starter, shift into gear and head out. The only thing is that your destination is right into the middle of traffic to the high-rise office, and not to the high-rise mountains! Like so many of us, the 4-wheel drive we bought usually only takes us to work and shopping, and our driving experience reflects that! When it is time to hit the trails and do some actual 4-wheeling, our skill level is hindered by lack of practice and the all too present level of fear--fear of damage, getting lost and getting stuck. These are real fears and have limiting consequences to the adventure called 4-wheeling. You **could** blunder along until something happens that turns you off to 4-wheeling, but it doesn't **have** to be like that. The learning curve and experience level do not need to include the damage, lost or stuck scenario!

4-wheeling is not always about big torque and horsepower, lockers and big 35's. IT IS ABOUT FINESSE. The other stuff helps some, but finesse is the first and most important thing to acquire! Here are some hints to help you out in this area. Of course, there is no substitute for taking a class or experiential trip with me!

1 - Drive as slow as possible, but as fast as necessary. There are times when in soft sand like beaches and washes, speed needs to be moderate and flotation through mud and snow needs to be kept up, hence "as fast as necessary." But usually taking your time on the trail will allow you to pick a smooth path and allow you time to react/act to the varieties of terrain like moving rocks and logs under the tires. If you have a ground clearance deficiency, going slow helps here, in that, if you do hit a rock with the diff or other rock grabber, it will usually stop the vehicle on impact or you will lightly scrape over it. If you were going too fast and hit a rock or other obstacle, it could knock a hole in the oil pan, diff or even knock off the oil filter.

Don't get caught up in the Baja or Camel Trophy syndrome. They don't use those rigs as daily drivers. At the end of those events, the keys are handed over to a mechanic and a corporation that has deep pockets to refurbish them. Plus, you could get hurt!

2 - Survey the trail ahead to avoid any "surprises." When in doubt, get out and recon! Make sure the trail goes beyond the obstacle, doesn't become a bottomless quagmire, has no back side to the hill (cliff?) or just plain ends. You can get a good idea where to place your tires and the differentials and have a plan of approach. And follow through to beyond the obstacle.

Don't stop in the middle of the challenge to check it out.

Get through it, then walk back and check it out again. See where you actually went. Observe your tire tracks.

3 - Drive directly up and down hills. Traveling diagonally may result in a sideways slide -- worst case, a rollover. Know your approach and departure angles, the bumper to tire distance. Some trails will require off-camber driving. Just go slow, keeping the tires in the tracks. Don't lose attention and climb up a rock or stump on the up hillside. Vehicles will tend to slide sideways before rolling over. The tires will slip sideways a little. Stop if the slide puts you off the edge of the track. If it is clear downhill and a rollover is imminent, immediately turn the vehicle into the slide and drive it down. If that is not an option, and you are going over, turn the vehicle off and hold on to your seat-bottom and hope the seat belt works properly. You did have it on? There are other scenarios, but this is the least drastic. Use enough momentum to get up and over the hill. Avoid high centering on the crest. Use the engine brake method for the descent. Remember #2!

DO NOT TURN AROUND WHEN ON A HILL.
Rollover CAN happen. Practice backing down.

4 - Reduce the tire pressure. This improves traction in all conditions, especially sand. Remember that ground clearance has been compromised. Reinflate before driving on the pavement for any distance. The easiest way to improve off-highway traction and performance is to "air-down." Depending on the tire you have and type of vehicle, you could go to as much as 15psi, even lower, if needed; for soft sand, 10psi.

Be careful to not turn fast and push the tire off the bead.

Usually, though, for most average 4-wheeling, 18 to 20psi will be enough. I know some folks who run 6psi. Highway pressure is another thing. The tire is marked on the side, i.e., 50psi at 3300 pounds. In essence, that one tire could hold my Defender up. Depending on the weight of the loaded vehicle and the size of tire, I have found that between 28 and 35 psi works in most on-highway applications. Read the manufacturer's label. The air pressure difference between the front and rear is due to the tire and auto manufacturers' experimentation for over/under steer and load variances. Carry a mini-compressor to reinflate, or know that an air pump is not far from the trail end. For snow, on- and off-highway, I like to run my tires a little hard. It allows the edges to grip better, especially if I am going to run chains.

continued on page 9

■ Five Safety Tips When Taking Your Vehicle Off-Highway

from page 8

5 - Cross ditches or logs at an angle so that one wheel at a time goes over the obstacle; the other three help the one wheel to climb over. Dropping the tire into a ditch or crack in a rock is scary! Sometimes the vehicle pitches and one or more tires will catch air. Be very deliberate and careful when approaching this challenge section of any trail. Logs can bounce up and catch the undercarriage, so come off these things slowly and carefully. Turn the vehicle at an angle to facilitate the one tire at a time approach. Be careful not to allow one of the front tires and one of the rear tires to get in the ditch at the same time. ❖

Bill Burke's 4-Wheeling America LLC

Beach Access Legislation Passes in the House of Representatives

Reprint (<http://www.preservebeachaccess.org>

6/19/2012)



COUNTY OF DARE

P.O. Box 1000, Manteo, North Carolina 27954

For Immediate Release:

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Contact:

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In a historic legislative move, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed H.R.4094 to restore reasonable access to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. The bill, introduced by Congressman Walter Jones, was approved Tuesday, June 19, 2012 and passed in a 232 to 188 vote.

H.R. 4094 was included in a package of bills grouped together under H.R. 2578, known as the Conservation and Economic Growth Act. The bill would reinstate the Interim Management Plan that was in place prior to the restrictive consent decree and ORV Rule implemented by the National Park Service.

The 2008 consent decree imposed rigid and severe beach access restrictions that have hurt the local economy and limited the Superintendent from utilizing an active management approach that would better

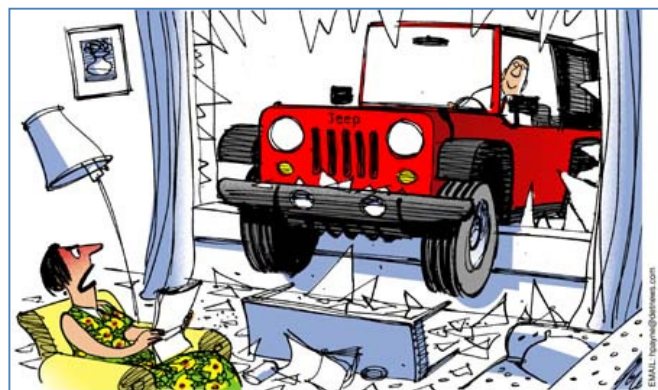
help wildlife at the seashore Chairman Warren Judge, who testified before a Congressional Subcommittee urging the passage of H.R. 4094, described the significance of today's vote. "The House of Representatives has passed a landmark piece of legislation," Judge said. "It will provide reasonable recreational access in a way that utilizes science based resource management for shorebirds and turtles." Judge added, "H.R. 4094 represents a true win-win situation, for both people and wildlife."

Vice-Chairman Allen Burrus thanked Congressman Walter Jones and his staff for their efforts to get House passage of H.R. 4094. "They did the right thing for the people of Hatteras Island and the businesses that have suffered for too long," Burrus said. "My hope is that this will be a stepping stone to pass similar legislation in the U.S. Senate."

A companion bill has been sponsored in the U.S. Senate by Senator Richard Burr and Senator Kay Hagan. Senate Bill 2372 will be the subject of a Congressional Hearing next week. ❖

For more information regarding access to the public beaches in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area visit the web sites of these fine organizations:

- Island Free Press:
<http://www.islandfreepress.org>
- Outer Banks Preservation Association:
<http://obpa-nc.org>
- Preserve Access to America's Beaches
<http://www.preservebeachaccess.org>
- North Carolina Beach Buggy Association
<http://ncbbaonline.com/>
- Cape Hatteras Anglers Club
<http://www.capehatterasanglersclub.org>



"For crying out loud, Tom! Why can't you come in through the front door like everyone else?!"

Puzzle Page

Instructions: Here you find a “word search” puzzle need to be solved. Clues are provided below. If you get stuck, you can cheat and get answers to the puzzles here: http://mafwda.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=41&Itemid=29

Freedom Rings

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

Words to Find

AMERICAN	COLONIES	CONSTITUTION
COUNTRY	EAGLE	FIREWORKS
FLAG	FOUNDERS	FOURTH
FREEDOM	HEROES	INDEPENDENCE
JOHN HANCOCK	JUSTICE	LIBERTY
PARADE	PATRIOTS	RIGHTS
STARS	TEAPARTY	

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