

# Recovery Points



*The Middle Atlantic Four Wheel Drive Association Newsletter*

**Volume 3, Issue 2**

**October 2013**

## **CORE Casparis Exploratory Run**

*Near Connellsville, PA – July 6, 2013*

**Alex Hinson**

CORE Member

This past Saturday (the 6th), Larry and I went up to Casparis to do a little reconnaissance/exploring to see what was still open. What a surprise.

Good news is, the main entrance and most of the place is still untouched. Well, there are new signs up from the PA Park Rangers warning of the dangers about the old mine shafts and such. Which have disappeared, in a way. The hill that they made to block off the mine shafts has blended into the rest of the forest now. It's completely overgrown. If you've never been there before you would drive right by it and never know. The only sign that there's something more to the hill now is that in a few spots you can feel an ice cold wind blowing out from the trees. There is still a path that can be used to get to the top where you can get into the mines and explore. Still looks like it's a major pain in the ass to get up there. We didn't try, and instead moved on.

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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 & CORE President

I want to start out by welcoming the Association's newest member clubs, Eagle Valley Off Roaders (EVOR) and Mid-Atlantic Jeep Club (MAJC). EVOR is heavily involved in their local community and with access to public land issues in Pennsylvania. EVOR hosts, along with cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), an annual benefit ride "Wheelin 4 Wishes" with the net proceeds being donated to Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Greater PA and southern West Virginia. This club stays busy, check out their web page at <http://eaglevalleyoffroaders.com>. MAJC is just now starting up and are new not only to MAFWDA but also as a club. They just held a Jeep show in Frederick, MD in August called Mid-Atlantic Jeep Festival. I understand it was very successful it being their first one and just putting the club together at that. I hope all of the other clubs give these folks help with any questions they have in building out the club.

It has also been a busy summer for other Association member clubs. PA Jeeps, [www.pajeeps.org](http://www.pajeeps.org), held another successful All Breeds Jeep Show in York with volunteers helping from their sister clubs EVOR and Capital Off Road Enthusiasts (CORE), [www.core4x4.org](http://www.core4x4.org). CORE members also participated in the MAFWDA Potomac State Forest Wheeling and Camping weekend hosted by MAFWDA's Directed of Conservation and Land Use, Preston Stevens. Participants worked clearing downed trees caused by hurricane Sandy on one of the fire roads. More work needs to be done because it just couldn't be completed in one trip. Other things that kept all of us busy was, and still is, issues concerning access, or the lack of, to our public lands in Maryland and Pennsylvania for ORV enthusiasts.

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## ■ CORE Casparis Exploratory Run

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Interesting note here is that they seemed to have re-opened this part of the trails and you can now drive past the mountain and continue on the trail that leads to the overlook. Before this was blocked off as part of the mine closure but looks like they've re-opened it. No signs saying otherwise.



We got back onto the main trail and headed to what used to be the start of the "jeep loop" (as I call it, read the past trip reports and you'll know why). And a few spots that had some nice rock climbs have now been closed off. Signs posted at the obstacles say to not use these paths. Stamped with the good old PA Park Rangers symbol. So that sucks.

Anyway, so we get up to the top where there used to be a small clearing and two trails venturing off the main road. This used to be a clearing that was no bigger than a few hundred feet. Now it's several football fields. Trees cleared in every direction. And here's where I started to get a little lost. All my markers were gone.

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*So, Casparis has turned into something wild.*

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So anyone that remembers this trail, the first part of the loop consisted of a very long and rather steep downhill. But it wasn't that bad. Now it's bad. So bad we slid down half of it with all 4 wheels locked up. It's clay. Sticky clay that makes even the most aggressive tires turn into slicks. We used a small flat to turn around and floored it to get back out of there because it only got worse. And being the only rig made us rather uneasy about the return trip once at the bottom.

So now what. Well, I said we should try the loop going backwards instead. The return part looked untouched when we came in so let's go that way and run the loop as far as we can backwards and see where it stops. Worst case we'll come up to the bottom of this nasty clay hill.

So off we went. And damn.

So again, good news bad news. Good news, it hasn't been touched. In years. Trees hanging over the trail. Overgrowth in some parts. True wilderness off-roading.

Then we almost fell off a cliff.

No, you read that right. So there's this one part that is a set of switch backs. But steep switch backs, and long. So we had this sudden 30 foot drop to our right with a sharp hill going down several hundred feet with nothing but trees to slow your tumble. And we hit a wash out. And a fallen tree.



Ground gave out a bit which made the Jeep shift and hit a tree on the side of the trail which then knocked the rear end sideways and left us hanging. Back right tire was almost in air. Just some tree roots holding it up. The left front tire had piled up mud behind it and was sort of clinging onto the trail for us. I think Larry and I both needed a moment to get unstuck from our seats.

So a quick walk about and scouting made us break out the winch for its madden voyage. Found a nice tree. Wrapped a saver around it and latched up. Told Larry to just steer it hard left and let the winch do the work. Slowly we got back on the trail. As were winding and packing everything up, Larry says he's done with this trail and ready to start heading out. Sadly, the only way out was to either keep going which would be several hours and maybe worse terrain or turn around... Aren't those just great options after something like this just happened?

We opted to turn around and went down the trail to the switch back and used that to get turned around. When we got back to this spot, we took a moment to pick the best line to avoid falling off again. Still almost got us again, but some quick raw power and we got away. From there we back tracked to the logging area and headed out the road that ends at Sandy Flat. Turn here, mud hole there. Nothing too exciting. Till we hit a fork in the road that didn't look familiar. Right or left? Let's go Left, that's going northish vs. the right which looks like it goes back into the hills we just got out of.

FYI, go right.

Turns out the left heads up to Wills Rd, an entrance I had never found. Look back on old emails I was told about it but never found it. Got it marked on the map now.

Think our day was over? Not quite. Aired up but between that and the earlier winching and only idling

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## ■ CORE Casparis Exploratory Run

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about since, the battery hadn't recovered and didn't have enough juice to start the jeep. Thank god for stopping on a slight hill and a manual trans.



What a day. And from our starting spot in town down all that and back was only 16 miles. Took us 4 hours. We need to go back again but this time with more than one vehicle. These trails are just too wild to be exploring alone. Who's ready to really get dirty?

Alex Hinson is an active member of CORE. ❖

## 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.**



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, this classic long sleeve tee is a wardrobe favorite. 6.1 oz. 100% heavyweight cotton

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

**\$25.99**

## MAFWDA Business Partners

MAFWDA has partnered with preferred local businesses. These partners offer special discounts to MAFWDA members. If you own a business or know of a business that would like to become a Business Partner contact Larry Pope MAFWDA President Director ([President@mafwd.org](mailto:President@mafwd.org)).

### Adrenaline Off Road LLC



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

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

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

### River Raider Off-Road



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

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

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

### Mount Zion Offroad



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

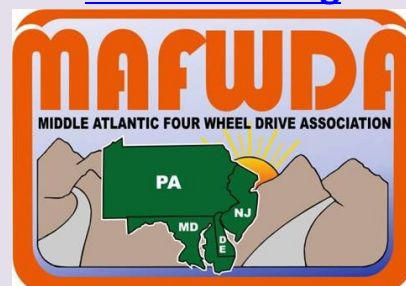
[www.mountzionoffroad.com](http://www.mountzionoffroad.com)

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

## Yes we are still on the Web!

Check out:

[www.mafwd.org](http://www.mafwd.org)





## DO YOU KNOW YOUR MAFWDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### EVOR Rock N Mud Blast

October 5-6, 2013  
Snow Shoe, PA  
Web site: <http://eaglevalleyoffroaders.com/wp/rock-n-mud-blast/>

### CORE GREEN RIDGE STATE FOREST VOLUNTEER WEEKEND

Green Ridge State Forest, Maryland  
October 11-13  
Contact: [lpope@core4x4.org](mailto:lpope@core4x4.org)  
Web site: <http://www.core.org>

### BIG DOGS FALL CRAWL

October 12-13  
Contact: [johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com](mailto:johnhuntspilot@yahoo.com)  
Web site: <http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com>

### KORC FALL KRAWL 2013

Rausch Creek Off Road Park, PA  
October 19-20  
Open to public  
Web site: <http://www.keystoneoffroadclub.com/events.html>

### 7TH ANNUAL MASON DIXON WILLYS JEEP GATHERING

October 27  
Web site: <http://www.jeepchasm.com>

## ■ President's Message

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This past summer MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR), [www.dnr.maryland.gov](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov), and PA DCNR, [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us), held meetings, or plan to hold meetings, on the access issue. I know MD and PA have posted surveys on their respective web sites and have asked for the public's comments on allowing ORV access to state forests and park lands. I hope everyone has taken time to submit comments or complete the survey for their respective state or sent a letter to the DNR or DCNR. There are canned letter templates out on the UFWDA web page at [www.ufwda.org](http://www.ufwda.org). All you have to do is change the name of who the letter is being sent to and be a little bit of a word-smith for the issue in your particular state. As someone put it in a recent email I received; "this isn't a poetry contest, the most important thing is that you send a note/email expressing your concerns." Or just take time to complete the survey both states have posted on the web sites listed above. Don't set back and let everyone else do all the work and then enjoy the benefits fought for by others, get in there and help. This fall is will be busy if we have everyone in the fight.

Speaking of this fall, I sent out the notice to all the Association clubs to submit their nomination packages for MAFWDA 2013 Club of the Year. Your nomination packages are due to Mike Vincenty, [Secretary@mafwd.org](mailto:Secretary@mafwd.org), not later than October 12, 2013. Voting will be taking place at the MAFWDA Annual Meeting currently scheduled for November 9, 2013 at Baugher's Restaurant in Westminster, MD. I will be sending out more info via email to all the clubs on the meeting and such. Oh, I almost forgot, we are also looking for volunteers to step up and nominate themselves or nominate someone they know for the MAFWDA Board of Directors positions of Vice President and Treasurer. I have sent all the clubs an email on this. The elections will be held at the meeting in November.

Again, a warm welcome to EVOR and MAJC as our newest member clubs. Everyone have fun on the trails that we do have access to and by all means be safe. Send those letters and emails to your respective state Natural Resources agency. Don't be one who benefits by doing nothing.

Larry Pope



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

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## ■ Calendar

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### MAFWDA ANNUAL MEETING

Baughner' Restaurant Westminster, MD

9:30 AM November 9

Contact: [president@mafwda.org](mailto:president@mafwda.org)

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

### CORE BLACK FRIDAY RUN

Rausch Creek, Pennsylvania

November 29

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

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

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

### 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](mailto: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 fellow four wheelers on this public email list. Simply send email message to [mafwda\\_news@mafwda.org](mailto:mafwda_news@mafwda.org). ❖

## Maryland Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance Update

**Mike Twigg, President**

**Preston Stevens, VP**

**Ken Kyler, Secretary/Treasurer**

<http://mdohvalliance.org>

The DNR met twice, once in Garrett County and once in Washington County, to receive public input on establishing new trails at Savage River State Forest and Sideling Hill WMA. The public response to Sideling Hill was overwhelmingly negative. Interestingly, the public at both meetings strongly encourage DNR to relook at Green Ridge, mitigate any concerns and reopen the loop. The MD OHV Alliance has gone on record supporting reopening Green Ridge in lieu of opening Sideling Hill.

For updates or more information, please contact [ken@kyler.com](mailto:ken@kyler.com), like us on Facebook (MarylandOhvAlliance) or find us on the web at <http://mdohvalliance.org>. ❖

## Give Me Your OHV Keys

**Jerry Smith**

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I have never claimed to be a prophet, but back in 1979 as President of the Montana 4x4 Association, I warned that if our small membership didn't make some serious noise or at least support the few that were, their days of wheeling were numbered. They kept silent.

Now, Montana wheelers have far fewer places to go by more than even I could foresee. (And I was pretty pessimistic at the time)

**WARNING:** I'M ABOUT TO SINGE (Burn) QUITE A FEW OF YOU WITH SOME SERIOUS THINGS TO THINK ABOUT... SO EITHER PREPARE YOURSELF OR QUIT READING NOW!!!

"It is the only way that *YOUR* access to *YOUR* public lands in *YOUR* chosen 4x4 or other mode will continue. *YOUR SUPPORT*... be it *YOU* doing something or *YOU* supporting the people who do it on *YOUR* behalf is the only way this can work."

You will hear this again at the end of this article. Think about it.

The "Preservationists" have pushed entire industries such as logging out of the state of Montana and most of the western U.S. for that matter.

More and more Wilderness is being designated (most of it should never have even been considered... much less designated; but that's another story).

My point is: The Preservationists have become bolder and better funded than you can imagine. *They won't be satisfied till the entire western U.S. is one giant Wilderness Area.* Yes, it is that serious!

### Some Predictions

I will predict that they won't be stopped there either. Once they get nearly the whole of the west locked away, they will begin finding ways to make the privately held eastern OHV properties close. They've already begun this process in some places.

When asked why I support entities like United Four Wheel Drive Associations and the several state associations, it makes me want to take a bat to the questioner's head.

### Give me Your OHV keys!

If I had the power to do it, I would take away the keys and titles to their 4x4s, ATVs, UTVs, Motor Cycles, and other off road toys. They simply do not deserve to participate in something they want no part of supporting in return.

Even if that were possible, these folks would only find the time and resources to sit around the table with a beer and bitch about the "good-ole-days". They won't even send the price of one or two of those beers to support the people who are doing all they can to stop the anti-access crowd because after all... **"what have they done for us?"**

I'm sorry, but you damn fools don't deserve what little access you have left. If you have been around very long and have

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## ■ Give Me Your OHV Keys

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paid any attention (unlikely as that may seem), you may have heard some of us talking about road and trail closures and Wilderness and National Monuments with millions of acres being closed to motorized use.

### What have YOU done to stop this from happening???

I can understand you not wanting to write letters, study land-use laws, read the Environmental Impact Studies, and all the other government crap that they write for either lawyers or some other kind of idiot. That is totally understandable. Not many of us do.

But prying a few measly dollars from your tight fist in support of something you claim to "Love" is becoming such a waste of breath; most of us would rather save the precious oxygen.

In the past 35+ years, I have written easily over 2000 comments and letters to the BLM, USFS, Senators, and Congressmen. What have YOU done to support ME???

Come on, what?

I'll tell you what little you've done.

I have represented YOUR interests whether you liked it or not. Just being a member of an organized club, state organization, and/or United makes you worth supporting. You pay your small amount of club dues, often a portion of which are passed up to support your state association and/or United. Often, that piddly amount is paid under protest as being "too much".

They in turn, support you in ways you seldom hear about because the limited resources of time and money are so short at that level, they don't have time or money to tell you about it. Often too, they are too humble to expound on all the work they do on YOUR behalf.

United has lawyers and lobbyists that contact your Senators and Congressmen and their staff. United representatives plead with them to support YOU mostly with empty hands. They can't pledge monetary support because there is no money for them to pledge.

Do you think that might be a tough sale when the Preservationists are pumping YOUR Congressman or Senator with campaign funding in the \$millions of dollars?

**WHO DO YOU THINK THEY WILL SUPPORT?**

Do YOU have the time, the knowledge, and resources to craft a congressional bill to support our sport of 4-wheeling?

Do you think that the United Four Wheel Drive Associations or the BlueRibbon Coalition, COHVCO, USA-All, and others like them might be in a position to do that if they had the resources to hire the lawyers and lobbyists to write and then present the bills to the correct people who would push them through all the committees and congressional hoopla to make them laws?

And what about entities like the BlueRibbon Coalition, COHVCO, USA-All, and others like them? They are the primary sources providing lawyers to represent YOU in court on land use issues you likely don't even know about. Do you think that maybe those lawyers demand something for their time?

If these same organizations had the resources to hire the people to research and then write high quality and meaningful arguments to the United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), and other entities that manage our public lands to keep YOUR roads, trails, and areas accessible to YOUR motorized use, would that be a good thing?

And what if those high quality and meaningful arguments were made available to others (including yourself) who would reword them to make them original in nature and send them in to these land management agencies, U.S. Congressmen, Senators, State Congressmen and Senators, County Commissioners, and the President? Do you think that the volumes of good quality comments might make some difference?

Would YOU take a few minutes to even just send a copy to those entities???

My guess is; NO... you wouldn't.

But what if the few of us that would, could have those comments to work with without every one of us doing the same research. What if there were paid people compiling those comments for the rest of us to either simply copy or to take the time to re-word to make them original in nature? Do you think that might make sense??

There are retired USFS and BLM people with the expertise and knowledge of how to research the Draft Environmental Impact Statements, Draft Resource Management Plans, Travel Management Plans, and all the other Land Use issue documents who would do this if WE would give them the motivation to do it... think... MONEY.

### Wake up people!!!

Things are happening that you don't hear about often enough. Too often, it's because the outcomes are too negative to speak of because the money wasn't there to get the job done right.

The few who fight for YOUR access to 4x4 roads and trails do what they can with precious few monetary resources in comparison to what the Preservationists flaunt. Most of us take money from our own pockets to buy the office supplies, pay for the fuel to go to meetings all over the place, even occasionally pay for a motel room to support YOU. Which one of you have even thought to thank any one of us, much less offered to compensate us for our expenses?

Most of these folks have a job to support their families just like you do... yet they find the time to DO SOMETHING more than just complain and whine "What do they do for us?"

### Do What YOU Can Do

So, what can and should you do to support the few who DO SOMETHING? There are a few easy things you can do.

- The next time someone asks if you would like to buy some raffle tickets to win a "whatever"... either buy a book or two of tickets, or;
- Donate the money to the entity and tell them to keep their tickets. Your donation saves them the time, cost, and aggravation of administering a raffle... which is considerable.
- Take one or more of those books of raffle tickets and sell them to someone. Surely you can find time and a

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## ■ Give Me Your OHV Keys

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way to sell just one book of tickets. Take them with you when you shop and ask for some support from the places where you spend your money.

- Rather than buying a six-pack, donate the money to one of these entities. You will get back much more than those beers will ever provide even if you don't personally see it. (It might save you a DUI too)
- Encourage your co-workers, friends, and neighbors to join your club, state association, or one of the Land Use organizations. Many of these people use the public lands without a second thought. Give them a reason to "think about it". Get them involved.
- Quit asking: "What have they done for us?" It is wrong thinking. The real question is: "What can I do to help or support you that do the work?" When you turn your thinking to this question, you'll find more things will get done.
- The next time the question of club dues comes up, support a small increase. When multiplied by the number of members in most states, the money will go a long way to supporting YOU!

Many of you have heard the old saying: "If it is to be, it's up to me." Remember, that "ME" is YOU! The ball doesn't move till someone moves it. BE THAT SOMEONE or **SUPPORT THE ONES THAT DO.**

It is the only way that YOUR access to YOUR public lands in YOUR chosen OHV will continue. **YOUR SUPPORT...** be it YOU doing something or YOU supporting the people who do it on your behalf is the only way this can work.

Think about it. If everyone who used public lands just once a year would donate \$1.00/year for that right. We all know that's not happening. Someone has to make up for the several who won't do their part. BE THAT SOMEONE!

Otherwise, just send me the keys and titles to your 4x4, ATV, UTV, Motor Cycles, and other off road toys. I will sell them and donate the money.

Then you can buy a Subaru or CRV to crawl the Walmart Parking Lot until they "Preserve" them for whatever wonderful name they want to call it.

Now, when you come to a fork in the road, TAKE IT! ❖

Jerry Smith

Member of:  
Grand Mesa Jeep Club; BOD  
Grand Valley Trails Alliance -- De Beque Working Group,  
Colorado Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs -- Western Land Use  
United Four Wheel Drive Associations  
BlueRibbon Coalition  
Colorado Off Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO)  
Utah Shared Access Alliance (USA-ALL)

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Hello? A-1 Pest Control?

## Because a Day on the Trail is Fun

GWNF outside Harrisonburg VA – trail ride - August 25, 2013

**Bob Weaver**  
CORE Member

On Sunday morning I awoke in anticipation of a great day 4-wheeling with CORE. Larry had organized a trail ride and the Plan for the day was to head to Flag Pole Knob in the George Washington National Forest outside of Harrisonburg, VA. I had been under the weather for a while and was not sure that I was going to make the trip. Luckily I felt better this morning and was able to go. Cooler packed and Jeep gassed up I headed to one of several meeting spots that Larry had designated beforehand. The Weather Man was promising a hot day with a few clouds in the sky. It was an absolutely gorgeous day for 4-wheeling.



Along for the adventure were the following brave souls:

- Bob Weaver, Jeep Rubicon, Member
- Larry Pope, Jeep Wrangler, Member
- Gary Owens, Jeep Rubicon, Member
- Andrew Taylor and Cherie Wood, Nissan Xterra Pro-4X, Members
- Robert Rixham and Fred Granruth, Silver 4Runner, Member/Guest

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## Member Clubs



### PA Jeeps

Home of the PA Jeep show  
York Pennsylvania area

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

### CORE

*Promoting Responsible Four Wheeling*



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

[www.core4x4.org](http://www.core4x4.org)  
[info@core4x4.org](mailto:info@core4x4.org)

### Keystone Off Road Club



Lewistown, PA

KORC is an off road enthusiast's club that was formed in August of 2012. We are a family oriented four wheel drive club with members ranging from novice to decades of experience. KORC invites new members. If you have one and want to hang out and make new friend's you should come wheel with us a few times and maybe you will see for yourself that this is a fun club.

[www.keystoneoffroadclub.com](http://www.keystoneoffroadclub.com)  
[korclub1@gmail.com](mailto:korclub1@gmail.com)

### Eagle Valley Off Roaders



Lock Haven, PA

Eagle Valley Off Roaders is a family based non-profit four wheel drive club open to all makes and models of 4x4's.

EVOR is committed to promoting stronger family bonds and raising children to both enjoy and respect their environment by maintaining existing public trails and expanding trails on private lands that are open to our use. EVOR participates in trail clean ups and cuttings to help ensure that future generations can enjoy our sport.

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

### Mid-Atlantic Jeep Club

### Mid-Atlantic Jeep Club

Frederick, MD

Home of the 2013 Maryland Jeep Festival.

[www.midatlanticjeepfestival.com](http://www.midatlanticjeepfestival.com)  
[midatlanticjeepfestival@gmail.com](mailto:midatlanticjeepfestival@gmail.com)



## Are you a Yahoo?

**Bill Burke (Reprinted with permission)**

**Dateline:** the near future

**Location:** your local national forest or BLM land

**Situation:** trail has a locked gate across it with sign "CLOSED TO MOTOR VEHICLES"

Problem: back-country land abuse rears its ugly head in the form of ignorant, uncaring, and/or outright stupid people!

I am angry. I won't even go into all the 4-wheel drive roads that Rachel and I have hiked on and the sickening things we saw--trees with deep cuts around their circumference from YAHOOs not using tree straps for winching; trash and empty bottles tossed everywhere; burn scars and errant fire rings to name a few.

How hard is it to buy and use a tree strap? Why do you have to hurt the trees? How hard is it to bring along a trash bag? Why can't you take your trash home and put it in your trash can? How hard is it to use an existing fire ring (or stove, for that matter)? Why can't you bring in fire wood from the store (not pallets) instead of ripping our trees apart?

Why do you have to ruin it for everybody?

I am so angry that my first thought was that YAHOOs ought to be forced to watch their own truck getting beaten to a pulp with a large hammer, until the truck is in pieces and can't be driven. Because that is what they are doing to our public lands and they don't care.

Television commercials add to YAHOOism by setting up the "splash and crash syndrome." Commercials peddle sensationalism in the form of racing, puddle-jumping, and mud-splashing SUV's. The young miscreant is so television-oriented that they see this as a way of life. By the time they put their disclaimer at the end of the commercial, if they even bother to do it, it's too late. The subconscious mind of the 4-wheel drive adventure machine owner or soon-to-be owner is already at work! But what they're really selling is trail closings. Do you

...go around the challenge instead of dealing directly with an obstacle on the road right-of-way, creating "ghost trails," "volunteer trails," and "braiding" (going around obstacles)?

...get bored with the easy track and look off the 4-wheel drive road to create your own tough obstacles?

...go faster than necessary on an innocent road?

...spin tires helplessly on hills and fragile wet meadow areas?

...wrap winch cables around a tree?

...not know map and compass and then get lost?

...rip trees, leave trash, roll over, crash?

Then you, too, are a YAHOO and you are the one who is ruining it for those of us who want to see the roads stay open and enjoy the untrampled wildlands! You are the one who is getting the trails closed.

To put it in a little more perspective, let's say your doctor says you need an operation or you could die. You have choices:

1. Circumvent the operation and create a worse situation.
2. Grit your teeth and have the surgery.
3. Seek alternative options.

In that same vein, you come to a difficult section of a trail. You have choices here, too.

1. Go around the obstacle and create a worse situation.
2. Grit your teeth and accept the challenge.
3. Turn around and find a different route.

The finesse of 4-wheeling is to keep all four tires on the ground and to keep them from spinning loose, either going up or down, especially on challenge sections. The common sense of 4-wheeling is to stay on the road, pack your trash out, and camp using Leave No Trace ethics.

*"Dear Mr. Burke -- I work for Alex Van Hemert at the Moab BLM. I am writing this to commend you for your most excellent article in the Zephyr regarding four wheel drive etiquette. I only wish that we could make this required reading for every machine operator who comes to Moab for recreation..." (K. Stevens, 3/00)❖*

*Bill Burke's 4-Wheeling America LLC*

## Quote

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

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it. **[Ronald Reagan]**

"It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so. **[Mark Twain]**

## ■ Because a Day on the Trail is Fun

*from page 7*

We were all eventually to meet up at the Sheetz in Harrisonburg. I was running a few minutes behind and worried that I was not going to get to the Sheetz in time. However, soon my fears abated as I passed Gary on I-81. He was going slowly and I wondered if he was ok. A quick wave and check that he was ok and I continued down the interstate to meet the others. Soon I had caught up to the others traveling down the road and then I knew that I would not be late. At the Sheetz we gassed up and got food supplies for the day ahead. We were ready to hit the trail. One problem, we were still missing Gary. Just as we were ready to call him, on cue he pulled into the Sheetz (something about a tour of downtown Harrisonburg as he had taken the wrong exit). The event featured lots of short trail rides with 3 difficulty levels, which became more difficult as the weekend progress, due to the wet conditions, generally soft soil and very heavy use.

After a brief driver meeting to discuss the day's plans we were off on our adventure. Heading out RT 33 our first stop was the local park and quick tour of their facilities. It is located along the stream and is a great spot for a picnic. After that we started the climb up into the GWNF and made the turn to go down to Switzer Dam and lake. At the first stream crossing we stopped to air down and look at the causeway. Here Andrew found a giant spider waiting for him at the water's edge. After a few quick pictures, we headed back to the trail.



The trail today was a fairly easy climb up to Flagpole Knob. It looked like they had recent rain and the trail had several mud holes along the way. We ran into several dogs with their radio collars on along the trail as the hunters were out training their dogs. Once we reached the top at Flagpole Knob, we stopped to enjoy a spectacular view and eat lunch. While we were eating another group came up to check out the knob and we learned that they were from the Woodbridge Ham radio club and were checking out the area for their weekend Ham fest in September.

After lunch our next stop was to head over to Reddish Knob. Along the way the trail becomes paved but very narrow. I always worry about meeting oncoming traffic along this stretch of the trail (ok, road) but we did not have a problem with that today. We were not alone at Reddish Knob as several other groups were there enjoying the view also. After a quick picture opportunity we backtracked to Flagpole Knob. Along the way we met some folks riding horses and I think that our vehicles spooked the horses at first. After checking to make sure that everyone made it past the horses ok, we were back on track again.



Passing Flagpole Knob we came back down the Mountain and turned on what I call "Stonehouse" road but the maps call this RT 225. This is one of my favorite roads in the GWNF. It is less traveled than most trails in this area and is more overgrown and rougher than what we had been on earlier in the day. As soon as you get on this trail you encounter several rock ledges and drops. You need to stay in low gear or risk losing your brakes. There are a few mud holes along the trail in this part of the forest. The trail at this point follows the mountain ridge with views on each side of the trail. One of the landmarks along this section is the stone house ruins and we stopped for pictures. It is also here that the "famous" Chevy driveshaft can opener rocks are located (Sorry Paul, I have to tell the story every time I pass this spot).

Further down the trail we encountered a slight climb with some loose and big rocks on the trail. After I made a bad first choice of a line thinking that the folks behind me would not be able to do this obstacle, I backed up to try again and got very close to the trail edge. I asked Gary to spot me to make sure that I did not get too far past the trail edge and lined up a second time and went right over and up. You can pick from several lines here from difficult to easy. Each member of the group picked their own line and got over the obstacle and did it with ease. I was impressed with our group. It is here that they have also added a bypass if you do not want to try the rock ledge. No one in our group needed the bypass. After a few more mud holes we were back to gravel roads. I did not remember how far we had to travel on the gravel road and at one point stopped to make sure that I was indeed on the right road. After returning to the Sheetz we all aired up and said our good byes. A good time was had by all.

**Bob Weaver** is the current Secretary for CORE. ❖

## News Items Wanted

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

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