



THE NOR'EASTER™

The Official Newsletter of the Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs, Inc.

This edition of the Nor'Easter is dedicated to our dear friend, Pete Gonchar



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Secretary: Tammy Van Gemert
Treasurer: Steve Nordby

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Maine Land Director: Scott Brown
Vermont Land Director: Brian Churchill
Massachusetts Land Director: Ryan Schneider
Rhode Island Land Director: Bob Butler
Connecticut Land Director: Joe Mylie
New York Land Director: OPEN POSITION
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Access-4-All Vehicle Coordinator: Bob Butler (axleb@cox.net)

Mailing Address: Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs, Inc.
P.O. Box 887
Derry, NH 03038

E-mail: info@nea4wd.org
Please be sure to include the reason for your e-mail in the Subject so we can forward it to the correct person.

Phone: 508 468-1658

Join us at a meeting! Meetings are the first Saturday of every other month, excluding holidays, from 10am to 2pm. We are now bringing meetings to a location near you so check the Calendar of Events to see when we will be in your area! We would love to have you there!

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Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs Member's Directory

Full Membership

Baystate Jeepers, Inc.

123 Bickford Hill Road, Gardner MA 01440

President: Matt Bolivar

<http://www.baystatejeepers.com>

Cape Cod Jeep Club

10 Commonwealth Ave., South Yarmouth MA 02664

(508) 398-4566

President: Marc Bruyere

<http://www.capecodjeepclub.org>

Central CT Four Wheelers

237 Spruce Brook Road, Berlin CT 06037

(860) 982-4266

President: Tom Lombardo

<http://www.cc4w.org>

Deep Woods Extreme, Inc.

P.O. Box 367, Hudson NH 03051

(603) 413-6667

President: Roy Van Gemert

<http://www.DeepWoodsExtreme.com>

Freedom Trail Riders

P.O. Box 93, North Easton MA 02356

President: Mark Dupont

<http://www.freedomtrailriders.org>

JonFund

Based in CT

President: Bill McCarthy

<http://www.jonfund.com>

Legal Jeepers

Based in NH

Co-Presidents: Marc Saxby & David Morrill

<http://www.legaljeeper.com>

Long Island Off Road Club, Inc.

151 McNeil Street, Sayville NY 11782

(631) 567-6784

President: Joe Levanti

<http://www.ec4wda.org/LIOR>

Mass Mudders Inc.

P.O. Box 8008 #241, Gloucester, MA

(978) 281-6350

President: Michael Ramos

<http://www.massmudders.com>

NE4WI

P.O. Box 142, Hadley MA 01035

President: Bill Barnes

<http://www.ne4wi.org>

New England Jeepz

9 Magnolia Terrace, Wakefield MA 01880

(617) 365-0699

President: John Shelton

<http://www.newenglandjeepz.com>

NEZR2

1500 A. Lafayette Road, Portsmouth NH 03801

(617) 217-8003

President: Michael Yaffe

<http://www.nezr2.com>

Northeast Jeep Organization, Inc.

P.O. Box 2081, Middletown CT 06457

President: Damon Scott

<http://www.nejeep.org>

NEWJO & NEWJO-Maine Chapter

2 Spruce Lane, Dover NH 03820

President: Dan Stonesifer

<http://www.newjo.org>

Overland Jeepers of Maine

P.O. Box 25, South Paris ME 04281

(207) 890-8776

President: Lou Rumore

Patriot Jeepers, Inc.

54 Edgemere Blvd., Shrewsbury MA 01545

(508) 757-3134

President: Rich Banfield

<http://www.patriotjeepers.com>

Upstate New York Xterra Club

406 Kathleen Drive, Endwell NY 13760

(607) 748-9590

President: Micah Mellander

<http://www.unyxterra.com>

Vermont Jeep Association

P.O. Box 111, Morrisville, VT 05661

President: Brian Churchill

<http://www.vtjeep.org>

Yankee Toys

Based in MA

President: Joe Mylie

<http://www.yankeetoys.org>

BECOME A SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBER OF THE NEA4WDC

What do you get with your annual business membership?

Standard Membership

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10% discount on advertising rates above what is included in package

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\$250

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Full page ad on Association website*

Gold placard for business

Free booth at one NEA4WDC-sponsored event

Why is it worth every penny?

The Nor'Easter is distributed to over 1500 members throughout the Northeast as well as to four national organizations. Our website sees traffic on a national level. We all know the advertising power of the internet. By advertising that you support the NEA4WDC, our members will be encouraged to use your services before calling one of your competitors. So really, justifying your investment is a no brainer!

Contact us today to find out how you can become a 2007 Supporting Business Member!

* You must provide us with logos and text for advertising and website content. Logos should be in a proper resolution and we prefer .jpg format. Advertising text is subject to revision by one of our editors for space and grammar. If you require extensive formatting or editorial services we may charge an additional fee.

Don't want to be a Business Member but you wish to advertise in the Nor'Easter*?

- \$10 for business card size advertisement (not to exceed 4")
- \$30 for a 1/4 page advertisement (not to exceed 15")
- \$50 for a half page advertisement (not to exceed 30")
- \$100 for a full page advertisement (not to exceed 60")

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NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION OF 4WD CLUBS UNVEILS THE ACCESS-4-ALL PROGRAM

The Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs (NEA4WDC) is setting the wheels in motion for their Access-4-All Program. The Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs is a New England based, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and promoting legal and environmentally responsible off-highway vehicle recreation, while maintaining a harmonious relationship between OHRV enthusiasts and landowners. We accomplish this through supporting and educating government agencies, our own member clubs, private landowners, and the general public.

The NEA4WDC is working to incorporate a program with the goal of providing access for those with physical and mental disabilities, as well as socially and economically challenged youth, to the great outdoors. The program is in its beginning stages as the Association recently received a donation of a 1996 Jeep Cherokee to be the designated vehicle.

A few years ago, the Association invited its first disabled guest out on a trail ride. The individual was a resident at a Derry NH group home. Steve Nordby, Treasurer of the NEA4WDC, member of NE4WI, and also a disabled OHRV driver for several years, took the resident out as his passenger. An employee at the group home came out to help get the resident into Steve's Jeep and buckle him in. While on the trail, several other Association members were able to see the joy of the resident as he safely enjoyed his journey through the woods. In the best way that he could, he communicated to those around him how much he enjoyed his experience and he wanted to do it again.

The goal of the program is to approach local group homes, youth organizations, and organizations for the physically/mentally challenged, to solicit participation in the program.

The Access-4-All Committee is looking for other volunteers who might be willing to help or participate. Maybe we can take a disabled veteran out in the woods so he can hunt or fish or just enjoy nature's beauty! Maybe we can make a kid's day by allowing him to get out of a dark and dreary inner city neighborhood and out into the outdoors where he can have fresh air and explore nature.

For more information about this program, or to find out how you can be a participant of the program, please contact us with your name, contact information, and a brief statement of how we can assist you.

READ MORE ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE VEHICLE IN PR NEWS/EVENTS!



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BUSINESS MEMBERS

The following businesses have willingly donated financial and material support to the Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs, Inc. Many of the businesses also offer discounts to NEA4WDC members so please remember to use their services and tell them you saw their ad in the Nor'Easter or on the website.

Please see their ads for complete business details.

Domenic's Auto & Jeep, Hampstead NH

Reel Web Solutions, Brookline NH

Low Range Magazine, Tilton NH

All Things Jeep, Lunenburg MA

Detours Mfg., LLC, Connecticut Shoreline

Elias 4WD, Townsend MA

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Not sure about joining? Is the NEA4WDC right for your club?

By: Dan Stra, Paul Maxwell-with edits by Tammy Van Gemert

Thinking about joining the NEA4WDC but you have questions or you don't know how to go about joining? Contact us for information if you would like to take the next step and become part of our community.

What about incorporating?

Incorporating is easier and more affordable than you think. All of the current member clubs have done it and the Association is willing to provide you with all of the help you need.

Generally speaking, incorporation provides protection for liability. Although your club's assets remain vulnerable, no one can go after your personal assets such as your house, bank account, or things that you hold near and dear. To be direct, we don't think it is wise for any club to not be incorporated because of the potential liability its members become exposed to. Incorporation should be the first thing someone does after they think about starting any organization.

We want to join, but our club is not incorporated and we don't have by-laws. Will you help me?

We will gladly help any person or club and it is a free service we offer to you and your club.

The NEA4WDC realizes that just the thought of incorporating can be intimidating. Filing costs are minimal in most states. We even have provisions in our by-laws for clubs that are not yet incorporated but seeking to become so.

As the committee is working with you to incorporate it will also work with you to put together a working set of by-laws. One common misconception about by-laws is that they are these long, drawn out documents with a lot of legal mumbo jumbo. That could not be further from the truth. By-laws don't need to have a lot of jargon. They can be a document which lists your club's home address, executive officers, and a set of general rules which allow your club to operate smoothly. You should think of them as a working document that is refined and polished over time. You might initially think that putting together by-laws is going to be tough. Trust us, it is a lot easier than you think. Especially when you have our assistance.

Well that's all fine and good, but what about that insurance thing?

Insurance is yet another benefit offered to you under the umbrella of the NEA4WDC. We offer you another layer of protection on top of incorporating. But insurance also protects the landowners that we work with and it protects the Association.

Odds are, if you have checked into insurance, you found that it is difficult to obtain. We all know that because we have all tried. It is with this in mind that the NEA4WDC has secured blanket coverage for any member club while on an NEA4WDC sponsored run. Your club would be responsible for covering a per event/per day cost each time you request the use of the insurance. You can contact Steve Nordby for more details.

What about the NEA4WDC bylaws? There are a lot of them! Who can remember all those rules?

Rules and by-laws are a given for any registered organization but they are also in place for your protection. They also provide protection for the generous landowners that allow us to use their land and for the association that has put so much time and energy into locating new places for us to enjoy our sport.

Because we are an Association, we needed to address issues that a single club would not even consider. Many of them are procedural which is good in that you have something to reference or follow. Others are conduct oriented and aimed specifically at shedding the negative images that the public has been lead to believe about us all.

All member clubs are strongly urged to abide by our by-laws. We mean to preserve the strong relationships that we have built with various landowners and frown upon any action which jeopardizes our good standing with them. This is to our advantage and is our future. We are all better off for it.

What we feel we have accomplished with these bylaws is a smooth running association for you and all other member clubs. We have tried to cover all foreseeable issues by proactively addressing them before hand rather than trying to react to situations after the fact. Naturally, there will be bumps in the road but remember that this is a working document that is updated or revised as the member clubs see fit.

So there you have it. We urge you to contact us if you have any further questions or would like to join.

Sincerely,
The NEA4WDC



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The future is yours....

Our sport is on the verge of some great developments in the next few years but these developments will happen only if people want to bring our sport to the next level. Regardless of which state you reside in, things are happening that are going to greatly improve our sport. There is only one major thing missing from this equation and that is YOU!

Our goal within the NH Land Access Team is to gain access to public lands, develop a state trail network similar to ATVs and Snowmobiles, and increase our recreational opportunities on private land.

The first step to meeting our goal is to clearly define what a 4x4 is and submit legislation to change the current RSA. I am meeting with Bill Gegas, the Motorized Program Specialist of the NH Trails Bureau, in May to finalize this definition. We are working with the NH Trails Bureau to ensure that the NH Trails Bureau Chief will be supporting our proposed legislation when he is called to testify. Having a clear definition will open the door to NH State Parks like Jericho Mountain State Park in Berlin NH.

When the legislation passes we can continue to work with the NH Trails Bureau to develop a sticker program for 4x4s. The sticker program will have all the same benefits as an ATV sticker which will include state-funded liability insurance. The program will allow NH Fish & Game to patrol trails and take action against those who do not have a sticker and it will also support the development of a NH 4x4 public trail network. The program will provide us with additional opportunities to offer private landowners and will also allow us to finally solicit for RTP Grant money.

If we are successful in NH, we plan to use this template for other states within New England to gain 4x4 access onto state land.

I know you must get tired of hearing this time and time again but the NEA4WDC and it's member clubs must have more leaders and volunteers willing to step up and take charge. The people currently involved can only do so many things (myself included). People have told me that they are unsure of what to do or they are afraid of failing in an undertaking. Always remember that failure is the most important PART of success, as that is the first step in learning.

Do you think a baby walks on its first attempt? Of course not! Is this any different?

The help we need goes beyond trail cuts and clean ups, not that we don't appreciate this help. We need people that will coordinate these endeavors, develop new relationships with landowners, open new trails on new properties, meet with town selectman and officials to prevent road closures, recruit new clubs, coordinate fundraisers.....the list goes on and on.

As Master Yoda says in the Empire Strikes Back, "Do or do not, there is no try!"

~Scott Hatch

WANT TO DONATE NOW TO THE NEA4WDC TRAVEL FUND TO SUPPORT SOME OF THE UPCOMING TRIPS THAT SCOTT MENTIONED? YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL A FUNDRAISER-JUST SEND A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO THE NEA4WDC, PO BOX 887, DERRY NH, 03038 AND LABEL YOUR DONATION "TRAVEL FUND". OUR REPRESENTATIVES APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!



FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I would like to take a minute to share a couple of stories that speak of the character of people in the wheeling community.

I had the unfortunate luck of getting my truck stuck on a stump out in the woods. With no chance of getting it out on our own and daylight fading fast, we opted to come back with reinforcements the next day. After asking for help on a couple forums, I had eight people, who barely know me other than reading some of my posts, show up to help. They helped me fix a broken front drive shaft in the woods so I could drive out.

A similar situation just happened to Rosco Brandt. He got stuck and a rescue team was sent for his Jeep before he even knew it. He was tied up all day with customers and couldn't be reached so a few friends went and retrieved his Jeep for him.

The final story goes beyond the wheeling community. While out exploring some Class VI roads a couple weeks ago, a few of us were witnesses and first responders to a horrible accident. A young kid appeared to be showing off for his girlfriend. The show-boating ended with their Ford truck upside down in a brook with about two feet of water in it. Before I even turned around and went back to help, the last two people in our group were helping the two teens to safety. Their visible wounds were treated with first aid kits that would rival any hospital's, and they were both being calmed down. The girl, who was barely 15, said her mother was in the area and wanted someone to get her. We were able to track her mother down and get her to her daughter before the girl was taken away in the ambulance.

These examples display the heart that is in every wheeler. When someone needs help, whether it's an acquaintance, friend, or stranger, every wheeler I've ever met is quick to offer whatever assistance they can.

If you haven't helped me, you've helped someone. That kind of thing doesn't go unnoticed. Often it's done so discretely that it never gets publicly acknowledged. So to everyone who's helped someone, I want to say thanks on behalf of everyone who's needed some help.

Keep paying it forward, you never know when it might be you asking for a hand.

Jason Ghelli

Land Director Progress Reports

Summer is a busy time for vacations and what not, so although the land reports may seem rather small, there is still some work being done. We continue to do what we can, when we can!

New Hampshire Land Report **composed from reports by Scott Hatch**

Scott Hatch will be meeting with Bill Gegas of the NH Trails Bureau to discuss composure of the proposed legislature that was published in last month's Nor'Easter. Following the meeting, Scott will be organizing a meeting for the NH Land Committee.

The land in Springfield NH is in need of a land manager. The former land manager has had to step down for personal reasons. The land is available to us but it needs a lot of work! Some of the member clubs are taking it upon themselves to schedule work days on the land. If you or your club would be interested in becoming the manager for the land, please contact Scott Hatch.

Rumors are circulating regarding the progress on the Jericho Park in Berlin NH. One of the rumors is that progress has halted due to the review of the contract with the State of NH and the Town of Berlin. Apparently the Agreement did not include a clause allowing for the land to be reverted back to the Town of Berlin if the State decides to no longer use the land. Scott Hatch is going to look into the rumor to see if there is any validity.

Land Director Progress Reports (continued)

Massachusetts Land Report

MA Land Committee volunteers are contacting local colleges with civil engineering programs for possible surveying efforts on Old Florida Road. The Florida MA Highway Superintendent has been contacted to provide maps of the area.

Ryan Schneider, MA Land Committee Chair, met with the Northeast ATV Association and pitched an alliance for Safety Patrols. He reported that it was well received. The Association has 500 members with a core group of around 100. They would like to meet again and Ryan is looking for a couple volunteers, two-three people, to attend. There are no confirmed dates for the meeting until some committed volunteers step forward. Ryan is also working to set up a meeting with the New England Forestry Foundation. Jay Ghelli has been working to organize a meeting with the Western MA ATV Association. All of this is in an effort to reach out and work with other user groups so as to form a larger coalition for motorized access.

The committee has organized maintenance days for the Rattlesnake Gutter area. So far volunteers have made a water bar above the step obstacle and they taped off a mud hole. They also built a stone wall to block a go around and scouted some ATV trails on foot.

The committee would like to explore the western side of the Catamount State Forest. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact the MA Land Committee Chairperson.

Connecticut Land Report **composed from reports by Joe Mylie**

The application for the 501(c) (3) exemption for COALT (Connecticut Open Access Land Trust) was received back from the attorney and will now be submitted to the IRS. The next COALT meeting will be on September 25th at Sliders in Berlin Connecticut at 7:00pm.

CTU (Connecticut Trail Users) is still in the process of putting together a presentation for an OHV Park in Waterbury, CT. The next CTU meeting will be on September 10th at the Meriden Motorcycle Club in Meriden CT at 7:00pm.

If you will recall, Connecticut formed two organizations to tackle land access. COALT is a non-profit CT corporation that will deal with the land issues and allow for applications for grant money. CTU is the legislative part of the corporation which will work solely on legislative issues that will allow for COALT to successfully work on securing and maintaining land.

Rhode Island Land Report

No report at the time of press.

Maine Land Report

Scott Brown continues to work on the relationship with Hancock Lumber to scout approximately 2200 acres of their land for motorized use.

Maine is in the process of opening another off-road park near Lewiston Maine. This will be a pay to play park for any type of off-road vehicle. Those that show up and help cut trails will dictate how the park is laid out.

Abbott Mountain in Shapleigh used to be on the "must do" places in Maine. We were shut down a couple years ago. Actually all motorized access was eliminated on the mountain itself. The local ATV clubs have a very strong presence in the area.....they are now facing their own challenges in the surrounding area. There are several "green" groups trying to stop all ATV access.

The implementation of the new more lift friendly Maine Vehicle Inspection Manual is out and being enforced. This should be a positive for the off-road community.

The State of Maine is working with ATV Maine to gain more access to trails in Southern Maine. They have recognized the need for these trails and have started working with the Central Maine Power Company to see about greater access to power lines. How, and if this will, have impact on us remains to be seen. We have currently have extremely limited access to the ATV trails bureau.

Vermont Land Report

composed from reports by Brian Churchill

The Vermont Trails Committee has been working on compiling the Vermont State road maps which show all Class IV roads that towns have posted for 2006. Many roads, both Class IV and ancient roads, are being deleted as the map is updated annually. We are comparing a set of maps that is five years older and noticing the differences. These maps can be purchased online for the cost of printing.

The Committee is plotting the current trails and roads and have asked club members to bring their Class IV town roads. We purchased two GPS handhelds and are developing an incentive to get them to members to plot roads for us.

The NOHVCC along with Vermont Jeep Association (VJA), Vermont All-Terrain Vehicles Sportsman's Association (VASA), Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), and the Civilian Conservation Corps. (CCC) are putting on a seminar open to all off-road travelers in December. Press release to follow

New York Land Report

No report at the time of press.

As you can see, there are some common themes in the Land Use Reports.

- Progress is being made.
- There is still so much work to be accomplished.
- WE NEED MORE HELP!!!!

Many of us know from the experience within our own clubs that there are never enough volunteers and the same people end up doing a lot of the work. Those people end up getting burnt out and progress comes to a halt. Well, we all love to wheel right?

We are proud of our sport/hobby right? We put a lot of time, effort, and money into our vehicles right? We care about how our states are limiting our right to wheel more and more everyday right? Well then let's do something to insure that we have a place to go! Let's help out where we can-even if it is only devoting an hour a day to logging onto a forum and providing some feedback or going to a four to five hour meeting once every other month.

Make a resolution for 2007 to become more involved in your club and in the NEA4WDC so some of the burnouts can revitalize their roots and get back in the game!

NATIONAL NEWS ON A LOCAL LEVEL

U.S. Forest Service Land Use Restrictions Imminent

Composed using information from Lance Clifford of Pirate 4X4.com

Did you know that our access to the entire United States Forest from coast to coast is in jeopardy?!?!?!?

We are at DEFCON FIVE with the anti-access groups and the U.S. Forest Service! Now is the time to act!!!

Pirate 4x4.com Land Use forums have doubled in traffic over the past couple of months due to the outrageousness of what is going on out there. If you haven't been to the Land Use forums lately, take a look. While reviewing the Draft Plan that the Forest Service put out for travel management on the Eldorado National Forest (where I happen to live, and where the world famous Rubicon Trail is) that was the last straw for me. I decided to do something about it.

It isn't just the Eldorado National Forest. Travel management planning is going on in everyone's backyard whether it's Forest Service or BLM. Anti-access extremists are out in force pressing for closures everywhere. Tellico is threatened by an anti-access lawsuit. Moab access is threatened by overzealous BLM planning. Wilderness bills are rampant in Congress. Roadless area management is still being pushed in the courts. Even the little recreation that is available in *Our Parks* is still under attack. Check out the fight in Yellowstone.

It really is time to put up or shut up. I threw down the challenge last month to donate in the Pirate 4x4.com forums, and we were able to raise about \$8,000 for Blue Ribbon Coalition (BRC). While that is fantastic, I think we can do a lot better. Remember, without folks like the BRC fighting for our rights to use public land, we might as well take up basket weaving. Join the BRC and donate to the BRC Legal Fund. The beauty of BRC is they combine all the user groups into one big fist. I contributed \$500 of my own money in the fight and you need to do what you can. If it's \$20 or \$5000, anything helps!!

While you are at it, get busy with your local club. Local involvement is where BRC does some of it's best work. If you don't belong to a club, get off your butt and join one. You really CAN make a difference!

NATIONAL NEWS ON A LOCAL LEVEL (continued)**United Four Wheel Drive Association's 2007 Annual Convention**

Tammy Van Gemert attended the Convention in Grand Junction, Colorado to represent as a delegate for the Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs, Inc. The Convention was held July 25-27, 2007. The following is Tammy's report from the Convention.

Delegate Caucus: The purpose of the delegate caucus is for delegates to be able to give their recommendation for what they would like to see addressed during the AGM. Previously these sessions have been reported as gripe sessions more than anything but this year's caucus proved to be very productive. The delegates have the option of whether or not to allow the BOD to sit in on the caucus and this year we decided to let them stay. They are only permitted to observe and add clarification if needed.

Topics of discussion:

Proposed By-laws- the delegates discussed specific areas of concern. Some felt the proposed By-laws and Business Plan are seeking to move power away from delegates and into the hands of the Board. The Board stated that is not their intent. They do not wish to continue with an "us vs. them" mentality. However, in order to move forward there are some things that the Board must take control of in order to be productive. In addition there are guidelines that will be set by the state of incorporation and the Board needs to reflect those guidelines within the By-laws. The By-laws are more of a set guideline. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) will specifically define the operations of the United Four Wheel Drive Associations. United can take more liberty as to how the SOP's are written.

Tax Issue: Wayne Groom, President of UFWDA, discussed the current tax issue that is affecting UFWDA. The issue started when the previous Ops Mgr filed for unemployment. At that time the state of Indiana realized that UFWDA never paid employee tax. UFWDA then performed a self-audit and realized there were more holes that had not been filled, one of which was that whoever filed the original incorporation papers did not file for the proper status for UFWDA. Notifications were sent to UFWDA but they were not being passed on by the person responsible for doing so until the current Administrative Manager started receiving them and sent them to Carla and Wayne. They immediately sought council from a licensed CPA and Carla is working on the legal aspects. They are also working with the IRS. Once an amount is determined, United will work on negotiating a payment plan for any amount that is owed. In addition, they will be looking at keeping the services of the CPA on an as-needed basis to ensure that they are in accordance with all state and federal regulations going forward. They are still researching as to what state they are going to incorporate in. Virginia and Washington are being heavily considered due to their lenient guidelines for registering as a non-profit. It was also suggested that they check all employee/contractual agreements.

Voting/Dues Structure: The proposed dues structure was as follows: Organizations (which is defined as a club or association) would pay a flat rate of \$100. Individual members could join for \$25 and if they chose to name a club or association that they would like to be affiliated with, United would kickback \$3 to that club or association for each individual member who named that organization.

Currently organizations can pay a flat fee of \$1000 and individuals who are members of an organization that has joined United can join for \$15-or that can be discounted to \$10 if 100% of the organization's members have joined.

With that in mind-the current dues structure allows an organization who pays the flat fee-2 votes on issues that come to a vote at the AGM. In addition, an organization can accumulate more votes based on how many of their members have joined UFWDA individually. The following table outlines those votes:

0 memberships = 0 votes
1-99 paid United memberships = 2 votes
100-499 paid United memberships = 3 votes
500-999 paid United memberships = 4 votes
1000+ paid United memberships = 5 votes

As you will read later on, the delegates chose to refine the proposed dues structure and voting guidelines. There were a few delegates who felt the proposed structure would allow for skewed voting by larger organizations vs. smaller ones. However, the By-laws set a structure in place based on how votes can be submitted that would prevent a larger organization from overtaking the voting. In addition this is incentive for organizations to encourage individual memberships. Some delegates suggested that UFWDA work on outlining and providing more tangible benefits so as to encourage individual memberships.

Annual General Meeting-July 25th Day 1

Board of Director's Nominations: The nominations were as follows-

Vice President: Gail Straty (Colorado Four Wheel Drive Association), Gene Ockert (Individual Member of UFWDA & Father of Todd Ockert. Gene brings the experience of over 30 years of owning his own successful business. Gene volunteered on the UFWDA forum during the AGM.)

International Vice President: Peter Vahry (current International VP and representative from New Zealand. Peter is active in NZ, Australia, South Africa, and the UK.)

Director of Environmental Affairs: Todd Ockert

Treasurer: Trish Groom (was nominated by the delegate for the Wisconsin Four Wheel Drive Association. Trish has several years of experience in accounting as well as she has graduated with a Master's in Finance or Accounting. I don't remember the exact specifics but she is more than qualified.)

PR Director: There were no volunteers for this position so it is vacant for the time being.

Miscellaneous Topics

Wayne encouraged delegates to get their members signed up on the UFWDA E-news. The E-news provides members with news blasts about current land issues and initiatives within the UFWDA. At a minimum all organizations should be subscribed through their general mailboxes.

The Board is working on re-structuring the UFWDA website. The new design will provide more details about UFWDA programs and benefits.

A couple of the delegates asked for UFWDA to help with the insurance issue. Wayne stated that the Board would take on the project of researching with insurance companies to provide some type of umbrella insurance program to 4WD organizations. He mentioned that they have had communication with one of the previous employees of K&K Insurance.

Peter Vahry encouraged us to look at some of the international Associations. He gave an example of the success of the Victoria Four Wheel Drive Association which is managed by four people-but is very successful. <http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au/> Their website seems to list more than four people but I think he is saying that the top four on the list oversee most of the day-to-day tasks of the organization.

Ballots were distributed for voting on the 2008 AGM Location. Locations included: Nashua NH, Milwaukee WI, Columbus OH, and Orlando FL. Cost comparisons and discussion took place prior to distribution of the ballots.

Closing

The delegates chose to form an ad-hoc committee to review the suggestions posed by the delegates for revisions to the proposed By-laws. The committee was instructed to work on drafting amendments to the proposed By-laws for presentation on Day 2 of the AGM

Annual General Meeting-July 26th Day 2

By-laws

The ad-hoc committee presented their revisions to the proposed By-laws. Most of the edits were general house-keeping. Major revisions included clarification on the sections pertaining to Voting, Meeting Location & Notice of Meetings, etc. The delegates were very comfortable with the changes and voted in favor of accepting the By-laws as amended at the AGM.

In relation the delegates voted in favor of the proposed Business & Marketing Plan. All of these documents can be reviewed online in the General section of the UFWDA forum.

Dues

The delegates felt the proposed dues structure could essentially result in an immediate decrease in membership for UFWDA. The decline would eventually resurface and within a couple of years increase but the delegates chose to think of alternatives rather than experience the projected loss. The delegates voted in favor of the following format for dues:

Organizations would pay a flat fee of \$100.

Individual joining on their own with no affiliation: \$25

Individual joining through their organization: \$20 if paid by their organization's deadline for dues submission.

Individual joining through their organization but after the deadline: \$25

The following voting structures were presented assuming an organization pays the flat fee of \$100:

Option 1:

Base = + 1

1-99 = +1

100-499 = +2

500-999 = +3

5 maximum

You only get one of the above levels based on submitted paid memberships through your organization. The Base represents if you just join UFWDA as an organization and none of your members join as individuals.

Option 2:

0-25 = 1

26-50 = 2

51-75 = 3

16 maximum

The delegates approved a motion for the Board to develop a sliding scale for voting based on the proposed voting structures above. The Board felt they should be able to come back with a format by September 30th. The goal is to have a new structure for implementation on January 1, 2008.

In addition, if UFWDA attends an event and speaks with someone who is interested in joining an organization, they will pass that info along to member organizations based on the demographic of the individual.

The main goal of the dues and voting structure is to encourage individual memberships. Organizations can choose whether or not they wish to take on the task of collecting individual memberships and submitting those along with their organizational memberships. If individuals wish to get their own copy of The Voice, their names and addresses must be submitted to UFWDA. If an individual wishes to join UFWDA through their organization but they are outside of the normal deadline-they can still do so at any time. They will be subject to the \$25 for that year or they can wait until the next enrollment period and pay the \$20.

Election of Officers

The delegates voted on the nominations listed above for the Executive Officers of the Board. Election for Vice President was done by paper ballot. Gene Ockert was elected as Vice President. A request was made to not be required to have to state the name of your affiliation on the paper ballots as it defeats the purpose of doing secret ballot voting. The Board and delegates agreed that this could be implemented for future AGM ballot voting.

The remaining office nominations were also voted in. The PR Director is still a vacant position.

Results for 2008 AGM Location

Nashua NH won the proposal with 50 votes for the 2008 AGM Location and the Convention will be hosted by the Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs. Tammy Van Gemert thanked UFWDA on behalf of the Northeast Association. Columbus, OH was second with 14 votes. Tammy confirmed that there will be wheeling available per the request of some of the delegates.

Miscellaneous Topics

Wayne Groom introduced Tim Gilman-BF Goodrich representative for Top Trail Challenge & the Outstanding Trails Program. The program selects 5 trails per year across the country and the recipients get grant money to be used towards maintenance and other costs associated with keeping those trails open. I spoke with Tim and took his business card. They are very interested in getting submissions from the Northeast. I was told to work with both the UFWDA Board and Tim. The trail can be on public or private land but the stipulation is that wherever it is, the trail has to be open to the public. There are other guidelines as well that we can look at. <http://www.offroaders.com/directory/PR/BFGoodrich-Outstanding-Trails.htm>

The day concluded with reports from the delegates regarding the organizations they were representing.

I provided a report for our Association where I focused on the following:

- I reviewed our increase of membership over the past year.
- I provided a brief report of our current goals and projects with regards to working on state legislative issues across the Northeast.
- I outlined our three major events: DWE Truck Show/Rock Crawl, Jeep Rally, and Fall Crawl.
- I discussed the new design of our newsletter and the fact that we are accepting Business Members. I also confirmed that we provide a PDF copy online as well as we snail mail copies to organizations we support and all of the Business Members.
- I briefly discussed our Access-4-All program and our goals.

- I mentioned Low Range Magazine as it is our first real national voice in the Northeast as far as media representation. (Wayne Groom added comments about the professional look and feel of the magazine. He also commented that he has met some of the staff at various events and he was impressed by their support and professionalism.)

Annual General Meeting-July 27th Day 3

The morning was devoted to the Land Use Conference. The Conference followed a different format which allowed each of the demographic areas represented to give reports about what work is being done in their respective areas regarding land use. Those in attendance agreed the new format was very effective.

Wayne Groom introduced Mike Trost who brought the Stay the Trails truck. The truck includes a tow-behind camper that has been converted into a source for brochures and information regarding laws and guidelines for all forms of motorized recreation in the state of Colorado. I viewed it as a Traveling Safety Patrol. I spoke with Mike, who is paid to bring the truck and camper to various events throughout the state of Colorado. I had asked if they are considering implementing this in other states and he said the Colorado assembly is sort of a pilot and he is sure that if it proves to be successful it will be implemented in other areas. The program is supported by the BLM in CO, USDA Forest Service, COHVCC, and Tread Lightly!

<http://staythetrail.org/> I brought back a few brochures about the program and I will have them available at the next meeting. I think this is definitely a program we should look into.

Miscellaneous Topics

Nominations were accepted for the various annual awards that are given out by UFWDA. (This may have happened the second day but the awards were presented at the evening banquet on the 27th). The awards were as follows:

Environmental Four Wheeler of the Year- nominated and presented to Jerry & Julie Panek (Colorado)

Four Wheeler of the Year- nominated and presented to Tim & Donna Krueger (Wisconsin)

Website of the Year- South Africa 4WD Club (49 sites were reviewed by the Board)

Newsletter of the Year- Great Lakes 4WD Association

I believe there were a couple other awards but I did not record them. I did not even know these existed until recently and by then it was too late to submit nominations. I think we definitely have members in our community who meet the requirements for the awards and I would like to see us have some submissions for the future. Requirements can be found on the UFWDA website and I will be posting them on our forum soon.

Bill Burke, owner of 4 Wheeling America, was another guest at the AGM. He spoke about his outfitter guide services and on Day 3 at the banquet he presented slides of his involvement in the 1991 Camel Trophy competition. He mentioned he is getting requests from some of the Northeastern states to come up and do some training and he has used Old Florida Road as one of his routes in the past. I took his card as well and I think it might benefit us to have him come out and do a presentation at one of our meetings or something. <http://www.bb4wa.com/>

Miscellaneous Tidbits

We need to utilize the benefits of the UFWDA such as the 4WD Awareness Clinics, Volunteer Safety Patrol, Land Use Conferences, etc.

It was suggested to the delegates to research the California League of Voters Association (<http://www.clorv.org>) and possibly develop something like it in your own areas.

Montana worked with the state to develop a recreational license plate. They receive a portion of the proceeds that goes towards keeping public access for motorized recreation. I don't know the specifics but I am sure we could do some research on it.

The accepted term for some of the opposing groups is "anti-access groups" and delegates were encouraged to start using this term within their respective areas so it becomes the normal accepted term. Apparently it does aggravate the opposing groups-which is definite incentive.

Organizations & clubs were urged to watch what they allow on their websites. More than one delegate had reports of how state authorities and anti-access groups have pulled harmless photos and text from their websites and used the material against them in public ads and media reports. Some mentioned copyrighting and protecting any photos on your websites or keep them in private areas with restricted access. Anti-access groups and state authorities have staff that just sit and monitor sites.

The UFWDA Ambassadors reported that they are developing some type of scholarship program for UFWDA members to apply for on behalf of their children.

Land Use Conference Reports

International Report:

Some websites to check out:

South Africa <http://www.now.org.za>

Australia: <http://www.anfwdc.asn.au>

New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association
United Kingdom: <http://www.laragb.org> & <http://www.glass-uk.org>
Green Lane Association LTD
Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act (NERC)
Land Rover Monthly Magazine

"An anti-4x4 success in one region gives encouragement elsewhere". Focus on better PR to distribute message about OHV recreation.

UFWDA is the only international link for motorized 4WD recreation.

Peter is looking for other foreign ambassadors to represent countries such as Mexico and South America.

Tidbits from other reports:

We should work on doing an inventory of actual mileage of open 4WD access on public land in each state. Other states are encouraged to do the same. We should also work on creating an inventory of recorded man hours and equipment costs we use for maintenance and clean-ups.

Southern, through one of their members, owns all their own equipment for trail maintenance and clean-up efforts (dump trucks, excavators, etc.)

Initiate safety patrol programs. Other delegates mentioned they have successfully utilized the UFWDA Volunteer Trail Patrol Program. They have found the ID Sheets to be very useful.

Utilize your local Ranger Districts and the Adopt-A-Ranger Programs.

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

NOHVCC Adventure Programs-training young as well as old.

Research Minnesota, Oregon, and Washington OHV Sticker Programs.

Obtain and research SOPA (US Forest Service schedule of upcoming implementations).

Set Google Alerts. You can set Google Alerts for keywords such as OHV and OHRV and you will automatically get articles containing these keywords. Some delegates stated that they do this and it does not overload your e-mail and it keeps you informed of articles regarding our interests.

Stay on mass media advertisers and the way they portray our sport. Organize councils to work with manufacturers.

We need to perform and publish our own environmental surveys and reports. Examine current published reports because they are often weighted towards the person or group behind the publications. NAMRC is compiling a list of specialists and research staff that is pro-motorized.

Get active on the Forest Service Advisory Committees and the RTP Advisory Committees.

Many times we might hear our members asking us what the national organizations such as SEMA, BRC, UFWDA, and Tread Lightly! are doing for the Northeast. It often seems their focus is on Western issues. The more important question is what are we asking them to do? We have to communicate with them that their help is needed and by attending these national events-we can do just that. We can make connections with the people we need to talk to. Please support the NEA4WDC Travel Fund so we CAN send our representatives!



Dedham Wholesale Tire, where you'll find passenger tires, performance tires, truck and SUV tires and more from proven brands, including Michelin, BFGoodrich, Bridgestone and other leading industry names. Conveniently located in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, Dedham Wholesale Tire offers brake service, alignment, tune-ups and other valuable services to get your car, truck, minivan or SUV back on the road. **Give us a call at (617) 325-6600 or drop us an email at retail@dedhamwholesaletire.com, we will get back to you promptly.**

Thousands of satisfied customers from Suffolk County, Norfolk County and other surrounding areas rely on Dedham Wholesale Tire each year.

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY-PUBLIC RELATIONS

Access-4-All Vehicle Report

Since our last issue, former Project Manager Mark Kosciukiewicz had to step down from his role due to personal obligations. Bob Butler stepped up to assume the Project Manager position and has transitioned well so far. Luckily Mark kept a good list of services and donations so Bob just had to take the information and run with it.

After the work that was done by NEJeep, the vehicle was moved to Baystate Off-Road, one of the Association's Gold Business Members. Baystate will be donating some of their shop time to continue making mechanical repairs and modifications. Bob Butler replaced the heater control valve prior to bringing the vehicle to Baystate. The lift kit for the vehicle, which was donated by Domenic's Auto & Jeep in Hampstead NH, will be delivered to Baystate Off-Road along with other donated items and a wrench-fest will be scheduled.

The NEA4WDC recently updated their Access-4-All Press Release for distribution to the media about the program. Members of the Association have also been sending the Release out to local motorized access groups. If you would like to request a copy of the Release, please contact the Association.

Baystate Jeepers, one of the member clubs, holds an annual event known as the Great American Jeep Rally. Unfortunately, the Jeep Rally has been postponed for 2007 and one of the coordinators approached the Association about using a certificate they had received for their event towards the Access-4-All vehicle. The certificate was for a set of four BF Goodrich Tires donated by BF Goodrich (BFG). The coordinator contacted BFG prior to speaking with the Association to obtain permission to offer the certificate for the vehicle. The contact at BFG had no problem authorizing the transfer and the Association gladly accepted. The certificate will most likely be used for a set of 33x10.5 Mud Terrains.

If you or your club/organization would like to donate towards the costs of the Access-4-All Program, please contact Steve Nordby (see page 2 for contact info).

Do You Have Jeep in your Blood?

On July 8, 2007, the Northeast Jeep Organization (NEJeep) hosted their First Annual Blood Drive in Southington, Connecticut in conjunction with the American Red Cross.

NEJeep hosted the event with a M*A*S*H theme to draw community interest for the event. Donors and club members alike were dressed in military attire. The Connecticut National Guard was in attendance with their vehicles, along with several vintage military vehicles from private owners. A trophy for best military vehicle was awarded. In addition to the donation of over 100 units of blood, NEJeep was also able to collect numerous bags of necessary items for the troops serving overseas.

NEJeep's blood drive was a great success and plans are already under way for next year's event.

For more information about the Northeast Jeep Organization and next year's Blood Drive, please visit www.nejeep.org.

CHaD Rocks!

At the 6th Annual Deep Woods Extreme Rock Crawling Competition and 4WD Truck Show, Children's Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD) saw first hand just how competitive people are to donate to such a worthwhile organization. Although, Toby Trudel from the Community Relations Office at CHaD Manchester, may use the words "crazy" or "insane" to describe just how far some of the Rock Crawling Drivers go to please the crowd.

In May of 2007, Deep Woods Extreme approached CHaD to be one of the local charities that would accept some of the proceeds from their annual show at the Hopkinton Fairgrounds in Contoocook NH. Two of the Executive Officers of Deep Woods Extreme have a personal connection with CHaD since their daughter has frequented the Manchester facility on an outpatient basis for the past year. They have witnessed the tremendous staff and care provided by the CHaD network. Others in the 4WD community were able to add their experiences and support of giving to such a terrific cause. What can be better than being able to help children?

In July 2007, Toby Trudel attended the event and managed a booth so that the people attending the show could learn more about the charity they would be supporting. Toby battled the heat and possibly one of the worst sunburns he has ever had, to reach the more than 1400 people who came through the gates. Of course he did sneak away for a few minutes to see what the event was all about and we are pretty sure he was either impressed or shocked, maybe a little of both!

Following the event, the Event Coordinators had some time to wind down and calculate the final report for the show. In August of 2007, Roy Van Gemert (President of Deep Woods Extreme), Tim Connors (Vice President of Deep Woods Extreme), Tammy Van Gemert (Secretary of Deep Woods Extreme), and Emma Van Gemert (Daughter of Roy & Tammy and current patient of CHaD) met with Toby Trudel at the CHaD Manchester Facility and presented Toby with a check for \$3000. Toby thanked the crew for the generous donation and plans are underway for CHaD to continue to be one of the two dedicated charitable organizations who will receive proceeds from the annual event.

For more information about CHaD please visit www.chadkids.org or call CHaD Community Relations at (603) 629-1862

For more information about Deep Woods Extreme and their annual event please visit www.DeepWoodsExtreme.com or call (603) 413-6667

Four-Wheeling for a Cure

By Stacey Osborn, Events Director for Freedom Trail Riders

Freedom TrailRiders (FTR), a local non-profit four-wheel drive club based in Southern New England, put together a team for the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life of Bridgewater, MA. The event celebrates cancer survivorship and raises money to help the American Cancer Society save lives and help those who have been touched by cancer. The Relay for Life was on Friday, June 15 and Saturday, June 16 at the Bridgewater State College Swenson Field.

To raise money for the cause, the club planned a few fundraising activities. One such activity was the "Freedom TrailRiders PowderPuff/Drag Trail Ride for Cancer" on Sunday, June 3. The trail ride took riders who were either female, or dressed like a female, with properly equipped four-wheel drive vehicles off-road for a fun-filled day of excitement. With the help of events such as this one, the team was able to raise approximately \$5093.13.

If you would like more information about Freedom Trail Riders please visit their website at <http://www.freedomtrailriders.org>.

NEA4WDC Volunteer Raffle

Ok everyone here are the details you've been waiting for. This year we are adding a raffle for volunteers only. This is open to everyone: club presidents, officers, delegates, and especially members. Participation is simple. Volunteer to help with an Association-sponsored event such as maintenance days, cleanups, cut & wheels, booth events, etc. For every event you volunteer for, you get one virtual ticket. The more you volunteer the greater your chances of winning. Jason Ghelli, Vice President of the NEA4WDC, will keep track of who is heading up each event. The person heading up the event will be responsible for getting the names of the participants to Jason. He will track them on a spreadsheet. The Raffle will be held at the 2008 Winter Snow Run Event and the winner will receive their prize! The person selected doesn't need to be present to win.

Jason will email a sign-up sheet to the person in charge of each event. **If you forget to bring it, please make sure you get each person's contact information and club affiliation!!!!**

As soon as we know what the prize will be, we will post the details at forum.nea4wd.org

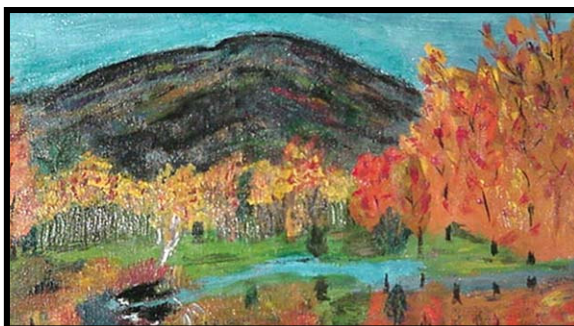
Please, everyone stress to your club how important it is to get involved. This is a small way of us giving back to everyone for their hard work.

If you have any questions please contact Jason Ghelli (see page 2 for contact info).

Flag Day Extravaganza

On June 9th 2007, a few volunteers headed down to the Flag Day Festival in Framingham MA. The Event Coordinator had approached Ryan Schneider of the NEA4WDC and asked if the Association would be interested in setting up a booth and display at the Flag Day event. Of course Ryan said we would be more than willing to do so. Unfortunately Mother Nature had better plans so she opened up her clouds of rain and caused the Event Staff to postpone the event for the following day due to some lightning and National Weather Service warnings. Needless to say this put a damper on the attendance for the next day, but Ryan and Tammy Van Gemert, Secretary of the Association, showed up to a bright and sunny day and in spite of everything they were able to pass out some brochures and make some contacts.

The Event Coordinator is already speaking with Ryan to establish a bigger display for next year and the Association is waiting with anticipation to return. If only other communities would welcome us in with such open arms!



LOVEWELL MOUNTAIN REGALIA

70 Heritage Avenue Suite 8, Portsmouth New Hampshire
03801

Stephen_lovewellmtn@comcast.net

603-433-4288 (Business)

603-431-5337 (Fax)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Big 4WD Event
Hebert's Candy Mansion Rt. 20
(575 Hartford Turnpike)
Shrewsbury, MA
October 14th, 2007 9am-4pm

Lots of fun family events
Food
4WD Clubs
***4WD Vendors**
RTI Ramp
Winch contest
*** Swap meet spots**
The Big air up contest
RC (Remote control)
Rock Crawler Obstacle Course/Race!
Granny low contest!
New 4WD' s from local auto dealers!

***4WD Vendor Spots/Swap Meet spots for \$35!** ALL VENDOR CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE HEBERT CONFECTIONS!

\$5 Donation at the Gate

Parking is FREE!!!

Parking for Trailer space is limited! Please park down by dock.

For more info: Sevenslotgrills@aol.com **OR** 508-340-1488

JEEP DAY

Patriot's Bar & Grill in Bellingham MA on September 22nd from 10am-5pm. Hosted and Sponsored By 7 Slot Grills. Open to Jeeps Only New-Old-Off-Road-Whatever Kind Of Jeep You Own! Vendors-RTI Ramp-And More!

\$5 Donation The event will be in conjunction with a Cancer benefit at the same location on September 22nd for Jason Poirier. For more information, please contact Rich Banfield at sevenslotgrills@aol.com or call (508) 340-1488.

Mass Mudders Inc. 11th Annual Pig Roast Fundraiser



On September 22nd 2007 the Mass Mudders Inc. 4-Wheel Drive Club will host their 11th annual Pig Roast Fundraiser. The event will take place from 1pm to 8pm at Centennial Grove in Essex, MA. There will be a DJ along with live music courtesy of local vocalists, a jeep pull competition, articulation ramp competition, food, drinks, a children's "jumpy thing", and much more!

This year's proceeds will go to the William A. Turner, Sr. Memorial Fund. A close friend to many members of the club, William A. (Bill) Turner, Sr. lost his life unexpectedly February 22, 2007 at the young age of 47. Bill is well known among our community, as well as, the trucking industry, as he worked for numerous firms, running W.A. Turner & Sons Trucking for many years, and also owning and operating Turner Towing. Billy's heart of gold was always there to lend a helping hand without expecting anything in return. A dedicated family man, Bill is survived by his wife of 21 years and his eight children, the two youngest still in early elementary school. The Mass Mudders Pig Roast Fundraiser donation to The William A. Turner, Sr. Memorial Fund, as administered by the Gloucester Cooperative Bank, will assist Bill's wife in raising their children.

The Mass Mudders Inc. is proud to be hosting Pig Roast Fundraiser for their 11th consecutive year. The tickets will be printed and ready for sale by June. There is plenty of parking at Centennial Grove and with the participation of other clubs one lot can be designated specifically to display vehicles.

For any questions regarding the pig roast please contact the events chairman at www.spidaone@verizon.net

3rd ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL RUN-September 22 HOSTED BY UPSTATE NEW YORK XTERRA CLUB

Registration Fee is \$15 which will include your camping, t-shirt, and dinner on Saturday evening. To register please visit the UNYX forum at <http://unyxterra.com/forum/viewforum.php?f=49>

There will be camping Friday & Saturday with trails on Saturday and a cook-out/raffle on Saturday evening. The event will take place in West Oneonta, NY.

Central Connecticut 4 Wheelers

Want to check out some local off-road racing action? Central Connecticut 4 Wheelers can give you what you are looking for. For the past 15 years they have been involved with the racing at the Southwick MA Motorcross 338 Racetrack. Check out their 2007 Flyer at <http://www.cc4w.org>

Dyno Day-Saturday October 20th

Hosted by Turbo Diesels of New England at DEZ Racing, Fall River Avenue, Seekonk MA. Open to ALL vehicles. \$70 for three pulls, minor turning allowed while your vehicle is strapped down. <http://www.turbodieselsne.com>

WE REGRET TO INFORM EVERYONE OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION!

After going back and forth for the last couple of weeks we've decided it would be best to postpone the Great American Jeep Rally for this year (2007). It saddens us to make this announcement but unfortunately the time and financial commitment was a little much for us this year. Robin and I have turned the event over to NEJeep & Baystate who will begin funding it in 2008.

Robin and I would like to sincerely thank all the GAJR "Volunteers" who have worked with us these past few years. With your help and with the support of the wheeling community, the Great American Jeep Rally has donated a little over \$25,000 to charities since we started back in 2001. **You all deserve a round of applause for this!!!!**

We will be updating our website later tonight with the "postponement" information. We have approximately six weeks to get the word out about the postponement and could use everyone's help with spreading the word. If possible, please post this information on your club's bulletin board and/or any other place you feel others will see.

Again, the Great American Jeep Rally will be back "bigger & better " in 2008!!!

Best,
Marty & Robin Chacon

YANKEE TOYS FALL GATHERING-SEPTEMBER 28-30, HANCOCK NH

A full weekend of camping and wheeling plus raffles and a BBQ..... Who could turn that down?

Field & Forest: HARDCORE--35's+lockers recommended, Body damage almost guaranteed. There is reportedly a moderate trail here as well details TBA.

Carnage Hill: INTERMEDIATE--33's and 1 locker recommended, body damage likely for long wheelbase trucks.

NH Class VI Roads: FUN FOR ALL-- 31's and a good attitude recommended, minimal chance of damage, stocker friendly.

All runs will leave the F n' F campground staging area each morning by 8:30AM and return by dinner time (or so)

The FJC Trail Team will once again be in attendance.

In order to meet our insurance requirements **you must be a member of Yankee Toys or another NEA4WD-affiliate club.** Other than that, as long as your rig meets tech requirements and you **PRE-REGISTER** then we want you there! You don't need to own a Toyota either, we have quite a few non-Toyota owning members as well.

However, you will be able to join Yankee Toys right on your registration so by all means, please consider membership.

To sign up for the event you can download and print the form at <http://www.yankeetoys.org/07YT-FGRegForm.pdf>

Got Heart?

The Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs (NEA4WDC) selected their second recipient for the Shane Beard Award. Shane Beard, who lost a battle to pancreatic cancer in 2006, was who most would consider a true example of someone who is passionate about every aspect of life. He showed kindness and devotion to everything he was attached to-his family, friends, hobbies, and career. Shane volunteered his time to be a leader within his local Boy Scout troop and he served as a leader and Executive Officer in the NEA4WDC and in his local 4WD club, NEWJO. He had a way of making sure others always stayed on track and maintained the right focus for what was most important.

The passing of Shane hit the communities he was involved in like a Jeep® that just can't overcome the obstacle it is up against. Nobody could understand why a great man would be taken away from so many people that loved and admired him. So, in his honor and to continue his legacy, the members of the NEA4WDC gave birth to the Shane Beard Award in 2006. They composed the following criteria for the award:

1. Active volunteer/leader within the wheeling community who maintains a positive influence for and with others.
2. Actively involved in land maintenance and acquisition opportunities for the sport.
3. Demonstrates responsibility and leadership on and off the trails. Promotes such characteristics in other members of the community as well.
4. Promotes and generates ideas that are practical for the entire family with regards to wheeling-related events.
5. Maintains a positive attitude throughout all of the work being done within the community.

Nominations are accepted throughout the year by members of the NEA4WDC's Member Clubs. The Executive Officers of the NEA4WDC are exempt from receiving the award. In 2006, the Shane Beard Award recipient was Domenic Pono of Domenic's Auto & Jeep in Hampstead NH. For 2007, the nominees were Rosco Brandt, Roy Van Gemert, and Tammy Van Gemert. Since Tammy is the Secretary of the NEA4WDC, she was exempt from receiving the award. Secret ballots were cast at the August NEA4WDC Board of Director's Meeting and the delegates who were present voted for Roy Van Gemert.

The nominations received expressed the following about each individual:

- Rosco Brandt: Although Rosco's employment keeps him traveling on a regular basis, he manages to find the time to help plan and attend Association-sponsored events.
- Roy Van Gemert: On a consistent basis, Roy reminds everyone to be responsible and to remember why it is necessary to only wheel legally. He is always willing to help those around him and one of those people that would "give the shirt off his back" to do so. He has influenced the lives of quite a few "renegade wheelers", including the person who nominated him.
- Tammy Van Gemert: Tammy has shown through her involvement in the NEA4WDC that she has a strong passion for the sport. Her dedication to bringing the 2008 United Four Wheel Drive Association Annual Conference to New Hampshire will open up a door to showing other parts of the country that off-road motorized recreation is alive and flourishing in the Northeast.

The Award was presented to Roy Van Gemert at the 2007 NEA4WDC Fall Crawl Event on September 9th. Roy accepted the award with a very appropriate speech that consisted of two words, "Thank You". He did add that he was not even aware that he deserved any award such as the Shane Beard Award. Congratulations to Roy on behalf of the NEA4WDC!

For more information on the Shane Beard Award or to nominate someone for 2008, please contact us at info@nea4wd.org All nominations must be submitted in writing and can be e-mailed to the previous address or mailed to the NEA4WDC, PO Box 887, Derry NH 03038.



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In addition to being able to present a check to CHaD for \$3000 from the Deep Woods Extreme Annual Rock Crawling Competition & 4WD Truck Show, Deep Woods Extreme was also able to present a donation from the event of \$3000 to the Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs. Tammy Van Gemert was present at the August NEA4WDC Meeting to hand the check over to Scott Hatch.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Deep Woods Show because without your attendance, donations to such great charities would not be possible!

CALL TO ACTION

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

It is that time of year when the leaves begin to change and the temperature begins to drop. Along with the warm aroma of apple-flavored desserts comes the time for two of the Executive Officers within the Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs to drop their hats and move onto normal lives.

Scott Hatch has been the President of the NEA4WDC for approximately five years now and frankly he has had enough! No, seriously, he feels it is time for someone else to grab the reigns who will bring fresh ideas and innovation. Scott will continue to be active as the NH Land Committee Chairperson and is already working on some major projects. He has formally stated that he will not be leaving the Association and will continue to help in whatever capacity he can.

Tammy Van Gemert has also devoted quite a bit of time to being the Secretary for approximately four or five years. She will continue to be active within the Association and will continue to manage the Nor'Easter. She would like to focus on other projects within the Association but feels she needs to move on from the Secretary position.

Both Scott and Tammy have stated they will not leave the Association, "high and dry" if no individuals come forward but the hope is that there will be people to take their place as there are definitely some qualified individuals out there! So please nominate someone or nominate yourself!

The Association has asked that all nominations be submitted in writing and that if you are nominating someone else, please speak with them before doing so to make sure they are interested. All nominations will be recorded and confirmed at the Association meeting in November 2007. Individuals who accept a nomination should immediately submit a written letter containing their credentials for the position they have been nominated for as well as one or all of the following: how they became involved in motorized recreation, ideas they have for the future of the sport/NEA4WDC, etc. The letters will be available on the Association website or forum for review and elections will take place at the Association meeting in January 2008. During the meeting the ballots will be counted and the new officers will be announced. The new officers will begin their terms immediately and will continue for a two-year duration.

For more information about the positions or to submit a nomination, please contact us!

SAVE THE DATES

Post this on your fridge to remind you of upcoming events and remember to check the NEA forum for updates!

September 22	Jeep Day	Bellingham, MA
September 22	UNYX Back-To-School Event	West Oneonta, NY
September 22	Mass Mudders Pig Roast	Essex, MA
September 28-30	Yankee Toys Fall Gathering	Hancock, MA
October 6	MA Land Maintenance Day	TBD
October 14	Big 4WD Event	Shrewsbury, MA
October 20	Dyno Day	Seekonk, MA
October 21	CC4W Race	Southwick, MA
November 3	NEA4WDC Meeting	TBD

Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs, Inc.
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