



THE NOR'EASTER™

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

2008 NEA4WDC Snow Run

The Association welcomes their new President Jason Ghelli and his girl Sunshine.



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Vice President Environmental Affairs: Scott Hatch

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Maine Land Director: Scott Brown

Vermont Land Director: Brian Churchill

Massachusetts Land Director: Liza Snow

Rhode Island Land Director: Bob Butler

Connecticut Land Director: Joe Mylie

New York Land Director: OPEN POSITION

Public Relations Contact- Mark Dupont/Steve Nordby (snordby65@yahoo.com)

Nor'Easter Editor- Tammy Van Gemert

Website Contact- Scott Hatch/Jason Ghelli (spyderghel@comcast.net)

Sales/Advertising/Business Memberships- OPEN POSITION

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!

www.nea4wd.org
forum.nea4wd.org



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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>

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>

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>

Provisional Members

*Provisional Members are clubs who are waiting to be voted in as Full Members pending completion of their application process.

Crazy Jeepers

<http://www.crazyjeeper.com>

Berkshire4Wheelers

<http://www.berkshire4wheelers.org>

South Shore Wheelers

<http://www.southshorewheelers.org>

BECOME A SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBER OF THE NEA4WDC

What do you get with your annual business membership?

Standard Membership

\$250

Business card size ad in newsletter* (not to exceed 4")

Listing/link on Association website*

Member placard for business

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

Gold Membership

\$500

Full page ad in newsletter* (**not to exceed 60"**)

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 3,900 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 2008 Supporting Business Member!

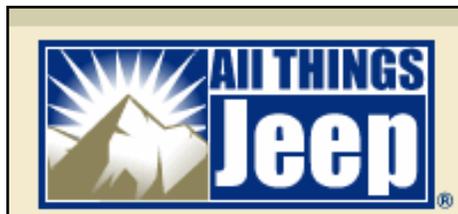
* You must provide us with logos and text for advertising and website content. Logos should be in a proper resolution and we prefer .jpg format. Advertising text is subject to revision by one of our editors for space and grammar. If you require extensive formatting or editorial services we may charge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

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

- \$50 for business card size advertisement (not to exceed 4")
- \$75 for a 1/4 page advertisement (not to exceed 15")
- \$100 for a half page advertisement (not to exceed 30")
- \$150 for a full page advertisement (not to exceed 60")

You must provide us with logos and text for your ad. Logos should be sent in proper resolution and .jpg format is preferred. 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. Ad sizes are approximate.

Please contact us for additional information.



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

The Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and promoting legal and environmentally responsible off-highway vehicle recreation, while maintaining a harmonious relationship between OHV enthusiasts and landowners. We accomplish this through supporting and educating government agencies, our own member clubs, private landowners, and the general public.

Recently the Association released details of the launch of their signature Access-4-All Program. The program will help provide access to those who might not be able to access the outdoors with the help of a 4WD vehicle. The Association has been working on a Jeep Cherokee to make the necessary modifications in order to bring it to events and eventually use it for the intended purpose of bringing people into the back country.

Over the past year the Access-4-All Vehicle, with the help of volunteers and most importantly Bay State Off Road in Middleboro MA, has received a complete mechanical upgrade, a lift kit (donated by Domenic's Auto and Jeep in Hampstead NH), a front backbone system installed, and new differential covers. The next phase of the build will be held on April 5th from 10am to 4pm at Bay State Off Road, 15R Spruce Street, Unit #5 Middleboro, MA 02346. The goal is to install the TC drop, SYE and drive shaft, frame stiffeners, trim fenders, and plan the next steps.

As funds and materials become available, our goals for the vehicle will be to install new gears and lockers in the axles, add body protection and skids, and install a roll cage and a front winch.

Interested in donating to the Access-4-All Vehicle? If you wish to donate parts please email Bob Butler at axleb@cox.net If you are interested in a making a monetary donation, please send a check made payable to NEA4WDC to:

NEA4WDC
C/O Access for All
PO Box 887
Derry NH 03038

OR Pay-Pal with the link below and place "Access-4-All Vehicle" in the subject line

<http://www.nea4wd.org/topics/index.cfm?fac...64&custom=N>

For more information about the Access-4-All Vehicle:

http://www.nea4wd.org/articles/index.cfm?f...;ARTICLE_ID=212



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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

Tom Woods Drive Shafts, Ogden UT

Reel Web Solutions, Brookline NH

Low Range Magazine, Tilton NH

All Things Jeep, Lunenburg MA

Detours Mfg., LLC, Connecticut Shoreline

Elias 4WD, Townsend MA

7SlotGrilles.com, Shrewsbury MA

Baystate Off-road

Lovewell Mountain Regalia

Dedham Wholesale Tire

BDS Suspensions



<http://www.elias4wdcenter.com>



LOVEWELL MOUNTAIN REGALIA
70 Heritage Avenue Suite 8, Portsmouth New Hampshire
03801
Stephen_lovewellmtn@comcast.net
603-433-4288 (Business)
603-431-5337 (Fax)

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

I'll admit I was stumped on what to write for this column. I knew I wanted to talk about having fun and I wanted to talk about teamwork. So I looked up the definitions of hobby and teamwork. Here's what I found.

hobby n (hä-bē): a pursuit outside one's regular occupation engaged in especially for relaxation.

team-work n (tēm-wærk): work done by several associates with each doing a part but all subordinating personal prominence to the efficiency of the whole.

The first thing we have to remember is we all do this for FUN!! Sure there is a lot of work and preparation that goes into it, but at the end of the day we do this to enjoy ourselves. It is important to not lose sight of that. All the work, effort, and struggle to keep what little private and public land we have available to recreate on is only worth it if you can enjoy it.

I'm not naïve enough to think things will be all sunshine and roses. We are all passionate about the sport and with that passion comes emotions. It is easy to get caught up in fighting for what you believe in and get so focused on that battle you forget about the war. Just try to remember having differences of opinion is a good thing. It brings discussion and new ideas. The hard part is being able to express your feelings while being considerate of everyone else's.

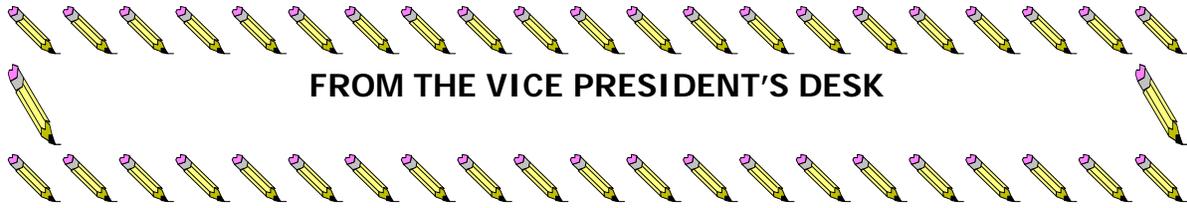
To me the most important part of the definition of teamwork is "subordinating personal prominence to the efficiency of the whole". We all have the same goal. 1000 people working together to achieve something will have more success than 100.

We all have our strengths and weaknesses. None of us could handle this alone. We all need each other. How many times have you lent a hand to someone on the trail with a spot, or loaning a tool or spare part or what ever it takes to get everyone home safely? You don't do it for the praise, you do it because we all look out for one another.

We need to carry that attitude into the struggle to keep land open for all types of recreation. Finding and securing new land, maintaining current land access, distributing NEA documentation at events, educating new clubs and individuals, all these things are equally important. It is every off-road enthusiast's responsibility to do what they can to help distribute the workload.

See you all on the trails!!!!

How can you support the NEA4WDC financially? You can send a check made payable to the NEA4WDC or we have Paypal links on our website. We are continuously collecting money for the Travel Fund, Trails Fund, Access-4-All Project, and the General Fund which offsets daily administrative costs to manage events and daily functions of the NEA4WDC. Please be sure to mark your donation for the appropriate fund.



FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT'S DESK

First I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as the Vice President and the first month on the job has been exciting to say the least! Many of you know I have been very involved with the NEA4WDC for quite a long time and over the years I have learned and observed so much! It is because of the fact that I have invested so much time and energy into the organization that I take it very seriously and I am looking forward to see how we continue to grow and change over the coming months.

It seems we are always asking for people to step up and volunteer, so much probably that for some of you we are annoying. Well I can't promise that we will ever stop asking because unfortunately we need everyone's help to accomplish our goals and everyone will benefit in the end. What I can offer are some tips on how easy it is to help out in a few very easy areas.

The first is Communication. Communication is so easy and really doesn't require much effort. The NEA4WDC communicates by posting information on our forum and other online forums. We also use this newsletter as a form of communication. Sometimes we send out e-mails. If you are on the receiving end of any of this communication, please take it upon yourself to spread the word when appropriate. Make a personal commitment to check in on the forum. Nobody expects you to log on everyday but if you just set aside maybe an hour a week or a couple hours a month, you will find you can catch up on what's going on. The Executive Officers or your delegate are always available to chat or answer your questions so don't ever hesitate to shoot them an e-mail or pick up the phone.

Another area is Land Maintenance. Nobody can be expected to be at every single trail cut or maintenance day-seriously we all have lives outside of wheeling. But maybe you could commit to attending at least one or two per year. Imagine the possibilities if out of our collective group of over 3000 members every person committed to attending one or two cuts/maintenance days? We've even added the Volunteer Raffle to encourage you to participate. The winner for 2008 walked away with a brand new winch!

Events...anyone and everyone can offer to help with some of the events we host. Categorize your strengths and find something in the event you can help with. It makes it easy for everyone when we know we have enough helpers to count on.

The last area, and this is a tough one so hold onto your hat-volunteering for Board positions. This is not for everyone. However there are some of you out there that can network until the cows come home and you can sell yourself to a blind man on a pot of gold. We need people like you! We need a PR Director, we need someone to manage and recruit Business Members, we need dedicated Land Directors. We need, we need, we need....I know. Enough already. But you get the idea. This last area needs a bit more devotion and skill than the rest but I know there are people out there who can do it.

So the bottom line is a little goes a long way. Do your part, make some commitments, help us achieve our goals for you! And that is one to grow on.....

In the upcoming months we will be working on a forum transfer and a renovation of the website. Please be patient as we work to make both the forum and website more efficient and informative for our users.

Tammy Van Gemert



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Regional Reports & News

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

Scott Hatch is working on the development of 1500 acres with an abutting 200 acres near Carnage Hill. The land comes to us through our relationship with Little Monadnock Family Trails. Scott will be meeting on March 19th to coordinate a recon of the property.

Recently the NEA met with Exploring NH to combine efforts on the Map VI Program. Exploring NH developed a Scouting Form that will become a standard part of the exploration part of the Map VI Program. The group will be working on the development of a brochure to distribute to towns when we approach them for information and a brochure to distribute to our members to aid them with the Map VI Program. Future goals include designing a site specific to the Map VI info so that both groups can access the information without having to duplicate everything. There will be more meetings in the future so stay tuned for details.

Massachusetts Land Report

While there was no formal report at the time of press, there are a couple hot topics in MA. The first is the work being done on the Friends of Coy Hill Coalition which you can read about later in this edition. Another area of interest right now is Rattlesnake Gutter. The Gutter is unique in that it is privately owned by a timber management company, Cowl's Companies but they have chosen to open their land to the public for multi-use recreation which includes 4WD access on Rattlesnake Gutter. Although the area is open to the public, representatives of the MA Land Committee are working with the landowners to bare some of the burden of promoting responsible use of the area within the four-wheeling community.

Vermont Land Report **composed from reports by Brian Churchill**

Scott had asked me to get involved and I was part of the planning and implementation of the new organization VORA or Vermont Off Highway Recreation Association. Just held on February 9 was a by-laws meeting and vote to incorporate as a non profit. Primarily an association of ATV's, Off Highway motorcycles, and full sized 4x4's, we hope to garner statewide recognition from the public and private sectors, and wield political clout, advocating education, and access to public roads and land on the local, state and federal level. It is off to a huge start with officers elected, committees appointed, and an up and running website. While we have lots of skeptics, this association has lots of clout in it's memberships, with well over 2000 folks now being represented by one organization, including a paid lobbyist for the ATV group VASA, and some elected officials in public office. Visit the VORA site at www.vermontoutdoors.net

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

COALT (Connecticut open Access Land Trust) is still waiting on the IRS regarding our 501(c)(3) application. Meetings have been set at every quarter.

CTU (Connecticut Trail Users) is working with a lobbyist getting legislation ready for the current legislative session. While this legislation has more to do with ATV's, it is the opening we need to get public land for motorized recreation.

Maine Land Report Nothing new to report.

New York Land Report No report at the time of press.

Rhode Island Land Report Rhode Island Off-Highway Vehicle Association (RIOHVA) recently held a meeting and the NEA4WDC will be working with RIOHVA to hold one of our BOD meetings in (or on the border of) Rhode Island in the Summer. The RI Committee is working to assign a Project Manager for the Lakeview trail and details will follow shortly.

Coy Hill

By Joe Ostrenga & Tammy Van Gemert

We have all experienced trail closures before. The recent events at Coy Hill in Ware and West Brookfield have greatly impacted the wheeling community here in Massachusetts. This is due to its location, convenience to the Boston area, metro west, and central Mass enthusiasts and its relatively mild nature for the inexperienced wheeler. Every year, new enthusiasts are hitting the roads and looking for areas like Coy Hill to recreate on.

Coy Hill consists of two old town roads and the main attraction being an old power line trail that traverses a Wildlife Management Area. Off-road enthusiasts were given verbal permission from the local environmental authorities to drive the power line as long as they did not stray from the existing trail. The off-road community was able to use the area for many years, staying on the trail and conducting cleanups in an effort to demonstrate their responsible nature and ability to maintain the areas they use. The last several years have seen an exponential increase in the number of enthusiasts and unfortunately, those who recreate too frequently at the same area. We call these enthusiasts, "Locusts".

Coy Hill was severely overused and eventually abused by those who felt the need to stray from the trail and create their own path. Trail cutting and damage to private abutters property and areas of the Wildlife Management Area, caused the environmental authorities to close access to the power line trail. The result of these actions prompted quick response by the organized off-road community to try and correct the problem. I met with local landowners and the Ware Conservation Commission to assess the damage and try to offer possible solutions to the illegal activities. Pat Charron, Rich Banfield, and myself attended several Ware selectmen's meetings to better our group's relations with the town. We were also able to meet and possibly recruit several local enthusiasts who did not belong to an organized club. In an effort to better organize ourselves, an online forum called Friends of Coy Hill (FOCH) was formed. The forum is a collaboration of member clubs from the Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs, East Coast Four Wheel Drive Association, individual enthusiasts, landowners, town authorities, and anyone willing to positively contribute.

We have made good progress in our relations with the town. They understand our willingness to help and the pride that we take in our sport. They also know about and appreciate the past cleanups we have done in the area. One member of the FOCH forum, Mike Belben, conducted a toy drive to supplement the Town of Ware's drive. Mike was able to collect many toys and \$1100.00 in donations. This effort was greatly appreciated and demonstrated the integrity and charity of the members of our group.

Hopefully soon, we anticipate setting a date to start repairing and cleaning the necessary areas at Coy Hill. The early snow fall and conservation concerns slowed our initial response to the damage. In the near future, there will be several Ware selectmen's meetings to discuss the town's option of closing the area roads. I have been invited to attend these meetings by the Conservation Commission Chair. My initial feelings from the meetings I have attended so far, is that the landowners do not want to close the roads. In an act of good faith to prove our resolve, I have asked all organized clubs to avoid the area for the time being. This includes the old town roads that traverse the area. I believe this is a small compromise in the larger goal of regaining access to all areas.

Please visit and sign up on the Friends of Coy Hill forum at <http://www.friendsofcoyhill.org/forums/index.php>
Positive contributions will be greatly appreciated. Personally, I would like to thank members of both the NEA4WDC and EC4WDA on coming together for a common goal.

Thank you,

Joe Ostrenga , Project Manager Friends of Coy Hill

Baystate Jeepers Inc.

Northeast Jeep Organization Inc.

In an effort to support the Friends of Coy Hill Coalition and to eliminate a repeat of recent events in Coy Hill, the BOD of the Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs recently published the following statement to all of their member clubs: "Due to increased misuse and abuse of the Coy Hill area, the NEA4WDC and EC4WDA are working together in a joint effort to restore credibility to those engaged in responsible off-road recreation. This joint effort has imposed a "NO GO" policy on this area.

"Until further notice, any event to be scheduled at Coy Hill such as trail rides, clean-ups, and maintenance days by Member Clubs of the Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs Inc. (NEA4WDC), whether acting as individuals or as a group, must be approved in writing (electronic communication is acceptable) by the current Project Manager of "The Friends of Coy Hill" Coalition. Any Member Clubs, whether acting as individuals or as a group, who hold any event as listed above without receiving express written approval from the Project Manager will immediately be placed on a Probationary Status pending executive review by the NEA4WDC of the Member Club."

NH Trails Bureau Meeting Update

By Scott Hatch

Definition of 4x4: Proposed addition to NH RSA 215 A:1. This is the first step to gaining access to Jericho Mountain state park, other state owned properties, and a 4x4 sticker program

Chapter XXIII

"4x4" means any motor-driven vehicle which is designed or adapted for travel over surfaces other than maintained roads with more than two wheels receiving power, having capacity for passengers or other payloads, in excess of 1,000 pounds net vehicle weight, and greater than 50 inches in width to a maximum of 101 inches. For the purposes of this chapter, all vehicles within this definition shall be classified as off highway recreational vehicles.

Amendment to NH RSA 215A:43 IV: This amendment will allow 4x4s per definition on state owned properties. This is a long term goal after Jericho Mountain state park.

CURRENT: RSA 215A:43 IV. No person shall operate an OHRV wider than 50 inches or over 1000 pounds on any state-owned trails.

Alternative #1:

Remove IV. – **least favorable**

Alternative #2:

No person shall operate an OHRV wider than 50 inches or over 1000 pounds on any state-owned trails unless authorized by NH Trails Bureau – **Too open ended, not a likely alternative**

Alternative #3:

No person shall operate an OHRV wider than 50 inches or over 1000 pounds on any state-owned trails unless such trails were designed, designated, or modified as 4x4 trails. – **Most favorable**

Jericho Mountain State Park: Amendment to existing exemption for vehicles larger than ATVs. Two options, either an amendment to NH RSA 215A:43 VII (c) or adding NH RSA 215A:43 VII (d)

CURRENT: RSA 215A:43 IV (c) A person may operate an OHRV within Jericho Mountain state park which weighs up to 1,200 pounds and is no wider than 60 inches.

Amendment: A person may operate an OHRV within Jericho Mountain state park which weighs over 1,000 pounds and is wider than 55 inches but not to exceed 101 inches.

Add sub paragraph (d) RSA 215A:43 IV (d) A person may operate a 4x4 within Jericho Mountain state park which weighs over 1,200 pounds and is wider than 60 inches but not to exceed 101 inches.

*****Sub paragraph (c) is for inclusion of UTVs on the new ATV trails within Jericho**

*******Bill Gegas will speak with Chris Gamache as which of the above is the best avenue to pursue.**

Amendment needed for NH RSA 215A:12 IV to place 4x4s within existing perimeters for noise.

CURRENT: NH RSA 215A:12 IV No person shall operate in this state a trail bike or all terrain vehicle which produces a sound level in excess of 96 decibels on the A scale, when measured in accordance with the provisions of the Society of Automotive Engineers Recommended Practice ANSI/SAE, J-1287, Mar 82, ""Measurement of Exhaust Sound Levels of Stationary Motorcycles".

Amendment NH RSA 215A:12 IV No person shall operate in this state a trail bike or **OHRV** which produces a sound level in excess of 96 decibels on the A scale, when measured in accordance with the provisions of the Society of Automotive Engineers Recommended Practice ANSI/SAE, J-1287, Mar 82, ""Measurement of Exhaust Sound Levels of Stationary Motorcycles".

Addition of OHRV will include 4x4s as well as ATVs per the final sentence of the 4x4 definition.

4x4 sticker program

Pending input from Chris Gamache and upon final conclusion of definition of 4x4 the sticker program for 4x4s will fall under the current structure established for ATVs. It was decided that without having any history for payment structure for Grant and aid, NH Fish and Game commitment, etc. After approximately three years we will review what areas need to be adjusted in order to suit the needs of 4x4s as well as ATVs to prevent contamination of funds.

Proposed rates subject to review by Chris Gamache

\$65 for resident

\$84 for non-resident

Price taken from the 2007 ATV registration and then adding \$9. There is a current increase of \$9 from 2 wheel trail bikes registration to ATV registration. Also there is a \$19 jump for both ATVs and Trail Bikes from the resident rate to the non-resident rate.

\$2 agent fee

\$1 NH Fish and Game Search and Rescue

% split between Trails Bureau and Fish and Game roughly about 60%

Next meeting scheduled for 10am on June 20th at NH Trails Bureau with Bill Gegas, Marc Pouliot, and Scott Hatch. Submission for 2009 Legislative session October/November 2008

Continued from Page 12

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Development of a state-sponsored 4x4 trail network using Class VI Roads

Long term, first step will be sticker program, will need towns on board.

Site specific permitted access on Trails Bureau properties

Long term, after amendment to NH RSA 215A:43 IV. Also see rest of NH RSA 215A:43 as this is used for course and fine filters for trail development.

Trail marking "colors" for 4x4s

Item for agenda at next NH STAC, clarify what color "blazes" are used for which user group

Training with NH Trails Bureau & EPA for submission of proper paperwork for trail and bridge work

Follow up with Vanessa Burnes at NH DES, can and will offer courses.

NEA inclusion on Trails Bureau website

New website in testing phase, new site will have NEA listed

UFWDA Volunteer Trail Patrol Training

On March 15th, 2008, we will hold our first United Four Wheel Drive Association's Trail Patrol Training Program. The program will be used to train our members to go out on patrol local trails of interest to educate anyone who uses the areas for any form of recreation. Years ago the NEA4WDC initiated their own version of a patrol program called the Safety Patrol. The program was started and implemented in New Hampshire but due to personnel changes and program structures, the NEA4WDC had to relinquish the program. In the interim of trying to get the rights back to the program, we discovered that the United Four Wheel Drive Association's already has a patrol program and the advantage is it can be utilized in any state.

The first session will train 30 NEA4WDC members that cover a wide spectrum of NEA4WDC Member Clubs. There will be future training sessions, as early as this Summer, and the locations will vary to allow all of our members to attend at some point. So, if you missed the first session, there will definitely be more.

Following the training, we will be scheduling Trail Patrols at places like Coy Hill, Lakeview, Rattlesnake Gutter, Cemetery Hill, etc. You do need to be officially trained in order to participate in a patrol. It is highly recommended that people do not go out on patrols individually for safety reasons.

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 2008 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!

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STEP # 1 Type of drive shaft needed?*

*Note: Modified vehicles may require a type that is different from the original.

Double Cardan (CV)



May have flange at either end.

Conventional - 2 Joint



May have flange at either end.

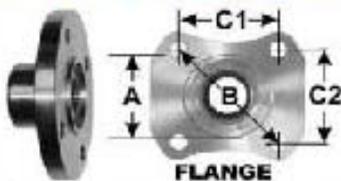
Reverse Slip



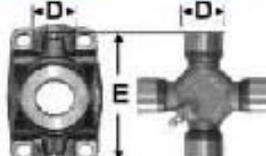
May have flange at differential end.

STEP # 2 Attachment at each end?*

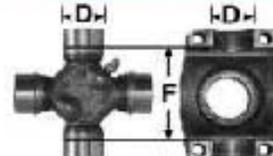
*Note: May not be required on many applications.



FLANGE



Outside snap-rings



YOKES & JOINTS



Inside snap-rings



REVERSE SLIP

A= Pilot diameter. B= Bolt circle diameter. C1 & C2 = Chord length D= Bearing cap diameter or diameter of half-round cutout in yoke. E= Width of universal joint or span between centering lugs. F= Outside edge of universal joint snapping grooves or inside span of broached surfaces on yoke. G= Tooth count of splines. H= Major diameter of splines.

STEP # 3 Measure for length*

*Note: Some applications may require measuring through the range of suspension travel.



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NATIONAL NEWS ON A LOCAL LEVEL

Land Rights Network

American Land Rights Association

PO Box 400 - Battle Ground, WA 98604

Phone: 360-687-3087 - Fax: 360-687-2973

E-mail: alra@pacifier.com

Web Address: <http://www.landrights.org>

Legislative Office: 507 Seward Square SE - Washington, DC 20003

House Mark-Up Wed. 3-12 On Nat. Landscape Conservation System

That means the Committee will vote on HR 2016, the NLCS next Wednesday, March 12th. This is a really big deal. House Natural Resources Committee To Mark-Up (HR 2016), National Landscape Conservation System.

Congress Considers Huge BLM NLCS Land Grab

Plans To Put Into Law The Babbitt National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS).

This Essentially Places A National Park Type Overlay Over Millions Of Acres Of BLM Land. You know that will hurt multiple-use and private property.

Access to and use of 26,000,000 million acres of Federal land will be affected.

See statement at the bottom of this e-mail by National Parks Subcommittee Ranking Minority Member Rob Bishop.

The Democrats Are Now In Charge And They Are Deliberately Trying To Give As Late A Notice As Possible For Each Committee Action. Congress seeks to codify new NLCS Land Grab -- (From Federal Parks and Recreation Newsletter); Seventeen House members from both parties teamed up in April, 2007 to introduce legislation (HR 2016) that would give the National Landscape Conservation System official Congressional certification. The system, administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), was created administratively by former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt during the Clinton years.

In June 2000 the Interior Department under the guidance of former Secretary Babbitt established the 26 million acre NLCS in BLM to protect special areas. The NLCS consists of major conservation areas in 12 western states, including 15 national monuments, 13 national conservation areas, Steens Mountain area in Oregon, Headwaters Forest Reserve in northern California, 36 wild and scenic rivers, 148 wilderness areas, 4,264 miles of national trails, and more than 600 wilderness study areas. Making the NLCS permanent threatens recreation, access, grazing, mining, oil and gas and many other uses. Gradually these areas will be turned into parks with traditional uses strangled and roads cut off. Private property owners and inholders in the areas can say so long to their property rights. You will see new areas nominated for NLCS status gradually eroding BLM multiple-use.

Four Democratic senators introduced counterpart legislation (S 1139) in April, 2007. Said chief sponsor of the Senate bill, Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), "Given the broad public support for these areas, I expect this bill to be non-controversial and it is my hope that it will be able to move quickly through the Congress and enactment into law." Bingaman chairs the Senate Energy Committee. Non-Controversial? The four lead House sponsors of HR 2016, all co-chairs of an NLCS caucus, are Reps. Mary Bono (R-CA), Rick Renzi (R-AZ), Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) and Jim Moran (D-VA). Reps. Bono and Renzi need to receive lots of contacts. The others are not likely to change their position but should receive as many calls as possible.

Creating this massive new conservation area program (read land grab) will take money especially from the National Park Service that is way behind in deferred maintenance and other uses. It will also take money from vast areas of BLM lands. The NLCS will eventually become a huge new agency with thousands of additional bureaucrats added over time. Any promises made when these areas like Steens Mountain and the Missouri Breaks National Monument as well as the Grand Staircase National Monument and many others were created will be conveniently forgotten as more and more regulations are added. The NLCS will become park-like and be gradually managed like a park. Gradually existing uses will be strangled out of existence. Supporters of the NLCS insist they are not competing with other conservation programs for fiscal 2008 appropriations. One said, "We do want to see a shift in the funding priorities of the BLM itself. Specifically, the oil and gas program of the BLM has become the dominant program of the BLM at the expense of some the best lands and waters of the American West." It is the nature of the Congressional appropriations beast that money for all programs in the Interior appropriations bill comes out of the same pot and the programs compete with each other. One of the sponsors of the bill to codify the NLCS, Sen. Ken Salazar (D-CO), said the measure would not affect management of lands or existing rights or public access. Added Salazar, "The bill does, however, recognize that these landscapes are of great interest to the American people and should be managed to protect their values."

Does anyone believe setting up the NLCS would not change the management of these areas? If that were true, why would Congress want to do it? American Land Rights will be sending out thousands of faxes, letters and e-mails to alert landowners, rural communities and allies about the danger and work to build more allies in Congress to stop the NLCS from passing. ALRA needs your support to defeat the massive new National Landscape Conservation System. It is critical that private property owners and Federal land users make a big push now to head off this attack on private property and access to Federal lands. It is so much cheaper to fight it early than to wait. Hit it hard now. Call, write and fax your Congressman. You must overwhelm his or her office with calls between now and 5:00 pm Wednesday, March 12th. You may call any Congressman at (202) 225-3121.

Continued on Page 14

Continued from Page 14

Rep. Rob Bishop's Congressional Statement on NLCS, HR 2016 House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Minority Member on Parks Subcommittee -- Rep. Rob Bishop's Opening Statement from June 7, 2007 Hearing. HR 2016 -- On The National Landscape Conservation System Washington, D.C. - The following is the opening statement of U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) from the June 7th hearing on the National Landscape Conservation System.

Rep. Bishop is the Ranking Member on the U.S. House Subcommittee on Parks, Forests & Public Lands, which conducted June 7th Hearing.

Ranking Member Rep. Rob Bishop's (R-UT) Statement

"I have serious concerns with H.R. 2016. Coming from a state where much of our land is already under federal lock and key, you should be able to understand why I am less than enthusiastic to see another layer of bureaucracy placed over us. "On the surface, proponents of the bill claim that this does nothing more than codify a program created by the Clinton administration which serves to protect lands that have the remarkable ability to, as Ms. Daly put it, 'define who we are as a nation'. Indeed, some of these lands are remarkable, but much of this land was created at the whim of special interest groups by a sympathetic President. "Now we are told we need to create a 'system' for these lands. Believe it or not we already have a 'system' to protect 'nationally significant' lands; it is called the National Park Service. This appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to insert restrictive National Park Service management methods in order to lock up public lands which were intended to be multiuse. "The Chairman's bill uses language which has haunted National Park Service managers, to the delight of trial attorneys, in their responsibility to balance conservation and recreation. This bill introduces the concept of 'values' into the BLM. My question is what is a value to the BLM? In the National Park Service, a value is now interpreted to include such subjective things as sound-scapes, view-sheds, and the occasional smell-shed. Should we anticipate future legislation to protect these 'values' on bureau lands? "Initially I thought this bill was at worst was the camel's nose under the tent. However, upon closer examination, this bill would invite the camel into to the tent and into the sleeping bag. "Let's look directly at the legislation. Section 3- Establishment: In order to conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations, there is established in the Bureau of Land Management the National Landscape Conservation System. "This may as well be the National Park Service organic act. This is the same language. Unfortunately it goes on. This bill further directs the Secretary to manage these lands 'in a manner that protects the values for which the components of the system were designated'. Again, we are presented with the vague concept of values. This legislation is the biggest invitation to a lawsuit since the slip and fall scheme was invented. I can see the day when a judge decides that in light of this language, all units of this system will have to be managed in a uniform and consistent way. It is unconscionable to force our multiuse public lands down the same path that forced personal watercraft out of National Recreation Areas and put snowmobiles on the endangered species list. It appears the language in this bill was ripped from the Redwood's Amendment to the general authorities of the National Park Service which has imperiled recreation and entombed park units. "This bill also creates yet another federal designation. The Chairman's bill will include 'any area designated by Congress to be administered for conservation purposes' within this new system. After this bill has become law, we should expect an onslaught of bills for new units of the National Landscape Conservation System. "Finally, witnesses will testify today about the impacts these designations have on people's lives. We will ask our witnesses, who have been included in these designations against their wishes, how making this system permanent will directly impact them. This legislation also puts at risk hard-won rights of Alaska natives that are of critical importance to me and to the Ranking Member Don Young. "We should consider this proposal carefully because the special interests have already put 'multiuse' in jeopardy."

For more information, access the Committee on Natural Resources' Minority website at <http://republicans.resourcescommittee.house.gov/index.shtml>

Steve Hansen

Director of Communications

Republican Staff

U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources

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With the new Congress now largely controlled by the greens, we've all got our work cut out for us. Your support will allow us to compete effectively. Let's keep private lands and Federal lands available for private hands and reduce regulation.

Sincerely,

Chuck Cushman

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ccushman@pacifier.com

Please forward this message as widely as possible.

For Release: March 6, 2008
Contact: David Almasi at (202) 543-4110
or dalmasi@nationalcenter.org

**54% of Americans Reject Oberstar-Feingold Proposal to Expand Clean Water Act, New Poll Finds
Clean Water Restoration Act Opposed by 56% of Independents;
Renounced in Every Region of the Country**

Washington, D.C. - A majority of Americans oppose a proposal to expand the Clean Water Act, according to a new nationwide survey released today by the National Center for Public Policy Research.

The proposal, the Clean Water Restoration Act (CRWA), has been introduced by Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN) in the House of Representatives and Russell Feingold (D-WI) in the Senate.

Voters were informed the Congress is considering a measure that would expand the areas covered under the Clean Water Act, including to areas that are only intermittently wet. They were then provided brief arguments both pro and con on the measure and then asked whether they favored or opposed the proposal.

54% of those expressing an opinion oppose the measure, while 46% favor it, according to the survey. Among political independents, the margin was greater -- 56% oppose the measure while 44% favor it.

"Americans reject the key feature of the Oberstar-Feingold proposal: Namely, that waters need not be navigable - nor even be waters - to be subject to federal regulation," said David Ridenour, Vice President of The National Center for Public Policy Research. "It is significant that independents, who are increasingly seen as an important barometer of national mood, reject Oberstar-Feingold by a whopping 12 percentage points."

The National Center's survey is the second poll released in less than a week to find that a majority of Americans oppose CWRA. A poll released last week by the Western Business Roundtable found that 63% of Americans oppose the measure and 47% strongly oppose it.

The National Center poll found a majority of Americans from all regions oppose the proposed expansion of the Clean Water Act, led by the Mountain States (62%), the Farm Belt (59%), and New England (58%).

"These results are not surprising given the enormous, negative implications the Oberstar-Feingold proposal would have for farmers, ranchers, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts," said Ridenour.

The poll was conducted by Wilson Research Strategies, which surveyed 800 registered voters who are likely to vote in the 2008 presidential election. The poll has a margin of error of 3.46% at a 95% confidence interval.

The National Center for Public Policy Research is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational foundation established in 1982.

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2008 UFWDA Annual Convention Manchester, NH July 10-12, 2008

Being held at the Best Western Executive Court Inn & Conference Center.
You can call the hotel directly to book your room at a discounted rate!
We have also made arrangements for motorhomes to park in the hotel lot.

Visit www.executivecourttinn.com for more information on the hotel, however to receive the discounted rate you must call them at 877-627-2525 and be sure to tell them it is for the United Four Wheel Drive Associations Convention.

We Encourage Everyone to Visit New Hampshire!

SCHEDULE (times approximate)

Thursday

9am - 5pm Meetings
6pm - 10pm Meet & Greet at
The Yard Restaurant (on hotel grounds)

Friday

9am - 5pm Meetings
Wheeling Available
6:30pm - 10pm Awards Banquet

Saturday

9am - 12:00pm Land Use Conference
Wheeling

**Special Guest Speaker
Offroad Racing Champion
Curt Leduc!**



**We will have a raffle
at the Awards Banquet.
Tickets will be available
up until 5:30pm Friday.**

Come Wheel Some Granite!



Wheeling opportunities to two of our best locations. Both locations offer moderate to extreme wheeling for anything from 33's to buggies! For those of you who are looking for a stock to easy scenic wheeling experience, we can accommodate you as well on some of our picturesque Class VI roads. Wheeling will be available on Friday and Saturday. Trails will be available Sunday if there is enough interest. Please sign up on the registration form. Trails will have a vehicle limit and those registering outside of the NEA4WDC will be given first preference.

For more information or if you have questions please contact the Event Coordinator, Tammy Van Gemert at tammylucke@verizon.net or (603) 521-4716. You can also visit nea4wd.org for complete event details

Please be sure to complete the Registration Form, even if you only plan on attending for the wheeling.



2008 UFWDA CONVENTION

HOSTED BY THE NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION OF 4WD CLUBS
OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM



CONTACT INFORMATION

**Please Print Legibly & Complete All Fields!*

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-Mail _____

*Please Indicate Best Method To Reach You: Mail _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____ Relationship? _____

I am representing (Choose one or all that apply):

_____ A UFWDA Member Organization as a Delegate - Organization Name _____

_____ A UFWDA Supporting Business - Business Name _____

_____ UFWDA as a BOD or Extended BOD Member

_____ Myself as a UFWDA Member - Individual Member _____ Life Member _____ Ambassador Member _____

Any other affiliation or other organization (all): _____

REGISTRATION FEE (Registration fees include meals & materials unless otherwise noted.)

# _____ Delegate Registration @ \$100	= \$ _____
# _____ Non-Delegate - Includes meals @ \$100	= \$ _____
# _____ Non-Delegate - No meals @ \$20	= \$ _____
# _____ Additional Banquet Meal @ \$40	= \$ _____
# _____ Trail Ride Only @ \$20	= \$ _____
# _____ Children's meals @ \$24 (Banquet Style Chicken Tenders)	= \$ _____
Total Amount Included with Form	\$ _____

Please indicate your Banquet Selection:

Pan Roasted Stuffed Chicken (Stuffed w/roasted apples, spiced pecans, and dried cherries on a pool of sage shallot veloute) # _____

Haddock with a Tomato Vinaigrette (Lightly seasoned and pan roasted, then topped with shallots and tomato vinaigrette) # _____

Will you be staying at the Best Western Hotel? Yes _____ No _____

Will you have an RV? Yes _____ No _____ If so, how many people will be with you? _____

What dates will you be lodging? Arrival _____ Departure _____ Will you need local transportation/shuttle? Yes _____ No _____

Will you be wheeling? Yes _____ No _____ What days will you be wheeling? Friday _____ Saturday _____ Sunday _____ All _____

Vehicle? Yes _____ No _____ What level do you prefer? Easy/Scenic _____ Moderate _____ Hard _____ Extreme _____

Terms & Conditions

1. **Payment:** Payment in full is due when the registration is submitted. Acceptable payment methods include check, credit card, or money order. If paying online using a Paypal Account, please add \$2.00 to your Total to cover Service Fees. Please mark all payments as 2008 Convention and Make Checks Payable to Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs. Payment & Registration can be mailed to NEA4WDC c/o PO Box 367, Hudson NH 03051. Forms can also be e-mailed to Tammy Van Gemert @ tammylucke@vertzon.net

2. **Cancellation/Refund:** Once registration has been submitted and payment has been confirmed, the cancellation/refund policy is as follows: In excess of six months prior to the event: 100%; Six to Two months prior to the event: 50%; Two months or less prior to the event: No refund will be given.

3. **Hotel Accommodations:** The Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs has requested a block of 40 rooms at the Best Western Executive Court Inn in Manchester NH for the United Four Wheel Drive Associations Annual Convention. Actual reservations are the responsibility of the person(s) attending the conference and payment for the accommodations shall be made by the person(s) making the reservation(s). Please check with the hotel for all reservation options and guidelines. The Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs will make every effort to extend the block of rooms if the demand is evident up until two months prior to the event with no guarantee that an extension will be available. We have only made an agreement with the Best Western Executive Court Inn in Manchester NH. Accommodations made with any other hotel by person(s) attending the conference will not be endorsed by the Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs and no arrangements have been made with any other local establishments.

4. The Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs shall not be held liable for any loss, damage, injury, or any other act as a result of attending the United Four Wheel Drive Associations Annual General Convention.

United Four Wheel Drive Association's Awards

Every year there are a couple Awards that member clubs/organizations can make submissions for. I would like to see members of the Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs make some submissions this year as I feel we have some definite candidates in our midst. If you have someone you would like to submit, please send me an e-mail (tammyllucke@verizon.net) and I will compile a list for each award that we can narrow down to the maximum we can submit. The Awards are presented during the Convention Banquet which will take place on Friday evening, July 11th. The Awards are presented for the following:

Environmental Four Wheeler of the Year

Four Wheeler of The Year

For each award we can submit two names. We are required to submit a letter of nomination explaining why we have nominated the candidates we are submitting so please include this when you send me your submissions.

Awards are also given for the **best Newsletter and Website**. In order to qualify your club must be a registered member of the UFWDA. The UFWDA assembles committees to review all of the websites and available newsletters and they choose the ones they feel meet their requirements. A separate Award is given for each.

Another program UFWDA offers is the **Conservation Volunteer Award Program**. The following is quoted from the UFWDA website: "Each year recreationists donate thousands of hours of their time through a variety of projects to maintain their favorite recreation areas. Volunteer efforts are more important than ever to ensure everyone enjoys a quality recreation experience. In order to acknowledge the volunteer efforts, United Four Wheel Drive Associations (UFWDA) is introducing the Conservation Volunteer Award program. While the main focus of UFWDA is to advocate access to public lands for motorized recreation, many of our members participate in multiple forms of recreation; including but not limited to hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, horseback riding, bicycle riding, and gem and mineral collection. We recognized the positive health and social benefits that can be achieved through outdoor activities. We also recognize that motorized recreation provides the small business owners in the local communities a significant financial stimulus. Our members are directly affected by management decisions concerning public land use. The UFWDA members subscribe to the concepts of: 1) public access to public lands for their children and grandchildren; 2) condition and safety of the environment; and 3) sharing our natural heritage. The general public desires access to public lands now and for future generations. Limiting access today deprives our children the opportunity to view the many natural wonders of public lands. The general public is deeply concerned about the condition of the environment and personal safety. They desire wildlife available for viewing and scenic vistas to enjoy. They also want to feel safe while enjoying the natural wonders. Lastly, the public desires to share the natural heritage with friends and family today as well as in the future. How can our children learn and appreciate our natural heritage when native species are allowed to deteriorate and historic routes are routinely blocked or eradicated from existence? Volunteer efforts help members of the public enjoy a quality recreation experience. The UFWDA Volunteer Conservation Award is our way of recognizing these volunteer efforts. These efforts include Adopt-a-Trail work, clean-up events, restoration efforts, and other activities that promote environmental stewardship."

This is an Award anyone can enter a submission for by downloading the application at <http://www.ufwda.org/pdfs/volunteer-conservation-app.pdf>

TRAIL REPORT

The NEA4WDC 2008 "Cold Rush"

Reports from Scott Hatch & Jason Ghelli

It was a good but long day on the trails. The first road we drove took a bit to get a runaway started but with myself, Garret from LIOR, and Steve Gagne a.k.a. Willee (Willard's Radiators in Hudson NH). I broke trail through frozen crust and powder for the first hill running in third gear hitting the rev limiter at times. There were times when my Jeep would end up hydroplaning on top of the powder and I made some really good distance. After the first hill Garret took over to give my Jeep a much needed rest. Garret was running chains on the rear of his Rubi' and did a great job of breaking trail. To keep our progress moving we ended up breaking into groups. This way once a vehicle and/or group got moving they could stay moving. Momentum and wheel speed was the rule of the day. Our first group and the middle group made it to the end and we waited for the last group. Finally we were able to establish radio contact with the tail group and they were having some troubles. On the local roads we backtracked to the beginning of the road and I hopped into Steve's truck and we went to recover our tail group. Shawn LaGasse from DWE/Baystate Jeeps was getting towed. We got Shawn turned around and out. Pat Charron from Baystate and the new NEA4WD Secretary was anchored hard in her new JK Rubi'. Unfortunately the computer system unlocking the lockers was having trouble and she was sunk. We strapped her, got her spun around, and she was able to leave under her own power. The other member from LIOR was having starter and alternator issues and ended up bailing due to his mechanical problems. We started our last road at 2:30 and headed down into a small valley that would swallow our group and teach us who the boss really was. The descent in was short, steep, and uneventful but once we started climbing we ran into lots of issues. On this road Steve broke trail and I followed, or tried to. Using lots of skinny peddle I was able to climb the first climb but then quickly got mired into deep snow. Running cable I was slowly able to make progress while Jay Ghelli and Ryan caught up to me from the first climb. Suddenly and unexpectedly my winch stopped working....now we're in trouble! Using lots of skinny peddle I was able to climb the first climb but then quickly got mired into deep snow.

Running cable I was slowly able to make progress while Jay Ghelli and Ryan caught up to me from the first climb. Suddenly and unexpectedly my winch stopped working....now we're in trouble! Not sure if it was overheated or an electrical issue. After inspecting the situation and slowing down the winch to cool it off we discovered the issue. When I inspected my Jeep I was forced to install an inline fuse. I have used the winch since but not for this length of time repeatedly, needless to say the fuse was toast. After getting through this deep section I was again able to move. The rest of the group was also slowly making progress up the road. On another climb I was gradually making progress but just couldn't crest the top. "One more time", I said to my a-driver. Wheels spinning in third gear at 5000rpms I was doing great, best momentum of all of my prior attempts.....until I hit one of the curves that threw me right off the road...POP! I must of hit a rock because I was now down to three wheel drive. I inspected the front shaft and u-joint and everything looked intact....but the shaft was tilted at a slight angle. It appeared as though I busted the short side Moser shaft in the tube. I would like to give a huge thanks to Steve for being the tow truck for my busted Jeep and also for giving me the incredible workout from dragging the 50lbs of cable and chain from his winch.....and for the extra 20lbs for the additional 10 feet of chain to reach the tree strap. We kept giving periodic updates of our progress but Jay, Ryan, and the rest of the group were moving just as slowly as we were....it is kind of hard going any faster than the lead group. We (Steve and I) finally got our vehicles off onto pavement at 7:30. At this point I had to run my a-driver to his truck and on my way back ran into TJ (big white CJ with bidders and V8, Rosco, and John Barnes (part of the group wheeling at Wayne's World). They followed me back and only Jay had made it onto the road. TJ backed down and then with his V8 roaring and 38 bidders pulled the rest of our group up the last hill, there is no replacement for displacement! Thank you TJ, you saved us from a late night and everyone was out of the woods by 8....still a long day though! Slowly we made our way to the Hillsboro American Legion for a great Spaghetti dinner and chatting with friends of a long but fun time.

We combined trails 1 & 2 and Trails 3 & 4.

Got a little bit of a late start but headed out to the first road. Scott was leading and gave the three foot wall of snow his best effort but couldn't make it. We busted out some shovels and chipped away at it until Steve Gagne knocked it down.

Once we got it in, it was still slow going with Scott breaking trail. The snow was deep and fluffy so traction was horrible.

I got stuck at the first incline and decided to air down more. Kelly, my girl, "helped" me and did one tire while I worked on the other 3. (This will be important to remember later.) I got to break in the new Smittybilt winch and it worked like a champ. Pulled Sunshine and an open-open Jeep that was behind me. I think the jeep was getting pretty good traction though and drove most of the hill. When it bogged down again, I let Kelly take the wheel as I was going to pull cable for her and she drove to the top of the hill like it was nothing. After that we kept plugging along in the second group. After a while of us having some slow going and the others not catching up I went back to see what was the hold up. Pat Charron's new four door Rubicon wasn't letting her lockers stay engaged and keep up her wheel spin. This just left her digging in and going nowhere. She had two capable Jeeps with her and they said they would be ok and I could keep our group moving. So I walked back up and we took off again. Kelly was still driving and she was doing great and we were moving at a good clip. She also happened to be wearing mittens and the ruts from group one were grabbing the tires and yanking the steering wheel around on her. She lost her grip for a minute and we sort of bumped into a tree about 8" in diameter on the passenger side. It grazed the bumper so there was no damage to us and we headed out again. We caught up to the first group and got out onto a plowed road. Remember that tire Kelly worked on, well it was now looking REALLY soft so I put a gauge on it. **2 PSI**. Kurt from Baystate had a compressor so we aired it back up to 12 and waited on group 3. Eventually they radioed over and said they were turning back because they weren't getting anywhere. Scott hopped in with Steve (Willee) and they headed back in the way we came to see if they could help. Steve got Shawn from Baystate/DWE turned around and headed out then got Pat unstuck. He dragged her backwards for a ways until she could turn around and then she drove out on her own. Finally Matt came out. His Jeep is Very built, but he was having some alternator issues and starter problems. His family decided to call it a day and we headed off to trail 2.

Steve and Scott got over the first bank ok, but when Kelly tried she got high centered. She tried rocking it back and forth with no luck. Steve hooked up and started tugging. Kelly floored it, and Steve almost got us over the bank, even though Kelly had the truck pinned in reverse. Once she was back in drive we made it over and started out after Scott. At the first turn, Steve took over breaking trail then it was Scott and Steve Nordby in his Jeep, and then Kelly and I, and Ryan (Exploring NH) in his Toyota.

With lots of skinny peddle we were able to keep moving ok until Scott broke an axle shaft on a difficult hill climb. He kind of veered off the trail a bit and we think he hit a rock. Now down to three wheel drive he wasn't making much progress on his own so Steve hooked up and dragged him out. It wasn't that easy though. The going was tough even for Steve's truck and Scott was trying his best to help him but they were pulling a lot of cable. We caught them so I went up to help and took over pulling so Scott could actually drive his Jeep instead of Steve Nordby steering from the passenger side. We were doing ok, but that left Kelly back behind in Sunshine. She tried going on her own but it was just too tough. Garret from LIOR and Ryan both pitched in and helped her with the winch and got her moving forward again. Once she got going she was doing all she could to keep moving and that left Ryan behind with no winch in front of him. By now I left Steve and Scott to fend for themselves and went back to check on Kelly. I started pulling cable for her so Ryan and Garret could get themselves going. I was very impressed with Ryan's rig. If he had just a little more clearance, I think he could drive most of it with out getting stuck. It was when the snow built up under his truck that he had trouble. So Kelly and I were plugging away, 92 feet of cable out, 92 feet reeled. When she did get traction I would grab the cable and run ahead of her so she could keep driving. Running in snow is not easy and occasionally she would over drive the cable. At one point I was giving her the "cut it" sign by waving my hand across my neck. With the biggest Kool -Aid grin you ever saw she was waving at me back from the cab, with her foot pinned to the floor and snow flying from the tires. Now we could see the end of the trail. Steve had given up on the winching and he and Scott agreed to just use the 350 and drag Scott out. Once out, Scott took Steve N back to get his truck that was at the meeting spot and Steve headed back to the hall. Finally using the other Steve as an anchor, Kelly and I were able to get Sunshine onto the road. Scott came back with one of the hardcore Jeeps and TJ went to work. His Jeep on Dana 60's with Bidders and a 350 made short work of going down, hooking up to the first rig in line and dragging them at about 25 - 30 mph out onto the road. We went into that trail at 2:30. The last truck got out at 7:30. It was only a mile long. This was also 2.5 hours AFTER I was supposed to have cooked the Spaghetti supper. Fortunately Tammy and Roy Van Gemert bailed me out. I had dropped the food off the night before and they got there early and cooked and set up everything. The really covered my butt and I am very grateful. So all in all it was good day. I blew a bead on the way back from the trail to the hall but Pat and Sean came back and helped me get going again. Pictures can be found at <http://forum.nea4wd.org/viewtopic.php?t=2443> and at <http://i28.photobucket.com/albums/c211/FNZR2/snowrun/>

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY-PUBLIC RELATIONS

Access-4-All Wrench Day

Saturday, April 5th from 10am-4pm

Baystate Off-road, Middleboro MA baystateoffroad.com

Come on down, help with the work on the Access-4-All Vehicle, check out Baystate's shop (one of our supporting Business Members), and hang out with some of your fellow wheelers.

Grills will be available.

The Access-4-All Vehicle is almost completed. Plans are already in the works to have the vehicle on display at the United Four Wheel Drive Association's Annual Conference and the 2008 Fall Crawl. Maybe your club is planning an event where you might want the Vehicle displayed or you may know of an event we should bring the Vehicle to. Please let us know!

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 will be accepted up through the July NEA4WDC BOD meeting and the nominees will be voted on by the delegates of the NEA4WDC at their August BOD meeting.

Domenic Pono of Deep Woods Extreme and Domenic's Auto & Jeep received the Award in 2006 and Roy Van Gemert of Deep Woods Extreme received the Award in 2007.

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.

NEA4WDC Volunteer Raffle

In 2007 the Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs initiated a Volunteer Raffle program to encourage more of our members to volunteer for various projects and to reward those that do step up and help. At each event, names of the attendants, with the exception of the Executive Officers of the NEA4WDC, were recorded and each person received a virtual ticket regardless if they had volunteered on another event or not. At the NEA4WDC Snow Run the names were entered into a drawing and Michael Stevens of UNYX was selected. He received a new Smittybuilt XRC8 winch.

The program will continue for 2008. By coincidence, Michael Stevens will be the Project Manager so whenever there is an event requiring volunteers, the event leader will record the names and report them to Michael who will keep track of the names until the date of the drawing which will be decided upon by the BOD.

Good luck and get involved for a chance to win a great prize!

Flag Day Extravaganza

The town of Framingham MA has once again asked the NEA4WDC to attend their Flag Day event. You may recall that some of us attended the event last year. The event is scheduled for June 14th, 2008. Ryan Schneider, Vice President of FTR, will be coordinating the details with the organizer of the event. We have received confirmation that they will allow us to "play" on a pile of rocks they have on the grounds to demonstrate the operation of our vehicles and our sport. We will provide more details as they become available.



Four-Wheeling for a Cure

Freedom Trail Riders (FTR), a local non-profit 4WD club based in Southern New England, is once again putting together a team for the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life of Bridgewater, MA on June 13-14, 2008. 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. For details or to join the FTR team, please visit the FTR Forum or contact the Events Director Stacey Osborn (mzozzietj@comcast.net) If you would like to donate to the FTR team, please log onto the following site http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=7139&team_id=211500

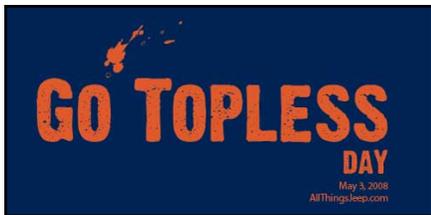
FTR's 3rd Annual Powder Puff/Drag Trail Ride For Cancer

Who: Open to everyone for a suggested \$10/rig plus \$5/passenger donation to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life
What: This is a Powder Puff or Drag trail run which means it is open to all the ladies... and those who look like them, dress like them, etc. Everyone attending should be dressed like a lady... driving or not! This trail is very stocker friendly and is a great opportunity to encourage the women in your lives to get more involved. So, bring along your wives, girlfriends, sisters, mothers, daughters, friends, etc... This is all in good fun to raise money for the American Cancer Society. For those who don't have the guts to do this...you can visit http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=7139&team_id=211500 to make a donation... but you will be missing out on all the fun and laughs!
When: 6/1/08 - SUNDAY - 10:00 am
Where: George Washington Trail, RI
Meeting Spot: TBD as date approaches
Why: Come out and wheel, meet some new people, and contribute to a great cause.
Trail Leader: TBD as date approaches
EVENT T-Shirts:
 Stacey Osborn will be coordinating the sale of event t-shirts for this as an additional fundraiser... more details will follow!
 If you are a non-member of FTR, you will need to go on the FTR website and complete some forms or contact Stacey for assistance. Please contact Stacey to let her know you wish to attend the event.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Baystate Jeepers Meet & Greet
March 28th, 2008 6:30-?
The Skellig, 240 Moody Street Waltham MA
Anyone is invited to come and hang out!



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 Race-track. Check out their 2008 Flyer at <http://www.cc4w.org>

2008 Race Dates
April 13
May 18
September 14
October 19

Online Contest and a local Go Topless Meet & Greet
 For those of you sick of this winter and just waiting for an excuse to take the top off the Jeep, you've got one! We've planned a **Go Topless Day Meet & Greet for May 3rd in Lancaster, MA**. Some details are still being worked out but here are the basics: (and if you can't make it in person you can still participate online.)
Where: www.oakridgefarmstand.com - Oak Ridge Farm Stand in Lancaster, MA from 2-5PM and online at www.allthingsjeep.com .

Meet & Greet Details: The celebrations will include prizes and giveaways for everyone arriving in a topless Jeep. Food, drink, and homemade ice cream will be available for sale at the farm stand.

Online Contest Details: Anyone in the world can enter. The best photos taken on May 3rd will win prizes. Everyone that submits a photo to us of him or herself in a topless Jeep will win a Go Topless Day commemorative decal. The best 5 photo entries will win \$50 Gift Certificates to www.allthingsjeep.com. We'll post the best photos on our website!

Online Contest Rules will be available on the website. So as they say, "Mark your Calendar!"

Feel free to email me [jean @ allthingsjeep.com](mailto:jean@allthingsjeep.com) with questions/comments/ideas. Many thanks and hope to see a bunch of Jeepers at the event.

SAVE THE DATES

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

March 28	Baystate Jeepers Meet & Greet	Waltham, MA
April 5	Access-4-All Wrench Day	Middleboro, MA
April 12	Field & Forest Work Day	Hancock, NH
April 13	CCFW Race Day	Southwick, MA
April 27	Rattlesnake Gutter Maintenance Day	MA
May 3	NEA4WDC BOD Meeting	Barre, MA
May 3	Go Topless Day	Lancaster, MA
May 3 (Rain Date 4)	Baystate Jeepers Jeep 101 See their website for more info!	Windham, NH
May 18	CCFW Race Day	Southwick, MA
May 17-18	Field & Forest Trail Maintenance	Hancock, NH
June 1	FTR Powderpuff/Drag Trail Ride	Rhode Island
June 7-8	Moose Mountain Trail Cut	Springfield, NH
June 14	Flag Day Rally	Framingham, MA
June 13-14	FTR Relay For Life	Bridgewater, MA
June 14-15	Moose Mountain Trail Cut	Springfield, NH
June 21-22	Cemetery Hill Trail Cut	NH

Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs, Inc.
PO Box 887
Derry, NH 03038