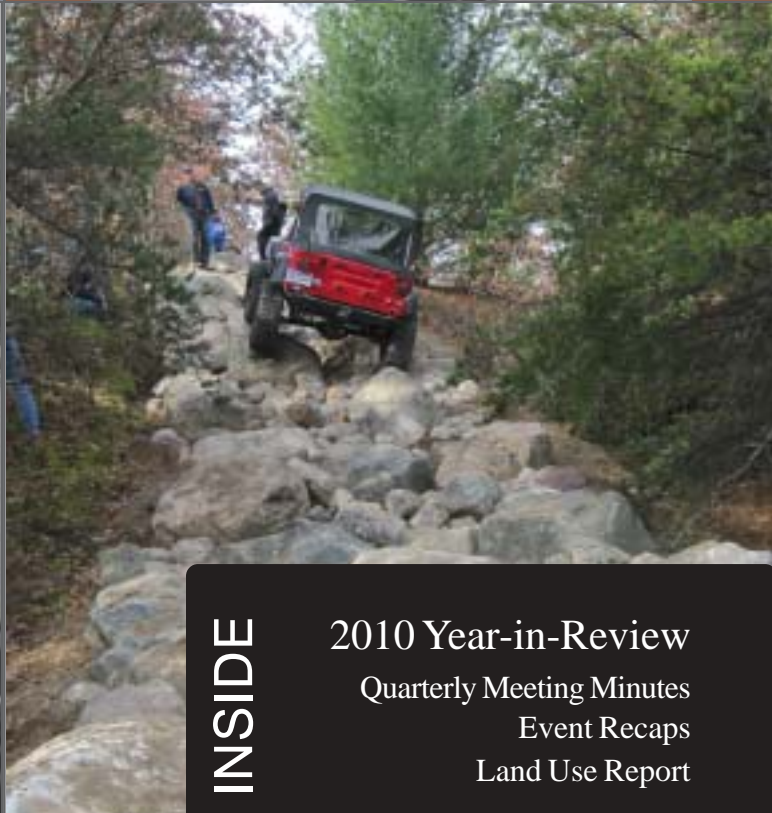
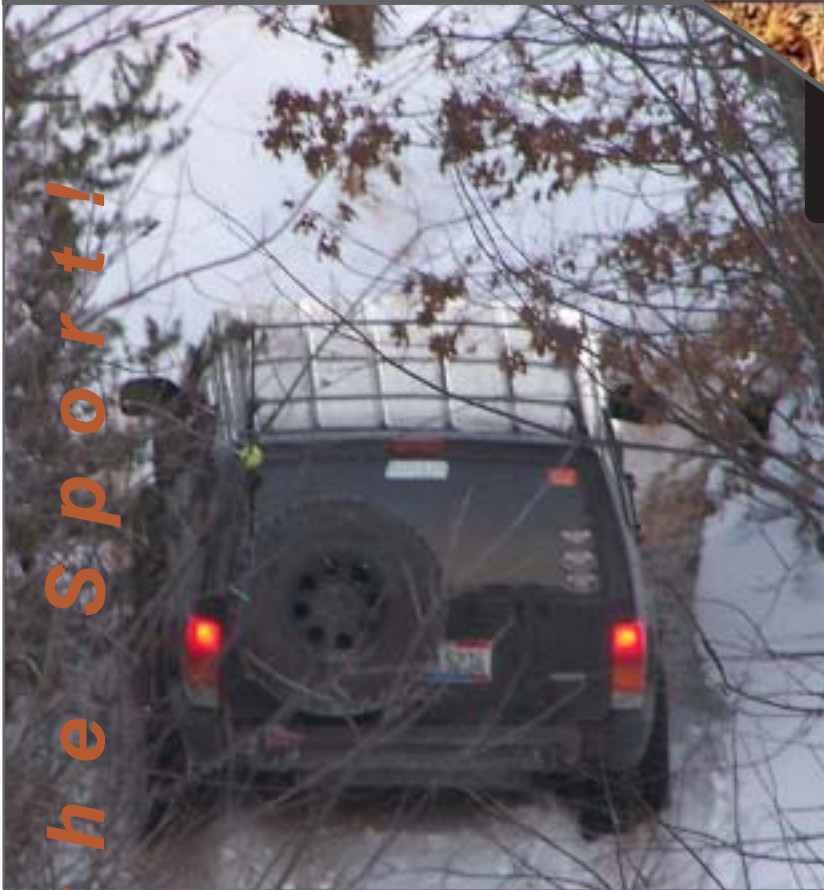




# The Boondocker



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Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
Event Recaps  
Land Use Report

Promoting and Defending Responsible Recreation

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

2010 Year-in-Review

## Executive Board

### President

Bob DeVore  
president@glfwda.org

### Vice President

Paul Hittie  
2444 E. Hill Rd.  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
810-241-2482  
vicepresident@glfwda.org

### Recording Secretary

Carl Jarema  
secretary@glfwda.org

### Treasurer

David Smith  
treasurer@glfwda.org

### Membership Secretary

Pamela East  
membershipsecretary@glfwda.org

## Additional Contacts

### Associate Membership Secretary

Position Available  
amsecretary@glfwda.org

## Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association

Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association Incorporated is a noncommercial association of four wheel drive enthusiasts organized for the promotion of interest in maintaining closer contact between four wheel drive clubs and individuals, to promote cooperation, friendship, conservation, ecology, and to preserve access to public lands through wise management policies. It shall also provide a network of communication in the event of disasters or emergencies, and for the advancement of four wheel drive awareness, the representation of four wheel drive interests in legislative affairs, and for maintenance of fraternalism by encouraging a high standard of conduct.

GLFWDA is an incorporated association, without capital stock, chartered under the laws of the State of Michigan, and is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986. Its affairs are governed by the Executive Board of Directors, whose voting members are elected every two years by the Directors of each member club. The officers are elected or appointed by the Directors. The Association is noncommercial, and no one who could gain financially from the shaping of its affairs is eligible for membership on the Executive Board.

A bona fide interest in four wheeling is the only essential qualification of membership; ownership of a four wheel drive vehicle is not a prerequisite. Membership is granted to anyone within the United States and Canada.

Membership Inquires should be directed to the Membership Secretary. Inquires of a general nature should be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary or a member of the Executive Board. Articles for publication should be sent to the Boondocker Editor.

## Additional Contacts

### Land Use Committee Chair

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238 Elm St  
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231-865-1345  
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### Four Wheel Drive Awareness Training

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### Trail Ride Committee Chair

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### Boondocker Editor

Ed Schroeder  
editor@glfwda.org

### Public Relations Chair

Jeff Traynor  
prchair@glfwda.org

### Webmaster

Kevin Bentz  
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Wyandotte, MI 48192  
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Webmaster@glfwda.org

## Advertising Rates

Full Page (1 side) – \$75.00 per issue

1/2 page – \$50.00 per issue

1/4 page – \$35.00 per issue

Business Card Size – \$15.00 per issue

Classified Ad – \$2.00 per issue

*Stories and articles are submitted from various Association Members. The views and opinions expressed in the stories and articles within are solely those of the individual, or individuals who submitted said stories or articles. Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association neither advocates, endorses, nor recommends any of the said views or opinions.*



## Boondocker Submissions

Content for The Boondocker is provided by association members. We would be glad to receive your articles, pictures, event dates, technical write-ups or trails from the trail. Take a few minutes to write up some highlights of your most recent club event or off-pavement excursion and be sure to include pictures! You may see your event in the next issue!

Please note that any submission for the next Boondocker should be sent via e-mail to editor@glfwda.org before March 30th, 2011.



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## A Note From The Editor

As you certainly noticed, during 2010 GLFWDA failed to produce any issues of The Boondocker. I am assured it was not for a lack of trying. Several folks have volunteered to work as the Editor of our newsletter only to be overwhelmed by the desktop publishing software that we use (for which the instruction manual was lost long ago). I bring some previous publishing experience to the table and I have spent some time getting to know the software and I believe we are once again ready to start producing a quarterly edition of the Boondocker for your information and enjoyment.

Before we do that though, we felt it was important to meet our obligation to inform our members with at least an overview of 2010. Thus, we have produced here a 2010 Year-in-Review issue. Each quarter is represented with our meeting minutes and one article featuring a significant event related to GLFWDA. In addition, we have a 2010 land use recap that highlights some really exciting developments from last year.

I look forward to the coming quarterly issues where we can have a little more fun featuring news and events from the association and our member clubs.

Ed Schroeder  
Editor

# DON'T FORGET!

To help our association save unnecessary expenses, this publication can be viewed and printed online in a PDF format for no cost. Also, as a benefit, the online version is available for download typically a week or more before the paper copies can be printed, mailed, and delivered!

Please contact the Membership Secretary and ask him to remove you from the mailing list for this paper copy.

Past issues are available at  
[www.glfwda.org/boondocker.html](http://www.glfwda.org/boondocker.html)

## Calendar of Events

Two Trackers Manistee Forrest Clean-up  
April 16<sup>th</sup>  
Twin Lake, MI  
Registration begins at 8:00am

GLFWDA Quarterly Meeting  
April 17<sup>th</sup>  
Hart, MI  
10:00 am

Cadillac Jeepers - 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Jeep Blessing  
April 30<sup>th</sup>  
Mesick, MI

Au Sable Recreation Expo  
May 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>  
Hanson Hills Recreation Area  
Grayling, MI

UFWDA Annual General Meeting  
June 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>  
Little Rock, AR

Michigan Off-Road Expo  
June 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>  
Birch Run, MI

For last minute changes to events or for additional event information, visit the Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Associations web site: [www.GLFWDA.org](http://www.GLFWDA.org). If your club wants to put a date on the Boondocker Calendar, just email the date with a description of the event and contact information to the Boondocker Editor at [editor@glfwda.org](mailto:editor@glfwda.org)

By: Bob DeVore

I have had the grand pleasure of serving the Membership of Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association (GLFWDA) as an e-board member for better than six years now.

During that time I have had the opportunity to meet some very wonderful people as I have traveled here and there. I would truly like to Thank the Membership for sticking by the GLFWDA e-Board and acknowledge their undying efforts to the tasks at hand.

Everything I do comes at a cost. My family has endured many travels and absences of my time as I follow my passion to promote our sport. If you ever have the chance to meet my bride (Vicky), please thank her, for if it were not for her, I could not do what I do on our behalf. My bride and I have six adult children (we had seven children) and ten grandchildren. As if that were not enough, we have two adopted, one full-guardianship and three foster children now in our home. I am telling you this because I would like you to have a little understanding of how wonderful my bride truly is.

I do not know how to do anything halfway. I am either all in, or not at all. My passion is fighting for our land use access. The definition of access, according to my Webster's II Dictionary: 1. A means of approaching; passage. 2. The right to enter or use. The simple word "access" brings to mind "Public Access" of course, that meaning an area is open or accessible to the public. It also brings to mind "loss of Access" which would be defined as the act of closing Access or limiting Access to an area that at one time was "Public" or open for Access.

We all can probably list a number of locations where we once enjoyed Access. But as times have changed, so has our access.

If owning a four-wheel drive vehicle is an integral part of your life; it allows you to discover a whole new outdoor world that the average person will never see; it provides adventure and brings you closer to nature.

Our Membership numbers have tumbled downward for the first time in five years. This is staggering, because we have been successful in bringing many of the plans and ideas from years past to fruition.

GLFWDA needs your help!

This is an uncertain time with many challenges ahead. There are also tremendous opportunities for furthering the OHV movement. GLFWDA advocates on your behalf. Help us make your voice heard!

Through our united efforts, the opinions and beliefs of four-wheel enthusiasts are heard by land management agencies and by our elected officials.

Tell a friend, tell a relative, shoot - tell a perfect stranger, Members of Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association share their goals and desires. We know the unparalleled beauty of watching the afternoon sun dip beyond the horizon, or waking up to the sound of a fast running stream.

There has never been a greater need for OHV Routes/Trails and Open Space. The number of OHV Permits sold has surpassed the number of Snowmobile Permits sold for the last few years. With your help, we can increase funding for routes/trails, keep more land/routes/trails open, and improve the health and well-being of Americans of all ages and abilities, not to mention the economy.

Really big ideas become reality through the actions and skills of many who share a common goal and work together. This appeal seems apt today with route/trail initiatives. There is so much to do, in so many places.

We are looking forward to the coming year and the challenges it brings with it. In closing I will leave with the thought of perseverance:

*"Look at a stone cutter hammering away at his rock, perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred-and-first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not the last blow that did it, but all that had gone before."* ~Jacob A. Riis

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob DeVore (aka Jarhead)

**Federal Issues:****Savanna Ecosystem Restoration Project/Karner Blue Butterfly**

Significant work was done by the LUC on the Karner Blue Butterfly (KBB) issue with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to protect full size ORV interests in 2010.

At issue are significant road and trail closures proposed by the USFS as a remedial action to protect KBB environment they intend to create. The concerns on this issue are quite broad and our impact at this time on keeping this 10-mile loop open is unknown. Early in 2010 LUC members from GLFWDA and the Two Trackers met with Baldwin District Ranger Les Russell and IDT Leader, Christopher Frederick for an inspection ride to address a number of on site issues. GLFWDA submitted comments on the Manistee NF's Savanna Ecosystem Restoration Project during the "Scoping" comment period. There was also a follow up meeting to ensure that the substantive comments submitted on behalf of the ORV community were properly interpreted by the USFS.

GLFWDA also spoke about the project at the Otto Township Meeting in October, which was well attended. The local community is unhappy about the NFS' desire to cut 4,500 acres of 120 year old trees and close the last 10 miles of roads in the area for the Karner Blue Butterfly. We have made a great many allies due to this meeting and come up with a plan to attempt to regain access to those roads lost in this area.

Meetings were held with various township officials to form a "Friends of the White River" Non-Profit group so that donations could be sought to pay for legal representation to oppose the Savanna Project.

There were further discussions with township officials and Carla Boucher about how to properly include our Forest Plan Appeal points in the Savanna EA Project Comments to provide GLFWDA/UFWDA with legal "Proof of Harm" to aid our Appeal of the Forest Plan.

The Environmental Assessment was received in 2010 and the LUC also submitted comments during the "EA" comment period. A Decision is expected in February of 2011.

**Forest Plan, NFS Ban of Various Activities**

Kurt Meister, attorney for many anti-access groups has successfully appealed the Huron-Manistee National Forest's Forest Plan. The H-MNF will now have to either rewrite the Plan or designate areas where the operation of motorized vehicles of all types and hunting will be completely banned. The public comment deadline is February 11th and the LUC will be submitting comments with regard to this issue. All GLFWDA members are also urged to express your opinions. Send written comments to Lee Evison, Forest Planner, Huron-Manistee National Forest, 1755 S. Mitchell St., Cadillac, Mi 49601; fax: (231) 775-5551. Send electronic comments to: comments-eastern-huron-manistee@fs.fed.us

**Region 9 Review of the Baldwin Ranger District**

Bob DeVore and Pat Brower along with the President and LUC Chairman of the Two Trackers attended the Review at the request of District Ranger Les Russell.

Positive contacts were made with several NFS persons as well as Lynn Boyde (DNRE's Director of FMFM) who were all in attendance.

**NFS Baldwin District ORV Route**

The Two Trackers were asked earlier in 2010 to put a proposal together for the Cedar Creek Motorsports Area of the Manistee NF, and has begun working toward the first 4x4 Route on any NF in Michigan. To that end, The Two Trackers LUC scheduled a mapping day on January 29, 2011 to map possible paths for the Baldwin District ORV Route. GLFWDA will be assisting with the proposal.

**MVUM**

The LUC worked towards making as many "corrections" to the recently published MVUMs as we can get through as "Corrections" and not "Additions"; because corrections are different (and much easier) process from additions.

**State Issues:****Maintenance**

The 2009-2010 Trail Maintenance Grant application for trail maintenance was approved earlier in 2010 for all miles approved in last year's grant. All of our clubs have expressed an interest to continue to manage the miles they have previously adopted.

**Rocks at St Helens**

At the St. Helen Motorsports Area – the rocks are here! DNR staff received the grant approval, and GLFWDA Land Use and Trail Committee members were given an opportunity to comment on the design specs for the project. Pat Kinne led this project. It turned out GREAT! Take time to check it out!

**MSTAC (Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council)**

MSTAC will have dedicated sub-committees for: snowmobile, ORV, equestrian, and non-motorized (hiking and biking) trails and the LUC has secured a position on the ORV sub-committee (Work Group) for GLFWDA.

The December 2010 meeting covered funding sources and a presentation of Tread Lightly's new Respected Access program.

2011 MSTAC meetings are 4/20, 7/20, and 10/19 at the RAM Center on Higgins Lake.

**ORVAW (ORV Advisory Workgroup)**

The ORVAW will handle the day to day operational items in much the same way the former ORV Advisory Board did. The only difference is that they will report to the MSTAC instead of directly to the DNRE.

# GLFWDA Associate Membership Information

If you own, operate, or work for a business that might be interested in being a supporting member of GLFWDA, then we have the deal for you! As an associate member of any level you will receive:

## Associate Membership Benefits

- Your business information listed in The Boondocker, a quarterly e-publication of GLFWDA.
- A Certificate of Appreciation.
- A GLFWDA Window Decal.
- Two (2) ID cards with your GLFWDA Associate Membership number.
- A chance to be nominated Associate Member of the Year.
- A welcome to attend all GLFWDA sponsored events.
- Company exposure to four-wheel drive enthusiasts from all over the country and all around the world through the GLFWDA website.

**Remember, No Trails = No Sales!**

## We currently have 5 levels of membership for Associate Members:

Level 1 \$50/Year Receive 1 printed copy of The Boondocker per issue.

Level 2 \$100/Year Receive four business card size ads per year in The Boondocker and 5 printed copies of The Boondocker per issue.

Level 3 \$150/Year Receive four quarter-page ads per year in The Boondocker, 10 printed copies of The Boondocker per issue, and a banner ad placed into rotation in the forums.

Level 4 \$200/Year Receive four half-page ads per year in The Boondocker, 15 printed copies of The Boondocker per issue, and a banner ad placed into rotation in the forums.

Level 5 \$300/Year Receive four full-page ads per year in The Boondocker, 20 printed copies of The Boondocker per issue, and a banner ad placed into rotation in the forums.

For more information, please visit our Associate Membership information page <http://www.glfwda.org/index.php?page=joinam>

**Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association would like to extend a special thank you to Ultimate Air for many years of support for our organization and for the events that our clubs have put on over the years. Brian Wysocki recently announced that Ultimate Air was closing, but he also noted that he was working on a new project – we look forward to supporting his new endeavor in the future!**



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# Winter 2010 Meeting Minutes

## January 10, 2010 West Branch, Michigan

- I. Call to Order
  - A. Bob DeVore called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, Eastern Standard Time
- II. Introduction of Executive Board
  - A. Dave Smith Treasurer, Paul Hittie Vice President, Pam East Membership Secretary, Carl Jarema Recording Secretary, Bob DeVore President .
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - A. Motion for approval made by Doug
  - B. Seconded by Gary Greenway
  - C. Minutes unanimously approved
- IV. President's Report
  - A. Elections / Appointments
    1. Congratulations to Dave Smith as Treasurer and Paul Hittie as Vice President
    2. Land Use Committee (See XVII Old Business, Item c. Appointments, Item
      - a) Pat Brower cannot continue as LUC Committee Chair
      - b) The committee is currently divided by member areas.
    3. Tread Lightly! Awareness Coordinator (See XVII Old Business, Item c. Appointments, Item ii
      - a) Ed Schroeder volunteered and will take the role as T.L. Awareness Coordinator.
  - B. UFWDA Appointments
    1. Jim Mazzola is the new PR Director
    2. Bob DeVore has assumed the duties of Treasurer
  - C. St. Helen's Rock Course getting traction with our comments being submitted this week. (Thank You to Jim Kitson, Pat Kinne, Jim Mazzola, and Bryce Mazzola for their collaborative efforts)
    1. For the Mounds GLFWDA made a great presentation which will be adopted by the engineering and landscaping company, but the Mounds does not seem to reflect that plan
    2. Gary Greenway asked if the rock course was built closer to what the Engineering firm wanted or what GLFWDA wanted.
    3. Bob DeVore commented that halfway through the project the Landscape company interpreted the plans different than the original scope.
      - a) For the St. Helen Rock Course, the DNR is willing to take ride alongs in different vehicles to see how the course works. The MDNR is now seeking input from MN after information about the Iron Range was shared with the.
      - b) Special thanks to Paul Hittie for putting together the presentation and taking input
      - c) Paul Hittie mentioned that when speaking with the local trail tech Paige, she asked if fluid spill buckets were made available,

would GLFWDA be willing to sponsor?  
d) Gary Greenway asked if the Mounds would be willing to sell spill kits.

### D. Michigan Department of Natural Resources Off-road Vehicle Route Standards Committee – Final Report Issued October 16, 2009.

1. The mission of the Off-road Vehicle Route Standards Committee was to develop acceptable conditions for designating off-road vehicle routes on Drummond Island roads that may not meet the definition of a forest road.
3. Forest Service tends to misrepresent the scope of projects and GLFWDA will need to be more aware.
4. Bob DeVore: Motor Vehicle Usage Maps are important, comments for roads that are being omitted or left out is important.
  - a) (Jim Kitson) How do we submit what trails should be on the maps? Bob DeVore: Contact your local Ranger if they will let you "plot" the roads that should be there, or take a map and draw on the map where the road should be. Gary Greenway mentioned that the County Road Commission may have aerial photos to assist.
5. \*\*\*\* At 11:30 a 10 minute coffee break was called
6. \*\*\*\* Meeting resumes at 10:40

### XV. Trail Maintenance

#### A. Club Concerns

1. Pat Kinne: How many clubs are doing trail maintenance?
  - a) Paul Hittie: 5 clubs are currently doing trail maintenance, and that does not include trail cleanups.
2. Is there a list of clubs that are currently doing trail maintenance on the website?
  - a) Pam mentioned she would ask Kevin to add a list of clubs and trail maintenance projects to the website.

#### B. Bob DeVore: GLFWDA is working with the MDNR to get maps available to be directly downloaded to GPS

1. Gary Greenway: Why can't there be an county roads on the map? Bob DeVore mentioned that is differs county by county and some fear the liability.

### XVI. Old Business

#### A. Dates for Quarterly Membership Meetings

1. January 10, 2010 West Branch, MI
2. April 18, 2010 Mears, MI

#### B. Elections of Vice President (Paul Hittie)

#### C. Appointments





- 1. Land Use Committee
    - a) Currently Pat Bower has asked Gary Greenway, Mike Olmstead and Steve Walker to work together to address specific issues.
  - 2. Tread Lightly! Coordinator
    - a) Ed Schroeder has offered to assume the position. Bob DeVore still plans on sitting down with Ed to discuss the position.
- D. GLFWDA membership Dues is lowered to \$40 effective January 1, 2010
- 1. GLFWDA \$25
  - 2. UFWDA \$15
- XVII. New Business
- A. Association Membership Renewals:
- 1. Tread Lightly! - \$100 Annually
    - a) Ed Schroeder mentioned there is a Tier 2 Option that includes more benefits and will prepare a more detailed presentation at the Spring Quarterly meeting.
  - 2. UFWDA - \$100 annually plus \$15 per member
    - a) Gary Greenway asked if we are getting help from Carla through UFWDA. Bob DeVore said we are getting help from Carla.
    - b) Bob DeVore and Jim Mazzola have been appointed to the UFWDA board and hoping they can help turn UFWDA around.
    - c) Brent: Who is NORHA and are they louder than UFWDA and should we be part of them. Bob DeVore: UFWDA is the only group entirely focused on the Full Size User.
    - d) Jim Kitson NORHA may have been started through Jeep Jamboree. UFWDA may seem more quiet because it prefers to help local and regional clubs and groups get the credit
    - e) Jim Mazzola: UFWDA was able to reduce dues by going fully electronic. UFWDA will also have access to JPFreak.com which is an online magazine.
    - f) Gary Greenway motioned to renew GLFWDA's membership with UFWDA. Doug Seconded. The motion unanimously passed.
    - g) Jim Mazzola asked if there was a change to the Trail Supporter Program. Bob DeVore said there is no change.
- B. UFWDA General Meeting
- 1. Special thanks to Doug and Melanie for all their hard work setting up the meeting
  - 2. Jim Kitson suggested that we do not do the trail ride prior to the event, but post event.
  - 3. Gary Greenway asked if it was possible to offer both a pre and post meeting trail ride

- 4. Jim Kitson is going to Canada for a trail ride post AGM and has offered to trail lead for those from UNFWDA that wish to attend.
- C. UNFWDA AGM Delegate
- 1. Jim Mazzola motioned that Doug S. be the GLFWDA delegate.
  - 2. Motion Seconded by Pat Kinne
  - 3. Motion Unanimously passed
- D. GLFWDA Quarterly Meeting
- 1. Should the quarterly meeting be held in June just before the UFWDA AGM?
  - 2. Gary Greenway motioned GLFWDA have the Meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup> with a trail ride on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Steve seconded the motion. Motion Passed.
  - 3. Fall Meeting is set for October 3<sup>rd</sup> and could be set in line with the Trolls Fall Color Tour.
- E. Website
- 1. Looking for ways to have automatic letters drafted to state representatives
    - a) Example would be that a person would just need to enter a zip code and the letter would automatically address it to that areas representative. It would include a way for one to add personal commented
    - b) Bob DeVore: GLFWDA is looking for someone that can help find / develop the software
    - c) Ed Schroeder mentioned that the letters should also include a bullet list of the Associations position

- XVIII. Club Reports
- A. So-Fo
- 1. Sno-Fari was this weekend. All participants had a great time
  - 2. So-Fo also donated \$200 to GLFWDA raised from the event.
- B. Pat Kinne Club
- 1. Plans for upcoming trail maintenance
- C. What Lies Beyond
- 1. Club raised 575 lbs of food and \$300 for the Eastern Michigan Food Bank on Thanksgiving Day at the Mounds.
  - 2. The group is also re-upped for Trail Maintenance
- D. Two Trackers
- 1. Planning for the April Trail Clean-Up
- XIX. Associate Members Reports
- XX. Upcoming Dates of Importance
- A. 2010 Quarterly Membership Meeting Dates and Locations
    - 1. April 18<sup>th</sup> Mears
  - B. Additional Dates of Importance
    - 1. 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Two Trackers Forest Clean-up April 17<sup>th</sup> Twin Lakes
    - 2. Silver Lake Sand Dunes April 17<sup>th</sup> Mears
    - 3. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Jeep Blessing May 1<sup>st</sup> Mesick
- XXI. Members Discussion
- XXII. Adjournment
- A. Motion for adjournment
  - B. Ed Schroeder seconded
  - C. Adjournment was approved
- XXIII. Meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm, Eastern Standard Time





# **ROCKS <sup>AND</sup> VALLEYS**

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**HARRISON, MI**

Although I have been around organized four-wheeling for several years, SnoFari 2009 was the first time I had attended an organized run. In case you missed the earlier stories and reports from the 2009 event, the snow was deep, and made for an interesting day in the woods. Like several others that day, we suffered from some mechanical issues (overheating) but had a great time despite spending half of the day attached to a tow strap.

My family had a good time too, especially my son Jonathon who was willing to give up our traditional winter trip to Great Wolf Lodge for a second year in a row to attend SnoFari 2010.

This year there was a twist – after giving me the 2009 “So Stuck” award, someone at SoFO came up with the brilliant idea of inviting me to be a trail leader. Doug Saul agreed to come along as my tail gunner, Jim Mazzola sent me copies of his topo maps, and we set out for West Branch. Doug and I had pre-run some trails I was familiar with in the area a week or two in advance, and had generally found in most spots that what little snow



there was on the trail was packed by numerous snowmobiles, trucks and ATVs over the holidays. No new snow fell prior to the event, so we planned to do some exploring off on the fringes on the map the day of the event to see if we could find something new, interesting, or something covered in fresh snow.

The day of the event, the guys from SoFO decided to fold our group in with Ryan’s group since both groups were fairly small. Doug and I would take the group out for the morning, Ryan and Eric would lead us through some of their trails in the afternoon after taking a lunch break.



The morning of the event was pleasant and sunny – we moved our Jeep out to the parking lot to start lining up our group. As we lined up our group, I walked up and down the row of vehicles, introducing myself to folks I didn’t know...and asking if everyone was in the right group! Doug and I had noted on the sign-up sheet that the only requirement for tagging along with us was working four-wheel drive, so the rumble of V8s and 37” tires on several of the vehicles in our group came as a bit of a surprise.

Once we hit the trails, we found that the trails south of M76 were just as we had left them a week or two previously – well-packed and well-travelled. We took a break part way through

the morning to give the kids a chance to get their sleds out, but unfortunately Doug’s grandson Gavin had apparently left his saucer in the Jeep overnight. Darn thing was so brittle that it exploded into a half-dozen pieces on his first run down the hill. He and Jonathon took a careful survey of the damage, and after some discussion Gavin picked the biggest piece and trudged back up the hill to make several more runs on what was left of his sled.

Other than a brief period where we lost half of our group to a wrong turn, our morning trip turned out to be an uneventful trip through the woods on a bright, sunny January day. We parted company with Ryan for a short period while he took care of some administrative issues, and decided to head off to some trails on our map that I had never been on. We were encouraged to find fresh snow, but the farther we went the more it looked like we were driving through someone’s backyard. Finally, we reached a point where the map and the gps agreed that there should have been a road but all we could find was a lake. Those of you that know my

history of bad choices around water would be pleased to know that we turned around instead of pushing on closer to the lake.

After a quick lunch break we made our way north to try and meet up with Ryan for our afternoon run. He was still tending to other things, so Doug agreed to lead the group north of M76 into the Hills of Montezuma, armed only with Jim M’s topo maps and a sense of adventure. The snow was a little less packed, the hills were a little more entertaining, and since Doug was not limited by following an established route through the area we had our best adventure of the day. It wasn’t until we had to cross some logs over the trail that I discovered one of the better-built Jeeps in our group had been making due with 2wd for at least part of the day – tires and horsepower had gotten him through up to that point.

This area also accounted for our lone winch pull of the day.

We ended our day with a run across Pinball Alley then up to the St Helen Motorsport Area just as the sun was starting to set. The kids got in a couple more sled runs while some in our group made a couple of runs up and down the icy hills in one of the sand bowls, then after a group picture or two we headed back to the hotel for another excellent meal prepared by the staff at the hotel. No carnage pics, no best stuck/worst stuck, no stories of peril or lost groups in the woods – just a great day in the woods with friends new and old alike.



# Associate Member Spotlight!

## Introducing Bundy Hill Offroad Park, The Happiest Place on Earth!

One of our newest Associate Members is Bundy Hill Offroad Park located in Jerome, MI. Ed Cain, a park ranger from Bundy Hill, agreed to play 20 questions with The Boondocker and introduce us to all that the park has to offer.

·Bundy Hill is a working gravel mine and used to be the tallest topographical point in the area. After many years of mining, Ed says it is more “Bundy Hole” than Bundy Hill.



·The park caters to all offroad vehicles – trucks, Jeeps, buggies, quads, bikes and side-by-sides. Users are not segregated by vehicle type, but the users tend to segregate themselves based on the terrain they are looking for.

·Speaking of terrain, the park offers a little bit of everything on their 300 acres footprint – pea gravel hill climbs, a rock garden, tight & twisty trails, mud holes and even a family area for young riders. A new, more universal trail rating system (blue,

green, black diamond and double black diamond) is currently being implemented to guide users to suitable areas (or away from places they do not want to be). They also have a user-friendly map of the park available on their website.



OK)

·Other amenities include a food vendor, numerous porta-potties, and a couple of parts shops on speed-dial in the main office that will deliver from Jackson if the need arises. No formal repair facility on site, but check with the rangers or office staff if you need a hand.



·The park is open weekends now through November, but watch for additional Thursday, Friday and Monday hours for holiday weekends or during peak times. \$15/driver plus \$5/rider.

·Trail flags are required and are available for rent/purchase on-site. (no minimum height- dunes flags

For more information, see Bundy Hills’s ad in this issue or visit



**Mid Michigan's Premier  
Off Road Adventure Park**  
Located 4.5mi West of  
US.127 on US.12

Visit our 2011 Calendar &  
Additional Park Rules, PDF  
Waivers Forms & Rental  
Rates on line at:  
[www.bundyhilloffroad.com](http://www.bundyhilloffroad.com)

**Tel: 517-917-0493**

Daily Rates: \$15 per Driver/Vehicle  
\$5 each passenger, Weekend Rate:  
\$25 Driver Guided night tours: \$10  
Driver \$5per pass. Proper safety  
equipment required in & on all  
vehicles. Flags are required &  
available at the Park Office for \$20  
& up. Other Great Novelties also  
available.

Open Thurs & Friday  
4pm-9pm, Saturday  
8am-8pm  
Sunday 10am-8pm  
Guided Night Tours  
Start At Dusk.



## Join a GLFWDa MeMber CLub ToDay!

is soFo's snoFari evenT soMeThing  
you WouLD Like To be involVeD in?

Does parTiCipaTinG in The TWo  
TraCker ForeST CLean-up sound  
Like a WorThy Cause?

Think you WouLD enJoy The TroLLs  
FaLL CoLoR Tour?

These and other great events throughout the year are sponsored by GLFWDA member clubs. Find a club near you in our club listing on page 20



# Spring 2010 Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2010 Hart, Michigan

I. Bob DeVore called the meeting to order at 10:01 am, Eastern Standard Time

II. Introduction of Executive Board

A. Dave Smith Treasurer, Paul Hittie Vice President, Pam East Membership Secretary, Carl Jarema Recording Secretary, Bob DeVore President .

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Motion was made to approve the winter 2010 meeting minutes, the motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

IV. President's Report

A. Communication: Bob is working on better ways to improve communication to the membership about the different activities that GLFWDA is involved with. Looking for suggestions.

B. Bob was recently asked by a person why they should join GLFWDA instead of NAXJA. Despite what NAXJA may claim, they were not present at nor involved with:

1. Getting funding for and both rock courses on the ground at the Mounds

2. Jim Mazzola, Bryce Mazzola, Jim Kitson, Pat Kinne, and others were instrumental in developing the rock course. The course at the Mounds missed the mark, GLFWDA believes the issues have been corrected.

3. Getting Funding for the rock course at St. Helen.  
a) These ideas have been around for a while but are finally coming to fruition.

4. The ORV Routes on Drummond Island

5. Helping Bundy Hill address one of their more controversial issues, Noise Levels

6. The new ORV Route being developed in St. Helen (Dunham Lake Rd.)

7. NFS has asked us to identify a new ORV Route system in the Huron-Manistee Forest

8. NAXJA's website claims you become an UFWDA member (\$10.00 set aside), yet they only pay association dues of \$100, and do not submit a membership roster. Without a roster none of the members can actually be members.

C. Oscoda County Regional Advisory Council for Forest Service Activities.

1. RAC will decide how to spend funds provided to Oscoda County under the Secure Rural Schools Act. These Funds will be spent on projects connected with Forest Service lands and activities.

2. The US Department of Agriculture is now processing nominations for RAC members. The Huron-Manistee has been submitted their list of nominees. The RAC will meet 2 to 4 times per year until the end of 2011. These will be evening meetings. The RAC will decide how to spend approximately \$250,000.

D. A Bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act."

V. Vice President's Report

A. St. Helen Rock Course

1. Progress to ensuring this course will meet GLFWDA specifications is going very well

2. Pat Kinne has volunteered to be on the ground as a liaison

B. St. Helen ORV Re-Route

1. New connector route ~900 yards in length

2. During Mother's Day weekend, SOFO worked on the new connector

3. There will also be an additional 3.75 miles of connector route

C. Mounds Rock Course

1. Plan to take the trail techs for a ride along so they can learn what the rock courses are and how to improve them

D. ORV Trail Permit

1. Expected to raise to \$32

VI. Recording Secretary's Report

A. Nothing to Report

VII. Treasurer's Report

A. Transition is complete

B. Financial Information (Available at Meeting or contact the Treasurer)

C. Expecting to spend \$4,000+ on trail maintenance this year

D. Other expenses to spend this year

1. Boondocker and Jeep Blessing Bags

E. Expecting more income from the State for Trail Maintenance

F. Gary Green way requested that the state of the Association be posted on the website

G. Bob DeVore also suggested we need to put together a 2 person Audit Committee

VIII. Membership Secretary's Report

A. 158 current members with 230 expired for a total of 388 members

B. We have two new associate members

C. Pam is working on understanding why the UFWDA memberships and GLFWDA memberships are not expiring at the same time.

D. Wayne suggested we could add a "How did you hear about us" question to the sign up process

E. It was also suggested to send out "Why did you choose not to renew" letters to expired members

F. There are a few reasons why local clubs benefit from being part of GLFWDA

1. What Lies Beyond's insurance came from GLFWDA

2. Spread of Land Use Resources and involvement

3. Publicity and the ability to use the GLFWDA forum

IX. Associate Membership Secretary's Report

A. GLFWDA is currently adding new Associate Members

B. Would like to add an article or page about the new associate members in the Boondocker

X. Web Site Administrator's Report

A. Add a link for events from the GLFWDA homepage to the forum list of events

B. Needs more photos to update the website

XI. Boondocker Editor's Report

A. Software is still holding up the next Boondocker. Currently investigating new software

XII. PR Committee

A. Jeff Traynor is the new committee chairman

B. Expiration notes are to be sent to the expired members

C. There will be a GLFWDA booth at the Jeep Blessing May 1

1. Two Trackers and other clubs welcome to join GLFWDA at the booth

a) In order to get a booth, groups must donate time, raffle items, or pay the \$100 fee.

2. All clubs can give out information to be placed into the bags

3. Suggested that the "American Flag Hummer" and "American Flag Jeep" be present at the booth to attract people

4. There will be 2,000 GLFWDA bags, included will be MUV maps and latest Boondockers

D. Mention that clubs and associate members can be found at the homepage

XIII. Trail Ride Committee Report

1. Seeking new committee chair

2. Northern Migration

a) Plans thus far: Bundy Hill, Rocks and Valleys, Twisted Trails, and Drummond Island. Anyone is welcome to join anywhere along the tour.

XIV. Tread lightly!

A. Ed Schroeder

B. GLFWDA is already a \$250 member

1. This membership gives GLFWDA voting rights, additional handout copies, 50% of the dues come back to GLFWDA in educational materials, and GLFWDA is also an official member in the literature

2. A \$100 member gets 40% of their dues in material, no voting rights, and less materials

*continues pg 13*

## Spring 2010 Minutes (Continued)

C. Ed Schroeder Recommends that GLFWDA continue as a \$250 member.

1. Tread Lightly! Has a similar message to GLFWDA
2. GLFWDA has access to hi level Tread lightly! Coordinators which can allow GLFWDA to train its members and GLFWDA can also request grants

D. Ed Schroeder motioned that GLFWDA continue as a \$250 member

1. Seconded by Pat Bower
2. Motion passed

### XV. 4WD Safety Awareness

A. First Aid and CPR Certification (March April Time). Abe Posted on the website gauging for interest based on some inquiries, but his response was dismal.

\*\*\*\* 10 minute break at 11:28 am

\*\*\*\* 11:38 meeting resumed

### XVI. Land Use - KOTARO

A. Butterfly Savanna Restoration

1. GLFWDA should assist the National Forest Service to determine what roads to keep open in the area.
2. The Scotch Pine cutting could be turned into Savanna Butterfly habitat instead of closing currently open areas.

B. St. Helen

1. Working to share the trails with the snowmobiles in winter as long as full-size can use it in winter

C. Federal Land Use

1. Huron-Manistee National Forest MVUM opportunities
  - a) KBB habitat restoration comments submitted
2. Mast Lake – Comments Submitted
3. Savanna Ecosystem Restoration Project – Comments Submitted
4. Reforestation and Timber Stands
5. Great Lakes Geophysical Exploration
6. Lost Creek

D. State Issues

1. Trails Advisory Council
  - a) James Dickie, James Duke, William Manson, Frank Wheatlake were appointed to positions on the new Michigan Trails Advisory Council
  - b) There are still two seats to be appointed
  - c) Upper Peninsula Citizen's Advisory Council
  - d) Drummond ORV Route Meeting
    - (1) Discuss issues and concerns related to the ORV route, land access, and other issues
    - (2) Address ideas and suggestions on possible improvements in regards to ORV use and enforcement
    - (3) Achieve a better understanding on how the ORV route is working among the diverse user groups
    - (4) Review impacts of ORV related events
    - (5) Provide updates on restoration, maintenance, and developmental projects
2. Bill that could affect our sport
  - a) House Bill 4411
    - (1) Operation of off-road vehicles on a non designated trail by a person over 60 or disabled
  - b) House Bill 4507
    - (1) Counties eligible for off-road vehicles operation on shoulders
  - c) House Bill 5007
    - (1) Operations of off-road vehicles while under the influence
  - d) House Bill 5008

(1) Sentencing guides for operating an ORV while under the influence

e) House Bill 5087

(1) Definition of off-road recreational vehicle

f) House Bill 5274

(1) Establish License sanctions for operating an off-road vehicle under the influence

g) House Bill 5497

(1) Permit registration and sticker provided to ORVs

E. County Issues

1. Mounds Phase II is complete
2. Continue to monitor for road closures that could be added to the ORV route inventory

### XVII. Trail Maintenance

A. Mike Olmstead

1. Drummond Logging Road Construction
  - a) DNR is leaving the 4x4 challenge road and will add new forest roads without changing the trails
  - b) DEQ has approved culverts for new roads in wetlands
  - c) New Boulders at Marble Head and Shale Beach to designate the trails
  - d) There are plans for poison ivy elimination at shale beach and pilot cove
  - e) Tight Twisties – Loggers will have to build new roads and will be leaving all the pines and cedars
  - f) In winter it is suggested that the full-size user stay off the steps at Marble Head in consideration for the snowmobiles
2. Oceana County
  - a) Trail Maintenance is to be done and there a some trails that appear to have been illegally burned
3. Dalton Twp.
  - a) Maps of the trail / roads need to be put together
4. Drummond Signage
  - a) The signage will be enforced as is
  - b) ORV stickers are going to be required in the future
5. Special thanks to Gary Greenway, Riche Santos, Jeff Traynor, Doug Wine for their work on the KBB work with the Forest Service

B. Changes

1. 2011 Grant Applications due May 1
2. Must Modify Trail Tech within 7 days of completing trail maintenance
3. Must get Sign log to Paul Hittie ASAP to allow billing for Trail Maintenance.

C. Trail techs may be tough to get a hold of as fire season is starting

### XVIII. Old Business

A. Dates for Quarterly Membership Meetings

1. April 18, 2010 Mears, MI
2. June 13, 2010 Drummond Island, MI

B. Appointments

1. Land Use Committee
  - a) Currently Pat Bower has asked Gary Greenway, Mike Olmstead and Steve Walker to work together to address specific issues.
2. Tread Lightly! Coordinator
  - a) Ed Schroeder has offered to assume the position. Bob DeVore still plans on sitting down with Ed to discuss the position.

C. GLFWDA membership Dues is lowered to \$40 effective January 1, 2010

1. GLFWDA \$25
2. UFWDA \$15

### XIX. New Business

A. Proposed Dates for Fall Quarterly Meeting

*continues page 26*

By: Kellie Santos

For the past twelve years, the Two Trackers Four Wheel Drive Club has held their annual forest clean up on the third Saturday of April. This event helps to enlighten people about the problem of illegal dumping of trash in our forests and on our trails.

The Two Trackers have adopted approximately 36,000 acres of public land through the Adopt-A-Forest program, and several miles of road through the Adopt-A-Road program. The adopted areas are located in Blue Lake, Cedar Creek, Holton and Dalton Townships in Muskegon County, and Greenwood, Otto, and Grant Townships in Oceana County.

People from as far away as Ohio and Indiana come to participate in this event. Participants were treated with free coffee, cocoa and pastries while waiting to head out into the forest to pick up trash. A fire truck was brought in by the Forest Service to entertain the children and hand out goodie bags.

Volunteers hauled in an astounding 1,200 tires out of the forest. (See photo on the cover of the boondocker!) Many

of these tires were able to be disposed of through a company who recycles them into material for playground coverings. The rest were taken to a local transfer station where they would be cut up and placed in the landfill.

Some of the volunteers donated not only their time, but also their heavy equipment to help in clean up efforts. Between the heavy equipment and approximately 170 people helping, a total of 165 yards of trash was removed. There were 6 dumpsters available at 3 different locations for use.

The Two Trackers were proud to have the opportunity to have the 12<sup>th</sup> annual event highlighted by the Michigan Out-of-Doors television show. A group of staff was able to take Jimmy Gretzinger, Executive Producer, out into the woods and get some good footage of the amount of trash dumped by irresponsible citizens.

A free hot dog lunch was provided by the Two Trackers, made possible by the generous donations of local businesses. Lunchtime proved to be a fun time, where volunteers connected to share stories about their finds in the woods. Children used this time to collect their prizes from the scavenger hunt. A 50/50 raffle was drawn, with proceeds helping to fund future clean up events.



Illegal dumping sites in the Manistee Forrest



Volunteers filling dumpsters at two of the clean-up sites





## Associate Member Spotlight!

### Introducing Clear Lake Resort – A Paradise for Outdoor Recreationalists!

Clear Lake Resort is located in Northern Michigan on Clear lake – an all sports, spring fed, crystal clear lake that covers over 200 acres. Clear Lake is up to 50 feet deep, contains three islands and has a beautiful sandy shoreline. Greg Swartz and the rest of the team at Clear Lake Resort have recently joined Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association as an Associate Member.

Over the last few years we have had offroad shops and automotive suppliers as our primary business supporters, but a resort that is conveniently located near Rose City, West Branch and St Helen is a great asset. Greg notes that their 8 cabins are not only close enough to the major trail systems that you can leave right from the resort, but they also have within walking distance a convenience store, boat rentals, fuel, a bar and a restaurant. Greg has owned the resort for the last 15 years, and has spent that time refurbishing and redecorating to provide their guests with a first-rate place to stay.



Some other amenities include:

- Year-round operation for four seasons of fun
- Fishing opportunities just outside your door
- 6 cabins and two houses are available with air conditioning, and sleep from 4-7 guests. The largest also sports both an inside Jacuzzi and an outside hot tub!

The next time your off-pavement plans bring you to the area, make your reservations by calling the office at 989-345-2459 or by using their website at <http://www.stayatclearlake.com/index.html>

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**Call 1-810-936-7000 to talk to one of our specialists today!**  
**No matter what you need or what you do, Trail Rig and Tow Rig we're here to accommodate everything you need to help make you King Of The Trail and King Of The Road !**

**MEMBER**

\*Wheels and Tires Excluded—Some Restrictions Apply. Must Have A Current Valid Membership Card.

# Summer 2010 Meeting Minutes

June 13 2010 - Drummond Island, Michigan

- I. Call to Order
  - A. Bob DeVore called the meeting to order at 10:15 am, Eastern Standard Time
- II. Introduction of Executive Board
  - A. Paul Hittie Vice President, Pam East aka the "Queen of Queens" Membership Secretary, Carl Jarema Recording Secretary, Bob DeVore President, Dave Smith Treasurer
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - A. Motion for approval made and seconded, passed by unanimous vote
- IV. President's Report
  - A. Special thanks to all those that attended the meeting
  - B. Special thanks to Pat Bower for all his work in Lansing on the bills affecting GLFWDA and our sport
  - C. Elections
    - 1. Bob DeVore is not seeking re-election as President of GLFWDA or as a BOD member of THCI. This is to focus more on local issues and it is time for a break
    - 2. Would like to draft a letter to for a membership committee to help find candidates for open positions ie TR Committee and Boondocker
  - D. Website
    - 1. We need more photos sent to the Web Admin
  - E. Boondocker
    - 1. GLFWDA is willing to purchase new software, but needs recommendations for software or people to operate the software
    - 2. Steve Walker expressed interest in the position
- V. Vice President's Report
  - A. Bob DeVore wanted to thank Paul Hittie for bringing fiscal responsibility to GLFWDA
  - B. Paul is going to do his best to crank out a Boondocker but needs pictures and ideas
- VI. Recording Secretary's Report
  - A. Nothing to Report
- VII. Treasurer's Report
  - A. Presented GLFWDA Profit Loss Statement January through December 2010
- VIII. Membership Secretary's Report
  - A. It would be wise to extend memberships because of the absence of the Boondocker
    - 1. Pat Bower motioned for a 3 month extension to the general membership and a 6 month extension to the associate membership.
    - 2. Dave Smith Seconded
    - 3. Motion Passed
  - B. The change in membership dates between UFWDA and GLFWDA is because of the time it takes information to arrive with UFWDA and GLFWDA. UFWDA is only processed on a quarterly basis.
    - 1. Doug suggested that a note about the timing for the memberships in the introduction letter
- IX. Associate Membership Secretary's Report
- X. Web Site Administrator's Report
- XI. Boondocker Editor's Report
- XII. PR Committee
  - A. Jeff Traynor was sent a computer to get started
  - B. Steve Walker: GLFWDA needs to find a way to widen its marketing
  - C. Tim suggested that more people would be interested if there were more trail rides.
- XIII. Trail Ride Committee Report
  - A. Tim is going to step up to become the Trail Ride Committee Chair
- XIV. Tread lightly!
- XV. 4WD Safety Awareness
  - \*\*\*\* 10 minute break at 11:28 am
  - \*\*\*\* 11:38 meeting resumed
- XVI. Route Maintenance
  - A. Spring Maintenance is complete
  - B. SOFO completed a 0.8 mile reroute off private land in the St. Helen area
  - C. DNR to add to grant for 3 mile gas connector section
  - D. There is a new Jackson Lake reroute
  - E. There is also a proposal to connect more of the routes in St. Helen
- XVII. RLand Use - Kotaro
  - A. Mike Olmstead
    - 1. Drummond Logging Road Construction
      - a) DNR is leaving the 4x4 challenge road and will add new forest roads without changing the trails
      - b) DEQ has approved culverts for new roads in wetlands
      - c) New Boulders at Marble Head and Shale Beach to designate the trails
      - d) There are plans for poison ivy elimination at shale beach and pilot cove
      - e) Tight Twisties - Loggers will have to build new roads and will be leaving all the pines and cedars
      - f) In winter it is suggested that the full-size user stay off the steps at Marble Head in consideration for the snowmobiles
- XVIII. Old Business
  - A. Dates for Quarterly Membership Meetings
    - 1. April 18, 2010 Mears, MI
    - 2. June 13, 2010 Drummond Island, MI
- XIX. New Business
  - A. Proposed Dates for Fall Quarterly Meeting
    - 1. October 9<sup>th</sup> in association with Trolls Color tour?
  - B. Appointments
    - 1. Trail Ride Committee
      - a) Tim Schroeder will be stepping up
    - 2. Boondocker
      - a) Steve Walker will be stepping up
  - C. BFG Outstanding Trails Award
    - 1. Drummond Island has been selected as part of the 2010 Outstanding Trails program by BF Goodrich Tires
  - D. Fall Elections
    - 1. President
      - a) Bob DeVore does not intend to run
      - b) Treasurer
  - E. Awards
  - F. UFWDA General Meeting
    - 1. June 15/16 in Traverse City
    - 2. Trail Ride (Pre=Drummond / Post=Canada)
    - 3. Delegate
      - a) Doug Saul
  - G. Website
- XX. Club Reports
- XXI. Associate Members Reports
- XXII. Upcoming Dates of Importance
  - A. 2010 Quarterly Membership Meeting Dates and Locations
    - 1. **October 9<sup>th</sup>** Dam Site
    - 2. **August 27<sup>th</sup>** - DOA
- XXIII. Members Discussion
  - A. Steve Walker mentioned that GLFWDA would benefit from a grant writer
  - B. After the meeting there is a need to help maintain at Connors Hole
  - C. Pat motioned that GLFWDA supply hats and stickers for GLFWDA
  - D. Paul seconded
  - E. Motion Passed
- XXIV. Adjournment
  - A. Motion for adjournment was made, seconded and approved
  - B. Meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm, Eastern Standard Time



## FROM OHIO TO DRUMMOND ISLAND, MI, THEN ON TO CANADA, NORTH OF THE SOO

Recently I had an opportunity I could not pass up. 11 days of wheelin' and spending time with fellow 4-wheelers. It was a chance to visit with old friends from far away and an opportunity to meet new folks along the way too. Our first stop was for the Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association's Summer Quarterly meeting on Drummond Island, located off the east end of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. To reach the island you have to catch the ferry at DeTour Village. It is a short 1 mile crossing of the St. Mary's River to Drummond. The day before our meeting, there was a trail ride over the nearly 40 miles of newly established full-size 4x4 trail routes.

We had a GREAT weather day for the trails, after a night of torrential rains. There would be no dust on the ride this day and plenty of water in the holes to splash in. The island is a ROCK and its depressions hold water and do not allow it to be absorbed into the rock, so it basically has to evaporate. After a hearty breakfast at the Bear Track Inn, we started on our trail ride out of the back of the parking lot of the Drummond Island Resort. Pat Brower was our Trail Leader for the Drummond Island trails. We wound our way through the forest with an initial destination of the Marble Head Cliffs, overlooking Lake Huron. We



Rolling Slow through 30" of water in Conner's Hole on Drummond Island

traveled around Dry Lake to avoid the soft lakebed that now resembles a grassy meadow. We soon reached "Conner's Hole" which was full to the brim, and then some, from the rain the night before. We managed to get everyone through 30+ inches of water without incident. We did observe a recently installed beaver house to the right of the trail. He had been busy damming up the low side of Conner's Hole to retain deeper

water for his use. Unfortunately for him, he is now on the trapping list for a local island resident. Due to the scheduled Jeep Jamboree event the next weekend, the water level needed to be returned to it's normal 18 inches, for stock Jeeps to cross safely. We scheduled a trail maintenance workday for the next afternoon.

We continued through the "tight twisties", which is a section of trail with many trees and turns as you can imagine, resulting in a few door handle rubs. We passed by Pilot Harbor and soon reached the Marble Head steps, our next obstacle to conquer. The steps consist of about 10-15 feet of vertical drop over a series of granite ledges. It is slow going and use of a "spotter" is recommended to assist with proper tire placement, in order to reduce the chance for drive train or lower body damage. Saturday's run only had 5 vehicles so we were able to move the entire group to the bottom of the "steps" in a reasonable amount of time. We parked our rigs and walked out for a view of Lake Huron from nearly 100 feet above the lake level. This overlook is known as the Marble Head Cliffs and we used it for our lunch spot. What a view!

After lunch, it was a slow crawl back up the "steps" and on toward Southeast Beach. We came across a few critters along the trails, a snapping turtle crossing our trail in the woods, a doe deer observing our convoy of vehicles from the tree line and one brief report of a black bear crossing a side trail, as we passed through an intersection. We stopped for a brief period at the beach for the kids and dogs to enjoy a romp and some splashing in the lake. Then we loaded up and headed toward the paved road. Along our way we passed through Cornbeef Junction, which has existed since the early logging days on the island. There is a story for its name and if you get there, likely someone will be willing to share the history of the name with you. Once we reached the paved road, it was a short jaunt to Chuck's for Friday night fish fry and a cold drink. The end of a GREAT day on Drummond Island!

After the GLFWDA Quarterly at the Drummond Island Resort on Sunday, we completed some necessary trail maintenance duties, learned some more interesting history about previous British inhabitants of the island and then finished the day off with dinner at the Pins Lounge at the DI Resort. The folks from Jeep Jamboree were arriving for a few days of "pre-running" their trails before their event was scheduled to begin, so we wrapped up the evening trading trail riding stories with our friends of JJUSA.

The next morning found us scurrying to catch the early ferry so we didn't have to wait in line for an hour for the next one. We made it with only 1 car behind us squeezing on, leaving a half a dozen still in line on the shore. Our next stop and second event was in Traverse City, MI, for the United Four Wheel Drive Associations' Annual General Meeting. I was the Delegate for GLFWDA and we were the Host Association for the meeting, so there were last minute preparations to be checked on and visitors to meet.

*Continues pg 19*



# Great Lakes Store: Clothing, Gear, and More!

Order Online @ [www.glfwda.org/store/](http://www.glfwda.org/store/)



T-Shirts \$12



Tank Tops \$12



Winter Hats \$15  
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Also available: Sweat-shirts,  
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Be sure to specify mens or womens and the size of clothing when ordering. Most clothing sizes are available from Medium up to 3XL.

*Special Order items also available: Jackets, Hoodies, Etc... Custom Lettering Available for most articles. Contact our vendor directly for custom orders at [www.feemb.net](http://www.feemb.net) or contact the Store Manager for more information.*



Endangered Species Stickers \$3



4" or 6" GLFWDA Stickers \$1

**Store Manager**  
Kevin Bentz  
1627 Eureka Rd.  
Wyandotte, MI 48192  
[store@glfwda.org](mailto:store@glfwda.org)

Representatives from across the USA attended the AGM. There were folks from CA, AZ, CO, WI, MI, OH, IN, GA, VA, and PA that I met. We were joined during the meeting, through a live video feed, by our International Vice President Peter Vahry. Peter hails from New Zealand where he is very involved in land access rights and 4x4 club activities. The AGM went off with only minor schedule adjustments. I want to THANK Melanie & Paul Mulder for their tremendous efforts in scheduling and organizing all the behind the scenes preparations to keep the Delegates informed, fed and entertained while we were in Traverse City. We couldn't have eaten better than at Boone's Steak House and the Grand Traverse Pie Company. An additional THANK YOU goes out to Tim Tull for providing an excellent meeting venue at the CenterPointe Office complex, over looking Grand Traverse Bay. These folks are active GLFWDA members and we APPRECIATE their efforts to Support our Sport! We completed our agenda over 2 days, including electing a new President of UFWDA, Jim Mazzola, and filling the entire Board positions with elected and appointed folks. Thanks to all those who have stepped forward to lead and help our UFWDA in 2010-2011. We wrapped up with a closing banquet Wednesday night. Our guest speakers were 2 gentlemen from Jeep, who shared with us their experiences and involvement with product design, including the Rubicon model, and accessories for



Batchawana River Trail

different Jeep models. One model in particular was the J-8, which is used by the Egyptian military, in a stretched heavy duty Wrangler version. Bruce and Larry are long time Jeepers and their presentation was very interesting to the attendees. In addition, they and their wives joined us for our trip to Canada with their Jeeps in tow.

Thursday morning found us on the road again, making the 5-mile crossing of the Big Mac bridge for the third time in one

week. This time we were headed north into Ontario, Canada for our third event, the post-AGM trail rides. We had 18 participants registered for this event and a good share of them were convoying together. Many were trailering their rigs and since I was driving my WJ Grand Cherokee, I leaped frogged ahead of the group to verify fuel stops and parking locations for this size group. I have a HAM radio and so did our Trail Leader, who was towing and stayed with the group. He relayed all important information to the rest of the convoy through the use of CB radios. We stopped in Mackinaw City for lunch and some sight seeing downtown and at Fort Michilimackinac.



Batchawana River Falls

Heading north across the bridge, we planned for a final gas fill up at US prices and a visit to the Soo Locks at Sault Saint Marie, MI. We were fortunate on our timing and were able to watch 2 lake freighters pass through both American locks at the same time, headed for Lake Superior.

We arrived at our base camp at Blueberry Hill Motel & Campground, at the bottom of a long down hill grade called Moose Flats Hill and near the Goulais River. This would be our rendezvous point for the next 4 days. Everybody got settled in and called it a night after a long day of traveling and being a tourist. We were scheduled for a 10 AM drivers meeting and then would head out for the trails. As was the case on Drummond Island, this area had received significant rains in the days before our arrival, so dust would not be an issue, but water levels might be.

Based upon the weather forecast of hot and hazy, Jim Mazzola, our Trail Leader for our Canada trails, determined we would visit the Tribag Mine on Friday. The trail to the mine follows the Batchawana River as it climbs in elevation. Many of the old corduroy bridges had long since collapsed, so there were frequent ditch crossings, which carry runoff from the mountain to the river, that had to be crossed. All crossings were successful with minimal disturbance of the rocky ditch bottoms. With the recent rains the Batchawana River Falls were running with high velocity. Upon reaching the mine, we observed much remains of old mining equipment and buildings. The locals in

*continues pg 22*

# GLFWDA Club Listing & Contact Info

- 1. Flintstones**  
Member since 1975  
Director: Rich Nowak  
1339 S. Vasser, Davison, MI 48423
- 2. Golden Triangle**  
Member since 1978  
Director: Darrin Buss  
13155 Waters, Chelsea, MI 48118
- 3. Jackson Stump Jumpers**  
Member since 1972  
Director: Brad Perkins  
5614 Larch, Jackson, MI 49201  
jacksonstumpjumpers@hotmail.com
- 4. Mid-Michigan Fourwheelers**  
Member since 1990  
Director: Ron Roggow  
4125 Roosevelt, Hemlock, MI 48626
- 5. Mud, Sweat, and Gears**  
Member since 1987  
Website: [www.msg4x4club.com](http://www.msg4x4club.com)  
Director: Tim Yocum  
tim.yocum@koltanbar.com
- 6. R.P.M. Off Road**  
Member since 2002  
Director: Steve Kitchen  
P.O. Box 347, Evart, MI 49631
- 7. SoFO – Michigan**  
Member since 2005  
Website: [sofo.glfwda.org](http://sofo.glfwda.org)  
31026 West Chicago  
Livonia, MI 48150  
734.776.6072  
sofomich@gmail.com
- 8. Tri-City Trail Riders**  
Member since 2003  
Director: Steve Gradowski  
1634 Hotchkiss Rd  
Freeland MI 48623  
nvrenuf@gmail.com
- 9. Troll Fourwheelers**  
Member since 1993  
Website: [www.trolls4wdclub.com](http://www.trolls4wdclub.com)  
7200 Bunker, Indian River, MI 49749  
nephd@blazeconnect.net
- 10. What Lies Beyond Jeep Club**  
Member since 2007  
Website: <http://www.whatliesbeyond.org>  
PO Box 718  
Flint, MI 48501
- 11. Delta Four Wheelers**  
Member since 1972  
Director: George Motes  
10332 W. Dodge, Montrose, MI 48457  
810-639-6549  
gmotes@centurytel.net
- 12. Two Trackers Four Wheel Drive Club, Inc.**  
PO Box 88063  
Kentwood, MI 48518-9998  
[www.twotrackers.com](http://www.twotrackers.com)  
[www.twotrackers.org](http://www.twotrackers.org)

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**UNITED FOUR WHEEL DRIVE  
ASSOCIATION**  
of USA & Canada  
P.O. Box 316  
Swartz Creek, MI 48473  
1-800-44-UFWDA

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## Land Use Report (Continued)

Our first ORVAW meeting was held immediately after the MSTAC. We were also updated on the issues that were before the Advisory Board before it was dissolved. Safety Education and ORV Program signage were the primary two topics.

2011 meetings will be held on 2/9, 5/11, 8/10 and 11/9, in Lansing.

Contact with another member of the work-group resulted in two opportunities for GLFWDA. Happi-Trails ATV is hosting the 3rd Annual Grayling AuSable Recreation Expo on May 14 and 15, 2011 and invited GLFWDA to participate. The second opportunity is that Happi-Trails and several other organizations in the area are attempting to get an ORV Route designated that would travel from Grayling to the Bridge and have asked GLFWEDA participate in the effort.

### Gladwin Open House

LUC members attended the DNRE Gladwin District Open House in December which was held to give the public the opportunity to comment about the projects the District plans to undertake in 2012. The LUC obtained much information regarding the various projects which contain a great deal of information about the logging that will take place in each compartment.

A map shows the road system in each, but there is no information about which roads are to be closed because road closures are done on a site specific basis that will only begin when each timber sale is administered. Because dates of timber sales are weather dependent, the administration of the sale will only leave about a two week period between the inspection of the road system and the decision governing which roads are to be closed.

The issue here is this leaves the user community very little time to review and provide comments. The best the Department can offer is that the user community indicate which roads are most desirable and request of the appropriate manager that they be left open. This information, however, is only 'taken under advisement' and carries little or no weight, and are not appealable. This is a process that will have to be changed in the future if the public is going to be able to have any real affect on these decisions.

In the meantime, the LUC will attempt to locate the project list and descriptions in the DNRE's database and post them to the website for review by the membership so that a compilation of comments can be sent to the District Manager in a timely fashion.

### ORV Safety Education Committee

LUC committee members worked with the DNRE throughout the year on the Policy and Procedures Manual for the Safety Education Program. GLFWDA developed the 4x4 and extraction material to be included in the Manual as well as test questions for students and instructors. It appears there will be about 10 pages in the final book, comparable to the motorcycle and ATV sections. This is a HUGE success for GLFWDA and the full size user community.

The latest draft of the ORV Safety Training Manual was released late in 2010 but still had a few issues with our suggested material. The most notable of these was the lack of any strapping information. Submissions were reissued. DNRE is concerned about liability. It is GLFWDA's position that the State's liability exposure for the inclusion of strapping information is little different than what they have already accepted for their inclusion of winching information. The inclusion of

*continues pg 25*



# Associate Member Directory

## BDS Suspension

www.bds-suspension.com  
102 S. Michigan Ave.  
Coldwater, MI 49036  
517-279-2139

## Jeeperz Creeperz

www.jeeperz-creeperz.com  
1627 Eureka Rd., Wyandotte, MI 48192  
734-281-8141 or Fax 734-281-2841  
sales@jeeperz-creeperz.com  
Contact: Kevin Bentz

## 4BYFOURS

6148 Airline Rd.  
Fruitport, MI 49415  
231-206-0784

## All Pro Automotive

2724 Turner St  
Lansing, MI 48906  
517-485-8662

## Michigan Wheelers

www.michiganwheelers.com

## Rocks & Valleys Off-road Park

US 127 between Clare & Harrison  
1/2 mile W of Snow Snake Ski & Golf  
989-539-1448

## Venture Off Road

9028 N. Tottenham Dr  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
269-998-5512  
www.ventureoffroad.com  
sales@ventureoffroad.com

## Clear Lake Resort

3802 Grass Lake Rd  
West Branch, MI 48661  
www.stayatclearlake.com

## Rough Country

1400 Morgan Rd  
Dyersburg, TN 38024  
(800) 222-0723  
www.roughcountry.com

## Joint Clutch & Gear

703 Marquette  
Bay City, MI 48706  
(989) 686-2924  
baycity@jointclutchandgear.com

## Bundy Hill Offroad Park

www.bundyhilloffroad.com  
9960 E Chicago  
Jerome, MI 49249

## Unlimited Offroad Centers

3201 W. Thompson Rd  
Fenton, MI 48430  
810-936-7000  
www.unlimitedoffroadcenters.com  
sales@unlimitedoffroadcenters.com

## SIK Motorsports

www.myspace.com/sikmotorsports

## P&T Auto Parts & Paint

4828 Michigan Ave  
Detroit, MI 48210  
313-894-1410

## LaFontaine Automotive

2245 S Telegraph  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
(877) 221-0106



1-517-485-8662

## Clear Lake Resort

Lake Front Vacation Cabin Rentals



## 11 days... (continued)

the area have been attempting to get the present owners to cleanup this site. This abandoned mine produced copper, silver and gold. As we approached the entrance to the mine, we were blasted with a chilling breeze. We entered the mine with flashlights, lanterns and jackets. We had been warned through the first section of mine we would be walking in water, possibly 6-12 inches deep. After clearing the first 50 feet or so, we reached damp gravel. A surprise, to others and myself, was soon to be realized. After another 50 feet or so of pitch black, a foggy mist filled the air. Shining my light around produced an eerie translucent look about the mine floor ... a few steps more and I realized we were now walking on ICE. Ice a foot thick, not 100 feet or so from the entrance where it was in the



Exploring Chippewa Falls

mid-80's outside. WOW, that was cool ... literally it was in the 40's (I just happen to have a small thermometer hanging on my pocket flashlight). Obviously the kids who were along were very excited. As we shuffled along, where there was moisture dripping from overhead, an ice cone would be developing on the floor of the mine. We proceeded in past a vertical ventilation shaft that we could see a tiny opening of light. As expected, there was an end and we returned to the opening, all the time getting different views of the walls and ceiling that we had not noticed on the way in. We observed additional shafts going both up and down from this main shaft and we were told there are at least 3 levels above where we were. After we climbed out of the entrance, it was time to head back down the mountain. On the return trip we stopped at Chippewa Falls, near the mid-point of the Tran-Canada Highway. These falls were also running with lots of water from the recent rains. Jim commented he has been there when there was only a trickle coming down from the mountain. Upon our return to base camp, a quick supper was eaten then most of us gathered around a campfire that evening and enjoyed reliving the day and past 4-wheelin' adventures.

We met the second day at 9 AM and it was clear and bright, so off we headed to Griffin Peak Lookout and a view for

miles, where we could see parts of Michigan. Since Jim and I had HAM radios and he was leading, I took up the position of Trail Sweep each day, at the end of the line and kept in contact with him through the forest, hills and ravines. With 18 rigs, there were times we got somewhat strung out on the trail, beyond the range of CB radios in hilly sections between Leader and Sweep. We monitored a simplex frequency to talk directly to each other and a repeater frequency (out of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario) if we needed to reach out to one another or to others for help or information. Reaching the top, we parked on the rock outcroppings and looked at the sights. At the top, there is a larger tower that formerly was used as a fire lookout and is currently used for a radio antenna. As we departed the Lookout, we decided to take a short loop trail on the way back to camp that contained some challenging areas for those "built" rigs that were with us. As we started up the Wolf Creek trail it soon became obvious there were some "close to stock" vehicles that would be better to not attempt the remainder of this trail. We turned them around and I accompanied them back to the gravel road turn off. I pointed them the way back to camp and I proceeded to bypass around the obstacle area on a gravel road to the expected trail outlet. We stayed in contact, over the HAM radio, in the event the trail group required some assistance we could provide. The expected 60-90 minutes went by and they were still struggling/wincing up hill. We could not hear them on the CB until they cleared the summit of the trail and began the downhill decent. We stood by within HAM range on the simplex frequency, receiving periodic progress reports. Our mild day turned into an 11-hour adventure and the good news is the "built" folks were HAPPY with the challenges. Back on the gravel road, all were ready for base camp, a hot shower and some warm dinner. We did make a stop to top off our tanks in readiness for Sunday's adventure.

Sunday brought a thinning of the participants, as some needed to hit the road for the long drive home, including myself. The drivers meeting was at 10 AM, after a later than planned return the day before. This day's destination was in the Searchmont area. Someone else will need to share those adventures. The next day, Monday, would put most of the remaining folks on the road home. Some by way of the Big Mac bridge, others by way of the Trans-Canada Highway and Niagara Falls, and others on to Nova Scotia for more sight seeing. Alas, I had one more stop to make before reaching Ohio. So back across the Big Mac for the fourth time in two weeks I headed, home to my family. Other than gas, the only stop I made was for a fine Father's Day dinner at the Dam Site Inn, located south of Pelston, MI. The Inn is owned and operated by some GREAT folks that are part of the GLFWDA family. What a GREAT meal to bring my 2010 Adventure to a close. If you get up north of Houghton Lake along I-75, make the 15-minute trip to Pelston for dinner and say HELLO to Pam and Ray.

Try it ... You'll Like IT!

# Fall 2010 Meeting Minutes

## October 10, 2010 - Pellston, Michigan

- I. Call to Order
  - A. Bob DeVore called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, Eastern Standard Time
- II. Introduction of Executive Board
  - A. Pam East aka the "Queen of Queens" Membership Secretary, Carl Jarema Recording Secretary, Bob DeVore President, Dave Smith Treasurer
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - A. Motion for approval made and seconded, unanimously approved
- IV. President's Report
  - A. Special thanks to the Trolls for another great Color Tour and trail ride
  - B. Thanks to all those in attendance today
  - C. Special thanks to the membership for all the support of the past years
    1. Thanks to Pam for taking on the knowingly tough job of keeping up with the membership
    2. Thanks to Dave for continuing GLFWDA fiscally responsible
    3. Thanks to Paul for his work as Treasurer and moving into the V.P. Position. He has been a great conscience
  - D. Thanks to Kelly from greatlakes4x4.com for the idea of the "I Own the Rocks at St. Helen" Stickers to recognize those that has donated to the project.
  - E. Mark and Jeff that went door to door to raise money for the project.
  - F. Pat Bower motioned for a gift membership to be offered to Kelly, Mark, and Jeff for their work on the St. Helen Rock Course
    1. Seconded by Doug Saul
    2. Motion Unanimously Passed
  - G. GLFWDA is attached to the Michigan.org website to direct visitors to GLFWDA.org
  - H. Boondocker
    1. There has not been a Boondocker in a year now. Steve Walker is currently working on software difficulties and is still struggling to develop an issue.
  - I. Attendance
    1. Back in 2005-2006 it was common to have 50-60 people attend quarterly meetings. Now 10-20 may attend
    2. Looking to suggestions from the membership to boost meeting attendance
      - a) Invitations to the meeting at the leading in event. Make them personal invites with a hand shake
      - b) Hand out flyers and window print with the main talking points of the meeting and an agenda
      - c) Send letters to the membership with the main bullet points and agenda
      - d) Hold the meeting before the trail ride, if done in conjunction with one,
      - e) Cards, agendas, flyers, on vehicles before the meeting
- V. Vice President's Report – Bob DeVore
  - A. Trail Maintenance is complete for the year, but paperwork is still needed from a few clubs
  - B. 2011 Grant is approved, but waiting final DNR approval
  - C. St. Helen Rock Course construction is to begin this week. Thanks to Pat Kinne for directing the design of the course
- VI. Recording Secretary's Report
  - A. Nothing to Report
- VII. Treasurer's Report
  - A. Financially in good shape. PR and Land Use are over budget due to increased travel, Jeep Blessing Bags, and St. Helen Rocks. (Full Financial information available at the meeting or contact the Treasurer)
  - B. We are under budget on the Boondocker
  - C. Doug Saul – What is the \$462 in the Land Action Fund?

1. It is the delta in UNFWDA costs (\$7 per member)
- VIII. Membership Secretary's Report
    - A. 255 Current Members, 57 Expired Members
  - IX. Associate Membership Secretary's Report
  - X. Web Site Administrator's Report
    - A. Working on a letter generator
    - B. Making a few updates to the website software
    - C. Is it possible to add an UFWDA RSS feed on the homepage?
    - D. Still working on getting the tailgate report back up on the new website
  - XI. Boondocker Editor's Report
  - XII. PR Committee
    - A. It is suggested that GLFWDA develop business cards to but in stores to show where members are spending their money when on travel.
      1. \*\*\*\*\* 11:31 am – 5 minute break called
      2. \*\*\*\*\* 11:41 am – Meeting resumed
  - XIII. Trail Ride Committee Report
    - A. DNRE is opening up a Citizen Advisory Council. We need volunteers to apply and attend.
    - B. See Attached Report for more details
  - XIV. Tread lightly!
  - XV. 4WD Safety Awareness
  - XVI. Land Use – See attached LUC Report
  - XVII. Trail Maintenance
    - A. Doug Saul motioned GLFWDA consider making a payment to the Drummond Island Offroad Club for signage education and pending costs of the sign.
      1. Gary Greenway Second
      2. Motion Passed
    - B. Niagara Escarpment Trail
      1. Doug Sal Motioned that GLFWDA support, if written statement from the DNRE stating the current ORV Route would not be modified in negative way future user conflicts
      2. Second by Gary Greenway
      3. Motion Passed
  - XVIII. Elections
    - A. President
      1. Pat Bower nominated Bob DeVore for President, no others nominated.
        - a) Seconded by Gary Greenway
        - b) Bob accepted Nomination
      2. Bob DeVore elected President
    - B. Treasurer
      1. Pat Bower Nominated Dave Smith for Treasurer
        - a) Seconded by Gary Greenway
        - b) Dave Accepted the Nomination
        - c) No other Nominations
        - d) Dave Smith elected Treasurer
  - XIX. Old Business
    - A. Dates for Quarterly Membership Meetings
      1. April 18, 2010 Mears, MI
      2. June 13, 2010 Drummond Island, MI
      3. October 10, 2010 Pellston, MI
  - XX. New Business
    - A. Awards
      1. Submission sheets are available, Please nominate some one
    - B. Membership Dues
      1. Tabled to next meeting
    - C. Land Use Committee Budget
      1. There are a number of future planned meetings and the committee is much more active than in the past
        - a) Examples: MSTAC, Road Commission, Baldwin Rager District, and the Cross UP ORV Trail / Route
      2. Motion to increase the LUS budget by \$1500 and include food during travel as a reasonable expenditure
        - a) Seconded by Dan

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A rock crawl challenge area was originally proposed for the St Helen Motorsport Area and was included in the Master Plan for the state-owned scramble area sometime around 2003-2004. Unfortunately, at the time funding for the project was not a priority for the Department of Natural Resources (since renamed to Department of Natural Resources and Environment) and the ORV Trail Program until recently. Over the last few years a similar project was started at The Mounds ORV Park in Mt. Morris MI, partially funded with a grant from the ORV program. Representatives from the Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association (GLFWDA) provided photographs, design criteria and related information to Genesee County during the planning stages for the rock crawl area at The Mounds, but after the completion of the first two phases of construction at The Mounds (a third phase is in the planning stages), feedback from many of the visitors to The Mounds has been luke-warm at best.

In Fall 2009, GLFWDA was informed that a DNRE staff member had completed a grant proposal for the completion of the rock challenge area at the St Helen Motorsport, and the grant had been approved. The Association again provided a packet of information for consideration, along with a list of suggested changes based on the rock crawl area already completed at The Mounds. Early in 2010 we received a draft of the design proposal prepared by Rowe Engineering for the DNRE, and we were again invited to provide comments on the engineering plan and materials list. A key element in the planning for the St Helen

challenge area was the first-hand experience of the team involved in the planning. Paige Perry, the Trails Analyst from the DNRE who prepared the original grant proposal, along with Engineer Doug Schultz from Rowe Engineering who was responsible for the technical design specifications, traveled to The Mounds for a first-hand inspection of the first two phases of construction. This made the exchange of information much simpler, since everyone involved shared a common



Starting up one of the hills at the Rock Challenge Area in St. Helen

frame of reference. The final design for the rock crawl area was submitted, but unfortunately the weather, contract negotiations, and



Stock vehicles will have a better experience on the “bunny hill” thanks to changes suggested by GLFWDA members invited to test the course.

several other factors delayed the start of construction until late summer 2010.

This project marked a new milestone in our working relationship with the DNRE - not only were we allowed to offer substantive changes to the design specifications, we also were invited to provide a “technical expert” who made a number of on-site visits to meet with the design engineers, contractors and DNRE representatives. This unique opportunity led to a discussion about ways to improve the overall plan through the addition of several additional truckloads of rocks (St Helen MSA is located in the middle of an extremely sandy area - all the project materials were shipped in from other parts of the state), but the ORV grant money had already been allocated. Through an Internet-based fundraising effort, GLFWDA was able to raise an additional \$6,000 from individuals, off road businesses across the state, and from the local business community in the St Helen/West Branch area that will benefit from additional tourism dollars spent in the area. The complete list of business donors can be found at [greatlakes4x4.com](http://greatlakes4x4.com).

Although the donated funds represented only a small portion of the overall project budget, we were able to maximize the impact of our donation by working with the engineers and construction crew to place them where they would offer the most benefit to the overall project. As a further benefit, several 4x4 users were invited to a “sneak peak” at the six courses while the construction crew and their heavy equipment were still on hand to make minor changes. Those last minute changes are evident when you visit the site – the easiest of the six courses was extended several feet and a large boulder was relocated to make the course more accessible to less capable 4x4 vehicles (and less experienced drivers), while the most challenging of the six courses (constructed with 36-72" cement drain pipes) received a number of fill rocks placed along the side for safety and in between the tubes to provide additional traction. The remaining four courses include a number of significant obstacles that will require drivers to bring a fair amount of offroad driving experience and a modified vehicle to successfully negotiate.

Special Thanks to Paige Perry, our DNRE Trails Program Analyst for the Eastern Lower Peninsula, Pat Kinne from GLFWDA for serving as our technical expert, the GLFWDA Trail Ride Committee, Doug Schultz from Rowe Engineering, the construction crew from Pete’s Contracting, and the more than 100 individual and businesses who donated private funds to enhance this project.

The site opened to users on October 31, 2010 – a formal ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for Spring 2011.

information only demonstrates that the DNRE is attempting to lessen the dangers by ensuring that students are taught proper procedures BEFORE attempting an extraction with either device.

DNRE is also forming a new ORV Safety Education Advisory Committee to provide input on all aspects of the Department's ORV Safety Education Program. GLFWDA has also secured a position on this committee. The seven member Committee's (5 Instructors and 2 DNRE Staff) first meeting is January 13, 2011.

### Stump Hill Closure

The LUC has formed a Sub-Committee to investigate the feasibility of getting Stump Hill re-opened as part of an ORV Route. The former Eastern U.P. District Manger has expressed a willingness to join the Committee as a Consultant if GLFWDA desires his assistance with the issue.

### MiTrale/Trans UP ORV Trail/Route

GLFWDA was invited to participate and Pat Brower attended a combined meeting of MiTrale, SORVA and DNRE to discuss progress of the Trans U.P. trail/route. This project has been in the works for several years now, and most of this project will be ORV Route available for 4x4 use. Progress is being made, but there are still several hurdles to overcome. Lack of public ownership in several places is a big one. The NFS is another. This is primarily old RR Grades, but at least it establishes motorized travel corridors in many new areas that can be added to later if we wish. Maps are available if anyone would like copies of them. This meeting established a favorable relationship between MiTRALE and GLFWDA.

### Legislation

GLFWDA will be bringing the failed Bills from last session to Senator Hansen for review. We will work with him to rework the Bills so that they can be introduced in a manner that will yield a more positive outcome. We are currently waiting for a return call from his scheduler as to a meeting date.

Following is a brief recap of the 'highlights' of those bills:

- ORV License fee increase to \$30.50
- Permit trigger number be increased from 20 people to 75 VEHICLES
- Increased liability protection for maintenance workers
- Define "Other Road" as used in the definition of ORV Route per the Attorney General's Opinion we received during the Drummond designation process
- Add clarification to when the definition of Forest Road is to be applied

### Senatorial Route Ride

The GLFWDA LUC will be putting together a Route Ride on Drummond Island for a group of State Senators for 2011. Senator Hansen will assist with the invitation list. We will be looking for vehicles to chauffer the Senators around the Island when the time comes. We are looking at August, but the date will depend on when activity levels are low in Lansing.

### Drummond Island

GLFWDA LUC Members met with Drummond Island Off Road Club representatives in August to review a few improvements to the system that were approved during the original designation process but hadn't been implemented to date. The trip went very well, and some small enhancements were made to the trail system. During the inspection ride it was noted that, for the most part, compliance to the trails has been excellent. There were two areas where there was evidence of illegal ORV operation, and that information was passed along to the DNRE.

A new project has been introduced on Drummond. The "Niagara Escarpment Hiking Trail" would run the length of the Marble Head cliff. GLFWDA attended a meeting to ensure motorized recreation would not be adversely affected by its implementation or future user conflicts and we have been assured that the Route has precedence as it was in place first.

### DOA (Drummond Off-road Adventure) Event, August 27-28, 2001

Mud, Sweat & Gears hosted their annual DOA event up on Drummond Island in 2010. Significant to GLFWDA at this event was the attendance of all three of the DNRE Trail Techs. The Trail Techs spent both days on the trails with GLFWDA officers and committee members. It is the desire of GLFWDA that additional ORV Route systems may be established in the Lower Peninsula as a result of their visit. The primary outcome of their attendance was a new level of understanding of the issues facing ORV users and DNRE staff. The interaction among the Trail Techs and all of the participants was outstanding. It was good to bring them to a well organized event and let them see how we really use the route system!

### Citizen's Advisory Councils (CACs)

The subject of events on State Land has come up for comment during the DNR's Eastern Upper Peninsula's Citizen's Advisory Council where Steve Walker was in attendance on behalf of GLFWDA. There is a proposal to increase the number of event participants up to 75. While from our perspective it seems like a good idea, there is opposition to doing so from other groups.

Bob DeVore and Pat Brower applied for positions on the Lower Peninsula CACs. Neither was accepted for positions at this time. The LUC will continue to monitor the LP CACs and determine who (if anyone) on the CAC's will defend the rustic roads on our State lands. GLFWDA will re-apply when the time comes.

### County Issues:

#### Oceana County Roads Project

Oceana CRC dropped over 80 miles from their Act 51 map back in 2006. The LUC is attempting to have these put back on the map. The OCRC supports the concept, but is will not until local support can be demonstrated. This will be accomplished by obtaining a Resolution of Support from each of the 16 Townships in Oceana County. The OCRC Managing Director has expressed strong support for the measure. The Commission would like to see all formerly Act 51 Certified roads in the County re-adopted. This includes roughly 133 road segments in virtually all Townships.

## Land Use Report (Continued)

### 56th St Abandonment

GLFWDA intervened to on behalf of land owners who were considering petitioning the Oceana County Road Commission (OCRC) for Abandonment of 56th St Seasonal Road because of erosion and 4x4 damage to the hillside.

The section of road was inspected with the landowners and a plan was developed to repair the damage and put the road back on its original line. After inspection, the OCRC was contacted for approval of the plan and accepted the proposed correction. Work is to be performed in the spring of 2011.

### Local Issues:

#### Sullivan Twp Property Scramble Area Project

New GLFWDA LUC members Michelle Borgeson, Terry Carlson, Roger Maynard, Linda Molenkamp and Scott Waldron have taken up a project to attempt to get the Sullivan Township property re-opened to ORVs as a scramble area.

### Misc Issues

#### UFWDA LUC Committee

UFWDA is establishing a LUC that mirrors successful LUCs in member organizations, and also hopes to synergize with those local LUCs. The new LUC has the stated goals:

- Open the lines of communication between local club's Land Use Committees.
- To communicate with the Director of Environmental Affairs who will in turn communicate with Carla so that she can be kept informed of the issues throughout the different areas and regions.
- To open up the lines of communication and create a round table discussion on new ways to be more effective in our efforts.
- Communicate mostly by email with conference calls three or four times a year so as not to take anyone away from their efforts for your State or Regional association.

## Spring 2010 Minutes (Continued)

1. October 3<sup>rd</sup>?

#### B. BFG Outstanding Trails Award

1. Drummond Island has been selected as part of the 2010 Outstanding Trails program by BF Goodrich Tires

#### C. Fall Elections

1. President  
a) Bob DeVore does not intend to run  
b) Treasurer

#### D. Website

#### E. Awards

1. Al Ransom / Putt Caverly – Pat Bower  
2. Associate Member of the Year – Jeeperz-Creeperz  
3. Club of the Year – Mud, Sweat, and Gears

#### F. UFWDA General Meeting

1. June 15/16 in Traverse City  
2. Trail Ride (Pre=Drummond / Post=Canada)  
3. Delegate  
a) Doug Saul

#### G. Website

1. Looking for ways to have automatic letters drafted to state representatives  
a) Example would be that a person would just need to enter a zip code and the letter would automatically address it to that areas representative. It would include a way for one to add personal commented  
b) Bob DeVore: GLFWDA is looking for someone that can help find / develop the software  
c) Ed Schroeder mentioned that the letters should also include a bullet list of the Associations position

#### XX. Club Reports

##### A. Two Trackers

1. Thanks to all the volunteers for helping with the trail clean up

2. Thanks to GLFWDA for the help with the trail clean up  
3. This year was the most garbage picked up with decreased participation compared to the last few years.
- ##### B. What Lies Beyond
1. May 8  
a) International go topless day  
b) Will be in Davison, MI at Bubbles Garage
- ##### C. Sundowners

1. Rodeo, Big B and Big S next weekend

#### XXI. Associate Members Reports

##### A. Michigan Wheelers

1. Drummond Island Invasion last weekend was the largest so far  
2. Gitchigumee is in the works

#### XXII. Upcoming Dates of Importance

##### A. 2010 Quarterly Membership Meeting Dates and Locations

1. June 13<sup>th</sup> Drummond Island

a) Drummond Island Resort

##### B. Additional Dates of Importance

1. Trail Ride June 12<sup>th</sup> Drummond Island  
a) Pat Bower will lead the state trails  
b) Tim Strader will lead Turtle Ridge  
2. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Jeep Blessing May 1<sup>st</sup> Mesick

#### XXIII. Members Discussion

#### XXIV. Adjournment

A. Motion for adjournment was made, seconded and approved  
B. Meeting Adjourned at 12:58

## Fall 2010 Minutes (Continued)

b) Motion Passed

#### D. UFWDA – Doug Saul

1. Doug is to share a to do list that UFWDA is working on  
2. Carla is back on Retainer for UFWDA  
3. At this point UFWDA is more fiscally responsible than the past few years. They are working hard on improving communication.

#### E. Peat Sorb – Jim Mazolla

1. \$15 per can  
2. It is all natural system that absorbs oil and other contaminates and naturally breaks them down. You can sprinkle on the spill and walk away. It was also being used in the Gulf oil spill.

#### XXI. Club Reports

##### A. Trolls

1. Thanks to everyone that came to the Fall Color Tour again this year  
2. Trail cleanup efforts are starting to pay off by building more relationships with local businesses and government

##### B. Mud, Sweat, Gears

1. Already working on Drummond Offroad Adventure for 2011, but the small size of the club is making planning difficult

##### C. Michigan Wheelers

1. Drummond Island Invasion again planned for the spring  
2. Looking at Gitchie-Gumie in the Spring or Fall  
3. Rebuilt a small chapel on the island that was burned down. Pictures were passed around

#### XXII. Associate Members Reports

#### XXIII. Upcoming Dates of Importance

##### A. 2010 Quarterly Membership Meeting Dates and Locations

1. January 30, 2011 – West Branch, MI

##### B. Events

1. SNO-FARI – January 28-30 West Branch  
2. 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Two Tracker Trail Clean-up April 16<sup>th</sup>, Twin Lakes  
3. 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Jeep Blessing April 30<sup>th</sup> Mesick

#### XXIV. Members Discussion

A. Thanks to Pam and Ray for the use of the Dam Site Inn  
Adjournment

#### XXV.

A. Motion for adjournment was made, seconded and approved





## *Why become a member?*

In unity there is strength. Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association is dedicated to upholding the rights of citizens, and the continued use of public lands. Public lands belong to its citizens to RESPECT, to PROTECT, and to ENJOY. If you support these principles, your membership will add your voice to the millions of other recreationists who are striving to protect their rights and freedoms. GLFWDA believes, with firm conviction, in this right and this trust. GLFWDA believes that citizens have the right of access and to enjoy these public lands, by vehicle, as well as by other means. GLFWDA recognizes that citizens who use these lands, in return, have an obligation to uphold the trust – to respect the land, and so conduct their activities that the public interests are protected. We invite the cooperation of all in upholding the right of citizens to continued use of the public lands they jointly own.

We urge individual four-wheel enthusiasts to become members of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs, or to form new clubs, and to affiliate with the Association. We invite the support and participation of related businesses as Supporting Associate Members of GLFWDA.

### **GREAT LAKES FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATION Individual Membership Application**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

4WD Vehicle: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests: Sand Drags \_\_\_\_\_ Mud Bogs \_\_\_\_\_ Trail Riding \_\_\_\_\_ Rock Crawling \_\_\_\_\_ Camping \_\_\_\_\_

Other 4WD Affiliations: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your completed application with your check for the \$40 yearly individual dues made payable to "Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association" to:

Pam East  
2580 Liegl Drive  
Alanson, MI 49706  
membershipsecretary@glfwda.org

Membership entitles you to receive the "Boondocker" newsletter - please include your mailing address.

**DON'T FORGET to Check Out the Great Lakes Store at:** <http://www.glfwda.org/store/> and the order form in this issue!

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

2010 Year-in-Review

Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Assoc.  
c/o Paul Hittie  
2444 E. Hill Rd.  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439



**DATED MATERIAL DO NOT DELAY**

