



# The Boondocker

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**Inside**  
Capital Crawling  
Combining GPS Data  
Camp Jeep 2007  
Annual United Report  
New Member Application  
Form

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fall 2007



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## 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.

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**Front Cover:** Doug Saul

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*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

Please note that any submission for the next Boondocker should be made before **November 10, 2007** and be sent preferably via email to the Editor at [editor@glfwda.org](mailto:editor@glfwda.org)

You can send anything you feel is relevant. Pictures, articles, event dates, or even an entire article with pictures! Before you unpack from a trip, write up a story and send it in!

# Capital Crawling

By Ari B. Adler (Zookeeper)

I recently wrote a blog for work that got a lot of great reviews for what it said and how I said it. I thought we should reproduce it in the Boondocker, because whether it's because of political differences or a different style of four-wheeling, we could all learn to take a step back and realize that...

What you see depends on where you're standing.

I heard a newspaper editor say that and it's always stuck with me. I got to thinking about that phrase recently and how it compares to the age-old phrase about first impressions being the most important. Sure, what you immediately learn about a person from a first meeting can set the tone, but it shouldn't elevate the person nor doom them in your eyes. Perception is a powerful thing that can overtake reality and make us jump to conclusions before we know all the facts.

That is happening in politics a lot lately, where a person running for office can't change their position on an issue from what it was decades earlier. Let's face it — as life unfolds perceptions and opinions change, which changes where you're standing.

It's no secret that I used to work for the Michigan senate majority leader. Because I worked for the highest-ranking Republican in the state at the time, people believe they know what I think and feel about issues, and that it's probably well to the right of them on the political spectrum.

They'd be surprised to find that I often don't agree with many things the Republicans do. I also don't always agree or disagree with the Democrats, the Libertarians, the Green Party, etc. That's not just because of philosophies though. To quote another journalist I know, "I'm not anti-Democrat or anti-Republican, I'm anti-stupid."

As I've pondered this issue, I started thinking about all the people I've met over the years and what they think they know about me. I realize now that there are a lot of people who know just a little about me and are forming their opinions based on those snippets of fact.

Let's see the mistakes such assumptions can lead to:

I was the press secretary for a Republican leader, therefore I must be a conservative.

I have a beard and wear tie-dyed t-shirts, therefore I must be a liberal.

I teach journalism classes, therefore I must be committed to the truth.

I work in public relations, therefore I must be willing to lie.

I call my kids at bedtime whenever I'm not with them, therefore I must be a devoted father.

I'm divorced and pay child support, therefore I must be a deadbeat dad.

I drive a Jeep Wrangler and go off-roading, therefore I must not care about the environment.

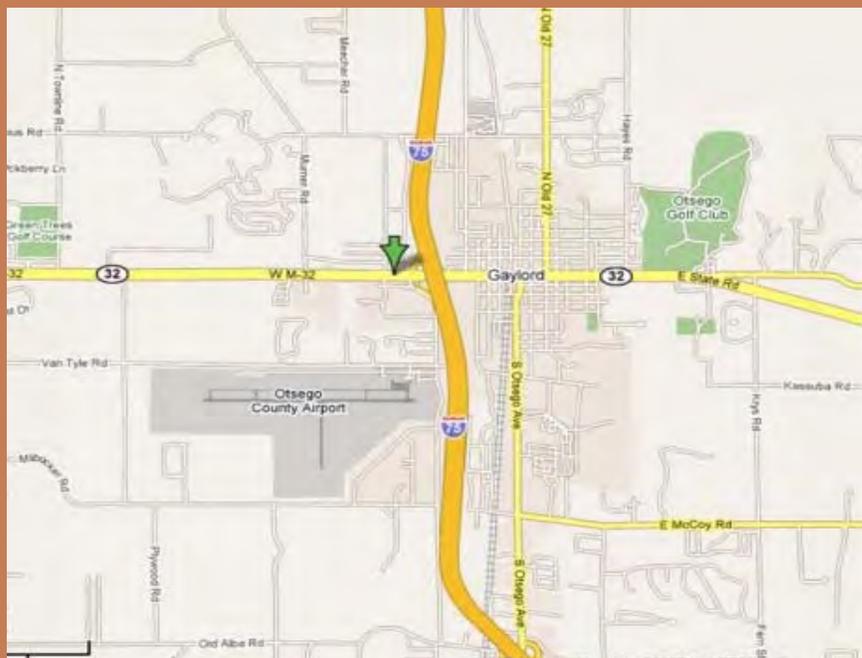
I like to support environmental causes, therefore I must be a tree-hugger.

As you can see, knowing a few facts doesn't make you an expert on anyone. Some of you have just learned things about me you didn't know. That's great, but I hope you try to learn even more about me. Why? Because from where you're standing, you don't know Ari.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## October 7, 2007 Quarterly Meeting Location



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)

Sept 21, 2007

4xHunt: UP Waterfalls  
Van Riper State Park  
info: [lgottler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lgottler@sbcglobal.net)

Oct 6, 2007

Troll's Fall Color Tour  
10am Indian River

Oct 7, 2007

GLFWDA Quarterly Meeting  
Holiday Inn Express Gaylord  
1201 W Main St  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
9am Committees  
10am General Membership

September  
October  
November  
December  
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# CAMP JEEP 2007



By Jessi Wortley  
(MiniJ)



Thirteen hours, four gas stops, two construction zones and one rainstorm later, Ari Adler (Zookeeper) and I arrived in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia at 9:30 p.m. on July 24 to begin a week of being trail guides at Camp Jeep 2007. Our adventure began the next morning when we showed up at Oak Ridge Estate at 10 a.m. for our pre-run and guiding instructions – only to be met by rain, rain and more rain throughout the day. While it wasn't the best way to start the week (let's just say rain and red clay is not a good combination), by the end, we were wishing we'd bottled some of it up, as it was hot, dusty and humid the rest of the trip.

If you've never been to Camp Jeep (and for you non-Jeep owners, you're missing out!), it's quite an experience. This year was even more spectacular as they had record attendance of nearly 11,000 participants in approximately 3,000 Jeeps. It's a sight to see all those Jeeps lined up in the parking lot – Jeeps from the earliest Willys models to the new JKs; Jeeps that are lifted, moderately modified or driven straight off the lot on the way to camp; Jeeps with bumper stickers galore, personalized plates or band aids covering boo-boos from previous adventures. It's a great place to get inspiration and ideas!

Our job for the week was to guide those thousands of people on trails ranging from beginner to advanced. By the end of the week, we'd taken more than 12,500 people on trails, which included many of them going two or three times.

While many participants at Camp Jeep are seasoned off-roaders and previous participants, even more are first time Jeep owners who have never even put their vehicle in four-wheel drive. We had the thrill of teaching many new drivers how to put their vehicle in 4-Lo, and watching their eyes light up each time they completed an obstacle. It was a great feeling to spot





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and cheer them on as they went down a steep hill, over a log or through off-camber situations for the first time and learn what their Jeep, and they, are capable of.

For most of the week we were on duty guiding trail rides, but we did have an opportunity to have some fun of our own. Some brave soul let me drive his right-hand-drive TJ around the grocery store parking lot – not something you do every day! We attended two concerts at Camp Jeep: Tim McGraw (whose tour happens to be sponsored by Jeep) and the B-52s. We did some Geocaching – and while two bear cubs playing in the woods may



look like a Kodak moment, it's not. Leave quickly and quietly before momma shows up! And we picked up a bunch of free goodies from the various vendors at Camp Jeep – key chains, magnets, pens, fleece blankets, tote bags and various other useless knick-knacks that I'm sure will lie around till next year.

Despite the 90 degree temps and 98-percent humidity we dealt with each day, it was a great trip – Ari even won a Warn Winch Accessory bag as one of the giveaway prizes

for the guides. I was hoping we'd win one of the winches themselves as I don't have one, but no such luck. However, one did go to SOFO's own Kirk Mattson, so Michigan was well-represented.

The trip home was uneventful, but long and tiring as most return trips usually are. After arriving home past midnight on Monday (after another 13 hour drive), we decided that our jobs didn't need us first thing in the morning, and the Jeep could wait to be unpacked till a later day. It wasn't until a few days later we realized it was leaking oil and had to head to the shop for repairs – oh well, that's part of being a Jeoper. Can't wait till next year!



# It's All About You...

Bob DeVore  
Membership Secretary

I have tried to write this article several times and failed. I know the message I want to get across, but I can never find the words to truly express what it is I am trying to say. As I walked into yet another Townhall Meeting I couldn't help but wonder what more I could do to help people understand the importance of attending these meetings or more importantly to our sport, the City, Village, Townhall Meetings or whatever else when ORV usage was to be discussed.

As I travel from here to there I see many of the same faces trying to represent their vehicles of choice in the quest for access. I recently read a newsletter version of the Boondocker that was first published in 1978. The issues discussed then, are the same issues we discuss today. So, in writing this article I have decided to plagiarize or at least reprint several excerpts from 29 years ago (*my additions are in italics*):

We are in need of a Public Relations Chairman for PR work. Something that should be given some serious thought in the immediate future is the hiring of a Public Relations firm to build up our public image, inform other groups of the population, such as hikers, hunters, fishermen, and campers, who use the public lands, of the danger to their activities brought about by restrictive land use legislation and federal regulation, and otherwise present our side of the regulation issue to the general public. This will likely be expensive. But, unless we begin undertaking programs such as this, and become more aggressive in taking our cause before the public and generating more support among our elected officials, we can expect our sport to disappear in the years to come. *Does any of this sound familiar?*

Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive ORV Statistics Forms: The GLFWDA needs to obtain statistics on ORV users in rebutting opposing viewpoints of other user groups and to influence Forest Service decisions and proposals. *Sounds like our Tailgate Report?*

Your Association officers are reimbursed for normal and reasonable expenses incurred in taking care of the business of the Association. This normally means telephone calls and mileage at \$.07 per mile. *Your current Association officers pay these normal and reasonable expenses incurred in taking care of the business of the Association out of their own personal pockets.* There are no individuals who personally and alone benefit from this Association. All of the efforts put forth are there for the benefit of all Members.

Folks who are elected to fill the offices of the Association are from out on the floor right where all of you sit and are plain everyday people trying to make a living just like you and trying to make this a better "Four Wheelin' World". They knew there were no paychecks, no gratuities, only hard work - - where's the glory? How many nominations did we have for the recent election of officers? Do you remember? *The Trail Ride Committee Chairman's position has been vacant for over a year. We currently need someone to step up at the October Quarterly for the position of Vice President.* All of



you, YOU are the Great Lakes Association, not big brother or big business or some unknown figurehead on a mountain making a million dollars out of your pockets. Great Lakes Association is all of YOU working together...*like the Members that helped the Two-Trackers with their Clean-Up; like the Members that helped with the M Triangle Project; like the Members that attend the Quarterly Meetings; like the Members that have volunteered for the various committees of our Association and so much more.*

You are all the Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association, and you should all know and believe in “United We Stand”, (and do our four wheeling where we have a right to be) “Divided We Fall” ( and drive our four wheelers to roller rinks, square dances and bowling and movies for our outings.)

I hope you enjoyed or at least read this blast from the past all the way through. Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association has been around since 1969 and as the paragraphs above illustrates, is fighting the same fight that brought it into existence. On behalf of the executive board and myself personally, I would like to Thank each and Everyone of You for your Membership and for doing and helping out when you can. We do it for you and can not do it without YOU.



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# Combining GPS Data

Bruce Rettig  
*GreyBeard*

## MapSource tips and tricks

### Background

If you have been reading the recent issues of the Boondocker or keeping up with the forums at WWW.GLFWDA.ORG, you know that Pat Brower has been heading up the collection of GPS data to map the trails in the M-Triangle. Multiple people in their four wheel drive vehicles have been gathering the data. Different GPS units and different software were used by the various parties to collect the data. There are GPS tracks, GPS waypoints, notes on the trails and waypoints, and digital images taken of the trails and waypoints. This poses a challenge when trying to put it all together.

### GPS Data

The first thing is capturing the GPS data. Pat Brower can provide you with a copy of the NOHVCC Instructional GPS Trail Mapping DVD or you can get a free one mailed to you from the NOHVCC by emailing a request to trailhead@nohvcc.org. The DVD explains how to set up your GPS to capture the logs that are needed.

Some of us actually capture the data to a laptop computer while the GPS is evaluating the coordinates along the trail. However, most people capture the info to the memory of their GPS unit. The obvious next step is retrieving the info from the GPS and creating a computer file so that the information can be passed on. For example, Joe Jeep had access to a GPS unit and a computer. He ran some of the trails with the GPS faithfully storing the information. Now came the problem of extracting the data. It turns out that there are several computer programs available without charge that will let you get the data from most popular GPS units. As long as you have the appropriate data cable, you can use EasyGPS, G7ToWin, or GPSTabel to get the data from the GPS unit to the computer. All three of them support writing the data as a "GPX" format file. GPX files have a file extension of GPX and are an XML format that was developed for exchanging GPS data between different computers and software programs. Almost all GPS

mapping software presently available can read and write GPX format files, so this makes it an ideal way to transfer the information.

If you need a way to get the data out of your GPS, EasyGPS is my recommendation. It is available from <http://www.easygps.com>

EasyGPS was written by TopoGrafix. TopoGrafix makes EasyGPS, ExpertGPS, and GeoBuddy. By giving you EasyGPS, they hope to eventually sell you one of their other products.

### Combining

Since so many programs support GPX, the question is how to best combine multiple GPX files into one comprehensive set of data. I will tell you that I tried a number of different things, and there are two primary issues to be aware of.

#### *One - Actually combining*

Many of the programs will let you open another data file after you already have one open and on the screen. What they don't tell you is that it closes the data you are already looking at and opens the new data instead. It doesn't really combine them. (There is one program, G7ToWin, that will combine them just fine, but that does not end the problems)

#### *Two - Name conflicts.*

The second problem is name conflicts. It is not unusual for the files from multiple people to all contain the files ACTIVE LOG, ACTIVE LOG 001, ACTIVE LOG 002, etc. I wanted to load the information from multiple people into MapSource in order to view and manipulate the information. MapSource does not support duplicate names. If you have a track called ACTIVE LOG and paste in a second track called ACTIVE LOG, MapSource asks if you want to replace the existing log with the new one. Choices are YES and NO. There are no other options or choices. The way around this is to rename the track logs before bringing them together. You will need to do the same thing with waypoints, too.

### MapSource capabilities

MapSource by Garmin has come a long way since I acquired mine. I have MapSource United States Roads & Recreation and also MapSource United States TOPO. Both are on CD Rom and were version 3.00 from around the year 2000. I upgraded the actual MapSource program to version 6.12.4 with a free download from Garmin's web site, and was amazed at how nice it is to edit track logs. It

also handles GPX files smoothly now in addition to Garmin's own GDB file format.

### Running from the hard disk

One of the things I detested about MapSource was the need to always have the CD platters available. The first time I put the CD in, the autorun would take off and install the product. Nothing unusual there. When I put the second version of MapSource in, it recognized the existing one and just added a little bit of stuff to my computer.

Now when I ran MapSource, I could choose to switch products between Roads&Rec and TOPO. That is the nice part. The not nice part is that each time I did so, it would tell me to put the proper disc in the CD drive. Every time I ran MapSource I had to put in a CD. Each time I swapped products, I had to swap discs.

It turns out there is an easy solution to this. Pat Brower told me about it, and it works like a charm. You create a folder on your hard drive (I called mine MapSource) and copy the full content of the MapSource product into that folder. Then you run the "Setup.EXE" program from the folder. Works great! Now when I run MapSource, it never asks me to put in a CD disc.

You can extend this "trick" a little bit. I managed to get both my MapSource products installed and working directly from my hard disk. After the one is installed and working, just copy the full set of content for the second product into the same folder. There are some common files, and the system asks if I want to replace the existing file with the new file. Just answer "yes to all". After the files are copied, run Setup.EXE again.

Of course I had to fully uninstall MapSource before doing any of this. Now I have the full content of 4 CD's (3 from TOPO and 1 from Roads&Rec) on my hard drive. It loads fast, I can swap products, and it never asks for the CD data platters to be put in the CD Rom drive. *(Editor Note: I'm buying your meals the next time we eat in the same place. Four years dealing with CD swapping and I never looked into an easier way!)*

### Updating the software

After getting that working, I went out to Garmin's web site to get any updates. There is one download to upgrade the software to version 6.12.4 and a second download to apply a patch to the TOPO base map.

### Merging data with MapSource

Pat clued me in to another trick. As I mentioned, if I open one file with MapSource and then open a second file of data, it actually closes the first one and opens the second.

How can you combine data? It turns out to be amazingly simple. Just open up a second instance of MapSource and then cut and paste. Yes, after starting MapSource, you can start MapSource a second time and even a third. If the first instance of MapSource has Bruce's data in it, I can open Pat's data in the second one. To combine items, I go to MapSource(Pat), select the items I want, and do a COPY. Then I step over to MapSource(Bruce) and do a PASTE. Now MapSource(Bruce) include both Bruce and Pat data. Save the result and you now have a combined data file.

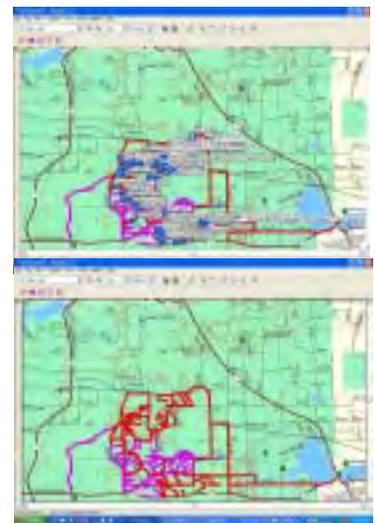
### Edit

MapSource now has a tool bar for track editing. This provides a track draw tool (the pencil), a track erase tool (the eraser), a track point select tool (with the select arrow), a track join tool (with the plus sign), and a track divide tool (with the scissors). They work very nicely when paired with the track properties edit capability. With the properties edit, you can: change the name or the color of the track. invert (reverse) the track, and you can filter the track to cut down the number of points.



### Display w/o waypoints

When you display the captured data, you get to see all the tracks and all the waypoints. In our situation, there are a lot of waypoints in a fairly limited geographical area. This can be very difficult to look at. In order to make the waypoints disappear from view, just go to the Waypoints tab and change the categories to display. The default is all categories. All the waypoints come in with NO category to start with. Just select Category 1, and all the waypoints disappear and leave you looking at the full population of tracks.



### TOPO vs Roads&Rec

MapSource Roads & Rec provides a different view from TOPO. Roads & Rec is a vanilla colored map with road and points of interest identified. TOPO gives you a green map because this is a park area, provides elevation gradients, and shows some different points of interest. As

# 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**  
 Member since 2007  
 Website: <http://www.whatliesbeyond.org>



For contact information changes,  
 please email the Editor at:  
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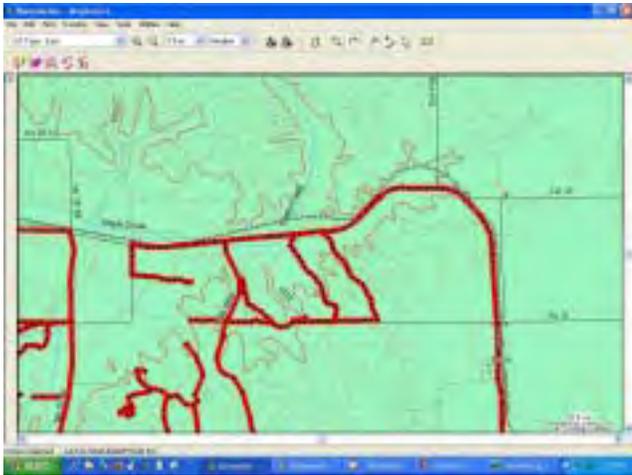
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you zoom in closer, the differences become more apparent. The Roads & Rec shows roads (mostly named) and streams, and of course any tracks that we have added. TOPO shows a lot of elevation information and has fewer



road names. DeLorme's Topo USA shows what I think is a much nicer map, but does not have the tools to edit the captured tracks or the flexibility of track display colors that MapSource provides.



### Renaming

I mentioned the need to rename tracks and waypoints before trying to combine data from different sources. In MapSource you can edit the name of every waypoint and every track. It turns out that there is a much more efficient way to do this.

Keep the data files separate.

Get them in XML format

Edit with WordPad and use the Edit/Replace function.

Every track will start with a section that looks like:

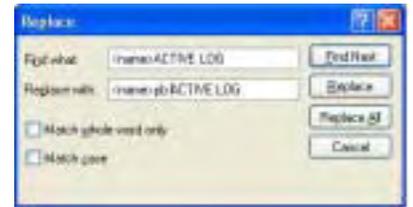
```
<trk>
```

```
<name>ACTIVE LOG</name>
```

Just use the Edit / Replace feature in WordPad to change the track name to identify who recorded the track. Since this was a Pat Brower track, I could rename it like so:

Push the Replace All

button, and it changes the name of every track in the file, no matter how many there are. Now you can save that GPX file, open it into a fresh instance of MapSource, click on the



Tracks tab, hit Ctrl-A to select ALL the tracks, hit Ctrl-C to copy them to the clip board, step over to the other instance of MapSource (via Ctrl-Tab), click on the Tracks tab, and paste them all in with Ctrl-V.

If you want to use MapSource to manipulate your GPS data, you can buy a current version from Garmin or from the retailer of your choice. Or you can go to eBay, get an obsolete version like mine, and get the free upgrades from Garmin. (Search for Garmin MapSource - there are quite a few out there) You won't have the latest data, but you will have the latest software and it works great.

- MapSource works great
- Download the free upgrades
- Prevent name conflicts
- Save the file in GPX format
- Use WordPad "replace" to change track and waypoint names
- Open MapSource more than once, and COPY / PASTE between them

# 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  
Baseball Caps \$12

Also available: Sweat-shirts,  
Long Sleeved Shirts, and more!

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 @ [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**  
John Edwards  
33370 Fairway Vista  
Chesterfield, MI 48047  
[store@glfwda.org](mailto:store@glfwda.org)

# Associate Member Directory



## **4WHEELPARTS Cleveland**

10865 Brookpark Rd.  
Parma, OH 44130  
(216)267-6668 (216)267-5737  
www.4wheelpartscleveland.com  
CLE@4wheelparts.com  
Contact: Sean "Chubby" Campbell



## **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



## **Tellico4x4.com**

www.tellico4x4.com  
800-566-3646  
256-757-5885  
sales@tellico4x4.com



## **Ultimate Air**

www.ultimate-air.com  
P.O. Box 0088, Allen Park, MI. 48101  
313-595-5358  
Contact: Brian Wysocki  
sales@ultimate-air.com

# United Annual Meeting Report

Rather than issue a chronological report of events, I find it beneficial to report on related issues. United's Annual General Meeting follows a standard Robert's Rules of Order format covering all of the usual topics of business. Board and Delegate Reports, elections, awards, and site selection for the following year's Meeting are standard to every AGM. Special issues to be addressed and approved this year included newly proposed Bylaws, Business Plan, and Marketing Plan.

The Meeting opens with Officer Reports; Delegate reports are issued near the close of the second day. It is truly impressive to hear of so many dedicated individuals and groups doing such an unbelievable amount of work on behalf of four-wheelers everywhere. All of the Reports, including GLFWDA's, can be found on the United website if you are interested. Even a bullet point list would be far too lengthy to reproduce here.

Election of Officers yielded Gene Ockert as Vice President, Trish Groom as Treasurer, and Todd Ockert as Director of Environmental Affairs. The position of Director of Public Relations remains OPEN. The United BOD is requesting qualified candidates contact them immediately. If you, or someone you know, would like to assist in this position please step forward.

Nashua, New Hampshire was elected as the site of the 2008 United Meeting. I voted for the Columbus Ohio location in an attempt to save the GLFWDA transportation costs by bringing the meeting to the closest proposed location to GLFWDA. Unfortunately, Columbus only received 14 votes, while Nashua received 50.

Several presentations were made during the meeting. Tim Gilman of BF Goodrich, representing the Outstanding Trails program, gave a presentation describing their partnership with United FWDA to pick five trails around the country, annually, for recognition as an Outstanding Trail. Recognition brings financial support to the organizations that assist with the maintenance of the trails. This has allowed some recipients to purchase their own specialized maintenance equipment and make other improvements that may not have been possible otherwise.

Mike Trost introduced a new partnership program between the Colorado Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, State and Federal agencies, and other organizations to create a "Stay the Trail" program. This includes a large travel-trailer filled with trail brochures and information that is brightly painted with the Stay the Trail slogan. The trailer roves the Colorado's ORV areas and attends events to educate enthusiasts. This was brought to the AGM for the Delegates to examine.

Bill Burke was kind enough to entertain the Delegates during the Banquette with a slide show presentation of his experiences during the 1991 Camel Trophy. This event crossed the wilderness of Africa, beginning in Tanzania to end in Burundi. It was interesting to get a first-hand telling of the experience accompanied by his personally shot slide show. He also presented each Delegate with a copy of his DVD "Getting Unstuck" for their organization's Library.

United awards were presented at the Banquette. This year's winners are:

- Best Web Site was won by the Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs of Southern Africa for [www.aawdc.org.za](http://www.aawdc.org.za)
- Environmental Four Wheeler of the Year went to Jerry and Julie Paneck, Predator 4 Wheel Drive, of Colorado.
- Four Wheeler of the Year was bestowed to Tim and Dawn Krueger of the Twin City Bushwackers, Wisconsin.
- Conservation Volunteer of the Year was conferred to Greg Jackson of the Virginia Four Wheel Drive Association.
- Winner of the Best Newsletter of the Year was presented to **Great Lakes 4WD Association for the Boondocker!** **CONGRATULATIONS LUCAS!!** The award is well deserved. The Boondocker offers GLFWDA membership a wide assortment of stories, information, and products in a beautiful format.

These topics are all important and pertinent; however, this meeting was all about reinvigorating United with new Business and Marketing Plans and new Bylaws to support them.

# United Annual Meeting Report cont.

The Delegates Caucus opened Wednesday to an eager group of representatives, ready to do their best to improve United the way their association believed was best. Bill Burke graciously took an entire weekend out of his schedule to assist United in several ways, including service as facilitator of the delegate's Caucus. This was appreciated, as not all organizations agreed with the proposed changes. Through discussions, the array of viewpoints began to coalesce into a narrow band of issues that appeared to be points of concern. These focused around the dues structure and voting rights within the Proposed Bylaws. No single 'answer' presented itself as an acceptable compromise before the close of the Caucus, leaving discussions to continue during the AGM. Lengthy discussions during the AGM, combined with the necessity of conducting other United business while the Meeting was convened, necessitated the formation of a Committee. The Committee was charged with refining the various voting and dues structure concerns into specific proposals for consideration. GLFWDA's views were well represented on this committee with two Wisconsin representatives and Jim Mazzola representing the Ambassador Members. Wisconsin, Indiana, and Great Lakes had discussions preceding the AGM and all had similar viewpoints about voting and dues. I would like to thank Jim, specifically, for his service on the Committee. They undertook no small task. I briefly sat in on their meeting. Jim's knowledge and grasp of Robert's Rules of Order and both the Proposed and Existing United Bylaws was positively invaluable. I have no doubt that his behind-the-scenes assistance resulted in a final proposal that was much more beneficial to GLFWDA, and all member organizations of United. They worked well into the night to be able to present the proposed changes to the Delegates at 7:30 the next morning.

These included some editorial/housekeeping revisions that were found during their intensive review. Language was added to the "Voting" section to allow the BOD to write SOP's that retain some form of a "weighted voting" structure. This would allow additional votes for member organizations that elect to register, collect, and submit dues and rosters to United. This is how GLFWDA has always approached United membership so this would directly benefit our Association.

The Committee also proposed a membership fee of \$20 when collected by an Organization and paid to United within a timely manner. "Timely" will be designated in the SOP's. If the dues are not paid within the specified time, the fee charged will revert to the \$25 per member. Individuals paying their membership fees directly to United will pay the \$25 rate.

The Proposed Bylaws, *as amended*, were passed 106 in favor, 7 opposed. Votes of Confidence taken on the Business Plan and the Marketing Plan, as proposed, passed unanimously.

Additional discussions were held to provide the BOD input on preferences for the "weighted" voting structure and the Organizational fee. The BOD will review these items and report by Sept. 30, 2007, to be effective as of January 1, 2008.

I would like to thank the Association for allowing me to represent them at United's 2007 Annual Meeting. My recent work in the land use arena has allowed me the pleasure of utilizing one of the premier benefits of United membership; access to UFWDA's Attorney, Carla Boucher. Michigan is beginning to see direct benefits stemming from her invaluable assistance. The creation of our first 4x4 Route, through the Huron-Manistee National Forest's M-Triangle Project, would have been impossible without the 2006 Forest Plan including language specifically allowing the creation of such routes. That language was not in the 2006 Plan until we began the appeal process. That Appeal was written by Carla and would not have been possible through any other pro-recreation organization. United is the only organization that promotes access to their attorney as a benefit of membership. The Appeal process is still unfinished and we continue to need Carla's expertise. It was a pleasure to be allowed to cast favorable votes for the improvement of United and help ensure our continued access to all of the benefits that United Membership has to offer.

Respectfully,

Pat Brower

# GLFWDA Quarterly Meeting Minutes, July 2007

- I. Call to Order – 9:40am
- II. Introduction of Executive Board –
- III. Approval of Minutes – Motion approved
- IV. President's Report – Welcome, great to see some new faces in the crowd. We have upgraded to a more robust forum software. DOA will not happen this year, this is not related to the Jeep Jamboree issue. Pat Brower has been very busy with Land Use activities. The creation of a P.R. committee will be a nice addition to GLFWDA. It will allow us to spread the effort across multiple people instead of just one. Please keep an eye out for "undesirable" land that may be utilized for wheeling. There is a vast amount of land parcels in Michigan that hold potential for us & the only way we can investigate them & see what the possibilities are is to know about them & build a database of them. The GLFWDA store clothing has been replenished & we have a fresh batch of the "support the sport" stickers. Please sport your GLFWDA apparel wherever you can. The more it's seen the more people think about the association. The next Quarterly will be the fall one in Gaylord. On the Saturday before the meeting the "Trolls" will be having an informal color tour. Please come out & see the colors while enjoying a leisurely 2-track drive from the Gaylord to Indian River.
- V. Vice President's Report – I will forgo a report under this heading, since all of my discussions will be covered throughout the meeting, primarily during the Land Use discussions.
- VI. Secretary's Report – I'm still alive after the badminton injury. I am enjoying this time and post.
- VII. Treasurer's Report – The Boondocker is about the same budget wise. We have renewed the insurance. We are ahead so far this year, even though we have ordered a lot of clothing to stock the store. We are still waiting for approval on the Spring trail maintenance, which should be approved around the fall.
- VIII. Membership Secretary's Report – Memberships are up and is good to see. We have 207 current memberships and 44 delinquencies.
- IX. Associate Membership Secretary's Report – (not in attendance) – Tellico has renewed. Ann Arbor Drive Shaft is no longer an Associate Member.
- X. Web Site Administrator's Report (not in attendance) – We have made upgrades to the software. There have been a lot of access issues, and these will be ironed as the days go on.
- XI. Boondocker Editor's Report – Last issue is out and in the mail.
- XII. Article Submission Deadline for next issue is August 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - a). I have moved up the submissions to allow for the mailing to be farther away from the Quarterlies. I have been looking at changing mail deliveries.
- XIII. Trail Maintenance – Maybe try and get sign up sheets to get a better determination of participants. The fall cleanups need to be done prior to Labor Day. 750 miles should be added to the system over the next couple of years. A discussion of Trail Maintenance ensued to inform new attendees.
  - a) Atlanta - August 25-26
  - b) St. Helen/Ogemaw – August 25-26
- XIV. Land Use Report -
  - a. M-37 Project – Scoping Comments yielded several positive procedural changes and 2.4 miles of additional two-track trail that the NFS is willing to leave open. That's 2.4 miles of trail that **will be saved** because of our comments. There is another comment period for this project. We will use it to try to save some additional trail segments that are important for continuity of the rustic system without forcing utilization of the maintained road system to traverse the project area.
  - b. M-Triangle – (M-37, M-115, and M-55) This project is to designate the first 4x4 route in Michigan. This is not the same as an ORV route. This is a route specifically designated for street-licensed, four-wheel drive vehicles. Bikes and quads will not be designated for use on this system. To best comment on what we would like to see in the area, we need to know the area. We are attempting to accomplish this by GPSing every trail within the project area and give it a description or picture that can be used to develop the 'best' case scenario for GLFWDA. The amount of GPS as of right is only 20% of the area. The Forester leading the project thinks the mapping of the area is a great idea and will benefit to the NFS. She has granted GLFWDA a project deadline extension to the end of Sept. to complete our mapping. The compilation of data is likely to take several weeks. This moves our effective "completion of mapping target date" to Labor Day weekend.
  - c. DNR Advisory Board Sub Committee – Sub-Committee to determine the long-range spending plan for the ORV program. Paul Hittie has volunteered to sit on this committee.
  - d. KOTARO – Agreement to set GPS to a standardized format. The goal is complete data for submission to the National Forest Service for inclusion in the Motor Vehicle Use Maps

(MVUMs). The Huron MVUM will be published 2008, the Manistee in the spring of 2009. The maps will be reviewed annually and additional GPS routes may be considered for inclusion.

- e. Maxton Plains – We have been working with various outlets in terms of helping repair the damage that was done. We are also working on the prevention of future incidents.

XV. Old Business -

- a. Trail Ride Committee Chairman's Vacancy – We still have a vacancy. This is handled by the TRC.
- b. Reuniting 4WD Clubs under Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association – A couple of clubs have joined. We need to send out letters to some that have been lapsed.

XVI. New Business

- a. Upcoming Elections (Vice-President & Secretary) – Motion carried to have Jay Dolinski elected as Corresponding Secretary. Pat Brower does not wish to continue as VP as he is better suited in the Land Use Committee.
- b. UFWDA Proposed Changes – The voting structure proposal may be the key proposal, as it will affect the GLFWDA. Doug Saul will be attending the United Convention on behalf of the Indiana 4WD Assoc.

- i. Membership Dues Change – There is an anticipation that dues will increase from \$15 to \$25.

- c. GL4X4.com Proposal – The For Sale section will be removed from our site to concentrate more on "Land Issues". GL4X4.com will help direct more users to our website in the hopes of spreading the word & growing the membership.

- d. P.R. Committee – A committee needs to be started to assist with the promotion of PR within and outside of the GLFWDA. Volunteers were Blt4Mud, DeathDealer, RockyTop, and they will discuss in a new link on the Forum page.

- i. Association name change discussed. Name to stay as it is.

- ii. Promotional Material – Can we better utilize what we are currently using?

- 1. Draft Brochure – A new brochure with the proper

Dues will be created after the United Meeting.

- 2. Presentation Video – We should perhaps look into making a video that would serve as a brief explanation of what GLFWDA is about and stands for.

- e. Pig Gig Donation – Jim Kitson will donate an additional shirt.

- f. 4XHunt U.P. Waterfalls – September 21-23 – This will be a "geocaching style event" with the utilization of waterfalls. This is a family event.

XVII. Club Reports

- a. Tri City Trailriders – Not much going on
  - b. SoFO – Trail maintenance was a success. We are planning on SnoFari 2008; it is tentatively scheduled for sometime in March.
  - c. What Lies Beyond – Performed 1<sup>st</sup> wave of trail maintenance went good, and make sure to map all of the trails. 4x4 Off Road show in Burton.
  - d. MSG – not much going on since it is summer, and vehicles are torn apart.

XVIII. Associate Members Reports – None.

- XIX. Members Discussion – The Trail Ride Committee is to have a go to group or person, which had the proper information for acquiring permits for an event. Also, it is used for assembling the necessary information for the DNR, and establishing a guideline for focus (trail ratings, etc).

XX. Fall Quarterly Membership Meeting, October 7, 2007

- a. Committee Meetings 9:00 AM
  - b. General Membership 10:00 AM
  - c. Holiday Inn Express, 1201 W. Main St., Gaylord, Mi (800-345-8082)

XXI. Adjournment – 1:25pm

## WANTED!

GLFWDA is looking for someone who can help us organize and archive Association information via the creation of several databases.

Please contact the executive board if you have skills in this area & would like to help the association out.



## **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 for with your check for the \$35 yearly individual dues made payable to “Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association” to:

Bob DeVore  
8390 Cappy Lane  
Swartz Creek, Michigan 48473  
membershipsecretary@glfwda.org  
scmidad@aol.com

Since membership entitles you to receive the “Boondocker” newsletter, please include your full 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!

Capital Crawling  
Combining GPS Data  
Camp Jeep 2007  
Annual United Report  
New Member Application  
Form



www.glfwda.org

fall 2007

Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Assoc.  
c/o Lucas Gottler  
34448 Jerome  
Chesterfield, MI 48047



**DATED MATERIAL DO NOT DELAY**

