



The Boondocker



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**INSIDE**

- Gitchee Gumee Trail Ride
- Jeep Creep
- Wheelin' for a Cure
- Officer Reports
- More!

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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:  
Fall color on the Gitchee  
Gumee trail ride  
Photo by:  
Sara Rutkofske*

*Back Cover:  
Another shot from  
Gitchee Gumee  
Photo by:  
Sara Rutkofske*

Content for The Boondocker is provided by association members.

We would be glad to receive you articles, pictures, event dates, technical write-ups or tails 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 30, 2013.

### **Advertising Rates**

**Full Page (1 side) – \$105.00 per issue**  
**1/2 page – \$70.00 per issue**  
**1/4 page – \$52.50 per issue**  
**Business Card Size – \$35.00 per issue**

## Calendar of Events

SoFO's SnoFari January 24-26 Quality Inn West Branch, MI	Sno*Blind Expedition™ February 14-16 West Branch, MI
GLFWDA Quarterly Held at QualityInn, in conjunction w/SnoFari January 24th, 5:00pm	SoChilly Run March 1 Rocks & Valleys Harrison, MI
33 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Dog Party February 15 Twisted Trails Copemish, MI	Schuss Mountain Snow Challenge April 4-6 Shanty Creek Resorts Bellaire, MI

## 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 to be removed from the mailing list for this paper copy.

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

*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.*

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## A note from the Editor

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of The Boondocker where we have really made an effort to better inform our membership of the value you are getting from the association. As you can see in this jam-packed newsletter we have numerous volunteer officers and committees doing great things around the state and beyond. From members attending land use meetings, to covering our information booth at events, to organizing our marketing efforts, developing amazing trail rides and supporting charity events, the association is hard at work on your behalf. It is your membership that helps support all of these activities. For those looking to go one step further in their support, there are opportunities to help out by assisting with any of our committees such as Land Use, PR, Trail Ride, 4WD Training or Marketing. You can find a list of contact e-mails for our officers and committee Chairs on the inside cover... Any of us would be glad to hear from you!



## President's Message

We have come to the conclusion of another year. I would like to wish everyone a blessed holiday season. Enjoy the time with family and friends, and let us not forget why this time of year is so special. This year revealed many new friendships and great experiences. As we prepare for the New Year, I would like to reflect on a few events from the past months, also look forward to in the upcoming year.

The organization attended Jeep Creep in Gladwin, MI at Riverwalk Place in October. This three day event started out Friday night with a Halloween parade and event awards. Saturday was rainy, cold, and windy. That didn't however stop over 1,000 people from attending and bringing 357 rigs down to show and shine and to test their skills on the nearby obstacle course. There were over 15 vendors who lined Riverwalk ready to talk about their products and pass out candy to both old and young ghouls and goblins at the Trunk or Treat. The association talked to many people and put together three seminars that were well attended. I had the privilege of speaking at two of the three. The first was "Wheeling With Your Pets". Although a bit of an impromptu speech, when I saw eight or more people and their pets standing around waiting on a speaker, it was time for action. Heartfelt, I shared some of my experiences wheeling with my critters. (After all with a CB handle like Rover how could I go wrong?) "Trail Communications", presented by Paul Hittie was another session. "How To Equip Your Rig", brought the end of the day, presented by yours truly. The association presented three gifts corresponding to the three seminars which included a pet travel kit, a CB radio, and general accessory bag of goodies for a vehicle. The evening brought GREAT fellowship, new association members and many prizes. Sunday brought a changing of the guard at the quarterly meeting for several positions. Vice President Harry Rissley, Membership Secretary Michelle Borgeson, Recording Secretary Dale Stroelel, Trail Ride Chairman and Treasurer Dave Smith. Later in the morning the Riverwalk Place hosted a trail ride and a trip over to Rocks and Valleys.

We would like to thank JCR Offroad Inc. from Portage MI. for becoming an associate member. Please welcome JCR, and support them as well as ALL of our Associate Members. Brian and the guys hosted an event in Portage Mi. in November. JCR invited the association to rally support in their vendor row. The event brought together over 200 attendees and over 75 rigs even though the weather was not always cooperative throughout the day.

Most recently the Sundowner's in Kalamazoo, MI. hosted the Marines for their annual Toys for Tots campaign. A very windy blustery day, but this didn't hold back the local community outreach to help others in need. Also this is a good time for the club to gather, lend a hand, or reconnect over a cup of coffee and a pulled pork sandwich provided by Wayne and Sandy. The club helped the Marines collect 645 toys, 14 bicycles, and \$625.00. Brian, Daryl, Mike, Rodney, Alex and Bill from JCR, shopping list in hand donated 85 toys and 1 Justin Bieber doll (Don't worry guys we won't hold that against you) to make this a fantastic year for the club and the Marines. Thank you all who participated!

2014 is just around the corner. Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association is looking forward to furthering efforts focused on State and local land use and legislation bills. Continued membership and club participation. Marketing aide initiatives promoting member growth, retention, and association communications. Also continued support to Four Wheel Drive Safety Awareness Training. Association only trail runs and weekend gatherings. At the last quarterly meeting one of our peers shared this comment, "Let's be proud of who we are, where we are going and CROW! We have to CROW more!". Thank you ALL for your support and efforts to make this a STELLAR year for the organization. Safe Wheelin'.

Patrick Beldock AKA: Rover  
President



**Vice President - Harry Risley**

See “Meet our New VP” on Page 11

**Treasurer - Dave Smith**

Over the past several years, the GLFWDA has applied for and received a grant from the State of Michigan to reimburse expenses when maintaining some of the ORV Routes. Various GLFWDA member clubs maintain 228 miles of ORV Routes throughout Michigan. The association receives an amount for each mile maintained and we disperse more than 50% of that money to the clubs that perform the work.

The trails have to be maintained at least twice a year; once before Memorial Day and once more before Labor Day. Each club that performed the maintenance must submit a Brushing Report to GLFWDA, which is then submitted to the State. Before the funds are sent to the Association, DNR personnel will drive the trails to ensure they have been maintained per the published guidelines. The GLFWDA is very appreciative of the efforts of the club volunteers that keep the trails maintained. If it wasn't for their volunteered hours and hard work, we would most likely lose the ORV Routes we have today.

The Trail Maintenance grant money for 2013 has been forwarded to GLFWDA and the clubs that performed the trail maintenance have been given their share of that Grant Money. Thanks to all involved!

**Membership & Associate Membership Secretary - Michelle Burgeon**

I hope you all had a holiday season full of family and joy, that each of you had the opportunity to make memories that will last you a lifetime and that each of you was able to get out to enjoy some off-road fun.

This has been a busy quarter for us here at GLFWAD. We've seen a solid growth in new memberships, I am happy to be able to welcome 30 NEW members and more than 120 membership renewals.

I am also excited to share with you that we have some GREAT new Associate Members! Please join us in welcoming JcrOffroad, Cadillac Jeepers and Mikes Automotive Supply to our group of amazing supporting members.

I wish you all a New year full of family, friends, fun and great memories made on and off on the trail.

**Trail Ride Committee - Jim Rutkofske, Chair**

As the 2013 trail ride season has drawn to a close and the 2014 season pokes its head from the snow, I'm happy to introduce myself as Jim Rutkofske, your 2014 Trail Ride Committee Chairman.

The 2014 year will have something to offer for everyone starting with the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Snofari in January. Once the snow clears and the winter's leftover debris is showing, you can lend a hand helping some of our local clubs with their Trail Maintenance. SOFO's trail clean ups take place in May in the West Branch Area.

There will be many events through-out the year. MSG will be hosting their 13<sup>th</sup> Drummond Offroad Adventure, and towards the end of the year GLFWDA will be sponsoring the “2<sup>nd</sup>” Annual Gitchee Gumee which is held in the Algoma Canyon Area in September.

Please be sure to check out the GLFWDA website and the upcoming Boondockers for the current trail ride committee reports and upcoming events .

**4WD Awareness Training - Craig Feusse. Coordinator**

We had two training events this year. The first one was with the rangers at Silver Lake State Park on March 29, 2013. We had a total of nine (9) people participate. The class was led by Craig Feusse, with Wayne Rynbrand and Nate Riekema supporting. This is a great activity to start out the year for both GLFWDA and the SLSP employees. We worked on vehicle recovery with both a strap and a winch. Plus we got to see the park's new Ford Raptor.

The other event was also a repeat of last year. The Sundowners hosted both a 4WD Awareness class on October 19 and the Chief Instructor Training on October 20. This training was led by Bryan Sportel, Nate Riekema, and Wayne Rynbrand. We had four (4) people attend the Awareness class, and two (2) attend the Instructor Training. Also some instructors had their CPR certificate updated during the Chief Instructor Training. That is a friendly reminder to all those out there who are Chief Instructors to keep your CPR certificate current if you wish to teach.

see Reports pg 20



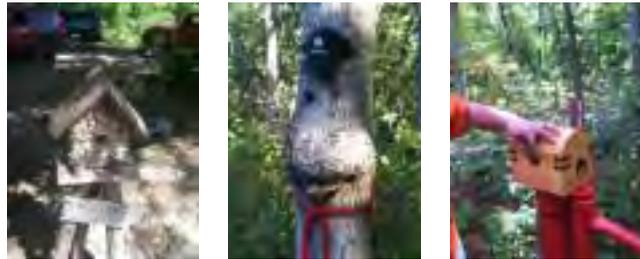
The 1<sup>st</sup> Wheelin' for a Cure Benefit Run was hosted by the Two Trackers Four Wheel Drive Club on September 14<sup>th</sup> in Dorr. This event was created to raise money to help send kids to Special Day's Camp. Special Day's is a camp for children who have cancer. This camp offers the traditional elements of camp that are adapted to the camper's special needs. The activities at the camp are intentionally designed to promote self-esteem, confidence, friendships, teamwork and leadership.

The camp offers 2 types of camps, one for the children that have or had cancer and one for their siblings. The camps are held in two separate sessions several times a year. The siblings will go at separate times so each child will be in a group of kids they can relate with and this also gives the parents the opportunity to spend time with each child separately. Nikki, a volunteer from Special Days was at the benefit and she was one of the first kids to go to camp at Special Days 35 years ago and she is proof that this camp is very special!

The day started with registration from 8 to 9 at the Moose Lodge in Dorr. There were 51 rigs and 130 people registered. People came from around the local area, the east side of the state and Indiana. During registration the drivers and passengers picked up their boxed lunch, had the opportunity to purchase a sweet treat, stickers, bracelets, 50/50 tickets, quilt raffle tickets and a Moose Breakfast. The goal was to have everyone out on the route by 9:30. Participants were told they needed to be back to the Moose by 3:00 for the door prize drawings.

The route was thru the Allegan State Forest and on Allegan County seasonal roads. It was estimated that it would take 4 ½ to 6 hours depending on how many times the participants stopped or made the wrong turn. Maps were given to every driver and route markers were on every corner where they needed to turn. The route markers were checked by Bill at 4

AM before the event to make sure they were still in the right places. There were 10 "I Spy" places to find. Some were natural and some were man made. Participants were given a sheet of paper with questions to answer pertaining to the "I Spy's" and were able to turn them in for an additional door prize ticket. There were some very creative answers on the sheets.



*Three of the stations from the "I Spy" game*

Games and refreshments were available for the participants when they returned to the Moose to help entertain them while they waited for the door prize drawings. There was face painting, tic tac toe, fish tank quarter game, find the prize in sawdust, candy bar walk, guess how many candies are in the jar, find the sucker with the color and Zumba. The candy bar walk was the big hit of the day for young and old. The 50/50 put \$101.00 in the winner's pocket. Pop and popcorn was available for everyone.

There was a fantastic group of door prizes donated:

**Jeep Jamboree** - Trip for 2 in 2014, **VV Mapping** - Nuvi 50 GPS with VV mapping, **Oswald's Bear Ranch** – 2 passes, **Grand Rapids Children Museum** – 4 passes, **Drummond Island RV Park** – 2 night stay in RV Park and a 1 night stay in a cabin, **IronMan Off Road** - \$50.00 Gift Certificate, **Kalamazoo Nature Center** – 4 passes, Gilmore Car Museum – 4 passes, **John Ball Park** – 1 year family membership, **Badland's Off Road Park** - \$50.00 Gift Certificate and T-Shirts, **Woodland Travel Center** – Collapsible Water Bucket and Ratchet Straps, **Frederick Meijer Gardens** – 4 passes, **Napa Auto Parts – Plainfield** – 2 wrench sets, **Craig's Cruisers** – 4 activity passes, **Binder Park Zoo** – 4 passes, **Tom Woods Custom Drive Shafts** - \$100.00 Gift Certificate, Backpack, Duffle Bag, hats, and Banner, **GLFWDA** – 2 shirts, 2 memberships, **Family Farm & Home – Wayland** – small toy tractor, **Poison Spyder**-2 \$50.00 gift certificates, 1 hat, 1 t-shirt, **Cascade Four Wheel Drive** 25.00 gift cert,

*see Cure pg 20*



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## Legislation Bills

SB491 Passed Senate – Prevents Vehicles built for “Off-Road Use Only” from applying for registration

In the last edition of the boondocker we highlighted Senate Bill 0491, which was recently introduced at that time. Since then this bill has passed the Senate and currently has been referred to the committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. This will soon come back to the house and if it passes there it would prohibit vehicles that were manufactured exclusively for Off-Road use from obtaining vehicle registration in the State of Michigan. Golf carts and similar vehicles would fall into the “Off-Road Use Only” class.

If this passes it would likely bring an end to folks being able to apply for a title and tag for things such as a Polaris Razor, even if they upgrade it to meet all DOT requirements. This bill passed very quickly in the senate, and if you want this bill to “die” we recommend contacting your house representatives to let them know how you feel on this issue.

## Michigan Snowmobile & Trails Advisory Council (MSTAC) – October 28th, 2013

The GLFWDA Land Use Committee was recently in attendance of the MSTAC quarterly meeting – here are some of the highlights:

On Jan 21st there will be a Statewide Trails Summit to discuss trail issues across all user groups and explore ways for managing and expanding our existing trails. The summit will be held at Grand Traverse Lodge and is open to the public (fee per person to attend).

The Governors “Trail Showcase”, the trail from Belle Isle to Ironwood, is continuing to make progress and gaps in the trails are identified and new trails are established or land purchased to connect trails.

News of a “Friends of State Park” program is allowing for matching funds for special projects at state parks. If you are a member of a Friends of a State Park or want to start one at your local State Park you can contact [rodriguez2@michigan.gov](mailto:rodriguez2@michigan.gov) for more information.

GLFWDA members who were attending in the audience brought up the fact that the MSTAC and DNR had yet to put

together policy regarding what triggers an event permit per SB50. In the bill, which is now in effect, says that this must be completed within 90 days. The DNR representative said that they will have this published in early December, and that the general idea is that there will no longer be any constraint on the number of users but based on special needs (i.e. event wants to erect a large tent on department lands for the event).

**Proposed MSTAC 2014 Quarterly Meeting Schedule –**  
April 8, 2014 10a – 3pm Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, 104 Conservation Drive, Roscommon, Michigan

July 8, 2014 10a – 3pm Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, 104 Conservation Drive, Roscommon, Michigan

October 28, 2014 10a – 3pm Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, 104 Conservation Drive, Roscommon, Michigan

## OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ADVISORY WORKGROUP (ORVAW) - November 6, 2013

The GLLFWDA Land Use Committee was recently in attendance of the ORVAW quarterly meeting – here are some highlights from the meeting:

**Legislation Update** – SB 491 was introduced in the Senate. The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to require the Secretary of State (SOS) to refuse to issue a registration or title for an off-road vehicle (ORV) that was manufactured exclusively for off-road use, including one that was modified for on-road use. “Off-road vehicle” would include a golf cart and not include a motorcycle. The bill would have no impact to the trail program.

SB 68 passed the Senate. The bill would amend part 811 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by changing the definition of a forest trail. It would prohibit a person from operating an off-road recreation vehicle (ORV) wider than 50 inches on a forest trail, and delete a provision that limits the maximum width of a vehicle on a forest trail to less than 50 inches.

**Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council Resolutions** — the following are three resolutions approved by the Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council (WUPCAC) at their September 16, 2013 meeting.

#1 - The WUPCAC recommends the DNR's Recreational Safety Program offer instructor development programs in the western Upper Peninsula to better train and retain instructors. (Currently, all trainings are in the Lower Peninsula.)

The Department supports this resolution. Corporal Morey told the workgroup that an ORV Safety Instructor Academy will be held in Munising next summer along with several others in the Lower Peninsula.

Mr. Skip Schulz told the workgroup that the WUPCAC would like to see instructor development programs for all recreational education programs. Corporal Morey encouraged Mr. Schulz to contact Marketing and Outreach.

#2 - The WUPCAC recommends the DNR revise its ORV event registration fee process to differentiate between social and organized use, and reduce and/or eliminate its registration fee in recognition that ORV users are already paying a trail fee.

The Department supports this resolution. Mr. Kubisiak told the workgroup provisions in Public Act 119, of 2013, require the Department to develop, in consultation with the Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Committee (MSTAC) and other interested parties, policy criteria for determining circumstances whereby notice to the department or a permit is required for ORV events on Department lands within 90 days. He noted the draft guidelines supported by the workgroup at their August meeting will be refined and presented to the MSTAC for consideration.

#3 - The WUPCAC supports the development of the Uniform ORV Trail Signing System, supporting the DNR funding of signs, and request the signing system be in place in FY 2014. Also, to commend Mr. Schulz and the DNR Parks & Recreation Division for seeing this issue through.

The Department supports the concept of a unified sign program. Mr. Kubisiak referred the workgroup to proposed optional trail identifier signage in their meeting packets for their comment and consideration. There was considerable discussion.

Mr. Kobasic asked the group to support a motion to: Endorse the concept of placing signage along designated trails to identify the trail; to use letters only as the identifying code;

to have them black on white on a square sitting placard; to allow only use on designated trails; to establish a graduated grid system for uniform and contiguous pattern from east to west in the UP; to protect the integrity of the trail system away from any connecting routes, especially those traversing through local municipalities/government areas; that it be a pilot program with a one to two year sunset to be reviewed if problematic; to assure the sign would not be placed on top of or included as part of the DNR markers; and, that we, the UP ORVAW members, form the committee to outline this with Ron Yesney and Rob Katona, and bring back a formal plan for the March 2014 meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Schulz. Motion unanimously carried.

### **Proposed 2014 ORVAW Meeting Schedule – The following schedule was approved by the workgroup.**

March 5 — Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, 104 Conservation Drive, Roscommon, Michigan 48653

May 7 — Ramada, 7501 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48917

August 7 — Upper Peninsula, location to be determined.

November 5 – Michigan United Conservation Clubs, 2101 Wood Street, Lansing, Michigan 48912

**Polaris Phone Application** – A handout was provided and a presentation of the Polaris Rider X phone application. The department will be supplying Polaris with the GIS trail files for the Michigan's designated ORV and snowmobile trail systems for use in their application.

A meeting is to be arranged between the Upper Peninsula ORV riders, the Wisconsin ATV Association, and the ATV Association of Minnesota.

**Upper Peninsula MDOT Connector Route Project** – Don Hesel reported Mi-Trale has been working with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and local DNR to sign four ORV connector routes located with MDOT right-of-way in the west Upper Peninsula. .

MDOT is moving forward with twelve pilot locations to allow ORV operation with MDOT right-of-ways in the Upper Peninsula in response to the new legislation (PA117, PA118, PA119 of 2013). MDOT has established a process for evaluating future ORV ordinance requests, which must be made by a local unit of government. The twelve sites will be

# JEEP CREEP



by Meghan Keen

Friday, October 25 through Sunday, October 27 the off road tires rumbled, the mud flew and Gladwin became a Jeep haven on the weekend before Halloween. Riverwalk Place hosted over 350 Jeeps during the event. The Jeep Creep kicked off Friday night with a Jeep Parade down Gladwin's Main Street and over 120 Jeeps took part with many of them being decorated for Halloween. Trophies were also up for grabs on Friday night and the Farthest Distance Travelled Award went to a Jeep who came all the way to Gladwin from Indiana!



Saturday started early with over 15 vendors including Lord of the Gourd pumpkin carver Pat Harrison, Chainsaw Carver Tom Gillman and many off road clubs and specialty shops including Ironman Offroad, Unlimited Offroad, Myers For Tires, Lee's Offroad,

Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association and many more. Graff Motor Sales hosted the Rocks & Valleys Challenge Course and Chrysler, who brought brand new Jeeps for everyone to check out. The Rocks & Valley's Challenge Course had over 90 participants and from their registration fees \$90 dollars was donated to the Gladwin County Animal Shelter and to Claws & Paws Rescue. The Jeepers who attended this event also made a big impact in our community by participating in our non-perishable food drive and pet food drive. Four shopping carts of food were donated to the Sacred Heart Mission and two shopping carts full of pet food were donated to Gladwin County Animal Shelter and to Claws & Paws Rescue. Claws & Paws Rescue also attended the Jeep Creep and we are proud to announce that four adoptions took place at the event – thank you to the families that gave these animals forever loving homes!

The now famous Jeep Creep Trunk or Treat had a record of over 450 kids trunk or treat at Jeeps in the Riverwalk Place parking lot. Gladwin High School Students from the art

program and the National Honors Society also volunteered at the Jeep Creep running a coloring station, face painting and bean bag toss game for the many children that attended. Saturday night the Bob Seger Tribute Band Lookin' Back rocked Riverwalk Place and a big thank you goes out to Graff Motor Sales for sponsoring the entertainment.



The Jeep Creep ended with two Sunday trips – a seasonal road ride and visit to Rocks & Valleys. Over 60 Jeeps headed for Rocks & Valleys while over 80 headed out on the Seasonal Roads. The Riverwalk Place Jeep Creep brought many people to Gladwin who are not from the immediate area

– just 70 Jeeps were from within a 20 mile radius of Gladwin. Thank you to all the sponsors, vendors, attendees, volunteers and associates who worked the event and gave these Jeepers a positive experience in Gladwin.

The 2014 Riverwalk Place Jeep Creep will be October 24-26 and is just \$10 per Jeep and free for spectators.



*Pet food donations at this years Jeep Creep benefited local animal shelter/rescue organizations*

## Meet Our New VP

I was recently elected to serve as Vice-President of GLFWDA. I would like to take a few minutes and introduce myself.

My wife June and I reside in Jenison Michigan with our daughter Kathryn who will be 15 in January, she just completed drivers training and has her driving permit, she has been eyeing my Jeep to drive but I haven't went there yet. We have two other grown children Harry III who is married to Miranda and has two children Harry IV and Ruby and Kenneth who is a Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, he is married to Jessica and they have a daughter Kaylee.

I am an Engineering Maintenance Manager for Lacks Industries in Grand Rapids, we are a large automotive parts supplier with 23 plants in Grand Rapids. I have been an off-road enthusiast for about twenty years. I had my first Jeep Wrangler ('89 yes square headlights) in late 90's. I went on a few runs but the schedule of three kids, sports, work took a toll on my off-roading. In 2010 I was shopping for a new vehicle, I was driving down 28<sup>th</sup> Street in Grand Rapids and there she stood...2010 Jeep Wrangler Mountain Edition, Mango Tango in color, I stopped and purchased it on the spot. Last year I joined Two Trackers and my passion for off-roading has grown significantly. About 6 months ago, I began some of the "upgrades" to my Jeep, I have added a 4" lift, larger tires and a dual exhaust. In the next few months I will be adding two new bumpers, winch, and a Ripp Supercharger.

As I ponder the position of Vice-President, I asked myself what could I bring to GLFWDA that would benefit the group. Prior to my current position I spent about 15 years in sales and marketing. I would like to use this skills to increase GLFWDA presence to the public, what we do, and hopefully add memberships.

If there are any suggestions or questions please feel free to email me, I look forward to working and representing the GLFWDA proudly

Best Wishes and  
Happy Four  
Wheeling.

Harry Rissley  
Vice-President



## JcrOffroad Hosts Open House

by Brian Meyers

After many years of being shoe-horned into a way too small leased facility in Kalamazoo, Daryl and I decided in the early spring of 2013 it was time to own our own space. After a few months of searching, we found the perfect facility one town over in Portage, Michigan. Terms were set and a stack of papers were signed; and par for the course with us, the day we were handed the keys, the remodel began!

Through the summer we tore down walls, knocked up tile, met with the city, rebuilt walls, trimmed, painted, epoxied, wired, and plumbed; not necessarily in that order. Whatever work we could do ourselves, we did; what we needed to contract, we found friends in the business for. Running the business from our old location and running the build-out of the new location split many of the JCR crew members between both buildings, and it meant long hours for everyone.

Finally the first of October brought move in week. Equipment was up and running and crew finally reunited full time. For the first time in the history of JcrOffroad we



had an inviting showroom for the public, and even our own offices! Life is good.

We however still owed our family, friends, and understanding customers some quality time and Mike (our lead designer) suggested an Open House. Because of the timing of the move, JeepCrep, and Halloween, we were forced to take a chance on freezing temperatures and a late fall date; November 7<sup>th</sup>. Yet with luck on our side, partly sunny skies, and temps in the upper 40's, we had a fantastic turnout and a great day.

see *Open House* pg 22

## DAY1

With the colors at their peak and an extreme amount of rain the Algoma canyon Ontario area was sure to hold endless adventure for the 21 registered vehicles at Gitchee Gumee 2013. This year we were lucky to have fair veteran trail leaders that guided us through some of the most scenic areas with some nasty terrains. Myself, Jim Rutkofske, and Ryan Hoffman joined forces to revive the crown jewel event of Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association. We were honored to have the help of 4 veteran trail leaders this year. They were: Jim Mazzola, Jim Kitson, Dave Neph, and Eric Ross. Without their help this event never could have been pulled off.

It's 6:30am and I'm nestled outside armed at my registration table with my hot coffee, spreadsheet, and yellow highlighter anticipating the long overdue first day of Gitchee Gumee 2013... the driver's meeting is set for 7:45am with an 8:00am departure. Though early departures are sometimes tough to take on vacation it's well worth the loss of sleep.

Its shortly after 8am and were heading north on Highway 17. The colors are at their peak and Lake Superior is on my left. I'm running sweep for Eric Ross who is the trail leader.



We are heading toward 38 Road. Our group is a wide variety of Jeep builds ranging in tire size from 43s to 35s. About 8 miles down 38 Road Eric radios back that the washout in the road is bad and turns out to be our first obstacle. As I approach the group who are now out of their rigs I see a tan TJ nearly level with the road in a washout that is about 6 foot deep and 8 foot wide. The mud and gravel mixture is so slimy and has sucked in one or Eric's 43 Swamper SXs so far that it has nearly disappeared with the other 3 tires on

somewhat solid ground. The group worked together to pull cable and get Eric up on high ground. The rest of the group picked a more shallow line in the washout and proceeded with caution.

As we continue down 38 Road we take a little side hill climb that we call the "Driveway Trail". This trail takes a hard left turn off the road and goes at a pretty good incline to an elevation of about 1600ft. Add mud, rocks, wet leaves, and logs in the trail and you'll be sure to have a good time. Though this climb is fairly intense, we all made it. On our way back down to the main road included small ledges and a small creek crossing. Once back onto 38 Road we continued to the start of our day in the woods. Next we came up to Sheppard Lake and 3 nearly extinct logging bridges. The first bridge has a pretty good rocker cranker for rigs smaller than 35s. Once you clear



this you're crossing the Batchawana River. The scenery here is beautiful but don't look down because you're riding on only the steel structure and rutted boards of what is left of the bridge. The 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge is somewhat better in the wood department; however there is no steel structure. It's wood beams that appear to be solid oak approximately 3ft by 3ft. To add to the excitement the beams are tilted on an angle and a bit slippery. Its best to go slow and pay attention to your spotter.

Clearing the 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge makes the 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge look like the Mackinaw only, again, just steel structure and rotted wood that's falling off into the water while it is being crossed. To clarify, steel structure means a 3 inch beam that luckily hits the center of most tires. There isn't any metal grating, only rotting boards and the occasional 4inch Androx nail sticking out. A spotter is a must!

The next hour of trail is fairly nice with winding trails, a couple good creek crossings, and an occasional muddy granite rock face to test your tire's ability to lock up on

moose snot! Everything was fairly calm until we got into a tight section of trail with a lake on the left side and a pretty good cliff on the right. While navigating through the off camber trail, Steve Sleziński came on the radio saying he heard a bang then lost his steering. He was in front of me so I got out to see how extensive the trail damage was. The steering gear box was tight and everything appeared to be ok however, the steering wheel was now 90 degrees off center. It appeared the gear box slipped one of the teeth inside because it was now functioning fine with all the steering components will tight.



We opted to drive it until we found a method of trouble shooting. This was a bit risky considering we were about 40 miles from camp and there was some pretty nasty trail in front of us. We're on the road again running through some nice rolling hills, we have crossed over the peak and are working our way down into the valley. There is about a 200ft sheer rock face on our left and pretty low area

on the right. This area seems to be consistently wet. By the time I got into the nasty ruts the trail looks like Crisco on a cookie sheet and I'm driving on 38inch chocolate covered donuts! Just as I get to the stagger holes I slide into a small marsh run off that has swallowed both my passenger side tires. Everyone was out in front of me and the area was too sloppy to drive back into. There was one tree in the area that was good enough to hook a winch line up to but on the down side it was only about 30ft away. I was in there good. A straight line pull was pretty much useless. I ended up using double snatch blocks and was still maxing out my 9.5ti to the limit. San Wiseheart was able to back around somewhat and holed his cable to me. Light is good. I'm in Canada driving what feels like a school bus with enough rigging on it to lift the Titanic. I hit my winch controller to begin forward motion and of course... Clickety, clickety... the solenoid is pulling in but the motor is not engaging. The few choice words I shared with the controller must have worked because the motor engaged and I was on my way to higher ground. This was a ton of work to move a vehicle length. Up ahead

the middle of a ravine with a greasy granite hill climb on it. The first couple rigs made it without too much difficulty, the rest of us is a different story. Most ended up driving forward until they couldn't so any farther the pulling cable to complete the rest of the climb. The trail is a bit higher now but is so brushy that the vehicle in front of you disappears easily. At the end of the brushy trail is a marshy swamp. The first 2 rigs don't have much difficulty. There is a nasty rutted up hole that swallowed 3 JKs and 1 TJ, all on 35s. Beyond this hole is a small clearing that when a rig travels through it, it gets rutted up worse. Eric turned around and came back through to help pull people through. After the JKs clear the area we find it best to hook up the TJ on 35 AT to Eric's Jeep and just pull it the entire way through the quarter mile bottomless mud run. Now it's my turn... I feel like a pilot going through pre take off checks. Seat belt, check... Air lockers on, check... Wife, hold on this could get rough! Finally, rev limiter on the minivan motor, check. We're on our way bouncing off trees, rocks, ruts, and the rev limiter the entire way! Woo hoo, we're at the logging road, which is still about 2 hours from camp. Only one more obstacle lies in our way, crossing back over the Batchawana River. Only this time there were no bridges. After about an hour we arrive at the river crossing. Eric eases into the water; it's about 3ft deep and gets shallower the further you go. The rest of the



group navigates the water crossing without any problems. The Batchawana Station is a welcome site after 12 hours in the woods. In about 40 miles we'll be back at camp and ready to head out for more tomorrow.

## DAY 2

On Saturday morning all the groups assembled for the 8am daily driver's meeting. Due to smaller groups we decided to

*continues on next page*

merge a couple groups and head north again. After the driver's meeting somebody noticed Steve Slezinski's TJ had only 1 bolt in the skid plate on the driver's side. A closer look at the skid plate revealed that the bolts were all there but the nut certs had broken loose from the frame. Jim Mazzola lent us his welder and we were on our way to making molten memories. Eric and others had prepped the area. I was the welder, what a great way to start the day... Laying on a tarp with some old and new friends welding something. The skid plate is fixed and we're on the way by 9:30



Today we were heading to the Pancake Lake area. It is noted that off the mail trail we are on there is a fork with a small waterfall on it. We decide as a group to go check it out. The trail seems to be a typical 2 track that has some pretty good ditches in it. When we arrive at the falls it was a hiking trip. The colors were nice and the falls were a nice reminder of the surrounding area. After the pics were done, its time to hit the trail again.

The trails today have many steep ditches in them. In one case in particular, Dave Neph found out that his front receiver mounted winch was jammed in from hitting it hard on Friday's run. The approach angle was just too steep. The winch had to come off. After a few minutes of beating on it with a hammer we decided to hook it up to a tree and cable out to a safe distance, the electrical connection was disconnected and we were using the vehicle's weight to free the bent winch mount from the receiver. Everyone was clear and bang! The winch let loose and shot about 15ft into the ditch. Mission completed! The cruiser mow has a better approach angle for the day ahead.

We are heading to the "Lower 2" trail which has a few creek crossings and some tight brushy trail. This trail also has a

rock crawl that is roughly a quarter mile long with roughly (4) 3-4ft ledges on it and a couple 40inch plus rocks to navigate. We start at the 1<sup>st</sup> bypass for the rocks which a stream crossing that is fairly tame. Once across the stream, the trail is windy with lots of brushy areas. There is another creek crossing which is actually the out trail for the rock crawl. This particular spot is a little tricky due to running water on an off camber angle with moving rocks that seem to hang you up no matter what line you take.

Its lunch time and Eric and I check out the rocks while the others are preparing lunch. Eric walks the crawl like it is a parking lot. At the end there is a 90 degree right turn which has a ledge that is off camber and vertical. I was spotting for him and I thought this would be a show stopper. I under estimate what a capable rig would do. He crawled the ledge one tire at a time without issue. Now it's my turn. I really had no business trying this in my wife's daily driver however, no guts, no glory and I'm on my way as I clunk, bang, and jar myself to the end. I get to the ledge and decide that it's time to see what I've built. Eric slowly spots me up the off camber ledge with the passenger side tire first. The tire with 4lbs of air in it seems to be glued to the wet rock, now the driver front starts to hit the ledge, from the driver seat it feels like the rear tires are firmly planted and I'm moving



upward. The front passenger tire reaches the top of the ledge. By this time I'm out of suspension travel and the tire is hanging roughly 2ft in the air. Now the rear passenger tire starts to climb the ledge. The front picks a little more and then hits the break over angle and the front that was hanging sets down on the ground nicely and smooth. With a small bump from the skinny pedal I've cleared the ledge. I never figured this would have been possible for my JK.

1. 8:30am Call to Order
2. Introduction of Executive Board; Present: Patrick Beldock, Paul Hittie, Dave Smith, Michelle Borgeson
3. Officer Reports
  - a. President – general welcome and announcements, Patrick asked for a measure of patience during his first meeting as President
  - b. Vice President – covered under other topics
  - c. Membership – Currently at 353, good batch of renewals and new memberships relayed to Gitchee Gumee and upcoming SnoFari event. Update on project Northwood Univ. students are working on to replace our membership software. New tool may also have applications for local clubs and/or UFWDA
  - d. Treasurer – reviewed financial reports, good standing, no trail maintenance money yet, final Boondocker bill for the year paid. Memberships higher than budget.
  - e. Recording Secretary – not present, no report
4. Extended BoD Reports
  - a. Editor – Send articles and pictures soon, next issue to be distributed before SnoFari. Deadline for submissions December 15, 2013
  - b. Trail Ride Committee Chairman – Patrick introduced Jim Rutkofske (“Indy”) as our newly appointed TRC chairman. Jim announced that GG had raised \$1,135, but funding the event was a problem without a budget (Thank you SoFO for the loan!). Proposed earmarking \$1,000.00 from the GG money for 2014 GG budget. Motion made, second, during discussion motion was amended to make the \$1,000 a TRC budget, not just GG. Passed unanimously by voice vote.
5. Old Business
  - a. Marketing Proposals – Ed Schroeder inquired if the Board had made any progress in evaluating the marketing proposals he had solicited and presented. General discussion about past proposals, past committees, and generally no action. Dale Stroebel volunteered to review the proposals and report back to the Board with specific recommendations. Paul Hittie, Ed Schroeder also will participate on this ad hoc committee. (After the meeting Melanie Mulder also volunteered). Committee to have information ready for next Board meeting. Discussion of possibly inviting one or more of the companies that submitted a proposal to join SnoFari event.
  - b. Board Meetings – Discussion regarding the resumption of taking minutes at Board Meetings/Calls and posting them as well as the general meeting minutes
  - c. Discussion of other communications “holes”, especially posting MSTAC/ORVAW meeting notes from participants, to keep our members better informed of ongoing Association activities
  - d. Tailgate reports – do we still collect them? Paul Hittie noted that there had been only periodic information posted through the web form that Kevin set up on the website, and that there has not been an opportunity to use this collected information in the past. However, the tool is still there, and members are encouraged to continue posting their record of travel expenses for 4x4 activities.
  - e. Online Boondocker issues – Boondocker has been relocated to public part of the website, but to allow our members to get their copies before publicly available, not posted until 30-60 days after copies are mailed. Michelle working to get e-mail broadcast list established from membership software, future copies will be low-resolution copy mailed out for those opting out of paper copie.
6. New Business
  - a. Elections
    - i. Vice President – Harry Rissley was nominated and elected by acclamation
    - ii. Membership Secretary – Michelle Borgeson was nominated and elected by acclamation
    - iii. Recording Secretary – Dale Stroebel was nominated and elected by acclamation
7. Upcoming Dates of Importance
  - a. Toys for Tots donation drive by Sundowners (Kalamazoo, MI) December 7, 2013
  - b. SnoFari hosted by Soldier of Fortune Offroad (West Branch, MI) January 24-25, 2014
  - c. GLFWDA Winter 2014 Quarterly meeting – Friday 5pm, January 24, 2014 at Quality Inn (West Branch)
  - d. D.O.A. hosted by Mud Sweat & Gears (Drummond Island, MI) tentatively scheduled for August 2014
  - e. Gitchee Gumee 2014 – Last weekend in September 2014 (Goulais River, ONT)
  - f. Jeep Creep at Riverwalk Place (Gladwin, MI) last weekend in October 2014
8. Club Reports
  - a. Tricity Trail Riders – Recently received notification from DNR of successful grant application for repairs at St Helen rocks. Project will not start until spring, and they will probably need manpower to assist. Watch website for more details.
  - b. Sundowners – Another successful UFWDA 4WD Awareness training session held; Toys for Tots drive scheduled for December 2013. Sundowners will retain A/V equipment, if you wish to host a training session contact Wayne Rynbrand to schedule a hand-off of the equipment.
  - c. Two Trackers – Successful recent fund raiser for cancer; Spring clean-up project still being developed, watch the website for more details
  - e. MSG – Jim noted he will probably need to recruit some trail leaders to help with the event
9. Adjourn

If you have every attended a GLFWDA quarterly meeting you have likely heard acronyms being tossed around such as MSTAC (Michigan Snowmobile & Trails Advisory Council), ORVAW (Off Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup) and UPORV TDA (Upper Peninsula ORV Trail Development Association). So you are likely to ask, what do these various committees do and why is Great Lakes Four Wheel Association interested in them? In this issue of the boondocker we will explore what one of these groups does and how GLFWDA is participating today. We will continue to explore other committees in the next and future boondocker releases.

Since MSTAC is the top structure of a number of subcommittees we will start this first issue with the MSTAC committee. The purpose of MSTAC is to advise the Director of the DNR and the Governor of Michigan on the creation, development, operation and maintenance of motorized and nonmotorized trails in the state, including, but not limited to, snowmobile, biking, equestrian, hiking, off-road vehicle, and skiing trails. Meetings are held quarterly and are always open to the public to attend.

The MSTAC council is chosen by DNR personal and the council is assisted by the DNR for all related activities. All

members on the council serve without compensation. The council makes recommendations to the DNR on the expenditure of money in the Trailways Fund and advise the DNR on implementation of Public Act 451 of 1994 Part 721 Michigan Trailways.

The MSTAC has form subcommittees/advisory groups that work on special projects and focus on issues pertaining to specific interest group. The following subcommittee / workgroups exist today:

- Equine Trailways Subcommittee (ETS)
- Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup (NAW)
- Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup (ORVAW)
- Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (SAW)

Although there currently are no GLFWDA members serving on the board (council term is 4 years), the Land Use Committee actively attends and participates in the quarterly meetings. The goal of the GLFWDA Land Use Committee at these meetings is to make sure that “our” voice is heard on issues that impact the 4x4 user community. If you are interested in attending one of the upcoming MSTAC meetings the proposed schedule for 2014 is listed in the land use committee report on Page 8.

## Welcome New Members!

Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association would like to welcome the following members who joined in the 4th quarter of 2013 from around the state. Thanks for supporting the sport and we hope you enjoy your first Boondocker!

- Jeff Bailey, Sterling Hts, MI
- Brack Bengé, Linden, MI
- Mark Blakemore, Westland MI
- Cameron Brands, Durand, MI
- Peter Bonnes, Holland, MI
- Paul Burleigh, Macomb, M
- Cadillac Jeeps, Cadillac, MI
- Sid Carisle, Flint, MI
- James Dietzel, Imlay, MI
- Albert Feck, Grand Rapids, MI
- Rozanne Giunta, Bay City, MI
- Landen Green, Farmington Hills, MI
- Timothy Hartge, Farmington Hills, MI
- Paul Henk, Shelby Twp, MI
- Josh Henry, Clare, MI



- JcrOffroad, Portage MI
- Dave Kline, Lyons, MI
- Steven Kramp, Port Huron, MI
- Leon Lichty, Traverse City, MI
- Christina Mathis, Carleton, MI
- Jake Mason, Kalamazoo, MI
- Mikes Automotive Supply Detroit and Warren, MI
- Scott Oswald, Highland, MI.
- James Salmon, Marine City, MI.
- Stephan Slezinski, Fort Gratiot, MI
- John Sliwinski, Toledo, OH
- Brent Taylor, Sumner, MI
- Brian Walworth, Chase, MI
- Donald Willford, Gladwin, MI
- Jake Yonker, Norton Shores, MI

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The members of What Lies Beyond Jeep Club of Michigan would like to thank everyone that visited us at the pavillion at The Mounds ORV Park on Thanksgiving morning.

Your donations for The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan totaled: 118 lbs of food and \$562.67 in cash!

We look forward to seeing you again next year!



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**Michigan Truck Spring**  
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800-358-4751

**Michigan Wheelers**  
www.michiganwheelers.com

**Riverwalk Place**  
Gladwin, MI  
www.riverwalkplace.net

**Rocks & Valleys Off-road Park**  
US 127 between Clare &  
Harrison  
989-539-1448

**Bundy Hill Offroad Park**  
www.bundyhilloffroad.com  
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Jerome, MI 49249

**Jeeperz Creeperz**  
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Wyandotte, MI 48192  
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sales@jeeperz-creeperz.com  
Contact: Kevin Bentz

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**Daystar Products International**  
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**JCROffroad**  
www.jcroffroad.com  
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Portage, MI  
269-353-1184

**Mikes Automotive Supply**  
1981 E 8 Mile Rd & 8121 Livernois  
Warren, MI 48091 Detroit, MI 48204

## GLFWDA Club Listing & Contact Info

**Drummond Island Off Road Club**  
33655 S. Townline Rd  
Drummond Island, MI 48726

**Mid-MichiganFourwheelers**  
Member since 1990  
Director: Ron Roggow  
4125 Roosevelt  
Hemlock, MI 48626

**Mud, Sweat, and Gears**  
Member since 1987  
www.msg4x4club.com  
Director: Tim Yocum  
timmyocum@gmail.com

**SoFO - Michigan**  
Member since 2005  
Website:sofo.glfwda.org  
31026 West Chicago  
Livonia, MI 48150  
734.776.6072

**Tri-City Trail Riders**  
Member since 2003  
Director: Steve Gradowski  
1634 Hotchkiss Rd  
Freeland MI 48623  
nvrenuf@gmail.com

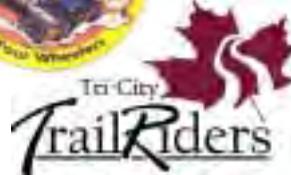
**Cheap Thrills Off Road**  
Member since 2011  
www.cheapthrillssoffroad.com

**What Lies Beyond Jeep Club**  
Member since 2007  
PO Box 718  
Flint, MI 48501  
www.whatliesbeyond.org

**Troll Fourwheelers**  
Member since 1993  
website: nmtrolls.web.com  
trollfourwheelers@hotmail.com

**Two Trackers Four Wheel Drive Club, Inc.**  
PO Box 88063  
Kentwood, MI 48518-9998  
www.twotrackers.com  
www.twotrackers.org

**The Sundowners**  
6532 S. 26th St.  
Scotts, MI 49088  
wrynbrand@yahoo.com.



**UNITED FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATIONS**  
P.O. Box 316  
Swartz Creek, MI 48473



## Reports

from page 5

This puts us at a total of 27 people going through the 4WD Awareness training in the state since 2011. Also we have a total of 18 people that have gone through the Chief Instructor training since 2002.

If your Off-Road Park / group / business / club is interested in hosting a 4WD Awareness class, please contact me with some suggested dates and we can coordinate trainers. Typically, the Awareness class will take about 8 hours. The first half is spent in the classroom and the second half is spent in the field showing the students how the theories work that we discussed in the class.

### Marketing Committee – Ed Schroeder, Chair

This committee was formed at the last quarterly meeting with myself, Dale Stroebel, Melanie Mulder, and Paul Hittie volunteering to comprise the committee. We have met monthly and begun productive discussions on how best to promote GLFWDA to the public (and our membership) to drive new members to the associations and help retains our current members. Our first realization was really that we weren't in a great position to market the association as we currently don't do a very good job letting folks know what we are doing. Before we start driving people to come check us out, we need to make sure what they see is worthwhile once they get here!

To that end, we asked everyone on the executive board as well as committee chairpersons to provide some additional content for this issue of the boondocker and to provide such content on a continuing basis. We hope this is just the start of a more robust experience letting you know about the association and what it is doing on behalf of our sport. Our first big initiative in the new year is to ask for funds to, in part, conduct a membership survey to start to get to know our members better, understand who they are, what brought them to us, and what is important for them as it relates to the Association.

## Land Use

from page 9

monitored, and MDOT and DNR are currently working on an interim communications plan.

**Law Enforcement Division** – Corporal Morey presented Pat Brower, an active member on Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Associations Land Use Committee, with a plaque in

recognition of his contribution to the success of the 2013 ORV Safety Training Academy. Way to go Pat!

Four ORV Safety Academies are scheduled for 2014. Academy locations include: Silver Lake State Park, Frankenmuth, the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, and Munising.

Corporal Morey reported that according to Marketing and Outreach, 4205 students certified since January 1, 2013 in the traditional classroom course. This figure does not include the recently available, optional online courses through Fresh Air Education or Kalkomey.

**Parks and Recreation Division** – Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission has withdrawn their application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the acquisition of the Koenig Sand and Gravel Mine in Oakland County because it failed to win support of the Oxford Township Board of Trustees. Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission staff remains committed to the pursuit of opportunities to meet the need for off-road recreation in Southeast Michigan. An alternative site has been identified, they are evaluating other options!

### Opportunities to help

We are currently looking for folks who can help with our Land Use efforts in a variety of ways. There are a lot of opportunities to support the sport whether it's attending one of the various meetings (ORVAW, MSTAC, U.P. ORV TDA), monitoring new legislation impacting our sport, or helping to develop new trails. If you think you can help us out then please contact us at [landuse@glfwda.org](mailto:landuse@glfwda.org).

## Cure

from page 6

2-tshirts and a grab handle, **Gun Lake Casino** Gift Basket \$200.00 value, **Road House Grill** 2- 25.00 gift cert & T-shirt, **Auto Value, Hamilton** 20.00 gift cert, **Gundy's Garage** 3 oil change gift cert.

There were 3 generous financial donations:  
**Superior Quality, Inc. - Venom Motorsports**  
**Gundy's Garage**

With everyone's help this event will donate \$2646.00 to the Special Day's Camp

Thank You! Everyone, who came and supported the Wheelin' for a Cure Benefit Run. Thank You! To the fantastic volunteers that donated their time and energy to this cause.



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GEO STASH 2013

## Gitchee Gumee

from page 14

The trail continues on and eventually we end up at an old logging road. From here on out Eric leads the way because we made a right turn instead of a left turn at my GPS point. No worries, Eric comes here often and is taking us to another set of trails. As we make our way into the heavily wooded area, there is a loud pop from Keith Kodet's Sammy right in front of us. Then it started to smell like Coney Island at lunch time. I guess at some point Keith placed his lunch (a can of chili) on his exhaust manifold and the timer just went off when the lid blew off! After



a closer examination of the Sammy engine compartment, it resembled a bad diaper. The mess is cleaned up as good as can be and we're rolling to our last obstacle of the day.

This ditch seems like a muddy, slick ledge that is about 5ft deep to drop straight into and about 20ft on the other side. Eric walks through it and then the others started to attempt the entry. Getting into this spot is pretty nasty but getting out of it is pretty much impossible without a cable. In some cases it took 2 winches on snatchblocks to pull up. This was a great example of team work though it took us a couple

hours to navigate this spot. I think everyone relished in the fact that we all were through it!

We're now on our way to the Batchawana Falls. This is a large water fall that is a favorite spot to stop and take pictures or to do a lunch spot. We are just passing through on our way back to camp which is about an hour and a half out. Somebody noticed that Jerry in our group has a broken axel shaft on a Prorock 44 axel. We decide that since the shafts are always turning we should pull the shafts out. We're now working in the dark and battling the bugs which are terrible! The U-joint is blown out and makes for easy separation. I taped up the axle tube to seal it up and the axle was reassembled. The ride back to camp was fairly uneventful. Time to relax around the bonfire.

## Open House

from page 11

The day included; Shop Tours, a 4x4 show, a bounce house for the kiddos and plenty of free food! More than 75 Jeeps and over 200 people packed our parking lot to help us celebrate our new facility; many driving from hours away!

As a new GL4WDA associate member, it was great to see many clubs show up for the day representing their groups! The Sundowners, 4Given4x4, Two Trackers and the Michiana Jeepers made the event a true community wide Open House.

On behalf of all of us at JcrOffroad, I would like to extend a special thanks! Thank you for coming out to make our Open House amazing, thank you for the support over the years and thanks in advance for the support in the future! Make sure you wave when you pass by, or stop in if you have some time to kill!



# 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.

## Individual Membership Application

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

Screen Name on GLFWDA.org \_\_\_\_\_ Other 4WD Affiliations: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Camping \_\_\_\_\_ Rock Crawling \_\_\_\_\_

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

Michelle Borgenson  
1691 Wood St  
Muskegon, MI 49442

## 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!

### Associate Membership Benefits

- Your business information listed in The Boondocker, a quarterly 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.

### 5 levels of membership for Associate Members:

- Level 1** \$62.50/Year Receive 1 copy of The Boondocker per issue.
- Level 2** \$125.00/Year Receive four business card size ads per year in The Boondocker and 5 copies of The Boondocker per issue.
- Level 3** \$187.50/Year Receive four quarter-page ads per year in The Boondocker, 10 copies of The Boondocker per issue, and a banner ad placed into rotation in the forums.
- Level 4** \$250.00/Year Receive four half-page ads per year in The Boondocker, 15 copies of The Boondocker per issue, and a banner ad placed into rotation in the forums.
- Level 5** \$375/Year Receive four full-page ads per year in The Boondocker, 20 copies of The Boondocker per issue, and a banner ad placed into rotation in the forums.

## Remember: No Trails = No Sales!

For more information, please contact our Associate membership Secretary at [amsecretary@glfwda.org](mailto:amsecretary@glfwda.org)



Fall 2013

Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Assoc.  
c/o Michelle Borgeson  
1691 Wood St  
Muskegon, MI 49442



**DATED MATERIAL DO NOT DELAY**