



Support the Sport!

The Boondocker



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- DOA Registration
- Drummond Island Routes
- Interlake IN
- Winter Meeting Minutes

Promoting and Defending Responsible Recreation

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President

Bob DeVore
president@glfwda.org

Vice President

Edgar Osborne
vicepresident@glfwda.org

Correspondence Secretary

Lucas Gottler
586-713-6779
secretary@glfwda.org

Treasurer

Sandy Flegel
treasurer@glfwda.org

Membership Secretary

Eric Williams
29651 Five Mile Rd
Livonia, MI 48154
313-477-8165
membershsecretary@glfwda.org

Additional Contacts

Associate Membership Secretary

Frank "Joe" Trager
23036 Tawas St
Hazel Park, MI 48030
248-225-5814
amsecretary@glfwda.org

Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association

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

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

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

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

Additional Contacts

Land Use Committee Chair

Pat Brower
238 Elm St
Fruitport, MI 49415
231-865-1345
landuse@glfwda.org

Four Wheel Drive Awareness Training

Abe Dunning
training@glfwda.org

Trail Ride Committee Chair

Tim Tull
trc@glfwda.org

Boondocker Editor

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

Public Relations Chair

Wayne Rynbrand
prchair@glfwda.org

Webmaster

Kevin Bentz
1627 Eureka Rd.
Wyandotte, MI 48192
734-281-22366
Webmaster@glfwda.org

Advertising Rates

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

1/2 page – \$50.00 per issue

1/4 page – \$35.00 per issue

Business Card Size – \$15.00 per issue

Classified Ad – \$2.00 per issue



Boondocker Submissions

Please note that any submission for the next Boondocker should be sent via e-mail to editor@glfwda.org before May 31, 2009.

Articles, event dates, pictures, technical write-ups, tales from the trail are always welcome. Before you unpack from your trip, take a few minutes and write up an article to share with the rest of the Association.

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.

DON'T FORGET!

To help our association save unnecessary expenses, this publication can be viewable and printable online in a PDF format for no cost. Also, as a benefit, the online version is available for download typically 2 weeks or more before the paper copies can be printed, mailed, and delivered!

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

Past issues are available at
www.glfwda.org/boondocker.html

Current issues are available on GLFWDA's website via the Forums. Follow the link in the Members section for the latest online version!

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2009 Quarterly Meeting Dates

(Committees 9am, General Meeting 10am)

Spring - April 2009

EVENT - Saturday April 18 - National Forest Cleanup,
Organized by Two Trackers
Four Wheel Drive Club

MEETING - Sunday April 19
Dunes Waterfront Resort
1180 N. Shore Dr.
Mears, MI 49436
Phone 231-873-5500

Summer - July 2009

EVENT - Saturday July 11 - Wheeling with the Sundowners
MEETING - Sunday July 12
Kalamzoo, MI (more details to follow)

Fall - October 2009

MEETING - Sunday October 4
Traverse City, MI (more details to follow)

2009 DNR ORV Advisory Board Meeting Schedule

May 6 August 5 November 4

All meetings scheduled for 6:30pm at The Lansing West Hotel & Conference Center, 7501 West Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 517-627-3211

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| May 2, 2009 | <i><u>Blessing of the Jeeps Mesick, MI</u></i> |
| May 9, 2009 | <i><u>Drummond Island Route Signage Drummond Island</u></i> |
| May 16, 2009 | <i><u>Rocks & Valleys Off Road Park Opens Harrison, MI</u></i> |
| May 29-31, 2009 | <i><u>Off-Road Truck & Tractor Nationals LaPorte, IN</u></i> |
| June 6, 2009 | <i><u>Big Brothers, Big Sisters with the Sundowners Kalamazoo, MI</u></i> |
| June 11-14, 2009 | <i><u>GLFWDA Northern Migration Silver Lake -> Twisted Trails -> Turtle Ridge</u></i> |
| July 25, 2009 | <i><u>Sundowners Rodeo Kalamazoo, MI</u></i> |
| August 14-16, 2009 | <i><u>Yogi and Sue's Pig Gig Harrison, MI</u></i> |
| August 21-23, 2009 | <i><u>DOA Returns Drummond Island, MI</u></i> |

For last minute changes to events or for additional event information, visit the Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Associations web site: 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

By: Robert DeVore

Whew! Where have the days and weeks gone? I find it hard to believe spring is just around the corner. I feel like the guy in the cartoon that is running in mid-air and then swoosh; hoping my feet hit the ground soon. Hopefully, you got a chance to share and enjoy some of the Winter Wonderland. If you didn't get the chance, here's hoping you better success in the coming year.

Are you one of those that get involved with land use actions; if so, you know only too well that our rights of access are being threatened at every turn. If you are one that still is unsure of how you can help, please visit our web site www.glfwda.com and go to the Land Use Forum.

There are several Members that are being very helpful in providing direction and identifying the items you ought to include when writing your letter or sending that e-mail to your representative; shoot there are even links to draft letters or automated responses when available. Addition-

ally, these members are being helpful in keeping their ear to the ground and bringing issues to our attention as they are developing. If you hear of something being proposed that would eliminate or restrict our rights of access, whether it is a national issue or right in your backyard, please visit the web site and share your information.

The definition of access, according to my Webster's II Dictionary: 1. A means of approaching: passage. 2. The right to enter or use. The simple word "access" brings to mind "Public Access" of course, that meaning an area is open or accessible to the public. It also brings to mind "loss of Access" which would be defined as the act of closing Access or limiting Access to an area that at one time was "Public" or open for Access. We all can probably list a number of locations where we once enjoyed Access.

This year has already begun to be a very busy year as we try to address every land use action that comes our way. I would like to Thank Everyone for doing your part to

Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association welcomes our newest Associate Members to the pages of the Boondocker!



help Support The Sport. It is your collective efforts that have successfully resulted in a number of gains for full-size users. I believe it bears repeating our recent accomplishments:

- The Mounds Rock Course:
 - Phase was completed last fall.
 - Phase II is funded and is scheduled to be completed this summer.
- St. Helen's Rock Course:
 - Phase I has been funded.
- Drummond Island:
 - Even though there were many who said it was never going to happen, Drummond Island now has ORV Routes.

To check out the rest of the story (as Paul Harvey used to say), be sure to read your Land Use Committee's Report somewhere in this issue.

Sustaining all the miles of trails can't be done without lots of people in lots of places, which means communicating a vision of trails made whole so folks can "stretch out and go" experience the history, the culture, the economies, the ecology, and the geography that abounds around us. Really big ideas become reality through the actions and skills of many who share a common goal and work together.

Whether you and your family, or you and a few friends get a chance to get out and wheel, please take the time to visit our web site at: <http://www.glfwda.org/index.php?page=tailgate> each time you go. Help us help you as we try to compile the economic impact we can have in enjoying Our Sport.

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. In closing, I will leave you with this which is carved into the stone base of the SR-71 "Blackbird" aircraft in the SAC Museum, Omaha, Nebraska is the following statement.

"We must never forget that freedom is never really free, it is the most costly thing in the world. Freedom is never paid in a lump sum. Installments come due in every generation. All any of us can do is offer the generations that follow a chance for freedom."



GLFWDA Associate Membership Information

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

Associate Membership Benefits

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

Remember, No Trails = No Sales!

We currently have 5 levels of membership for Associate Members:

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

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

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

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

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

For more information, please visit our Associate Membership information page <http://www.glfwda.org/index.php?page=joinam> or contact our Associate Member Secretary Joe Trager at amsecretary@glfwda.org

Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association would like to thank Kevin Bentz, our Webmaster, Store Manager, and the owner of Jeeperz Creeperz Inc. Kevin is a Level 5 Associate Member and normally receives a full page ad in each issue of the Boondocker, but was too busy to have time to freshen up his ad for this issue. For the full line up of off road equipment, parts and services they offer, please call Jeeperz Creeperz at 888-281-0681, send them an e-mail at sales@jeeperz-creeperz.com or visit their website at www.jeeperz-creeperz.com

By Pat Brower

GLFWDA Land Use Committee Report - Winter 2008

I would like to take a few lines to thank my fellow members of the Land Use Committee for their contributions to the protection, improvement, and expansion Michigan's off road and back country driving opportunities. During 2008, Committee members worked countless hours preparing for meetings, reading, researching, and commenting on a variety of proposals answering emails and conducting the business of the Committee. There is no way to properly measure their assistance. Just the time they spent on the road and attending meetings in 2008 totals more than 540 hours. That's equivalent to having someone working for you full time for 13.5 weeks! They have put more than 12,500 miles on their vehicles and spent more than \$2,200 just in gasoline. THANK YOU!

Following is an update of the status for issues addressed by the LUC as of January 2009.

FEDERAL LAND USE (NFS)

Huron-Manistee 2006 Forest Plan Appeal

We continue to gather the necessary information to properly support, document, and fund our Appeal. We are pleased to have found a Michigan attorney willing to work with UFWDA Legal Council, Carla Boucher, to represent GLFWDA and file our suit. The attorney is also willing to grant our non-profit organization a discounted rate. This will be a long-standing project. Mention in future reports will be limited to new information or changes in the project's status.

M Triangle

The purpose of this project is to designate the first 4x4 Route in the Huron-Manistee National Forest. We are working to map all of the existing trails and obstacles in the project area. The area is quite large and is defined by M-37, M-55, and M-115. There are still a few areas that need mapping. Computer GPS track manipulation skills are also sought. Please contact the LUC if you are able to assist with either of these needs. This will be a long-standing project. Mention

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in future reports will be limited to new information or changes in the project's status.

Mast Lake

This project proposes the closure of several miles of rustic roads near the Croton-Hardy Damn area. GLFWDA and the Two Trackers Four Wheel Drive Club (The closest GLFWDA Member Club to the project area) GPSed the area and submitted Scoping Comments suggesting a more appropriate transportation plan to retain rustic access to, and through, this portion of the Forest. The LUC has now received the Environmental Assessment, reviewed it, and submitted additional comments to retain our standing for appeal should closures be deemed excessive by the Committee.

Grass Lake and Tuttle Aspen

It has been signed! The LUC has received a copy of the Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Completion of this project adds 2.25 miles of unauthorized road (two tracks) to the Forest Road System for *recreational use!*

Jumpin Jackpine KW Habitat Improvement

The Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were received and reviewed by the Committee. The decision includes a disappointing 5.1 miles of road closures.

Reforestation and Timber Stand Improvements

The NFS is proposing forestry work in 12 sections throughout Lake, Mason, Muskegon, and Newaygo counties. The LUC reviewed the proposals for changes to the transportation system. None were found. Comment was not submitted.

Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Restoration

This project would restore 431 acres of habitat by reducing tree/shrub density to <15% and reducing undesired vegetation to <25% across 20 sections throughout Grant, Otto, and Greenwood Townships in Oceana County. The project was reviewed for road closures related to proximity to endangered species, but not were a part of this project. Informal comments were submitted expressing our concern over the current management direction for endangered Species that precludes motorized recreation in habitat areas

without the proof of harm legally required by the ES Act.

Great Lakes Geophysical Exploration

The proposal was reviewed to see if any temporary roads might need to be created that would have value to the recreational user. This project would not create any temporary roads as some similar projects do. No comment was submitted.

Lost Creek

The NFS will undertake a number of management activities to improve fuels and habitat objectives in 16 sections of Oscoda County. No road closures are related to this proposal and no comment was submitted.

STATE ISSUES (DNR)

Advisory Board Meeting

Updates were issued on a new motorcycle trail being proposed in the Hiawatha NF and the progress on PA 240 to date. The Grant Program is being transferred back to FMFM control. Michigan DNR has submitted \$15,000 to participate in a national trail signage study to unify the nation's off road signage for all classes of motorized trail systems. Dr. Nelson will be conducting a study of the Economic impact of off road vehicle recreation upon the state. The LUC is in contact with Dr. Nelson to attempt to improve the survey's 4x4 data collection. A review of the 2009 Grants to be awarded was issued. A presentation of Luce County's new "ECORD – Educate to Control ORV Damage" program was given and the Long Range Financial Plan Workgroup has had its initial face-to-face meeting. 2009 meeting dates were set: Feb 4, May 6, Aug 5, and Nov 4. If you would like more information on any of the topics covered at the meeting, please con-



tact the Land Use Committee at
LandUse@GLFWDA.ORG.

Drummond Island

The Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association (GLFWDA) is proud to announce that the Drummond Island ORV Route has been approved! It has taken several long years and countless man-hours supplied by scores of diligent volunteers, but the process has finally come to fruition. The MDNR has announced the official designation of the Drummond Island ORV Route system. This is Michigan's *FIRST* ORV Route designed for the 4x4 Jeep, truck, and utility vehicle enthusiast. GLFWDA would like to thank our coalition partners: Drummond Island Off Road Club, Drummond Island Tourist Association, Eastern U. P. Transit Authority, Hummer Club International, Jeep Jamboree USA, and all of the dedicated individuals within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for all of their assistance and support during this long process.

GLFWDA invites ALL Michigan 4x4 enthusiasts to join us on Drummond the weekend of MAY 9th, 2009 to assist the Association with the installation of the confidence markers and signage for the new Route system. It is critically important that the recreational 4x4 drivers of the region show the Department, island businesses, and island residents that this route is *highly desirable* to enthusiasts by showing up in mass. Please wear/display your club or GLFWDA logos if at all possible. Plans are being finalized for a Saturday evening gathering after the work is completed. More information will be announced as it becomes available.

Upper Peninsula Citizen's Advisory Councils

A subcommittee has been formed to create by-laws for the Council. The GLFWDA LUC representative serving on the Council has also volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.

County / Local Issues

Mounds ORV Park (Rock Course RFP)

Construction continues on the rock courses. The 3 easy levels are complete and materials for the

moderate level courses are now being delivered to the facility! Genesee County has had additional Grants approved to continue construction.

GLFWDA's Land Use Committee:

Pat Brower
Bob DeVore
Brian L Farley
Gary Greenway
Paul Hittie
Pat Kinne
Jim Mazolla
Paul Mulder
Mike Olmstead
Wayne Rynbrandt
Jeff Traynor
Steve Walker

More photos from our Members:

Photo Courtesy
of Bob DeVore



SnoFari Photos by Trisha Hartman



It's 7:00 AM and it's snowing lightly. I go out to the TJ to pack the cooler and I can feel the hairs in my nose instantly freeze. The windows are covered in frost, and when I start the Jeep, it reluctantly turns over before coming to life. When I drive past the bank on the way to Quality Inn to meet up with everyone, the sign says it's 4 degrees outside. It's going to be a great day!

It is the morning of the Third Annual SnoFari put on by the Soldiers of Fortune Offroad (SoFO) club. This event happens in West Branch, MI in January and has steadily grown in size over the past three years. Groups meet in the parking lot of the hotel and then head out into the state trails surrounding West Branch, and St. Helen. This year, the event was blessed with more snow than ever before. It was estimated the snow depths were 30 inches minimum.

The participants were grouped with similar sized vehicles in the parking lot and a safety inspection was conducted. A group led by SoFO President Jim Roy was made up of 14 rigs mostly on 35 inch tires, all Jeeps except for one lonely Ford Ranger owned by Dan Lewis. The plan for the day was to start off in the Dunham Lake area, and slowly move through the trails and end up at the St. Helen motorsport area. The idea was to cover almost 35 miles of trails, and have a group lunch someplace along the way.

With the group already aired down and full of gas, we were off. We slowly convoyed to the far west end of Rau Rd. The road slowly turns from pavement, to dirt, to two track. At this point along, the trail was already packed down by other vehicles. With fresh snow having just fallen, the trees were covered in a thick coat of snow that made everything very picturesque. Progress through the trails was going smoothly with nobody having any issues for the first 6 or 7 miles, but Mother Nature and Father Jeep weren't about to let this continue much longer.

A side trail was taken off from Dunham Lake Rd, which immediately led to one rig getting stuck. A quick tug on the end of a snatch strap, and everyone was moving along again. At the front, Jim Roy with his '99 TJ on 35s was having trouble. With the help of Shane Hartman in his '02 Hemi TJ on 36s, progress was slowly being made. From this point on, the luxury of having a trail that was already broke had passed.



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We made it to a large bowl area where the trail would lead us up and over a couple small hills, through a tight section of trees, out into another bowl area, and then up a long snaking hill through more trees. Sounds like a nice drive in the woods, until you add in grill deep snow that had the consistency of corn kernels that would give almost no traction. At this point in the trail, it took nearly an hour to cover only about a half mile. Then Father Jeep decided to have a little fun with none other than our trail leader. At the bottom of the aforementioned second bowl, with a hill on the right, swamp on the left and at the base of a long twisting climb, Jim Roy's TJ stopped running. People started to gather around the rig to help diagnose the problem. Turns out a cracked coil caused the fun to end. Jim's TJ was dead in its tracks with 13 rigs behind him in a section of trail that was too tight to turn anyone around or to pass. Now what? Good time for the kids to do some sledding!



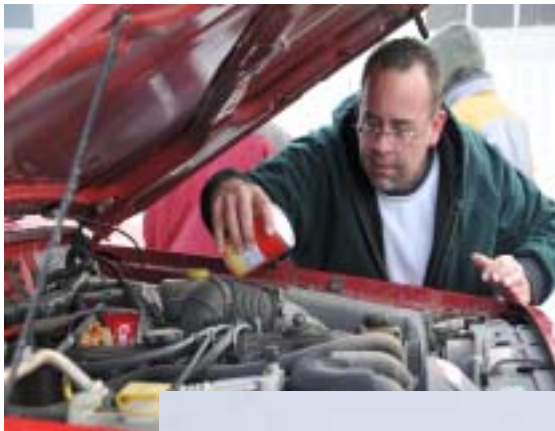
hill, but to no avail. Shane Hartman tried a couple times with his Hemi TJ, but was also having trouble. Even with the assistance of winches, it was deemed too much with time ticking away and light fading. A decision to have everyone back out and get turned around was made. With the help of Jerome Plochar in his 03 TJ Rubicon, the trail was widened enough to get turned around. Most of the rigs were able to get turned around without assistance, but many were having trouble climbing back up the two hills to get to the first bowl area. Straps were out, and winches could be heard working hard to get everyone out. Once everyone got back to the first bowl, a brief lunch was had on the trail.

When lunch was done, everyone hopped back into their rigs, only to find another problem. Dan Lewis '93 Ranger would not start. After removing the starter, it was found the battery cable lug was loose on the starter end. As luck would have it, Gary Greenway happened to have a couple spare cable lugs. The cable was repaired and the starter was reattached and the Ranger started right up.

Everyone made their way back out to Dunham Lake Rd and off to M-55. Some of the group headed back to the hotel to get cleaned up for dinner, while the rest decided to try to make one last short run to an area with some log crossings before heading back. Approximately a half mile off M-55, Jim Roy's TJ had enough. The coil gave out again, and we were out of gum. A call was placed to a friend of a friend, and a new coil was delivered to the trail head. The new coil was installed, and everyone was turned around to head back to dinner. After over 8 hours on the trail, less than 12 miles of trail were covered.

There is nothing better than returning to a hot meal after a long cold day on the trail. SoFO put on a large banquet with stuffed chicken and cut beef catered by the Lumber Jack / Quality Inn. After everyone gorged themselves on dinner, awards were given out and three large tables full of prizes were raffled off. Prizes including things like a Smittybilt winch, Ultimate Air tank, a set of AEV wheels, and number straps and other trail necessities. After dinner, many people went to the pool area to spend more time with new and old friends.

SoFO would like to thank Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association for sanctioning the event, and all of the sponsors who helped make this event the best it's ever been. A big thanks also goes out to all the supporters who attended SnoFari '09. Plans are already in the works to make SnoFari '10 even bigger and better. Tentatively scheduled for January 22 and 23, 2010, we hope to see you there!



Photos by Trisha Hartman



Lots of discussion was going on trying to figure out how to fix the TJ, or to at least get it off the trail so we could continue. It was then remembered that a spare coil from a project Grand Cherokee ZJ was left in the door pocket of JR Osborne's '97 TJ. After wading through thigh deep snow to retrieve the coil, it was found that the plug for a '93 ZJ and a '99 TJ are different. A little trail ingenuity and some wires were stripped and connected temporarily to the coil to see if it would work. Sure enough it did and the TJ started up. Now we had to figure out a way to make the wires stay put. Somebody had the idea to use bubble gum (No kidding!) in the plug of the coil to hold the wires. A few pieces of sticky gum wrapped with electrical tape, and the TJ was running again! We had now been on the trail for about 5 hours

A couple attempts were made to get to the top of the



South Eastern Michigan Mud, Sweat, and Gears Presents...

Drummond Offroad Adventure August 21st – 23rd, 2009

Registration begins April 15th, ends July 11th

Opportunity to
play at
**Turtle Ridge
Offroad Park**

Additional fees apply,
more info at check in.

- 50 Truck Limit
- Must meet Great Lakes Sanctioning Vehicle Safety requirements
- All pets must be leashed!



**A GLFWDA
Sanctioned
Event**



- Membership to Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association is required.
- Not a member? Join with registration.

Two Major Runs – Friday and Saturday

Dinner & Awards banquet provided on Saturday

Goodie bags, door prizes, and raffles

**Online registration
will begin April 15th.**
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Detach this portion and send to the address listed below, or register online at www.msg4x4club.com

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/St/Zip _____
 Phone Number _____
 E-mail _____
 GLFWDA# _____
 # Adults _____ # Minors (11-17) _____
 # Children (10 & under – Free!) _____
 Total Participants _____

Vehicle _____

DOA Essentials			
	Size	Quantity	Total
T-Shirts \$18 (S-XL) \$20 (2XL & 3XL)			
Sweatshirts \$28 (S-XL) \$30 (2XL & 3XL)			

Tire Size _____ Winch (Y/N) _____

<p>PRICES:</p> <p>Adults - \$45 Minor (11-17) - \$12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kids 10 & Under are Free!</p> <p>Great Lakes Membership - \$50</p>	<p>Registration:</p> <p># Adults x \$45: _____ # Minors x \$12: _____ Subtotal: _____ GL Membership: _____ Shirts: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Total: \$ _____</p>
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- Check out our website, for more details www.msg4x4club.com, or Contact Tim Yocum, 248.804.4555
- Registration packets will be furnished.
- Make checks payable to MSG.
- Mail registration form to:
 Mud, Sweat, and Gears
 PO Box 183165
 Shelby Twp., MI 48318

Registration begins April 15th, ends July 11th



Why become a member?

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

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

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

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

4WD Vehicle: _____

Phone Number: _____

Interests: Sand Drags _____ Mud Bogs _____ Trail Riding _____ Rock Crawling _____ Camping _____

Other 4WD Affiliations: _____

Send your completed application with your check for the \$50 yearly individual dues made payable to “Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association” to:

Eric Williams
29651 Five Mile Rd
Livonia, MI 48154
313-477-8165
membershipsecretary@glfwda.org

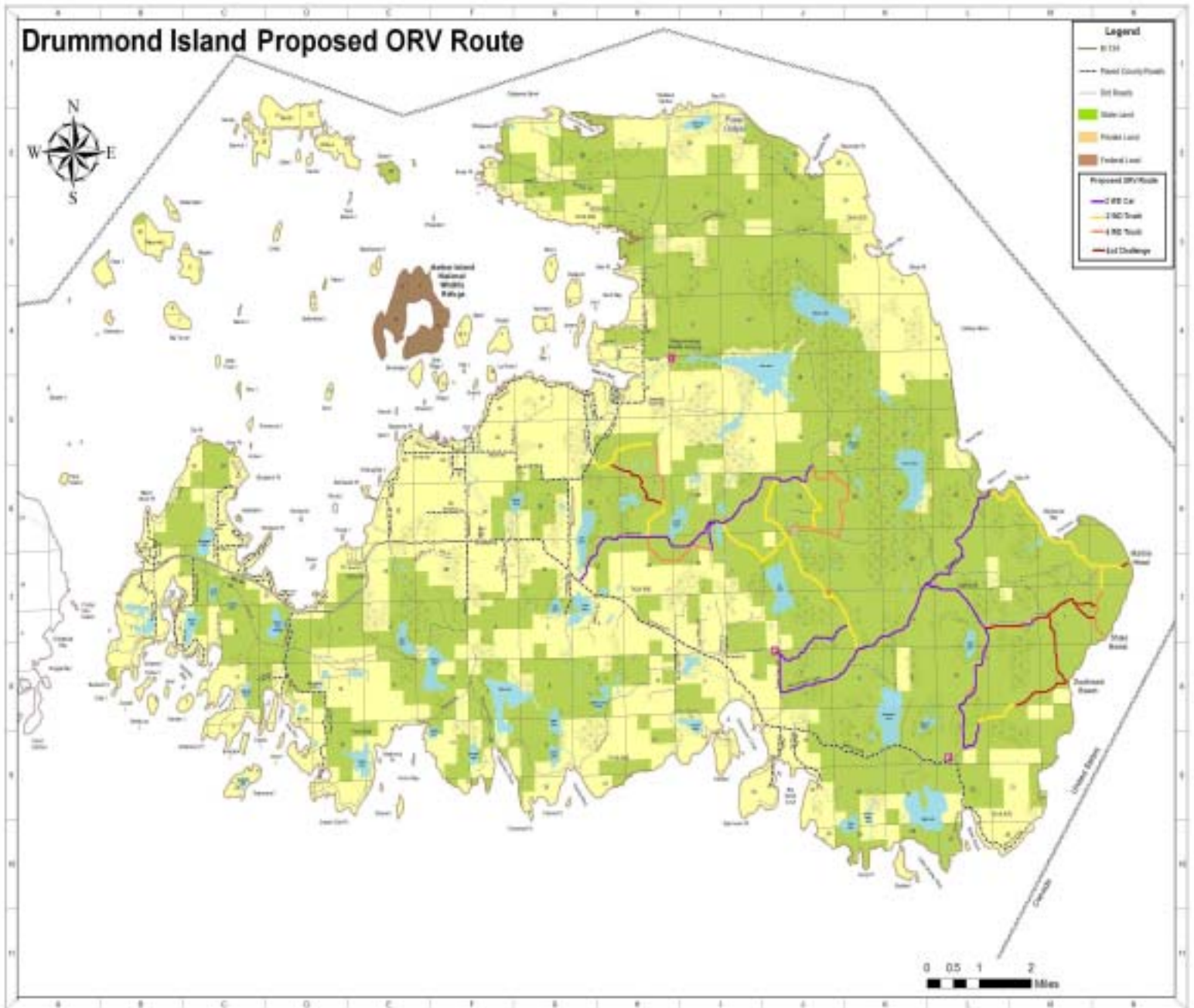
Since membership entitles you to receive the “Boondocker” newsletter, please include your full mailing address.

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

Drummond Island

It's Official!

The Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association (GLFWDA) is proud to announce that the Drummond Island ORV Route has been approved!



This map is used with permission of the Drummond Island Tourism Association (DITA). Full size versions of this map (21"x30") are available from DITA purchased locally for \$3, or by mail for \$4 from:

Drummond Island Tourism Association
PO Box 200
Drummond Island, MI 49726

It has taken several long years and countless man-hours supplied by scores of diligent volunteers, but the process has finally come to fruition. The MDNR has announced the official designation of the Drummond Island ORV Route system. This is Michigan's **FIRST** ORV Route designed for the 4x4 Jeep, truck, and utility vehicle enthusiast.

GLFWDA would like to thank our coalition partners:

Drummond Island Off Road Club, Drummond Island Tourist Association, Eastern U. P. Transit Authority, Hummer Club International, Jeep Jamboree USA, and all of the dedicated individuals within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for all of their assistance and support during this long process.

BE A PART OF HISTORY

GLFWDA invites **ALL Michigan 4x4 enthusiasts** to join us on Drummond the weekend of **MAY 9th, 2009** to assist the Association with the installation of the confidence markers and signage for the new Route system. It is critically important that the recreational 4x4 drivers of the region show the Department, island businesses, and island residents that this route is *highly desirable* to enthusiasts by showing up in mass. Please wear/display your club or GLFWDA logos if at all possible. Plans are being finalized for a Saturday evening gathering after the work is completed. More information will be announced as it becomes available. Please join us!

Make your reservations TODAY!

- Bear Track Inn*
33655 S Townline Rd
906-493-5090
- Drummond Island Hotel
34834 S Townline Rd
906-493-6799

- Drummond Island Resort
33494 S Maxton Rd
906-493-1000
- H & H Resort
33185 S Water St
906-493-5195

- Wa-Wen Resort*
32884 S Maxton Rd
906-493-5445
- Papin Resort Scott Bay
31240 S Maxton Rd
906-493-5254

* Indicates a friend to the 4x4 community

Drummond ORV Route Signing
May 9, 2009, Drummond Island, MI

Itinerary

Meet at the Bear Track Inn at 8:30 where trail signing tasks and instructions will be assigned (Bear Track opens at 7:00 AM for breakfast).

Once assigned to a work group and area proceed to the designated portion of the trail.

Perform trail signing work assignments until 4:00 PM.

Check back in at Bear Track to report how much trail was signed and any trail issues.

'Chuck's Place' will be having a dinner special on Saturday night.

Volunteers should note the following:

- Appropriate clothing and work gear (gloves, boots, etc.)
- Carpenter claw hammer
- Insect repellent, sun screen, etc.
- Food and beverage for the day (NO alcoholic beverages on trails)
- ORV license (sticker) for vehicles
- This not a 'trail maintenance' work day. NO power tools are to be used by any of the volunteers for this trail signing activity. Light trimming with hand tools is appropriate where necessary.

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
Director: Tim Yocum
tim.yocum@koltanbar.com
- 6. R.P.M. Off Road**
Member since 2002
Director: Steve Kitchen
P.O. Box 347, Ewart, MI 49631
- 7. SoFO – Michigan**
Member since 2005
Website: 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
7200 Bunker, Indian River, MI 49749
nephd@blazeconnect.net
- 10. What Lies Beyond**
Member since 2007
Website: <http://www.whatliesbeyond.org>
PO Box 599
Genesee, MI 48437
- 11. Delta Four Wheelers**
Member since 1972
Director: George Motes
10332 W. Dodge, Montrose, MI 48457
810-639-6549
gmotes@centurytel.net
- 12. Two Trackers Four Wheel Drive Club, Inc.**
PO Box 88063
Kentwood, MI 48518-9998
www.twotrackers.com
www.twotrackers.org

UNITED FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATION

of USA & Canada
Marti Pugh, Business Manager
14525 SW Millikan Way #22622
Beaverton, OR 97005-2343
1-800-44-UFWDA
Fax: 317-729-5930



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Endangered Species Stickers \$3



4" or 6" GLFWDA Stickers \$1

Store Manager
Kevin Bentz
1627 Eureka Rd.
Wyandotte, MI 48192
store@glfwda.org

By: Doug Saul

We had another opportunity to spend some additional time exploring this 3700A multi-use property of the Indiana DNR near Lynnvillle, IN. Yes, it is a road trip! The recreation area opened in August 2008 and is open from dawn to dusk everyday. You ride at your own risk and right now it is FREE, just Stay on the Trails or Stay Home!

The Boonie Riders 4X4 Club <http://www.boonieriders.org/> have been one of the driving forces in working with the INDNR to get this area open and the trails developed and marked. They are active members of the Indiana Four Wheel Drive Association (IFWDA). There are about 20 different marked and numbered trails at this time. Along with the trail number, they have installed signs that indicate the degree of difficulty one might expect to encounter. They plan to gather GPS tracks of all the trails, as time and manpower permit. Currently there is an aerial map with the trails indicated; it is rough but better than nothing. Check out the map on the INDNR website here <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4226.htm>

The DNR is currently working on a Master Plan for the area, with input from the Warrick County Recreation

Development Corporation (WCRD), of which the Boonies are a member. This group has been working for the past 7 years to advise the state as to how it might develop Interlake into a recreational area that fits in with the needs of all users, OHV, horseback riders, dirt bike riders, as well as hunters and fisherman.

Currently there are no facilities on the property, no out-houses, no picnic tables nor camping areas. They have some cleared areas for parking and unloading, but mostly the wide berm, on the stoned access roads, is where most tow vehicles and trailers are parked. All off road vehicles must be properly registered and I do believe they accept MI ORV stickers, but you should check it out before visiting, if you have an unlicensed trail rig.



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There are trails for all skill levels. For the folks that are brand new to trail riding, or just looking for a scenic tour of the property in the family SUV, there are easy trails out in the open that offer only slight challenges, but breathtaking views of the many lakes that were left by the coal mining that took place several decades ago. Climbing the difficulty scale ever so slightly, are the easy trails that snake their way through the woods. While not

technically more difficult, they are a little tight in places, and may not be suited for the shiny paint crowd (but the Hummer will fit down most of them, Bob). If you are new to trail riding, but aren't afraid of a few scratches, these trails might be what you are looking for.

Find yourself on a moderate trail, and you will get to test what you and your rig are capable of, while still having a chance of escaping major damage. An experienced driver, in a near stock to mildly modified vehicle will enjoy what these trails have to offer.

The most difficult trails at Interlake are just that. While a really good driver may be able to escape body damage on some of these trails, many of them are nearly guaranteed to send you home with "evidence" of a good time. Come prepared to fix whatever you might break. Most of these harder trails require at least one locker, at least 33" tires, and possibly a winch. Some of them are tougher yet, and suited only for the most experienced driver, in the best prepared, "dedicated trail rig". If you're not sure if that means you, then it probably doesn't.

Are there rocks? Oh yeah! There are at least some rocks on nearly every trail, but most of the difficult trails are chocked full of them. I walked a short ways into a couple of the challenge areas, and YES there are some BIG rocks and steep rocky climbs, with a few trees thrown in (to bounce off of) for good measure.

As with most trail riding areas, weather can up the pucker/difficulty factor. They had received up to 2 inches of rain a few days before we arrived. Needless to say, I signed up the Grand for the Easy trails, it was a 6-hour drive home on Sunday. Even at that, I made the Trail Leader a bit nervous when I skipped the bypass a few times. We did not know each other before this event and he was looking out for the nicer vehicles in his group. Obviously he didn't look close at the beauty marks on the Grand, but then after the first few hundred yards of trail, they were all covered in Indiana MUD!

If you are planning a trip to include Interlake, I suggest make it a long weekend or more and include the family. For the youngsters, we stayed at Santa Claus Lodge (complete with indoor pool) in nearby Santa Claus, IN. They have rides and coasters and a water park too. For the older kids, this is the Land of Lincoln and there are many historic places nearby to visit and learn about his life.

The Boonie Riders are GREAT folks and Interlake is a GREAT facility. We had a fantastic time and still more to see. We'll be back again! Hope to see some of you there!



Photographs provided by Doug Saul



Associate Member Directory



BDS Suspension

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

Jeeperz Creeperz

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

Ultimate Air

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

4BYFOURS

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

All Pro Automotive

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

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www.greatlakes4x4.com

Michigan Wheelers

www.michiganwheelers.com



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

Unlimited Offroad Centers

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Fenton, MI 48430
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www.unlimitedoffroadcenters.com
sales@unlimitedoffroadcenters.com

2 Track Minds Off-Road, Inc.

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Flushing, MI 48433
810-659-1300
www.2tmo.com
marineonee6@hotmail.com

Harold's Towing

2665 South Flowage Lake Rd
West Branch, MI 48661
989-345-1633
abfarley@yahoo.com

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P&T Auto Parts & Paint

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Detroit, MI 48210
313-894-1410



[Ed Note - Part I of a series]

There are a lot of fine points to the art of spotting. Great spotting, truly refined expertise in this area is something that takes a lot of time and a lot of experience to learn. It is experience one gains from watching others and trying to apply what you have learned from watching.

It would not make sense, at least for this article, to try to write about the *finer* points of great spotting. However, there are a few things that all spotters should know from the start that pave the way for a safer and more enjoyable trail experience for you and the driver.

Drivers, too, should be as knowledgeable about the basic rules of spotting as the spotters are. Drivers have a different set of spotting rules to follow but the rules for drivers are just as important as the rules for spotters.

Very little has been written for drivers on the subject of spotting. Hopefully that will change with this article since the second section is dedicated to the driver.

When both sides follow the rules the trail becomes a much smoother place.

(Note to the would-be spotter: Reading this article does not make you a spotter. It is designed to help you understand the dynamics of spotting more fully. Any given trail-run might normally have one or more club assigned trail leaders or spotters. You will be a lot more liked when you are on the trails if you acknowledge the hierarchy and organization of a run and not try to subvert it.)

RULE NUMBER ONE

Rule #1 of spotting, the first rule of ALL GREAT SPOTTERS is this...

** A good spotter will always look for another person who is already spotting the driver and will then do nothing but wait to be asked for help.*

Think about this sentence for a minute. Virtually EVERYONE on a club run can, and should, be a spotter but only if they are all reminded of that rule. Following the Spotting Rule #1 will keep things a lot more organized than those unruly times when EVERYONE is yelling directions.

RULE NUMBER TWO

This could be rule #1. It's a toss-up. It is the only rule I see broken more than rule #1. It seems like we forget, many times, to bother to ask the driver if he would LIKE to have a spot. There are many drivers who will know their truck well enough to be able to just know where the rocks are. Then there are guys who just don't want to have a spotter. Rule #2 is:

**A good spotter will always ask the driver if he would like to have a spot before he starts issuing signals.*

This is a golden rule. Never break it.

RULE NUMBER THREE

A good spotter knows that there will always be others yelling directions from the trail side and he knows that there will always be a newer driver who finds that confusing. This being the case, rule # 3 of great spotting is...

** Create a bond with the driver. Make sure he is locked on to you and only you.*

This is done by taking the time to walk up to the driver and have a small drivers chat.... "Hey, I am going to spot you through this. I want you to focus on me and tune everyone else out, OK?"

It is funny but dive instructors do something very similar to this when bringing a student down under water for the first time. They use two fingers in the shape of a V and move them from their eyes toward yours while locking in your gaze to theirs. For some odd reason they have learned that doing so actually helps a new diver get through the initial anxiety of being under water and being able to actually breath.

Creating a bond with the driver goes a long way to help him get through those times when there are a lot of people trying to spot. It helps him block them out and it places you as the point person.

Daniel Stra is the Founder of The JonFund 4X4 club <<http://www.jonfund.com>>, one of the strongest and largest 4 wheel drive clubs in the US. He has been involved with off-roading in one form or another since 1990. Comments should be addressed to jonfund@jonfund.com. Article used by permission. © Daniel Stra

Quarterly Meeting Minutes – January 11th 2009

Present:

President: Bob DeVore
Vice President: Edgar Osborne
Recording Secretary: Lucas Gottler

Absent:

Treasurer: Sandra Flegel
Membership Secretary: Eric Williams

Minutes from Fall Quarterly accepted.

Presidents Report

Thanked SoFO for a great event. Reminder to fill out Tailgate reports either on-line or mail them in. The Mounds phase II funding approved! Look for 30"+ rocks, possible "log jam" obstacles, etc.! Thanks all those who helped push these improvements through. Brief discussion about the current land use issues: see Land Use report. Northwest 4x4 is closing its doors January 16th.

Vice Presidents Report

Helping out where needed. Trying to start something with Big Brother Big Sister; possible trail ride or small event. Trail Ride Committee working on an Ultimate Adventure type event in northern Michigan, contact the Chairman if you would like to help. Also, please post dates of known events to keep our calendars updated and to help us avoid conflicts.

Secretary Report

Nothing to report.

Treasurers Report

2008-2009 Grant for trail maintenance approved, check is pending.

Membership Secretary Report

Membership numbers last year about even with prior year.

Associate Membership Secretary Report

Contacting expired Associate Members and asking to join again, if not, asking why in an effort to improve our association through feedback (positive or negative).

Web Site Administrator's Report

Upgraded software recently. Managing website ownership: .com, .org, .net. Old Boondockers available on-line now.

Clothing / Store

Almost done with inventory. Again, if you have any stock items, please contact Kevin Bentz. We have a lot of merchandise available, special order available if not in stock.

Boondocker Editor's Report

Will be printing the next issue soon, sorry for the delay. Please send in articles, pictures, dates, etc..

Trail Maintenance Report

DNR Grant approved for 2008-2009. Possibility for more miles under our grant by teaming with ATV Off-road Club of Michigan.

Land Use Report

See published Land Use Report

Old Business

Capitol Crawl still in the works, possibly in June. Would like to do a cookout at a local park after the rally.

Peat Sorb (Emergency fluid spill cleanup product). Available soon through the GLFWDA store. Trail leader and enders for GLFWDA events will have some on hand in their emergency kits. Contact Jim Mazolla for pricing and information.

Four Wheel Drive Safety Awareness - Silver Lake State Park and The Mounds have shown interest in taking this training class.

New Business

Renewal of UFWDA and Tread Lightly passed.

UFWDA Annual Convention in May. Bob DeVore attending, to be held in Dallas, TX.

Website – What is a spammer? Committee formed to address forum rules and posting/moderator guidelines.

Committee formed to create a proposal for the 2010 UFWDA Convention to be held here in Michigan.

Mounds Cleanup- Jim Mazzola to propose to the park a Trail Cleaning day including brushing and trash pickup. More info on-line when available.

Club Reports

Tri-City Trailriders - active in Trail Maintenance

SoFO – SnoFari event went well. 64 vehicles attended. Donated \$200 of profits to GLFWDA. SnoFari 2010 in the works. Also active in Trail Maintenance

I have been hearing lately people mention that they don't want be part of the politics, or even the drama, of being a member of a club or association. While I agree this is sometimes stressful, and not exactly the fun part of offroading, I also feel we all have similar goals and we need as many members as possible. I would obviously wish for people to join GLFWDA, but even just joining a active local club is a good thing. The more members in organized groups such as UFWDA, GLFWDA or clubs the harder it is for the law makers in Lansing to blow us off like we don't matter. The sad fact is there are only a very small amount of wheelers that are accounted for. There are strength in numbers.

On a brighter side, this summer has numerous opportunities for wheeling and gathering with your friends all over the state. We are even working hard on organizing an event that will cover the span of 4 days, and travel from Silver Lake Sand Dunes all the way to Drummond Island with a few stops

along the way in June. We are going to call this event GLFWDA Northern Migration and we're hoping it'll be a huge success. Keep your eyes on GLFWDA.org for more information.

Stay safe out there;
JR Osborne



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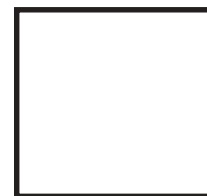
- Land Use Report
- SnoFari 2009
- DOA Registration
- Drummond Island Routes
- Interlake IN
- Winter Meeting Minutes



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spring 2009

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Grand Blanc, MI 48439



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