



The Boondocker



# Support the Sport!

Promoting and Defending Responsible Recreation

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

INSIDE

- The Troll's Spring Opener
- 4WD Class at R&V's
- Craig Feusse on winning
- Lots More!

SPRING 2014

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### *Front Cover:*

*London Area Jeep Owners  
Association from Ontario,  
Canada visits Rocks & Valleys  
Off-road Park*

Content for The Boondocker is provided by association members.

We would be glad to receive your articles, pictures, event dates, technical write-ups or trails from the trail. Take a few minutes to write up some highlights of your most recent club event or off-pavement excursion and be sure to include pictures! You may see your event in the next issue! Please note that any submission for the next Boondocker should be sent via e-mail to editor@glfwda.org by June 30, 2013.

## **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 Inquiries should be directed to the Membership Secretary. Inquiries 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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*4WD Training Class student  
Kimberly Rundhaug at  
Rocks & Valleys*

### **Advertising Rates**

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Well, this copy of The Boondocker is making it out to you pretty late in the summer... My apologies for the late issue, but I hope it was worth the wait! I wanted to use this space to explain a recent decision by the BOD in regards to our quarterly newsletter. As you probably know, each member of GLFWDA receives a subscription to this quarterly publication and for years now we have printed and mailed copies to everyone, but encouraged those interested to “opt out” of receiving the printed copy and instead read the Boondocker in an on-line format. What you may not have known, was the cost involved in producing and distributing the printed edition. Printing and mailing of The Boondocker is the largest single item in the GLFWDA budget and costs the association over \$8,000 annually.

When you break it down, approximately half of your membership dues are going in to producing this newsletter leaving only half for the association to actually work with to promote our sport in Lansing and beyond and to keep our trails open here in Michigan. I suggested to the BOD earlier this year, and they agreed, that this is not necessarily the best way to invest your money and I proposed changing to an e-copy only going forward. The pushback was that some members still have limited internet connectivity, dial-up connections, etc and the e-copy may not be a viable option for everyone.

So, we have decided that starting with the Fall 2014 edition we will change from a member automatically getting a printed copy with the ability to “opt out” to an e-copy and instead members will automatically be listed as an e-copy with the ability to “opt-in” to receiving the printed copy if the e-version is just not a viable optio. You will still receive our Summer Edition this October in the printed format but after you will transition to e-copy with the Fall 2014 issue which you will receive in January 2015.

We have not quite figured out the logistics of the e-copy just yet, but ideally you will receive an e-mail with the e-copy attached. Other options might be an e-mail with a link to the document on our webpage or worst case the new edition will be available on the website. We will communicate how exactly that will work in the next edition and also how to notify us if you are opting in to the printed copy for next year.

I know this decision will disappoint some members – I myself really enjoy paging through the printed copy every quarter, but I also feel we could use the money to better promote the association to, drive membership, and improve our operations in other ways. I hope you all feel the same and thank you for your support!

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



## President's Message

Finally! We seem to be into the grips of Summer. A time to gather with friends and family, drop the tops, remove the doors, and enjoy all the state has to offer. I am proud to share with you that our memberships are up, cash flow is good, and we continue to work with our club base, legislators, the DNR and committees throughout the state in effort to "Support the Sport". Please enjoy this issue and the updates by each of your Elected Board Members.

For the past five years I have been honored to be a Trail Guide for Jeep Jamboree USA at Drummond Is. A quick thank you to Pam East and crew who did trail maintenance before the Jamboree Crew got there. The route was the cleanest and brushed out I have seen it in past years.

I was amazed at the deterioration of one part of the "South Loop" and some changes made to the route. The "North Fork" continues to be widened and by-passed. The "South Fork" now takes a bit more traffic causing it to show more wear. One of my favorite spots on the route "Dip Stick" or the "Sippy Hole" has been re-routed and closed. Steve Walker and others have pointed out and discussed a repair for the North Fork with the DNR which seemed to be well received by all). We are trying to secure a grant to repair South Fork. Sippy or Dip Stick I fear may be lost forever. Like some of the ORV routes\trails in the State the lack of signage & trail rating info might be hurting us the most. As you know on "The Rock", cell coverage and civilization are not just right around the corner. I have heard too many stories of knowledge lacking, unprepared, negligent people walking back from these locations due to hydro locked engines, mud stuck, or other issues. Can you imagine, being on a vacation alone wheeling and hitting that stretch thinking "It's just another mud hole". Yeah, a deep one that has no warning on it. Needless to say INSTANT FAIL, but by whom? WE as GLFWDA members have an obligation set forth by our predecessors who have forged ahead and opened trails through the years. We must maintain these routes, and not slip backward, but forge forward to protect what we have left and work with the Parks & Rec Dept. to not only gain support but generate revenue to help fund improvements that are needed.

Trail maintenance, unified sport support, and more awareness training are a few ideas that come to mind. Since our strength is in numbers, I would like to see us couple with the growing "side by side" and ATV organizations in State. I feel this would show stronger devotion to our sport and let us have a louder voice to our lawmakers and legislators. After all we do share the trail with other size vehicles (quads, bikes, side by sides). A Trail rating system and better signage would help groups better choose the trail best suited for the vehicle and tire size, hopefully this would reduce by-pass and trail deterioration. Also this would allow the full size user designated routes not suited for the smaller vehicles narrower frames and smaller tires. I'm thinking trail ratings or trail color coding (similar to Rocks and Valleys). Lastly, Safety Awareness training is a great tool that GLFWDA\UFWDA has to offer. Seasoned wheeler or first time buyer (full size or side by side). For a small fee and a day of your time people gather for a power point presentation to share their experiences, knowledge and, apply what has been learned with the day ending range time. PRICELESS... Today it seems very easy to go out and buy a "trail ready" vehicle, but how trail ready are our new drivers? Seasoned wheelers this is your time to shine, share your knowledge, driving tips and support others in your sport. Everyone should walk away from this event having gained minimum one piece of wheeling information.

Please do your part and enjoy all this STELLAR State has to offer. Invite your friends and acquaintances to join their local Great Lakes\United supporting clubs, and support our Associate Members. I hope to see you on the trail or at an upcoming event. Be safe and best wishes this summer!

Patrick Beldock  
AKA: Rover



**Vice President - Harry Risley**

No report Submitted, but see a prodcut review on pg. 18

**Treasurer - Dave Smith**

As in the past, the GLFWDA has continued to maintain its very good financial standing. The Association's Combined assets (checking/Savings) remain close \$20,000.00.

We are still working through the dues for United Four Wheel Drive Association and the that payment will be made soon. Anticipate the payment will approximately four to five thousand dollars. Going forward, we will make quarterly payments to keep the roaster current. Michelle has been work closely with Bob Devore to get this done – thank you both! We used the Smart Phone Credit Card Readers for the first time at the Jeep Blessing and they work wonderfully. We had several new members sign up using a credit card. Glad this finally up and running.

Other than the United Dues payment, our up-coming expenses include the EZup approve last Quarterly meeting. We also will have a Boondocker invoice.

That's all I have - see you at the next Quarterly Meeting.

**Memberhsip Secretay - Michelle Borgeson**

Its here! Its here! Its FINALLY here! SUMMER!!!!I'm sure you're all as happy as I am that the weather has finally taken a turn for the better. The July 19 Members Only run will be my first wheeling trip of the summer, I can barely stand the wait! I'm really looking forward to getting out on the trails and seeing the rock course in St.Helen for the first time. I hope to see many of you there.

This last quarter was a busy one for membership. I am pleased to see so many returning members and thrilled to say that we have been able to welcome 66 new members to the GLFWDA family. Our family is 417 members strong and growing! THANK YOU ALL for your support of our beloved sport.

A special Thank You to our associate members is in order as well. We are proud and honored to have fine companies such as Warn, Daystar Products, Jeeperz Creeperz, Ironman Offroad, Jcr Offroad, Riverwalk Place, Michigan Wheelers and Mikes Automotive Supply in our GLFWDA family.

I want to take a minute to remind you all about how very important it is that we all wheel responsibly, and that it only takes a few bad seeds can ruin the whole mix. Please:

**Travel Responsibly**  
**Respect the rights of others**  
**Educate yourself**  
**Avoid sensitive areas**  
**Do your part**

RESPECTED access is OPENED access for all of us. Happy summer to each of you! Get out there and LOVE what you do!!

**Secretay - Dale Stroebel**

See meeting Minutes Pg 13

**Land Use Committee - Rob lawrence, Chairperson**

See Land Use report pg. 6

**Marketing Committee - Ed Schroeder, Chairperson**

We havd only 40 some responses to our survey which we published a link to in the last boondocker. It is clear from the Surevy that working with the DNR to keep trails open in Michigan is the most important issue for a lot of our folks. We are in the process of tabulating the results to share with the BOD including ideas on periodicals and webistes where advertising may pay off for the association.

All of the marketing professionals we have spoken to over the last year indicated that our presence at events like the Jeep Blessing and Jeep Creep were our best opportunity to make an impression, get our name out, etc. We received approval at the last quarterly meeting to buy a new professional grade EZ-up shelter with our logo, etc. to bring to these types of events to improve our presentation and brand awareness.

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

No Report, but See ad for Gitchee Gumees 2014 on pg 14

**PR Committee - Sheryl Miller Chariperson**

No Report Submitted

## Michigan Snowmobile & Trail Advisory Council (MSTAC) – April 8th, 2014

A few representatives from GLFWDA were in attendance of the MSTAC (Michigan Snowmobile & Trail Advisory Council) meeting held on 4/8/2014 at the RAM center. Here is a recap of what was discussed at the meeting:

### New Committee Members Announced

Three new members of MSTAC were introduced who were all filling vacant positions on the board. The new members are Jason Rolling, Timothy Kobasic, and Drew YoungDyke. Jason's and Drew each fill a spot on the board for the "Non-Motorized" roles and Timothy fills a "motorized" role.

### Update on Revised Event Permit Policy (i.e. SB50)

One of the main things we were in attendance for today was to participate in the discussion regarding the new Event Permit guidelines mandated by SB50 that passed in September 2013. The Good & Bad news is that there still is nothing official in place after the presentation today. Jason Fleming from the Parks & Rec division of the DNR was slated to present but was not present. The MSTAC committee was blindsided by what the DNR was presenting and asked the department to go back and present it to the SAW (Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup) and the ORVAW (ORV Advisory Workgroup). Then bring it back to the next MSTAC meeting in July.

Here is basically what the department was proposing:

- Any group over 20 USERS would be required to notify the department. The department would review to make sure that there were no other conflicts in the area as well as validate that a permit would not be needed.

A permit would be required in the following scenarios:

- ♣ Special Signage was required
- ♣ Potential for Resource Damage
- ♣ Department participation was required during the event
- ♣ A Fee or Donation is charged

It was good to see that the permit policy that was presented was not implemented and will go through further review. The ORVAW meeting will be on May 7th in Lansing at 6:30pm... this topic will be reviewed more in depth at that time (notes from the May 7th meeting detailed further in the boondocker). The Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association Land Use

Committee is currently looking at additional actions to make sure that this is implemented as written into law and in a timely manner.

### Review of Trails Summit

The MSTAC Committee attended the Trails Summit meeting back in January and there was further discussion about how the meeting went. Although there was positive feedback about getting the various groups together, a few issues from the event were brought up. One of the issues was the lack of a "ORV" breakout session as there were only sessions for Snowmobile and Summer/Winter Non-motorized. Additionally much of the discussions that were supposed to be captured during the breakout sessions never made it into the final report. The MSTAC committee requested of the MPRA who hosted the event to go back and provide all the information that was collected.

### Tourism Conference Update

Jim Radabaugh, head of the DNR Park & Rec division, provided an update from the Tourism conference that he added in January. Much of the "Pure Michigan" marketing is now being targeted to China due to a growing middle class in that area. Jim also reported that there is a new emphasis on growing the bicycle tourism in Michigan and that there are a few programs underway right now to collect, grow and market the bicycling opportunities within the state.

### Trail Bills Update

Recently a few new bills were introduced that focus on helping to further promote Michigan as a trail state. These bills are "tie bar" with each other: SB0873, SB0874, SB0875, SB0876. These bills do things like Rebrand the MSTAC group to the "Michigan Trails Advisory Council" and other rebranding types of activities. Additionally this would bring in new trail types such as a "Water Trail."

### Discussion about Accessibility Concerns

There was discussion about including members from Accessibility groups to MSTAC to provide oversight into work that is being done on that front. It was requested that there be a presentation at the next MSTAC meeting to see what some of the work that is being done on the Accessibility front and how it impacts trail use.

### State Trail Implementation Plan Update

Those of us living just below the bridge are used to allot of snow, but this past winter seemed like it would never end. While many of the Trolls club members were able to get out and enjoy the snow by sled throughout the winter, we were all ready to get our 4x4 rigs out when April finally arrived. Well, April arrived as scheduled, but the snow kept falling. As we heard about folks headed south for spring break, we decided we needed to get our rigs out and have a spring break of our own. We set a date of April 12<sup>th</sup> to hit one of our favorite local trails, regardless of how much snow was still in the woods. When the day came, we met mid-morning at a township hall north of Afton and west of the middle of nowhere. Several of us had run this same route a few weeks earlier by sleds and ATVs before the trails opened for full size rigs, and at that time we only encountered snow and ice, but by April 12<sup>th</sup>, the ice was melting.

trail that was supposed to take only a few hours, took us all the way to dinner time. We ended our cold and snowy spring run with a warm dinner and club meeting at the Cheboygan Pizza Hut.



It wasn't as warm as some of those spring break vacations, but it was just the kind of spring break we needed. Hope you can join us next spring as we break some trail again!



The ride started out smooth enough, but just about the time we realized the snow was still over knee deep in the woods, was when one of our members realized his front axle disconnect was broke. So after a quick tow back to the hall, we started over, minus one Chevy. His was not the only vehicular failure of the day, as I had hot starter problems and one of our members had a ball joint fail on his Polaris RZR. Even our new friend that had a brand new winch was able to use it for the first time (several times), but found that lighter winch bumpers don't hold up too hard pulls.

Several areas of the trail that had been frozen just three weeks earlier were now flooded with upwards of three feet of water. Breaking through the ice on each side of these water crossings made for an interesting and challenging ride. The

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Last quarter, I mentioned the strategy of IPDE. This quarter, we will look at a specific tool some of us use while out in the field, and something that helps provide my paycheck – winches. There are many different manufactures out there with different power sources, gear trains, brakes, and controls. I will go over the basic construction and configuration of the winch.

Most winches are constructed with a motor (electric or hydraulic) on one side, a drum that holds the synthetic or steel rope in the middle, and the gearing on the other side. The automatic load holding brake is typically placed in the drum or in the gear housing. Most winches have a standard bolt pattern of 10" wide by 4.5" deep. The controls for the winch vary. Some are in a box that you can move to different locations and some are integrated into the winch. Winches typically use either solenoids or contactors to do the high current electrical switching.

Winches need some way to transmit all that rotational power into linear power, and that is where you rope comes in. Remember to always leave at least 5 wraps of rope on the drum to ensure you can pull full rated load with you winch without damaging the winch or rope. Please remember although your rope is typically rated for a straight line pull strength (not bent), the rope's rating will decrease when you bend it over the drum, typically about 18-20%. So remember that when selecting the rope size for your winch.

The great debate of what is better – synthetic or steel. The answer is – it depends... Steel rope is durable, lasts a long time, and is cheaper, but steel rope is heavier, has more recoil when it breaks, and can poke you with broken wire strands (always wear gloves). Synthetic rope is lighter (most float), can be field repaired with the proper tools and training, and has less recoil when it breaks (yes it will still fly when it breaks), but synthetic rope is more expensive, does not like abrasion (rubbed over rocks and trees), and has a limited life mostly due to UV (sunlight) exposure. So it really depends on where and how you use your winch as to what product is better for you.

When a winch is in use, there are many important safety items to consider. There is a safety zone when winching, because as mentioned above, ropes do break. That is why you should place a winch damper, or heavy bag, or blanket over the winch

line. Put one over each winch line if you are doing a multiple line pull (using a snatch block). This will help limit the amount of travel and force the winch line has if it breaks. But the winch line is not the only thing that can become an unintentional moving object. The winch could break off of its mount, whatever the hook is attached to can fail, or even one of the vehicles could move in an unintentional manner. Therefore always keep any spectators at a safe distance. Also, establish 1 person as the one in charge of the situation, and make it clear that you will only listen to them, just like in all spotting conditions.

Warn's manual has a whole section on winch safety.

[http://www.warn.com/truck/winches/images/1842/62885A6\\_Domestic-read.pdf](http://www.warn.com/truck/winches/images/1842/62885A6_Domestic-read.pdf)

Thank you for your time and have a safe summer.

\* This information is provided by Craig Feusse and is not intended to be full or comprehensive. Please winch at your own risk. Remember a winch is a tool, not a toy. It can be very dangerous, but it can also be a lifesaving piece of equipment.



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This past spring the Tri-City Trail Riders gathered in Saint Helen, Michigan to perform some maintenance on the rock course located in the Saint Helen Motorsport. The maintenance was part of a special maintenance grant (from the ORV fund) that the Tri-City Trail Riders put together and were authorized to complete during the 2014 fiscal year. The proposed grant was submitted as part of Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Associations trail maintenance paperwork and was able to be approved thanks to the relationship between GLFWDA and the DNR's Parks & Recreation division.

Included in the maintenance was 87 ton of rock to be used to fill in areas on existing courses, implementing a new lower approach for the tube course and some general brushing and clearing. The approach on the tube course (was previously just rocks) was pushed out and was just about impossible for even the most built rigs when approaching the run straight on. The new approach is two levels of 2x2x3 concrete blocks that are "stepped", with a small rock scramble below that.

The overall goal of the maintenance provided was to make more rigs able to approach the tube obstacle (36" tire size and up) as well as to provide some basic maintenance to the 6 sets of obstacles that have settled after being created 4 years ago.



*Tons of rocks and other material were used to fill in the much deteriorated rock courses*



*The rocks approaching the tube course had been pushed out making it just about impossible for even the most built rigs when approaching the run straight on. The new approach is two levels of 2x2x3 concrete blocks that are "stepped", with a small rock scramble below that. Now a rig on 37" tires can approach the obstacle head on and be able to successfully crest the first tube.*



What Lies Beyond Jeep Club of Michigan held a 4 Wheel Drive Awareness Training Class on Saturday June 28 at Rocks & Valleys Offroad Park. Some of our newer members had asked about the class and after a few more expressed interest, we decided to hold the class. It was lead by primary instructor Paul Hittie with me along as the secondary instructor. We are both trainers through United Four Wheel Drive Association's program. This was my first time actually in the instructor roll after receiving my training back in October 2012 so I was glad that Paul was there to take on the primary instructor role and allow me to just pitch in from time to time and help out with some of the demos and spotting later in the day.

The class consists of a ½ day of classroom instruction and ½ day practical driving and recovery skills with the students in their own vehicles. The class had a real mix of students... everything from Teenagers with limited driving experience of any kind, to folks that have been driving for many years but would be taking a vehicle off-pavement for the first time, to one gentleman that has been wheeling for 15 years+. The course has something to offer everyone. In the morning we set up in a room over at Snow Snake Ski Lodge and covered the classroom portion. Topics covered included:

- Learning about the equipment on a 4WD vehicle
- Understanding the capabilities of a 4WD vehicle
- Driving techniques for various terrain on the trail
- Treading lightly, trail etiquette, and spotting
- Vehicle Checklists and maintenance

After a break for some boxed lunches from the crew at Snow Snake, the class headed over to Rocks and Valleys to put their newly learned skills to the test! Driving portion included hill climbs & descents, articulation over uneven terrain, driving off-camber, and others including one new wheeler that braved a long water excursion fording through a huge puddle/pond in one of the large scramble areas. We drove around a bit and let everyone get comfortable with their rigs and I heard many exclamations that went something like "If you hadn't told me it was OK, I never would have tried that" and "I can't believe I made it over that!" those making the second statement were assured that it was the first in what would be a long series of occasions for them to say it as the continued to explore the great outdoors in the 4WD vehicle.

Or Instructor's son, Jonathon Hittie, gave us a great opportunity to stop and demonstrate strap recoveries by getting his Dad's Jeep hung up on a large log obstacle. Another participant, Victoria Rundhaug, got to work with Paul to check the recovery points, attach the strap, and give Jonathon a tug over the log. It went flawlessly and I'm told Victoria was pretty pleased to have had the chance! We then took the opportunity to complete a winch extraction demo with a couple of the student Jeeps as well.

At that point, we had been at it for a few hours and rain was threatening so we decided to call it a day – except for a couple of the Students who decided to stay and wheel at the park for a while and wound up hitting some great trails and providing some more real-life extraction opportunities!



*New Jeepers Victoria Rundhaug (Front) and Frank Pressey (Back) driving some uneven terrain to get a feel for their vehicle's articulation, approach angle, etc.*



*Scott Gordon, already an experienced offroader, tried getting up on these rocks but bent a tie rod in the process, creating an opportunity for the group to discuss trail repairs!*

## Welcome New Members!

Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association would like to welcome these members who joined in the Second Quarter of 2014 from around the state. We Appreciate your Support for the Sport!

Brett Atchison- Fruitport MI  
Jamie Bachman- Sault St Maire, ON  
Brad Bagley- Augusta, MI  
David Barr- North Street, MI  
Scott Bieke Roseville MI  
Dave Boster- Baltimor, MI  
Douglas Boyne- Marlette, MI  
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Richard Frieese- Newaygo, MI  
Bill Frye- Byron Center, MI  
Forest Gage- Owasso, MI  
Thomas Gotts- Perrinton, MI  
Chris Hanna- Vicksburg, MI  
Kevin Hendricks- Lum, MI  
Josh Henry- Clare, MI  
Frank Hill- Zeeland, MI  
Jason Hodges- Saginaw, MI  
Bruce Hopkins- Holly, MI  
Tim Johnson- Paw Paw, MI  
John Jonaitis- Muskegon, MI  
Jaeson Loman- Chesterfield, MI  
Matthew Loux- Wyoming, MI  
Patrick Lyons- Clinton Township, MI  
Joe Mailkowski- Vicksburg, MI



Paul Malus- Holland, MI  
Jared Markey- Burtchville, MI  
McCaughan/Auer Shawn & Terri- Kalamazoo, MI  
Brett Miller- Berkley, MI  
George Miller- Grandville, MI  
Kristy Morgan- Manton, MI  
Shawn Mortimore- Kalamazoo, MI  
Nick Navoni II- Muskegon, MI  
David Olrich- Spring Lake, MI  
Thomas Patterson- Hastings, MI  
Kenneth Perry- Auburn Hills, MI  
Frank Pressey- Lapeer, MI  
Scott Purcey- Rockford, MI  
Ray Resseguie- Fenville, MI  
Dave Ridlington- Holland, MI  
Crystal Rigby- Saginaw, MI  
Bud Rissley- Jenison, MI  
Jay Schimmoller- Saginaw, MI  
Francis Seminski- Williamston, MI  
Brian Siegel- Coopersville, MI  
Jim Simmons- Grand Haven, MI  
Jon Sytsma- Battle Creek, MI  
Ty Thoman- Whitmore Lake, MI  
Ryan Thomas- Fenton, MI  
Garrett Toombs- Attica, MI  
Theo VanAken- Grand Rapids, MI  
Mark Weirsmas- Middleville, MI  
Nate Whitten- Gowen, MI  
Mark Willoughby- Burton, MI  
Cody Wiseheart- China, MI



1. Meeting called to order by Vice President at 8:10 pm..
2. Introduction of officers present: Harry, Dave, Michelle and Dale. Extended BOD members: Ed and Sheryl.
3. Treasurer's report: Well within budget at this point. Rock course load check written, Boondocker publication costs paid.
4. Membership Report: 367 paid members, 7 Associate member clubs (Swamp Stompers are new). New Membership Directory software up and running well in BETA, Excel based.
5. Recording Secretary report: Copies of meeting minutes printed and available to those in attendance.
6. Marketing Committee: Survey has had 10% member participation at this point. Updated logo's are ready for review.
7. Editor's report- Boondocker will be a electronic issue with a paper opt in after the summer issue.
8. Trail Ride Committee- GLFWDA Assn. Member Appreciation Run July 19<sup>th</sup>,2014. DOA August 15-18, 2014. 4 Wheel To Heal, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Jeep Creep, October 24-26, 2014
9. Introduced Sheryl Miller as new GLFWDA Public Relations Chairperson.
10. Reviewed S.B. 50.
11. Trail Maintenance- Mio area trail main. Filled.
12. Old Business:
  - a. Marketing Committee request for \$1500.00 to purchase commercial quality canopy (EZ-Up brand). Motion made and seconded to amend Marketing Committee budget. Much pro and con discussion ensued including what other types of marketing options are available and practical to promote GLFWDA to non members. Motion passed by voice vote of present membership.
13. Tailgate report review.
14. Club News:
  - a. Two Trackers: Trail clean-up canceled. New focus on cancer cure fund raiser's .
  - b. Cadillac Jeepers: Jeep Blessing- Proceeds to local charities.
  - c. Trolls: Spring Run and trail clean-up.
  - d. WLB: 21 members, Spring trail maint.,
15. New Business:
  - a. Discussed sale of GLFWDA logo'd merchandise to non-members. Motion made and seconded to open sales to all. Passed by voice vote.
  - b. Discussed various marketing and promotion idea's for GLFWDA to be taken back to the Marketing Committee.
  - c. Meeting adjourned 9:16 pm.



**PRESENTS**



- GITCHEE GUMEE 2014 is a GLFWDA Members ONLY run
- Open to all Street Licensed and Insured Four Wheel Drive Vehicles with Low Range Capable Transfer Case
- Vehicle Drivers (18 and Over)
- Vehicle must be prepared for long distance trail rides
- Attendees Must Follow Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association Safety Recommendations
- Each Person Responsible for their own meals
- Working CB Radio Required (HAM radio recommended)
- Front and Rear Tow Points Required
- NO Registrations Accepted Before July 1, 2014
- Space is Limited to First 40 Registrations

## 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.cheapthrillsoffroad.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.webs.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



## Cadillac Jeppers

PO Box 954  
 Cadillac, MI 49601  
 cadillacjeppers.com.  
 www.sundowners4x4.org

## Mid-Michigan Fourwheelers

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



## Drummond Island Off Road Club

33655 S. Townline Rd  
 Drummond Island, MI 48726



## This Space could be for YOUR CLUB!

Has your club thought about becoming a full roster supporter of GLFWDA? We are the only association in Michigan dedicated exclusively to the interest of Full Size 4WD recreation. We'd be happy to come talk to your club about the Association and why your support is needed!

Thinking about forming a club? We can help! We can send you our "How to" guide for forming a club which includes information on creating a mission statement, bylaws, tax exempt status, etc.

Contact [prchair@glfwda.org](mailto:prchair@glfwda.org) for more information

## UNITED FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATIONS

P.O. Box 316  
 Swartz Creek, MI 48473



## Warn Industries, Inc.

13270 SE Pheasant Ct  
 Milwaukie, OR 97222  
 www.warn.com  
 800-543-9276

## Michigan Truck Spring

3649 Wolf Road  
 Saginaw, MI 48601  
 800-358-4751

## Michigan Wheelers

www.michiganwheelers.com

## Rocks & Valleys Off-road Park

US 127 between Clare & Harrison  
 989-539-1448

## Bundy Hill Offroad Park

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

## Jeeperz Creeperz

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

## Daystar Products International

www.daystarweb.com  
 841 South 71st Ave  
 Phoenix, AZ 85043  
 623-907-0081

## JCROffroad

www.jcroffroad.com  
 9350 Shaver Rd  
 Portage, MI  
 269-353-1184

## Ironman Offroad

Dale Stroebel  
 Saginaw, MI 48609  
 989-832-7538  
 ironmanoffroad@gmail.com

## Mikes Automotive Supply

1981 E 8 Mile Rd & 8121 Livernois  
 Warren, MI 48091 Detroit, MI 48204

An update was provided by the Department on the State Trail Implementation Plan ([www.michigan.gov/trailplan](http://www.michigan.gov/trailplan)). Currently they are assigning roles to each of the action plans and that should be completed in the next few weeks.

#### Trail Connector Prioritization

Each of the subcommittees (Snowmobile, ORV, Equine, Non-Motorized) each have been tasked with identifying and prioritizing trail connectors and bring them to the next MSTAC meeting in July.

#### Gold Standard Trail Proposal

A proposal was made to form a subcommittee that would create the criteria and polices for managing trails labeled as “Gold Trails”. These would be a small subset of trails that have historical, scenic or other attributes that would require further attention in the management of the department land. This many would focus on the forest management activities that would happen along the trails that are identified as “Gold” trails. MSTAC approved a 5 member subcommittee who is tasked with investigating what the criteria would be and to report back at the next MSTAC meeting in July.

#### ORV Advisory Group Update

Thomas Dunn, head of the ORVAW, provided an update from the last ORVAW meeting. The major update was regarding the proposed Silver Lake online voucher system. The workgroup still has not received any of the finical information requested of the department. As such the ORVAW still has not provided their “stamp of approval” on the proposed online voucher system.

#### ORV Advisory Workgroup (ORVAW)

– May 7th, 2014

#### Southeastern ORV Park/Scramble Area

Work is continuing to locate a place in SE Michigan for an ORV Park/Scramble Area. As you may recall from last year the location that was being targeted in Oxford was opposed by the community. Alternative locations were identified and are in the process of being reviewed for their compatibility with the hope of having a “test run” toward the end of summer. Although the first test run will be invite only, the goal is to then hopefully be able to open up some additional test days to the public come fall 2014. There seems to be a

lot of momentum behind obtaining and building this park, and as such things will hopefully move along quickly.

#### SB 50 ORV Event Permit Update

\*Last September, SB50 (PA119) was signed into law and mandated changes to the DNR’s event permit language. Since its passing, we have been struggling to make sure that the changes are made to reflect the new legislation. Per the previous MSTAC (Michigan Snowmobile & Trails Advisory Consul), the DNR was asked to review the draft event permit triggers with the ORVAW. The DNR came in with what they had previously but went line by line and modified it based on the discussion. Here are the areas that were modified:

The language around saying if you have 20 or more people that you are required to notify the DNR has been removed, so there is no requirement to notify to “see if you need a permit”. Additionally the section around having a requirement if there is a fee or donation required will be modified to say if it is commercially operated. The exact verbiage was not finalized in the meeting but the takeaway was that if the only item was monetary then they were only looking to require this from events that are doing it for commercial purposes (most of these would have other triggers anyways). It was agreed that clubs running an “organized” event and collecting funds to provide a banquet meal would not cause this to be triggered.

Performance bonds (i.e. Road Bonds) can now be used across an entire year, instead of doing one for each event. Finally the last sticky area for us around needing a permit because of “Natural Resources will be impacted” was to be modified to imply that it would be impacted severely beyond normal usage. The exact verbiage was not agreed upon in the meeting, but the DNR agreed to make these changes (plus some others) to reflect these scenarios.

This will be taken back to the MSTAC meeting in July, and if agreed upon there, should be implemented. Additionally I did ask about reimbursements once implemented and the current advise is that permits issued after the 90 day window where this was supposed to be implemented and would not have required a permit will have the funds reimbursed.

#### ORV Meeting Date/Location Change

The date and location for the next ORVAW has been changed and will now be Thursday July 24th @ 6:30pm. Although an exact location has not been determined, it will be held in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

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

Be sure to specify mens or womens and the size of clothing when ordering. Most clothing sizes are available from Medium up to 3XL.

## Product Review

Fellow GLFWDA Members, this past month on one of our club runs I had the opportunity to test a new product by a company here in Michigan. GBS Off-Road Performance. The unit is called the Rock Roller and it is designed to last and well built.

### Product Testing

I had the chance to test the GBS Rock Roller recently. The rock roller slips into your 2x2 hitch and while rock climbing keeps your rig from dragging on the rocks. The Rock Roller could save some significant wear on your vehicle. For the members who love Rocks and Valleys or St Helens I think this would be a great addition to your rig.



GBS is a small company out of Moline Michigan, you can reach them at (616) 877-4775 and ask for Gary. You can also visit them on Facebook at GBS Off-Road Performance. They offer some off road performance enhancements and would do custom design/build if you have an idea. It's innovative design insures long lasting and durability for years to come. The slogan for this unit is "Why drag when you can roll?".

Happy Wheeling!!

Harry Rissley

Vice President GLFWDA



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ GLFWDA Screen Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Other 4WD Affiliations: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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)



## The Boondocker

Spring 2014

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



**DATED MATERIAL DO NOT DELAY**