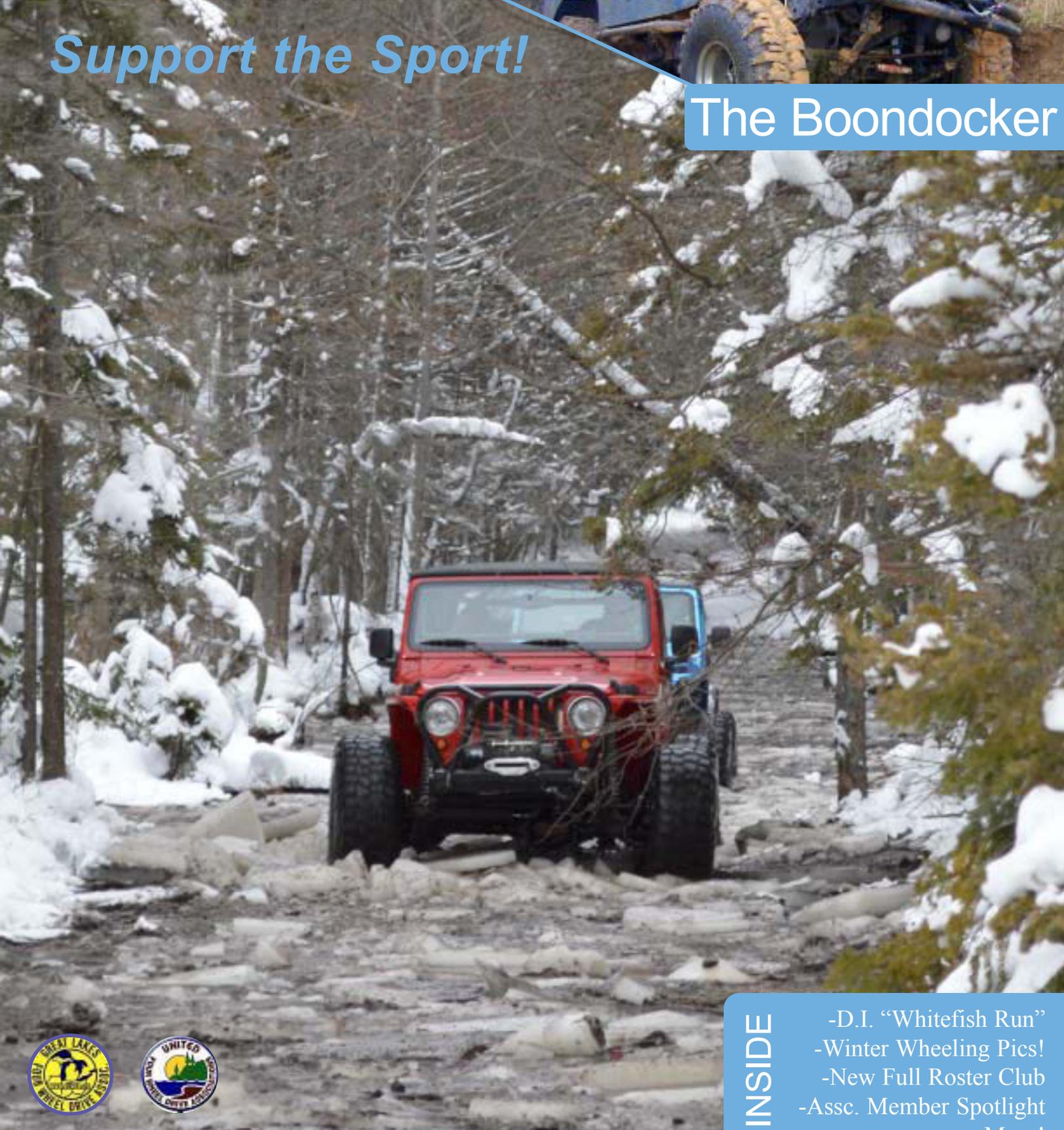




Support the Sport!

The Boondocker



INSIDE

- D.I. "Whitefish Run"
- Winter Wheeling Pics!
- New Full Roster Club
- Assoc. Member Spotlight
- More!

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Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association

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

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

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

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



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On the Front Cover:

*The Witefish Run
on Drummond Island
(Photo by Kristy Gogolen)*

On the Back Cover:

*Sundowner Mike McCuaig plowing
through the snow near Jones, MI
(Photo by Gregory Arthur Wischmeyer)*

Advertising Rates

Full Page (1 side) – \$105.00 per issue

1/2 page – \$70.00 per issue

1/4 page – \$52.50 per issue

Business Card Size – \$35.00 per issue

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

Boondocker Submissions

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

Please note that any submission for the next Boondocker should be sent via e-mail to editor@glfwda.org before June 15, 2013.

Calendar of Events

Michigan Wheelers D.I. Invasion April 5-7	Jeep Jamboree - D.I. June 20-22 Drummond Island, MI
Two Trackers Forest Clean-up April 20 Twin Lake, MI	MSG's D.O.A August 16-18 Drummond Island, MI (Registration open May 5)
Cadillac Jeepers Jeep Blessing May 4 Mesick, MI Come visit us at the GLFWDA Booth!	Gitchee Gumees Run September 27-29 Canada (Registration open May 1)
Jeep'n For a Cure May 18 Rocks & Valleys Harrison, MI Jeep4Acure@comcast.net for more details	Jeep Creep October 25-27 Riverwalk Place Gladwin, MI

A note from the Editor

Lots to see in this latest newsletter from Great lakes Four Wheel Drive Association. Meet our Associate Membership Secretary, read about some great Trail Rides, learn more about one of our Associate Members, and hear about the Latest Club to join as a Full Roster Member of the Association, see some great pics of Winter Wheeling from around the Great State of Michigan, and more!

You will probably notice that we don't have anything on SoFO's SnoFari this year. It wasn't for lack of trying! Unfortunately, none of our "regular" contributors attended this year's event (at least not the entire event) and despite a flurry of e-mails I never found anyone to write up an article, though I did receive some pictures which I included in the Collage on Page 9 along with pics from other trail rides. It is very disappointing to publish this edition without featuring this outstanding event. Hopefully somebody will come through next year!

Table of Contents

President's Message.....	4
Land Use Report.....	5
DNR Recognizes GLFWDA Member.....	5
Michigan Wheelers "Whitefish Run".....	6
Winter Meeting Minutes.....	8
Wheeling Pics from around Michigan.....	9
Meet Our Associate Membership Secretary.....	10
The Sundowners - Our Newest Full Roster Club!.....	11
"Last Sunday In February" Run.....	13
Associate Member Spotlight - Ironman Offroad.....	16

DON'T FORGET!

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

Please contact the Membership Secretary and ask her 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!



I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the following people: First, thank you to Bob Devore for your time and efforts during your tenure as President. I would also like to thank the board at Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association for supporting me in my new position. Last, huge thanks to my family and friends in the wheeling community for all the great support through the years.

Trying to describe yourself can be the hardest thing in the world. I have spent some time thinking about that question to write this quarterly article. My name is Patrick Beldock. I am 40 years old. I have been wheeling since the late 90's. My rig is a 86 CJ-7 that is still running "mostly" stock drive train with a few "embellishments". (I will spare the details so it doesn't sound like I'm rambling!) I administer a network of Family and friends that my Brother Lee Beldock started some time ago named Gangbuster Getaway's. I recently had the privilege of being Trailmaster for my local club - the Sundowners 4x4 in Kalamazoo. For the past 3 years I have been a Trail Guide for Jeep Jamboree USA at the Drummond Island event. Three years ago I became a Master Safety Trainer for United/Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association. I believe in honesty, integrity and I strive to T.R.E.A.D. Lightly.

A key component in the success of our sport is strength in numbers. By supporting your local clubs, and with those clubs supporting Great Lakes & United we can continue to move forward on issues like public land management, trail ride committees, trail maintenance, and legislation to protect our off highway rights. Off highway enthusiast come in all forms: rock crawlers, mud runners, trail riders, mall crawlers, UTV's ...etc... etc... Whatever the passion, respect for public land, and each other, is a key component that binds us together.

"Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

~Mattie Stapanek~

In closing, I would like to give a special thanks to SoFO for allowing me to attend SnoFari 2013 a STELLAR event, and a BIG thank you to Ryan Gogolen for letting me "hitch a ride", and to all of you I had the pleasure of listening to and meeting. I look forward to my new endeavor as President in 2013. I will do my best to fulfill my duties and uphold this great honor that has been bestowed to me. Meeting new friends, strengthening our memberships, and growing the Safety Awareness program are just a few of the issues on my agenda. To my fellow Board associates, and to all members, thank you for your support. Please be safe, see you on the trail!

Patrick Beldock
President
Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association
President@glfwda.org



Legislation Bills

There are a number of bills winding through the Michigan Legislature that impact our sport, as follows:

HB 4299 (Rep. Jon Bumstead) will extend the provisions of PA240 statewide. Recall that PA240 opened up right ways of specified county roads to ORV and 'dirt bike' transit, much the same way snow mobiles have had for years. It will still require the approval of either the county or local community to implement.

SB 50 (Sen. Thomas Casperson) has a number of provisions affecting the ORV community; some of those include:

- Included a definition for "maintained portion" as a point of clarification.
- Removed letter language that would have allowed DNR to exempt licenses for special events.
- Adjusted the group permit language to ensure no permit is required, just notification. We may like to tighten down the notification language to make it more clear in terms of what sufficient means.
- Tries to address the liability issue mentioned by MDOT
- Added "defects in highways" on line 19 in the liability language.

SB 68 (Sen. Geoff Hansen) defines 'ROV's (Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle – commonly referred to as 'side-by-side's) and changes the definition of an ORV that eliminates

Secretary of State (SoS) full size ORVs from the definition of an ORV. This is NOT a good thing for our sport as it will eliminate any full size SoS licensed vehicle from the system.

SB 69 (Sen. Geoff Hansen) limits ORVs on ice to 2 riders.
SB 78 (Sen. Thomas Casperson) strips biodiversity as a reason for the MDNR to make any decisions with regard to land use. This will greatly help in our battle to keep trails open in the Kirtland Warbler areas.

ORV Off Road Advisory Workgroup

Pat Brower, GLFWDA member who sits on the Off-Road Advisory Workgroup, reports that the ORV Advisory Workgroup has appointed a sub-committee in cooperation with Law Enforcement Division to review complaints received by the LED addressing various provisions in current statutes and regulations. At issue are statutory provisions and regulations that may be considered impractical, unenforceable, or outdated, and as a result cause unnecessary friction between LED and the user community. Pat will keep us up to date on this committee's work.

Federal Lands (USFS)

We have nothing to report on the Federal front (USFS lands) because currently GLFWDA does not have anyone monitoring. If you have interest and capacity to help in Federal Land issues then please contact the GLFWDA Land Use Committee Chairman.

DNR Recognizes GLFWDA Member

On Saturday March 16th the DNR held one of their "preseason workshop and Trail Update" sessions for ORV Grant Sponsors in Roscommon, MI. During the day Amanda Matelski, Trail Program Analyst, presented the DNR's Trail Maintenance Award for "Innovation and Determination" to GLFWDA Vice President Paul Hittie.

When asked about the award, and the decision to recognize Mr. Hittie, Amanda told The Boondocker Editor: "These awards were designed to recognize trail maintainers that go above and beyond what is expected. Paul Hittie was one of the three selected winners. His award was specifically for innovation & determination. Paul has been recognized for his hard work on the St. Helen Rock Course, as well as his determination and hard work on the St. Helen Area Route Proposal. He has strived to obtain unique and challenging riding opportunities for the four wheel drive community. He is never afraid to bring forward new ideas and ways to make the program better."



Michigan Wheelers Drummond Island 2012 New Year’s run also known as the “Whitefish Run” took place between Christmas and New Year’s. This run earned the nickname of the “Whitefish Run” due to the all you can eat whitefish special at a local restaurant that ended in a lot less than “all you can eat”. Nevertheless, this run is an amazing way to continue the holiday season!

Drummond Island is located approximately 1 mile off the eastern side of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and is the second largest fresh water island in the



nation. Not only is this island known for its picturesque landscapes, fishing, kayaking, fantastic birds, hiking, and biking; it is also an amazing place for off road adventures! The only way to get to the Island is by taking a ferry from DeTour, MI across the DeTour Passage of the St. Mary’s River. The ferry to Drummond Island does not make the voyage twenty-four hours a day so for anyone headed in that direction should check the ferry schedule before leaving. From personal experience, I can say that missing the last ferry is not the best way to start an off-road adventure!

Drummond Island caters to tourism and boasts many lodging accommodations. For the New Year’s Run, lodging was arranged at the Drummond Island Resort and Conference Center. Furnished in rustic style wooden décor, the resort and conference center is an absolutely amazing



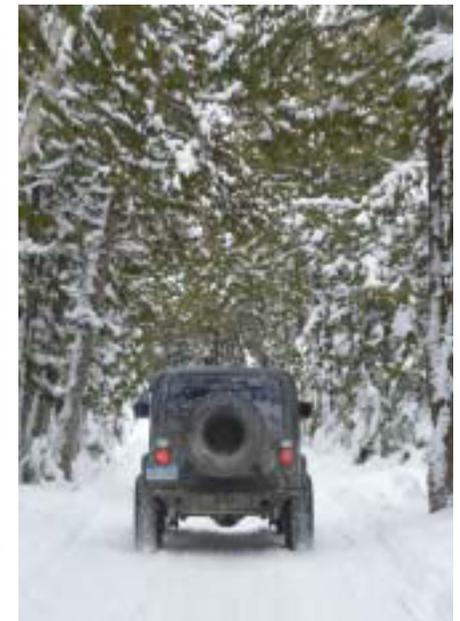
and beautiful place to stay! The resort has a central common meeting area that the group is able to utilize for coming together to unwind after dinner; recall the day’s events, and the occasional shenanigan.

The trails on Drummond Island are far more challenging this time of year. Snow covered rocky hills, mud and water holes covered with not quite enough ice to support a vehicle, and hidden bypasses add to the fun factor.

During the run, only one jeep was incapacitated with a broken rear drive shaft. No worries though, the family climbed into another jeep and the group continued on to enjoy the rest of the day. Of course, a late day recovery was necessary and the jeep made it back to the resort with no

other mishaps. On the Saturday Run, all of the vehicles got muddy on the trail to Marblehead; although seeing a jeep with so much wax on it that the mud beads could make anyone chuckle. Luckily for a couple of guys on the run, there is a car wash on the Island to restore the jeeps to their pristine condition.

The weekend ended with a ferry ride back to the main land and



happy memories of the fun times and experiences that were had. As with all great off-road trips, the Michigan Wheelers Drummond Island “Whitefish Run” leaves each participant looking forward to the next adventure. For more information regarding the “Whitefish Run” go to www.michiganwheelers.com.



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1. Call to Order 5:01
2. Introduction of Executive Board and Extended Board – VP Paul Hittie and Treasurer David Smith present
3. Officer Reports
 - a. President (given by Paul) – Welcome to first ever simulcast Quarterly meeting, live and via GoToMeeting. Pat Beldock has accepted the nomination of the Board, not present at the meeting but attending SnoFari Banquet.
 - b. Vice President – Covered under other subjects
 - c. Treasurer - Account balances are strong, trail maintenance money received and distributed to clubs
 - d. Membership (Pam was one of 7 online participants at the outset of the meeting) – 240 current members
 - e. Recording Secretary - Absent
4. Extended BoD Reports
 - a. Associate Membership – Landed Warn as Level 3 AM
 - b. Trail Ride
 - i. SnoFari/Jan
 - ii. GG2013 September 27-29, registration May 1-August, 50 rig limit
 - iii. Father's Day event on DI in memory of Colin Hansen (Ed. Note - cancelled)
 - iv. DOA August 16-18, registration starts May 5
 - c. Public Relations – DITA ad?
 - d. Website – Banner ads back up, need to discuss banner ad pricing
 - e. Editor – also via Internet, NEED STORIES!!!! NEED PICTURES!!!
 - f. Training (given by Paul, Craig had another commitment)
 - i. Bundy Hill has agreed to host a training session in 2013.
 - ii. Question – approach Off-Road Parks to Support the Sport through Awareness Training
 - iii. Waiting to hear back from SLSP on their 2013 spring training.
 - iv. Want to work on the training manuals for updates to traction control and other electronic gizmos. And the presentation. Jim and Bob from UFWDA will work to update
 - v. Maybe offer gift certificates to dealerships as a way to promote training? Great idea to be followed up by eboard
Dealership near Rocks & Valleys interested in providing Training
 - g. Land Use – no report, need a Chairman
 - h. Trail Maintenance – Paul reviewed the current status of the “Oz Proposal” that GLFWDA submitted a couple of years ago to capture many of the common trails in the WB/St Helen area and prevent further closures. Pinball Alley is on the proposal despite being bermed off by DNR, will update as news is available.
5. Old Business
 - a. Vacant positions – Land Use
 - b. Crummy attendance at Quarterlies – online thing is good
6. New Business
 - a. GoToMyPC or similar account for GLFWDA computer. Kim Kinne to see if Northwood Univ students can help with computer programming
 - b. Draft ORV Plan discussion
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7YM69D2>
 - c. UTV – friend or Foe? Meeting attendees seem to be in favor of friend, now how to recruit?
7. Upcoming Dates of Importance
 - a. Winter 2013 Quarterly Meeting – Friday night Jan 25, 2013 @ SnoFari
 - b. Drummonf Island Invasion
 - c. Blessing
 - d. Annual Nation Forest Cleanup Day – April 20, 2013
 - e. Hansen Memorial event
 - f. DOA
 - g. GG2013
 - h. Jeep Creep
8. Associate Members
 - a. Dale from Ironman Offroad
 - b. Kevin from Jeeperz Creeperz
 - c. New – Daystar Products present at SnoFari
 - d. Pam – MI Wheelers has subforum for SxS users
9. Club reports
 - a. Shawn from SoFO presented GLFWDA a check for \$1,000 from SnoFari!!!
 - b. TCT meets at the Midland Brewery, please feel free to stop in
 - c. MSG discussing training with new group “Blue Water Jeep Owners” with mailing list >200 members
 - d. Spring 2013 Quarterly Meeting – in conjunction with Two Trackers Cleanup? April 20th
 - e. Update calendar for 2013 events
Drummond island Invasion April 6th
10. Associate Member Reports
11. Club Reports
Michigan Wheelers has a forum for side-by-sides... Trolls will accept them
12. Other issues/concerns/comments/open discussion
13. Adjourn



Winter Wheeling in Michigan



2012/13

Meet Our New Associate Membership Secretary

Hi everyone! I'm Michelle Borgeson,
your new Associate Membership Secretary.

I took this position with Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association back in August of 2012 with hopes to strengthen our Associate Membership relationships and to grow our number of Associate Members. This will aid the association in its missions of stopping trail closures, opening new off road recreational areas for the full size user and to help educate people in the off road community in safe, legal and responsible use of our public land.

I LOVE IT!



My husband Joe and I have been wheeling locally and not so locally for about twelve years, in this short time I've seen literally hundreds of trail closures in Muskegon and Oceana counties alone. I know this is just the tip of the iceberg and that's what makes being an active part of this association so important to me.

When our four kids (now) ages 25, 22, 19 and 18 were young, getting out in the woods with and without one of our three off road clubs (Two Trackers, Cheap Thrills and Bare Bones) was family bonding time, and a* powerful* tool for teaching our children about nature, life, and good stewardship of our public land. I hope what we taught them out there will be passed on to our grandchildren someday.

We are now "Empty Nesters". Having an empty nest has left me with entirely too much free time, time I have chosen to dedicate toward a great love in my life, OHV use, the people, businesses and natural areas we *all* impact along our way down the open trails.

Happy Wheeling, friends!

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The Sundowners - Our Newest Full Roster Club

Story and Pictures by Gregory Arthur Wischmeyer

In 1976 a small group of 4x4 enthusiasts started one of the earliest four wheel drive clubs in southwest Michigan. The early days were mostly going on the rugged, muddy, sandy and swampy trails of up north Michigan. One of those early members was Larry "Wally" Walters who still drives his same 1975 CJ-5. The AMC era Jeep has been improved over the years with a reinforced frame, fiberglass body, t-18 transmission, suspension, tires, etc. Most of the work was accomplished by



Wally still driving his faithful '75 CJ-5. He is the original owner!

club members contributing materials, time and resources for the collective good of its club members. Back when this area had a lot of snowstorms in the 1970's club members would take doctors and nurses to the hospitals and help the Red Cross move supplies around. Another long standing tradition with the club has been to work with the United States Marine Corp Toys for Tots program. The club will get many 4x4 club rigs together at a large store just before Christmas. The customers will buy a present to donate to the Marines. The Marines distribute the presents to needy families. I have seen a few children who really did not want to give up the present. A couple of tears have been shed.



A reluctant giver at Toys for Tots

A four season climate makes for great winter four wheeling. The easy trails and mild hills can become quite challenging. But, the spring, summer and fall bring what I would say are most members more favorite seasons. The wooded sand dunes of western Michigan can make for an interesting soil mix. The decaying organic materials mixed with the sand create gritty dirt. We do not have many rocky trails, there are some, just thrown in with the sand, clay mud and water.

Another annual activity has been a program for kids from the "Big Brothers Big Sisters" program who may be from a challenging situation. These kids have a "big brother" or "big sister" that spends time with them on a regular basis. Several times a year these mentors and the kids will get together for group activities. The group activity with the Sundowners I am sure is like nothing else they do the rest of the year.



Fun, laughing and yelling on the runs!

Another community type run is for younger kids. This may be through a local church. These kids are also from challenging situations. These runs tend to be more of a trail ride with a stop off for lunch. The off-roading is kept mild so as not to scare the kids.

Of course there are just good old runs. The Sundowners is a very diverse group of people brought together by a passion for four wheel drive vehicles. Most of



Tom's CJ-7 Powered UP!

the rigs in our club are short wheel based, but not all. With about 60 members there are many daily drivers. These daily driver rigs tend to morph into a mostly off road vehicles. Very few of the club rigs are off road only.

Our trail systems and off road areas are certainly not all connected by dirt. The rigs need to be road legal too be able to get from home to the ride, campground to off road areas, and trail to trail.

What I like about being a member of Sundowners is that there is always something planned. There are local activities almost every month. There are lots of long weekend type runs within a couple hundred miles. Of course, there are longer excursions organized by Sundowner members to the east, south, and western U.S..

The club is very loyal to one another and will always help repair, tow, trailer, or drag a broken member back to camp. At the end of the day everyone is back home or at camp, even if the *sun has gone down!*

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For those that don't know me, I am a tax accountant, and my father was a tax guy – I grew up never participating in winter sports, and it has carried over in my adult life until about five years ago when we attended SnoFari 2008 in the West Branch, MI area. Even though I spent most of that event at the end of a recovery strap, I was hooked on playing in the snow. In 2010, I gathered a group of GLFWDA friends and fellow What Lies Beyond club members on the last Sunday in February to investigate the planned reroute of the Dunham Lake Route in the St Helen, MI area along with the proposed area for the St Helen rock courses. JR Osborne and I shared the duties of trail leader - we had a great time, and repeated it in 2011 (Last Sunday in February "2") with a larger group as we set off to explore some seldom-used trails north of West Branch, this time sticking Oz with all of the trail leader responsibilities. In 2012 (Last Sunday in February v3.0) it became an "official" WLB club outing, with a handful of GLFWDA friends and some guests in tow. Although we had banged up a couple of Jeeps over the years, made fun of Gary Greenway continually leaving fender flares from his JK in the woods as he tried to sneak through openings barely big enough for a TJ, skinned up a couple of soft tops, and sent Ed Schroeder's relatively new JK to the shop for some body repairs, nothing serious happened until 2012 when a guest of Pam East's managed to break two LF axle shafts on her rig "Max" in the space of about 10 feet over a 90 minute period. We managed to get everyone back home without further incident, but it seemed as though the damage was continually ratcheting up each year.

So with that history behind us, the WLB gang started talking about some alternates to our regular West Branch/St Helen destination. Ryan Gogolen is one of our more recent additions to the WLB family, and since joining he has been responsible for organizing or pushing the planning for a number of our events. As our "unofficial fun coordinator" (there is no position of Social Director or Trail Host at WLB) Gogolen proposed to lead us on a new adventure – a trip to the military ranges in the Grayling, MI area. Although I have heard about the 4x4 opportunities on the federal reservation, I have never been there before and was immediately sold on the new location. As we gathered a group of club members, guests and Pam for the trip (several others, including Oz and Gary, were unavailable this year), we discussed the "WLB curse" – every trip our Jeep-only club has made that included either a club member or guest in a non-Jeep 4x4 we have run into mishaps – a Ford truck on our 2006 DI trip, a Chevy Blazer on our 2008 Color Tour, and both a GMY Jimmy and a Chevy Silverado last year. The young friend of the Gogolens in his Jimmy was planning



Our Trail Leader for the day: Ryan Gogolen

to come again this year, which obviously spelled t-r-o-u-b-l-e for us as we ventured into a new set of Trails.

Ryan and fellow WLB member Russ Clifton headed north a day early to pre-run some trails for the group, and had a great day playing in the snow with some fellow four wheelers they bumped into in Grayling. Unfortunately an unplanned trip back home spelled the end of the weekend for Russ, while the rest of us trekked northward on slippery roads with steady light snow falling for most of the drive. As we drove past Pinball Alley and some of our favorite St Helen play areas, we noticed the lack of snow contrasted with the reports from Russ and Ryan in Grayling (I promised Russ I wouldn't tell anyone about him spending more time at the end of a recovery strap Saturday than he did off – Sshh, our little secret). As we reached Roscommon however, the piles of snow along the road grew in size just as the snow ended and the sun came out. By the time we gathered everyone up and got ready to enter the trail system on the military preserve, the fresh snow, moderate temperature and

see Sunday page 18



First time wheeling in the snow for new member Sid Carlisle and Wife Bunnie. He drove like a pro!

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Associate Membership Directory

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

The Dam Site inn
US 31, 1.5 miles
South of Pellston
231-539-8851
www.damsiteinn.com

Bundy Hill Offroad Park
www.bundyhilloffroad.com
9960 E Chicago
Jerome, MI 49249

Michigan Truck Spring
3649 Wolf Road
Saginaw, MI 48601
800-358-4751

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

Riverwalk Place
Gladwin, MI
www.riverwalkplace.net

Michigan Wheelers
www.michiganwheelers.com

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

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

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

Brown Motors
170 US-31 N.
Petoskey, MI 49770
231-439-3673
www.brownmotors.com

GLFWDA Club Listing & Contact Info

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

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
tim.yocum@koltanbar.com

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

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

Cheap Thrills Off Road
Member since 2011
www.cheapthrillsoffroad.com

Troll Fourwheelers
Member since 1993
c/o Dusty Maat
526 N. Lake St Lot #7
Boyne City, MI 49712
dmaat@hotmail.com

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

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
www.sundowners4x4.org



UNITED FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATIONS
P.O. Box 316
Swartz Creek, MI 48473
1-800-44-UFWDA



Recently I had a conversation with one of the most knowledgeable wheelers I've ever had the privilege of getting to know: Dale Stroebel, owner of Ironman Offroad (IMOR). Dale is an interesting guy and has been involved with all things automotive since 1982 when he started Stroebel automotive. After years of running everything from boats, quads and Harleys (he owns three of them) he returned to the full size off road hobby in 2007 and met a bunch of new people. One of those people was Pat Kinne. They quickly became great friends and began to collaborate on some projects. In 2010 Dale purchased IMOR from Pat and made a commitment to continue the legacy Pat had created. (As a customer of Ironman Offroad, I can attest that this has been a seamless transition in ownership. Ironman Offroad continues to offer outstanding customer service and great products.)



Dale's IronMan OffRoad Rig

Dale is an experienced wheeler, having wheeled all over Michigan, the United States and Canada. He is a frequent participant of GLFWDA sponsored events such as SnoFari and truly enjoys "...the event as well as the relationships we build while we are there." When asked where his favorite places to wheel were he replied, "Some of the best places for use of OHV's are right here in Michigan! Each of the parks offers something different for your style of OHV use. Rocks and Valleys offers the most diversity in a single place."

Dale credits Ron Price's vision and hard work for making R&V the amazing park that it is today. (anyone who has ever had the opportunity to spend a day at R&V would agree.) "but for scenery, it's hard to beat the natural beauty of a ride on a public OHV route systems in Michigan".

A few years ago while wheeling the "Looney Run" in Canada, Dale had the misfortune of going full turtle after sliding and rolling down a hill. As you can imagine, with the XJ landing on its roof at the bottom of a hill, this was no easy extrication. Six hours later, his rumpled XJ was back up the hill, on its wheels again and in need of major repair. With Dale's 32 years of automotive repair experience and his endless list of suppliers, the biggest part of getting the XJ up and running was hour upon hour spent in the shop wrenching. The XJ is back, caged and ready for more off highway adventures.

After Dale told me the story behind turtle-ing the XJ, I asked him which **MUST** have recovery items we should all keep in our rigs. He answered by saying whether you have a winch or not, you have to have tow points front and rear, you should also have a flashlight (see sidebar), some good gloves, a shovel, tow straps... NO chains, and some D-rings on hand. For those of us who do have a winch, he suggests a recovery kit (see sidebar) or the items in the kit.

Dale Recommends

The Halo 800 Lumen LED Flashlight:

- 800 raw lumens 510 effective lumens
- Focused center beam that projects 1,000' when on the highest setting.
- Rechargeable at home or in your rig and each charge last up to three hours!
- Each flashlight comes with (1) 110v Wall Charger, (1) AC/DC Car Charger Adapter (1) 18650 2499Mah Li-ion Battery.
- You can also buy extra/replacement batteries separately.

This flashlight is a beast and Ironman Offroad's price of \$86.00 + tax is hard to beat!

Dale Recommends

Rugged Ridge Winch/Recovery Kit

- Durable Recovery Gear Bag.
- Heavy Duty 8" 20,000lb Snatch Block Pulley.
- Premium 2" x 30' 20,000lb Recovery Strap.
- Premium 3" x 6' 30,000lb Tree Trunk Protector Strap.
- Heavy Duty 9,500lb zinc coated pair of D-Rings.
- Winch Line Dampener.
- Pair of leather Recovery Gloves

That's a lot of gear for the low price of \$120.00 +tax at www.ironmanoffroad.com

I asked Dale why being an Associate Member of GLFWDA was important to him as a business owner. His response was, "It is important personally as a participant and as a business to support the organization that speaks for us and promotes a positive image in the region." I knew Dale did a lot for us as an offroad

see Ironman pg 18

DNR Seeks Volunteer ORV Safety Education Instructors, Offers Spring Academies

March 11, 2013

The Department of Natural Resources today invited qualified residents to become volunteer off-road vehicle (ORV) safety education instructors and take part in one of two upcoming instructor academies in May and June.

“Michigan’s more than 3,600 miles of state-designated ORV trails are a big draw for residents and visitors alike,” said Cpl. John Morey of the DNR’s Law Enforcement Division. “With the help of experienced, safety-conscious ORV instructors, the DNR can help ensure that everyone has a good time on the trails.”

All ORV safety education instructors must attend a mandatory, three-day ORV instructor academy, during which they’ll learn instructor policy and procedure, classroom management and teaching concepts. Applicants will also be exposed to basic hands-on, operational skills on off-highway motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, utility-terrain vehicles and winching and recovery equipment.

The academy is free of charge to all successful applicants. Current instructors interested in refreshing their skills and knowledge are also encouraged to attend.

There are two ORV instructor academies scheduled for 2013 at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on the shore of Higgins Lake in northern Roscommon County:

May 31-June 2 and also June 14-16
Each class is limited to 24 students. Each academy is set to run from 1 to 9 p.m. on Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday.

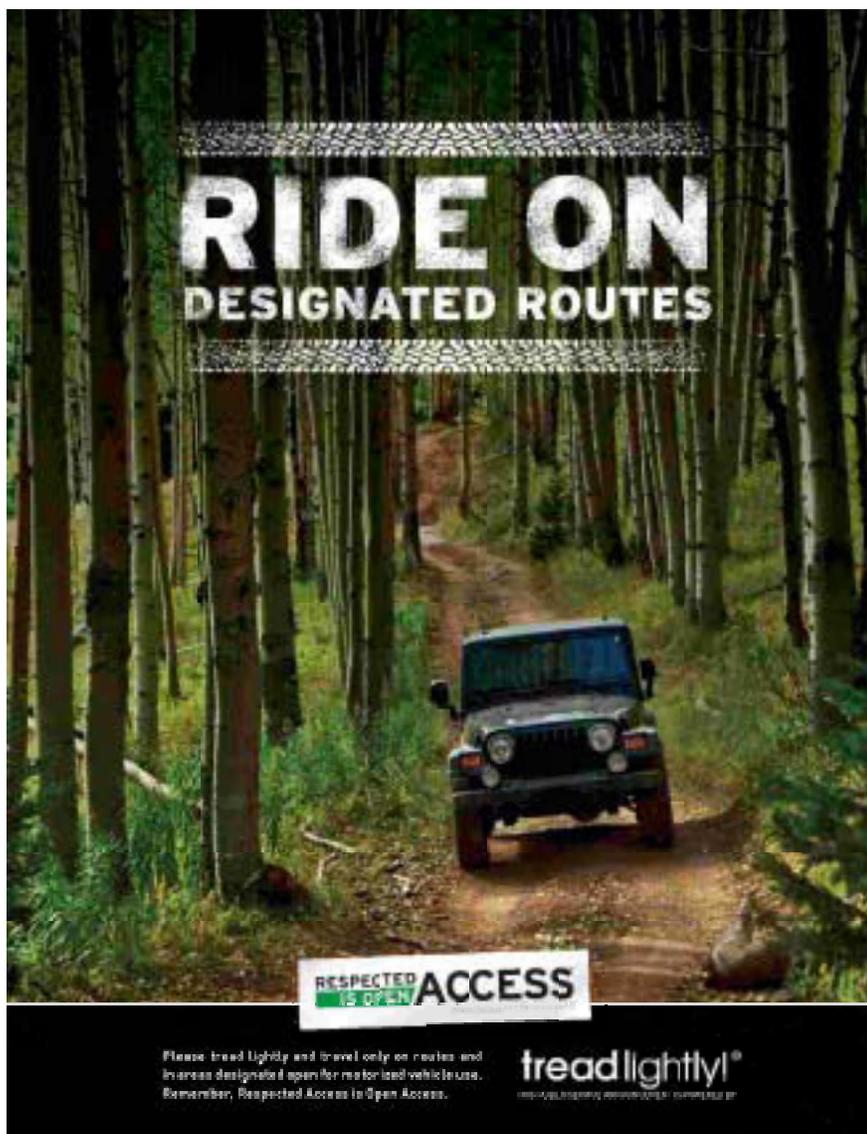
Anyone seeking certification as a DNR volunteer ORV safety education instructor must:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Be a high school graduate or possess a graduate equivalency diploma (GED);
- Have no felony convictions;
- Have no misdemeanor convictions within the past three years;

- Have no convictions that resulted in the revocation of OHV operation privileges within the last five years (though other convictions of natural resource law violations are subject to review and may result in the rejection of any application);
- Maintain a high moral and ethical character.

Individuals interested in teaching students to be safe and responsible ORV users may begin the application process by contacting the DNR Marketing and Outreach Division at 517-335-3418 to request an application. After a background check is conducted on each submitted application, successful applicants will be contacted to schedule attendance at an ORV instructor academy.

For more information on the DNR’s ORV safety education program or instructor academies, contact Cpl. John Morey at 989-619-3784.



bright sunshine marked the beginning of a great day in the woods.

For those who have never played in the Grayling area, it is a beautiful northern Michigan area but interspersed with these ominous signs about unexploded ordinance and hidden bunkers, and punctuated with practice ranges containing the remnants of old armored vehicles used for target practice. Confident that Ryan would keep us out of trouble, we headed off into the unknown. Lots of trails, lots of modest hills that were treacherous in the odd climactic conditions that day where everything quickly turned from soft snow to ice or brown-gray snot as soon as someone travelled over it. One of our guests Sid Carlisle (who has since joined WLB), was making his first trip out in his recently upgraded long-bed Jeep Comanche pickup truck, and we all kept our fingers



Grayling offered some unique scenery such as target ranges, bunkers and “unexploded ordinance” warnings!

crossed every time he tried something new, hoping his new but small Goodyear Dura Tracks would keep him out of trouble. His excellent tires, good tire pressure, and the inability to pump crazy horsepower from his 2.5L four-banger kept him out of trouble, proving to be an extreme contrast to our long-time Last Sunday in February running mate Pam, who struggled all day despite adjusting her tire pressure a couple of times. Ironically, Pam and Ed were the only members of our group on 35" tires, and seemed to have more trouble than the rest of us, which included Sid's 31" tires and the kids in the Jimmy running a not-so-aggressive M&S tread pattern on 28" tires. Tread pattern, tire compound and/or air pressure were certainly to blame, although we took great joy in letting them know that the problem MUST stem from driver error. Although in honesty even after Pam turned her rig over to Ryan for a short while we could clearly see that it was not a driver issue when he failed to get Max up a hill that he had just driven his TJ up and over without so much as a spinning tire.

When we got to the end of the day, we had to choose between one more trail that led into a bowl that took Russ, Ryan and their Saturday companions three hours to strap or winch themselves back out of, or a trip to town for a burger before heading home, we all chose the burger. Having

survived the day with no carnage, no mechanical failures, and a lot of fun to boot, we decided not to tempt the WLB curse,

Thanks to everyone that came out, especially our Unofficial Fun Coordinator Ryan Gogolen for assuming the trail leader responsibilities for the day. The Last Sunday in February gives me that one last trip out on my last day off before I head into the long home stretch of tax season each year. Like a bear at the end of winter, I will emerge from my “cave” after April 15th, and look forward to seeing all of you in Muskegon for the annual cleanup project put together by the Two Trackers.

community, but I guess I didn't realize just how much until researching for this story. He's been a great supporter of the sport for many years, donating his time as a trail leader or sweep and products from Ironman Offroad for many events. On March 2 he towed his trailer to Rocks & Valleys for the 2013 Chili Run for use as a warm place to serve chili.



Ironman Offroad at This Year's Chili Run
(photo by Jason Fenech)

I enjoyed talking with Dale and have had the pleasure of doing business with his company, Ironman Offroad. Now I'm looking forward to having an opportunity to get out on the trail with him soon!

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Dale Stroebel 989.832.7538

100 Campbell Lane
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ironmanoffroad.com
ironmanoffroad@gmail.com



Why Become a Member?

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

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

Individual Membership Application

Date: _____

Screen Name on GLFWDA.org _____ Other 4WD Affiliations: _____

Name: _____ 4WD Vehicle: _____

Address 1: _____ Phone Number _____

Address 2: _____ Interests: Trail Rides Mud Bogs

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Camping Rock Crawling

Send your completed application with your check for the \$40 yearly individual dues made payable to "Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association" to:
Membership entitles you to receive the "Boondocker" newsletter - please include your mailing address.

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

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 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.

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 visit our Associate Membership information page:
www.glfwda.org/index.php?page=joinam



INSIDE

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