



UNITED FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATIONS INC.
AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
www.ufwda.org

UFWDA e-NEWS September 2007

An apology for the slight delay in the delivery of this edition but it was held over for a few days so that it could include the membership structure information that many organizations have been waiting for since the UFWDA annual meeting in late July.

This has been one project where the “messenger” has been part of the decision process and like the rest of the UFWDA Board, I’m of the view that our options were few and for the survival of our association, which is a unique advocacy organization, the decision is the right one.

For many of our member organizations, things will change as a consequence and a lot of work has gone into defining how the new structure will work for them. Change has been inevitable for several years, as shifts in social patterns have altered along with communications and lifestyles. Volunteers are a diminishing breed.

Fortunately there are still many passionate four wheelers out there who are doing their best to ensure that there is a foreseeable future for our recreation. UFWDA wants to be part of that future too and in partnership with you, your 4x4 associations and clubs.

Peter Vahry
International vice-president

Headlines

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Latest News on UFWDA membership structure

BACKGROUND:

UFWDA presented a 5-year business and marketing plan to club and association delegates in February 2007. Over the course of the five months following the rollout, discussions occurred between your delegates and the UFWDA Board of Directors (BOD) to fine tune the plans to make them fair and simple. These discussions included three webinars hosted by UFWDA for its delegates as well as communication through the UFWDA forum. Discussions can be reviewed on the delegates section of the UFWDA forum - www.ufwda.org/smf

2007 MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

At the 2007 membership meeting held on July 24-26, 2007 in Grand Junction, Colorado your delegates gathered for a face-to-face meeting to finalize the UFWDA 5-year plan, including important issues such as voting rights for clubs and associations, club/association dues, member dues, and marketing incentive programs. After caucusing with a professional facilitator, your delegates addressed UFWDA by-laws and requested UFWDA to finalize the details regarding "voting", "dues", and "incentives". The delegates unanimously passed a confidence vote on both the business and marketing plans.

CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO PROPOSED PLAN:

The UFWDA board members carefully reviewed the suggestions of the delegates which consisted of in-depth consideration of the financial impact on UFWDA if dues were lowered from the proposed \$25/member down to \$20/member; eliminating the monetary incentive program dubbed the Organizational Incentive Program (OIP) which would put \$3.00/member back on the ground locally for member clubs and associations; creating a weighted voting scale for clubs and associations to retain voting priority through the delegate system. The BOD has spent considerable time in the six weeks since the 2007 convention, giving grave consideration to all the suggestions offered by the delegates.

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS:

Dues Rate: The cost per member for providing benefits in 2008 is \$28.00/member. The proposed dues were \$25.00/member. The gap of \$3.00/member would be supplemented by business membership, advertising sales, and donations.

Your delegates questioned whether the proposed \$25/member dues could be lowered to \$20/member, particularly if UFWDA could save administrative costs by eliminating the \$3/member rebate back to the clubs/associations and the overhead required to collect dues.

Through careful budget calculations and projections, the BOD has determined that the cost of serving members cannot be maintained at \$20/member, even with a reduction in some administrative and printing expenses.

The delegates questioned whether the gap between member dues and cost per member could be recouped through increased Organization Dues from the \$100/organization proposed, to something higher.

The BOD spent considerable time reviewing club membership history. The BOD determined that historically clubs with less than 35 members will NOT join UFWDA when required to pay more than \$50/year/club. When the OIP rebate is considered, the \$100 join fee is reduced to \$0 for clubs with more than 33 members. Based on this history, the board determined that UFWDA would lose more revenue by raising the Organization dues than it would if it left the Organization dues at \$100.

When raising the organization dues to \$350, the revenue loss was \$14,600 compared to the amount of revenue generated with the dues at \$100. When raising the organization dues to \$1,000 the revenue loss was \$10,750 compared to the amount of revenue generated with the dues at \$100 – because more clubs would join UFWDA because the cost was "free" after the OIP rebate. The loss of revenue from lowering dues to \$20/member cannot be recouped until the organization dues are set at \$3,900/organization. Organization dues at this rate, while helping to recoup the loss of revenue from member dues, would increase the risk of less organizations joining UFWDA – a risk too great to give serious consideration.

Organizational Incentive Program (OIP): The Organizational Incentive Program would give clubs and associations a \$3/member rebate back to the club/association for UFWDA members, indicating support for the club or association.

Your delegates questioned whether the OIP could be eliminated so that the dues per member could be kept lower.

The board created the OIP as a means for answering the age-old question, “*What is UFWDA doing for me?*”? By creating a pool of money to be distributed back to our clubs and associations, UFWDA is offering the greatest benefit of all – money on the ground, right where you live and play, to keep your trails open – in addition to the defense work done by UFWDA at the national level! This money can be used locally in addition to the work UFWDA does locally and nationally. There is no greater benefit to membership in a club or association than to keep your wheeling places open. There is no easier way to protect 4x4 access than to have money on the ground to fight closures.

Club and Association Voting: The proposed voting structure gave one vote to every member of UFWDA, whether that member is a person, a club, an association, or a business.

Your delegates suggested that clubs and associations, who represent the bulk of UFWDA members, should maintain significant voting powers within UFWDA. *UFWDA agrees.*

Votes will be allocated to clubs and associations joining UFWDA based on the 2006 and 2007 scale implemented by UFWDA. Votes will be tabulated based on the number of members joining UFWDA through the club or association.

2008 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – AT A GLANCE:

2008 DUES:

People - \$25/person

Clubs or Associations - \$100/club or association

Businesses – Graduated scale based on benefits selected by business as published in the UFWDA Business League Program.

A rate for international organization membership is still to be defined

2008 Organizational Incentive Program:

UFWDA will rebate back \$3/member anytime the member indicates your club or association as the recipient of rebate. Clubs or associations who continue to remit UFWDA dues for their members will receive a rebate equal to the amount of members submitted on their roster PLUS any additional UFWDA members electing your club or association as a rebate recipient.

2008 Club and Association Voting:

1 vote for every organization PLUS:

Votes will be allocated according to this voting scale:

0 memberships = 0 votes

1-99 paid United memberships = 2 votes

100-499 paid United memberships = 3 votes

500-999 paid United memberships = 4 votes

1000+ paid United memberships = 5 votes

“Memberships” are determined solely by the number of members for whom a club or association remits dues to UFWDA directly. Through this voting allocation system, associations and clubs are rewarded for going to the trouble of collecting UFWDA dues and remitting them to us on behalf of their members!

2008 People and Business League member voting:

1 vote for every person who joins UFWDA

1 vote for every business who joins UFWDA

2008 MEMBERSHIP FAQ

Q: I pay my UFWDA dues through my local club, how much are my dues in 2008?

A: \$25

Q: I pay my dues directly to UFWDA as an individual member, will my dues increase?

A: No. UFWDA still has membership classes for people wanting more benefits with their membership, such as tees, hats, magazines, etc. Individual Membership information is available on our website at www.ufwda.org. If you are currently an individual member you will receive an invoice from UFWDA near your anniversary renewal date, just like you always have.

Q: I am the membership director for my association; will I still send a roster and check to UFWDA for the dues we collect for UFWDA from our clubs and members?

A: Yes. In fact, doing so gives you greater voting power within UFWDA.

Q: What is the Organizational Incentive Program (OIP)?

A: This is the UFWDA program that allows you to designate \$3.00 from your \$25 dues payment to the UFWDA organization of your choice.

Q: How does UFWDA know which organization I want my OIP rebate going to?

A: If you join UFWDA through your local club or state/regional association your OIP automatically goes to them. If you join UFWDA directly you will indicate your OIP choice on your membership application.

Q: I am the president of my club, can our club collect \$25/member for UFWDA dues and keep the \$3 OIP rebate and just send UFWDA dues equal to \$22/member?

A: Yes, sure, if you'd like to keep the rebate up front we don't mind. The important thing is to have money on-the-ground so your club can keep 4x4 routes open!

Q: When will my association get the OIP rebate from UFWDA?

A: If your association or club collects UFWDA dues and remits them on behalf of your members, you will receive the OIP rebate within 30 days of sending your dues into UFWDA. For all other clubs and associations UFWDA will keep a running tally throughout the calendar year and send a rebate check at the end of that year.

Q: I am a Life Member; will the 2008 dues rate affect my membership?

A: No, you'll enjoy all the great benefits you have since joining.

Q: I am an Ambassador Member; will the 2008 dues rate affect my membership?

A: No, you'll enjoy all the great benefits you have since joining.

SUCCESS!! - Petition to Save an Unimproved Road in Newaygo County, Michigan

September 13, 2007 (Extract from the UFWDA forum www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php)

This "Road" serves as a connector between the County Road system and the National Forest Road system. This road was found to be illegally obstructed by adjoining residents. Those residents were petitioning the Road

Commission to abandon the road. Thank you to those who assisted by signing the e-petition! 😊

Don't let law-breaking, anti-access advocates win!

We won!

The Hearing was this morning.

The Newaygo CRC voted to NOT abandon the road but to look into the feasibility of putting it back on the section line as platted. It currently leaves the deeded easement to pass around a gully. This falls under the 'Highway By User' statute that essentially says 'Where a road ends up over time (at least 10 years) is where the CRC has a right of way, regardless of the maps and deeding.

They again affirmed that the NCRC has never abandoned a road if there was opposition to the proposal.

THANK YOU for your help!

Pat Brower

Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association

Sign up for the Inaugural United Four Wheel Drive Associations Wheel-in!

<http://www.ufwda.org/smf/index.php?topic=1471.0>

REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN OCTOBER 30, 2007

Australian touring website

www.exploreoz.com

www.exploroz.com/Interact/User_Newsletter140.asp

Otago Daily Times (New Zealand)

www.nzfwda.org.nz Click on "Otago 4x4 forum review" in the "What's Hot" list.

A newspaper report on a meeting organized by the Otago Conservation Board. For easier reading it may help to zoom in.

VP Report

Hi All,

As we are going into our fourth quarter, the BOD is getting all the final items taken care of from the AGM. We are working hard to complete that project.

As the National Forest Service and the BLM are working to try and close roads and trails, we have to work diligently and in force, to stop as many trail closings as possible. I know it is a never-ending job. We must all stay alert, and keep everyone informed so we can all get involved quickly.

I have been working with the National Forest Service and the BLM, here in White Pine CO. They have been very helpful in keeping us informed. The archaeologist has asked us several times to go to sites and help check those out. I have signed up to help as a site steward. We check on the sites that we take care of to make sure they have not been vandalized.

They are working to maintain some of the old mill sites, along with buildings that are close to collapse. By being able to maintain trails, we can get to the sites of old mines and ghost towns. Although is quite a challenge working with the National Forest Service, I hope more have a National Forest Service and BLM to work with, as we do in White Pine CO. They have been very helpful with supplying us with material on the sites that need repair.

As we get closer to the SEMA show, I am looking forward to being able to help out there and to promote the goals of UFWDA. Getting new business to help support UFWDA and saving as many trails as we can.

Happy trails to all.

Gene Ockert
Vice-President UFWDA

Examples of UFWDA items available online

www.ufwda.org/store/



Another attack in the media on NZ 4x4 recreation

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/story.cfm?c_id=9&objectid=10461249&ref=emailfriend

AAWDC Interclub Fund Day.

Story & Photographs by Alan Goodway – 4x4 Offroad Adventure Club (Gauteng)

The Annual AAWDC Interclub Challenge was once again held on 18 August 2007 at the Leeuwkop Prison with great success!! This success was thanks primarily to 2 factors. The great enthusiasm and effort from the Isuzu Offroad Club – a new, young and dynamic up and coming club in South Africa, and the enthusiastic entries from 9 Gauteng based clubs, with a total of 11 teams.

The day started off with a brisk cold breeze sweeping the field of entrants while driver briefing took place. The first vehicles arrived at first light and lined up in the paddocks provided. The central arena area in the meantime was being populated by food and drinks vendors, exhibitors and service providers to the 4x4 Industry. This day was heading for a festive atmosphere from the word go, and the Isuzu club's members started raising hints of smiles on their faces. Their moment had arrived. The track consisted of 7 obstacles, ranging from serious rock crawls, to fun elements, combining driver and navigator skills as well as a laugh-a-minute factor. Ever seen somebody trying to do their thing from a 1 window vehicle when driver and navigator have to perform at optimum through it!

Throughout the day, spectators mulled between obstacles, enjoying seeing the varying range of vehicles (from standard to enhanced) plying their skills and efforts to ultimately make their team a winner. Francois Rossouw, a well known personality entertained the crowd (and the competitors) with his on the spot interviews, chirps and comments and general commentary during the day. A festival atmosphere kept the pace brisk all day.



The teams sweated the pace, and finally, after a long day, and a lot of fun, the time came to tally the score. While the judges tallied the scores, the Isuzu club distributed freebies from the hilltop where the control centre was stationed. Kids got free sweet packs while moms and dads enjoyed cold beers from the beer tent. Braai packs were purchased and fires lit.

Then came the final announcements and prize giving got underway under the darkened skies. First the individual recognition, with great prizes on hand.

These went to:

- 1 Mark Kretchner / Pieter Harmse Gelandewagen
- 2 Jan-Louise Fisher / Narina Fischer Gelandewagen
- 3 Johan van Rensburg / Lucas van der Walt Toyota Owners
- 4 Andre Oberholster /Ruan Oberholster Land Rover Owners
- 5 Willi Schneider / Attie Smit Land Rover Owner

Building on this, with a serious turn out for the books, the team scores finally looked like this:

- 1 Land Rover Owners
- 2 4x4 ATV
- 3 Toyota Owners
- 4 Gelandewagen 1
- 5 4WDOSA
- 6 McCarthy 2
- 7 McCarthy 1
- 8 Jeep



9 Gelandewagen 2
10 4WDCA 2
11 Off Road Adventure Club

The TEAM SPIRIT TROPHY went to the Toyota Owners Club and the MOST FUN OBSTACLE OF THE DAY went to the 4X4 ATV Club Congratulations to all the winners!! Thanks to all the sponsors of the day. Best of luck to McCarthy 4x4 Club, who will be organising the AAWDC Interclub Fun Day 2008!!

Without doubt of fear of offending anybody. The Isuzu Club put up the best Inter Club Fun Day in the last 5 years and has set a standard which will be difficult to follow. Well done guys, you did the AAWDC proud.

VISIT THE LOWVELD

Returning from the Getaway Show in Johannesburg, my heart took its usual leap of joy when entering Long Tom Pass and taking the long and winding road down to the clean, clear, warm and relaxed Lowveld - home!!! and definitely where the heart is!

One would expect distressing signs of the ravages the recent fires have wrought, but within the very very short time since then, the grass is cladding the mountain slopes like green snow, the views are unlimited - no long, dry grass on the verges! - and the feeling one gets is that the Lowveld is just waiting for the merest sprinkling of rain to explode into a Spring festival of greenery and colours!!

If you had not yet planned a break to the Lowveld, do so NOW!! Warm days, cool nights, more activities you could have imagined, great restaurants, accommodation to meet any budget, clear air and green slopes - why aren't you here?

For more information on Places to Stay and Things to do, visit www.big5country.co.za

Alan Goodway

UFWDA Awareness Program classes

UFWDA are conscious of the low level of delivery of 4x4 Awareness Program classes over the past year and Gene Ockert, as UFWDA vice-president, has agreed to work on this matter. There is information on www.ufwda.org/4wdawareness.htm and if your organizations are interested in this scheme please contact Gene, vpresident@ufwda.org

The next *Voice* deadline date is December 8th

Send articles and photos to editor@ufwda.org

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