



## United Four Wheel Drive Associations

*Protecting, Promoting, and Providing 4x4 Opportunities Worldwide*

### UFWDA eNews January 2014

Happy New Year. Will it be a good one for UFWDA, only time and support will tell.

With another round of elections in the USA during 2014, it will be imperative for four wheeling to be lobbying for a future. UFWDA is structured differently from some of the other advocacy groups and can legally lobby politically. It is also highly likely that your club or regional association do not have the legal right to political lobby.

We have the capability, but lack the finance to mount a serious lobby effort in Washington DC at present. Our opposition, like the Sierra Club and others promoting land lock-ups and legal challenges, must not be allowed to have free rein through the inability of four wheeling to fund even a modest lobbying effort by UFWDA.

Support by [membership of UFWDA](#) is great, as it gives those vital 'numbers' represented and some money. Support by donation is wonderful too and can be simply done online via the [UFWDA 'store'](#)

However you can do it, give UFWDA your support and encourage others, including commercial organizations that profit from our recreation.

Four wheeling needs to find its passion again and the people to champion that passion, by taking up roles in our organizations and continuing the fight for access to public land. We also need the involvement of the younger generations to ensure continuity and to demonstrate to bureaucrats and politicians that young people do have an interest in the future of our recreation.

UFWDA needs you to step up for your recreation and consider what the cost of one tank of gas might do for the future, if donated now.

*Peter Vahry – editor - international vice-president*  
[editor@ufwda.org](mailto:editor@ufwda.org)

### Headlines:

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## 2014 Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival

[Pre-registration](#) is now available for the 2014 Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival. The 2014 event will offer new activities and more fun for Jeep enthusiasts and volunteers.

New this year, don't miss the **Bantam Garage** presented by [Diehl Automotive Group](#), **Jeep Corral** presented by [Simpson Family Jeeps](#), **Historic Travels Tour** and **Bantam Jeep Muddy 5K Race**. We're also extending hours until 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Registration is only available online and must be paid with a credit card. Be sure to review the ["Activities"](#) section of the Festival website so you know exactly what you would like to do at the event before you register. The 2014 Festival and Invasion t-shirts also are available to purchase during the registration process.



Jeep owners can receive up to \$110 of free Jeep activities simply by volunteering two 4-5 hour shifts during the Festival. Other volunteers will receive free spectator tickets and more. Visit our [Volunteer page](#) for more details about volunteering. During registration, you can select the preferred positions and times when you are available to volunteer.

New in 2014, our volunteers will be given an "extra fun hour" after the Festival closes on Friday and Saturday. This volunteer-exclusive time enables those who help execute the Festival extra access to the playground and on-site trails.

Pre-registration ends on May 18 so register early while space is available and before activities with limited capacity sell out.

Vendor registration will be available in late January.

Create a Father's Day tradition at the **Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival, June 13-15, 2014**. See you in a few months!

## SEMA Land Use Summary

**Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area:** The U.S. House of Representatives approved the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), including a provision that would end a five-year debate on how to expand the U.S. Marine Corps base at Twentynine Palms, California. Authored by Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA), the provision allows the Marines to have access to the adjoining Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Area for up to 60 days a year for training exercises, but the area would be otherwise preserved for recreational use. The land will continue to be controlled by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Johnson Valley is the largest OHV area in the US, totaling nearly 189,000 acres. The land is used year-round by OHV enthusiasts and is home to numerous motorized events that draw thousands of competitors and spectators to the area every year, including the famous "King of the Hammers." SEMA is urging Senators to approve the Johnson Valley provision when the Senate considers its version of the bill in the fall. Final passage of the NDAA is expected late this year.

**Bonneville Salt Flats:** SEMA has joined with the Save the Salt Foundation and a number of other organizations and companies to pursue a fundraising campaign to help save the Bonneville Salt Flats. Monies contributed will be used to replenish the salt flats beyond the current salt-brine pumping program that resulted in 600,000 tons of salt being restored to the Salt Flats in 2013. The racing community is

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pursuing a test dry salt laydown project in 2014 to confirm that this would be a viable method for eventually restoring and expanding the international track. The BLM is being asked to approve the project and also undertake similar activities.

**OHV Access to Cape Hatteras National Seashore:** SEMA is supporting legislation that would reverse a 2012 management plan issued by the National Park Service banning OHV access to large portions of the seashore. Under the current restrictions, about 39% of the seashore is closed to OHV recreation, while 42% of the seashore is open year-round and 19% is open at different times during the year. The House bill would reinstate a previous management strategy that better balances wildlife protections with responsible OHV access. It is pending before the House Judiciary Committee. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed a bill seeking a one-year study to determine how wildlife buffer restrictions can be reduced to allow for expanded OHV recreation.

**National Monuments and Road Closures:** SEMA-supported legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Congress to require the president to complete an environmental review before designating more than 5,000 acres as a national monument. The bill would ensure public involvement in the process and discussion of multiple factors, including economic impact. Current law provides the president with authority to declare land of "historic or scientific interest" to be a national monument, which can lead to road closures for motorized recreation, among other activities. President Obama is under pressure to establish a 1.4-million-acre "Greater Canyonlands National Monument" in Utah, close 1,050 miles of off-road vehicle trails and monitoring another 1,450 miles for future closure.

<http://www.sema.org/sema-enevs/2014/01/2013-legislative-regulatory-year-in-review>

## Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association Review

As we move into the New Year, I would like to reflect on a few events from the past months, also look forward to in the upcoming year.

The organization attended Jeep Creep in Gladwin, MI. at Riverwalk Place in October. This three day event started out Friday night with a Halloween parade and event awards. Saturday was rainy, cold, and windy. That didn't however stop over 1,000 people from attending and bringing 357 rigs down to show and shine and to test their skills on the nearby obstacle course. There were over 15 vendors who lined Riverwalk ready to talk about their products and pass out candy to both old and young ghouls and goblins at the Trunk or Treat. The association talked to many people and put together three seminars that were well attended. I had the privilege of speaking at two of the three. The first, "Wheeling With Your Pets". Although a bit of an impromptu speech, when I saw eight or more people and their pets standing around waiting a speaker, it was time for action. Heartfelt, I shared some of my experiences wheeling with my critters. (After all with a CB handle like Rover how could I go wrong?)

"Trail Communications", presented by Paul Hittie was another session. "How To Equip Your Rig", brought the end of the day, presented by yours truly. The association presented three gifts corresponding to the three seminars which included a pet travel kit, a CB radio, and general accessory bag of goodies for a vehicle. The evening brought GREAT fellowship, new association members and many prizes. Sunday brought a changing of the guard at the quarterly meeting for several positions. Vice President Harry Rissley, Membership Secretary Michelle Borgeson, Recording Secretary Dale Stroble, Trail Ride Chairman and Treasurer Dave Smith. Later in the morning the event hosted a trail ride and, a trip over to Rocks and Valleys.

We would like to thank [JCR Offroad Inc.](#) from Portage MI. for becoming an associate member. Please welcome JCR, and support them as well as ALL of our Associate Members. Brian and the guys hosted an event in Portage Mi. in November. JCR invited the association to rally support in their vendor row.

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The event brought together over 200 attendees and over 75 rigs, even though the weather was not always cooperative throughout the day.

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



2014 is here: Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association is looking forward to furthering efforts focused on State and local land use and legislation bills. Continued membership and club participation. Marketing and initiatives promoting member growth, retention, and association communications. Also continued support to Four Wheel Drive Safety Awareness Training. Association only, trail runs and weekend gatherings.

At the last quarterly meeting one of our peers shared this comment, "Let's be proud of who we are, where we are going and CROW! We have to CROW more!" . Thank you ALL for your support and efforts to make this a STELLAR year for the organization. Safe Wheelin'.

Patrick Beldock AKA: Rover  
President  
Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association.

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## Would You Survive This?

By Jerry Smith December 21, 2013

You are just going out for a “simple” Jeeping afternoon with a friend or wife and 4 young children (two your own and two relatives).

Conditions are 3 to 4” of snow on the ground and cold temperatures and you plan to just follow some easy roads to a well-known destination about 20-odd miles from town and maybe “play” in the snow. You left word with friends that you were going and would return that afternoon. Just a simple... “done it many times” Sunday drive.

Sometime after leaving the highway, you drive through a wash and as you’re climbing up the other side of that wash, you spinout and the Jeep goes sideways on the hill and suddenly rolls over on its top.



Now, what are you going to do?

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This scenario recently became a reality in Northwestern Nevada. Some time Sunday, they rolled their TJ over on its top and spent the rest of Sunday, all of Monday, and till sometime Tuesday afternoon waiting for rescue in sub-zero nighttime temperatures.

Unfortunately, the news reporting this tragedy doesn't get into the details of how they were equipped when they left on this adventure, but miraculously they were all able to survive with relatively little physical harm. The survival skills of these people must have been very good. Reportedly, they burned their spare tire... presumably for heat and as an educated guess, as a signal by smoke. The report doesn't say exactly when the tire was burned, but apparently the fire was one of the first things they did to survive.

They also warmed rocks and other "things" in the fire to take inside the vehicle to keep much more warm than would have otherwise been possible. The fire was maintained the entire time they were stranded in the upside-down TJ. From the picture of the scene, finding fire-making materials must have been quite difficult. The other major thing they did properly to survive was that they stayed together with the vehicle. The TJ would have been much easier to find than a frozen body lying in the snow.

For years, I have preached and written; "when you go out, especially alone... go prepared to spend a night or more". Food, water, and coats are an absolute minimum you MUST have anytime you go out. Being equipped to easily build and maintain a fire is another thing that helped. Can you build and maintain a fire under nearly circumstance?

In this instance, having a 10-year-old, two four-year-olds and a three-year-old, makes me believe that they had snowsuits for at least the three younger children. For the others, it's anybody's guess. Anyway you measure it, having that many in a TJ... even on its wheels, was a full vehicle. Dealing with the three youngsters must have been quite a feat for that long and in that cold. Add the fact that the vehicle was wheels up... well; just imagine that for one hour, let alone days.

How many of you reading this could have survived this ordeal? Do you take enough to get through something like this when you go out... always? I sincerely ask you to sit and contemplate this for a while. After all, it could happen to you.

For further info on the actual story, go to: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2521545/Family-rescued-2-days-huddled-jeep-Nevada-snow.html#ixzz2oDeDnPs2>

Safe Jeeping should include a bag full of survival gear you can grab on a moments notice. This bag should have coats, hat(s), blankets, gloves, boots, trash bag(s), and a change of clothes (for when you get wet or dirty while trying to work on something).

Even your fire starting materials and a hatchet or other firewood gathering tool(s) could be included.

My gear stays in Happy Trails. I often leave for a drive without ever going home. I want that gear... every time. The gear has been used for personal use and to get others through some tough times at wrecks we've come upon and made a big difference on one unplanned overnigher.

You never know when it will be needed, but if you don't have it, it can be very hard to improvise. A checklist for other gear like food, water, cooking gear, tools, and whatever is a good thing to work with.

The point is; ***GO PREPARED!***

Now get prepared and then get out and enjoy. While you're out there, always remember; "When you come to a fork in the road... take it!"

Happy Trails.

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## The death of a 12-year old beloved Operating system

April 2014 will mark the end of Windows support for Windows XP, but according to studies, more than 25% of Windows users are in fact Windows XP users. Those computers may represent an easy target for the bad guys unless updated.

## Tonto National Forest Listening Sessions

The Tonto National Forest has partnered with the US Forest Service National Collaboration Cadre (Cadre) to assist in organizing a successful public participation process for the forest plan revision effort. The Cadre is a group of community leaders, researchers and Forest Service personnel with a broad range of public collaboration experience to assist communities, national forests, and other interests in collaborative planning efforts.

On **January 22 and 23, 2014**, Cadre team members will be visiting our communities to conduct informal listening sessions with a variety of interested community members and stakeholders to learn from you how we can develop and implement an effective and efficient public participation and collaboration process. Forest plan revision is a long and complex undertaking. The listening sessions are a critical first step in understanding the context of local situations and providing information for a subsequent workshop to actually develop a framework for public participation.

During the listening sessions, participants can expect informal conversations with up to eight other stakeholders and two Cadre members (Tonto NF staff will not be in attendance). From the discussions, which will last approximately one-hour, the Cadre hopes to learn about:

- Times when you worked well together in your communities and with the Forest
- Ways the Forest can improve future public participation and collaboration efforts
- Opportunities for collaboration
- Important issues and trends that might emerge
- Other participants/interests who should be included in the process

With the information gathered from the listening sessions, the Cadre team will return later in the spring to conduct a workshop designed specifically for the Forest. The purpose of the workshop is to begin developing a public participation process for forest plan revision and to learn from each other how to make collaborative planning a positive and valuable experience for all involved.

### **Schedule**

Please call Ken Born at 602-225-5280 (or email [kcborn@fs.fed.us](mailto:kcborn@fs.fed.us)) to sign up for a listening session.

### **Available Times and Locations**

#### **Wednesday, January 22, 2014**

Scottsdale Library - Appaloosa Branch (Room 1)  
7377 E Silverstone Dr, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

- o 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- o 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
- o 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM
- o 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- o 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Gila County Community College - Gila Pueblo Campus (Room 509)  
8274 Six Shooter Canyon Rd, Globe, AZ 85502

- o 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- o 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

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- o 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- o 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
- o 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- o 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

**Thursday, January 23, 2014**

Mesa Library -Red Mountain Branch (Roadrunner Room)  
635 N Power Rd, Mesa, AZ 85205

- o 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- o 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM
- o 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Mesa Library - Main Branch (Board Room, 2nd Floor)  
64 E 1st St, Mesa, AZ 85201

- o 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
- o 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- o 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Mazatzal Hotel & Casino – Mahogany Room  
Highway 87, Mile Marker 251, Payson, AZ 85547

- o 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- o 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM
- o 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- o 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
- o 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- o 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

**PLANNING UNDER WAY FOR GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH 2014**

Washington, D.C. – Recreation community leaders have begun intense planning for Great Outdoors Month 2014 beginning with Memorial Day weekend on May 24-26 and ending with Independence Day on July 4, 2014.

Pillars of Great Outdoors Month include events ranging from National Trails Day® to National Fishing and Boating Week, from National GO (Get Outdoors) Day to Welcome to the Water on National Marina Day and the Great American Backyard Campout.

Great Outdoors Month is officially proclaimed through proclamations issued by the President of the United States and all 50 state governors. The proclamations highlight the value of recreation to conservation causes while fostering appreciation of our American values and raising awareness of the economic importance of the \$650+ billion in annual spending in countless communities across the United States, the role of recreation in boosting physical and mental health, and the value of the Great Outdoors to U.S. efforts to attract international tourists.



Great Outdoors Month Co-Chairs Gregory Miller of the American Hiking Society, Kevin Coyle of the National Wildlife Federation, and Derrick Crandall of the American Recreation Coalition convened the first coordination session on January 9, 2014.

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Great Outdoors Month partners discussed exciting new partnership opportunities with The Coleman Company, SC Johnson's OFF® and national youth organizations. The agenda also covered plans for new activities at the state level – including Capital Camp-Outs, VIP tours of state and national recreation sites and initiatives to attract more families with young children and Americans living in urban areas to public lands and waters in cooperation with libraries, social service agencies and more.

“Today’s meeting was exceptional and exciting,” said Co-Chair Kevin Coyle. “Great Outdoors Month is now a significant and growing component in efforts to connect all Americans – especially young Americans – to our Great Outdoors.” “The collective reach and resources of Great Outdoors Month partners are truly amazing,” added Co-Chair Gregory Miller, “and in 2014, we expect to see a tremendous step forward with more, bigger and better events and opportunities than ever before.” Co-Chair Derrick Crandall commented, “Great Outdoors Month partners will present a stronger and more unified voice for recreation all across America. Working together, we can really make a difference.”

Great Outdoors Month co-chairs will brief leaders of key federal agencies hosting more than a billion recreation visits annually and other key national leaders about plans for the month in the near future.

In addition to the three lead entities, organizations participating in the meeting included the American Sportfishing Association, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of Marina Industries, Children and Nature Network, The Corps Network, Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation, International Mountain Bicycling Association, National Recreation and Park Association, National Park Service, National Park Trust, National Parks Conservation Association, National Tour Association, NatureBridge, RVDA – The National RV Dealers Association, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Student Conservation Association, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

## Upcoming public workshops Sierra, Sequoia, Inyo

*Written by editor@ingear4x4.com (US Forest Service) on Jan 09, 2014 05:40 pm*

*Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests will be first to revise land management plans under new planning rule*

This letter is to inform you of the U.S. Forest Service’s forest plan review process. As you may know, the Sierra, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests were selected as “early adopters” meaning they will be the first to revise their land management plans using the 2012 National Forest System Planning Rule. The planning rule provides the framework for Forest Service land management plans across the nation.

To date, the U.S. Forest Service has completed assessments for these three forests, a Bio-regional assessment, and a preliminary *Need to Change* document.

The public is invited to provide feedback on the *Need to Change* document, which will drive how the Forest Service revises its management plans. All of these documents may be viewed on-line at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/landmanagement/planning>.

The Forest Service is hosting public workshops to offer information about the forest plan revision process, explain the key themes of each forest plan to be revised, explore the unique roles and contributions of each national forest, and gather public feedback on the preliminary *Need to Change*. The public is welcome at any of the upcoming workshops:

- Sierra NF: Monday, **January 27**, 2014, Holiday Inn Fresno Airport, 5090 E. Clinton Way, Fresno, CA 93727

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- Sequoia NF : Tuesday, **January 28**, 2014, Double Tree Hotel, 3100 Camino del Rio Ct., Bakersfield, CA 93308
- Inyo NF: Thursday, **January 30**, 2014, Inyo NF Supervisor's Office, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514

Each workshop will be held from 5-9 p.m. with presentations by Forest Service staff. There will be time for small group sessions to learn about specific topics addressed in the preliminary *Need to Change*, and time to offer feedback.

**Public feedback received by January 24, 2014, will be incorporated into the public workshop discussions.** Feedback on the Need to Change document is most useful if received by January 31, 2014, and may be submitted via e-mail or by hard copy. Written feedback should be addressed to: Land Management Plan Revision, U.S. Forest Service, Ecosystem Planning Staff, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592. E-mail feedback may be submitted to: [R5planrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:R5planrevision@fs.fed.us)

For more information regarding forest plan revisions and documents to be shared at the public workshops, please visit the Pacific Southwest Region's planning website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/landmanagement/planning>.

## Bring Back the Real Camp Jeep

Post your Camp Jeep memories on Facebook. Maybe someone will listen. Camp Jeep...we miss it. Bring it back. Please.

<https://www.facebook.com/BringBacktheRealCampJeep>

UFWDA would love to again be a major part of Camp Jeep

## UFWDA online magazine 'Voice'

UFWDA are now working on the next edition and what will be in it. The deadline for contributions is **20 February**, so sort those photos now and write a few words about your 4x4 adventures.

Again we are looking for inspiring photos, including something for the cover. There must be some great images of recent 4x4 recreation and scenery among our readers photos.

**Final deadline is 20 February 2014**

UFWDA are happy to consider publishing members views on the issues that impact our recreation. [editor@ufwda.org](mailto:editor@ufwda.org)

## Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Achievement Awards

The Coalition for Recreational Trails will be presenting its 16<sup>th</sup> annual Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Achievement Awards in June during Great Outdoors Week. This awards program has proven to be a great success, showcasing excellent projects made possible by RTP funding and enhancing awareness and appreciation of the RTP among Members of Congress and other key officials.

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Award winners will be selected from projects nominated by public agencies, trail administrators or other project sponsors. Projects must be completed in order to receive an award. In addition, projects completed before 2006 are ineligible. Project award categories will include: construction and design; maintenance and rehabilitation; education and communication initiatives; accessibility enhancement; multiple-use management or “corridor sharing”; environment/wildlife compatibility; and use of youth conservation/service corps.

We invite you to nominate an outstanding project and to encourage the sponsor(s) of an excellent project in your state to submit a nomination as well. A nomination form is enclosed for your use.

**We are also again encouraging those making nominations to solicit support from their Members of Congress – both U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators – to build awareness of excellent RTP-funded projects and the RTP program itself.** Additional information can be found on the nomination form.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW NOMINATION FORM](#)

The nomination form and any supporting materials, including pictures, should be returned by **March 28, 2014** to the Chair of the Coalition’s Awards Committee: Duane Taylor, Director of Federal Affairs, Motorcycle Industry Council, 1235 South Clark Street, Suite 600, Arlington, Virginia 22202. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call him at (703) 416-0444 or send him an e-mail at [dtaylor@mic.org](mailto:dtaylor@mic.org). Winners should be notified no later than April 30, 2014. Please distribute them to your networks to help ensure that we have an impressive group of nominees from which to select this year’s winners.

If you have any questions, just let me know.

Catherine A. Ahern

American Recreation Coalition and Coalition for Recreational Trails

## UFWDA 'Forum'

Are you aware of the information listed on the UFWDA 'forum' attached to our website? You can find postings of legislative decisions, land use matters on a regional basis and updates.

To join the UFWDA forum requires an application to the admin team ( to avoid spammers and the work to manage them) Simply email [forums@ufwda.org](mailto:forums@ufwda.org) to request registration.

## Trails users united for sustainable trails on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

**When:** Jan. 25, 2014 9:00am –

**Location:** Chattooga River Ranger District Office 9975 Hwy 441 South Lakemont, GA 30552

**CoTrails** and the [Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest](#) continue to offer training leading to certification of volunteer trail crew leaders. This is a great opportunity to increase one’s knowledge of all aspects of trail maintenance projects and become a more effective crew leader.

This is the last class planned until recertification of crew leaders begins in 2015 and class size is limited so interested volunteers should sign up soon, but please RSVP no later than COB on **January 22**.

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Volunteers who want more information or wish to register for one of these courses should contact Larry Thomas at [lrthomas68@gmail.com](mailto:lrthomas68@gmail.com) . The course will offer training in planning and leading volunteer trail crews, and address the administrative requirements of crew leadership that will be of importance to organized volunteer groups and individuals in their ongoing trail maintenance projects.

One certification requirement is that crews leaders must be have First Aid/CPR certification. The Forest Service in Georgia will be offering First Aid/CPR training sessions on each Ranger District in 2014. Contact your nearest [Chattahoochee-Oconee NF](#) Ranger District for specific dates.

## Fact: 4x4 and SUV Drivers are Idiots

*(Ed... someone in South Africa pontificates)*

You've been cut off again by some aggressive SUV driver. Or worse, he's been flashing his lights and fingers at you in rage. So you think again, if only you could shoot the jerk. Well, it turns out you would be improving society by doing just that.

We all have to face the fact that there has been a profleration of 4x4s and SUVs on the roads in the last 10 years or so. Particularly in Pretoria and Sandton. So why should this be?

People I have spoken to say things like "I like a high driving position", or "I need it to go off-road" (unsaid: "and drive over small animals and their homes there") . Whatever the reason, it is a good feeling to be higher than all the other drivers, so you can see traffic and road conditions well. The reason you see so well is the same reason you restrict visibility and increase risks for other road users. You also feel safe. There's nothing like being ensconsed in 3 tons of steel to be safe.

The modern 4x4 is also fast, much faster than many small cars, so it has performance to excite. The N3 right hand lane is practically reserved for aggressive 4x4s these days. It's completely practical, you can carry as much as you need around. It also doesn't damage easily, you can bump into trees and animals with much less risk of damage than you would have with a small car. It's good for potholes and pavements, those big wheels take it all in their stride.

No one can see you from their small cars, so they don't notice that you're texting or speaking on the cell. You can park at the mall and open your big door onto the small car next to you and leave a nasty scratch and dent on it with no worries for yourself. You can reverse into small cars at the mall that are too small to see well and again, negligible damage to your 4x4. You can drive over the neighbour's child, dog, or even the neighbour himself by mistake while reversing and no problem for you. Except, of course, you're probably more likely to reverse over your own child, but at least it won't be you being reversed over. It takes up lots of space wherever it is, reducing space for other road users, like bicycles and motorbikes. All in all, a perfect car.

And there's yet more..... <http://www.news24.com/MyNews24/Fact-4x4-and-SUV-Drivers-are-Idiots-20140110>

## UFWDA on Facebook and Twitter too

[Check us out and maybe 'like' us!](#)

Find UFWDA on [Twitter](#) as [@ufwdaorg](#)

You may even find other information on Twitter

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## UFWDA mail address

Please help us by using this address....

**United Four Wheel Drive Associations Inc.  
PO Box 316  
Swartz Creek  
MI 48473**

**The deadline for contributions to UFWDA eNews, is the 10th of each month.**  
Please send materials to [editor@ufwda.org](mailto:editor@ufwda.org)

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