

Wisconsin Off-Highway Vehicle Association's

Badger Tracks

From the Northwoods Desk of CEO John Lewins

The spring and summer of 2015 brought big changes in WOHVA , all good but Volunteers are center stage.

Record number of volunteers showed up at Mole Lake to help with tasks at hand building trails and maintenance of all trails. It is an awesome feeling to have such a large backing and enthusiastic crew to reach our goals set by myself and the volunteer team. I want to extend a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped in all our endeavors for WOHVA to move forward.

Jeep Jamboree USA was also a record breaking year for attending participants , 128 Jeeps and 270 participants plus. There was a record 45 (101 training participants) which made a huge challenge for Jerry Stephens, Dave Groshek and myself to make it work, by recruiting two new guides Garrick Roland and Nick Rappert who graciously accepted the challenge to help the 101 training and the rest of guiding duties which is well appreciated by Jeep Jamboree and WOHVA and especially by Toni and Myself.

The rest of the guides were also hit with a monumental challenge of a very wet Saturday! They all conquered this challenge, GREAT JOB guys!

A special thanks to our newest guides Garrick Roland and Nick Rappert who stepped up at the last minute to help us immensely doing an excellent job, thank you very much.

The evening meal at JJUSA event raise a record 50/50 raffle amount for WOHVA and our cause, fun was had for all!

In early September Toni and I had attended the JJUSA coordinators training in Auburn Hills, Michigan , then met with Joel and Derick Thomas to attend the guide seminar on Saturday. We were offered to attend the Chrysler-Jeep museum with 3 floors of vehicles, concept types and past and present models. Also a ride and drive of easter safari Jeep concept vehicles on Sunday.

In closing the trail maintenance for end of year seeding took two weekends to accomplish the areas needed to repair from the event rides and just a wet season throughout the summer. The volunteer s came out in full force and were instrumental in accomplishing this task fully.

I just want to thank all volunteers for their unwavering dedication that makes WOHVA great and move forward to better our cause

Thank you

John Lewins

MISSION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Off-Highway Vehicle Association exists for the sole purpose of proactively assuring that public and private off-highway vehicular recreational opportunities are expanded in Wisconsin for safe use by this and future generations.



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GNTR VIII

Spirit Mountain Challenge

If two straight days of great family fun with 97 of your newest and now best friends, on some of the best trails, in the great Wisconsin Northwood's sounds good to you then you just missed an awesome weekend. Never fear, plans for 2016 are already in the works.

The Great Northern Trail Ride took place in Mole Lake, Wisconsin August 13-15. The yearly event opened Thursday the 13th with check in for trail riders between 3pm and 7pm. Registrants picked up their event t-shirts, rented or purchased WOHVA spill kits, picked up their welcome packets as well as some raffle tickets. After checking in riders met their trail guides and selected trails for Friday. Choices included a Green 101 instructional or refresher ride to familiarize new or returning 4x4 OHV users. Other options included the Red, Blue and Orange trails. Each color designation has a different level of challenge and each trail is unique in terms of obstacles, width and terrain.

Hospitality in the form of snacks and beverages were available for guests while getting checked in. At 7pm we kicked off the first of four raffles scheduled for the weekend. The "raffle every day" was a huge success in 2015 and will be coming back for 2016! WOHVA even did a raffle for all the kids in attendance! WOHVA raffled off the first of four \$50 4WD Hardware gift cards that were donated by the Titledown Jeeps. We also gave away a GNTR 2015 sweatshirt donated by Jay Paulson of Tee Time LLC. A set of Mechanix gloves from Del City rounded out the raffle. After the raffle most participants went back to their camps and hotel rooms to get a good night sleep.

Friday morning a few more registrants checked in and then vehicles were directed to the lineup field. Driver's aired down their tires to allow better traction and leave minimal tracks on the trails. This was also the time for a final look over to secure everything inside and stow water and snacks for the morning.

Each vehicle had a sticker that matched their trail color designation and just East of the Casino the Jeeps, Toyotas and a Land Rover lined up behind the sign that showed their color. Each trail had a trail guide to lead and a tail gunner to helpout. Citizens Band radios are strongly suggested to keep riders involved in the ride, informed of what is going on and aware of upcoming obstacles. Each trail group gets a channel and chats over the radio all day.

By 9am the trail groups were out on the trail until meeting at a rally area for lunch. Lunch was catered in by a local company this year. Groups met in the rally area for a chance to take a break, have a sandwich, apple and cookie. Plenty of water and soda was available as well. All groups meet in the same area and gather in the shade and talk about their trails and share stories. Porta Potties were a new addition for GNTR lunch area this year. They were in the shade when they were placed- next year they will get moved to stay that way!



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After lunch groups headed back out for a few more hours of trail rides and fun! A surprise rain shower Friday afternoon added some excitement to some trails and may have gotten the dust off more than one open top vehicle. Conversations Friday at dinner and the smiles on all the faces told the story- it was a great day on the trails! After dinner raffle #2 gave away another \$50 4WD hardware card from the Titledown Jeepers, another GNTR 2015 Sweatshirt, some more prizes from Delcity.net and Riverside Chrysler Dodge Jeep in Iron Mountain, MI. www.RIVERSIDEHASIT.COM

Riverside had a huge presence at GNTR with several Jeeps and employee wheelers. They brought some display Jeeps and literature along with solid proof they don't just sell Jeeps- they USE THEM! Their contributions to the weekend raffles were excellent and even better, General Manager Sean McAdams put in a great plug for Tread Lightly. He also reminded everyone to join Tread Lightly and get a better price on a new Jeep from Riverside! Post raffle the banquet room emptied out fairly quickly as participants headed off to sleep and prepare for Saturday.

Saturday participants went straight to lineup, and did a final check over. Each day WOHVA Trail and Tribal Relations Coordinator John Lewins gave some safety reminders and sent off each group for a safe day of guided Northwoods trail riding. There wasn't a cloud in the sky, sun and fun was the order of the day. New friendships were made among the children and adults, new driver skills were discovered and promises were made for next year. For some that just means getting back on the trail more, others will add parts and seat time to make their goals and get past that tree or get up that rock garden.

The stories of conquering fear and physical obstacles were commonplace at dinner Saturday. Drivers were amazed at what some of the participants could overcome and what they found their vehicles could do with a little coaching and support. Grandfathers and Grand kids, husbands and wives all experienced a great time in Wisconsin's great outdoors.

Saturday night opened up the BIG DADDY of WOHVA raffles. Gift certificates from Sport Truck USA, Wheel Pros, Tom Woods Driveshafts, Teraflex, 4WD Hardware, Del City, Prospero's Garage, Royal St. Patrick's Golf Links in Wrightstown, WI, product from Riverside CDJ in Iron Mountain, MI, Bacon and Cheese from GRFOODSINC.com, swag from Jeep, BDS Suspension, Zone Offroad Products, JKS Manufacturing, Tee Time LLC. All prizes sent by WOHVA partners to help further our cause. These companies realize that their investment in strong state OHV Associations pays back by increasing the number of people who buy their products. Please consider all of our partners when purchasing! Further assistance came from Lenz Truck Center of Fond du Lac, WI, Team Winnebagoland of Oshkosh, WI and Extreme Offroaders 4x4 Club LTD. of Oshkosh, WI



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Spirit Mountain Challenge isn't just a name, everybody that comes has a challenge or finds one there. WOHVA has a challenge to keep access to the mountain to put on these events. The Tribe has a challenge to maintain their property and the beauty it possesses for future generations. WOHVA has a challenge to bring together new friends and old, young and experienced, to enjoy the great outdoors and our love for OHV use. Our participants have challenges also. Getting out of the office, spending much needed time with the kids, spending time in their vehicle, maybe quietly reflecting on their daily life, maybe looking to turn a corner and develop a relationship with new people and a new form of recreation. These are all challenges for participants.

One of the greatest challenges we all have is passing down the respect for our resources and opportunities to the young people interested in OHV use. Nothing can be taken for granted if Wisconsin is going to expand our opportunities for participating in trail rides like GNTR. Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to share the Spirit Mountain Challenge with Wisconsin Off Highway Vehicle Association. We look forward to 2016 with great expectations.

On behalf of the GNTR Committee that put this event together (Dan Bergin, Laura Bergin, Cotty Barrett, Jeff Lohry, Jerry Stephens, Mike Diermeier, and Jim Maze), we would like to thank EVERYONE who participated and helped make this event possible.

Great thanks go out to our property hosts, the Sokaogon-Chippewa Community Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. Learn more about this community here www.sokaogonchippewa.com Without this property WOHVA could not have put on this event.





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State News

Notes from the last WI Governor's State Trails Council August meeting.

Aaron Buchholz from the WI DNR provided an update on the road inventory project.

Below are a few key points.

1. Buchholz reviewed Wisconsin Statute 23.116, which prompted the DNR's road inventory project. He noted that the original statute was not included in the 2015-17 state budget.
2. Project goals of the road inventory include: developing a database of DNR roads. There may be increased opportunities for motorized access. These roads will be classified by any planned development, seasonal access and type of motorized use.

3. Buchholz discussed next steps of the project.
4. Buchholz presented statistics on the comments received. 250 comments, with most either strongly supportive or strongly opposed to expanding motorized access.

Luana Schneider provided an update on the JJUSA and GNTR. Luana also noted that she has noticed an increasing number of folks joining from other user groups, stating physical limitations as the reason.

For more on this meeting or future meetings visit

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/stc/>

The National Front

Wildfires

This has been an ugly and devastating summer for wildfires. Let's look at the numbers.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, as of August 26th:

- Year to date, more than 42,820 wildfires have burned more than 7.6 million acres of land.
- 7.6 million acres burned is a 10 year high with even more acres being destroyed with active fires still burning in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.
- According to the Bureau of Land Management, more than 250,000 acres of critical Sage Grouse habitat was destroyed in Idaho alone. The agency is calculating similar damage in other states.
- The National Interagency Fire Center has mobilized fire fighting forces from the entire U.S. as well as Canada to fight the western wildfires. The U. S. Army has been deployed to provide support and firefighters from New Zealand and Australia have joined the fire lines!
- Chief Tom Tidwell, U.S. Forest Service, orders agency freeze in non-fire spending and tells staff to be prepared to shift upwards to \$450 million in non-fire programs to cover the cost of fighting the wildfires.
- Recreational trails, including OHV trails, have been damaged with assessment to take place after the fire fighting season is over.

In sum, the numbers are grim.





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The Wisconsin Off-Highway Vehicle Association and Sokaogon Chippewa Tribal Council have worked together to allow us to have access to the forestry land for our trail system, to accommodate off highway vehicles like Jeeps and Trucks. The trails are built and maintained explicitly by volunteers under the direction of John Lewins, who is the trails coordinator and liaison to the tribal community/ forester - WOHVA relationship chair person.

John has extensive training in trail building, maintenance, and land sustainability from National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council. Also training in Recreational leadership training and Volunteer leadership and land use from Blue Ribbon Coalition.

This training helps John train and lead volunteers to build and maintain trails to keep them sustainably structured. Also as Local area coordinator for Jeep Jamboree USA, John oversees and trains 16 trail guides and for Great Northern Trail Ride for Wisconsin Off-Highway Vehicle Association.

We spend nine weeks every summer to work on building and maintaining trails to accommodate the two events each summer of family off road adventures such as Jeep Jamboree USA which is the 3rd weekend of July and Great Northern Trail Ride which is the 3rd weekend of August.

Jeep Jamboree USA is a family orientated off road adventure guided trail ride in the rustic forest setting. The trail rides promote responsible tread lightly operation on the six levels of difficulty along with sustainability to environment.

The trails are as follows, for beginners the 101 course which trains participants to traverse over various obstacles such as rock's, logs and off camber traversing.

After completing the course the participants take on the trails appropriate to stock Jeeps.

The next level is the Green trail which is for stock level Jeeps with stock tires and no modifications to traverse over low level land obstacles.

The third level is the Blue trail which has more up graded levels of difficulty on trails including off camber hill traversing with tighter turning radius to challenge participants.

The fourth level is the red trail which requires larger than stock tires, suspension lift up grades for more articulation and rear differential lockers to help climb various rock areas.

The fifth level is the orange trail which requires 33" tires or bigger, lockers front and rear and a winch recommended for traversing through the various tight areas and off camber through hills and rock garden areas.

The last level is Orange 2 trail which is the highest level of difficulty which requires 33"-37" tires, lockers front and rear, winch. The trails are consisting of large rock garden areas, steep off camber traversing with the tightest turning radius's between trees without damaging the trees.

Maintenance includes providing water bars on hill sides in order to prevent water erosion. All other traveled areas that are exposed are seeded with grass seed to keep land sustainable with minimal change to forest land. Sustainability and keeping area open to the logging practices of forestry land. Sustainability is a major factor in keeping land use relationship with the Sokaogon Chippewa tribal community council and the Wisconsin off highway vehicle association.

John Lewins



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WOHVA Fills the Hill at Annual Auto Exhibition

WOHVA shines at the 15th annual and final Grand Larsony Classic Car Show in Kewaskum WI. It was a crisp September morning with temps in the 50s, but quickly turned into an awesome day filled with sunshine and good times.

The crew all arrived early and by 9:00am we were all set up and looking good. The new WOHVA display was definitely a hit. First time participant to the show was Nick who showcased his Jeep on the ramp. Nice flex job!

The show had a record numbers of participants, with over 350 vehicles. They actually had to turn some folks away because they had no open area left.

I guess it pays to be early and of course have a 4WD vehicle☺ Its unknown the amount of spectator's that came through, guessing well over a thousand.

Appreciate all those that drove more miles than I did to get there to spread the WOHVA message. Check out the show facebook page. Our group is on the home page, helps to know the guy in charge, gotta luv it!

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Grand-Larsony-152462904815061/timeline/>





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49th Annual All-4-Fun

In early August at the 49th Annual All-4-Fun event in Chaffee County, CO there were nearly 1000 Off-Highway enthusiasts in attendance from 34 states!!! Marty Coopman from the Wisconsin Off Road Vehicle Park Inc. was invited to attend the Inaugural Associations Summit hosted by T&T Customs.

Del Albright from the Blue Ribbon Coalition put together a great presentation focusing on not only land access issues in not only Colorado, but nationwide. One of the main points Del Albright from the BRC stressed was trail sustainability through normal maintenance, proper signage, education and enforcement. Some of the focus was simply sharing our struggles with public land access. Funding cuts to federal, state and local agencies often force closures to popular trails, thus creating even more traffic on the trails that remain open creating additional efforts of trail maintenance.

The final focus of the summit was simply networking. Del Albright is not only a great source of information and inspiration, but also a network master that has connections across the country. Immediate networking focused on the OHV advocates in attendance, but it was abundantly clear that the seasoned representatives had many different contacts in both the public and private sectors nationwide.

In attendance, there were representatives from Blue Ribbon Coalition, Colorado Off Highway Vehicle Association, Colorado Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, Mile-Hi Jeep Club, Stay The Trail, United Four Wheel Drive Association, Tread Lightly, Trails Preservation Alliance, Wisconsin Off Road Vehicle Park Inc., Pacific North West 4WD Association, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Desert Roads Trails Society, Utah Public Lands Association, Trail Ridge Runners, Grand Mesa Jeep Club, and the Indiana 4WD Association!

We look forward to attending the 2nd Annual Associations Summit at the 50th Annual All-4-Fun in Empire, CO.

KrawlZone TV will be broadcasting the entire meeting on the internet.



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Wisconsin Off-Road Vehicle Park Individual Annual Membership Application Form

Please complete application, attach payment for \$10 (payable to WORVPI) and mail to: WORVPI, 116 South Lake Avenue, Crandon, WI 54520

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

www.WORVPI.org

Wisconsin Off-Road Vehicle Park Association/Club Annual Membership Application Form

Please complete application, attach payment for \$100 (payable to WORVPI) and mail to: WORVPI, 116 South Lake Avenue, Crandon, WI 54520

Club/Association Name _____ Name of Contact Person (also voting representative) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

www.WORVPI.org

