



## VA4WDA Winter 2025

### 2025 Virginia Four Wheel Drive Association Board of Directors

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### Editorial Calendar

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Delivery</u>
Spring/February	February 1	End of February
Summer/May	May 1	End of May
Fall/August	August 1	End of August
Winter/November	November 1	End of November
<b>*All ads must be ¼ page and submitted in JPEG format.</b>		



## A message from Jesse L Schneirla, VA4WDA President

VA4WDA,

On 19-20 September, 2025 we came back together for the 31<sup>st</sup> running of the VA4WDA Fall Run after having to take a year off because of insurance issues. It wasn't because we couldn't secure insurance because of any past experience, it was because no one was writing insurance to cover our event. But with the hard work of Chad Thompson (VA4WDA Member at Large) and the owners of Oak Ridge Estate, we were able to secure insurance and hold the event. However, it came at a cost as the insurance quadrupled and that is the reason we had to go up on the price of the event. But we still try to make it as affordable as possible so it's not a strain on our members.

I want to also thank the Trail Guides and VA4WDA BOD members that came up to clear trails that haven't been maintained for two years. They all do this as volunteers and spend their own money and time to make this happen. We held three clean-up weekends to get the trails to where you could get through to enjoy the weekend. We lost count of how many trees had to be removed off the trails during those weekends. Also, they volunteer to set-up, tear down, safely guide for the weekend, recover vehicles off the trail and work hard at making this the best experience for those that attend this event. So if you see one of the above be sure to thank them for their efforts to make this event happen. We did finally sell out, but those that got a ticket had a great weekend. VA4WDA uses this as a membership drive event. Doing so we went from 350 paid members to over 600 paid members. So we did accomplish what we set out to do. Remember there is strength in numbers.

We had a great weather weekend as everyone rolled in on Thursday to complete registration and then headed to pick out a spot to camp for the weekend. It was great to drive around and meet those that were new to the event and those that come every year. For some, this is the only wheeling event that they attend all year.

We staged out Friday and Saturday morning to hit the trails to enjoy the day, making memories and experiencing those events that turn into tales that start out like this: "That one year at the VA4WDA Fall Run at Oak Ridge Estate...." I'm sure there are plenty of those stories that were told each night at the campfires while visiting with fellow wheelers. Even though we had some minor breakage, there were a few that went even farther to try to win the most damage award. One award I don't want to take home. But the award this year was a work of art donated by Rusty. The person that won the award was on Rusty and Dustin's trail and those two and more had the privilege of recovering that vehicle off the trail. Again, it was an event with little vehicle damage or breakage and no medical emergencies. I want to thank the participants for following the rules and listening to the volunteer Trail Guides to make this an enjoyable and safe event.

Saturday night we had the community dinner and then the raffle. Every year I look forward to a few things that make this event enjoyable for me. I know, it's always about me! I enjoy having the children lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, then holding the children's raffle and handing out prizes to those that win and then presenting our donation to the Nelson County Pantry. Speaking of the Pantry, our membership stepped up again and overwhelmed the Pantry volunteers with our donations. I want to call out Tom and Doe Lassen as they again brought the most food donation. I believe it was over 600lbs and then on top of that they donated \$200. Outstanding! For the group that donated the most, Tidewater Fourwheelers took back their crown for their donation. To all, well done and thank you as you don't know how much this helps the Nelson County Community.

This year's raffle was a record holder as we had 13 sets of tires, a set of wheels and 7 winches to give away! Not to mention, a bunch of other prizes donated by our Event Sponsors, Business Members, clubs, and individual members. Without this support we couldn't have such a fun raffle. We will start advertising for next year's event soon. If you're interested in being a 2026 VA4WDA Fall Run Event Sponsor, please contact Sandy at [vicepresident@va4wda.org](mailto:vicepresident@va4wda.org) and she will help you out.

I'm glad that the event is back and that we got to see all our long-time members as well as a bunch of new ones this year. We look forward to seeing you again September 18-19, 2026. Save that date. We look to open registration again in July of 2026, date TBD.

Jesse L Schneirla  
VA4WDA President



**Articles submitted by VA4WDA members!! We want to hear from YOU!**

## Submission from Ben Wood, President Tidewater Fourwheelers

11/1/25 Tidewater Fourwheelers Adopt a Beach Cleanup

Tidewater Fourwheelers hosted their fourth and final 2025 NPS Adopt A Beach cleanup



Nov 1 on Ramps 48 and 49 in Frisco. In attendance were Jim Villers in his 1977 FJ40, Ericka and her dad Erick Smestad in the Tacoma, Scott Rollings being supervised by Maverick in their JK, Luke Delozier, Melissa and Ben Wood in Old Salty (TJ), Cliff and Robin Bryant along with Kojak in their TJ.

After signing the waivers, we took to the beach. One group headed up the back road to ramp 48 while the second proceeded down 49. What we thought would be an easy day surprised many with what we found. Besides the usual plastic bottles and cans, some gems were 1/4 sheets of plywood riddled with nails, an HVAC A/C compressor coil wadded in the sand and a full-size trash barrel!

The duration of the cleanup took roughly two hours. We took a group photo and exited the beach to dispose of our findings into the dumpster.

We regrouped out on the beach for lunch and relaxation before many turned back north to head home. Thank you all who attended this event and others. Stay tuned for 2026 dates to be dropping in the coming months. Now to wash the salt off.







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## 2<sup>nd</sup> submission from Tidewater Fourwheelers, submitted by Ben Wood

### Tidewater Fourwheelers 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campout

Members of Tidewater Fourwheelers held their 50th Anniversary Campout at the George Washington National Forest on October 25 and 26. Base camp was set at Stokesville Campground (<http://stokesvillecampground.com/>) with most members arriving Friday evening as temperatures began to tumble. The campground offers tents, cabins, and RV sites.



A cold Saturday morning started with a meet up at the Stokesville gas station. After gassing up and last minute groceries, we rolled out for a day of trail riding. Heading to Reddish Knob on a back road trail, one XJ had an electrical gremlin pop up. After scratching our heads and chasing wires, the Jeep was mobile. The consensus was to get it back to camp before a complete failure. The remaining group rolled on, climbing in elevation to 4,396 feet at Reddish Knob. The parking lot was full but we managed to find spaces with a group of trucks leaving. Lunch was called, coolers unloaded, and a drone was sent into the air.

After lunch, the group resumed down the trail in the direction of Flagpole Knob. It was a dusty, bumpy ride with the occasional oncoming vehicle traffic. We were greeted at the overlook with a beautiful view at 4,360 ft in elevation, even with a pull behind camper boondocking on the mound.

The area was busy with groups coming and going, and with the day getting short, we exited off the mountain by heading down Switzer Lake Road. We met several oncoming groups that were heading up for a primitive camping experience Saturday night. After airing up the tires by Switzer Lake, we all settled in for a 25 minute return ride on back roads to Stokesville Campground.

Rolling into camp at dusk, it was time to relax, fire up the grills for dinner, and light up the campfire for an evening of reminiscing of the years gone bye with some of our senior members in attendance.

Sunday morning we woke to a cloud deck moving over the sunrise. It was time to pack up and hit the road. Some members stayed behind to spend another day on the trail while most headed home. Thank you to all who attended this anniversary trip! Looking forward to the next one.





## Association Member Capital City Four Wheelers got some great recognition for their fundraising efforts. Article was written by Joy Christ with the Island Free Press.

The Capital City Four Wheelers' 40th Annual Surf Fishing Tournament brought hundreds of anglers and families to Hatteras Island on Oct. 18 and 19 — and by the end of the weekend, the long-running event had raised \$7,000 to support four local foster families through the St. John United Women in Faith Foster Family Committee

The funds came entirely from a raffle of four custom rod-and-reel combinations built and donated by noted craftsmen: Tommy Farmer of Carolina Cast Pro, Joe Moore of One More Cast, Ryan White of Hatteras Jack's Bait and Tackle, and Michael Harris of Full Send Rod Company. Tournament chair Heather Vaughan said participation and generosity were both at a high point this year.

"This was hands down the best tournament," Vaughan said. "We had all of our fish categories filled up, even the children's tournament, which we take to five places now. Surf or Sound Realty gives us a big donation that helps fund that. And then our anglers showed up big time on the raffle this year. We had four different builders build rods for us, and it paid off."



Before the tournament begins. Photo by CCFW

With 586 registered anglers and two clear fishing days following a storm earlier in the week, Vaughan said the turnout was one of the strongest in recent memory. "It was amazing," she said. "People were just tired of the weather and wanted to get out and fish."

And when it was announced that raffle proceeds would benefit local foster families, the crowd responded with enthusiasm. "People bought 20 tickets, or \$300 worth of tickets," said Vaughan. "All of the anglers wanted to help the local community."

The St. John United Women in Faith Foster Family Committee was chosen as the recipient of the raffle funds after word spread about the group's work with foster families on Hatteras Island. Committee member Teresa Hudgins Black said the need is ongoing and often unseen.

"We have four foster families, and [money] just doesn't stretch far enough," said Black. "Our greatest mission is to help women and children in need, and we just felt in our hearts that we really needed to do something."

The Capital City Four Wheelers, a Richmond-based surf fishing club that has held its annual Hatteras tournament for four decades, has built a reputation for supporting local causes each year. Past donations have gone to a local firefighter whose home burned down, to a local woman who lost her car, to the Cape Hatteras Secondary School drama department, and regularly to the Cape Hatteras United Methodist Men's food bank.

Vaughan said those choices often come through "word of mouth" — a simple network of island residents and longtime friends who help identify where the need is greatest. "All the dollars from our raffle donations stay right here," she said. "Everything we make

from the tournament — we donate it back. Some things go to Richmond, but most stay local: to the United Methodist Men for the food bank here, to the fire departments, and other things. We have a few eyes and ears on the island who tell us where the biggest need is each year, and that's where we try to help."

This year's milestone 40th tournament also included more than 295 door prizes donated by local and Richmond-area businesses, a children's tournament sponsored by Surf or Sound Realty, and seven fish categories — red drum, bluefish, trout, croaker, spot, sea mullet, and northern puffer — with first and second place awards in each. The group even kept up its annual "trash rod contest," where participants earn a chance at a \$100 rod-and-reel combo by collecting debris from the beach, a prize donated this year by Dillon's Corner

For Vaughan and her team, the success of this year's event wasn't just about good weather or great catches — it was about the community spirit that continues to tie Hatteras Island and the Capital City Four Wheelers together after decades of fishing.

"It's been 40 years, and we've never missed a tournament — even in 2020," she said. "Every year, it's the same reason we come back: good fishing, good people, and supporting a good cause."

**Registration for the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual 4 Plus Surd Fishing Tournament is open! Please see details below.**



## 41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL 4 PLUS SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

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Trout	\$400	\$200	\$160

### How to Enter

#### **EARLY BIRD ONLINE REGISTRATION:**

All **online** entries submitted by March 7th will be entered into a drawing for a **CUSTOM Rod and Reel!**  
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- **ENTER ONLINE!** Follow this URL: [bit.ly/4plusfishing2026](https://bit.ly/4plusfishing2026) or scan the QR code above with a phone camera and follow the link to the google form.  
***\*You must follow the link to payment after submitting the form\****
- **Mail-in entries** will still be accepted this year— however you will not be eligible for the early bird online entry drawing
- **Free T-shirt Deadline:** Mail-in entries must be postmarked by March 14th and received by March 21st. Online entries must be submitted by March 21st.



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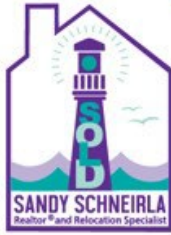
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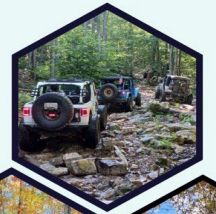
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## **CONTENT NEEDED!**

Our members keep the Virginia Four Wheel Drive Association going! Education, conservation, and recreation are the tools we use to be the voice keeping public lands open. But we continue to need your support.

We are always looking to hear from our members. Have you or your club hit the trails, and cleaned up some trash? Let us know! Have you or your club held an event in support of the four-wheel drive community? Let us know! Are you or your club helping educate the next generation of wheelers? Let us know! The more content and exposure we get as a community, helps us ensure we can continue to fight for our access to public grounds.

Do you have a cool build going on? Send it in. You may be helping a fellow wheeler with their build, and not even know it. Don't forget the progress photos! Send your articles and photos to [editor@va4wda.org](mailto:editor@va4wda.org). Happy wheeling!

## **2025 Calendar of Events**

Nov 27: **THANKSGIVING DAY**

Dec 25: **CHRISTMAS DAY**

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