



VA4WDA Summer 2025

## 2025 Virginia Four Wheel Drive Association Board of Directors

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**Newsletter Editor:** Paul Szabo, [editor@VA4WDA.org](mailto:editor@VA4WDA.org)



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Are you on Facebook, Instagram,  
or X? We are! Search for VA4WDA  
on social media and tag us on  
your photos! #VA4WDA

### 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 Members,

I hope you joined us on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May for our Facebook live announcement. But for those that didn't attend, we are holding a Membership Drive by holding the 2025 VA4WDA Fall Ride 19-20 September 2025 at Oak Ridge Estate. After working hard with the owners of Oak Ridge Estate, VA4WDA BOD and the insurance company, we are now ready to hold our event.

This will be a VA4WDA Members Only Event. You will need to be a VA4WDA Member in good standing to register for the event around mid-July. So don't wait and renew your membership now. We will be announcing the Registration date in the weeks to come. This price of this year's event will cost \$200 per registration. The price for meals, shirts and raffle tickets hasn't gone up. We had to raise the price of the registration because the price of the insurance went up **400%**. Price of doing business to have fun!

We will also be putting out information for those that want to be a sponsor for this year's event. Sandy will be doing a Facebook live announcement on that soon. But there are perks to being a sponsor. We will also be doing a food drive for the Nelson County Food Pantry. As always, we will be awarding the individual and club that bring the most food (either cash or food itself). Plus, a portion of the profits will be donated to the Food Pantry.

Also, as part of the registration you will need to enter the following information. So, get it ready ahead of time so you're not scrambling to find it when you're trying to purchase your golden ticket to the event:

- **Name of the Driver**
- **Address**
- **Phone Number**
- **E-mail Address**
- **Wheeling vehicle License Plate, Registration number and State issued**
- **Insurance Company and Policy number**
- **Driver License Number and State Issued**

The requirement for insurance coverage and driver's license Information for those that will be driving is a new requirement this year. Plus, it will be verified when you check in at the event. If you arrive at the event and you don't have proof of current vehicle registration, insurance coverage and a valid driver's license you will be turned away and will not be allowed to participate in the Trail Ride. Plus, NO refund will be given. This is a requirement of our insurance company and Oak Ridge Estate. So please don't make me be the BAD GUY!

We will have more Facebook live announcements as time goes on.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again at Oak Ridge Estate in September!

Jesse L Schneirla

VA4WDA President



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VA4WDA would like to welcome our new Treasurer, **Kate Gochenour!**

One thing stands out for sure about Kate; she is very smart, loves 4 wheeling, and loves her daughter!

Kate has not one, but TWO Bachelor's degrees in Biology and Medical laboratory Science. She also has a Master's Degree in Health Administration. Told you she was smart! She puts those degrees to work as Director of the Medical Laboratory Technology Program at Laurel Ridge Community College in addition to being a Professor of Health Professions and Science.

Kate grew up in the New Jersey/Pennsylvania areas, but she has lived in Virginia since 2006. She has been an avid wheeler since we turned a new century. She has been a trail guide at cool places such as Big Dogs, Camp Jeep, VA Jeep Off Road, Rauch Creek, and Paragon Adventure Park. Additionally, she has also led and organized trail clean ups at Flag Pole, Peter's Mill, Second Mountain, and Bald Mountain. Currently she is an Administrator for Old Dominion Jeeps club since 2016.

Kate's greatest joy however is her beautiful daughter who is 8 years old. She has been off-roading with her mom since she was an infant and loves to be in the mountains! When she's not wheeling with her mom, she enjoys swimming and playing softball.



Please congratulate Kate on her new role next time you see her! Welcome to the team!



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## **Hey VA4WDA members!! We want to hear from YOU! Let your fellow four wheelers know what's up!**

### **Message from Ben Wood, President of Tidewater FourWheelers!**

On April 5, Tidewater FourWheelers participated in their first 2025 Adopt a beach cleanup in Frisco N.C. The club adopted ramps 48 and 49 thru the NPS program who asks us to host clean-up two times a year during the off season and two times during the open season.

The following club members and family attended the cleanup: Ben Wood, Cliff Bryant, Harold and Nicole Sumpter, Chris and Carla Boucher, Jim Villers, Gary Bell, Justin and Faith Destroismaisons, and Scott and Lynnette Rollings.

Several of us camped Friday night at the NPS Frisco Campground prior to the cleanup. We met up Saturday morning to sign waivers and review a briefing on

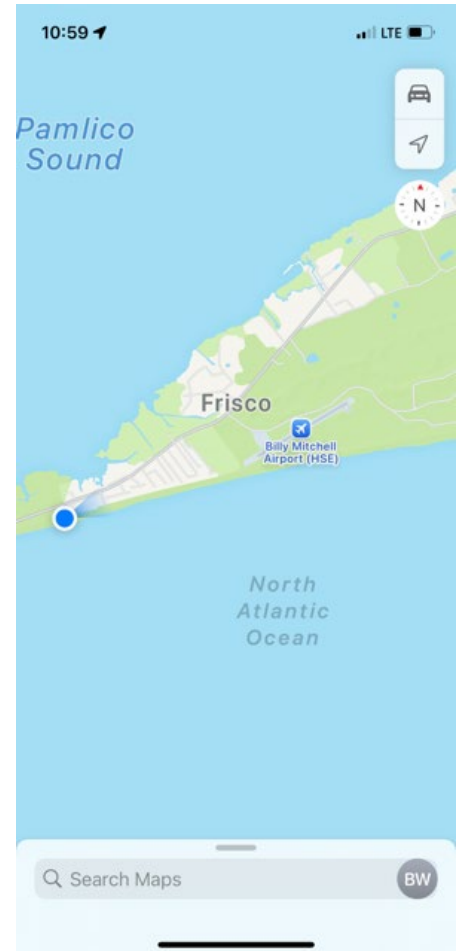
beach hazards before disbursing in multiple directions to cover our designated area.

We did our part for two hours and carried a bag of trash each off the beach. The weather was fabulous and the company great.

There will be more clean-ups scheduled for this year – late June, August, and October.

These clean-ups are open to anyone interested, not just club members. Follow along the Tidewater FourWheelers Facebook page for future events. See you on the beach...

<https://www.nps.gov/caha/getinvolved/adopt-a-beach-program.htm>







### Message from Sandy Schneirla, Vice President VA4WDA and business member!

This year, the annual VA4WDA Earth Day Trail Maintenance Day was held April 12 in the Glenwood-Pedlar District of the George Washington National Forest. We had 26 volunteers, including 2 volunteers under the age of 4. We met at the Sherando Lake Campground's William Branch Day Use Area pavilion at 9am for a briefing from our President, Jesse Schneirla and Brian from the Forest Service.

After the paperwork was signed, tasks were assigned, we grabbed our trash bags, grabbers, and gloves, and went out in 3 groups to the Coal Rd from the bottom, the Coal Rd from the Parkway, and Howardsville Turnpike. A dump site off Mt Torry Rd was cleaned on the way to the Coal Rd. The day before a group of 4 went to Tank Hollow and hauled appliances up a cliff and collected furniture and litter.



Our volunteers cleaned dispersed campsites, pulled appliances up a cliff, retrieved tires, and hauled furniture. We overfilled a 12 cubic yard dumpster (graciously paid for with a grant from Tread Lightly! again this year) and still could have collected more litter. Next year we will apply for additional grant funds and rent 2 dumpsters.

Free camping (thanks to our agreement with the US Forest Service) and Saturday dinner were back in the day-use area where a fire was burning in the pavilion fireplace. Business member Southern Yankee Homestead brought 5 dozen farm eggs



and Tread Lightly! provided 2 hoodies for our door prize give away. We put out a donation bucket and collected \$102 for our charity, the Nelson County Pantry.

We could not host this event without our volunteers that come from all over, including other states. Thank you for allowing us to give back to the public lands that we use for our sport. Most photos included here are courtesy of East Coast Overland Adventures.



**Message from John Nachman, Director at Large VA4WDA!**

## Thinking of an Engine Swap?

If you are, the most important thing is to plan ahead. Don't start tearing anything apart until you've accumulated most everything that you'll need to finish the job or you could be stalled with no end in sight. Remember all the little stuff, make lists. Get the gaskets, the vacuum plugs, new spark plugs, the right/new motor mounts, plug wires, oil, break-in oil, hoses, distributor...whatever is going to be needed. The list can be quite long. Get the equipment that you'll need lined up, a hoist, a floor jack and an engine stand can all be quite handy and, sometimes, better than the tree in the backyard with a pulley. Even if you're swapping in the same engine, just a fresh one, you'll probably want to take the opportunity to clean up everything under the hood and replace a bunch of the worn out and questionable stuff. It can become a deep rabbit hole to climb into and cost two, three or even four times what you were expecting. I'm currently replacing an AMC 360 with another AMC 360 and have managed to go far deeper than I expected. Yeah, probably should have done the LS, but that's what everyone else has done.



Next, try to arrange some help. I've been working on mine by myself. Getting up and down every time you need another tool or a paper towel can really wear on you quickly. Also, it's tough to watch some things and get the engine out or in, work the hoist and reach for a tool at the same time. In the end, you have to manage with what you have to get it done. Lastly, document everything with lots of pictures, notes of what every wire and bolt is that you take loose. I put masking tape with notes on wires, brackets and parts. Remember to put it back on after you clean or paint those parts, too.



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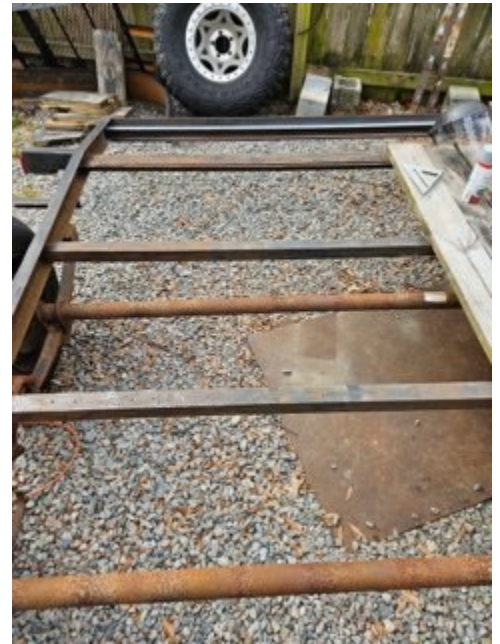
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## Message from Mark Mormando, VA4WDA Land Use Coordinator

My old 2006 car trailer has a ton of miles on it, has been coast to coast, and lots of places in between. It's towed its share of off-road rigs, classic cars, building materials, and lots of scrap metal runs. Never really think about the maintenance on it until something happens - axle bearings seized up, spring failure, brakes that don't work, or rotten wood deck... So, I decided it was time to do a little rebuild on mine.

This all started with replacing the old and rotten decking. I stripped the deck and removed all the old rusted and broken bolts, holding the boards to the trailer frame. I bought the new pressure treated lumber at a local Home Depot. I ordered some carriage bolts, washers, and nuts to secure the new decking. I picked up some new angle iron for the rear dove tail section to hold the flat decking area to the dove tail section. I made it so it bolted on instead of welding the ends down. After which I decided to build some heavy-duty fenders. 3/16" plate steel and a little planning made them so they could bolt on and off. Very stout, unlike the thin 16-gauge factory ones. While checking bearings and repacking them, I found the spring hangers were worn out. So, I ordered some new leaf springs, hangers, and greaseable bolts. I cut all the old stuff off and installed the new. I got the tires and wheel cleaned up and reinstalled. I had a new 9500 Bandlands winch in the garage, so I mounted that on the trailer for those unexpected times when things break. I had an old large plastic storage box laying around. I figured I could use it for the battery and storage. I had to weld a couple of supports across the trailer tongue so the box could be bolted on. Mounted a battery box inside and winch power on/off switch. I drilled a couple of holes for the winch wiring to run through, wired up the switch and battery. I found a couple 4" cube LED lights and mounted them to the rear of trailer. They are great for when backing up in a dark area or when loading up at night. I did a quick black paint job and added some new reflective decals. It almost looks new. I replaced some old broken lights with some new LED's. Had to remove the old crusty wiring, and replaced that with new wiring. Now it just needs an inspection sticker, and it's ready for its next road trip. Next



time I will be adding a 30 watt solar panel to help maintain the charge on the battery.

Sources used for parts: Home Depot, R&P Carriages Trailer Parts, Harbor Freight, Fasteners Unlimited, Hubble Court Fab, and Steel Services of VA.





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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

May 29-Jun 1: **Ocean City Jeep Week**, Ocean City MD, [www.oceancityjeepweek.com](http://www.oceancityjeepweek.com)

May 31: **Eastern Truck and Accessory Annual Open House**, Norfolk VA, 10am-4pm, [www.etaoffroad.com](http://www.etaoffroad.com)

June 13-15: **Bantam 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Jeep Heritage Festival**, 9am-6pm, [www.bantamjeepfestival.com/info/](http://www.bantamjeepfestival.com/info/)

June 20-22: **Big Dogs Spring Fling**, Gore VA, [www.bigdogsoffroad.com](http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com)

July 4: **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

July 18-19: **Annual PA Jeeps All Breed Jeep Show**, York PA, [www.pajeeps.org](http://www.pajeeps.org)

Sept 1: **LABOR DAY**

Sept 12-14: **Big Dogs Main Jambo**, Gore VA, [www.bigdogsoffroad.com](http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com)

Sept 19-20: **VA4WDA Fall Run**, Oak Ridge Estate, Nelson County VA, [facebook.com/va4wdaAnnualFallRun/](https://facebook.com/va4wdaAnnualFallRun/)

Oct 3-5: **Overland Expo East**, Oak Ridge Estate, Nelson County VA, [www.overlandexpo.com/east/](http://www.overlandexpo.com/east/)

Oct 11: **Tidewater Broncos Beach Clean**, Carova NC, [www.facebook.com/Tidewater-Broncos](https://www.facebook.com/Tidewater-Broncos)

Oct 17-19: **Big Dogs Fall Crawl**, Gore VA, [www.bigdogsoffroad.com](http://www.bigdogsoffroad.com)

Oct 18-19: **Capital City 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Surf Fishing Tournament**, Buxton NC, [www.capitolcityfourwheelersva.com](http://www.capitolcityfourwheelersva.com)

Oct 31: **HALLOWEEN**

Oct 31 – Nov 2: **Myrtle Beach Jeep Jam**, Myrtle Beach, SC, [www.mbjeepjam.com](http://www.mbjeepjam.com)

Nov 2: **DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS**

Nov 7 - 9: **VA Beach Jeep Fest**, Virginia Beach Oceanfront

Nov 11: **VETERAN'S DAY**

Nov 27: **THANKSGIVING DAY**

Dec 25: **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Virginia Four Wheel Drive Association**  
**P. O. Box 6612**  
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**“Serving Virginia’s four wheelers”**

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