

FOUR WHEELING IN VIRGINIA



VA4WDA Spring 2026

2026 Virginia Four Wheel Drive Association Board of Directors

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Newsletter Editor: Paul Szabo, editor@VA4WDA.org



Have you moved?

Send an email to secretary@va4wda.org with your new mailing address information.

Are you on Facebook or Instagram?

We are! Search for VA4WDA on social media and tag us on your photos! #VA4WDA @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

***All ads must be ¼ page and submitted in JPEG format.**



A message from Jesse L Schneirla, VA4WDA President

VA4WDA Membership,

We are bringing back a Membership favorite. It's been a few years, but this year we are bringing back the VA4WDA Members Only Ride. You will need to be a VA4WDA member in good standing to register for this event. We hosted this for 12 years at Gore through John Hunt of Big Dogs. This year we are going to have the same event, but it will be at Oak Ridge Estate. This will be 2-3 May 2026. For \$200 registration fee you will get camping for 2 nights and 2 days of wheeling (Saturday and Sunday). Your registration will also cover the camping, land use fees, Porta Potties, Trash, Event Insurance and more. This event will only be wheeling; no meal, t-shirts or raffle, just wheeling. We will have a special event decal to put on your rig though, with more to sell if you want more. You know everyone wants to display this on both sides of your ride.

Sandy and I are excited as we will be on the trail with you! Yes, we are bringing the Golden Rubi and will be on the trails. We will be welcoming registered guests Friday 1 May from 2-7pm to check in and set up camp sites. We will be camping at the racetrack for this one as we do for the VA4WDA Fall Run. Then we will be lining up on Saturday at 7am to check in late arrivals, then hold a quick driver's meeting and then be on the trails at 8am. We are striving to have everyone off the trails that day at 5pm. We will then do the same thing on Sunday to be off the trails at 4pm so everyone can pack up and head home. **We are going to open registration through our website VA4WDA.org at 12 noon on 7 March.** Make sure to put this in your phone calendar with alarm set so you don't miss this. Also make sure your membership is paid up as many have already been doing. There will be 200 spots available when the registration opens. Good luck to all.

Make sure to put the new date for the VA4WDA Fall Run (11-12 Sept, 2026) in your calendar so you can plan vacation to attend. We hope to open up registration for this about mid-July.

See you on the Trail,
Jesse L Schneirla
VA4WDA President



VA4WDA Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Eastern Truck & Accessories
6320 E Virginia Beach Blvd
Norfolk, VA 23502

12 PM – 3:00 PM

12 PM - Lunch Served (RSVP to VicePresident@va4wda.org with the number of people in your group for food)

1:00 PM - Business meeting starts (bring your favorite camp chair)



Join us and learn what the VA4WDA does for you and our sport. Our business members, club spokespersons, and guest speakers will be present to discuss what they do and answer any questions you may have for them. This is a great opportunity to promote your business/organization/club and speak with four wheelers from other clubs.

We are taking nominations for the offices of President, Treasurer, and Members at Large 1, 2, and 3 for the 2026-2028 term. Please email your nomination to Sandy at VicePresident@va4wda.org. Nominations will be accepted 30 days prior to the meeting (starting February 19, 2026) and conclude at end of the business meeting. Ballots will be mailed if candidates are running opposed. If candidates are running unopposed, a vote will be taken at the meeting with those in attendance.

Business members please email Sandy that you will be attending so we can prepare your time slot to speak and your space to set up your promotional area. If you wish to be a speaker or know an organization, club, or business that does, please email Sandy at vicepresident@va4wda.org.

Door prizes will be given out after the meeting. **We are accepting door prizes.** If you would like to donate a door prize, please contact Sandy at vicepresident@va4wda.org.

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2026 Earth Day Trail Clean Up

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Site Clean Up: Bald Mountain Jeep Trail FS Road 162, Coal Rd,
Glenwood-Pedlar District, George Washington National Forest

We need a head count so be sure to let us know if you plan to join us.
(VicePresident@va4wda.org or bronco.1995va@gmail.com).

9 AM – 4:00 PM

Dinner provided Saturday evening by VA4WDA.

We are proud to announce this year's event with the NFS to give back to our public lands. We will be providing gloves, water, litter pick up tools, and trash bags. You may bring loppers, manual trimmers and hand tools. Please also bring your bug spray and your lunch. Camping is at no charge if you are staying in our designated area, William Branch Day Use Area of Sherando Lake Campground. Hard sided campers and RVs are not permitted in this area. You can reserve a site in the main campground if you have a tag camper or RV. (Contact Sandy if you have questions about this.) Hot showers are available. Gate closes at 10pm. Let them know at the gate that you're with VA4WDA, and they will give you a pass and directions to our camping area. Our area is secured from Friday morning until Sunday morning. If you plan to trail ride on Sunday, you must pack up your camp site before taking off for the trails.

Camping and dinner at Sherando Lake Campground (94 Sherando Lake Rd, Lyndhurst, VA 22952), William Branch Day Use Area.

We will be working with the NFS and Tread Lightly! to remove litter from the trails, clear brush and limbs from the trails, sign installation, camp site cleanup, repairing kiosks, and other tasks.

Let's show our support for the land we use by performing some well needed maintenance. This is one step closer to keeping our Public Lands Open!

For more information, please click [HERE](#).

If you are reading the printed version, the link is <https://www.facebook.com/VA4WDA/>





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Submissions by VA4WDA members!! We want to hear from YOU!

Submission from Ron Boyd, 4 Plus 4 Wheel Drive Club



41st ANNUAL 4 PLUS SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

Hatteras, NC – April 25-26th, 2026 — 24 Hour tournament

Sponsored by the **4 PLUS 4 WHEEL DRIVE CLUB**

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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!
This is a **BONUS** drawing for online entries and does NOT affect door prize entry.

- **ENTER ONLINE!** Follow this URL: 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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Business member spotlight! - Eastern Truck & Accessories with Carter Reed at the helm ready to take the business into the future!

Many of you have heard of Eastern Truck & Accessories at this point - the offroad shop in Norfolk, VA that has been a proud supporter of the VA4WDA for decades. There's a great story behind the shop with a legacy that extends back nearly 40 years. It originated as one of about a dozen Eastern Offroad franchise locations that could be found up and down the east coast. By 2002 the franchise was struggling and the Norfolk location was sold off to Mike Slater who gave the newly independent store a new lease on life rebranded as Eastern Truck & Accessories and building it up over the years with a modern storefront and showroom, expanded service bays and new capabilities creating one of the premier automotive accessory shops on the east coast offering a wide variety of products and services. Quality products and the job done right the first time has been the name of the game ever since which has helped build Eastern's reputation across Hampton Roads and well beyond. Along the way Eastern has given back to the community in the form of special events and donations totaling more than \$1 million to charitable organizations. In late 2025, Mike and his wife Lynda decided it was time to embark on their next adventure and sold Eastern Truck & Accessories.



That brings us to the heart of this article. Eastern is under new ownership and it's a pretty unique story. Back in 2002 one of the original staffers was 16-year-old high schooler with a passion for Jeeps by the name of Carter Reed. Over the years Carter helped with sales and marketing when on breaks while getting his degree from Virginia Tech. Following college, Carter took a marketing job with FOX Factory supporting BDS Suspension, Zone Offroad and JKS Manufacturing which moved him and his then fiancé up to Michigan. Over the years he moved up the ranks to the marketing manager for the brands in addition to supporting a few others within the FOX Factory family. He led dozens of project/concept vehicle builds, developing ad campaigns and activating at events like Easter Jeep Safari, King of the Hammers, Jeep Beach, 4Wheel Jamborees, the SEMA Show, and countless trail rides over a storied 15-year career with the FOX. When asked what the highlight of his time was, Carter said hands down the 5 consecutive years (2011-2015) helping build 4x4s and participating in the now defunct 4Wheel & Offroad Magazine Ultimate Adventure.



Carter and Mike remained friends over the years, collaborated on a few projects and got together for wheeling trips when their schedules aligned. When the opportunity presented itself, they struck a deal with Carter stepping in as the new owner this past October. He brings a wealth of knowledge and fresh perspective to Eastern Truck & Accessories. He and his wife Jess along with their 2 daughters enjoy the great outdoors whether camping or 4wheeling trips. With a stocked showroom of the latest accessories, a seasoned staff of knowledgeable enthusiasts and technicians, along with the tools to get the job done right, Eastern Truck & Accessories will continue to be your one-stop truck and Jeep accessory shop for years to come.

News you can use! An informed off-roader is a safe off-roader!

The United Four Wheel Drive Association in partnership with tread lightly! has created a 4WD Awareness Program Student Manual designed to teach the fundamentals of off-highway driving and recovery techniques, four-wheel drive components, accessories, and equipment, and provide individuals with the opportunity to meet other off-highway enthusiasts who share a passion for the outdoors and for four-wheeling.

If you would like to download your FREE 4WD Awareness Program Student Manual, please click [HERE](#).

For those reading a printed version, the link is:
<https://united4wd.org/wp-content/uploads/UFWDA-Awareness-manual.pdf>

United Four Wheel Drive Associations



4WD Awareness Program Student Manual



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- Eastern Truck and Accessories
- Eli Fixes Jeeps
- Independent 4X
- Open Air Jeeps, LLC
- Sandy Schneirla/BHHS RW Towne
- Sarek Autowerke
- Southern Auto Group
- Southern Yankee Homestead
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Our guided events are held at The Cove Campground in Gore, Virginia. The campground has 3,000 beautiful acres and trails for every level of off-roading enthusiasts.

The events are three days of off-road adventures. The campground also has a lake, camping and other amenities for a wonderful stay.

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TO REGISTER



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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. Happy wheeling!

2026 Calendar of Events

Mar 21: **Annual Membership Meeting**, Eastern Truck & Accessories, Norfolk, VA 12pm-3pm

Apr 18: **VA4WDA GWNF Earth Day Clean Up**, 9am-4pm.

Apr 25-26: **4 Plus 41st Annual Surf Fishing Tournament**, Cape Hatteras High School, Buxton NC
www.4plus4wheeldriveclub.com

Apr 17-19: **Big Dogs Ice Breakers**, Gore VA, www.bigdogsoffroad.com

May 15-17: **Monsters on the Beach**, 500 Atlantic Ave Virginia Beach VA, <https://beacheventsvb.com>

May 15-17: **Broncos Beach Bash** Kitty Hawk, NC, www.broncosbeachbash.com

May 25: **MEMORIAL DAY**

May 28-31: **Ocean City Jeep Week**, Ocean City MD, www.oceancityjeepweek.com

May 9: **Eastern Truck and Accessory Annual Open House**, Norfolk VA, 10am-4pm www.etaoffroad.com

June 12-14: **Bantam 15th Annual Jeep Heritage Festival**, 9am-6pm, www.bantamjeepfestival.com/info/

June 12-14: **Big Dogs Spring Fling**, Gore VA, www.bigdogsoffroad.com

July 4: **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

July 17-18: **Annual PA Jeeps All Breed Jeep Show**, York PA, www.pajeeps.org

Sept 7: **LABOR DAY**

Sept 11-13 **Big Dogs Main Jambo**, Gore VA, www.bigdogsoffroad.com

Sept 11-12: **VA4WDA Fall Run**, Nelson County VA, facebook.com/va4wdaAnnualFallRun/

Oct 3-5: **Overland Expo East**, Oak Ridge Estate, VA www.overlandexpo.com/east/

Oct 11: **Tidewater Broncos Beach Clean**, Carova NC, www.facebook.com/Tidewater-Broncos

Oct 16-18: **Big Dogs Fall Crawl**, Gore VA, www.bigdogsoffroad.com

Oct 17-18: **Capital City 41st Annual Surf Fishing Tournament**, Buxton NC www.capitolcityfourwheelersva.com

Oct 31: **HALLOWEEN**

Oct 30 – Nov 1: **Myrtle Beach Jeep Jam**, Myrtle Beach, SC www.mbjeeppjam.com

Nov 1: **DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS**

Nov 6 - 8: **VA Beach Jeep Fest**, Virginia Beach Oceanfront, 10am – 5pm

Nov 11: **VETERAN'S DAY**

Nov 26: **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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