



VA4WDA Summer 2026

2026 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
*All ads must be ¼ page and submitted in JPEG format.		



A message from Jesse L Schneirla, VA4WDA President

VA4WDA Membership,

We brought back the VA4WDA Members Only Ride (MOR) 2-3 May 2026. This was an event we did with John Hunt of Big Dogs at Gore for years until he sold the business then we discontinued the event. Then in January we were approached by the owners of Oak Ridge Estate to hold an event in May and we jumped on it. Even though the numbers were down as compared to the Fall Run, this was the largest Members Only Ride we have held. If you were there, you know we had unseasonably warm weather for the weekend and all lines made it through the entire trail system. I want to thank everyone that attended the event and especially the volunteer Trail Guides for their hard work not only at the event but prior to the event getting the trails cleared for the event. We are in the process of locking down dates for next year's event. Unlike this year we will be going with the Fall Run event schedule and hold the 2027 Members Only Ride on a Friday/Saturday with a meal and raffle on Saturday. Once we have a date we will publish it.

We will be holding our 2026 VA4WDA Fall Run 11-12 Sept 2026 with registration opening on 25 July at noon. So, mark your calendars, you don't want to miss this event. We are looking for Sponsors for the event. If you're interested, please contact Sandy at vicepresident@va4wda.org for more information. We will also be holding a food drive for the Nelson County Pantry, so save those cans of food. So far, we have been gathering some great raffle prizes but could use more. If you, your club or business have something to donate please let me know at president@va4wda.org. Hope to see you there.

See you on the Trail,
Jesse L Schneirla
VA4WDA President



2026 Earth Day Trail Clean Up

Saturday, April 17, 2026

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

On April 17, 2026, participants started rolling in to set up their camp spot for the weekend in the Sherando Lake Campground. Some of us were in the paid part of the campground that had larger sleeping accommodations than a tent. Firewood was purchased and stacked by the fireplace by a few of our attendees and we wish to thank you for that, even though it was 80 degrees out, we still had the fire! The warmest Earth Day event at Sherando Lake that I can ever remember.



On Saturday, April 18, we met at 9:00 am at the pavilion for a briefing on the day's tasks. Instruction was given by Plinio Beres, Volunteers & Service Program Coordinator for the Glenwood-Pedlar Ranger District of the GWNF (on his day off), along with Jesse Schneirla, President VA4WDA. Dean Shirley with East Coast Overland Adventures and Tread Lightly! ambassador, spoke on behalf of Tread Lightly! and about what they do for our sport. Sandy Schneirla gave thanks to Tread Lightly! and the BFG Trails Grant Program for picking up the cost of 1 of the dumpsters, VA4WDA for picking up the cost of the 2nd dumpster and Can-Tain-It Dumpster Company for donating some of the fees for the dumpster rental. VA4WDA provided us the orange trash bags (donated by Chris Rockhill), gloves, and pick up sticks. Four groups were formed and the groups headed out. We had a group that started at the Parkway and came down Balk Mountain Jeep Trail, 1 group started at the bottom of that trail, 1 group started at the bottom of the Coal Rd, and the 4th group went up the Coal Rd to an off shoot.

These groups collected litter and tires from the trails, camp sites along the way, and down in the valleys. They also cleared brush and limbs from the trails. Over 50 tires were collected that the USFS are disposing of for us at no charge (usually \$7 per tire), filled 1 dumpster with bags of trash, and half-filled the 2nd dumpster with larger items.

We all met back at the pavilion for dinner Saturday evening prepared by Jesse Schneirla, President VA4WDA. Homemade smoked pulled pork, brats, hot dogs, and all the sides. Door prizes were given out. This year, we gave a free membership and shirt to the "most unusual find". John Small won with a leopard print robe...that he put on! We gave away 8 dozen eggs donated by Paul and Diana Gilbert; a tow strap donated by VA4WDA; a Viking motorcycle backpack bag, 2 sets of Purple Lizard Shenandoah National Park maps, 5 sets of Purple Lizard Bald Eagle State Forest maps, and a Quad Lock phone mount and case system all donated by Dean Shirley.

Then we held a 50/50 raffle for our favorite charity, the Nelson County Pantry. Total intake was \$354, with \$177 going to the winner. And the winner, Tommy Douglas, donated his share back. So we raised \$354 for the Pantry!

Weather was 85 degrees and sunny, we had 50 volunteers, and filled 2 dumpsters, plus 50 tires. Great work, great socializing, great event. Thanks to all that participated!



For the Tread Lightly! Earth Day Impact Report on our event, please click [HERE](#).





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News from NOVA Jeepers

Trail Restoration Demonstrates Power of Partnership in the George Washington National Forest

On March 28, 2026, NOVA Jeepers, in partnership with VA4WD, onX Offroad, and the U.S. Forest Service, completed a major trail restoration project along Union Springs Road in the George Washington National Forest, just outside Harrisonburg, Virginia. Union Springs Road is a popular off-road route that provides public access to the forest, but in recent years the trail and surrounding environment have suffered damage due to vehicles straying beyond designated routes.

The restoration effort brought together 12 volunteers, along with two U.S. Forest Service employees and two employees of onX Offroad. The work included surface preparation and the installation of 13,500 square feet of biodegradable erosion control matting to stabilize the soil and prevent further runoff. In addition, volunteers planted 135 native trees and plants to help restore natural vegetation and installed 60 tree protectors to ensure long-term survival of slower growing Oak and Cherry trees.

Projects like this underscore the critical role that public-private partnerships play in maintaining access to public lands for responsible off-road recreation. Federal land managers face limited resources, and collaboration with local clubs, advocacy groups, and industry partners helps bridge that gap. Organizations like NOVA Jeepers and VA4WD contribute local knowledge, volunteer labor, and a strong stewardship ethic, while partners such as onX Offroad help educate users and promote responsible trail use through accurate mapping and awareness. Together with the U.S. Forest Service, these partnerships ensure that trails remain open, sustainable, and enjoyable for future generations.

This effort also reflects the core values of responsible recreation, including the T.R.E.A.D. Lightly principles: travel only on designated routes, respect the rights of others, avoid sensitive areas, and do your part by maintaining trails and cleaning up after each visit. By restoring damaged areas and reinforcing proper trail boundaries, the project helps protect natural resources while reminding users that access to public lands comes with shared responsibility.

The day concluded with a scenic ride up to Meadow Knob, where volunteers continued their stewardship by collecting trash along the trail. This final cleanup reinforced the message that off-road recreation and environmental conservation are not opposing goals, but complementary ones. Through continued cooperation between public agencies, private partners, and the off-road community, trails like Union Springs Road can remain open, sustainable, and accessible for years to come.



News from Eastern Truck & Accessories

As posted from Facebook

A look back at earlier this month during the 24th Annual Eastern Open House... a massive thank you to everyone that came out to join the fun and support a great cause, the [American Cancer Society](#). With the help of our staff, vendors, family, friends and amazing customers we all were able to raise **\$36,471** along with raising awareness and volunteers for the organization. This wouldn't be possible without this amazing community. Thank you all!!!



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Welcome to VA4WDA Kitchen!

In this segment, we wanted to showcase another discada recipe (or also know as plow disk cooking). It's hard to beat cooking on a plow disk after a good day of wheeling. If you haven't tried it, I highly recommend it!

Adjust ingredients based on number of folks eating. Fresh veggies for best results..

Spicy Shrimp Vegetable Stir Fry

- String Beans
- Snap Peas
- Asparagus
- Onions
- Green Bell Peppers
- Mushrooms
- Brown Rice
- Shrimp (raw, de-veined and tail on *remove tail)
- Szechuan SPICY Stir Fry Sauce (I like House of Tsang)

1. Pre-cook some brown rice and trim/wash all veggies. Remove tails on shrimp.

2. Cut all veggies to a nice even size (fresh veggies are best).

3. On disk - (use a nice even low flame *remember to use only enough heat as necessary) add generous amount of olive oil and lightly brown onions and green bell peppers. Picture 1.

4. Next add peas, asparagus and string beans... cook to your consistency or lightly tender...Stir in some Spicy Stir Fry sauce. Picture 2.

5. Add mushrooms and stir frequently until mushrooms are tender and cooked. ... Picture 3

6. Stir in a helping of Spicy Stir Fry sauce

7. Add shrimp and rice. Picture 4

8. Stir in a helping of Spicy Stir Fry sauce

9. Cook and stir frequently until desired consistency is met and shrimp are a beautiful golden-orange. Picture above.

10. ENJOY!!

11. If you like it really spicy (like we do!) try adding some Sriracha Hot Chili Sauce to your plate! You can get this in the Oriental section and Huy Fong Foods makes this. ... see them at www.huyfong.com this stuff is GREAT!



Pic 1:



Pic 2:



Pic 3:



Pic 4:



A special thanks to all our business members! Please provide them with your patronage when you are in the market for their services!

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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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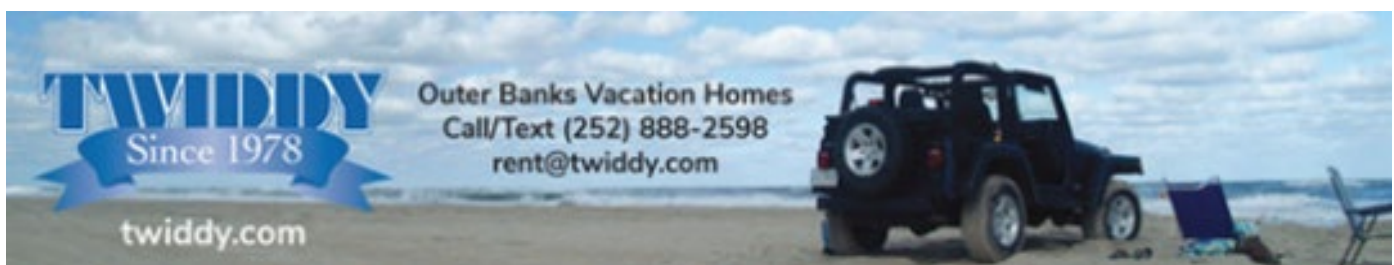


CONTENT NEEDED!

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

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.mbjeepjam.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**



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