

FOUR WHEELING IN VIRGINIA



VA4WDA Winter 2024



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

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

Editorial Calendar

Issue	Deadline	Delivery
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.**



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Letters from VA4WDA members! We want to hear from YOU!

Letter!... from John Nachman with Capital City 4 Wheelers!

Capital City 4 Wheelers 39th Annual Surf Fishing Tournament

On October 19th and 20th, The Capital City 4 Wheelers held their 39th Annual Surf Fishing Tournament in Cape Hatteras, N.C., based out of Buxton in the Fessenden Center. There were 514 entrants in the tournament trying to catch fish in 7 categories. The weather was in the 60's and windy. I heard that even 10 ounces of weight wouldn't hold in the surf.

As it turned out, fish were caught in all categories with both first and second place in each. The bluefish winner was 9 pounds, and the trout winner was 6 pounds, both great fish.

As usual, we had a great group of kids fishing this year. They're the future and we always want to encourage them to enjoy fishing with their parents.

Our awesome rod raffle had 3 beautiful custom rods this year and raised a total of \$5446 which was entirely donated back to 2 great causes on the island. Half, \$2723, was donated to the Cape Hatteras Secondary School Drama Club. The same amount was given to the Swartwood Family of Avon, who lost everything in a house fire at their home recently.

We had a huge array of door prizes, donated mostly by local businesses. 88 gift card and certificate door prizes were given out to pre-registered entrants on Saturday as they picked up their t-shirt packets so they could be used while they were at the beach. Another 215 door prizes were given out to entrants on Sunday at the awards meeting. It was almost hard not to get some type of door prize. We hope to see you there next year for our 40th year.

John Nachman President, CCFW
Board Member, VA4WDA



FISH CATEGORY	LEADERS		WEIGHT	
			POUNDS	OUNCES
RED DRUM	1 Robbie Rhoades	6	3.9	
	2 Matt Temple	6	1.5	
BLUEFISH	1 Kenny Alberts	9		
	2 Lee Howard	7	4.5	
FLAUNDER	1 Randy Overton		13.5	
	2 Snark Stevens	6	5.78	
TROUT	1 Carl Howard	2	8	
	2 John Hardest	1	10.85/76.5	
SEA HOLEY	1 Jackson Kieran	1	2.8/109.75	
	2 Griffin Hallas	1	4.3/49.2	
CROAKER	1 Wayne Hudgins		9.07/25.7	
	2 Cheryl Bundy		7.8/223.5	
SPOT	1 Harry Jenkins		6.4/181.45	
	2 Paul Wilson			



Letter!... from Mark Mormando, VA4WDA Land Use Coordinator

The Annual Carova Beach Clean Up

Tidewater Broncos, Virginia 4 Wheel Drive Association, and Eastern Truck and Accessories held the 17th Annual Carova Beach Clean Up on October 12th, 2024. The weather was amazing this year, about 70 degrees and a nice light breeze. We kicked off at 9:00am, with approximately 58 volunteers excited to get to work. Trash grabbers and bags were handed out and everyone took off in all directions. The majority worked on the main beach area, with some groups heading to the back roads. Eastern Truck and Accessories had the trailer available to pick up the bags as the crew filled them with everything you could imagine, including the kitchen sink. A select group of Eastern's employees went up to the park area and got set



up to cook lunch for all the hard-working volunteers. Big Mike was in charge of the amazing food and had it ready by 12:30pm. While that was being done, a group of us placed all the raffle prizes and giveaways out so that everyone knew what was up for grabs. There was some great stuff this year from our great sponsors to include PCI Race Radios, Moose Knuckle Offroad Products, Rhino USA, SDM Motorsports, ETA, Va4WDA, MetalCloak, Spider Web Sun Shades, Vevor, and many others. Lunch was amazing, and there was plenty of food for everyone. We even had a couple of wild horses hang out with us most of the time at the park. Raffle sales and the 50/50 raised \$1500.00 for the Carolla Wild Horse Fund...not too shabby! Thanks to everyone who came down and helped with this great event. I



hope if you didn't make it this year, you put it on your to do list for 2025.

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Letter!... from Tidewater Fourwheelers

Nov 2, 2024: Nine members of Tidewater Fourwheelers (Gary Bell, Cliff Bryant, Chris and Carla Boucher, Harold and Nicole Sumpter, Jim Villers, and Ben and Melissa Wood) participated in the club's first Cape Hatteras National Seashore Adopt-a-Beach cleanup Saturday November 2. Members met up near the Frisco Campground and fanned out looking for trash and litter between Ramps 48 and 49-both on the back road and on the beach.

A few buckets of cans, plastics, wrappers and some fishing line was picked up as well as a large fishing net that had washed ashore from one of the storms. With the help of all the volunteers and Jim's dump truck, the club was able to safely haul it off the beach and dispose of the net and trash properly.

The Adopt-a-Beach volunteer program lets groups make a measurable impact on the beach by removing harmful trash and litter from the beach. As a requisite, the club has agreed to four cleanups per year. We look forward to future cleanups carrying this program forward.



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TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

Travel responsibly on designated roads, trails or areas.

- Travel only in areas open to four-wheel drive vehicles.
- For your safety, travel straight up or down hills.
- Drive over, not around obstacles to avoid widening the trail.
- Straddle ruts, gullies and washouts even if they are wider than your vehicle.
- Cross streams only at designated fording points, where the road crosses the stream.
- When possible, avoid mud. In soft terrain, go easy on the gas to avoid wheel spin, which can cause rutting.
- Don't turn around on narrow roads, steep terrain or unstable ground. Back up until you find a safe place to turn around.
- Stop frequently and scout ahead on foot. To help with traction, balance your load and lower tire pressure to where you see a bulge (typically not less than 20 pounds).
- Know where the differential or the lowest point on your vehicle is. This will help in negotiating terrain and prevent vehicle damage resulting in oil and fluid spills on the trail.
- Maintain a reasonable distance between vehicles.
- Comply with all signs and respect barriers.
- Travel with a group of two or more vehicles. Driving solo can leave you vulnerable if you have an accident or breakdown. Designate meeting areas in case of separation.
- Choose the appropriate winch for your vehicle size.
- Attach towing cable, tree strap, or chain as low as possible to the object being winched. Let the winch do the work; never drive the winch.
- When winching always inspect your equipment, use the right winch for the situation, find a good secure anchor and never winch with less than five wraps of wire rope around the drum.



- When using a tree as an anchor, use a wide tree strap to avoid damaging the trunk of the tree.
- Don't mix driving with alcohol or drugs.

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

Respect the rights of others, including private property owners, all recreational trail users, campers and others so they can enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

- Be considerate of others on the road or trail. Learn the basics of trail etiquette.
- Leave gates as you find them. If crossing private property, be sure to ask permission from the landowner(s).
- Yield the right of way to those passing you traveling uphill. Yield to mountain bikers, hikers and horses.
- When encountering horses on the trail, move to the side of the trail, stop, turn off your engine, remove your helmet and speak—you want the horse to know you are human. Ask the rider the best way to proceed.
- Proceed with caution around horses and pack animals. Sudden, unfamiliar activity may spook animals—possibly causing injury to animals, handlers and others on the trail.
- Do not idly ride around in camping, picnicking, trailhead or residential areas.
- Keep speeds low around crowds and in camping areas.
- Keep the noise and dust down.

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Educate yourself prior to your trip by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes and knowing how to operate your equipment safely.

- Obtain a map, (motor vehicle use map where appropriate) of your destination and determine which areas are open to off-highway vehicles.
- Make a realistic plan and stick to it. Always tell someone of your travel plans.
- Contact the land manager for area restrictions, closures and permit requirements.
- Check the weather forecast before you go. Prepare for the unexpected by packing necessary emergency items.
- Buckle up! Seat belts are mandatory. Know your limitations. Watch your time, your fuel and your energy.
- Take an off-highway drivers course to learn more about negotiating terrain in a four-wheel drive vehicle.
- Make sure your vehicle is mechanically up to task. Be prepared with tools, supplies, spares and a spill kit for trailside repairs.

AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS

Avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, lake shores, wetlands and streams. Stay on designated routes.

- Other sensitive habitats to avoid include living desert soils, tundra, and seasonal nesting or breeding areas.
- Do not disturb historical, archeological or paleontological sites.
- Avoid “spooking” livestock and wildlife you encounter and keep your distance.
- Motorized and mechanized vehicles are not allowed in designated Wilderness Areas. (What are Wilderness Areas?)

Pack out what you pack in and carry a trash bag on your vehicle to pick up litter left by others. Respected Access is Open Access

DO YOUR PART

Do your part by modeling appropriate behavior, leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species and restoring degraded areas.

- Carry a trash bag on your vehicle and pick up litter left by others.
- Pack out what you pack in. Practice minimum impact camping by using established sites, camping 200 feet from water resources and trails.
- Observe proper sanitary waste disposal or pack your waste out.
- Protect the soundscape by preventing unnecessary noise created by a poorly tuned vehicle or revving your engine.
- Before and after a ride, wash your vehicle to reduce the spread of invasive species.
- Build a trail community. Get to know other types of recreationists that share your favorite trail.

If you have any trail camp recipes you'd like to share, let us know!

Award winning chili recipe by Clif Dugan

Red Rat Chili

Ingredients

2 1/2 lbs cut Tri Tip meat
Add meat to greased pot and cook 15 minutes then drain into colander.

Place back into chili pot along with:

1 can Swanson beef broth
1/2 can Swanson chicken broth
One 8 oz can tomato sauce

When boiling add:

3 Tablespoons Penderys Colleen Wallace chili powder
1 Tablespoon Penderys New Mexico light chili powder
1 Tablespoon Mild Bill's Garlic granules
2 teaspoons Wyler's beef granules
2 teaspoons Wyler's chicken granules

1/2 teaspoon All Things Chili
Deadly Dudley chili powder

Cook for 1 hour total time then turn off fire to rest.

Turn on fire at 1 hour till you want to eat it and when boiling add:

2 Tablespoons Penderys Bo Prewitt chili powder
1 Tablespoon All Things Chili Champion chili powder
1 Tablespoon Penderys Texas Red Dawg chili powder
1 Tablespoon Mild Bill's Cumin
2 teaspoons Mild Bill's Onion granules
1/4 teaspoon Penderys Tellcherry black pepper

Adjust thickness of gravy with water and add salt if needed.



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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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 wheelin!

2025 Calendar of Events

Member Clubs please send any events you will be holding in 2025 so we can get them on the upcoming calendar. The Virginia Four Wheel Drive Association, we wish all our members a very Happy Holiday season! See you on the trails in 2025!!



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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