

# Tracks

January / February / March 2024

WINTER EDITION

Newsletter Guy: Pat O'Connor

BSJ site: [www.baystatejeepers.com](http://www.baystatejeepers.com)

## Events in April:

Jeep 101 Clean Up	April 06
Jeep 101	April 13
Adopt a Highway Clean Up	April 21
(See Evites for all details.)	

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## Welcome!

Normally, we don't have a Winter newsletter because nothing really happens before April, but not this year! We've been busy, so this newsletter is going to be a little longer than normal. I hope this edition captures the highlights of everything we've been doing over the past few months, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ping me in the forums, FB, or through email.

## Trail Committee Meeting—January 13th

**Very productive meeting at [O'Connors in Worcester](#).** We worked off of last year's schedule—mixing up the runs and events so that there's a good blend of Saturday & Sunday runs plus a few Friday runs, some night wheeling, and a few camping events.

Hopefully there's enough dates so that everyone can fit BSJ events into their busy schedule.

The 2024 Event Schedule is on the Forum and updated regularly plus the latest version will be in each newsletter. **Huge thanks to Seamus for developing the schedule in an online Google doc - allowing easy updates as needed. He also kept the meeting on track!**





## BSJ's 2024

### Board of Directors

#### **President:**

Amanda Sauer

#### **Vice President:**

Mike Gillis

#### **Treasurer:**

Chris Cipro

#### **Secretary:**

Jeffrey Brunsell

#### **Director of Events:**

Stephanie Gillis

#### **Director of Trails:**

Seamus Greene

#### **Director at Large:**

Ken Bell

## **Winchendon Run — January 27th**

Seamus Greene: "It was an excellent day at Brookridge. Clearing trees, pullin' cable, and sliding around a bunch. Huge props to Michael O'Connell on his second trip to Brookridge and second trip with BSJ!"

Jonathan Hight: "Here's photos from today. First time doing real wheeling in some snow. I had a lot of fun."





## Jeep History

### **World War II:**

When it became clear that the United States would be involved in the European theater of World War II, the Army contacted 135 companies to create working prototypes of a four-wheel drive reconnaissance car. Only two companies responded: the American Bantam Car Company and Willys-Overland. The Army set a seemingly impossible deadline of 49 days to supply a working prototype. Willys asked for more time, but was refused. American Bantam had only a small staff with nobody to draft the vehicle plans, so chief engineer Harold Crist hired Karl Probst, a talented freelance designer from Detroit. After turning down Bantam's initial request, Probst responded to an Army request and began work on July 17, 1940, initially without salary.

Probst drafted the full plans in just two days for the Bantam prototype known as the BRC or Bantam Reconnaissance Car, working up a cost estimate the next day. Bantam's bid was submitted on July 22, complete with blueprints. Much of the vehicle could be assembled from off-the-shelf automotive parts, and custom four-wheel drivetrain components were to be supplied by Spicer. The hand-built prototype was completed in Butler, Pennsylvania and driven to Camp Holabird, Maryland on September 23 for Army testing. The vehicle met all the Army's criteria except engine torque.

*Next edition: Development with Willys & Ford*

## **NEA Meeting — BSJ Hosted @ American Legion in Winchendon plus Wheeling Locally - Feb 10th**

Mark St. Germain plus many NEA Board members attended. BSJ hosted with Stephanie & Mike Gillis making pasta for everyone! BSJ Members who attended: Stephanie, Mike, Ken, Eric, & Randy. Overall, there were over 80 members from various NEA clubs at the meeting!

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- **May 4th @** Hemond's Offroad Park, Minot, ME — Maine 4x4 hosting
- **August 10th @** Jericho State Park, NH — North Woods Off Road (NWOR) hosting
- **November 2nd @** Niantic, CT — Ocean State Jeepsters hosting

### **NEA Updates From This Meeting:**

- There's a new property in **Hampden County, MA**. This new property is on the MA/CT border and BSJ is really interested because of all the stock friendly trails on this property.
- **550 acre Grafton Property trail maintenance will be starting soon.** (Possible cleanup weekend June 21st-23rd.)
- **Rutland property is back to paying the land-owner \$25/rig** with a minimum of \$100 (4 rigs) per event.
- **Winchendon property is now \$25/rig** — no minimum.



**Bantam's BRC 40, pictured in 1941**



# NEA Snow Run 2024 — February 24th

Images: Seamus Greene

NEA4WD'S 2nd annual Snow Run!!!!

There were multiple events around New England. Below are pics from Rutland, MA.

Seamus & John hit every trail at least once that day. Excellent traction, no breakage, only had to pull cable once!

They made quick work of the trails—wheeling from 9:30AM to 1PM!







# BSJ Spring Meeting @ Beagle Club w/ Wheeling after in Rutland — March 23rd

Baystate Jeepers' Spring Meeting took place on Saturday with 40+ members in attendance.

While we all enjoyed the great potluck breakfast provided by many attendees, the BoD opened the meeting and went through the agenda below.



**Baystate Jeepers, Inc.  
Regular Club Meeting Agenda  
March 23, 2024  
West End Beagle Club, Gardner MA**

- 1) The Presiding Officer declares the meeting open.
- 2) Roll call of Officers and determination of quorum: 20% voting members.
- 3) Reports from Officers:
  - President – Amanda Sauer
    - OHV registration
    - Forum / Facebook / Tapatalk
    - Mentoring/Guiding new members
    - Attendance- Earn ticket for each run for Fall Meeting Raffle
    - Apparel?
    - Pop-up runs
      - Hilltop
      - Mix club runs : Iron in the Pines 4/20 @ Carnage
  - Vice President – Mike Gillis
  - Treasurer – Chris Cipro
    - Treasury report
  - Secretary – Jeffrey Brunzell
  - Director of Events – Stephanie Gillis
    - Jeep 101 on Saturday April 13-
      - Opening Jeep 101 to non-members \$20/pp
      - Ticket sales to offset BBQ provided by Dave Horte
      - Member guests \$10/pp
      - Fall Meeting- Just meeting or wheeling too?
    - Non-wheeling events
  - Director of Trails – Seamus Green
    - See Trail Schedule
    - Carnage Clean-up
    - Trail Committee text group is active, always looking for more if interested.
  - Director at Large - Ken Bell



- 4) Reports from Committees:
  1. NEA – Eric Doherty
    - NEA meetings
      - Feb 10th Gardner, MA - BSJ
      - May 4th Hemond, ME - Maine 4x4
      - Aug 10th Jericho State Park, NH - NWOR
      - Nov 2nd Niantic, CT - Ocean State Jeepsters
    - 550 acre Grafton Property trail maintenance will be starting soon
    - Battleground is back to paying the land owner \$25/rig with a minimum of \$100 (4 rigs)
    - Brookridge is now \$25/rig
  2. NOVA – Amanda Sauer
    - \$100 annual dues by June
      - Access to properties such as the Farm in Beckett which is Xmas in July this year!
  3. Newsletter – Pat O'Connor
  4. Trail Committee – Seamus Greene
    - Join forum and ask to be added to forum section Be added to group text
- 5) New Business
  - Wheeling for Warriors ticket sale Sunday April 7th @ 6p
    - Field and Forest, Harrisville, NH : May 31 - June 2
  - Camping/Weekend Trips
    - Field & Forest 6/21-6/23
    - Savoy 6/28-6/30
    - Xmas in July 7/13-7/14 Beckett
- 6) Motions
  - Eliminate or increase membership cap.
- 7) Other business



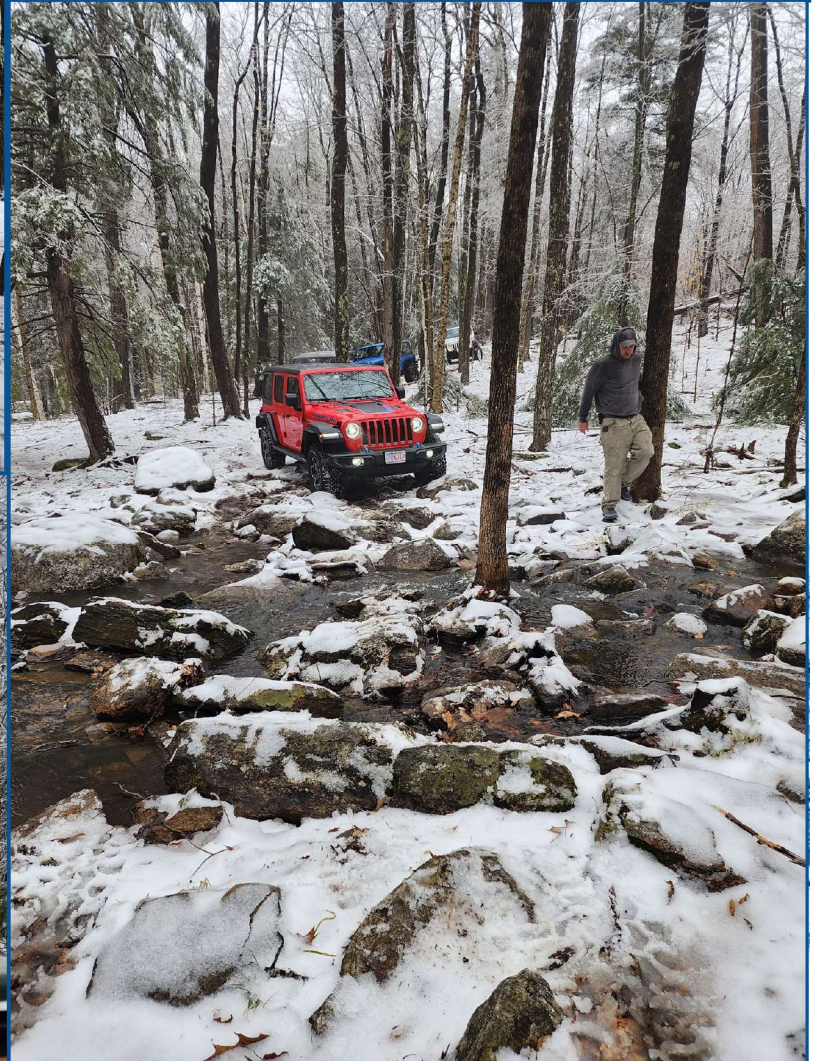


**Images: Amanda Sauer**

## Rutland Run — March 23rd

After the Spring Meeting, several attendees braved the ice and rain to tackle several trails in Rutland, MA!

Amanda: "We had a small group with a few new members go off-roading afterwards. No damage, no tree hitting... no flops. Good few hours."





## Rutland, MA — March 23rd

Images: JA Perry:

After the Spring Meeting, several attendees braved the ice and rain to tackle several trails in Rutland!





Images: Jonathan Hight,  
Ken Bell

## Troy, NH Run — March 24th

Jonathan Hight: "Had a fun day today."

Ken Bell: "It was a interesting day in Troy today. They got a lot of snow and it was heavy, wet, slippery, and slowed progress. On the trail leading to the power lines is one hill that is sometimes difficult even in good conditions. Tree roots on both sides makes climbing it difficult sometimes. Of the 7 jeeps, only one made it without assistance, although he may have hurt his motor. The rest of us winched, no big deal. Just another day wheeling. Mother Nature just threw us a curve, that's all. Everyone had a good day."

