
Tracks

The Official Newsletter of Baystate Jeepers

August 2014



The Crew camping and wheeling in western MA

We're kind of light on content this month. Not many pictures or stories made it off the trails. But fear not wandering wheeler, your verbose editor made the executive decision to regale you with tales of frame repairs. And if you like what you see this month, be sure to check back next month for a tutorial on TJ fender patching. Happy trails!

Tech Talk: Frame Patching for Dummies

If you have a TJ, there's a good chance you have frame rot. Common areas are at the rear control arm mounts and that whole rail between your front and rear wheels. Dropping your factory skid plate might lead to more of an adventure than you're expecting. This article isn't a 'how-to' or even an endorsement of home welding repairs, it's simply an article written by someone with just enough welding ability to get himself into trouble. There are welders, and then there are people who know how to weld. Owning a welding rig does NOT make you a welder.

Welding, especially for critical components like your frame, should be done by professionals

This article is simply an overview of what was done on a rig that's used primarily for wheeling and should only be used as an example of why you need a professional. OK, that's it for the disclaimers! Now let's have a look at my latest patch job

Stuff that's required to do the job:

- a welding rig. Or a friend that can weld. If you opt for the latter, copious amounts of beer and / or a gift card to said friends favorite eating establishment is in order. If buckets of beer will be used as legal tender, it's wicked important to *WAIT UNTIL THE JOB IS DONE*
- clean, straight steel
- weld thru primer (for the patch) and Rustoleum paint in your favorite hue (to grace the finished product)
- something to cut the steel. An angle grinder works but a plasma cutter is much, much better. If you have a plasma cutter, I'm not telling you anything you don't already know. You're just reading this for shits and giggles

Not Required, but nice to have:

- a friend that can weld, and has a favorite beer / restaurant in mind
- a fat wallet that's weighing down your pants. Paying someone to do this will not only get you professional results but it will also keep your pants from falling down because of that overburdened wallet

So, how bad was it? You tell me. After I took a grinding wheel and cleaned it up, this is what I saw. If you've never done body work or worked on old cars, remember this little tidbit. That rust you can see? It's a LOT worse than it looks. That tiny little rust bubble on your fender? That's the tip of the iceberg.



What we have here, is a crack (seen at the bottom) and rot (to the right of the hole). What you can't see is how thin the metal is. The metal around the upper part of the hole is relatively thick, compared to the tissue paper around the bottom half of the hole. And over on the far right you can see the trailing edge of another patch job that was done on the lower control arm

Next up, figure out the patch you need. A wise man once said to me, “if you can't cut it out of cardboard, how the hell do you expect to cut it out of metal?” Using cardboard, I cut a rough template. Next up was an angle grinder to cut some 1/4” steel. Yeah, it was a bitch. This is my first pass, the lines etched into the patch show what the final cut should look like



Rough cut of the patch



Final cut, and a test fit



Multipelcoats of weld-thru primer covered the frame and welding areas



And here's the finished product. That porosity around the edges? Nothing to worry about. It's ugly, I was laying down some additional beads and ran out of shielding gas. But the mission critical welds were laid down and they're solid



And here she is, painted and purty. Like I said, this is not for the feint of heart. You're better off taking your rig to a professional but for some of us, throwing many hundreds of dollars into a repair (or writing off your rig) isn't a viable option

BSJ is Looking for a Few Good Jeeps

(and the guys and gals who drive them)

Baystate Jeepers is accepting membership and the cost is only \$50. What does that fitty dollah get you? Invitations to club runs, camping trips, trips to off road parks, access to the Members Only BSJ forums and if that wasn't enough, you're eligible to attend 'NEA only' events. And more

Baystate Jeepers is a family oriented, stock(ish) friendly, Jeep-specific club. We understand that we're not for everyone so if you're on the fence about joining or you're not sure BSJ is a good fit for you, ask about joining a club run as a guest. No commitment required

You can download a BSJ membership application here

http://baystatejeepers.com/aboutus/membership_information.htm

Or visit the BSJ web site [Baystate Jeepers Forum](#), sign up for complimentary access to the forums and under 'New Member Checkin', introduce yourself and ask about joining us on a trail run

Jeeps, Jeep Pahts and More

Looking for Jeep parts? Who isn't? Or maybe you want to thin your herd of parts?

Then you need to check out my lightly moderated, Jeep specific forum where the rule is, play nice. We're closing in on 1,000 members, so check out [New England Jeep Parts](#) and ask to join for free. But caveat emptor!

Just like any other forum or site, you list, buy and sell at your own risk



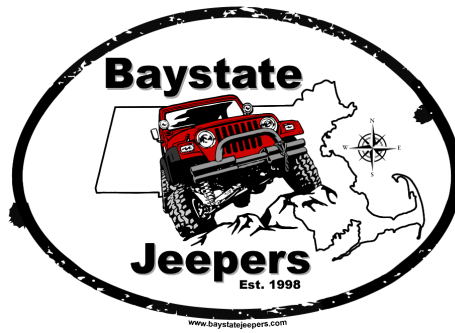
Baystate Jeepers member Evelyn Howe was taken from us, her life cut short while trying to help a friend in a dire situation. Those of us who knew Eve remember her as a fun, loving and fiercely independent spirit, a loyal friend who put her son above all else. Please help us remember our friend by showing your support for the Evelyn Howe Memorial Scholarship fund, [Evelyn M Howe Memorial Scholarship](#)



It's never to soon to mark your calendar! This years event could be the biggest and bestest yet **Saturday, September 13**

Check them out on FB for updates

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1418806275033081/>



Baystate Jeepers 2014 Board of Directors

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Baystate Jeepers forum

<http://forum.baystatejeepers.com/>

Baystate Jeepers is a member of the Northeast Association of 4WD Clubs (NEA)

<http://forum.nea4wd.org/index.php>

NEA Delagate – Kurt Klopp

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<http://www.treadlightly.org/>

Pat Charron

Don Dewar

This edition of Tracks was written and edited by Carl McIsaac, except where noted
(Carl McFly on the [BSJ boards](#))

OK Clones, time to Air Up



DID YOU KNOW that as a member of Baystate Jeepers, your rig can be on the cover of Tracks*? Just ask Kerri how easy it is. Piece of strudel. Send me a pic, and you're in. Preferably a Jeep in it's natural habitat but nobody's beating down my door with requests, so I'll take what I can get

I hope you enjoyed reading this issue of Tracks. I'd like to say I welcome criticism..... but I don't. What I do welcome, is suggestions for additional Jeep related content or events. Email your ideas to me @ [Carl McFly](#)