
Tracks

The Official Newsletter of Baystate Jeepers


April 2017



Baystate Jeepers @ Rausch Creek Offroad Park, 2016

Hello Baystate Jeepers, and welcome to the April 2017 edition of Tracks. Celebrating my 9th (and final) year of writing Tracks for Baystate Jeepers, it's time to pass the torch, get some fresh ideas in here. I've had a lot of fun writing Tracks for you and while I may not be the Editor going forward, I'm sure you'll still be hearing from me. from time to time. So without further adieu, lets light this candle. And Happy Trails!

Word Search

T	O	Y	O	T	A	T	R	I	R
Q	W	T	H	A	N	K	S	J	H
D	H	E	F	O	R	I	B	N	O
H	E	P	T	H	E	I	L	E	N
D	M	E	M	O	R	I	E	S	D
O	E	I	U	I	T	P	P	F	O
E	I	P	W	A	S	G	L		K
V	A	W	E	S	O	M	E	M	T
W	R	O	N	G	L	E	R	E	R
J	O	E	I	S	U	Z	U	R	R

First person to find all the words wins a special prize. And..... GO!

WRANGLER

WARN

JEEP

BAYSTATE

CHEROKEE

OFFROAD

LIFTED

DANA

WINCH

AXLE

TREAD

RECOVERY

BEADLOCK

TRAILS

ADIOS

FRIENDS

Getting hooked on wheelin, Rausch Creek and the Jeep 101

by Cassandra (I'm Not Cassie) Meads

My first jeep was a new to me '87 YJ that I picked up the day of that crazy storm we had April 1st 20 yrs ago. It was white when I bought it while I was out of work with a broken leg. I painted it camouflage.



It had no mods and it never went wheeling /mudding beyond one failed attempt at the power lines. My daughter, Angela, 9 at the time, was sure we were all going to grow extra limbs for being there. Needless to say, we didn't stay very long at all.

During the winter of 2011, I was going up a hill in the little Chevy I drove then when the lady in front of me stopped. That was it, my momentum gone and I could not get up the hill. Getting stuck in snow makes me so mad. That August, I bought my JK. Best thing I ever did.... well almost, there have been a couple of things that may have been better.

In 2016, I signed up for the 101, my first wheeling trip was Ray's Farm. I remember thinking "what the hell am I breaking" every time I heard a bump or a bang. Nothing came off or even got damaged yet but I was hooked. I started the mods with skid plates to protect the important stuff and so I wouldn't be worried about what was getting banged up. On one run, there was a section that I chose to by-pass due to not being fully skidded at the time, I think that was the last time I chose not to attempt something unless it was clearly beyond my stock jeeps ability and even that didn't matter at times. The real mods started after the Rausch Creek trip, where I acquired the nickname Bam Bam for all the noise I was making. Little by little, things started falling off. Okay, more like ripped, off. Fenders, because I couldn't stay away from trees. Side steps because ... well, they were steps not rock rails



I went the rest of 2016 with pretty much a stock Jeep, other than replacing what parts were missing. My winch was used quite often that trip, for myself and others. You're welcome Chuck.

Over the winter I added front and rear lockers, ARB air lockers, re-geared to 4.56, got new shoes - 35's on 15's, Metalclock 3.5" Game Changer lift with OME shocks. I was glad they weren't yellow like in the picture. Now I'm ready for whatever 2017 brings



I enjoy the club and have so much fun out on the trails. I am glad to see we have a very full schedule. We have some great people, everyone is willing to help and offer up what they have learned from their experiences. I also like that I get to see some of the trail repairs that have to be done on occasion. I learn a lot watching you guys, thank you



It's nice to see we have a few new members who are ready to get out there and get dirty. You'll have a great time with this group as long as your not too concerned about banging things up now and again.

Happy wheeling!



Baystate Jeepers Adopt a Highway

Saturday, April 22, 2017

Meet: at 9:45 am, start at 10 am
Where: Meola Wayside Ice Cream - back parking lot.
110 Leominster Rd (Rte 12)
Sterling MA

From Rte 190 North or South, Take Exit 6. Meola is less than half a mile down on Rte 12 South, on the right.

Please dress for the weather, clean up will happen unless it's raining steadily.

Gloves, safety vests, bags and picks will be provided.

The clean up is open to anyone over the age of 12 and is NOT limited to only members

BSJ is responsible for the exit and entrance ramps of Rte 190 and the areas in between. Usually takes about 2-2.5 hours depending on how many folks attend.

BSJ Contact: Daniel Beyea cell# 603-213-2963



Baystate Jeepers AAH, circa 2010

Baystate Jeepers 2017 Jeep 101

April 15, Ray's Farm, Central MA



Restricted to Baystate Jeepers Members (and some lucky prospective members or wannabe's), the Jeep 101 is always a fun and informative day. I think Jay said it best (lifted from the Baystate Jeepers Forum, Events page):

Are you new to the sport? Did you get a new rig? Little rusty from the winter off? Practice makes perfect. Grab your Jeep and come to Baystate Jeepers' Jeep 101! Our experienced members will teach you the basics of off roading skills, tools, and safely!

This event will be limited to 40 Jeeps, including 2 leaders and 2 gunners. Wear weather appropriate clothing and footwear. You may want to bring sunscreen and bug spray!

The event will be held in (Central MA) on April 15th. Meet and check in at 9:30, class starts promptly at 10:00 a.m. (Address will be sent in Evite) Lunch is provided!

We'd love to have you come share in the fun and have a hands on day of getting to know your Jeep. We will be taking you "out on the trail" in your Jeeps on trail system perfect for the new Jeeper. It truly is a fun day. Come celebrate the beauty and simplicity of driving a Jeep off road!

This is a private event, held on private land. Attendance is restricted. If you're interested in joining Baystate Jeepers or possibly attending, you can find more information on the Baystate Jeepers Forum



Baystate Jeepers Tech Talk

Rebuilding a CV / Double Cardan Drive shaft

(re-printed from the August 2015 issue, with permission. I'm the author so yeah, I hereby grant permission)

You've probably heard of angry sparrows and no I'm not talking about the pointless game that many have spent hours playing. 'Angry sparrows' is a term used to describe the sound your drive shaft makes when it's ready to snap, crackle and pop your t-case and maybe more. While the thought of sparrows frolicking may sound cute, there's nothing cute about the damage it can do to your rig. Fortunately, rebuilding the DS is not that difficult. In the following article, the work was done on a TJ front drive shaft but the process is similar on many applications. The DS was pulled and checked for straightness, and then it was ready for rebuilding. I prefer Spicer parts when I can get them, and below is a list of parts used

U-Joints – Spicer – Greasable (a personal preference) – 3 ea, cost varies but I paid ~\$14 each Spicer 5-153X

Socket Yoke Asmy / Ball Centering Unit – 1 ea, about \$60, Spicer 211544X (or Spicer 211544X, your choice. One has a grease fitting)

BF C-clamp, vice or other means of extricating and installing u-joints (Harbor Freight ball joint press, \$60 - \$120, depends on the day)

Misc hand tools and grease gun with appropriate fittings

The first step is dis-assembly and cleaning. Copious amounts of a penetrant and a day to let it work can only help with c-clip removal (I had all clips out in a couple minutes) but in my case, it had zero impact on getting the cups unfrozen. They were one with the DS. This is where your Harbor Freight 12 ton press comes in handy, as these u-joints laughed at the u-joint / ball joint removal tool (aka, a very large C-clamp) so the press was deployed. After a lot of pressing, banging and bumping, she was disassembled. It was like a rager.



The crusty, noisy source of the sparrows,

c-clips removed

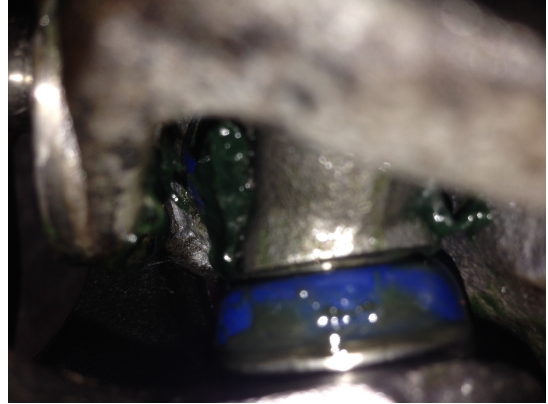
While it's in pieces, take a few minutes to clean up all the surfaces. I used 400 grit sandpaper to smooth and clean the bores for the caps and a small screwdriver and penetrant to clean the c-clip grooves. Followed that up with a wire brush and coat of Rustoleum on the body of the DS. Since I had to wait for replacement parts, I made sure to coat all bare surfaces to keep rust at bay



I hope you were paying attention, because re-assembly is reversing the order. You can re-use the U-joint straps and HW or you can replace them with new ones, and keep the originals as trail spares. Prior to reassembly, check the bores for damage or distortion. One of the caps basically fell into one of the bores of the center yoke. There was no slop and the bore was round but it was (marginally) oversized. I ordered up a new center yoke and because a questionable one is better than nothing, I'm keeping the original as a trail spare



Cap seated against u-joint, with no gap



Cap won't seat? Disassemble and start over

After checking the bores on the drive shaft, I cleaned them and applied a light coating of chassis lube. Dislodging a bearing when sliding on a cap can happen and there's an easy way to see if that heppened. Seated the caps as much as you can, using clamped fingers and a mighty Kung Fu grip. Prior to pressing them on all the way, push the u-joint to see if the cap can seat all the way (pic on the left). If there's a gap, you probably dislodged a bearing and need to fix that and start over (pic on the right)



Bottom out one side and insert the clip, then repeat on the other side. The second clip might need some massaging to get it to seat, I used a small scredriver and light taps to set the retainer. Now step back, admire your work, and pat yourself on the back



The centering yoke also has bearings that can be displaced. And broken. Ask me how I know



Boom



Great American Charitable Events and the Folded Flag Tribute Jeep

The GACE Folded Flag Tribute Jeep build is done and starting its tour. Follow it's escapades on social media (spoiler alert: it's headed to Easter Jeep in Moab), find it at a Jeep Go Topless Day event or of course, check it out at the Great American Jeep Rally. I'm proud to say I had a very small part in this build, one of hundreds of people who contributed to making this awesome rig a reality



Folded Flag Tribute Jeep

Great American Jeep Rally
since 2001
www.JeepRally.org

2 Day Event

Saturday
September 16, 2017
9 AM to 4 PM

Sunday
September 17, 2017
10 AM to 3 PM

That's right Bucko, **2 DAYS!!!! MAHK YOUR CALENDAAH** and see you there!!

<https://www.facebook.com/GreatAmericanJeepRally/>

New England Jeeps

Looking for Jeep parts? Who isn't? Or maybe you want to thin your herd? Check out [New England Jeeps](#) – a lightly moderated Jeep page with over 4500 members, you might find what you need, without tripping over Jeep hoodies, T's, and Russian women who want to meet YOU. But you will see Jeep porn :)

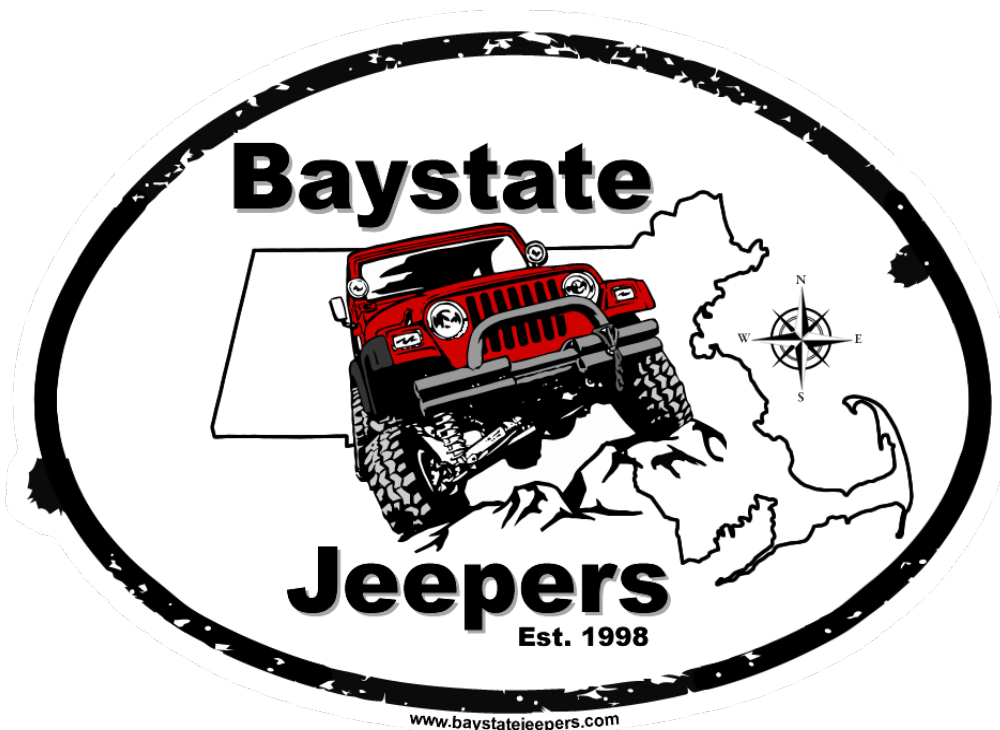
THE LAST CALL

I know it's early, but Happy Star Wars Day!!!



The Baystate Jeepers Board of Directors were just as surprised as you were when they read this issue of Tracks. They literally have no idea what I'm going to publish, they really can't be held accountable

This obviously means I know things. Dark, scary things.....



This edition of Tracks was written and edited by Carl McIsaac, "Carl McFly" on the BSJ boards

Happy Trails, My Friends

I hope you've enjoyed reading Tracks as much as I've enjoyed writing it :)