



SMILEAGE SECTION

SOMETIMES A SMILE CAN TAKE YOU FURTHER THAN A TANK OF GAS...

In the spirit of Halloween, enjoy this word-search.

Up,
Down,
Diagonal,
Forward,
&
Backward



Good
Luck!

BAT WINGS	GHOUL	POTIONS
BATS	GOBLINS	PUMPKIN
BLACK CAT	GRAVE	SCARY
BONES	GROANS	SCREECH
BROOMS	HALLOWEEN	SKELETON
CAULDRON	HAUNTED	SPIDERS
CEMETERY	HOOT	SPIRITS
COFFIN	HORROR	SPOOKY
COSTUMES	HOWL	TERROR
CREEPY	JACK O LANTERN	TOMBSTONE
CRYPT	LIZARD FEET	TRICK OR TREAT
DEMONS	MOANS	VAMPIRES
DRACULA	MONSTERS	WEBS
FRANKENSTEIN	MOON	WEREWOLVES
FRIGHTENING	MUMMY	WITCHES
FROG EYES	NIGHT	ZOMBIES
GHOSTS	OWL	

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION OF 4WD CLUBS

2017 RECAPS
BY, PAT CHARRON

Before I begin, I would like to apologize for not staying current with NEA news this past year. No excuses. As Baystate's alternate delegate, I should have been submitting at least short updates of what transpired at Association meetings. I will try to do better in 2018.

All Baystate Jeepers members have access to the NEA forum for the most updated news and discussions. Visiting nea4wd.org should get you there. For full access, you can register for an account. However, more detailed meeting minutes are also posted on the BSJ forum.

A quick recap of the August 12th meeting that took place in Berlin, NH and included wheeling on the property after the meeting.

NEA ownership of a property in Northeast, MA is still proceeding, working with the lawyer to ensure proper paperwork and tax certificates are processed. It is the hope of the Association to financially sustain the property by pay-to-play usage.

Also, the Association would like to have more fundraisers and have clubs volunteer to run them, such as winch raffles, snow runs, swap meets, etc.

Shane Beard Award nominations were announced: Jeremy Martineau, Callie Knower, Scott Cairns, and Ernie Leland; and voting took place. The recipient was announced at the Fall Crawl in September.

A new club, Backyard Built Off-road, was in attendance, seeking admission into the Association. After a Q&A session, they were voted in.

It was mentioned that our working relationship with the state of NH has been going well. Our first year of access (2015) saw 107 users and 2016 had 117. The park would like to see this keep increasing. A new half-mile of easier trail options has been opened, an in and reverse out. (Note: I was a passenger on this new section and I would rate it moderate; the "easier" reference is in comparison to the already established trails which can be classified as challenging).

The November 4th meeting was held at the American Legion hall in Niantic, CT and included wheeling on private property after.

Eric noted that insurance is increasing and the cost per event for member clubs will be approx. \$350-\$400.

The 2018 meeting dates are: February 3rd, May 5th, August 4th (or 11th), and November 3rd. We were under budget for 2017 operating expenses.

The closing for a property in Northeast, MA is projected to take place by the end of the year. The \$64,000 mortgage will be paid off plus \$10,000 to JonFund (seller) for their expenses. Yearly expenses are expected to be \$3,600, which makes this a pay-to-play property at \$20 a rig, per day.

Scott C. of Rock Bottom club noted that he has a few ideas/options for some places that the NEA could utilize in various ways. Other members also made note of additional possibilities.

This year's Fall Crawl was very successful. There were 195 drivers, a large raffle selection and great food. The event netted \$8,795!!

Annual elections take place at the November meeting. All current officers were nominated and accepted; there were no other nominations therefore the executive board has stayed the same:

President- Eric Weybrant

Vice President- Jeremy Martineau

Treasurer- Kurt Klopp

Secretary- Callie Knower

Director's At Large- Scott Cairns, Ernie Leland, and Marc Pouliot

There was a new club seeking membership into the NEA- Project XJ. After the usual Q&A they were accepted.

Mike Spiller of Northeast Offroad Vehicle Association (NOVA) attended and briefly spoke about NOVA. It is a smaller group than NEA and not as structured. They have access to properties but do not own any. There are about 10 clubs with dues of \$75 per year. Their membership tends to be based out of CT, RI, and NJ.

The 2017 Shane Beard Award was presented to Ernie Leland, but he was not in attendance at the Fall Crawl to accept.

It was also noted that Jericho State Park (in NH) increased to 190 this year

WESTERN MA RUN & POT LUCK

WRITTEN BY, PAT CHARRON

...and the word for the day is: enthusiasm.

synonyms: momentum, more gas, little more skinny pedal

We gathered at the Federal Church hall bringing in our crock pots, coolers, prepared dishes, food bank donations, and Toys for Tots gifts, brought together with our usual camaraderie. It was an overcast day, but the rain was expected to hold out until later in the afternoon.

The group included: Cassandra Meads, Ken Bell, Don Moran, Marcy Setter, Ian Brynjolfson, Matt Janchar, Brad Killam, Bret Sorel, Kathe Crew, Mike Grealish, Scott McPhee (sorry if I spelt your last name wrong), Kurt Klopp, and myself- plus several passengers.

It was the usual airing down, disconnecting and socializing at the landing. We started with the south end of the property, which is pretty much 2WD stuff and then headed to the middle section which has more interesting options. The first 'everybody's-out-of-their-Jeeps-to-watch' option was an up, over, & down rock ledge that everyone did, except yours truly. There was an added bonus of a more difficult option across the way. I recall Kurt, Don, and Cassandra made it, and maybe one or two others. Don ended up playing spotter for most of the day.

Next 'watch' spot was the rock face, which took a few tries for most of the folks that made it up. Several of us by-passed this one and we re-grouped and headed over to the other side of the ridge. There were once three options for ascension to the top of the ridge- easy, moderate, and challenging. However, over the years, the easy became moderate, the moderate became challenging, and the challenging, well... Again, I by-passed this one but had a good time watching. Cassandra has posted a video on the club forum under the Member Only Events section, then to GG Pot-Luck & Charity Run thread. Needless to say, it was a bit of a heart pumping moment. It was in this area that Don's word of the day came into play - a little enthusiasm was needed a couple of times to get up and over.

We then headed back to the landing for lunch, where two members decided to head home. For those of you unfamiliar with this property, the landing is maybe a half a mile in from the access road and is pretty much the center of the property. Except for the pile in the center, left by loggers, it's an open, flat area. Most of what we run is on the west side. However, there is a smaller area on the east side that we sometimes use if time allows.

The name was given to the property by the first group that went in to scout and cut the initial trails – they found what was left of an old AMC property, partially covered by brush on the north end. It is pretty well hidden now by vegetation, but can be found if you know where to look.

After lunch, we went to the north end, which only has two interesting areas: the long, steep hill climb and a shorter, loose rock climb. Again, I opted out of the long hill climb, but everyone made it up fine. I went over to the second hill, solo, with Scott's passenger along for the ride. I was about half way up and I started to spin and lost momentum, so I backed up a little and tried again, same thing. I backed further down and used the brake/gas at-the-same-time technique, then let off the brake and went up fine. I met back up with the others and we circled around and went back to the north end to do the second hill.

Well, you know, things went smoothly all day so the wheeling gods decided it was time to make things interesting. About half of the group made it up the hill and then it was Scott's turn. The Grand Cherokee made it about a third to maybe about half the way up, and then blew a u-joint and lost 4WD. (I might be wrong about the specific part, but not about the 4WD). "Enthusiasm" wasn't going to cut it and it was determined that he was not in a position to back down, so up it was! Out came the tow straps, Don positioned his Jeep as far down as he could while still being on mostly level ground. We chocked all four corners, unspooled a good portion of the winch cable, attached it to the tow strap, put on the weight, and started bringing Scott up.

Things got a little tense when the Grand came to the steepest part of the hill- Don was going down instead of Scott coming up. We stopped the action, rewound the cable as it was to one side of the winch, Ken moved behind Don and we strapped Don to Ken for added leverage. Once Scott was up, the rest of the group tackled the hill okay. By this time, it was about 2:45pm, so with thoughts of the pot luck to come, we headed back to the landing to air back up. It started to rain, just as we were finishing. Fortunately, it was a light rain. A few more of the group opted to head home, so about 8 vehicles went back to the hall for grub.

The food was SO good!! I am sorry as I'm sure I'm missing a few things, but it was a nice variety: pulled pork with rolls, meatballs, macaroni & tuna salad, pasta salad, Caesar salad, a selection of soda, apple pie, and brownies. Mmm!

Thanks to everyone for the donations. All the toys went to the local police station after the pot luck and by the time you read this, the food will have been delivered to the food bank.

Have a fund and safe Winter. See you again in the Spring!!



Cassandra coming up
the rock face with
Ken waiting at the
bottom.



Ken and Don getting
Scott up the hill.



I hope you enjoyed this issue of Tracks. More importantly,
I hope you're looking forward to the next issue.

Thanks,

Shannon

Please email article submissions and photos (Drobox links
work, too) to: RedAnimalTJ@yahoo.com

I can't wait to see you all in the Spring!! I hope everyone has a
Happy, Healthy Holiday season ahead!!

Remember, if you have build stories you want to share, send
them along! Spring isn't THAT far away...so, please send me
your stories!

