



Welcome to the 2018 season everyone! And a Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Baystate Jeepers!! If you haven't had a chance to check out the trail schedule...you should definitely do so! There's something for everyone. From class IV trails to more challenging terrain, this year promises to be memorable for all. I also wanted to take a moment and welcome and introduce our new board members:

PRESIDENT.....MARK ST. GERMAIN  
VICE PRESIDENT.....MARK ROCHELEAU  
SECRETARY.....AMANDA SAUER PETERS  
TRESURER.....DAVE HORTE  
DIRECTOR OF TRAILS.....CASSANDRA MEADS  
DIRECTOR OF EVENTS.....JIM NYBERG  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE.....MARCY SETTER



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March 3, 2018

## From the Board of Directors

President, Vice President, Secretary, Director  
of Trails, & Director At Large

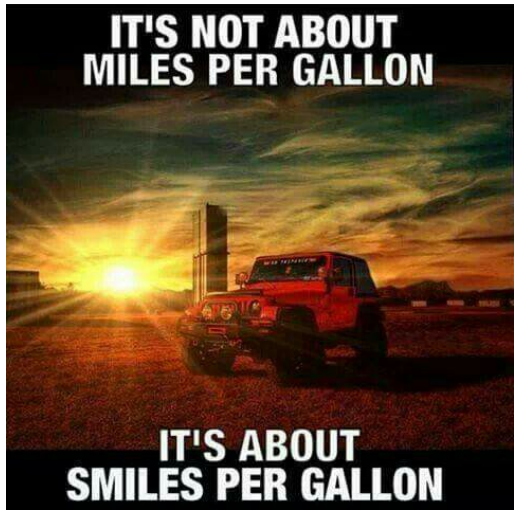
## Upcoming Events...

- Baystate Jeepers Jeep 101- April 7, 2018
- Central, MA Trail Clean Up- April 14, 2018
- Adopt-a-Highway Clean Up- April 21, 2018
- Central, MA- April 22, 2018
- Central, MA- April 28, 2018
- Central, MA "Instructional"- April 29, 2018



# Smileage Section

Sometimes a smile can take you further than a tank of gas...



This month, I'll make use of this section to make up for my lack of preparedness at the Spring Meeting. Thanks to Jeni Schwalb for standing up for me and saying a few words. Admittedly, I have a tough time with large groups and am still 'relatively' new to the club. So, among my wheeling goals this year, I'm hoping to meet more of you.

And what better way to meet you than at Jeep 101, on the trails, or a club social? I couldn't have picked a better club, as Baystate Jeepers has been nothing but welcoming, educational, and encouraging. Welcome to the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Baystate Jeepers!! Happy Spring all!!



Thanks to Cassandra for posting this on the forum! A fine example of spotting during a March 3<sup>rd</sup> Snow Run.



# From The Board of Directors

President- Mark St. Germain

Well, another wheeling year is upon us. A lot of new faces to welcome to Baystate and mix in with the existing members. This year is full of events for every level, ranging from Baystate runs, to NEA events, Great American Jeep Rally, Go Topless Day, a couple trips to Rausch, local events, and even a few Baystate social events. I'm hoping it's going to be a great year. But without input from the members, we don't know what is working, and what needs a tweak.

The NEA is always working to support growth of wheeling in New England. It would be great to see more members step up and get involved helping to support them. They have trail clean ups, trail cuts, open runs, Fall Crawl, and Crawling for Acreage. All information and dates get posted on BSJ forum as they become available.

No question or comment is stupid. If it is a concern of yours, if you don't want to make it public, feel free to email me: [MDS2450@msn.com](mailto:MDS2450@msn.com). I will try to get it answered or addressed for you.

Vice President- Mark Rocheleau

My name is Mark Rocheleau, aka Marky, and I've been part of BSJ for the past 10 years. More than half of that has been as a member of the board of directors. I'm starting my fifth year as Vice President but have also served as Director of Events and Director at Large with part of that year in service as a temporary filler for Director of Trails. I've been from Maine to Pennsylvania all the way to Utah with this club and have loved every minute of it.



No matter how hectic my life gets, it's always relaxing to me to get out with the club, hang out with some awesome people, and enjoy a day in the woods. The best part of this club is easily the people who are in it. They are the friendliest and most helpful group of people I've ever spent time with.

Those of you who know me know I'll occasionally do some tougher stuff, but mostly I just like to chill out and have some fun riding the moderate trails. I've never felt pressured to do more than I felt like doing at that moment and that's a huge part of what makes this a great club.

In my "real life" I'm a high school teacher. I teach engineering, robotics and conceptual physics at Groton-Dunstable Regional High School. I also serve as faculty advisor for the school's FIRST Robotics team which takes up most of my life for the first 3 months of every year. Teaching is a lot of work, but it's rewarding and yes, it's awesome having summers off!

### Secretary- Amanda Sauer Peters

Hi everyone. Some of you have met me at the BSJ meetings, ice cream socials, past years on the trails, or sitting at booths at events. I haven't been out in my Jeep or as a passenger since 2016, but that will eventually change. I have been busy with my little babies, and, obviously, being a female makes it awfully hard to enjoy the sport.

2018 is a different year. New BOD members (Welcome). New members to the club (hi) and obviously "hey" to everyone returning.

If anyone wants to get more involved, please do so. We need more members to volunteer. Whether it be leading a trail, helping organize a get-together, or even tackling apparel/BSJ custom items. We can always use the help.



## Director of Trails- Cassandra Meads

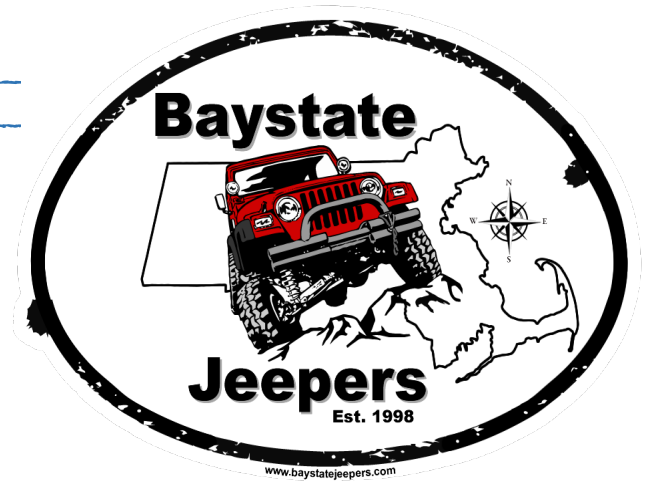
Cassandra wanted to share some valuable information with the club. Unfortunately, I will have to post some of these as links due to the length of forums posts and articles.

**RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT**

**REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**

**OHV REGISTRATION**

**CLUB BY LAWS**



**FACEBOOK**

As posted by Kurt Klopp on the Baystate forum  
April 19, 2016

Below is a general guide to the 1-10 difficulty rating system. 😊

### **TRAIL RATINGS – A GENERAL GUIDE**

#### **Rating Description**

1- Graded dirt road. Dry, or less than 3" water crossing depth. Gentle grades. 2WD under all conditions except snow. No width problems.

2- Dirt road. Dry, or less than 3" water crossing depth. Some ruts. Slight grades, up to 10 degrees. 2WD under most conditions. Rain or snow may make 4WD necessary.



3- Dirt road. Rutted, washes, or gulches. Water crossings up to 6" depth. Passable mud. Grades up to 10 degrees. Small rocks or holes. 4WD recommended but 2WD possible under good conditions and with adequate ground clearance and skill. No width problems for any normal vehicle.

4- Rutted and/or rocky road. No shelves but rocks to 9". Water crossings usually less than hub deep. Passable mud. Grades moderate, up to 15 degrees. Side hill moderate up to 15 degrees. 4WD under most conditions.

5- Rutted and/or rocky road. No shelves. Rocks up to 12" and water crossings up to 12" with possible currents. Passable mud. Moderate grades to 15 degrees. 6" holes. Side hill to 20 degrees. 4WD required.

6- Quite rocky or deep ruts. Rocks to 12" and frequent. Water crossings may exceed hub depth with strong currents. Shelves to 6". Mud may require checking before proceeding. Moderate grades to 20 degrees. Sidehill may approach 30 degrees. 4WD necessary and second attempts may be required with stock vehicles. Caution may be required with wider vehicles.

7- Rocks frequent and large, 12" and may exceed hub height. Holes frequent or deep (12"). Shelves to 9". Mud 8" deep and may be present on uphill sections. Grades to 25 degrees and sidehill to 30 degrees. Water crossings to 18" and may have strong currents. 4WD required. Driver experience helpful. exceed 30" in depth. Side hill to 30 degrees. One vehicle wide. Body damage possible. Experience needed. Vehicle Modifications helpful.

8- Heavy rock and/or severe ruts. Rocks exceeding hub height frequent. Shelves to 12". Deep mud or uphill mud sections. Steep grades to 25 degrees and can be loose or rocky. Water crossings may exceed 30" in depth. Side hill to 30 degrees. One vehicle wide. Body damage possible. Experience needed. Vehicle Modifications helpful.

9- Severe rock over 15". Frequent deep holes over 15". Shelves over 15". Mud bog conditions (long, deep, no form bottom). Over 30" water crossings with strong currents. Steep grades over 30 degrees. Sidehill over 30 degrees. Experience essential. Body damage, mechanical breakdown, rollover probable. Extreme caution required.

10- Severe conditions. Extreme caution recommended. Impassable by stock vehicles. Winching required.

Trail building necessary. May be impassable. Impassable under anything but ideal conditions. Vehicle damage probable. Personal injury possible. Extreme caution necessary.

## **NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION**

At Meeting Spot:

Upon arrival check with the trail leader for tire air down and swaybar disconnection information. CB channel 4 is standard unless noted otherwise at the pre-run meeting. You will be asked to sign the trail roster after a check of your Jeep for proper trail and safety equipment.

Ratings are based on a scale of 1-10 With a low number being the easiest and a High number being more difficult - weather and other factors may affect trail conditions and increase the rating.



We need to be aware of our actions and how what we do as individuals affects our sport as a whole.

TreadLightly! is about low impact recreation and respect for the environment. Rules and courtesy on the trail include:

- o Drive only where permitted
- o Don't cut new trails, stay on established road or trail
- o Keep noise and dust down
- o Take out more than you brought in. Carry a litter bag.
- o Respect private land - get permission

Remember - if we abuse it, we will lose it (and we are losing more trails every year). Common sense and consideration will help insure the future of our sport.

Always respect the trail leader's decisions concerning safety and trail etiquette. Contact the trail leader with any concerns.

At obstacles, please observe the "three tries" limit to help keep things moving.

## **Required Equipment**

Please Note:

Club rules require that all vehicles have the following:

1. Front and Rear tow points (securely attached)
2. First Aid Kit
3. Properly charged Fire Extinguisher
4. Full size Spare Tire
5. Properly working CB
6. Tow Strap 20,000 lb min (no metal hooks)

## **Trail Etiquette**

*(Guidelines governing socially acceptable behavior while 'froadin'.)*

*Written by: Hoosier Daddy from Quadratec bulletin board aka Todd from JP Frog Off-Roaders (Indianapolis, IN)*

Some trail rides just aren't as much fun as others. Tempers were running high and everyone seemed edgy. Was it just a bad day, or could the trouble have been avoided?

This article is not about how to be prepared for a run or “safety practices”. While these are very important, they could each be an article by themselves, so it will be a given that all drivers are well equipped and safety-minded. The intent here is to establish some guidelines to insure that everyone has a good time. And that is the point of going off road, right?

So with that in mind, read on...

**Be on time** If it has been agreed to meet at a certain time, don't be late! The last thing everybody wants to do is wait "just a little bit longer" while you sign in, air down and get disconnected. We all know that it is sometimes unavoidable, but don't make everyone wait. Just because you decided at the last minute to stop at McDonald's for breakfast!

**Driver's meeting** It is always a good idea to make sure that all drivers are well informed. Everyone should know what to expect on the trail, what CB channel to be on, who they will be driving with, etc... Besides, it's a good way to kill time while you're all waiting on the knucklehead who's late!



Communication Everyone likes to joke around on the CB once in a while, but there is a time and place for it. While a group is attempting an obstacle, is NOT the right time! Just because you finished it already, doesn't mean that the person a few vehicles back isn't waiting to hear "all clear". And it's hard to warn someone of potential danger while some moron has decided that everyone on the channel just MUST hear the song that he's listening to!

Watch your back Always, always, always keep the vehicle behind you in your sight! If you don't see the person behind you... STOP! This way no one gets lost. It is very easy for a group to get separated out in the woods and it's not a good feeling to come up over an obstacle and find that your friends have left you. If you are about to round a corner or cross a hill, take a few seconds to make sure the person behind you knows where you're going. If you stop to wait for them, the driver in front of you will stop, and so on up the line.

Be patient We all know that this is not a fast-paced hobby. Be prepared to wait! Wait on that newbie to struggle with a mud pit. Wait on the "big dogs" who want to take a few minutes and climb on those boulders. Give the newbie some advice if you can, and watch those big dogs for a while. You might just learn something!

Give everybody some room Don't follow too closely to the vehicle in front of you. It is to your advantage to stay far enough back that you can see under the vehicle in front of you. Watch the tires and diffs. It will help you decide what line to take over the obstacles. (And what lines NOT to take!) You will also avoid being splattered by mud and a possible cracked windshield!

If you have already passed an obstacle and want to get out and help others through (or just laugh when they get stuck), make sure that you park far enough ahead that ALL the vehicles in the group will have a room to park. It really sucks to finally make it to the top of that steep hill (or whatever) and find that you have nowhere to go!

Getting strapped Everyone gets stuck sometime. If you haven't, you're not trying hard enough! When it happens, it is common courtesy that YOUR towstrap should be the one to get muddy while pulling you out. Also, if possible, get out and hook it up yourself. If not, you owe the person with the muddy shoes a beer after the run!

Only one spotter please Sometimes when a crowd is gathered around to watch someone attempt an obstacle, it is tempting to yell out advice. Unfortunately, it can be very confusing to the driver to have several people yelling out at once! Select just ONE (experienced) person to be the spotter. The rest of the crowd can handle the "oohs" and "ahs". (and take pictures.)

Tread lightly Respect the environment! For most of us, part of going off road is experiencing nature. Take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but tracks. If you bring food and drinks in with you, make sure that it all comes out with you. (including your cigarette butts!) And if you see trash on the trail, take a minute to pick it up. Trashing the environment reflects poorly on all of us!



## Director At Large- Marcy Setter

I want to thank everyone at Baystate Jeepers for welcoming Melinda and I to the family. This was my first year with a jeep let alone wheeling and the support has been overwhelming. To all of those that helped me become a better driver, pick better lines, and perpetually discuss all upgrades to DaThug, thanks for everything! I was stunned to say the least to be honored with Rookie of the Year and I owe each of you that schooled me on the trails!

I had no idea that owning a jeep was such a lifestyle change in so many ways. I work for Dunkin Donuts headquarters in the IT department. DaThug has made a name for herself there and is quite often a topic of discussion around the building. I get to work very early and park in the exact same spot every day. People get upset if someone parks in DaThug's parking space. Our field people and franchisees are frequently caught taking selfies with the Jeep. There were rumors abound, but for a long time, no one knew exactly who owned "that Jeep." It became such a topic of ongoing gossip that our communications team did a "big reveal" video of DaThug and I last year for the corporate website.

I didn't know what to expect joining a wheeling club, but I haven't had this much fun in ages! The camaraderie, the laughs and teasing on the trails makes for a great time. With all that in mind, I wanted to help out in a small way and step up to help the BOD. I've learned so much in the past year and yet have so much more to learn. I look forward to the coming season. I can't wait to get back out on the trails, meet more of our members, and see new faces on the trails.

Director At Large



Da Thugs & Marcy Setter



