



June 2019

## NEA Meeting at Hemond's

Lisa Horowitz



The NEA meeting took place on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, in Minot Maine. Off-road club, Maine 4x4 hosted the second meeting of the year at Hemond's MX & Off-road Park. Distance wise, it one of the farthest quarterly meetings for Baystate Jeepers to attend and yet the biggest turnout of BSJ members to date. Baystate represented in full force with a total of 7 members, including myself, Kurt, the NEA treasurer, BSJ club president Mark, Adam (better known as Alabama), Kathe (and Bullwinkle), Jack, and Hunter. Club members and delegates from the thirty-three clubs got together to discuss finances, land use, trail cleanups, and fundraising for acquiring more land for all of the NEA clubs to use.

The NEA t-shirt fundraiser netted a total of \$736 for the land acquisition fund, so kudos to everyone who bought shirts! Trail maintenance was also discussed in detail, including the need for more gravel/stone at the entrance to Brookridge, which would cost the NEA about \$1,000. Also, volunteers offered to remove a large tree at Gremlin. Kurt then presented the treasury report. While this is only the second NEA meeting I have attended, I'll reiterate this again: It's interesting and important to know what is going on in the NEA and after speaking with other BSJ members, they too were surprised as to what really goes on behind the scenes in order for us to be able to wheel legally and responsibly in New England.



Before the meeting, we all arrived at the motocross park early Saturday morning and parked on a field next to a large flag pole. Hemond's is a 600-acre property with over 10 miles of off-road trails that surround the 2 full-size motocross tracks. There is a section of trails dedicated to ATVs and UTVs, and thanks to Maine 4x4's trail cut, now also provides trails for OHVs, which were newly run at this NEA meeting. Trails consist of everything from Greens to Reds, and wind upwards to 400ft of elevation. The wheeling is typical of New England, consisting of large slick granite, loose dirt and leaves, thick mud, watery mud holes, and narrow, single-file trails that weave through the woods.



In attendance was everything from stock Jeeps, to buggies, to some built Suzuki Samurais, lifted Nissan X Terras, and classic Ford Broncos. There were even some tow rigs that were pretty impressive, and it was fun to go around looking at the interesting builds and talk to people from other clubs. The most unique part about wheeling after the NEA meeting as a BSJ member is that you get to meet people from other groups, take part in sharing trails with other NEA members, and see some more diverse off-road vehicle builds.

The meeting started around 9:45 and lasted about an hour and a half. Afterwards, Maine 4x4 provided pizza, soda, and chips. Everyone signed both the NEA roster as well as the Hemond's off-road waiver, and we were ready to go explore this

beautiful property. Everyone got into the appropriate groups depending on their rig capability and rolled out, having to first cross one of the motocross tracks, in order to get onto the trails. Alabama joined Kurt in his YJ, I jumped in the new and yet-to-be-named buggy with Mark, and lined up with some slightly built XJs, buggies, and other vehicles, with their drivers looking to tackle some more challenging trails. Maine 4x4 led us out onto the trails and then eventually we split up further and then joined up with other clubs after about an hour or so, in.



The hardest obstacle of the day was attempted by 4 buggies, including the one and only BSJ president. The trail is called "Sluice box," and it's extremely steep and narrow, and in order to even get onto the trail, the passenger-side of the vehicle has to somehow climb over a very large and slick granite rock, while the driver's side of the vehicle has to somehow get around a tree. Mark almost flipped us backwards (the videos are pretty awesome, probably not child-friendly, though) and no one was able to make it up the trail. Everyone's excuse, although true, was that the ground was still wet, not only from the torrential rain storm the night before, but just from the weeks of previous rain storms and still-thawing ground. It should be doable by August, maybe?





(Zach from Rockoholics attempting Sluice Box)



(Almost went backwards)

After going around Sluice Box, we ended up continuing to climb up through the woods. We got to an opening, overlooking some of the most scenic views Hemond's has to offer. We all parked up on the top, took a break, let some vehicles cool down, and took lots of photos, overlooking the ledge.



There was nothing but green tree tops and steep rock below us, and the sun finally came out behind the clouds, and the clear sky opened up. After that short break, everyone went back into the woods to continue wheeling. After attempting another steep climb, Mark's buggy ended up with a broken U-joint. We headed back to the field, where Mark got the buggy back onto the trailer, ate a few packs of candy cigarettes (don't ask), and then waited for the others to return.

Kurt and Alabama came back after another hour or so with some of the members of Rockoholics, this time, Alabama driving Kurt's Jeep, grinning from ear to ear. In the meantime, the other Baystate members that went to explore the Blue trails had started to return, including Hunter and his deep cherry red JK. As NEA vice-president, Ernie was headed out after the day of wheeling, his RV/tow rig ended up getting stuck in the mud. Hunter, in true Jeoper fashion and without hesitation, volunteered to pull Ernie out. Although a small incident, again, it was nice to see the camaraderie in the off-road community, this prime example being someone new not only to BSJ, but to the entire NEA, as well.





## Adventures with BEV: Fishing Edition!

Matt Janchar

Hey BSJ:

I know there must be a lot of us who love to hike, hunt and fish, since I know that ALL of us love being outdoors . . . in a Jeep! Here are some photos of fishing adventures with BEV and the details on a special project that I call the Bazooka Cargo Tube (otherwise known as a big PVC pipe and some conduit mounting brackets).



Overall, the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the year was a huge success, and again, a really impressive turnout for Baystate. I think it would be fun to get a group of us up to Hemond's for a few days this summer, and I'd also like to see Sluice Box finally conquered.



Full credit goes to Mt. Man, the driver of BEV's boyfriend Jeep, who came up with the great idea to transport fishing poles with the BCT system. It requires shopping for PVC, end caps, mounting brackets, and a spray-on coating. Building the BCT is a fair amount of work, including setting several rivets to attach the end caps, but the finished system is a GREAT way to transport poles without having them rattle around inside your Jeep. For the BEV version of the BCT, I used extra-large PVC so I could leave the reels attached to the fishing poles, making it very easy to drive from fishing spot to fishing spot and have my bait in the water quickly! The other benefit of a larger-diameter BCT is that I can use it to transport camping items and other gear that would take up space inside the Jeep.

So how about it BSJ? Send us your favorite fishing photos (you'll get DOUBLE points for having a Jeep in the same photos as a fish) and let us know your favorite fishing spots that minivans cannot get to. For me, Craney Pond at the top of Pat's Peak in New Hampshire is a good one. Maybe we can organize a Jeep-only fishing trek later in the summer or fall? It's a great way for families and pets to enjoy a Jeep adventure with a special activity to make it extra fun!



# Fall Crawl 2019

Mark St.Germain



Let's talk about Fall Crawl 2019. It's the largest NEA fund-raising event of the year, and it's taking place September 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> in New Hampshire at the one and only Field & Forest. This event is only open to NEA members and tickets are limited. While the on-property wheeling consists of some pretty difficult trails rated for well-built Jeeps and buggies, there is so much more to the event that is also available to stock and slightly modified Jeeps, as well. The off-property wheeling takes place at Brookridge, Carnage, and beautiful Class VI roads in NH. It would be fantastic to get a solid group of Baystate members to sign up for the off-property trails before tickets sell out.

Fall Crawl begins on Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, where vehicles are allowed on the property around noon time. You'll sign in at the sign-in tent, grab a goodie bag of cool stuff and event t-shirt, and meet up with your club and set up at the designated camp site. Friday is pretty easy going. People will be setting up their tents, wrenching on their vehicles, hanging out, and most importantly, getting to socialize with each other. It's a great way to get to know club members and it's an easy platform to do so, since you're hanging out at the camp site, sharing food, helping each other out, and just relaxing. In the afternoon, it's fun to walk some trails, check out what you will be wheeling for those on-property, and then as the day turns into night, Baystate (as will other clubs) have a campfire, and we'll all sit around in our folding chairs, laughing, listening to music, having some drinks discussing Saturday's plans, and talking about everything and anything. This is where you get to meet 150 of your new best friends and get

excited for Saturday's wheeling adventures. Saturday morning, we wake up, cook breakfast, and get ready to hit the trails. Those that are wheeling off-property will gather and head out with the leaders. Those wheeling on-property will too line up, but not have to travel as far. Additionally, new to Fall Crawl this year, will be a food truck on the property both Saturday and Sunday mornings, with hot coffee and fresh, homemade donuts! After a day out of the trails, you'll head back to the camp grounds, where you can rest up, shower, and enjoy what Saturday night has to offer: There is a fully catered BBQ, a huge bonfire, and a raffle, where you have a chance to win some pretty amazing stuff. Some donated items include battery-powered impact guns and a chain saw, race seats and harnesses, winches, Hi-Lift jacks, season passes to some properties we go to, re-gearing packages and installations, LED lights, and much more to list. Baystate has generously donated a Generac IQ2000 generator and \$500 to the land fund! All the money raised from the raffle (and actual event tickets) goes to the NEA Land Acquisition Fund, so the more raffle tickets you buy, the more chances you have of winning, while at the same time, raising money to buy future land to wheel. So far, Fall Crawl has over \$5,000 in raffle prizes. Additionally, if any of you would like to donate items to the raffle, you're more than welcome to do so. After the raffle is over, we all usually head back to our designated camping area and hang out again at the fire. Sunday morning, most people pack up and head out. There's also an opportunity for more wheeling, as well.

The on-property trails are sold out, but tickets for the off-property wheeling are currently on sale at \$75 before July 1<sup>st</sup>. Tickets purchased after July 1<sup>st</sup> will be \$85. This gets you a t-shirt, access to camping Friday and Saturday night, wheeling on the trails of your choice all-day Saturday, and a catered BBQ Saturday night. It's so much more than that though. It's a great time, and you will get to know not only Baystate members better, but the other 150+ members of the NEA. Please contact me, Fall Crawl event leader and BSJ president Mark St.Germain ([MDS2450@msn.com](mailto:MDS2450@msn.com)) for any

questions about Fall Crawl. The links to purchasing tickets, as well as sweatshirts and hats, are posted on the Baystate forum in the members sections. Links are also available on the “Upcoming Events” section at the top of the Forum. The links are private due to Fall Crawl only being open to NEA members.

I hope we have a huge Baystate turnout this year. It would be great to have this be the most successful Fall Crawl, ever. If anyone has any questions, there are some threads going on in the BSJ forum, and again, don’t hesitate to ask if you have any. It’s an awesome weekend of camping, wheeling, socializing, all with the intent of raising money for the NEA Land Acquisition Fund. It truly is a blast. I hope I was able to fully explain how great Fall Crawl is, and I hope to see a bunch of Baystate Jeepers there.



# Bon AppeJEEP

Lisa Horowitz

New to this month's Tracks is a recipe section. The name is still a work in progress, but it's the most clever title I could think of, for now. If anyone has any better "punny" names, please let me know. Anyway, I'll just continue to wing it with random yet awesome pieces to put into the newsletter. So, without further ado, I present to you my veggies burger recipe:



Since summer is around the corner, I thought I'd share a recipe I found years ago when I was a vegetarian. I tweaked it quite a bit to make it my own, and also included my sister's Cilantro-Lime aioli. I know, I know: VEGGIE burgers? I promise these are not just any veggie burgers.

They are absolutely amazing, and I'm not just saying that because this is my recipe. These are super tasty, hold together well, and have bold flavors. Additionally, the panko adds a nice little crunch to balance out the soft burger texture. While I'm no longer a vegetarian, these are still some of my favorite burgers to eat. Throw them on a potato bun and you're all set. AND, if you are having vegetarian guests to your house for a bbq, you'll score some pretty big points if you whip these up.

## Burgers:

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup sweet potato (cooked)  
2 cans (15 oz) Black beans (drained, rinsed)  
2 cloves garlic, finely minced  
1 jalapeno, finely minced  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup corn, fresh or frozen (I used trader joes canned corn)  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup Panko breadcrumbs (I used chipotle flavored ones)  
1 egg, lightly beaten (1 T flax + 3T water for vegan substitute)  
2 teaspoons ground cumin  
1  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup diced Spanish onions  
(makes 6 burgers)

## Cilantro-Lime Aioli:

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup cilantro (remove the stems)  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup Greek non-fat plain yogurt  
1 Tablespoon mayonayse  
2 Tablespoon lime juice (1/2 lime)  
1 teaspoon olive oil  
Blend

Preheat oven to 375°F

Start by microwaving sweet potato on high for 5-6 minutes. While the potato is in the microwave, do the following:

Combine the minced jalapeno pepper, garlic cloves, 1 can of black beans (rinsed, drained), salt and cumin. Pulse with food processor. Personally, I prefer using a potato masher (NOT a ricer). If you do use a food processor, be careful not to overwork it. The mixture is soft, so it's easy to go overboard. You don't want a smooth texture.

Place mixture into a large bowl. Add the remaining can of black beans, corn, cooked sweet potato, onions, breadcrumbs, and beaten egg. Mix all ingredients together with wooden spoon until well combined. Form into patties. (If the mixture seems too dry, add some extra egg to hold everything together.)

Place on baking sheet, lightly greased, and throw it in the pre-heated oven for 25 minutes. Once they're done, top it off with sliced avocado, tomato, melted swiss, and enjoy!



If anyone has any good recipes they're like to share in Tracks, please email them! [BSJNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:BSJNewsletter@gmail.com)

## Rausch Creek

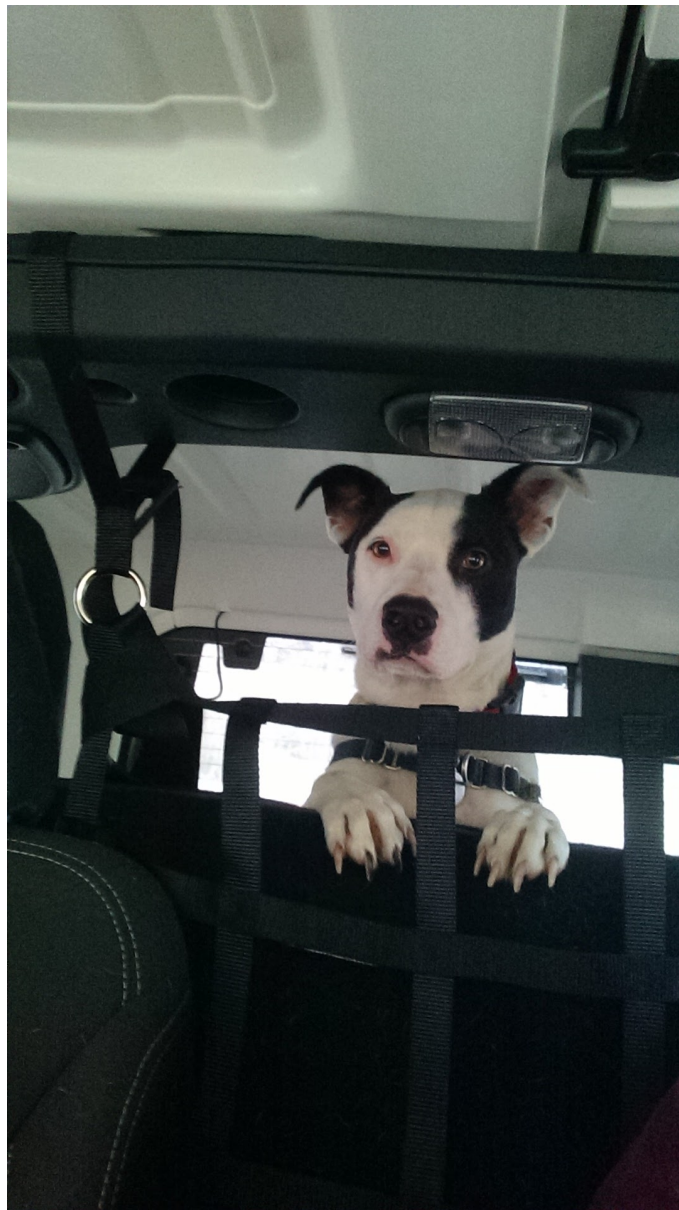
Carl (McIsaac) McFly

If Rausch Creek isn't on your bucket list? It should be. RC offers some of the best wheelin' options in the northeast. Miles of trails means there's something for everyone and plenty to keep you busy for days This is a Pay-to-play private property with on-site camping included. Pretty sure this is classified as 'primitive' camping and for those of you who think anything less than a 55" flat-screen is 'roughing it'? We got your back! There are motels just a few miles down the highway with hot showers and cold food. Or cold showers and hot food, your choice

Some people will be running the hard-core trails while others (like yours truly) will stick to the more moderate stuff. Dates for the next trip are June 26 – 30. We'll meet at a rest area on I-90 and caravan down to RC. Some will stay and set up base camp while others will make the arduous trek to the local motels. Hope to see you there!

## Dogs in Jeeps

This Month's featured pup is Ted's, "JKPetey" in JKU! Hope to see you out trails! Woof!



## Rausch Creek June 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>

*Since Carl got us all pumped with a little write up on Rausch, here's some details on the June 26-June 30 trip to PA! (Stolen from Kurt's post from last year)*

Time to start planning for our first Rausch trip this year!

This trip is open to club members and non-club members.

The planning has begun for our trip down to Rausch Creek Off Road Park this June.  
Rausch is by far the BEST place you can go to wheel that's less than a days drive to get to!

### About Rausch Creek

Rausch offers 40 different trails to explore on over 1,700 acres ranging from stocker friendly to moderate blues all the way up to hard core, something for everybody! In addition to the miles of trails Rausch also has an expansive competition course to play on too.  
To see all the details on Rausch Creek be sure to visit their website located at: <http://rc4x4.org/>

### Camping info

Just a few hints/reminders for those who have may not camped at Rausch Creek before.  
The camping is "primitive".  
The only "amenities" are a place to pitch your tent, a fire ring, picnic tables, porta-potties.  
On site camping is included at no additional cost.

### Be sure to bring...

- A comfy chair to sit in around the fire
  - Water for cooking, washing, etc. There is no water available there.
- If you want to shower, I will be providing the hot shower facility. All you need to do is provide your own water for it.  
Water containers can be refilled at the nearby truck stop.
- Trash bags to pack out and carry home your rubbish.
- There are no trash facilities on the property.
- Money for your RC "membership" and the daily entrance fee. See the Rausch Creek website above for details.

Parking is adjacent to the campsite so you will have easy access to your Jeep and tow rig

### The schedule...

Wednesday Meet at the Charlton rest area on the Mass Pike at 10:00 AM

The drive 5.5-6 hour drive is ~320 miles which will put us at Rausch at approximately 4 PM

This will allow us time to set up camp, gather a heap of fire wood, cook a hearty dinner and have a well-deserved beverage around the blazing campfire.

Some may need to drive down at another time due to work. We'll be there ready to give you a hand to get you quickly get setup at camp.

For those who prefer not to "rough it" there are several hotels in the area too.

**Thursday:** After breakfast check in at the office, pay admission fee and head off into the wild for a great day of wheeling. Make our way back to our campsite around sunset, whip up some grub for dinner and enjoy an evening around the campfire.

**Friday:** Re-run of Thursday. Another great day of wheeling from breakfast until dinner!

**Saturday:** A third great day of wheeling from breakfast until dinner!

**Sunday:** Have a leisurely breakfast, break camp, pack up and hit the road for the drive home.

Rausch Creek is a pay-to-play park. See the website for details regarding fees.

Non BSJ club member guest vehicles are allowed and encouraged!

So who's in?



# Jeep Addiction

Gary Longo

How does any addiction start? The roll of the dice? The first drag? Maybe the first sip? In this case it was the sound, the sensation the instant freedom. Up until 1993 I had only had cars and they were fun but, when I traded a buddy my 1985 Pontiac Fiero (shut up, I was 20) and Twenty five hundred dollars for his 1979 Jeep CJ-7 Golden Eagle, it began. It was innocent enough at first, a new radio some body work...you know. One day the stock 304 started rapping and smoking and leaking, cracked head. Out of a Jeep Grand Wagoneer came a 360 with 60k. Transmission? Why a TH 400 of course. 33s (considered large at the time) check. Custom paint...why not. You get the picture. This money grubbing four wheel Frankenstein was my creation, my baby....my War Pig. The only Jeep I have ever named. Top down, doors off, headers bolted directly to the side pipes and 4 barrel Holley 750 sucking down more fuel than a F16. I was in heaven. My parents loved it too. My mother would comment that they never worried about be doing drugs because they knew that I spent all my money and killed a few brain cells ( thank you Krylon ultra flat black) on the Jeep.

After a few years, like any relationship it was time to try something new. I bought a 1995 Cherokee sport. It was fun but, it wasn't the War Pig. The doors were a pain to remove and I got pulled over 3 times. Apparently citing the obvious fact that it was Jeep offered no absolution from one of Framingham's finest. Maybe a 1998 Grand Cherokee would do the trick? Nope.. some larger tires and off road lights just made things worse. Next would come an '87 Wrangler which went against everything I believed in as I still had a T-shirt that clearly stated "Real Jeeps have round headlights."

Once I had built, rebuilt and sold the '87, came a '95 wrangler with a 4cyl. Man that thing sucked. It had

rot and about as much power as a three legged dog dragging and anchor. I picked up a 2001 TJ at the dealer where I had purchased both the Cherokee and Grand Cherokee. A lift and some 33's and I was back in the game until the day I was rear ended and the spare tire was asspacked into the back seat. The frame was so twisted that it was totaled. This was a sad time.

In order to ease my pain and feed my need, I found a great '84 CJ-7 at body shop in Tewksbury and trailered it home. I began on what was to be my second act. My new masterpiece. I had a garage, a shed full of Jeep parts and a Snapon Tool account (the truck came to my house every 2 weeks for his money). Then one day the words were spoken, two words that throughout history have spelled certain doom for many a man's project, words that to this day I equate to my 9 year Jeep sabbatical. "I'm pregnant". Please don't misunderstand me, my son Jack is my finest creation ever but due to finances and trying to do the dad thing, I put Jeeps on the back burner.

In 2016 after pouring through Craigslist and eBay looking and lamenting over Jeeps for almost a decade, I finally bought my '08 JKU complete with family friendly backseat. The list of modifications I will not bore you with but suffice it to say, it gets me where I want to go and manages to turn a few heads. My son has been known to fall asleep in the back seat, no top, no doors no problem and clearly no DNA test needed. Jack will tell me about Jeeps that he has seen and even paint or draw me something because he knows what I like.

My advice to new Jeep owners is simple if you are going to do, be prepared to go all the way and enjoy every dollar spent and Torx bolt turned.

## Baystate Artwork!

New to this month's Tracks, includes some artwork from BSJ members. Gary "JeepAddict" Longo's 11-year old son, Jack's beautiful painting is featured below!





