



Arizona State Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs
P.O. Box 23904
Tempe, Arizona 85282

September 26, 2016

The Arizona State Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs (ASA4WDC) has had a fairly productive year. Our association has been able to purchase a piece of land to stage our events on. This property will be developed as a campground, staging area and location to hold our Quarterly Delegates Meeting. With the ongoing issues of needing permits, especially from BLM and Arizona State Land Department, to camp and have our events. We are required to apply for permits 180 days or more before the event and hope we are able to receive it before the event. Typically, we receive approval (if we get it) anywhere from a day before the event to maybe a week before.

One of the main reasons to purchase this property is because it is becoming harder and harder to work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) in our area. They seem to be less and less willing to work with the OHV community, and the permitting process is extremely cumbersome and difficult.

The ASA4WDC also wrote and received a grant for a Pilot Information and Communication Program Grant from the Arizona State Parks (ASP) OHV grant program. The funding comes from a small percentage of the gas tax monies and also the state OHV sticker fund. As president I am still in the beginning stages of implementing this grant. Hopefully this grant will be able to focus on getting information out to potential members while trying to educate the public on what is required and what is expected when using public lands. A trailer from the BLM Ambassador program will be used for this project. Being on the opposite side of the grant funding, as a user and not a reviewer, has really opened my eyes as to how difficult the process is to get reimbursed but also the mountain of redundant and difficult paperwork there is.

One other focus of this grant is to try to build working partnerships with other motorized users such as the UTV, ATV and single track groups.

The ASA4WDC has begun a partnership the Tucson Rough Riders and a single track association in the Tucson area. The partnership is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Coronado Forest Service (FS). Another possible MOU is one with the BLM Field office in the southern part of the state.

The ASA4WDC is looking at ways to bring in other groups such as the ATV and UTV's. This is difficult to get an approval from some of our members due to the "bad" name some of these groups have. This is a very large mostly untapped group in Arizona. The logistics are being discussed.



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Issues that still affect us in our area of the country is access. Access through ASLD is the most difficult. This agency really does not work with the OHV community or other agencies very well when it comes to OHV access. Even though the ASLD receives a portion of our grant money. The ASLD land in Arizona is “checker boarded” with BLM, FS and ranchers. So access is one of our major issues and is becoming more difficult as time goes on.

The Game and Fish Department has helped in a few areas by purchasing the land through some of their budgets. Buying the access is sometimes the only way around the problem, but that requires time and a lot of effort and money. It seems the anti-access groups have worked well with ASLD to secure land to be used as conservation areas or whatever the latest form of wilderness they can find, such as “wilderness characteristics.”

The ASA4WDC’s membership is another very large issue that we have been dealing with. Due to the internet and social media the organized clubs and organizations don’t seem to do as well anymore. It seems to take much more time to find members and clubs that understand by they should band together. It seems that if it isn’t on social media then it isn’t worthwhile. The trend lately seems to be “Meet Ups” and not belonging to organized groups. Bringing in new members and new clubs is becoming harder and harder.

People seem to question credibility in everything we as a state association do, but lately I have found that they seriously question Blue Ribbon and other large access groups.

Membership retention is even more difficult than last year. Some of our club’s question what the ASA4WDC does for them and why should they belong. It is an age old question that just continues and it has to be answered again and again. We drop our budgets more and more and try to do as much as we can for no charge but our members just don’t see the advantages of belonging to an organization and would rather spend their money on parties and other club activities only.

As president I have begun to use IContact to send out mass emails of what is going on in other parts of the country, such as forwarding the BRC alerts in hopes of keeping our members. Also, putting together information emails about every other month on what is being accomplished or going on in our state as it relates to OHV.

We have also started using Surveys to help see what people think and what we can do better. The problem is that only about 10 – 15% answer them and the rest complain we don’t do anything.

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