

The Virginia Four Wheel Drive Association Inc., (VA4WDA) was formed in 1981 by a group of concerned four wheel drive owners. The issue that brought these four-wheelers together was proposed legislation by the Virginia General Assembly that would severely restrict the bumper heights of vehicles in the Commonwealth of Virginia and make many existing vehicles illegal. Issues like the bumper bill laws, lift kit restrictions, body lifts vs. suspension lifts, inspection procedures, installation of larger than stock tires, tinted windows, and auxiliary lighting all were being addressed by the Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Police. There needed to be a voice for fourwheelers in that legislative process. As a result of the hard work and dedication of these initial volunteers working with the legislators in the General Assembly, the compromise legislation that we have today, which is reasonable, flexible, and safe, was developed.

Since the beginning, the Association has been a not-for profit organization, made up of member clubs, as well as individual members. We have added business members that help us support safe and responsible four wheeling in Virginia. The Association represents a broad spectrum of four wheel drive owners. Hunters, fishermen, racers, trailriders, and show truck owners are but a few of the individuals who own a four wheel drive vehicle and benefit from our work. We are the only state four wheel drive association in Virginia, and we are very proud of our endeavors over the years. [www.va4wda.org](http://www.va4wda.org)

### **VA4WDA Annual Membership Meeting**

March 16 – Per our bylaws, we must have a general membership meeting each year in the first quarter. We invite nonmembers to participate so they learn what the Association does for the 4X4 community and beyond. Our volunteering does not stop with the 4X4 community. We are also on the transportation lists for disaster relief with several cities, hospitals, and lifesaving centers. The membership learns what we have done the previous year and what we have planned for the upcoming year. Awards are given, our business members are acknowledged, our members are given the opportunity to speak, and as always, we feed everyone.

### **VA4WDA George Washington National Forrest Clean Up for Earth Day**

April 13, 2019 – The VA4WDA membership worked with the National Forest Service in the Glenwood-Pedlar Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest to perform trail maintenance on the Bald Mountain Jeep Trail (also known as Big Levels). We had 45 volunteers participate in limbing brush on the trail, repairing signage that we installed 2 years ago, and picking up trash on the 17 mile trail. The trash filled 2 dumpsters. Our annual Earth Day Trail Clean Up is always a huge success, and the Ranger Districts are grateful for our volunteerism. The NFS receives \$20 per hour per volunteer to obtain grants. In 2019, the VA4WDA was able to give them 360 hours which equates to \$7,200 towards grant funding.

### **VA4WDA Members Only Run**

May 3-5 – This marks the 12<sup>th</sup> year we have held this event for our membership. This event is strictly a member benefit. The trails ran at The Cove in Gore VA are provided at a discounted rate so our members can enjoy the opportunity to run trails that are normally ran by Big Dogs Production events. On Saturday, we have a meal provided for everyone so we can socialize and talk about the events ahead for the year.

### **Tidewater Broncos Carova Beach Clean**

October 5, 2019 – The VA4WDA cohosted the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Beach Clean in Carova NC. Volunteers meet on the beach, we provide trash bags and gloves, and they walk the beach to collect trash. This year our 60+ participants collected 3 trailer and 2 truckloads of trash. They spent several hours walking and cleaning the 11 miles of this state owned beach.

## **VA4WDA 2019 Trail Ride**

September 20-22 – The Association hosts a trail ride each year to raise funds for our legal defense fund, trail grant fund, and land use fund. This year we fed 300 folks and had roughly 170 vehicles on the trails led by 20 trail guides. The trails we use are on private property in Arrington VA. This marks the 27<sup>th</sup> year this event has been running. Thanks to everyone that participated and to all our wonderful raffle donators and sponsors. We could not do this each year without you.

## **The Virginia Four Wheel Drive Association's Lawsuit To Block Currituck County Beach Parking Permit Update**

March 5, 2018, the Currituck County Board of Commissioners voted 5-1 to instate an ordinance (Chapter 10 Article II of the Currituck County Code of Ordinances) requiring those who are not residents or property owners of the county to pay a fee to park on Carova Beach. The new fees went into effect on May 28, 2018 and lasted until Sept 3, 2018 at midnight for the season.

Under the new regulation, those who are not residents or property owners of Currituck County must pay a \$150.00 fee for the summer (peak season) or a \$50 fee for 10 days in order to park on the beach. The fee applies to both out-of-state visitors as well as North Carolina residents from outside of Currituck County equally.

On June 21, 2018, The Virginia Four Wheel Drive Association and Vice President Sandy Schneirla, hired Attorney Edwin Hardy and filed a lawsuit To Block the Currituck County Beach Parking Permit System in a North Carolina Superior Court.

July 30, 2018 was the preliminary injunction hearing in Currituck County Courthouse. The judge denied our motion for a cease and desist of the parking permit system.

On May 13, 2019, a Superior Court heard our case and denied Currituck County's request for summary judgment. The Judge denied our request for punitive damages but left actual damages in play. The Judge agreed with Currituck County that VA4WDA lacks standing to sue in this case, however Vice President Sandy Schneirla does, and will remain a Plaintiff in the case. The Judge did not rule on the fact that the Ordinance Amendment is Unconstitutional. So, we feel we have a case. We are awaiting the order from the court decision to be filed with the judge. Then we can file our final order and hopefully emerge with a final decision on the case.

Thanks for the outpouring of support to date. We ask for the continued support from our members and others who love off-roading as this lawsuit moves forward. You may donate to our Legal Fund by visiting our website at [www.va4wda.org](http://www.va4wda.org).

## **Club and Business Member Events**

The VA4WDA also participates in events hosted by our clubs and our business members. These events raise money for their charity of choice. Those events were:

4-Plus Four Wheel Drive Club, April 27-28, 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Surf Fishing Tournament

Eastern Truck and Accessory, May 11, Annual Open House

Dick Myers Jeep Chrysler Dodge Ram, June 1, 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Jeep Jam

Tidewater Four Wheelers, July 19, Lions Cruz-In Car Show

Goin Coastal Jeep Club, Sept 28, OBX Jeep Jam

Capital City Four Wheel Drive, Oct 19, 34<sup>rd</sup> Annual Surf Fishing Tournament