



# 4XNEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDIANA FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATION

IFWDA.ORG

## Hoosier Outdoor Experience

By Doug Saul - Individual Member UFWDA, GLFWDA, IFWDA

The Hoosier Outdoor Experience is Indiana's largest, hands-on outdoor recreation event. This free weekend at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis is organized by the IDNR. It features over 50 activities and 120 grassroots partners, providing the opportunity to learn the basics of outdoor recreation available across Indiana's extraordinary public lands. Over 30,000 participants turned out over the 2 day weekend to try most everything you can imagine to do in the out of doors for FREE. Go here for more information and a list of the activities offered. Be sure to scroll down to the OUTDOORS section for the Jeep Rides!

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/6025.htm>

Fatboys Jeepers and IFWDA (Indiana Four Wheel Drive Association) provided the Jeeps and volunteers, along with our sponsor Eastgate Chrysler/Jeep. Approximately 30 Jeeps, drivers and additional members setup information booths, registration table and loading and unloading stations for the participants. Jeeps and drivers were lined and ready for the tram loads of excited folks as the gathered for their chance at a Jeep Ride. As the line of participants grew, more Jeeps were added to the course "line up". Waiting times were short and no one was denied his or her opportunity to experience the excitement of their first Jeep ride!

The course was approximately a half mile long and included a little of every terrain and obstacle central Indiana has available. It was hard to tell who was having more FUN, the riders or the drivers, who witnessed the reactions of kids, parents and grandparents during the trail ride. Go here for a short video of the action.

<http://www.memimir.com/?p=997>



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## President Elect Bio

By: Rob Robbins

Rob Robbins has been a member of North Central Indiana Free Wheelers, IFWDA and UFWDA since 1988. He started out as delegate for NCIFW then was elected treasurer for IFWDA in 1992 and held that office until 2002. He also served one year as IFWDA delegate to the UFWDA convention when it was held in Reno, Nevada.

His first 4x4 was 'dare I say' a 66 Jeep Wagoneer in 1977, didn't have it only about a year, but he was hooked. His next 4x4 was a 1976 Scout bought off his mom in 1983. In 1986, he bought a new S10 4x4 and only had it six months, tree jumped out in front of him. By then he knew he needed something cheaper he could work on. He bought a 1973 IH Scout with 36" mudflaps with extended shackles and wooden blocks for a 4" body lift. So the work and learning curve began. Since that time he has had many, many Scouts. Parts of his many Scouts live on in the Scout he drives today.

In that time he has learned nothing is unbreakable and never, never wheel alone. He has made many friends with his association with IFWDA and learned so much. He donated many hours in the beginning of Redbird, clearing trees for the first official trail ride, just so the dignitaries had a place to speak. He has cleared and led trail rides at Wilstem. He's worked the Indy Jamboree and the Richmond Drag races. His club at one time put on as many as five mud bogs and mud races each year. One year he even won an obstacle course race at Beanblossom, IN. He used to love the mud, now prefers the rocks.

Now for what he wants to accomplish, this club is our club which means you get out of it what you put in, nothing more!! He wants every member to be part of the solution not part of the problem!! Together we can make this a better club, divided we FAIL. If you have an idea, give it to him with a viable means of making it happen. Don't expect someone else to do it. We are all volunteers and the board of directors is only a few and can not do it all. This club exists because a group of like minded people 30 years ago came together to promote the motorized outdoor experience, swap ideas and have a larger impact on the 4x4 community. Our biggest problem now is communication. This will be the new boards number one priority.

Happy Wheeling

## Ron Mattox - Secretary 2011-2012

By: Ron Mattox

Ron is a member of Fat Boys Jeepers and got the wheeling bug at the 2005 Jeep Jamboree. The main off road vehicle is a 06 Rubicon Unlimited (Khaki), running a high line flat fenders, 37" MTR's, and a few other toys. His website handle is "Scout".

Ron and his wife Debby have 5 children, and operate a sportswear business known as DKM Embroidery located in Fort Wayne, IN. They also manufacture apparel for the Boy Scouts of America on a national basis. By the way, Ron and Debby met as students at Bloomfield High School .....so they know how to spell Hi-Lift .

In addition to 35 years in managing textile businesses, Ron has volunteered as an Executive Board member for the Anthony Wayne Area Council, BSA serving 9 counties in NE Indiana for over 20 years. He also served as Vice President of Finance and Vice President of Membership for 8 of those years. He was awarded the Silver Beaver in 2001, and became a member of the Founders Circle in 2005. Ron is a member of the John Chapman Kiwanis Club in Fort Wayne and has served as Secretary/Treasurer and Rose Day chairman. Feel free to contact Ron at his office by phone 800-338-2258, email ron@scoutgraphics.com, or cell 260-413-2123.

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## Environmental Affairs Bio

By: Mike Hughes

Hello all,

My name is Mike Hughes, and I'm the new environmental affairs guy for the northern half of the state. I've been an active member of IFWDA for the past 12 or 13 years & my club, Ruffriders 4x4, since 1992. I got the four wheeling bug when I was stationed in San Diego, Ca. back in 1990. My first truck was a 1976 1/2 ton Chevy truck with a SBC 400 & a 6" lift with 35" B.F.G. all terrains. Since then I had a multitude of trucks & cars.

Most of you know me from IFWDA and various outings. I live in Goshen, IN with my wife Mindy, and two daughters aged 4 & 8 named Brooke & Molly, respectively, and Patty our dog. This past Sept. we celebrated our 10-year anniversary and my 40th back in Feb. I love the sport of four wheeling and hate to see all of our lands keep getting shut down.

Thanks for your time and votes.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 01, 2011**  
New Years Day  
Run & Chili cook off  
@ RedBird

**August 5, 2011**  
IFWDA Trail Ride &  
Campout @ French  
Lick, IN

**January 29, 2011**  
Ground Hogs Day  
Run @ Haspin

**February 25-27,  
2011**  
Convention @  
ScottsBurg, IN



## TOYS 4 TOTS- HASPIN ACRES

By Scott Sperling, Fat Boys Jeepers

On November 13, 2010, three 4x4 clubs based out of eastern Indiana and western Ohio joined forces, talents, work duties, resources and a common goal to help host the 4th Annual OFFROAD BENEFIT for Toys for Tots. FAT BOYS JEEPERS ([www.fatboysjeepers.com](http://www.fatboysjeepers.com)) out of Indiana along with MIAMI VALLEY 4 WHEELERS ([www.mv4w.com](http://www.mv4w.com)) located in Middletown, Ohio and MUDDY BUDDYS ([www.muddybuddys.net](http://www.muddybuddys.net)), based out of the Dayton-Ohio area descended on Haspin Acres located in Laurel, Indiana. Not enough can be said about Pete and the staff at Haspin Acres for waiving a portion of the entrance fee for every donated toy received. To all in attendance, this is definitely a WIN-WIN situation for all involved.

Mother Nature treated us with dry, dusty and windy conditions with light rain near the end of the day. It appears a lot of the mudholes were dried up due to the lack of mud covered 4X4's at lunch time. HASPIN FIRST!!! Although the mud holes were dry, some people still managed to break a part or two that day. We feel the turnout was down some from last year but still had people from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky and Indiana in attendance. This just helps prove that generous people are willing to travel to have a great time enjoying OUR sport of wheeling while still donating toys for the less fortunate children to enjoy the happiness of Christmas. For those new to Haspin or to wheeling, we offered guided groups for the stock wheelers or for the extremely modified. As we all know- Haspin has it all.

A lunch of hot dogs was provided along with a cold Coca-Cola product to wash it down. After lunch, everyone went back out on the trails for some additional wheeling until closing ceremonies. During closing ceremonies, we had Toy for Tots Chairman Frank Gross from the Richmond Marine Corp. League address the crowd. He told everyone that just in our area alone, over 1600 families were served last year with more families needing help this year. Our event is essential to help fulfill those needs and he greatly appreciates what our three (3) clubs have donated over the years.

We would like to thank the generous donations from the following individuals, clubs and businesses that helped us make this day special.

**Event Host-** Pete Collins and staff of Haspin Acres- Laurel, Indiana  
The Marine Corps League-Whitewater Valley Detachment  
Richmond, Indiana

**Food-** Kroger of Sugarcreek, Ohio and Kroger of Connersville, Indiana.

**Food Preparation-** John Broekema of the Sara Lee Corporation  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**Drinks-** Coca Cola

**Collection boxes-** Hoosier Container Richmond, Indiana

**Door Prizes-** Advanced Auto Parts- Richmond, Indiana, 4WD Hardware and Hi-lift Jack.

We are very pleased to say that OVER 600 toys of all sizes, colors, and kinds (even with batteries) along with over \$960.00 was collected and turned over to the Marine Corp League of Richmond, Indiana. It was a great feeling knowing that we exceeded our toy donations from last year. As for cash donations, it was down some since we did not sell event t-shirts this year. Therefore no shirt profits were added to the total. Hopefully next year since plenty of people asked for them at Haspin.

This special event will help brighten the Christmas for children in both eastern Indiana and western Ohio. We are very happy to be a large part of this event, and that our members and friends are willing to travel far and near to support it. What better way to help get everyone into the spirit of the season of giving.

## Toys 4 Tots Haspin

Annette Wheatcraft-IFWDA Special Events Coordinator

The Toy 4 Tots at Haspin Acres happens the second weekend of November. You can count on a good time at any Fat Boys Jeepers event. They have wheelers come from all directions Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky and Michigan. They also received around 600 toys for local girls and boys plus a cash donation \$960.00.

Haspin also has experience a dry spell; this is not a bad thing unless you like mud. Wheeling was great you could go about anywhere you wanted. The devils back bone was climbed numerous times that day. Other trails were dusty and most mud holes were dry. We were in a small group and had a lot of fun.

Hopefully we will see more clubs out on the trail next year.



# 7th ANNUAL

## Fat Boys Jeepers

# GROUNDHOG DAY RUN

## JANUARY 29, 2011



**Starts at 9AM**



**HASPIN ACRES - LAUREL, INDIANA**

**Fat Boys Jeepers would like to help the local food panty. We are asking 3 can non-perishable food donation per person for a meal ticket.**

For more information on our organization or for further event details please visit:

**FATBOYSJEEPERS.COM**

Please RSVP: [max.jeep@comcast.net](mailto:max.jeep@comcast.net)

[cssjeep@comcast.net](mailto:cssjeep@comcast.net)

or call 765.960.5857



ENTRANCE FEES INTO HASPIN ACRES ARE AT YOUR EXPENSE.

Haspin Acres Rules and Hours apply. Fat Boys Jeepers are not responsible for any accidents, injuries or thefts.

## What's in store for Interlake?

Submitted by Rich Reisz- Boonie Riders

I recently was able to participate in a very productive work day at Interlake. On this day, a small group of volunteers was able to first clear two trees that had blocked trail 8, followed by a quick run of the trail to check for other obstructions (ok, and as a reward for our hard work). We then set our sights on trail 19- pretty much the other end of Interlake's 3550 acres. There was some basic trimming work to be done on this trail, as some of the trees in the area are extremely invasive and grow (horizontally) at a rate of several feet per year. This easy to moderate trail is a little known gem on the property, as its' location is a little out of the way for folks who don't know their way around the property very well. The main work that was done on this trail was to make a sustainable bypass adjacent to a nasty mud hole located in a switchback turn. A couple of hours work had this task accomplished. This was a very rewarding undertaking, as the trail lends itself very well to the family type rider, not looking for any extreme challenges. This bypass is more in tune with what can be expected from the rest of the trail. As nice as all of this was, it was far from the most exciting thing I encountered that day.

The DNR liaison for Interlake was assisting us with our project that day, and I took the opportunity to ask a few questions. How can we legally get new, moderate and most difficult trails at Interlake? As it turns out, there is a fairly straight forward process that can be followed to accomplish exactly that goal. Boonie Riders will be joining forces with Bluegrass 4x4 Club to propose several new sections of trail- moderate to hard. We will start this process in December of 2010. Once we have marked out the proposed sections, the trailed and certified trail design team will look it over and point out any areas that may need redone. After it is approved, we can start cutting it in, and running it. We are to mark it is under construction, open only to members of (our two clubs). Once it has been ran for one full season, if no problems develop, it can go public. This is literally the most exciting thing I have heard in the 9+ years of working with Interlake.

There is also a trail project just getting off the ground that will identify trails and trail sections that could be linked together to make for a better riding experience. Currently, most of the northern trails are very short in length. The goal is to combine some of them and come up with two or three trails that are fairly long (at least by Indiana standards).

Lastly, the State has put out bids on gravel, both for repairing the main road, and for the construction of a 4 acre parking lot. Both of these projects being on the south portion of the property. They have projected that the bathrooms, parking lot, and gatehouse may be in place by the first part of 2011.

This is all great news for Interlake, and Southwestern Indiana!

## November Edition of Redbird State Riding Area Newsletter

Welcome to the fall edition of the newsletter. This newsletter is written and published by the Redbird Foundation. A non-for-profit organization dedicated to helping Redbird grow and prosper.

It looks like the dry spell may have ended; it has finally rained a little bit. The trails have been as dry as I have ever seen them. That along with the heavy equipment work the Foundation paid for has the trails in some of the best shape that they have ever been. Thanks to the DNR for supervising the use of the equipment, and all the work they have done on the trails this year.

Staying with the DNR, I am happy to announce that Robb Hogg has been named Property Manager for both Redbird and Shakamak state parks. Robb has been very good to work with and is always willing to listen to ideas to help the park grow. He has also helped organize events and make sure we get the necessary permits and permission to hold them. He also has donated his time to youth programs the Foundation has sponsored at the property. We look forward to working with him. Please congratulate Robb the next time you see him. Also note the park hours have been changed for the fall and winter season. The hours are 9am to 5pm every Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

The Foundation has been busy organizing and helping with events, such as the recent Stair Steps to Success program that was held at the park. Redbird Foundation members donated their time and vehicles to take at risk youth on trail rides. All we heard was "this is awesome, this is great" from the kids, and I believe even the adult mentors had a good time too. The DNR also helped, with the use of the building and providing a speaker and their side by side atv's. We just had the fall night ride and look forward to the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend night ride and camp out. It will be a three day event, and start on the Friday after Thanksgiving and end on Sunday at 5pm.

The Foundation will also take part in an advertising campaign that the DNR is putting together to promote off road use in Indiana. We are going to supply off road vehicles for a photo shoot that the DNR will use to make posters and fliers to hand out at events and put up in motorcycle and atv dealers.

One other big step forward is that you can now register your off road vehicles at Redbird. Just show up with the necessary paper work and they can get it done and you can be legal to ride that day. They will issue a temporary permit, and your sticker will be mailed to you in a few days. This is just one thing more the DNR is doing to make it easier to get out and enjoy the outdoors. If you have any questions about what paper work you need, you can contact the DNR and they will be glad to help you.

The Indiana Four Wheel Drive Association (IFWDA) held their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday trail ride at Redbird, thanks to all that attended and all that the association does for the off road community. Without organizations like IFWDA and the United Four Wheel Drive Association we would be seeing some of the trail closings that are happening in other states happening here. Please think about joining one of these groups and help to keep public lands public. Thanks and hope to see you on the trails!!!

**EASTGATE**  
500 N Shadeland Ave Indianapolis, IN 46215  
10% off Maintenance & Accessories  
20% off Repair work  
Indiana 4 Wheel Drive Association  
Must show current IFWDA membership card to be valid.  
www.EastgateAuto.com 317-352-9361  
Offer Not valid with any other offer. \*See dealer for details



Thanksgiving  
By: Goerge Thomas

As the 2010 year is coming to an end and 2011 will soon begin, and since today is Thanksgiving day, I thought I would reflect back on the year on some things we as a group called IFWDA can be thankful for. One big thing I'm Thankful for is IFWDA getting back to full membership in United. When all is said and done the best voice we ever had in Washington DC was and still is through United. In recent years we have lost some great places to wheel at. If we don't stand up to be counted we could lose a lot more. I really love taking my Jeep off road, and some of the best times of my life has been off-roading with my friends, down at Redbird or Interlake. We are so lucky to have our DNR put these places together for us. Multi use, there was some who thought that was the way to stop it. But IFWDA and other user groups proved we can and will work together and make it happen. That was the key to the state of Indiana having motorized off road trails. That is how Redbird got it's start and it took many years of hard work to get to the point it is today. Our Indiana DNR cared enough to listen and make it happen. Now Interlake's time is coming. Rich will keep us informed on what's going on with it. Be sure you show your support and visit as often as you can. Write the letters and attend the meeting when they have them.

Then there is the private parks like The Badlands and Haspin Acres. These are a couple of great places and depending on where you live try to visit often. Try to plan events around these places to show our support. There is several small places scattered around where you can go and ride, some are free, some charge a fee. No matter what the size or where they are when you visit respect the land, stay on the designated trails, and leave the area nicer than you found it so we can continue to use it.

Safety should always be everyone's top priority and first and foremost on everyone's mind when we are wheeling. We really don't want to see anyone damage their vehicles, or the property that we ride on. Most of all we don't want to see anyone get injured. Therefore we need to have a plan and follow that plan and make sure everyone else is on the same page. If something should happen assess the situation so as not to cause further injury or damage. Give the folks handling the situation room to work. Keep bystanders back a safe distance. I'm not trying to say I'm a pro for I am far from it. I don't know everything, but I try to learn something each time I go out. We try to go prepared and we never leave anyone stranded. Yes we may have them park off to the side and ride with someone but by the end of the day we do what we can to get em out or repaired and going again. This is what makes members of IFWDA such a great group of people. That's what make members of United a great bunch of people. We are all in this together.

The future of our sport depends on us. It is up to us to get new people interested. There are thousands of 4X4 owners who have never been off road. Invite them to go with you, teach them the ropes what is expected and what they should never do. rule #1 for do would be respect the property you are riding on. Rule # 1 for don'ts could be never wheel alone. The buddy system works for many reasons!

Clubs and Events! Try to support your club and their events. Let other clubs know and invite them to join you in the fun. Try to attend event held by other clubs. Show them you support them too. When you talk up your clubs also talk up IFWDA and United. Be positive and promote what you can. Support IFWDA and what they are involved in. Same for United when you can. These are tough times for everyone I know that. IFWDA's membership is down from a few years ago, we know that too. People who thought they had a lifetime job has suddenly became unemployed, we know that too. Some of our good friends and fellow IFWDA members are there.

Still we need to preserve our sport for our kids and grand kids. If we don't Who will?

Rob Robbins IFWDA's new president said it best at the last meeting after being elected. "You are either part of the problem or part of the solution!" I believe this to be true. I also always believed my whole life "That where there is a will, there is a way!"

I have been a supporter of our newsletter for quite some time. I often write more than one article. Now I'm asking you to do the same. Show your support for IFWDA, Show your support for United. Just remember it is for the world to see. Promote your club, Promote your events, Promote your local off road park. Tell of a recent adventure. Talk about the rig you are building, or a trip you are planning. Give advise on repairs, what works what don't. Mainly just get involved and invite others to get involved too. "We can only get out what we put in. " Heard that somewhere too.

Hope everyone has a happy and joyful holiday season. May the New Year bring back the good times for everyone and I hope to see you on the trail soon! Take Care and Be Safe!

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### IFWDA 30<sup>th</sup> Celebration

*Annette Wheatcraft-IFWDA Special Event Coordinator*

If you forgot to mark your calendar for October 23 event you missed out. Redbird without MUD and a FREE lunch! Yes this was a once in a lift time event no mud. If you have never been to Redbird you need to check out their website [www.redbirdsra.com](http://www.redbirdsra.com) with 1400 acres to explore and a new offsite camp area coming in the spring it has a lot to offer. We had 60 to 70 wheelers show up for the free lunch of pulled pork BBQ, chips, veggies tray and a cup cakes.

We would like to thank the following:

DNR for letting us take over their maintenance building for our event.

Redbird foundation and their generous donation for door prizes.  
Keith and Sandy Dryden for fixing such an awesome lunch.  
We hope everyone has enjoyed IFWDA 30<sup>th</sup> celebration this year and lets work together to make next year just as much fun.



## Wheelin for Children 5

By: Rich Reisz- Boonie Riders 4x4 Club

Nov 6, 2010 marked the fifth anniversary of the Toys for Tots charity trail ride known as Wheelin for Children. Held at Interlake SRA, near Lynnville IN, this year the event was co hosted by Boonie Riders 4x4 Club, Lincoln Country Trail Riders, Bluegrass 4x4 Club, and Friends of Interlake (FOIL).

The weather on this fall day was near perfect- pretty cold in the morning, but quickly warming up to short sleeves comfortable once the sun was up for a while. The ground conditions were perfect for wheeling. Most of the perennial mud holes had all but dried up, and the hill climbs were almost completely dry, but just tacky enough for easy crawling traction.

As of this writing, I have yet to see the exact numbers of attendance, but my observations tell me we were down a solid 50% from last year. This may be due to a variety of reasons, including people having to work (I had to take a vacation day myself!) to ineffective advertising. For next year's event, we will redouble our efforts on the advertising side, and hope for the best on the other.

Although there weren't as many participants this year, there were a wide variety of rigs represented. The national trend seems to be people abandoning traditional ATVs for the more family friendly side by sides. There were at least twice as many UTVs this year as last. Full Size rigs (Jeeps, trucks, SUVs) looked to be the most popular choice. Everything from new 4 door JKs to Tacoma pickups, and every other model of Jeep (well, almost) were out on the trails. The group I rode with in the morning consisted of a group of Ford Ranger enthusiasts, a couple of Tacos, 3 TJs, and my XJ. Some members of the group had trouble negotiating the bowl sections of Trail #4- there was winching, strapping, and high centering among the long wheelbase trucks. There were also a lot of smiles, picture taking, and good camaraderie.

After lunch, we split into two smaller groups. My group ran trail 16- the easier of the two rocky trails in the north east part of the property. IT was still pretty challenging, but the trail conditions were perfect, and we were able to tackle some of the harder lines as a result. After this, we ran trails 5, and 8. These are a couple of moderate trails, especially this year, since we had so little rain. Add a little moisture, and this pair of trails gets a lot more exciting to say the least.

Being one of the host clubs, we had other obligations to fulfill, and couldn't spend as much time out trail riding as we would have liked. The few hours we were able to spend putting dirt under our tires was well worth the trip. We are looking forward to our 6<sup>th</sup> annual event, coming early November 2011.



## Toys 4 Tots Interlake

Annette Wheatcraft-IFWDA Special Events Coordinator

This year we decided to go down to Interlake Toys 4 Tots event hosted by Boonie Riders. I know it has been a couple years since we have ridden on this property (sorry guys). Interlake State Recreation Area (ISRA) is one of DNR newest off road areas located down by Lynnville Indiana. Consisting of 3550 acres of old mining and reclamation land it has more diverse terrain than Redbird. The area is multi use so keep that in mind. Check DNR website for more info and maps of the area.  
[www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4226.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4226.htm)

We were greeted by Santa as we entered the gates gathering toys for the local girls and boys. We heard later in the day they collected around 600 toys. Great job Boonie Riders! We set out to hit some trails in the morning before it was time for lunch break. Every time we go down we find new trails that go by some of the most scenic areas we also found a few muddy spots. Rich told us they have new trail in the making and some other upcoming projects. Each year this event seems to grow so mark your calendar for the first weekend in November to attend Interlake Toys 4 Tots.



## Toys 4 Tots – Badlands

Annette Wheatcraft-IFWDA Special Events Coordinator

Last Toys 4 Tots events for 2010 – Badlands need we say more, always fun place to wheel! As we headed out in the snow, we knew it was going to be a fun 2 hour drive. Half way into the trip we decided it was time for some breakfast; most have stopped at the right place plenty of fellow wheelers eating including George and Nancy Thomas! By the time, we arrived at the Badlands 4 inches of snow was already on the ground and snow was steady. To our surprise Tom Meets driver of Maximum Destruction from Monster Jam was sitting in front of the Badland office. He was signing autography and talking with everyone nice guy, time to go play in the SNOW! It was defiantly different from two weeks ago when we came here to wheel just before Thanksgiving weekend. However, it sure made for some nice photo opts. We drove around by the quarry and the sand dunes ran into a few friends, and before we knew, it was time for lunch. Four Wheels to Freedom can really put on a spread – they had two hogs roasted, pork and beans, coleslaw and spice cake WOW! We will defiantly be back – Oh did I mention they are doing a chili cook off January 1 – New Years Day Run at Red Bird I know we will be going, hope to see more of you on the trail!



## Toys for Tots 2010 @ The Badlands

By Brian Rowda, 4WTF

For the ninth year in a row 4 Wheels to Freedom has hosted in conjunction with the United States Marie Corp, and The Badlands a successful toy drive to help ensure all children have a joyous Christmas. The weather did put a damper on the numbers, but still over 160 off-road vehicles came through the gates. The snow started after mid-night and by mid afternoon about 7 inches had fallen around Attica. A few of the people came through the gates wit the trail rig leading the way through the snow. It was not the best day to be trailering a vehicle. While collecting toys the snowballs were flying and a sled was brought out for added fun. Toyota donated a new Tundra to the Marines to utilize for pulling their trailer to toy collections. Due to previous trail carnage on some up-armed hummers, they are no longer allowed to bring hummers to test on the trails. Also, up-armored hummers sink. Deep. We served up 2 hogs and Sweet D's donated 8 gallons of sauce to use. The cooks slept more than usual during the night this year but the meat was still good. Other sponsors of the event were: Pepsi, and the Badlands. The trails were buried in snow and it was tough to find the ruts or the rocks. We headed out and explored the green trail and parts of the orange trail. The sand was frozen on the surface which allowed for great floatation. This was found by my son on his ATV. In the past he just sank. I always admire these crazies on ATVs in the cold and blowing snow. The heater works so well in a jeep and feels good. By 5 we had enough on the trails and headed out. A big thanks to Kyle and Lisa the owners of the Badlands for helping sponsor this event. They cut their gate admission to promote toy collection. Merry Christmas to all.

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## IFWDA MEMBER CLUBS

### **4 Wheels To Freedom**

PO Box 342  
Shelbyville, IN 46176

### **4XFools Offroad Club**

1402 Adams Street  
Urbana, IL 61802

### **Boonie Riders 4WD Club**

7374 E. CR. 700 N.  
Grandview, In. 47615

### **Damaged Off-Road 'RZ'**

P.O. 34159  
Indianapolis, IN 46234

### **Fat Boys Jeepers**

6142 Franklin Road  
Hagerstown, IN 47346

### **Iron Horse 4x4's**

P.O. Box 668  
Beecher, IL. 60401

### **J. P. Frog Off-Roaders**

6840 Norena Court  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

### **MOJO Offroad Club**

3074 Old ST RD 37  
Greenwood, IN 46143

### **Monroe County 4x4 Club**

8712 N. Mt. Pleasant Rd.  
Gosport, IN. 47433

### **North Central Indiana Free-Wheelers**

130 N. Elm St.  
Bunker Hill, IN 46914

### **Odd Squad**

1760 North 5th Street  
Charleston, Illinois 61920

### **On the Trail 4WD**

P.O. Box 632  
Oakland, IL. 61943

### **Ruffriders**

PO Box 83  
Goshen, IN 46526

### **SWAK- Safe Wheelers of All Kinds**

44 McKinley Blvd.  
Terre Haute, IN 47803

### **Southern Indiana 4x4 Club**

936 North Elm Street  
Seymour In 47274

## Did you know?

4WTF Turns 35

*By Brian Rowda*

In the Fall of 1975, a Shelbyville, Indiana, Jeep Dealership ran an ad for those interested in off-road vehicles. From that ad evolved The 4 Wheels to Freedom 4-Wheel Drive Club Charter in 1976. The 4WTF Club is a Charter Member of Tread Lightly! and The Indiana Four Wheel Drive Association as well as a member of United Four Wheel Drive Association. Since then we have had many great moments in the club. A big part of the thanks for the success of the club is Gary & Kathleen Snyder. They have cultivated the club into what it is. I can't remember when they missed a meeting or helped with a club event. Some of the events over theyears has been: the mini-jamborees at Brumets, working at the dome, demolition derby fundraisers, road rallies, and chilli runs. The club has always been like a family to everybody. How did I find 4WTF, I found an off-road magazine on the ground in the long term parking lot at the Indy airport and was looking for a club and it had a club listing for Indiana. I called a few of the clubs from my hotel in Texas and Gary invited me to a meeting and now 15 years later the club has been a great experience. There is never a dull moment in the club and it is amazing seeing how people grown with the club. I think half of IFWDA at some point in time has been a member of 4WTF. I say to anybody in a club, support your club, be an active member and help make it the club what you want it to be. See you out on the trails Congratulations to Four Wheals to Freedom for celebrating their 35th Anniversary as a club this year!

IFWDA.ORG



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Toledo, IL 62468  
www.ifwda.org